

THE RETRIEVER

UMBC's Student Newspaper

Volume 38, Issue 18

1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

February 17, 2004

Risking His Life in Pursuit of the Truth

Petrovich Lecturer Charlie Mayer Gives Talk on Time in Iraq, Producing Radio

BRETT ASHLEY MCKENZIE
Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

Students who attended the seventh annual Petrovich Lecture expecting to hear from an old, seasoned, veteran reporter were pleasantly surprised when 27-year-old Charlie Mayer took to the podium. Standing before his laptop with a menacing slide of a US soldier pointing an M-16 projected behind him, he prefaced his speech with a casual "I don't do this very often."

Mayer, a journalist and now producer for National Public Radio, was selected by the Interdisciplinary Studies Council of Majors to present a talk on his summer broadcasting from Iraq. The Petrovich Lecture, named for former INDS department director Dr. Slobodan Petrovich, who passed away in February, 2000, are meant to give INDS and other UMBC students ideas about their potential careers. This year's speaker, Young is not only a producer and broadcast journalist, but also a licensed pilot and the son of a UMBC alumnae.

Although Young claimed he was not particularly used to giving formal lectures, within five minutes of taking the stage, Mayer had silenced his audience.

"It would be hard for any journalist of my generation to talk about their career without talking about September 11," Mayer began. "I'm not trying to draw a



Joe Howley [Retriever Staff]

On the Front Lines: NPR producer shares his experiences with American forces in Iraq.

connection [between the war in Iraq and 9/11], but they are connected in the sense... that they were the biggest stories of our time." He then played a haunting tape of the 9/11 show he co-produced, featuring a sound clip of a woman whose husband was still missing below the rubble of

the twin towers six days after the tragedy. At the time, Mayer was working on NPR's program Weekend Edition: Saturday, so he'd had four days to get his 9/11 show together. "It was a six-hour show," he recalled after playing a 30 second clip. "Great writing, music that adds without

distracting, and timing create emotion in radio."

After 9/11, and conflict erupted in Afghanistan and Iraq, Mayer felt himself desperately wanting to go to the Middle East. Although he had the determination and experience, he was overlooked for Afghanistan and jokes "I had to claw my way to Iraq." Because of his tenure with NPR, after persistently reminding his superiors how much he wanted the assignment, he finally received the go ahead. Major combat had ended in Iraq by the time Mayer arrived, but he argues that the combat is in fact "still very major... 53 people died yesterday, today 47 people died... to have 100 people die in 24 hours is still pretty major."

Mayer arrived with his small crew from NPR and was to be embedded with the 3rd Infantry Division, who he learned had been under the impression that they'd

see NPR, page 2

Students Turn Against turnitin.com Service

CHARLES J. ELLIS
Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

The internet's top plagiarism detection service, turnitin.com, has perhaps created more problems than solutions for preserving academic integrity.

For most of the faculty, turnitin.com offers a reliable system in which student

answers from the internet. In the last few weeks, several students have come forward in the wake of academic integrity confrontations with accounts that challenge the systems ability to properly identify sources of plagiarism.

Many fear that the internet has made the practice of plagiarism quick, easy, and tragically common at the university level.



Courtesy of Turnitin.com

More Harm Than Good?: Use of the anti-plagiarism website makes teachers lives easioer, but some students object

submitted papers are efficiently and accurately analyzed for plagiarized material. Turnitin.com has, until recently, proven to be an invaluable tool in the battle against stealing essays, term papers, or even exam

answers from the internet. In the last few weeks, several students have come forward in the wake of academic integrity confrontations with accounts that challenge the systems ability to properly identify sources of plagiarism.

Many fear that the internet has made the practice of plagiarism quick, easy, and tragically common at the university level.

see INTERNET, page 3

NAACP Celebrates Its 95th Birthday

RYAN CARR
Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

For nearly a century, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has fought for equal rights for all men and women. Celebrating their organization's proud past, as well as its bright future, members of UMBC's chapter of NAACP gathered on Main Street in the Commons on Feb. 12 to commemorate its 95th birthday.

Founded in 1909 by a multiracial group of activists, including civil rights leader W.E.B. DuBois, the NAACP has grown from humble beginnings to become the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

The celebration also marked the 25th birthday of UMBC's own chapter. In addition to the usual elements of a birthday party, such as cake, refreshments, and a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday," the chapter's members also attempted to provide those in attendance with a renewed resolve. "If we become complacent and act as if we have arrived, our campus could easily drift back to where it was 25 years ago," Lanita Robinson, president of UMBC's



Stephanie Potter [Retriever Staff]

The Big 95: NAACP's 95th birthday featured performances and speeches chapter, said.

"It is not over... the NAACP must continue to do its part to make sure its plan comes to fruition," remarked Michael Hunt, the chapter's vice president. Hunt also encouraged all those in attendance to register to vote. "A voteless people is a powerless people," he explained.

The chapter has recently submitted the NAACP Call to Action in Education to UMBC president

see NAACP, page 2

INSIDE

News 01



Meal plans, Walker Ave., and the demise of TeacherReview.com

Opinion 07



KEEP OFF
50,000 Ohms
MAY CAUSE INJURY

Readers be advised:
This week's Opinion section contains violence, adult language, and sexual content.

Features 14



Features Finds Cheap Entertainment all over town and Campus.

Sports 23



Woman's basketball picks up another win, tennis starts up and the softball team is previewed.

ALSO:
college news 02
world news 03
classifieds 27

Four Day Forecast

tues: 27/36° wed: 26/38° thu: 31/44° fri: 36/51°

trw.umbc.edu
410.455.1260



College News

A Lab Where You Can Lick the Test Tubes

(New York Times) As two pots of viscous goo bubbled away beside Susan Born in the dank, fluorescent-lighted classroom, she described for a rapt group of 30 students the molecular composition of the substances and, with the aid of time-temperature graphs on the chalkboard, discussed lipids and their solubility.

A fairly typical scene at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Except this was not a materials science class. It was a meeting of one of the school's newest student organizations, a chocolate appreciation club called the Lab for Chocolate Science.

Ms. Born, 28, a technical writer and 1998 graduate of M.I.T., gave a two-hour lecture on the science of chocolate with pots of melted chocolate chips as props. Professors argued whether chocolate could glassify, and words like eutectic — something to do with melting points — hung in the chocolate-scented air.

The group was started last fall by Ariel Segall, 23, a senior from Englewood, N.J., whose chocolate fascination dates from childhood, when, by age 10, she had developed a preference for dark chocolate from Zabar's. By her early 20's, she tasted a Black Pearl truffle, a combination of wasabi and ginger dipped in dark chocolate and sprinkled with black sesame seeds, from Vosges Haut-Chocolat in Chicago. Inspired, she replicated the flavor with friends and started being the host of truffle parties two years ago. The lab is an extension of those parties and a way to experiment with the types, flavors and textures of chocolate.

The chocolatiers' first experiment was making 4,000 truffles for a freshman fair.

While many came to the lecture for the chocolate — leftovers were on sale from the group's last truffle sale, which included cardamom-Kahlua, hot pepper-cinnamon and peach-passion fruit — since this is M.I.T., many wanted to know if they should take their test tubes to the next meeting.

"We'd gotten some e-mails from people wondering if we were an actual laboratory," said Kat Allen, a junior and the treasurer of the group, which now boasts about 20 full-time members.

In a place populated by chemists and engineers, group members knew it would be a hit with students. Ms. Born added that a fashion trend among students and alumni involved T-shirts bearing molecular diagrams of chocolate and coffee.

Who wears these shirts?

"Nerds," Ms. Born said.

Cocoa butter, along with cocoa powder, the main component of chocolate, is made, Ms. Born said, of fatty acids, including palmitic acid, a 14-carbon chain; stearic acid, a 16-carbon chain; and oleic acid, an 18-carbon chain. She said the mixture of fat in cocoa butter has six stable stages — distinct consistencies — which is why processors have to temper, or heat and cool, chocolate, to attain the desired consistency.

Behind the Scenes

The Amazing Adventures of Cavalier Carl

AMY SEGRETI

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

A man huddled inside of his jacket shovel the icy courtyard of Walker Avenue apartments in the snow at 11 p.m. A maintenance worker, you ask? No—rather, the Manager of the residence.

"It wasn't going to get done," says Carl Dieso. He got a call that the ice was still extremely slippery, and so he drove from his home back to UMBC and did it himself. "It's a safety issue, I didn't want anyone to slip and fall," he says. "And if there's something that needs to be done, I believe you shouldn't just pass it off."

As the general manager of the Walker Avenue apartments, Dieso is responsible for the overall project — making sure everything runs smoothly and that it is financially viable. He also serves as a liaison between Capstone, the company that designs the apartments, and the university. "It is my responsibility to know every inch of this building and to be able to take care of it," he says.

Dieso originally wanted to be a doctor, but the friends of his that had gone to medical school weren't happy in the profession, so he became a paraprofessional of student programming in college. Later he became a Greek adviser at New York University and lived with fraternity guys. "That was an adventure, to say the least," he recalls. "Living with them and being in a supervisory role, it was interesting; I learned that truly anything can happen." After leaving NYU, Dieso began working for Capstone at Towson University as an Assistant Manager. With a degree in higher education, he became the manager in one year. But his times at the universities weren't without their adventures.

"Once we got a call from the police saying that one of our female residents might be

holding a man who jumped bail," he says. He went up to her apartment with the police and keyed in, and upon entering she was questioned. "The police were talking to her, and all of a sudden she just got up and walked away to her room and started playing Nintendo..."

And it gets even stranger. Dieso entered her room and found a newborn baby wrapped up in a blanket in an open drawer that she had taken from the bathroom and propped up on two chairs, serving as a mock cradle. Ignoring this for the more pressing problem at hand, Dieso tried to key into the other rooms to ensure that the man wasn't in one of those. But his key wouldn't open one of the doors. He started to walk back down the hall when suddenly the door started opening. "The police whipped out their guns and started screaming, 'Get down! Get down!' and I leapt around the kitchen," he says. "I've never been so terrified in my life!" In the end, the man surrendered and had no weapon on him. "The moral of the story is let the bail bondsman break down the door," Dieso says.

Dieso transferred to UMBC because he was looking for something different and enjoys the challenge of a new property. "I love the blank slate of creating a new community," he says. This is the third building Dieso has been involved with opening. "You guys are relatively calm, which I like," he says. For example, everyone did what the managers asked during the hurricane, he notes. Some problems include student inserting nickels into the door locks, jamming them so a key isn't necessary to open the door. Dieso doesn't know who it is yet, but in the meantime he is enjoying his extra profit from collecting the nickels. "I've got about 50 cents so far," he says laughing.

A normal day consists of going into the office a little after 9 a.m., responding to emails and phone calls and figuring out the priorities for the day. "I talk to my Assistant Michelle about plans for the day, and we figure out — is

there a student who has a problem? Are there maintenance or financial issues? Does the university have a concern?" he says. "Then if all of that gets done, I have a few projects I work on, things that the community needs such as apartment living guides or working on marketing." Often he meets with Residential Life and Administration.

In his free time, he enjoys golfing and spending time with his family and friends. He enjoys traveling and in the past month he went to London. He also works with national organizations and makes presentations on topics such as group skills and higher education.

"I'm still trying to get a feel for the UMBC culture," he says. "I want students to come in and say hi and tell me what their thoughts are on how we can make things better for them." So far, he's had a great experience being here. "I don't think I've had a bad interaction here—and while some people don't see it all the time, the staff really does care about what goes on."

Quick Questions

What is your favorite type of food?

"Italian, but sushi is quickly inching up the scale."

If you could live in any apartment at Walker, which one would you choose?

"I would pick the end room in a three-bedroom apartment, one of the ones with the walk-in closet and private bathroom."

What would be your ultimate super power?

"X-ray vision is wicked cool. I ran into a couch that was randomly sitting on I-95 and it ripped my bumper off. I wish I could have seen around the curve so I didn't hit it."

NPR Producer Discusses Wartime Journalism

from NPR, page 1

he sent home as soon as the war was over. On Mayer's first Saturday in Iraq, a US soldier was killed when the hummer he was riding in drove over an insurgent-planted improved explosive device (IED) detonated, blasting the vehicle off the road. Mayer arrived on the scene to find the dead soldier's comrades grieving. Knowing full well the body was only feet away, Mayer debated taking photos with his digital camera but then "realized we're radio and we don't have to do that: to me there's something more dignified [in not doing that]."

The step Mayer took instead of focusing on the graphic gory details of the soldier's death is typical of NPR's type of journalism. Mayer recorded the moving memorial service for the dead soldier and let the sound bytes from the people who were there. For the UMBC audience, he played a clip of the service where students learned the dead soldier was a 21 year old with an infant son. His friends in the troop gave their own words about him, as a man and friend, and their memories moved some students at the lecture to tears. What NPR listeners don't see are the extensive collection of digital pictures Mayer took of his time in Iraq. The photos of the memorial service featured crying soldiers, the deceased soldier's gun, helmet, and boots on display, and a piece of paper that read "Memorial Service" with an arrow under it, taped to an orange construction cone in the desert sand.

Whereas soldiers from earlier American conflicts like World War II knew what they were there to do and were made heroes for it, Mayer observed that the "mission [in Iraq] is confused. There are elite soldiers there doing basically civil affairs, MP duties, traffic and riot control... this is an insurgent war. They need an army of engineers, of teachers."

Despite occasionally fearing for his life and wondering "what have I done?" while in Iraq, Mayer is set

to return to the Middle East in May of this year. "I'm there to tell people what's happening. It's just that simple," he said.

Until May, Mayer will continue his current assignment for NPR, which is to produce special election coverage for the 2004 presidential campaigns. A few weeks ago in New Hampshire, Mayer helped compile several campaign diaries, where NPR interviews people uninvolved with political candidates but who somehow find themselves in the middle of the primaries and caucuses. For instance, Mayer played a clip of a campaign diary of a young female grocery cashier from rural New Hampshire. She came to work one day to find former democratic candidate General Wesley Clark bagging groceries at her lane. Mayer appreciates the diaries segments because he feels they "give voice" to people who normally wouldn't have one.

Mayer whole-heartedly advocated public radio station like NPR, the BBC, and other non-commercial radio for the originality and sincerity of their content and coverage. While commercial radio news reporters only read copy, NPR correspondents are given the freedom to develop their own ideas, or take trips to Iraq like Mayer did. "NPR is about doing what's right. We make our own calls," Mayer said.

Mayer attributes his success at such a young age to knowing from college what he wanted to do. Before graduation Swarthmore with a BA in History, Mayer had already begun working for NPR. His advice to students is simply "start early. Decide what you want to do when you're in college, when you can afford to have an unpaid internship. I didn't get to be a producer because I'm smart. It's because I started early."

Mayer continues to produce campaign coverage on NPR, and will return to Iraq this summer. Visit NPR.org to listen online or hear archived footage of Mayer's Iraq broadcasts.

Since 1909, Fighting for Equality for All Americans

from NAACP, page 1

Freeman Hrabowski. Among other things, the Call requests that UMBC reduce racial disparities by at least 50% over the next 5 years and battle disparities in the teacher tenure process.

Dr. Charles Fey, vice president of student affairs, was in attendance on behalf of president Hrabowski to present UMBC's a report outlining the university's response. A copy of this report can be found online at <http://umbc.edu/saf>.

"Throughout the whole 20th and 21st centuries, the NAACP has stood up not just for colored people, but for all people... so, just as a citizen of Earth, I want to thank the NAACP," said Fey.

Brandon Neal, director of the NAACP's Youth, College and Young Adult Division, appeared to congratulate UMBC's chapter on its achievements. "I commend you of the UMBC chapter... you are the first and only chapter to submit a Call to Action," he said.

The chapter also recognized one of its own members, Erica McLaughlin, who has recently been elected to the NAACP's national board of directors, making her its youngest current member. "I'm very, proud that the UMBC chapter could be the first to submit a call to action," McLaughlin said. "[The] chapter has always been very active, I'm proud we could set the standard," she added.

The chapter's first meeting of the semester will be held on Feb. 16 in Commons 331 at 1:00 p.m. E-mail umbc_naacp@umbc.edu for more information.

UMBC Students Drop Meal Plans Amidst Rising Costs, Health Concerns

BRETT ASHLEY MCKENZIE
Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

Recent tuition hikes, the unhealthy quality of food, and inconvenient meal times have forced a number of UMBC students to drop their meal plans entirely. Director of Wood Company Dining Services, Oscar Berninger, claimed that "decreases between the fall and spring semester happen at every campus in the country."

Many students find it makes more financial sense to drop their meal plans and convert scholarship money, or money intended for meal plans into Flex dollars. Commuter student Jacqui Medford recently dropped her meal plan and now only uses flex, but she is still having difficulties affording her lunches. "Sometimes I won't eat just because I can't afford to, and that is ridiculous. A super-sized meal anywhere else is around four dollars. Why should we pay six to seven dollars just because we are on campus? Where did the tuition raise go? Certainly not to [help] us."

Student Tuan Nhu also found that "it's too costly compared to what we can buy [outside of campus]." Another student, Cheryl Matthews, said "I have dropped my meal plan because it is just too expensive, now that tuition has increased. I know at least ten other people who have done the same."

Many students have reduced the number of their meal plan instead of dropping it entirely due to restrictions placed upon residents of dormitories. Junior Tauna Woolery, an athlete, recently dropped her 19-meal plan to a 10-meal plan "since that's the lowest you can go if you live in a dorm." She made the change because "basically the food here isn't healthy and I'd rather use money to buy healthy food."

Similarly, student Seth Miller said, "I reduced my meal plan from 19 to 14 meals because I knew, in part, that the quality and quantity of food was not worth the \$70 I was spending for those extra five meals a week. Those meals were not being used anyway because I could not find reason to walk to the dining hall on the weekend, even for 'free food.'"

A senior resident advisor wishing to remain anonymous commented that because he is an RA, he is unable to drop his meal plan. "Believe me, I would if I could," he said. "I feel forced to eat that crap and without healthy options I end up having to eat an unbalanced diet."

Even students in the apartments using the cheaper \$650 5-meal option are canceling altogether. Senior Holly Wittsack claimed three of the four residents in her apartment have dropped their plans for the spring semester. "I used to skip a lot of meals just because I didn't want to go to dining hall, and skipping meals is bad," she said, "and using your meals depends on when it's convenient for the food staff. I can't go and use a meal whenever I want, I have to go at a particular time. So now I can eat whatever and whenever I want. I can eat what's good for me."

One of Wittsack's roommates, senior Amanda Otis, agreed that while a wide selection of foods can be found in the dining hall, the fare makes her feel sick and unhealthy after eating. "The nutrition info has a lot to

do with how much is served, not just what is served." For Otis, the serving size to fat content ratio in the Commons is particularly disturbing. "A sub shouldn't have that much fat and calories. How is Subway so much better than that and better for you?"

Junior Anthony Ferro agreed, "A senior resident advisor wishing to remain anonymous commented that because he is an RA, he is unable to drop his meal plan. 'I have never bought a meal plan - not because money was the issue, it is because I refuse to eat any of the food due to the high amount of fat and calories. Also I do not find any of the food even looks appetizing.'"

Food Services is taking steps to increase the avail-

money when I didn't use all my meals in a week, which always happened."

For Rashi Jawade, who holds the Culture Ethnic Seat in the SGA House of Organizations, "I can't eat most of the stuff they offer at the Commons or the Dining Hall. I am not a vegetarian; however, I only eat chicken and turkey and some selective seafood. So the choices I had were very limited and definitely not worth the money." Jawade dropped his meal plan from 14 to 10 meals a week.

Although the Commons may not seem to provide extensive meal options for vegans, vegetarians, and other special diets, Berninger claimed "We have one of the most comprehensive vegan and vegetarian programs in the country" in the student Dining Hall. This includes vegan soup of the day, salads, and prepare-your-own fare at Fresh Choices. Also, Kosher frozen fare is available at the Spot. But many students who don't have time to run to the Dining Hall between classes for lunch wish the Commons could offer better choices.

Other students have a host of their own original reasons for dropping their plans. SGA President Scott Nicholson said, "I gave up my meal plan not only because it was expensive, but when interacting with many of the workers, I have experienced some of the worst customer service of my life. If Sodexo/Wood did not have an exclusivity agreement for food services on this campus, it would not survive in a competitive environment."

Kevin King had to drop his meal plan due to a health issue: "All of their

food, in some way or another, contain one or more of the following: BHA/BHT/other chemical preservatives, one or more of the 5000+ Artificial Flavors. Their direct supplier is not necessarily the cause, it is often an indirect supplier who puts BHT/BHA in," he said. "All of these chemicals have been clinically linked to Attention Deficit Disorder and actively interfere with the learning processes of many students, causing irritability, inability to concentrate, and may be linked to other health problems." King refers students concerned with the link between ADD and chemicals in food to the website www.feingold.org.

Sophomore Kim DeBarge pays for a 10-meal a week plan, and expects good service for the money she pays, but finds it suffers on Fridays. In the middle of her hectic workday, she found time for lunch last Friday. "First I went to the grab-and-go station. They had no food. When I asked why they had no food, the woman at the register informed me that the shop was closing at 2 pm because it was Friday, and this somehow led to food cutoff at 1. Why do they even keep the place open if they aren't even going to have food? It doesn't make sense... if I'm going to pay extra over my plan to get food in the Commons it had better be good."



Lakin Jones [Retriever Staff]

Cutting their losses: Many students are deciding the costly meal plan isn't worth it.

ability of nutritional information about the food it serves, with plans for an information kiosk underway.

According to Food Services/Campus Card supervisor Winnie Schwartzbeck, 804 students currently have the 19-meal plan, 1,081 students have the 14-meal plan, 984 have the 10-meal plan, and 273 have the 5-meal option offered to off-campus, apartment, and Walker Ave. residents. There are no current statistics available as to how many students have dropped their plans this semester, Schwartzbeck said. However, when a student drops their contract with Reslife to move off-campus, they typically end up dropping their meal plan, which could contribute to the drops in meal plans. Yet, according to Berninger, of the students who had meal plans in the fall, 95 percent have maintained their plans.

A number of students have dropped their meal plans not only because they cannot afford them, or because they simply do not like the food, but because they cannot eat it. Vegetarian Kristen Cevoli said, "I dropped my meal plan this year and decided to cook for myself, mainly because the options for me were so few, and not very healthy either." For Cevoli, however, money was also an issue because "it would be cheaper to not pay for a meal plan... that way I wouldn't lose

Turnitin.com Raises Questions of Ethics

from INTERNET, page 1

archived and current copy of the publicly accessible internet. This initial phase catches most students guilty of "stealing" published information directly from the web. The second data base contrasts student works with an online archive of "millions" of public works including media available through ProQuest, ABI/Inform, and "tens of thousands" of electronic books including the Gutenberg Collection of Literary Classics. Any phrase in a student work which exactly matches an archived work is automatically highlighted on the report, even if the phrase or information is properly cited. The third database compares student submissions to an archive of every student work ever submitted to turnitin.com and highlights exact phrase matches.

Typically, this system is efficient and reliable in identifying students guilty of plagiarizing media directly from the internet. However, there are several serious flaws with the system that have caused some students particularly serious problems. As a result, the validity of the system has come into check. "It was just ridiculous," said Ian Bioajin a junior and history major, "I was accused of plagiarizing from myself. My professor jumped to conclusions."

Several students reported that they had reiterated original ideas in papers of similar topics during their academic careers. Often, according to students who have endured accusations, the instructor neglected to check the source before pointing the proverbial finger.

"It was disheartening," Bioajin added, "they're so eager to catch someone... [instructor] was throwing around words like expulsion... I had to defend myself about copying my own work!"

The most startling and irritating flaw with the system expressed by students, regards the archiving of submitted work. All submissions to turnitin.com are catalogued and then integrated into the third database scan. "It's wrong to do that..." said Melissa Josesierita, English major, "they have no right to hold onto a copy of my work without my permission." Students are required to "register" in order to use turnitin.com, which legally gives the service the right to hold onto submitted works. However, for most students, registering to use the service is mandatory and there are no other alternatives. Students are inarguably forced to sign an online contract allowing the service to archive submissions.

It is indisputable that there is a voluminous amount of work that can be downloaded or stolen from the internet, including thousands of essays and term papers. Additionally, websites such as Essays.com offer papers for sale, claiming that purchased papers are to only be used for "additional research." Internet resources like Essays.com make plagiarizing accessible and secure, which is considered by most of academia to be disgraceful.

As a result of these websites, turnitin.com loses some ability to effectively catch students taking credit for plagiarized work. The system is unable to scan portions of the internet which are not publicly available,

therefore, papers and documents taken from secure servers, for the most part, cannot be identified.

Consequently, aside from system flaws, the turnitin.com service does provide several powerful anti-plagiarism resources. Several students, who had admitted to committing internet plagiarism (to some degree) in their previous academic career, indicated that when an instructor announces turnitin.com will be used in the course of the class, any thoughts of stealing information off the internet quickly subside. Further, the implementation of the detection service influences students to be exceedingly cautious when citing any form of media. Through reputation alone, turnitin.com makes a lasting impression as to the serious consequences of violating academic integrity laws.

In the heyday of internet plagiarism, it is disheartening to some that services provided by turnitin.com are becoming an absolutely necessity in order to secure academic integrity. In some cases, students who commit plagiaristic activities are unaware of their actions. Often, students use media and accidentally provide an improper citation (by not meeting MLA standardized citation protocols). Ultimately, the decision to consciously commit an act of plagiarism rests in the student's hands and falls back on a question of honesty and commitment to higher education.

For more information on the service provided by turnitin.com, visit the website or visit www.plagiarism.org.



World News

After Packing M&M's Together, Scientists Like What They See

(NY Times) In possibly the biggest advance in the science of candy since the discovery that Wint-O-Green Life Savers emit faint blue sparks when chewed, scientists are reporting today that M&M's pack more tightly in your mouth than gumballs.

The research is a more complicated version of a long-studied problem: how tightly identical spheres can be packed together. Neatly stacked, as in a pyramid of oranges at a grocery store, the spheres occupy 74 percent of the available volume. Arranged randomly, however, the spheres fill only 64 percent of the space.

In the new research, the scientists considered spheroids — spheres stretched into cigar shapes or squashed into M&M shapes. Stacked neatly, the spheroids still take up 74 percent of the space, just like spheres. But in random arrangements, computer simulations and experiments with M&M's showed that spheroids could be packed much more densely, filling up to 71 percent of the space.

Teachers Treated After Eating Doped Cake

BERLIN (Reuters) - Teachers in a German school were treated in hospital after gobbling up an anonymously donated chocolate cake, unaware it was laced with hashish, authorities said on Thursday.

Some 10 teachers from the school in the northern town of Lueneburg were treated for nausea and dizziness after sharing a cake left at the door to their staff room, a police spokesman said.

"They thought it was food poisoning, but the doctors quickly recognized the problem," the spokesman said. "They showed all the classic signs of people under the influence of drugs."

The spokesman said the teachers had not suspected anything because it was customary for them to buy cakes from the schoolchildren as part of a fund-raising project.

Blood tests and a sample of an uneaten slice of cake revealed it had been doctored with hashish. The teachers were later discharged and police said they had not yet identified who was responsible for the prank.

The Bride Wore Black Because the Groom Was Dead

NICE, France (Reuters) - A 35-year-old French woman has married her boyfriend 18 months after he was killed in a car accident.

Christel Demichel, who wore black, was married Tuesday under a little-used law in the presence of friends and relatives at city hall in the southern city of Nice, local officials said. It would have been her husband Eric's 30th birthday.

"Eric and I promised when he was alive that we would get married," she told French television. "Even though he is dead, I respect the values I shared with him, especially as his death was not his fault."

Eric Demichel, a policeman, was killed in a hit-and-run car accident in September 2002. Christel, who was pregnant at the time, lost her baby in the same accident.

"I lived a beautiful love story and this wedding testifies to it," Demichel said.

Posthumous marriage is allowed in France under a law introduced by former President Charles de Gaulle.



Police Log

Theft from Vehicle

February 3, 4:32 pm; South Campus Satellite lot. A UMBC student reported that person(s) unknown broke into his parked motor vehicle and removed a CD player as well as other stereo equipment.

Malicious Destruction of Property

February 4, 9:37 am; Fine Arts 5th floor Hallway. A UMBC employee reported that person(s) unknown used a hard unknown object to break the glass of a poster frame.

Theft from Building

February 04, 10:14 am; Retriever Activity Center Men's Locker Room

A UMBC student reported that person(s) unknown broke into his locker and stole his personal property.

Theft from Building

February 4, 10:31am; Retriever Activity Center Men's Locker Room. A UMBC student reported that person(s) unknown broke into his locker and stole his personal property.

Theft from Building

February 4, 10:27 am; UC Commons Building. A UMBC student was found in possession of a chair that is owned by UMBC Commons Building. The chair was then seized and returned to the UMBC Commons Building. The student was referred to Judicial Affairs.

Theft from Building

February 5, 9:25 am; Retriever Activity Center. A UMBC student reported that his locker was broken into and personal property were taken.

Theft from Building

February 5, 4:13 pm; UC Commons
An AFLAC employee reported that an unknown male removed a white, 3 foot tall, stuffed AFLAC duck from a display the company had set up in the building.

Sexual Assault

February 6, 12:17 am; Seidling Apartments. Several students under 21 years of age attended a party in Seidling Apartment and consumed alcoholic beverages. During the investigation it was learned that a sexual assault had occurred and its investigation is continuing.

Possession of CDS

February 7, 4:23 pm; Chesapeake Hall

The resident assistant on duty reported an odor of marijuana coming from a dorm room in Chesapeake Hall. Several students were referred to Judicial Affairs. A Criminal Summons was issued for UMBC Student, Ibrahim, Sherif Mohamed, 18 YOA, of 1300 Blk of Willow Oak Dr, Frederick, Md charging him with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia. The summons has not been served.

Possession of CDS

February 8, 12:21 am; Patapsco Hall

The resident student on duty reported an odor of marijuana coming from a dorm room in Patapsco Hall. Two students were referred to Judicial Affairs. One UMBC Student, Ferrara, Thomas M., 20 YOA, of Patapsco Hall was issued a Criminal Summons for Possession of Marijuana and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia.

Possession of CDS

February 7, 11:15 pm; Chesapeake Hall. While conducting a follow-up investigation to a previous possession of a controlled dangerous substance, an officer located CDS in the room. The investigation resulted in a Criminal Summons being obtained and served on UMBC Student, Hoff, Daniel Blair, 18 YOA, of 3500 Baker School House Rd., Freeland, Md for Possession of Marijuana and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia.

New Walker Ave. Apartments Scheduled to Open Next Fall

AMY SEGRETI

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

Walker Avenue apartments will triple in size on Aug. 1, when all the construction (at the top of the hill, at least) will be complete.

In the new apartments, labeled by Erickson Construction and Capstone as Phase 5B, there will be three separate buildings consisting of 582 bedrooms and 175 apartments—nearly double the amount of the current apartments. There will be seven stacks in Phase 5B, making a total of 12. Like the first phase, each stack is secured and only the residents of that particular stack can key into it.

There will be four, three and two-bedroom apartments, the majority of them being four-bedroom. However, similar to the first set of apartments, the room sizes will not exactly be uniform. "Architects are a funny breed," said Dieso, laughing. "They pay attention to the plans as closely as possible, but sometimes they just need to make things fit."

The new apartments will surround two courtyards—a rectangular one will have a sprawling lawn with picnic tables on one side, and a square one will contain benches and picnic tables.

The managers of Walker Avenue will be moving their office to Phase 5B's community building, and turning their old office into a community room for students to watch TV, study, or perhaps play pool or ping pong. "We'd be welcome to student's suggestions as to what kind of activities to include," said Dieso.

The advantages of living in the Walker Avenue apartments, Dieso notes, are that they are located on campus, utilities are paid, there is a small fee for the phone, cable and internet, and students don't have to go out and buy brand new furniture like they would if they lived in an off-campus apartment. "Everything comes furnished and in a nice, neat package," said Dieso. Also, campus police patrol the

parking lot every hour, and bike patrol rides through the courtyard periodically.

This year, some students ruled out Walker Avenue primarily because of the cost. "There are millions of dollars going into this," explained Dieso, "and while we really want students to live here, we've got to pay our bills too. It's feels like a financial black hole sometimes." Next year, Dieso anticipates a moderate increase in the cost of the apartments, but they are "trying to make it a negligible one."



Lakin Jones [Retriever Staff]

Queen sized beds: Walker Ave. is set to expand threefold.

A couple of students complain about the walk up the hill. "I don't want to live there because it's too far away from the dining hall and classes," said Abigail Ingersoll, junior. Dieso looks on the positive side. "Hey, we even come with a built-in exercise plan!"

As far as housing re-contracting, students who already live in Walker Avenue will get priority. "We want to thank the students who chose to live here by giving them first choice," said Dieso. Students will first be able to choose to stay in the apartment they currently reside in; next, students will be able to switch apartments; finally, leasing will be open to the general campus. Capstone aims to finish leasing by April 1, and their next focus is to make sure move-out goes smoothly. By Aug. 1, Phase 5B will be complete, and head supervisors, electricians, plumbers and others who had a hand in finishing the building will be walking through each room making sure everything is in order.

TeacherReviews.com Shut Down

ROSSI IROBALIEVA

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

TeacherReviews.com, a site well known amongst college for its elaborate collection of over 36,000 reviews of college professors, shut down two weeks ago because of a threat for a lawsuit by a professor who was upset by the comments of several reviewers.

"I talked with a professor who was extremely upset with what [was] written about him on TeacherReviews," wrote Dylan Greene, the founder of TeacherReviews, on his website. "He had several inappropriate reviews that made unfounded accusations and inappropriate untruthful remarks such as calling him 'Bipolar Paranoid Schizophrenic.' These reviews should not have been on the site," commented Greene, who felt pressured to shut down the site after the professor threatened to sue him and "to get the involvement of the teacher's union American Federation of Teachers."

"I feel that students have the right to voice their opinion," said sophomore Dozie Onunkwo, who felt that it is the students' right to learn more about different professors, before they choose whose lectures to attend. Onunkwo added that he found most of the reviews to be accurate.

Freshman Kacie Smith shared that in her experience with the website, she did not encounter negative comments but just the opposite - she found the site to be very useful. Smith felt that lawsuit against the site was a very drastic measure; however, she agreed that after all, everyone has the right to complain.

"I actually find that [only] one out of ten of the teachers that I find on the site actually match their description," said senior Rishi Ratwani, who very well might have been a victim of what Greene would describe as "users who have used the site to write

insults, accusations, remarks that can be considered slanderous."

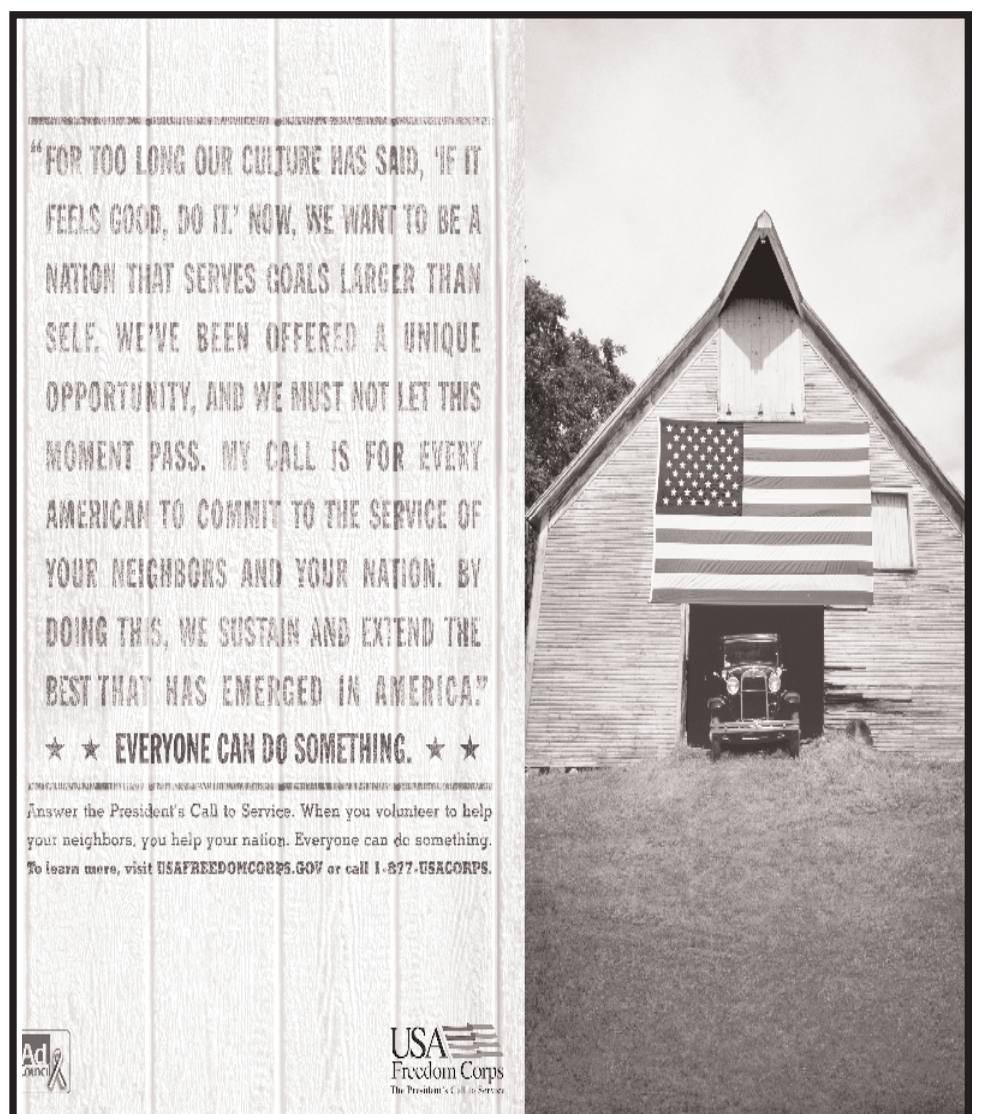
Last week, the professor decided to drop the charges toward the site. "We talked about the situation, the site as it is today, and the intent of the site, which has always been to help students, as opposed to insult professors," said Greene. "This professor is now helping the site by providing feedback to the new features from a professor's point of view, which is something I have not looked into before," he added.

Greene, who is currently working on rebuilding the site from scratch, is planning to completely reorganize the site and add new tools, which would enable all students and professors to flag and remove entries that they find inappropriate. Greene noted that he and a selected team of volunteers will review those entries requested for deletion and will make a final decision whether or not to keep them.

Over the past week, Greene has been showered with tremendous support. An attorney who has experience in litigation and First Amendment laws has agreed to help Greene free of charge and has also suggested to him several other organizations that are willing to help. In addition, one web designer volunteered to help create a new look for TeacherReviews.com.

Greene, who is a University of Maryland, College Park graduate, created the site during his senior year, in 1999, and considers it to be his "part-time hobby."

"I have never made any money from TeacherReviews," Greene said. "All costs related to the site have come out of my own pocket." "If there ever is a lawsuit, the costs to defend the site will also come out of my own pocket." However, Greene hopes that this would never happen. He is currently working on the new version of TeacherReviews.com and hopes to have the site back up and running in a few weeks.





A black and white movie poster for the film 'Twisted'. The top half features close-up portraits of the three main characters: Ashley Judd in the center, Samuel L. Jackson on the left wearing round glasses, and Andy Garcia on the right. They are separated by two thick, white, jagged diagonal lines that cross in the middle, resembling a large 'X'. Below the portraits, the title 'TWISTED' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath the title is the tagline 'EVERY MURDER HAS A MARK.' in smaller white capital letters. The bottom third of the poster is dark, showing a silhouette of a person walking down a street at night. At the very bottom, there is a line of small white text containing production credits, a rating box (R), and the phrase 'COMING SOON'.

ASHLEY SAMUEL L. ANDY
JUDD JACKSON GARCIA

TWISTED

EVERY MURDER HAS A MARK.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ENTERTAINMENT & KOPELSON ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION A PHILIP KAUFMAN FILM ASHLEY JUDD SAMUEL L. JACKSON ANDY GARCIA "TWISTED" DAVID STRATHAIRN RUSSELL WONG MARK PELLEGRINO
MUSIC BY MARK ISHAM CO-PRODUCED BY PETER KAUFMAN SHERYL CLARK COSTUME DESIGNER ELLEN MORGUNOVIC EDITOR PETER BOYLE PRODUCTION DESIGNER DENNIS WASHINGTON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PETER DEMING, A.C.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEPHEN GIBBYN ROBYN MEISINGER MICHAEL FLYNN
WRITTEN BY CAROL THOMP PRODUCED BY ARNOLD KOPELSON AND ANNE KOPELSON BARRY BAILES LONNE RALPH
COMING SOON DIRECTED BY PHILIP KAUFMAN

R RESTRICTED
UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING
PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN
VIOLENCE, LANGUAGE & SEXUALITY

PG-13
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13

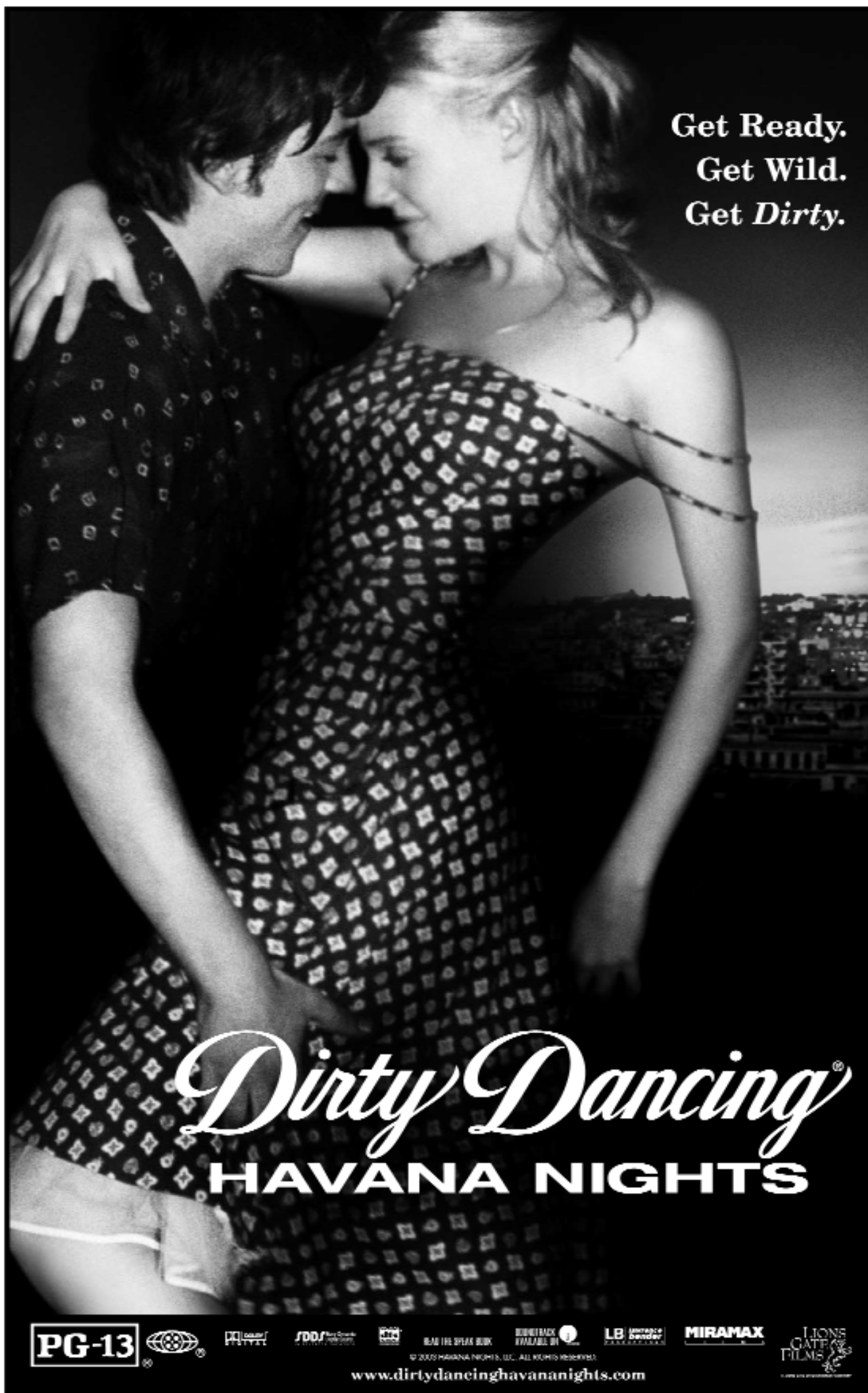
HEARST/ABC
SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON VARIOUS SONY/AT&T CDs

TwistedMovie.com

Passes and prizes are available while supplies last. No purchase necessary. Limit one per person. Employees of Paramount Pictures and The Retriever Weekly and UMBC are not eligible.



INVITE YOU AND A GUEST TO AN ADVANCE SCREENING OF



Come to The Retriever Weekly's FunFest on the Commons Terrace during free hour on Wednesday 2/18 to win a pass (good for two) to an advance screening.

Passes and prizes are available while supplies last. No purchase necessary. Limit one per person. Employees of Lions Gate Films and The Retriever Weekly and UMBC are not eligible.

Opinion

Has TV gone too far?
TeacherReviews.com is back
Let them have guns
Vocab lessons with Eminem

08
09
10
12
INSIDE

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor can be sent to editorinchief@trw.umbc.edu or delivered to UC214, c/o Letters to the Editor.

Letters must be received by 12 p.m. on Thursday and must be typed or written legibly and include the author's name and telephone number. Letters to the Editor cannot exceed 400 words.

Dear Editor:

I was somewhat perturbed by the realization that Jeff Hartline was using religion to criticize the gay rights movement. If we're going to use what God says to form the basis for political decisions that affect an entire group of people, I guess we'd better be all-inclusive. After all, if we're going to apply one idea that originated in Old Testament times, we might as well apply them all, right?

—"...The seventh day shall be sacred to you as the Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD. Anyone who does work on that day shall be put to death" (Ex 35:2). Too bad for those of us working on the weekends, eh?

—"...Of the various creatures that crawl or swim in the water...all those that lack either fins or scales are loathsome for you..." (Lev 11:10). Dam. There goes lobster night at the dining hall.

—"...Do not put on a garment woven with two different kinds of thread" (Lev 19:19). That's a shame. My favorite sweatshirt is a cotton/polyester blend.

—"Do not go to mediums or consult fortune-tellers, for you will be defiled by them" (Lev 19:31). And I, in my ignorance, thought that the horoscope section of TRW was harmless. How foolish of me.

—"Slaves, male and female, you may indeed possess, provided you buy them from among the neighboring nations" (Lev 25:44). I don't think that this needs a comment to emphasize how ridiculous the idea is.

My overall point is this: one can't always apply what God reportedly said a couple thousand years ago to modern situations. Some beliefs are simply outdated, and have fallen to the wayside. I can only hope that this one will drop away too.

—Thomas Glennon, imitated student

Dear Editor:

The saying goes that it is better to be silent and thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

Mr. Hartline has definitely opened his mouth with his most recent article, "Hey, That's My Right." Clearly, Mr. Hartline has a two-fold agenda he's pushing in his article, so I'll do my best to address them one at a time.

see LETTERS, page 11

Wait, What Month is This?

So, was the campus trying to be as politically correct as possible when it decided to make it African Heritage Month instead of Black History Month? Was Black History Month replaced? Did UMBC assume that if we used "African" instead of "black" (implying African-American), it would somehow encompass everyone? Did the Black Student Organization and NAACP drop the ball and totally forget about the event?

We are just a little confused. Did we miss the memo?

Although some African-Americans can ultimately trace their family roots to African blood lines (with their family came here forcibly or not), it does not mean that the modern-day African-American holds any feeling towards, or feels in any way connected with, Africa. Surely, in this time of political correctness, someone should have observed that.

We do recognize that those of African decent and those in our student body who hail from Africa deserve their month of pride and joy, but we also observe that though Africans and African-Americans share aspects of heritage and culture, they have separate identities and cultures. The two groups cannot simply be lumped together for the purposes of saving time and energy. Just as the two student organizations have separate meetings, shouldn't their heritages be celebrated separately? Was this an attempt of the two groups to make a statement, showing some sort of unifying force?

Though it is nice to celebrate the similarities of different cultures on campus, there needs to be a distinction between the histories and cultures of African and African-American students. Each has its own beauty and significant, and should be recognized equally.

The True Meaning of "Cold"

Never in all my life have I seen such fear of the cold as the people of Maryland have shown me in my short time here. Of course, it seems not so much a fear as it is an inability to take things in perspective. For, in reality, the weather in Baltimore is balmy.

As evidence of this, I offer the fact that the precipitation falling from the sky recently was rain. Not sleet, nor hail, nor snow, rather it was rain, and in February. For winter, rainfall seems strange. True it did turn into ice, but that was only at night-time — and it soon melted when the morning arrived.

As further proof of the warm climate here, I offer the current conditions of my home town, and where it is really the definition of winter. With a snow cover of some twenty inches and a low temperature of negative 3 degrees Fahrenheit. Oh, and you're going to have classes too, because snow days are a myth. Just be careful of the driving: spinning out and getting your car stuck in a snow bank is no way to start the day.

I urge people who have never witnessed the horror of a winter where temperatures are lethal in minutes and snow drifts bury cars in a white sea to enjoy the fact that the snow here lies in scant disheveled piles, and the "bitter cold" is a mere 38 degrees.

For when I think of winter, I picture lakes frozen, snow up to my knees, and cold so cold that it burns your face if you dared to venture outside for anything over a few minutes. Not a place where the ground is damp with water and the wind delivers at its maximum a bit of a chill.

So be thankful (I know I am) with prospects of a winter such as that; I think we should all count ourselves lucky to have weather with forecasts of forty-degree weather. Because the word "cold" has more meaning than most locals here can even imagine.

THE RETRIEVER

U M B C ' s S t u d e n t N e w s p a p e r

Editor in Chief	.....Brett Ashley McKenzie
Managing Editor	.....Amy Segreti
Advertising Manager	.....Brandon Dudley
Billing Manager	.....Elliot Gerlach
News Editor	.....Joseph Howley
Opinion Editor	.....Amber Sampson
Assistant Opinion Editor	.....Mary Kate Bukowski
Features Editor	.....Kaidye Hansen
Assistant Features Editor	.....Doug Miller
Sports Editor	.....Andrew Chaney
Photography Editor	.....Lakin Jones
Assistant Photography Editor	.....Anita Field
Production Manager	.....Evan Wiegand
Production Assistant	.....Nic Takemoto
Production Assistant	.....Vasanthi Abraham
Production Assistant	.....Noel Mueller
Production Assistant	.....James Hamilton
Copy Editor	.....Patrick Bladen
Illustrator	.....Christina Ralls
Technology Manager	.....Rick Carback
Assistant Technology Manager	.....Paul Swenson
Webmaster	.....Aaron Stahl
Circulation Manager	.....Adam Driscoll
Assistant Circulation Manager	.....Micheal Caputi
Faculty Adviser	.....Christopher Corbett
Administrative Adviser	.....Dr. Patty Perillo
Layout Design Concept	.....Brandon Gilbertson

The *Retriever Weekly* staff editorials reflect the views of the editorial board; signed columns and advertisements represent the opinions of the individual writers and advertisers, respectively, and do not necessarily reflect those of The *Retriever Weekly* or the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Letters to the Editor are printed verbatim, although the editors reserve the right to edit any letter deemed lengthy, repetitive, libelous or otherwise in need of revision. The editors further reserve the right not to print any letter for any reason. Letters to the Editor must be typed or written legibly and include the author's name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12 p.m. on Thursday and may not exceed 400 words.

The *Retriever Weekly* publishes weekly on Tuesdays during the regular school year. Editors can be reached at (410) 455-1260 during normal business hours or at University Center 214; 1000 Hilltop Circle; UMBC; Baltimore, MD 21250. The *Retriever Weekly* is an equal opportunity employer.

You can bench press 200 pounds.



Can you uplift the life of a child?

For almost 50 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland has been pairing children from single-parent families with caring adult mentors who serve as friends and role models. Maryland's Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Big Couples spend time with their "Littles" at least twice a month, sharing meals, attending sporting events, going to museums and just hanging out together. Hundreds of local children are waiting to be matched. Someone like you could be a positive role model — and give a child a big lift.



**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
OF CENTRAL MARYLAND
410-243-4000**



Check us out online: trw.umbc.edu

Caption Goes Here



Send your caption ideas for this photo to anita@trw.umbc.edu or lakin@trw.umbc.edu by this Friday.

The most creative caption will run in next week's paper. Be sure to include your name and year with your caption suggestion.

The snow covered hills of my homeland, I miss them.



- Nic Cornelius Kenji:
Sophomore

Point

It's Not Always HBO, Sometimes It's Just TV

MATT WATKIS

South Park once gained even more attention than usual by airing a publicity stunt of an episode in which a counter was displayed in a corner of the screen. It tallied the number of times in which any character said "shit" during that episode. (The plot-line was a clever parody of the debate over television propriety, and the final count was 162.)

The universe of television was cursed as a "vast wasteland" by a government commission more than 40 years ago; Reader's Digest once warned that its influence could become "hypnosis in your living room"; some still refer to it as the "idiot box." In spite of these complaints and many more, a very large portion of Americans cannot conceive of life without television, and many of them don't want to do so. Still the love affair with TV continues, and it probably endures because many of the charges against TV are far more exaggerated than they should be.

Recent weeks have been unbelievably oversaturated with intense analysis of the Super Bowl "wardrobe malfunction" fiasco. The wailing over a few seconds of unexpected exposure makes this country's most outspoken voices sound more and more foolish, here and abroad. It seems absolutely silly for so many to complain about a visible female breast on broadcast television; it helps to remember that over half of the world's population will have a lifetime of close contact with (at least) one pair of breasts. These people seem to be getting along reasonably well where those personal features are concerned.

Whenever the crusaders against permissive TV standards find themselves without any decent arguments, someone will resort to begging the public to support this cause "for the children." Contrary to popular belief, good parenting is an effective safeguard from the effects of inappropriate

TV. Some of the programs on the air should not be seen by younger children, but those same programs attract a good deal of fans as children grow older and become more mature. Adults have the right to enjoy certain types of shows, and they can't exercise that right if those shows are being forced off the airwaves. There are systems and guidelines already in place for keeping many of the shows in question



Daniela Zangara [Retriever Staff]

To see or not to see: UMBC students torn on the issue of appropriate programming.

away from most young minds; parents with younger children have plenty of assistance with the goal of helping children understand TV at the right times. The remaining responsibilities rightfully belong to them.

Matt Watkis is a staff writer for the Retriever Weekly. He can be reached for comment at matt7@umbc.edu.

Counterpoint

Television Robs Sexuality of Due Respect

CATHY GILL

TV has reached a new low. It is now comprised of celebrities embattled in a fierce competition, the victor of which proudly claims the title of "TV's Top Whore" (or "Man-Whore," to keep things fair). Anyone remember "the kiss" of

But why do I have to be comfortable seeing your sexuality? And God help me if my kids ever saw that!

"But it does no harm! But it helps kids understand their sexuality! They need to see people celebrating their sexuality!"

Maybe this is outdated, but I distinctly remember my mother, in the most serious tone I have ever heard her use, tell a very younger me and my siblings to never let anyone touch our private parts. It was directly intended to prevent sexual abuse, but I think it carried a stronger message. It made me realize the importance of these areas of my body, and made me respect them and myself. As I grew up, my education in the matter continued as I realized that sexuality is a gift and should be celebrated with someone who is the only one capable of ultimately respecting my sexuality as much as I do. This person would be my husband. It would not be the hungry public.

Celebrities are making mistakes by "celebrating their sexuality" on TV. It is good that women and men are educated in sexual matters. They should celebrate it. But I can guarantee that the viewers do not, nor cannot, come close to giving these celebrities the sexual respect they deserve. They cannot share in the celebration.

It is like filming a banquet full of food. The cook wants to share his wonderful creations. But the viewers of the banquet cannot fully share and celebrate it, because they cannot taste or smell or feel it. It is empty. It is only in a more intimate setting, when a close friend comes over for a meal and can taste and share the food, can it really be celebrated.

Please, celebrities, respect yourselves and start behaving and dressing as if sexuality were more than a shock competition.

Cathy Gill is a staff writer for the *Retriever Weekly*. She can be reached for comment at cat8@umbc.edu.

Madonna? How 'bout the foreplay between Justin and Janet at the Super Bowl, culminating in the one thing I wanted so desperately to see: Janet's right mammary organ.

This has got to stop.

"But this is progress! People are finally becoming comfortable with their sexuality! This signals the advent of the end of sexual binding!"

Fine, be comfortable with your sexuality.

TeacherReviews was Down, but Thankfully it's Not Out

LIDIYA MISHCHENKO

TeacherReviews is a free, privately operated website that has been recently shut down. This website allowed students to put up reviews about professors and their classes. It was an invaluable tool for students registering for new classes. There were some reviews, though, which were simply slanderous and inappropriate. This website was a convenient way for bitter students to verbalize their anger at the professors who have provided them with inferior grades.

Slander is the current issue with this particular website. One exasperated professor threatened to sue the website's owner unless the website was shut down. Though I find the professor's frustration reasonable, and no one deserves to be publicly called a "bipolar paranoid schizophrenic," I am still an adamant advocate of free speech.

The owner of the website, Dylan Greene, agreed to shut down the website because he did not have a lawyer and could not afford to go through the process of a trial, though he was quite confident of his victory. TeacherReview, TeacherReviews' predecessor, had a similar lawsuit against it four years ago. The ACLU helped

in the trial's defense and TeacherReview won the lawsuit. The professors of the trial settled before the hearing.

There were 36,000 reviews on TeacherReviews. This was an overwhelming amount of reviews for the owner to read and edit, but he says, "The quality of the and reliability of TeacherReviews has been diminished by the few users who have used the site to write insults, accusations, remarks that can be considered slanderous." Thus, TeacherReviews was taken down and Greene has decided to make some changes to the site. Some of these changes include "easy professor removal" and "e-mail notification of new reviews." Professors can choose not to have their reviews posted and the students will simply find "their reason for not wanting to be on the site" in their place. Also, reviews will be hidden from Google and will be separated by dates so older reviews are put on a separate page. Certain reviews will be flagged for removal and will be considered by a group of volunteers and Greene himself for removal. Finally, the website will be redesigned by web-designer foO. TeacherReviews will have a cleaner, more professional look.

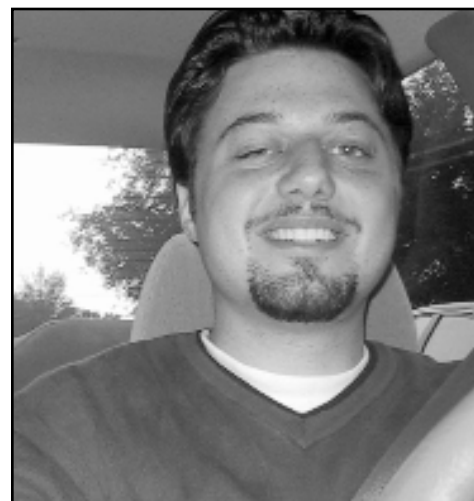
I am extremely excited to hear that the professor has recently agreed to drop the

charges against TeacherReviews and the website is coming back. I am appalled that some people suggested erasing all anonymous reviews from the site. Anonymous reviews allow students to be honest in their criticism. I am not supporting blatant slander, but TeacherReviews is an amazing website and I do not believe there was any justification in pressuring the owner to shut it down on the part of the professor.

The support for this website has been incredible. There have been about 4,500 visits to the website per day. An attorney has volunteered to help Dylan Greene free of charge. There have been numerous donations to Greene and his mailbox has been littered with hundreds of e-mails. I am personally impressed that this man has put in so much effort and so much of his time and money into keeping up this website. He stated earlier that he has never made any money from TeacherReviews and that the website has always been a part-time hobby. "All costs related to the site have come out of my own pocket," says Greene.

Dylan Greene is truly an inspiration for free-speech advocates.

Lidiya Mishchenko is a staff writer for the Retriever Weekly. She can be reached for com-



Courtesy of www.DylanGreene.com

Students' Hero: Dylan Greene keeps TeacherReviews up and running

ment at opinion@trw.umbc.edu. If you would like to read more about this issue, go to www.teacherreviews.com, or you can contact Dylan Greene at dylan@dylangreene.com.

Quotes from the Quad

photos by Daniela Zangara

Stop, hey, whats that sound?



Will Nguyen, 21
Junior, Economics
"He's got game."



Lily Vu, 18
Freshmen, Biology
"It's the sound of angry men."



Ariana Cook, 18
Psych, Freshmen
"Sounds like Justin had beans for lunch again."



Asynith Palmer, 19
Sophomore, English/French
"Everybody look whats goin down."

Jordan Bosley, 21
Junior, Geography
"Stupid conversation."



Gun Control Should Mean Using Both Hands

JEFF HARTLINE

Gun control groups are attempting to prevent students from exercising a basic constitutional right. The right for citizens to keep and bear arms in America is under attack. Perhaps, liberal gun control advocates and their allies in the media and academic world should know the facts about gun control and how unconstitutional and harmful their positions are.

The founders were very clear as to what they thought of the right to be armed. James Madison, a Federalist, said, "The Constitution preserves the advantage of being armed, which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation where the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." Thomas Jefferson, an anti-Federalist, said, "Laws that forbid the carrying of arms disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they served rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

Campuses are not immune from violence. In 2002, Peter Odighizuwa, a law school student opened fire upon students and faculty of the Appalachian School of Law. Three students then proceeded to where Mr. Odighizuwa was shooting and proceeded to disarm him. However, what is not often reported is that two of these students first

ran to their vehicle, grabbed their guns, and ran back to the scene to disarm the assailant.

According to celebrity and Million Mom March organizer, Rosie O'Donnell, these two heroes who disarmed this killer should be thrown into prison. Commenting on whether people should own guns, Ms. O'Donnell said, "I don't think it's your right... I think you should own a gun, and I think you should go to prison."

In 1994, The Brady Bill was signed into law, banning the sale of assault rifles. Despite the rhetoric from then President Clinton on the benefits of such a ban, studies conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms later concluded that the Brady Law had little effect on crime. If people use some common sense, they would conclude that most of the crimes on the streets of Baltimore tend not to use assault rifles while committing crimes.

Washington D.C. banned all possession of firearms in 1977. The thought was that without guns, criminals would have no means of employing their methods of mayhem across the city.

Unfortunately, since the gun ban was passed, Washington D.C. has seen their crime rate double. Wherever guns are banned or strict gun control laws are passed, violence is sure to follow.

Recently, the United Kingdom banned handguns. Their measure was so strict that it even disallowed people to be armed. As such, crime rates went up dramatically.

In the United States, crime rates went up dramatically. The number of murders, robberies, and rapes (who tend not to follow the law anyways, hence the word "outlaws") increased. They disarmed their firearms and used them against a basically disarmed population.

One of the largest gun control groups in America is known as the National Rifle Association. Recently, they graded all states on their strict gun control laws. Kentucky, Maine, Montana, and Maryland received the grade of "F" for their relatively loose gun laws.

The state of Maryland received the grade of "A" for its strict gun control measures. However, studies by the FBI concluded that Maryland has a crime rate which is more than double those rates of the five states which received failing marks. So if someone were

to be honest, would they conclude that states with strict gun control laws reduce crime or inflate it?

In a final nail to the coffin of the gun-grabbing crowd, Professor John R. Lott from Yale University studied gun ownership rates county by county. In his subtly-titled book, *More Guns, Less Crime*, Lott found that crime rates were dramatically lower in counties that had higher gun ownership rates. In addition, Florida State University Criminologist Gary Kleck wrote a study in which he concluded that the use of guns by law-abiding citizens was responsible for preventing 2.5 million crimes every year.

Despite the overwhelming evidence that gun ownership actually reduces crime, gun control advocates have succeeded in fooling a large percentage of our population. They would be wise to heed the advice of another of our founders. Patrick Henry once said, "The great object is that every man be armed." Patrick Henry is right, but in this world of political correctness, his words would probably be deemed "extreme." Gun control advocates are completely off target and as such, their goal is not the promotion of freedom, but a betrayal of a basic right upon which this country was founded.

Jeff Hartline is a staff writer for the Retriever Weekly. He can be reached for comment at jeffhar1@umbc.edu.



Winter Season in Style

ASTRID SPERLING

I love those first warm days after the fierce cold. It seems that with the temperature, my mood goes up as well. And it very much appears as if I am not the only one who thinks that way. You can really see a transformation in the people on this campus. Everyone would agree that this winter has been on the chilly side. We all silently accepted the snow, the ice, and the temperatures that leave our cheeks ice-kissed and our noses Rudolph-red. But when the warmer temperatures finally arrive we cannot wait to take those lighter clothes that have collected inches of dust over the past few months, out of our closets. It is always interesting to see how people react to the temperature change.

Walking across campus the other day, I saw many sweaters that so far have been covered in heavy jackets. I saw button-down shirts, a few skirts with knee socks, even a small number of shorts. Of course, the people in those light outfits are the same ones that bring out the winter coats and scarves when the thermometers drop into the lower 60s after that hot summer. However, 48 degrees in February is a reason to celebrate with a new spring outfit. It is very interesting to observe how we all react to different temperatures at different times of the year. On this day, everyone seemed relieved — and not only from the weight of their bulky winter attire.

Nevertheless, there are a few cautious people at UMBC too. These students don't trust this whole change in the weather. They stick to their beloved winter outfits and don't change into anything lighter until spring is officially declared on March 21. Yes, there are people among us who dress according to season

instead the temperatures. Do not be ashamed if you still have your mom's words in your ears to "dress up warm in the winter and light in the summer." Who I can't understand though, are the few "wild" ones that refuse to wear anything else but shorts, no matter what season it is. Some are a little more extreme than others; I've seen people out in 30 degrees with sandals, in T-shirts, in shorts and a sweater, or the whole combo. Are these people trying to make a statement? If so, what is it? Do they really not get cold?

I do want to come back to the "early bloomers," though. Of course we are all happy about the warmer weather, but be warned. Don't put your winter outfits away in big boxes to store them in the basement until next winter. No, it's not time yet. The winter is still among us. These last few days have just been a tease. It will get colder again, and after all, the groundhog saw its shadow so we are all in for a few more fun- (and ice-) filled winter weeks. Don't give those students, still wrapped in thick clothing, looks as if they were crazy. It still gets really frosty outside once the sun goes down. So if you are among those people having to attend night classes that get out close to 10 p.m., beware of the power of the cold. It slaps you in the face and literally takes your breath away.

I say, enjoy the warmer days as long as we have them, wear whatever fits you right, whether that might be shorts or the traditional winter wear. Think warm thoughts and let's all hope that spring (break) time arrives quicker than we could have wished.

Astrid Sperling is a guest writer for the Retriever Weekly. She can be reached for comment at Aspel1@umbc.edu.

JHU 2004

SUMMER
VISITING
UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAM

Catch Up Or Get Ahead On Credits

At The Johns Hopkins University

Need to catch up or get ahead on credits? Want to lighten your spring and fall course loads? Desire to graduate on time?

Whatever your reason, enrolling in a summer course at The Johns Hopkins University has many benefits:

- Learn from experienced faculty at a world-renowned research university.
- Select from 90 courses in over 30 disciplines.
- Enjoy the many amenities and resources that Hopkins has to offer.
- Attend class close to home if you live near Maryland.

trw.umbc.edu

fa\$t.

(well it could be if you sold ads for The Retriever)

Apply Today!

University Center 214
410.455.1260
business@trw.umbc.edu

Letters to the Editor

from LETTERS, page 7

His first error is in his understanding of what a "right" is. He claims to have searched the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Federalist papers – perhaps his eyes glossed over when he read Amendment IX of the Bill of Rights.

"The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

What does this mean? I'll translate for you, Mr. Hartline. The ninth Amendment of the Bill of Rights says, "unless we told you it's not okay to do something, you can do it." In short – unless there's a law against it, it's your right to do something. To anyone who questions this, I direct you to the title of the document I quoted that Amendment from.

The second error is his attempted connection of the US Government with a non-secular entity, namely Judeo-Christianity. He even has the audacity to tie "Thomas Jefferson, a deist" into that idea. If Jefferson were alive today he would lambast Mr. Hartline for trying to tie the US government to any form of religion. Perhaps Mr. Hartline forgot that Mr. Jefferson was the man who coined the term "wall of separation" when describing how connected the church and the state should be.

I hope that in the future, Mr. Hartline will strive to leave out his personal agenda and get the facts straight.

- Mark Miller

Dear Editor:

In response to Jeff Hartline's Opinion piece, "Hey, That's My Right!"

In a democratic society, rights cannot be based on religion, any particular religion, or even religion in general. The assertion that rights come solely from divine law, and that abortion and homosexual relationships are not rights because they are not consistent with Judeo-Christian religious principles is not only preposterous, but offensive. Who said that we must all be bound by Judeo-Christian religious ideas? There are cultures in which homosexuality is the norm, and heterosexual relationships are viewed as a disgusting act done only for reproduction. Do I, as an atheist, have no rights, since I have no god to give them to me? Are women limited only to the rights specifically condoned by the church?

We do not live in a theocracy. Even if the majority of people are Christian, or some closely related religion, the rest of society should not be bound by those rules, simply because there is a half-baked notion that rights only come from God. Where in the Judeo-Christian mythology does it state that we have a right to freedom of speech? Since that is not a part of their principles, should we return to a state where the church censors all publications? The same society that originally declared sodomy a sin was of the opinion that slavery was acceptable. Times change, and standards change.

No. Human rights are just that: human. Society makes judgments on what every person can be entitled to, and those rights change as society changes. Whether or not abortion or homosexual marriages should be declared rights within our government is a completely different argument, but to say that rights in a democratic society should be based on Judeo-Christian beliefs is discriminatory, outdated, and insulting not only to those who do not share those beliefs but to anyone who values the separation of church and state.

- Tara Flynn

Dear Editor:

I agree wholeheartedly with Jeff Hartline about his article on "Rights." I think people go way too far these days and there should be some way to explain to them that rights don't come from other people, but from a higher power, like in a theocracy. I think one of the best models of a theocracy that we have to date is the Taliban in Afghanistan. The Taliban definitely knew which rights were derived from above and which rights weren't to be had. I mean, humanrightswatch.org has countless of their "crimes against humanity" on record, but I think the Taliban had the right idea.

And while we're on it, these "rights" of anyone who isn't heterosexual, and anyone who isn't a man, and for that matter, anyone who isn't white, have clearly been spelled out in the Bible time and time again. It's all in Leviticus. You know, the part where it says "a man shall not lay with a man."

One thing is clear from Paul's teaching: anyone who puts themselves under any one point of the Law obligates themselves to keep the whole Law (Galatians 3:3) or they are worthy of death. So once we get rid of everyone who isn't male, white, or straight we'll be on the right path.

Damn it, I just remembered the whole "do unto others" thing. Maybe I was wrong. Maybe we should respect each other and not try to force laws on other people, much less subjugate and denigrate the rights granted to us in the "Bill of Rights." It's in there Jeff. Check under the Ninth Amendment. And while you're at it, swing by adu.org and find out what they think.

- Mike LaDuvall

Dear Editor:

The article, "A Slow Year for Peace" shows just what is wrong with many Americans' opinion of the world. The murder of millions of Kurds and other Iraqi minorities (as well as anyone perceived to be a dissident) were murdered by the regime of Saddam Hussein was referred to in the article as, "not exactly the paramount example of leadership." I wonder if the author of that letter thinks that if Saddam had attended a weekend leadership retreat, the mass murder would never have taken place? We should be thankful we have a president who cares about the human rights of the defenseless instead of blaming genocide on poor leadership. Yes, hundreds of people have died in the guerilla war against US troops, but millions of people died because Saddam was allowed to stay in power.

President Bush made the right decision.

- Jonah Jarosz

Dear Editor:

The recent article entitled "Hey, That's My Right" by Jeff Hartline was ill-informed, untruthful, and an example of all that is wrong with modern American media.

First, Hartline states that all law is derivative from God by virtue of the Natural Rights philosophy. This is false. Natural Rights holds that it is expressly not derivative from the will of God, even as far back as the Middle Ages. In fact, it was even argued in the 17th century that even if God was nonexistent, unreasonable, or evil, men would still be morally bound by Natural Law and would use force to defend it (<http://www.jim.com/rights.html>).

Furthermore, Hartline neglects the idea of Social Contract, which, in brief, states that all people enter into society for the mutual protection of life and property. This idea was championed by Hobbes and Locke (<http://reference.allrefer.com/encyclopedia/S/socialco.html>), although the first notion of it dates as far back as Plato's Republic.

Rousseau, who also defended this theory, stated that he "found the general will a means of establishing reciprocal rights and duties, privileges, and responsibilities as a basis of the state." All of this resounds with the original idea of Locke's "life, liberty, and property." In fact, Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence's author, was inspired for the most part by John Locke, who Hartline attempts to marginalize by stating, "Although this sounds straightforward enough, there needs to be a stronger basis for establishing rights than one Enlightenment philosopher." If anyone, Locke was the greatest inspiration for many of the founding fathers, and for the revolution in France, as well (http://lcweb2.loc.gov/const/abt_declar.html).

Finally, our system of law reflects the ability for the groups that Hartline states to have the rights he denies them to have. Unless explicitly (or, within reason, implicitly) forbidden by the Constitution or the power of the courts, gays and lesbians are allowed to get married (given that the constitution fails to define marriage for us) and women are allowed to get abortions. Both of these have been upheld in high courts (Roe v. Wade, Mass. gay marriage case), and therefore are even further fortified against attack by critics.

I would ask the author of the piece to think before he writes, next time.

-Jonathan Rayne

Dear Editor:

As UMBC grows into a university whose boarding community nearly equals that of its commuting community is parking an issue for students? As anyone who commutes knows if you come after 9:30am you are more likely to find a close space at a Patriots Super bowl football game than at UMBC. For those of us that are not able to grab a close parking space (and by close I mean either the parking garage or the loop) our options are the far uncharted lands of Lot 17 (Home of the World Renowned Ice Removing Experts, Physical Plant) or across from the Ol' Alumni House where it is rumored that dragons frequently prey on students. Both options require a laborious uphill (both ways) brisk walk of FIVE MINUTES that makes searching for the Holy Grail like Finding Waldo. Is this unacceptable? Is it unfair? After all you pay fifty dollars to park on this campus do you not deserve to have a close space? Perhaps a Valet Service? In my opinion, parking is not an issue on this campus.

If you look at many other college campuses a ten minute shuttle ride is required just to get to the campus grounds. Students need to understand that parking is better here and that not everyone is going to get a space within sight of their academic building of choice. Get over it and walk! You could probably use the exercise anyways!

- Scott Nicholson
Your Student Body President
Snichol1@umbc.edu



RIDESHARE

The Rideshare Program is coming soon to UMBC. Whether you need a ride or can offer one, we hope that you'll find this service a good way to commute or travel inexpensively and even make new friends.

COMING SOON!!!!

For more information, contact:
Off-Campus Student Services
UMBC
Room 309, The Commons
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250
Ph: (410) 455 2770
Email: ocss@umbc.edu

Eminem Needs to be Called to Account for Racist Language

JOHN ELLIS

Words with racist connotations are probably the most powerful in the English language, able to instantly create hate where none existed before. Just imagine for a minute (and excuse the necessity of example) if a famous white person today were to refer to a black person as a "porch monkey." In today's atmosphere, only a small minority would ever dare to utter this phrase, even under their breath.

One member of that small minority happens to make culturally black music, works for a black man, and surrounds himself with black music artists. That person is Marshall Mathers, aka Eminem.

In a song called "Foolish Pride," a young Eminem rails on black as if women their names were Kim Mathers using the term mentioned above, as well as several other racial slurs. Supposedly recorded when Eminem was 20, the tapes were brought to the public-at-large by Eminem's arch-nemesis, the *Source* magazine. Their feud began when the *Source's* co-founder and underground rapper Ray Benzino launched a surprise attack on Eminem with a song entitled "Pull your skirt up." Eminem dissed him back, humiliated him, and as they say, "the beef was on."

Benzino and Dave Mays, the other *Source* founder, retooled their attack on Eminem by claiming that he was stealing black culture, and they now seem to have their smoking gun with "Foolish Pride." With the ongoing battle between these two hip-hop powers, Eminem could have denied the recording was him since the source was, well, the *Source*, but immediately fessed up to authoring them. He has since issued two public apologies and given an interview with



Courtesy of www.amadeus-award.at

XXL (the *Source's* rival hip-hop mag) explaining he actually made the song when he was 16, following a break up with a black girl. He claims he was young and dumb, and wishes he could take back what he said.

For some reason, I find it funny that a white Harvard graduate (Mays) and a half-

white never-was rapper from Boston (Benzino) depict themselves as the saviors of black culture. But as much as I think the *Source* is run by petty, jealous men, I can't help but think that the media has largely given Eminem a pass here. I had trouble finding any stories regarding this incident in any major media outlet. There were more stories released by the Associated Press about his mom's car accident than his racist lyrics. Ice Tea had the President of the United States after him for "Cop Killa," so why no outrage here? Heck, even Ludicrous managed to get himself banned from Pepsi commercials.

One story I could find though, regarded the fact that Eminem was the first rapper to ever be nominated for a songwriter's Grammy. Why is Eminem always the "first" in so many things hip-hop related? Why has this controversy been downplayed when so many of his other problems have been mass media fodder? So, this month as we remember the

accomplishments of great black leaders in the 60's who did so much to destroy the blatant racism of our society, we have to realize that Eminem represents the subtle racism of it better than anyone alive.

If you want to see the "Eminem effect" in action, go to a high school. You can see kids of every racial background talking, but watch them sit down at the lunch table. The majority of the time they sit with those of a similar ethnic background. The "Eminem effect" is the same reason that in a study done about hiring practices, white employers called back applicants with "white names" more frequently than equally qualified potential employees with "black names."

But instead of just looking at these facts and seeing pessimism, I see hope for the future. I see a man who went from making racist tapes in an all-white crew to one of hip-hop's greatest disciples. Even though Eminem's success is largely due to his race, he makes no bones about it and confronts the issue head on with songs like "White America." I also see a culture that is becoming mature enough to have these public debates about its biases, and I think that sets us on the right path to addressing them.

That is why I hope with all my heart that Eminem is sincere in his apology, because it gives me hope for the future. But if not, then I'm all for the LOX member Styles P's plan to "knock his teeth out."

John Ellis is unbreakable, what you thought they'd call him Mr. Glass? You can look back on your life like the ghost of Christmas past and send him one through the wire via johnellisthree@yahoo.com

Who Says You Can't Have It All?

53.25 cu. ft.
of cargo space

Available with 4-wheel
anti-lock brake system

Up to 130 lbs./ft. torque,
180 horsepower

30 MPG City
35 MPG Highway*



TOYOTA

MATRIX

GET THE FEELING
TOYOTA

You're lord and master of quite possibly the most versatile automobile on the planet. Matrix is an entirely new breed of vehicle—cutting edge styling, standard air conditioning, and up to 180 horsepower with available 6-speed. Matrix is designed to be whatever you want, including affordable.

TOYOTA

Visit www.buyatoyota.com for details.

*Based on EPA estimates for 2003 5-speed manual.

Kalie was my baby sister.

She loved pink.

We were playing with her dolls.

I found a gun in the drawer.

It went off.

I made Kalie go away.

I hate me.



An unlocked gun could be the death of your family.
Please lock up your gun.

Features

Bored and Broke Hits The Houkah
Soul Food
Kilroy Returns
Roomie Bliss With Ready Or Not

1991
 218
 INSIDE



Morose Musings: Adam Labotka screams his heartbreak for UMBC fans Friday night.

Daniela Zangara [Retriever Staff]

SEB's Heartbreak Before Valentines

KAIDYE HANSEN

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

In the back of a darkened Cabaret, knees pulled up against the emo sweater hugging my body, I sit and listen to the quiet whispering students souls here to agonize musically on Valentines Eve. As My Winter Nerve takes down their set, I gaze around the packed room, continually surprised by the number and diversity of the group. From Emo kid to Metal boy to Sorority girl to recently dumped jock, all walks of UMBC Student life are in attendance and having a heartbreakingly great time.

The pop music playing in the background is suddenly cut as live guitar chords cut through the room, snapping everyone attention to the front where Her Lie and The Guy Who Screams are setting up their drum kit, mic stands and amps. "I'm gonna be screaming into this mike, just to let you know," laughingly explains one guitarist to the Commons staff on the soundboard.

The room holds close to 100 people,

spilling out the door and up the stairs to the second floor. The event's organizer, sophomore Steve Stone, jumps around the room distractedly, flushed with the excitement of successfully pulling off an amazing night.

A full harmony makes its way out of the speakers, turning students heads to the front. Adorable lead singer Olivia Hartman has a shy smile on her face as she belts out the amazing lyrics about a girl who, "... Thinks she missed the train to mars / She's out back counting stars." As the song comes to a soft end, the crowd erupts in hoots and claps of applause.

The next song begins with Primus-esque bass riffs and quickly becomes my favorite song of the evening. The bassist/screaming guy provides counterpoint to Olivia's haunting vocals word for word, beat for beat, yet almost incomprehensibly.

The set continues amazingly, with song after song tapping into my melancholy mood this Valentines Eve. "This is our last song, it's called Danny... Burp." Announces Adam Labotka, the screamer,

as the audience laughs loudly with him after he drank a full bottle of water.

As the band breaks their set, the pop-punk music returns to the background and conversation slowly rises to a dull roar again. Various conversation floats around, centering on a wide variety of aspects. Over the din, one Emo/Punk kid towards the front of the room makes his opinion known. "I get really angry when I hear Abercrombie or American Eagle playing this music. I'm like, hey - that store's not me."

Despite this rather protective role the Emo/Punk kids take of the reality of their scene, the cabaret remains a friendly and diverse melting pot of people, all coming together to enjoy this evening of music.

Having much more to do tonight, I quietly and unobtrusively unfold myself from the comfy chair and say goodbye, walking past Letter To Juliet as they set up their stage. As I make my way out into the cold night, warmed by the memory of the belonging I felt, curled up in the back of the Cabaret, listening to sad songs.

An Interview: Inspiration and Originality in New Play, *The Spectator*

GRANT HUANG

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Budding playwright and UMBC junior Eric Thomas is authoring his very own play, *The Spectator*, which will be produced by Baltimore's new Run of the Mill Theater and open in May. Last Wednesday, Eric performed a public reading of the play's current draft at the theater to solicit audience feedback and is presently hard at work revising the play for the final production. I had the opportunity to speak with him last week about the play, his career, and his experiences in writing and theater.

Huang: Now, the play is about a public school being asked to diversify by the county board, right?

Thomas: Yes ... their idea is to put on a play about Brown vs. the Board of Education.

Huang: But what's interesting is that there are no black students at this school.

Thomas: Right.

Huang: Kind of hard to diversify that. Now when you say "diversify," what exactly does that mean in the context of the play?

Thomas: OK, well, there are scenes of the diversity committee talking about ... adding black students to the school from other [crowded] schools.

Huang: Why is [the play] called *The Spectator*?

Thomas: It's about watching and being watched ... you see in the audience for the play the school puts on, there are two black spectators that become involved.

Huang: Is this a play about race, first and foremost?

Thomas: Well, yes. Also it discusses interpersonal relationships but it really [comes back to] race.

Huang: How long did it take for you to write it?

Thomas: About two months for the first draft ... after Wednesday I'm on the fourth draft

see **PLAYWRIGHT**, page 16



College Prodigy: Eric Thomas has a way with words, coupled with a strong sense of the world and how it turns.

Lakin Jones [Retriever Staff]

Saving the Site that Saves Students when Registering



Passing Grade: Teacherreviews.com has been shut down for the time being due to inconsiderate misuse

SHENDEL CURTIS

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Have you ever been recommended to take a class by another student because the professor is great? Or have you ever looked on-line for a website that tells which professors are the best? In a world where we as students are required to submit homework over the internet, take online quizzes, and basically live and breathe computers and the internet in any discipline or major, these sites are perfect.

Although none of the students that were asked admitted to using such a website, there is always talk in the halls towards the end of the semester. Friends telling friends 'don't take that class that teacher is hard' or vice versa. After all is said and done and classes have been picked you might even hear

someone say 'I just found out that my professor for literature is rated as one of the hardest'.

While there are always those students who will simply skim the professor ratings and try to quickly pick the easiest A, there are numerous more who actually read the long in depth reviews and try to match up their learning style with a Professors teaching style in order to get the greatest benefit from the course. That is where these teacher review sites really become a key element of today's modern educational world.

Teacherreviews.com is one of those websites. There are approximately 36,000 reviews on the site. However, it is currently shut down but will be back up soon, pending negotiations with a professor who was offended by a remark posted on the website.

Dylan Greene, the creator of teacherreviews.com, said in his personal weblog (www.dylangreene.com) that "[t]he purpose of Teacher Reviews has always been to help students find the best professors to take, however the quality and reliability of Teacher Reviews has been diminished by the few users who have used the site to write insults."

Some of these students purposely try to degrade the credibility and reputation of the professors. It is possible that these students received a bad grade or did not get along with the professor and are just trying to hurt them in some way. Students who use these sites should watch out for those types of comments.

I think its fine for students to

see **TEACHERS**, page 20

Features



She said yes: Tarleen Saini and Bryan Harrison share a kiss in the Commons. They were engaged in Saini's Chemistry 102 class last Friday. **Kaidye Hansen [Retriever Staff]**

Love, Marriage, and Valentine Spirit in UMBC Chemistry Class

GRANT HUANG

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Last Friday the 13th, the day before Valentine's Day, Bryan Harrison asked his girlfriend of nearly two years, Tarleen Saini, to marry him, dropping to one knee and offering her a ring before a lecture hall full of Chemistry 102 students.

Having planned the event for months, Harrison picked out a ring the week before with Saini's brother and explained his plans to chemistry Professor C. Allen Bush, who, doubtless inspired by the Valentine spirit, readily agreed to surrender the last five minutes of his 10 a.m. class.

Bush finished his lecture and then motioned for Harrison to the podium, informing his sleepy class that Harrison had a student announcement. Harrison placed a prepared overhead slide on the projector that read, "Help me find the most beautiful girl in the world ... she's somewhere in this room."

Saini, a sophomore psychology and pre-med major, was taken completely by surprise. "I just heard a very familiar voice and looked up and read the overhead," she said, noting that she had arrived late to class and was sitting in the very last row. "Like 300 people all just turned around and just stared at me ... I couldn't move, couldn't breathe," she told the Retriever in an interview Monday.

"We know we're right for each other ... we've known," said Harrison, a senior who had recently switched majors from history to pre-med. "Might as well add a little spice to it, shake it up a bit."

The 200-plus students in Bush's class were certainly spiced up, as freshman Bekkah Lampe, an aspiring bio-chem major, attested to in a post on UMBC's LiveJournal website (www.livejournal.com): "That was THE cutest

thing ever... totally made my day."

Other forum members agreed, including unidentified member 'BrettBrett' who wrote "That's really awesome ... I want to be proposed to in class."

Another anonymous member, 'rujtu' was less moved, writing "I'd be more excited if I found a twenty on the floor. Man, I haven't found money on the ground in so long. :(""

His comment failed to move BrettBrett, who added in her post, "Someone propose to me in class. :(""

Having seen Saini in the back of the room, Harrison strode down the aisle, pulled out the red velvet box that held the wedding ring, stopped briskly in front of his long-time girlfriend, and got down to one knee, asking her to marry him in a loud voice heard by every student in the cavernous lecture hall.

"I said yes very softly with the air left in my lungs," said Saini, smiling at the memory. Professor Bush dismissed the class as the couple embraced to thunderous applause from their fellow students, many of whom were heartened by this refreshingly original display of bold Valentine's drama.

Harrison, who wears a turban and is growing a long beard in the Sikh tradition, has long been interested in Middle-Eastern culture and recently decided to become a Sikh, like his new fiancée. The interplay of culture and ethnicity brought about by their relationship seems to have generally come across as refreshing to their peers.

"Guys will nod at us and girls will just smile at [Tarleen] when we go walking by," Harrison said. The two were among the last to leave that morning.

"I couldn't move my legs, I was shaking and I was trembling," Saini recalled.

"I just wanted it to be one of those things you could never forget about if you tried," said Harrison.

Club Cupid Adds Flair to UMBC's Stereotypically Questionable Nightlife

RESHMA DESAI

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

A sexy "strut your stuff" contest, live DJ from HOT 99.5, and colorful dance floor created an unforgettable Valentine's Eve party in the University Center Ballroom this past weekend. Sponsored by UMBC's African Student Association (ASA), Black Student Union (BSU), Chinese Student Association (CSA), Filipino American Student Association (FASA), Khmer Organization, South Asian Student Associations (SASA), and Thai Student Association (TSA), "Club Cupid" was the first event of its kind and is the start of a tradition that students hope will continue. Representative of the recent opening of a Cultural Center on campus, it gave several multicultural organizations an opportunity to come together in a combined effort.

The clubbing atmosphere definitely put a different twist to the meaning of the word "party." An enthusiastic crowd of around 350 people danced the night away as a live DJ pounded out hip-hop, pop, and reggae beats.

Undergraduates Alavy Asos and Amy Pirintr, starring as MCs for the night, hosted a contest in which contestants competed for the title of hottest male/female and handed out door prizes ranging from plush stuffed animals to gift certificates for Arundel Mills Mall.

"I thought the event itself was a great turnout... Everyone had fun and that's why this event was a success. Great planning with a great team accounts for that," said John Lee, CSA's president and main founder of "Club Cupid."

Regrettably, the walk-off contest, which began about one and a half hours into the party, was not entirely entertaining. As each competitor strutted out on stage, he or she was asked to name their best asset. While some of the contestants chose to name their smile or heart as their most attractive fea-

ture, others took a more risqué route. One of the female contestants unfortunately succumbed to "technical difficulties" similar to those faced by Janet Jackson earlier this month. Perhaps surprisingly (or not), she did not walk away with the title of hottest female.

Irrespective of these minor "technical difficulties", "Club Cupid" proved to be an interesting event. Towards the end of the night, students continued to add to the flavor of the festivities with an unplanned and entertaining impromptu dance competition between three guys who decided to liven things up a bit.

With all of its good and not-so-good unforeseen occurrences, "Club Cupid" remains something to look forward to for next Valentine's Eve. "I speak for all the clubs when I say we want to host this "Club Cupid" event next year. We hope to invite many more organizations to co-sponsor next year. The event itself will keep its original name: Club Cupid. The more organizations we get to do this event, the bigger and better it will be," stated Lee.



With Or Without: Valentine's Eve partied till dawn with fun style, thanks to the new Cultural Center. **Andre Mercier [Retriever Staff]**

The Freshman

by Adam Corpora



TheFreshmanOnline.com

Horoscopes

by Nicole Macey

Weekly Staff Disclaimer: So, we hate horoscopes, and we don't understand why you all yell when we don't print them. You do realize we make them up right? So, just remember, we do this for you guys...

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

Hurry! Clean your bathroom before Hottie McHotpants drops by to say hi and use it. They may not understand the artistic importance of those mold stains.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21)

Go out and have a real adventure. No, walking down the hall for a soda, isn't an adventurous event. Unless Bigfoot might live next door ... be careful, take a bat.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

Whoa! It's still only 40 degrees out there! You aren't fooling anyone, we know you're not from Alaska. Put on another shirt before you poke somebody's eye out.

Cancer (June 22 - July 23)

Why do you eat a salad when you know that salad dressing is as fattening as a hamburger? Might as well have a diet soda while you are at it, and add sugar.

Leo (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Something you left in your fridge that you forgot about is going to haunt you! Careful, that melon is breathing, and is Mayonnaise supposed to be blue?

Virgo (Aug. 24 - Sep. 23)

My advice to you is: Stop playing that G*d-awful music before your neighbors file a lawsuit for cruel and unusual punishment.

Libra (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Your fate has been unexplainedly tied to that of Rover, the mars lander. Go start lobbying for NASA budget increases. Use fireworks.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Life's unfair. Get used to it. Stop with the pathetic Creed-esque whining and you may actually have freinds again one day.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

If you want to stop scaring your friends, groom yourself once in a while. By that we mean shower, not run through the rain and shake off like a dog.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Take up Death Metal. Be a one man band. Write lyrics about chicken nuggets and staplers. You'll get all the chicks and all the glory.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Someday you will look back on last week with despair, it really was pretty stupid. Let the raccoon out of the bathroom and throw away the duck food, it won't work.

Pisces (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

Dude! Stop farting in public! If you want to be disgusting, just pick your nose. Then yell about it's social acceptability when you get dirty looks.

Theater Proves Fertile Ground for Aspiring Writer R. Eric Thomas and His Big Dreams

from **PLAYWRIGHT**, page 14

now.

Huang : How did the public reading on Wednesday go? Did you get a big turnout?

Thomas : We had about 30 people, that's about half the house full, definitely not bad.

Huang : It's a small theater then.

Thomas : Oh yeah, pretty small as theaters go, but that's sort of the idea ... [Run of the Mill] is an experimental theater, it tries to give young playwrights opportunities ... besides I like the size, it makes it more intimate. One thing I learned is that [the play] is way too long, the reading took about three hours. I'm going to end up cutting most of the first act in the next draft.

Huang : Now this is a tremendous credential for you, as a beginning playwright — this is going to be a huge experience.

Thomas : Oh yeah, definitely ... basically it was all luck, the director [Daniel Student] and I went to the same high school, did some theater together ... Dan was stage-managing a show for the theater at the same time I was last year, and he suggested an idea for a play based on Brown vs. The Board of Education, the 50th anniversary of that decision is coming up this May. That and our own high school experiences provided the basis for [the play]. Dan is an associate director at the theater, so he pitched the idea to the theater board and they liked it.

Huang : How much say do you have in the actual production?

Thomas : Quite a bit, like I said Dan and I went to high school together ... but for the most part I take my hands off, I'm so type-A I might take over if I didn't. (laughs)

Huang : You went to Columbia University at first, and then came here. Why?

Thomas : Well I'm from Baltimore, and at UMBC I've felt a great connection to people.

Huang : Columbia has a hell of a journalism program.

Thomas : Oh yeah, yeah definitely, not so much undergrad but graduate is just amazing.

Huang : You worked at The Baltimore Sun, in circulation. Last year you were editor-in-chief of The Retriever. What happened to journalism? Why plays?

Thomas : I like the way people speak, the cadences, the tones. I've always wanted to be a musician, but... (laughs) I never had the talent! So this is my way of making music.

saw the play, even got to talk to Jerome Hairston, he's gotten amazing opportunities to work with some fantastic people ... yeah I'm inspired by people, people like August Wilson, or here at UMBC, Dr. Susan McCully. I love the interdisciplinary program she helped me design.

Huang : Sounds very interesting. What would be your dream job?

Thomas : (laughs) Dream job? Well my dream job would get me enough money to sit at home and write all day ... I love writing, I've not done homework to write before, it's my leisure time, it's like watching TV only more exhausting.

Huang : How about your plans for the near future?

Thomas : Well, I want to be a dramaturge and intern at a bigger theater.

Huang : Like at Center Stage?

Thomas : Yeah, in fact they have one of the best internship programs in the country.

Huang : I'm sure The Spectator will help give you the credentials to get that internship. What would you say is the greatest thing you've learned from this whole experience?

Thomas : Hmmm, well, writing the play you mean?

Huang : Sure, I mean obviously the process isn't over since the play doesn't open till

May, but from writing it, from working with your director, the readings, all of it so far.

Thomas : I'd say I've learned how to listen ... As a playwright you focus on talking all the time, and you need to be able to listen. And it's really hard, because I like to talk, but ultimately it's very rewarding.

Eric currently commutes to school from Baltimore and is majoring in playwriting and multicultural studies, a major he designed as part of UMBC's interdisciplinary studies program. The Spectator will open on May 17th at the Run of the Mill Theater, located at 3600 Clipper Mill Road in Baltimore. For more information visit the theater online at www.runofthemilltheater.org.



Courtesy of runofthemilltheatre.org [Retriever Staff]

Huang : And journalism?

Thomas : Not so much anymore. I prefer fiction, the freedom of it. With fiction there's obviously much less restraint, and I like to tell stories my way, not as much through other people.

Huang : Were you inspired?

Thomas : Well, what do you mean exactly?

Huang : Are you inspired by people? Places? Other plays? Like you know Center Stage produced a play called a.m. Sunday, by a guy similar to you, he's a young black playwright who addresses issues like race and relationships in his work.

Thomas : Sure, yeah, Jerome Hairston. I



Algebra. Trigonometry. Calculus. They'll Take You Where You Want To Go.
Math is Power



Call 1-800-271-0011 or visit www.nacme.org
National Action Council For Minorities in Engineering



UMBC's Clubs: Making Your Life Fun



UMBC Gospel Choir Celebrates Black History with a Concert

The UMBC gospel choir was revived in the fall of 1986 under the leadership of Stephen F. Key (alumnus) and Sandra D. Wilkins (UMBC staff). It is a student run organization under the supervision of Directress professor Janice Jackson who was recently awarded an honorary doctorate in sacred music. Doctor Jackson is the professor for the jubilee singers, a class that gave birth to the gospel choir. The choir has expanded tremendously in the last fifteen years. It is composed of the UMBC undergraduate and graduate community as well as UMBC staff and alumni.

Since the fall of 1993, the choir has been an independently run student organization and for the first time, in the fall of 1997, the choir was recognized as an accredited course at the University of Maryland. The only thing that has not changed about the choir is its mission: to use ministry of song to reach and win souls for the lord. They strive to make a difference through the power of music.

The UMBC Gospel choir is internationally known, and has performed on numerous occasions in the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas. Among their engagements are performances at planet music, the annual Umoja celebration at UMBC, the National Youth convention for the church of God, the national Black college choir workshop, as well as an annual spring concert featuring minister O' Landa Draper.

In addition to its off campus engagements, the gospel choir also conducts frequent joy nights and annual spring and fall concerts.

They performed in Florence Italy in the summer of 2003, go to Christian retreats like Abana, to name one, performed in Las Vegas 2 years ago, in Epcot center Disney world Florida 3 years in a row (1998, 1999, 2000), National Black reunion Washington DC, Phoenix Arizona, the Christian community church of God, the Oak street AME church Baltimore, and functions for the Alpha Nu Omega events on campus. They have also performed at various functions along with the UMBC Jubilee singers and Perfected Praise dance Ministry.

The Gospel choir and the Jubilee singers have been invited to perform in Edinburgh Scotland for a musical fest.

On the 21st of February 2004, the Jubilee singers and the UMBC gospel choir will be having their black history month concert in the fine arts recital hall (room 118). The Jubilee singer's concert will be first and starts at 7pm. This concert is free for everyone, and after that, the Music department will have a light reception for DR. Jackson, to congratulate her on her honorary doctorate. This will be right after the jubilee concert and before the UMBC Gospel choir concert.

The UMBC Gospel choir's concert will start at 8pm and ticket information is as follows: \$5 for students / \$7 general admission / \$10 at the door.

And there will be a reception immediately after the concert. To reserve a ticket for pick up at the door on the 21st, contact DR. Janice Jackson 410-455-3520.

Hope to see you there.



Want to see your club in the paper?

Well, now you can!

It's easy: just send your picture and/or a write up of your event, and become instant campus celebrities!

Pictures must be in jpg/jpeg/tif.tiff format and have captions. The write-ups should be 25 to 125 words, due by the Wednesday previous to the desired issue. send to features@trw.umbc.edu TRW reserves the rights to refuse any material.

STUDENT TRAVEL & BEYOND

Hot Nights? Cool Trips? Killer Deals?

This ain't your parents' travel agency... it's yours.

Rome.....\$245	Paris From \$509
Amsterdam.....\$245	* 6 nights
Frankfurt.....\$245	Jamaica From \$529
Rio.....\$648	* 7 nights

Prices are based on 1000 USD and above per person. Subject to change and availability. Packages based on double occupancy. Price includes airfare, taxes, and ground transportation. Visa/Jamaica package is based on single occupancy. Price not included. Restrictions and limitations apply. Prices are valid for students and youth under 21.

**BOOK IT BEFORE
THE THRILL IS GONE.**

3301 M Street, N.W., Georgetown
(202) 337-6464

STA TRAVEL

www.statravel.com

ONLINE >> ON THE PHONE >> ON CAMPUS >> ON THE STREET

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

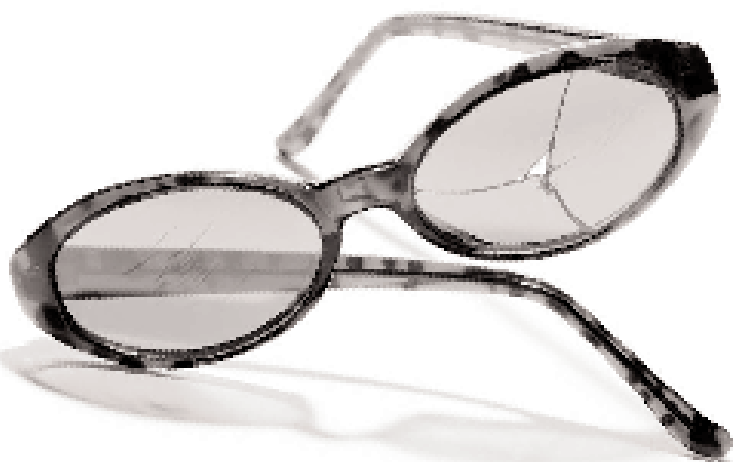


Photo by Michael H. Lee



114 Equinox Road, Suite 100

**Ad
COUNCIL**

**Children of Alcoholics
Age 18-30**

Johns Hopkins

Research includes:

**Health Assessment
Alcohol Administration
Safe Painless Brain Scan**

Payment for participation

Call (410)-502-5433

Wand RPN: 99-12-07-03

F.U.E.L.'s Major of the Week

Mechanical Engineering

What does the MENG program emphasize?

The Mechanical Engineering program focuses on the design and production of energy-producing systems and on mechanical devices or mechanisms. These systems or mechanisms are applied to fields ranging from biology to transport systems.

What are the gateway requirements for MENG?

Students must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of "C" and an overall average of 2.5 for all four courses: ENGL 100, MATH 151, ENES 101, and CHEM 101.

What research opportunities are available to students?

Students are encouraged to participate in undergraduate research. Collaborative efforts by mechanical engineering department faculty-student research teams have led to a number of notable discoveries, including a new kind of percussion drill bit, an automated machine for assembling fireworks and a controller for a pump with no moving parts.

Are there any student organizations within the major?

The Mechanical Engineering department sponsors several professional organizations for the benefit of students' professional and social development. There are student chapters of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society of Automotive Engineers, Society of Black Engineers, Society of Women Engineers and The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

What career opportunities are available upon graduation?

Recent graduates have secured positions in both large and small firms, as well as government laboratories. Employers include BG&E, Northrop Grumman, Black & Decker, National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST), Aberdeen Proving Ground and NASA.

Sound Interesting?

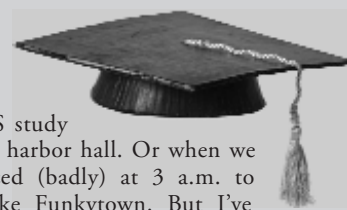
For more information, please contact Undergraduate Student Services College of Engineering and Information Technology, 410-455-3096.

A volcano has enough power to shoot ash as high as 80 miles in the air

amusingfacts.com

ready or not

Brett Ashley McKenzie



When I got here in August, I had no idea who two of my roommates would be and I wasn't terribly excited about that. Ale and I had planned on living with two other girls, but one dropped out of school and the other moved off-campus.

"What if they're really weird?" we'd asked each other over IM during the summer. "What if they smell?"

Our fears built as the days until school started loomed closer. When that day arrived, so did Jacky. And not only did we love her instantly, but she was every bit as goofy and ridiculous as we were... and more importantly, loved food and trashy TV as much as we did. The three of us were together alone for about a week and a half before they found us a fourth roommate, Brandy.

For Brandy it must've seemed that the three of us had known each other forever, even though Ale and I had just met Jacky. Before she got here, we were equally as scared of her as she must've been of us. What if she wanted us to be quiet? What if she thought we were fatties and lazy because all we did was eat in front of the television?

She didn't. She sat right down on the couch with us, armed with her own pint of Ben & Jerry's. I realize to this point I've made my roommates sound like a bunch of crazy binging lunatics, but that's not all we are. It's just sort of where we started.

I don't know when it happened, really, that I fell so much in love with living here in this trashy Hillside apartment with these three whacky girls. Perhaps it was the first time I cried about a guy in front of them and they cheered me up with food or perverted jokes. Maybe it was the sixth trip to late night when we pretended to be retarded and shouted lewd things at the window to

the EHS study room in harbor hall. Or when we all danced (badly) at 3 a.m. to songs like Funkytown. But I've come to love these girls I knew nothing about when I moved here. They are like sisters to me. I never thought, after high school, I'd find a group of girlfriends I could feel so comfortable around, or so happy with. But because Ale and I took a chance and had two "random" roommates, we now have two friends for life.

There's something about coming home to our apartment, even when it smells like garbage and the sink is full of dishes that makes me feel safe and relaxed. Since I graduated from high school four years ago, my parents moved from New Jersey to Chicago, then got divorced and moved into two new apartments on either side of the city. There are places I'll always feel at home, like my favorite bagel café in Summit, NJ, or the summer camp I went to for most of my adolescent life. But it takes truly special people to make us feel at home when we're with them. These girls, with their obnoxiously loud Britney Spears and addictions to ultra scary movies and throwing buckets of cold water into the shower when I'm in there, make me feel at home since the first time I left Jersey. And I didn't even know two of them six months ago.

Like so many things I'll have to say goodbye to in May, I'm almost sick with wishing I could hold onto my roommates and our dumpy apartment forever. I don't even want roommates at grad school because I know they can't hold a candle to what I've got now. But then, Ale and I didn't want two strangers in our lives back in September. How glad I am that we changed our minds.

Sandler and Barrymore Go Steady in *50 First Dates*

STEVE WILEY

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

If one takes anything away from *50 First Dates* (★★1/2), it's that its star, Adam Sandler, really wants you to believe that deep down, he's got a heart. And, if you get past the tired gross-out humor and tear-jerking sentimentalism near the end, you might start to.

Retaining Sandler's trademark lowbrow gags from some of his earlier films, but toning down the slap-happy silliness just a tad, this one's also got a more serious side to it, by way of a plot gimmick that echoes a number of older films. Primarily, there's the hilarious Bill Murray fan favorite, *Groundhog Day*, in which a grumpy meteorologist got stuck in time, reliving the same day over and over. That was a romantic comedy with a fantasy twist that

hit upon the following point: guys who think that being a know-it-all is the best route to love should simply give being themselves a try. (I would criticize *What Women Want*, by the way, for its mixed messages regarding this.)

This central plot hitch comes via one of the more fashionable of recent movie maladies, short-term memory loss. You may remember this disorder as being *Memento's* mind-bending structural center point, Leonard's brain damage matching the movie's backwards-playing narrative. Oh, and in a little fish movie called *Finding Nemo*, Dori, as you might remember, also happened to suffer from the misfortune of forgetting things at the most inappropriate times. Well, all the time, really, practically as soon as she was told anything.

In *50 First Dates*, Drew Barrymore's character Lucy Whitmore has the affliction, living

every day as if it were Sunday, October 13, her father's birthday, a day on which a car accident (flashed-back to, predictably, in slow-mo) threw her life into a continuous auto-repeat mode, as her memory banks are wiped clean each night. And not only her life, but also that of her devoted father and brother Doug, who meticulously recreate the events of that day, now months past, setting out a copy of that day's newspaper on the porch, painting and repainting (and repainting...) the garage a solid white, and trying to preserve normality, even if that means watching the same movie every night, trying to act surprised. (As a side-note, I wondered what would happen if she were to stay up one whole night, but the movie doesn't care to address this.)

Enter Henry Roth (played by Sandler, mercifully sparing us of his goofball/rage-aholic shtick), a marine veterinarian in Hawaii by day (watch out for those kooky side-kicks!), supposed ladies man by night. The last thing he would ever do is get tied down to a local girl, but, after hitting it off with Lucy at a diner (kooky side-kick alert number 2!), he falls for her and makes a date for the same place the next morning. What else could ensue but hurt feelings and lots of 'spaining to do.

Yet, Henry's affection for Lucy is unaltered even after learning about her unusual condition. So, despite the disapprovingly watchful eyes of her father and brother, Lucy wakes up each day with no recognition of the man she teasingly dubs "Egghead," but at some point the two get together and fall in love all over again.

The main problem with this movie is not in concept, but execution. Put simply, the comedy just doesn't work; the script just falls flat whenever attention is called to one of the zany characters, distracting from the chemistry between Sandler and Barrymore, who previously in *The Wedding Singer*. Rob Schneider, as expected, shows up as a nasty, bare-shirted islander stereotype, as one example. Viewers will be surprised to see Sean Astin in tip-top shape as Doug, a steroid-popping wannabe bodybuilder



Blissful ignorance: Drew Barrymore relives the same day over and over. **Columbia Pictures**



One How Mama: Schneider portrays the usual stereotypic idiot, Sandler however, does not.

Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

(chance to work off that Samwise-flubber, eh?) with a lisp, but his talent is mostly wasted here, as is Dan Aykroyd's. Only a walrus with a Mr. Creosote-like ability is given apt material to shine.

But, it's not a total wash, as the romantic material actually gives the main characters likeability and poignancy. If I were any more cynical, I might call giving Lucy short-term memory loss a lazy excuse for not having to develop a character arc, but I'm forgiving here, especially since the director (Peter Segal, also of last year's Sandler-Nicholson vehicle *Anger Management*) somehow manages to pull off a bittersweet, though decidedly happy ending, one that doesn't rely on some far-fetched miracle, just a down-to-earth one: true love, coupled with endless patience.

Confessions of the Cook Boy

Soul Food...It's Not Just the Food

Usually left with just scraps and leftovers, it required much energy and creativity to produce food for the African American slave family. Through love and patience at the end of a long day, usually living under horrible circumstances (far worse than just another OSHA nightmare), the women would prepare these foods for their families.

When you've given it all you've got and it seems like there's nothing else left to give of yourself, there's always your soul.

Typically the women were given such ingredients as leafy vegetable tops, onions, cornmeal, unprocessed black molasses, pig ears, pig feet, lard, chitterlings, bad fruit etc. Such leftover foods would be turned into tasty, filling foods that would give the slaves sustenance and strength for the next day.

Culinary historians have found that the slave diet was actually healthier than that of their master's (they ate many foods high in fat, alcohol, and sweets). The massive amount of nutrients retained in the peelings and tops of vegetables (the scraps often used by slaves) in conjunction with good vegetable cooking methods by slaves was incredibly beneficial to their health.

It's been speculated that up to 75% of Africans brought to the south to work as slaves were from Angola. Although Angolan and African American cuisines differ the similarities are very clear. In fact, slave traders not only brought slaves to the Americas, but indigenous African foods as well. Okra, yams, leafy greens and pumpkin are a few.

The origins of soul food are both complex and interesting (many argue that most of soul

food was derived from white southern cooking, but most historical evidence shows otherwise). Though many disagree with the specifics concerning its birthplace and contributing cuisines, many would agree that at its core it's components of love and selfless creativity is much more important than the actual ingredients themselves.

In general, soul food describes African American cooking as it has evolved from the days of slavery in the U.S.

Soul food not only is inspired from the soul, but also touches the soul. With all of the blood, love, and family tradition it has for a foundation, it's impossible to create good "heartless" soul food. One Chef I worked with from Atlanta Georgia says "If it's good soul food the smells of incredible dishes and the spirit of love are going to be pouring out of the house, drawing people in from the street."

After a lengthy day of field work or house work, the evening meal was a time for families to get together. These meals would fill both the body and soul. This meal provided the perfect opportunity for family religious and ceremonial worship that were usually forbidden. This became a time that family and friends gathered to enjoy each other's company. It was often the case that the elders of the households would pass on oral history and traditions at such times. Many slaves would call such meals "good times" food. It wasn't until about the 60's that the term "soul food" was coined.

- Cook Boy
Noah Tillman-Young

Bored & Broke in Baltimore

Brandon Dudley

This week's adventure took me out of Baltimore and into Terrapin territory. I headed down to College Park on Friday night with features editor extraordinaire Kaidye Hansen, to check out the Prince Café, a hookah bar off of Route 1.

For those that don't know what a hookah is, it's basically a really large water-bong with at least one hose coming out of it. Remember what the caterpillar in Alice in Wonderland was smoking out of? That's a hookah. You smoke what is called shisha, basically tobacco mixed with a flavored molasses sort of substance.

I was introduced to hookahs a few months ago in Australia, while hanging out with a friend from Dubai. We'd spent a number of late nights sitting around the table in the common kitchen areas smoking and drinking and talking away. We had some really fun times, so I was pretty excited when I found out there was at least one hookah bar in the area. So off we went.

The Prince Café is somewhat small; the tables and chairs are absolutely jammed in there, and when the place is full, it's pretty hard to move around. There are a few Middle Eastern decorations slapped up on the walls, and at the far end is a big screen TV playing an endless loop of Middle Eastern pop videos.

The people there are a melting pot of older Middle Eastern men and women, college students of just about every race, hookah enthusiasts, your average everyday person looking for something fun to do, and your typical stoned and/or drunk college student. The café is a perfect place to hang out with either a small or large group of friends, and the fact that it's open until 3 am Sunday to Wednesday and until 5 am every other day makes it quite popular among College Park students. Some nights they clear out a few tables and people come in and play bongos and other instruments while customers dance, and other nights

are more laid back, with people just sitting around talking, smoking and eating while the never-ending loop of pop videos plays in the corner.

Once we got settled in on Friday night around 10, we were stuck waiting a while because the place was packed to the brim and there were only two guys running the place. Once we got their attention though, we were able to order some food and drinks (which they forgot to bring) and a hookah loaded with double apple shisha, the most popular flavor. They have dozens of flavors to choose from, including cherry, grape, mixed fruit, pomegranate, cappuccino and many, many more. The price is cheap, just nine dollars for a hookah, and the food, a mix of Punjabi, Tandoori and Mediterranean dishes, doesn't run over 10 dollars, with some things considerably less.

So Kaidye and I settled in with the hookah and started talking about the effects that the shisha had on each of us. For her, it's a strong tingly sensation and definitely a giggling sort of mood, but that was just my own observation. For me, it's a borderline hyper sort of mood, at least for a while, and also that tingly sensation that Kaidye felt. The sensations are basically just very strong nicotine highs, as far as I can figure, and some people I've heard say that it's like being stoned for short amounts of time. Either way, it's a good way to lubricate someone's personality, as Kaidye and I found ourselves talking and smoking until 2:30 in the morning.

I highly recommend checking out the Prince Café, it's fun, it's cheap, and it's a great way to spend a night hanging out with friends. You can check out their three locations online at www.cafepince.com

Brandon Dudley is a senior English major and advertising manager for the *The Retriever Weekly*. He can be reached at brandon@trw.umbc.edu.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 King-size
- 6 Movie rental
- 11 Strong and healthy
- 13 Antenna
- 14 Cry of pain
- 15 Tyson start
- 16 Fleur-de-
- 17 Wyo. neighbor
- 18 — Andreas Fark
- 20 Lustrous material
- 22 Rumor, perhaps
- 23 Catch
- 25 Excavate
- 26 Persevered
- 27 Leave speeches
- 29 Moor
- 31 Skipper's clay
- 33 Brazil's — Paulo
- 34 Ring
- 37 "Alice" waitress
- 40 Prod

DOWN

- 41 Eye, possibly
- 43 Periscope alias
- 45 Wolf Man portrayer
- 46 Talk-show name
- 48 Bus companion
- 49 Juneau's st.
- 50 Festive night
- 51 White House nickname
- 53 Ford — Lac, Wis.
- 54 Chipped
- 56 Saucepan
- 58 Disavow
- 59 Embroidery silk
- 1 Flagrant
- 2 Histrionics
- 3 Tummy muscle
- 4 Bolt holder
- 5 Clucking sound
- 6 Marble streak
- 7 W-2 collectors

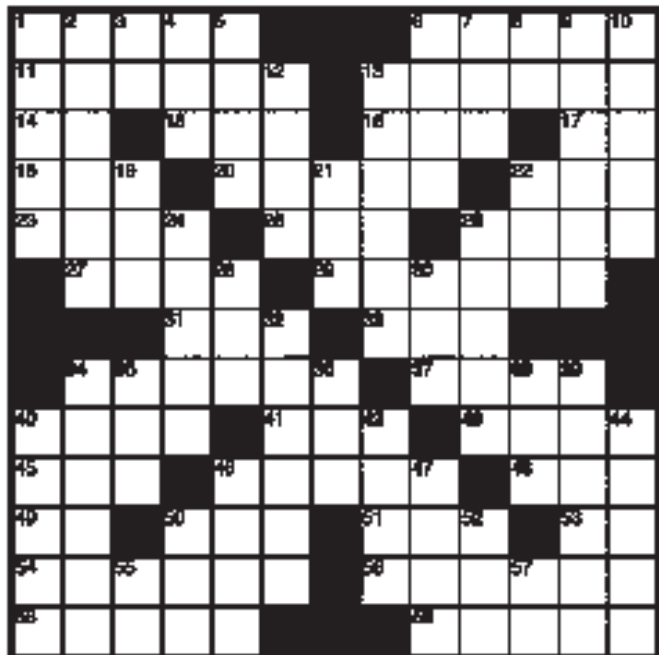
Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-5 © 2004 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

- 8 Former princess
- 9 More convenient
- 10 Bygone
- 12 Garden critter
- 13 Adjusts,

- 14 as tree
- 19 Basketball great — Holman
- 21 Aunt, in Mexico
- 22 Zodiac sign
- 24 Museum employee
- 26 Ladies' pump
- 28 Wall St. locale
- 30 Cleveland oger
- 32 Married in haste
- 34 Fortune container
- 35 John, in Aberdeen
- 36 Blow it
- 38 Pirate's wig
- 39 Resplendence
- 40 Pancreas or liver
- 42 Cutting remark
- 44 Clubbers
- 46 Done with
- 47 Antelope foot
- 50 Bearly scraps by
- 52 Goose egg
- 55 N.Y. neighbor
- 57 — -all



THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.

NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK

MARTHA GRAHAM

IS A SNACK CRACKER.



ART. ASK FOR MORE.

Martha Graham Inc. 1000 Broadway, New York, NY 10018



For more information, visit www.marthagraham.com or call 1-800-828-8282



RecSports 201: Intermediate Fun.

This Week: What's In A Name? vol. I

Hey everybody out there. So there's not much to talk about this week that I didn't mention last week. If you haven't signed up for basketball yet, you should really do that because the deadline is next Monday and I'm not gonna always be able to bail you procrastinators out like I did in arena football. The deadline is next Monday, 2/23, but don't wait until then, because you're just going to forget. Do it online now as you read this at the website below.

When I went to school here, I played intramurals like it was my job (pause for laughter). People used to joke that I was an intramurals major with a film minor. I managed more teams in my day than Jason Woody, though he is coming close. One of the things I most liked doing was coming up with different creative team names for different sports. It's pretty cool to come up with a little something clever that is going to be broadcast to a few hundred of your peers. I took pride in my team names and I like to see that some people still carry on the tradition that I'm sure I didn't start years ago. On a long, sleepless night, I decided to go through the archives and hand pick my 30 favorite team names from the spring of 2001 through the fall of 2003, spanning 6 semesters. If your team name isn't in here, don't worry. It may be coming in a later issue. So in the interest of saving the university some ink, I'll get to it. Here are #21-30.

30. Bananas McTree - This was a beach volleyball team back in April 2001 captained by our current assistant director of athletic communications, Roxanne Reyes. If memory serves me correctly, Bananas McTree is a character in George of the Jungle, and that's just random enough to get in the top 30.

29. Biohazard - This was an indoor soccer team spearheaded by Ryan McMullin comprised of all people that work in the biology department. It's good to see when people have pride in their job.

28. 7 - Rich Shoge entered his

soccer team with the name "7." To this day, it's the only time we've ever had a number as a team name.

27. Moo - I think this soccer team was supposed to mean something else, or maybe it was an acronym for something, but "Moo" kinda came out of nowhere to win me over.

26. Menage a Trois - This one was rather riskay (or however you spell the french version of risky), but very apropos for a coed beach volleyball triples team name. Other names from the same beach volleyball tourney will follow in #1-20.

25. 4U2NV - These guys are old school. This team name actually pre-dates me and lasted through my five years as a student and was most recently sited in the Spring 2002 basketball league. Any name with longevity like that deserves some recognition, though since the graduation of Usman and Abe, I think we may have seen the last of 4U2NV.

24. Blame Canada - If this wasn't a hockey team, it wouldn't have made this list.

23. Sam's Club - Sam Kyere couldn't think of a name for his softball team, so he settled for this one. I thought it was so good, I named Sam Pang's volleyball team Sam's Club last semester. Now we need a guy named BJ with a team.

22. Polish Mafia - I played on this team as a student years ago so I almost feel disqualified to put it on this list, though I didn't come up with the name. I still think it's clever and quite appropriate for its captain, Joe Kalinowski.

21. GUTDS - This is an acronym for "Give Us The Darn Shirts." Jason Campbell finally got tired of J Krute naming his teams stuff like FC Booya and FC Gadunkadunk, whatever that was, so he decided to take a more straight forward approach with his team naming opportunity. Cocky as it may have been, they got the darn shirts.

To be continued on 3/9...

Basketball deadline: 2/23

www.umbc.edu/Recreation/Intramurals/

ECAD 210	The Practice of Management	3 credits
Grade Method: REG/P-F		
[2012]	0101 TuTh.....8:30am- 9:45am (PUP 206)	ARMOR, V
[2013]	0201 TuTh.....11:30am-12:45pm (ACIV014)	ARMOR, V
[2014]	0301 Tu.....6:00pm- 8:40pm (PA 018)	NOBLE, R
[2015]	0401 Th.....7:00pm- 9:40pm (MP 008)	SKLAMM, S
[2016]	0501 W.....3:30pm- 6:15pm (SS 203)	SUGAR, S
ECAD 310	Human Resource Management	3 credits
Grade Method: REG		
[2037]	0101 M.....4:30pm- 7:00pm (ACIV015)	HILLMAN, R
ECAD 360	Business Law	3 credits
Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD		
[2038]	0101 MW.....5:30pm- 6:45pm (PHYS201)	COHEN, H
ECAD 385	Business Ethics & Society	3 credits
Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD		
[2039]	0101 W.....7:00pm- 9:45pm (SS 208)	BRENNER, T
ECAD 399	Administrative Internship	3 credits

Semester Saver: Choosing the right class and best professor for your learning style can be a horrifying prospect without the help of teacherreviews.com or other similar sites.

Helpful or Harmful?

from TEACHERS, page 14

express themselves on those sites and to consult them—but I do think people should use them wisely," said Professor Shivan, of the English Department.

Many students base their schedules on the information provided by other students on teacherreviews.com and other websites such as rateyourprofessors.com. Although some of the comments made can be helpful, Professor Shivan also points out that "[t]hey shouldn't base decisions on those websites alone, and they definitely need to read carefully—paying more attention to thoughtful, detailed reviews than to short, emotionally driven ones."

According to teacherreviews.com, there are approximately 269 sites that link to it. Not all of these sites have a portion where you are able to "rate" your professors but they can be helpful.

One link connected to the website is www.studentnow.com. This website contains everything from 'How to survive on a student budget', essay writing tips, job searches, 'Dorm Life 101', 'Ten Steps to Better Grades', and even love advice.

Students have the opportunity to improve their grades and social life by simply checking out a website such as studentnow.com. This will help students who use those websites to get the schedules they want and excel in the classes they take, despite the fact that the professor may be 'hard'.

Think about the wonderful feeling you could get by passing a class with a professor that is difficult. Imagine how much more you could learn and how much more responsibility you can learn to manage, by simply taking one of these professors!

Contributed to by Kaidye Hansen

animal (an • i • mal) n. a living being capable of feeling.

— To find out what you can do to help animals, contact PETA.



PETA

People for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA
www.peta-online.org

**Women Earn
\$3,000-\$4,000**

Be an Egg Donor
For an Infertile Couple

- Healthy — Mature — Non-smokers
- Age 20-29 — Average Weight
- 2 week Part-Time Commitment
- Confidentiality at All Times



410-296-5126 Towson, Maryland
www.familybulld.com

AROUND

Beginning [Feb. 19]

TOWN

Events Happening Throughout the Greater Baltimore-Washington Area

Thursday, February 19

Hopefully Not Shredded

Readers who have deficiencies in their daily intake of fiber need especially heed this announcement. Guess who's coming to the Black Cat super fab indie rock club place in D.C.? I'll give you one guess. Did you say Wheat? Yeah? Cool-aces for you! And hey... Hey Mercedes, too! Gee whiz, this'll be the best Thursday after Valentine's ever! The show starts at 2030 hours- that's 8:30 civilian time, soldier! TM*

Grandson of an American Legend

... or, "Hellbilly" as he is sometimes described. I'm talking about Hank Williams III, whose grandfather practically defined country music many a year ago and whose daddy sang the Monday Night Football theme song, is coming into town, to Fletcher's Bar and Grill, specifically. He'll likely play songs from his debut record, "Risn' Outlaw," along with some other newer, and older tunes as well. Catch the happy hellraising at 9:00 tonight, and on Saturday at the Black Cat at 9:30. TM*

Friday, February 20

Cold Evening Neatness? No!

It's the Hot Morning Mess, brought to you by those purveyors of Clear Channel-approved hip pop and assorted mainstream "hit music," Hot 99.5-Washington. Who's playing this year's show? Why, straight from being kicked from the Pro Bowl halftime show stage for his associations with anti-American communist subversive agents... er, I mean, Justin Timberlake, it's that total

hottie J.C. Chasez. Sharing the stage is popster-cum-actor Nick Cannon, who blasts off at 7:30. TM*

Under Management By Corporation

... or so goes the graffiti outside Lecture Hall I. What brought this to mind was the fact that power pop group Something Corporate is playing the Dorothy Betts Marvin Theater in D.C. Don't ask me for directions; just be there at 8:00. TM*

Sunday, February 22

Melodies from the Old Country

Now this sounds interesting: students of European language and culture will definitely want to check out A Musical Journey From Spain and Italy, tonight at 5:00 p.m. at George Washington University's Jack Morton Auditorium.

Tuesday, February 24

Mardi Gras, Y'all!

While I doubt whether there is going to be filled with bead necklaces and other traditional artifacts of Mardi Gras debaucheries, but the Funk Box Phat Tuesday Celebration, featuring Buckwheat Zydeco, is sure to give you a Lent full of amusing, fun-filled memories. Hmm... is one night of craziness worth 40 days of moderation? It's the eternal question for those who observe... try and answer it, tonight at 7. TM*

*TM = Ticketmaster: (410) 481-SEAT; www.ticketmaster.com

Got an upcoming area event?

Email swiley1@umbc.edu (min. 2 weeks notice).

Incidentally...

Events Happening On and Around the UMBC Campus
Beginning [Feb. 17]

Tuesday, February 17

Ahead of their Time

Did you know that women fought in the Civil War? Eleftheria M. Papavasiliou presents her research on the military careers and lives of nineteen women who are known to have fought in Pennsylvania regiments during the Civil War. Through the use of military records, newspapers, pensions, and census records, Ms. Papavasiliou sheds light on these otherwise unknown figures. This talk will address their significance, how they affected Victorian society, and how women today remember those nineteen individuals who disguised themselves as male soldiers so that they could make a difference. The presentation will be held in the Women's Center at 1pm.

Wednesday, February 18

Live Music Series

Take a break, relax, listen to local talent, and eat lunch all at the same time. Where? the Commons Grounds Coffeehouse. When? 1pm.

Thursday, February 19

The Return of El Mariachi

Follow a guitar-stringing vigilante

(Antonio Banderas) as he hunts down a drug kingpin (William Dafoe) who may be planning to overthrow the president of Mexico. "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" will be shown at 7:30pm and 10pm in Lecture Hall Two. Don't forget to bring \$2 for the ticket.

Friday, February 20

Do you suffer from video-game playing addiction?

Put your button-pressing abilities to the test in a video game tourney in the Commons Gameroom at 2pm.

Saturday, February 21

Take a Bite Out of Crime

Test your detective skills and enjoy dinner while you put those little gray cells to work. Come out for the Mystery Dinner Theatre in the Commons Skylight Room from 8pm to 11pm. Buy your tickets at the Commons Information Desk: \$10 for singles, \$16 for doubles. Need more information? Email Suzanne Ashour at sash1@umbc.edu.

Got an upcoming event? Email reshma1@umbc.edu



An Earthquake on December 16, 1811 caused parts of the Mississippi River to flow backwards.

amusingfacts.com

HEALTHY MALES AND FEMALES

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Ages 18-30 are needed for a Johns Hopkins study.

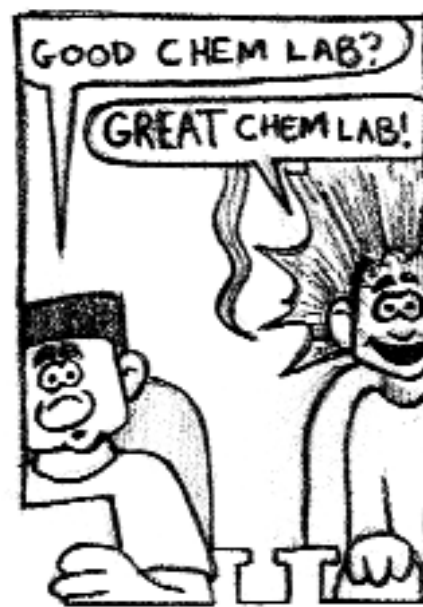
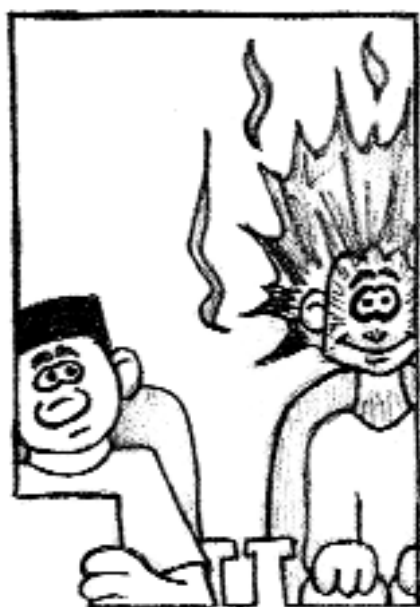
*Study involves having blood drawn, urine collected.
Earn up to \$675 for completion of screening
Interview and 4 brief outpatient visits
and 1 overnight stay.*

For more information, call (410) 502-5433

Primary Investigator: Gary Wand, M.D. RPH: 99-12-07-03

Kilroy Was Here!

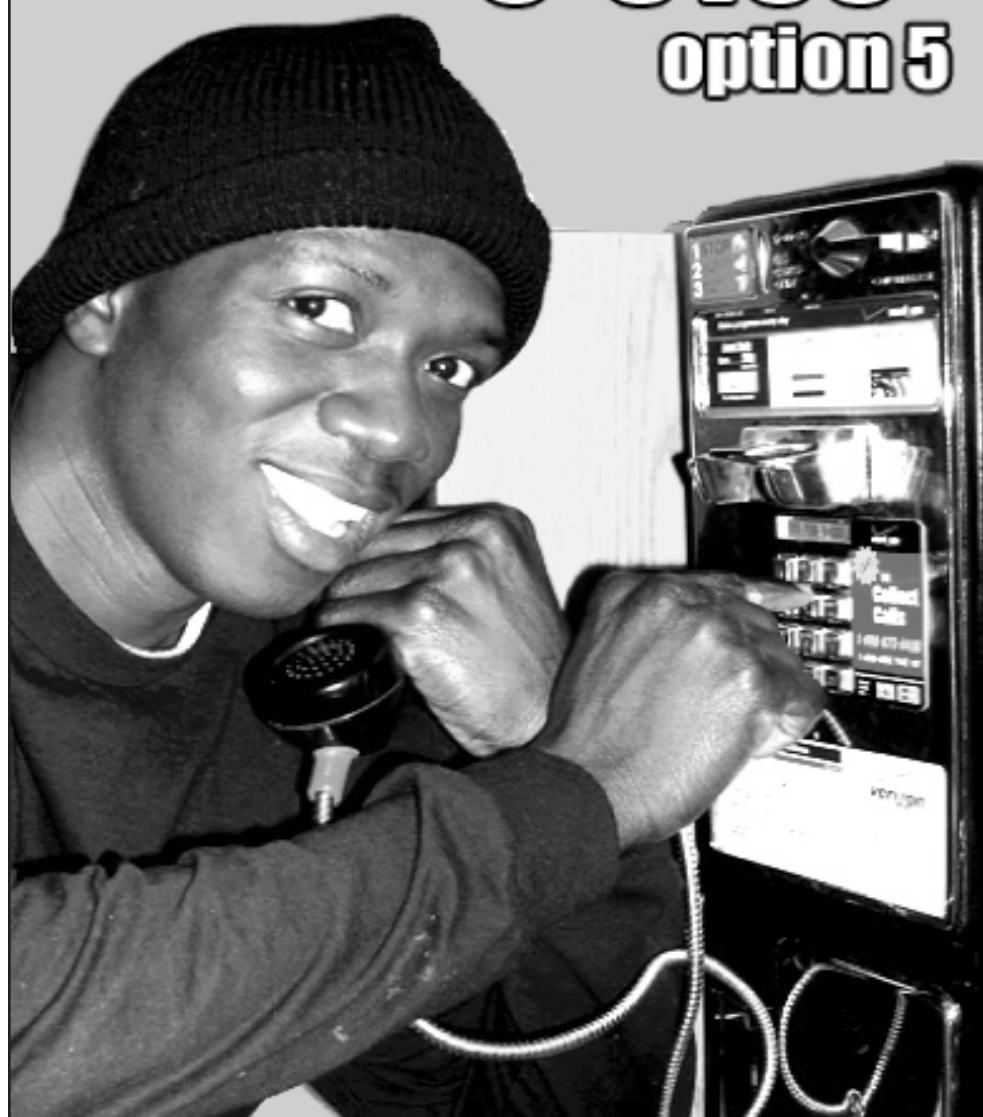
David Somerville



Try Something New!

just dial 5-3100

option 5



Tuesday, February 17
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
BUDGET TRAINING
1:00pm & 5:00pm
The Commons, rm 2B24

Wednesday, February 18
SEB LIVE MUSIC SERIES
1:00pm
The Commons, Coffeehouse

MAJOR DECISIONS
WORKSHOP
Sponsored by UCS
1:00pm - 2:00pm
Math/Phys, Rm 201

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS
Sponsored by TSN
1:00pm
The Commons, Rm 318

SEB MOVIE
"ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO"
7:30pm & 10:00pm
LH 2, Admission \$2

CONTEMPORARY PIANO
CONCERT
8:00pm
Fine Arts Recital Hall
Free for all!

Thursday, February 19
SEB MOVIE
"ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO"
7:30pm & 10:00pm
LH 2, Admission \$2

CONTEXT PERFORMERS
COLLECTIVE - MUSIC
8:00pm
Fine Arts Recital Hall
Free for all!

Friday, February 20
VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT
2:00pm
The Commons, Gameroom

SOLO THEATRICAL
PERFORMANCE
8:00pm
The Commons, Cabaret

FRIDAY FLICK
"REMEMBER THE TITANS"
7:30 & 10:00pm
The Commons, Retriever Grill

Saturday, February 21
JUBILEE SINGERS & UMBC
GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT
7:00pm
Fine Arts Recital Hall
Free for all!

SEB MYSTERY DINNER THEATER
8:00pm - 11:00pm
The Commons, Skylight Room
Tickets available at The Commons
Info Desk \$10 single/ \$18 couple

SEB MOVIE
"ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO"
7:30pm & 10:00pm
LH 1, Admission \$1

Sunday, February 22
FACULTY MUSIC RECITAL
FEATURING CLARINET
3:00pm
Fine Arts Recital Hall
Free Admission

Monday, February 23
TEST ANXIETY WORKSHOP
1:00pm
Math/Phys Building 201

KARAOKE
8:00pm - 11:00pm
The Commons, Cabaret



TRY SOMETHING NEW
UMBC Office of Student Life

For a full list of events check out the **calendar** link at <http://www.umbc.edu>

"FOR TOO LONG OUR CULTURE HAS SAID, 'IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT.' NOW, WE WANT TO BE A NATION THAT SERVES GOALS LARGER THAN SELF. WE'VE BEEN OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY, AND WE MUST NOT LET THIS MOMENT PASS. MY CALL IS FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO COMMIT TO THE SERVICE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR NATION. BY DOING THIS, WE SUSTAIN AND EXTEND THE BEST THAT HAS EMERGED IN AMERICA."

★ ★ EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING. ★ ★

Answer the President's Call to Service. When you volunteer to help your neighbors, you help your nation. Everyone can do something. To learn more, visit USAFREEDOMCORPS.GOV or call 1-877-USACORPS.



USA
Freedom Corps
The President's Call to Service

Sports

Dawgs Dominate at Home, but Don't Deliver on the Road



[File Photo]

All-Star Player: Freshman Chris Pugh lunges for a ball while sophomore Cory McJimson looks on. The Retrievers have recently lost two close contests.

DEREK SMITH

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Last Sunday the Retrievers got a much needed win over struggling Stony Brook, then went on the road and dropped two games.

There were a couple similarities between these two teams before the game. They both had three game losing streaks and had a 3-8 conference record. UMBC used the home court advantage and great team work to separate them from the Seahawks and win big 72-53.

With just under five minutes left in the first half, UMBC down 17-24, the Retrievers went on a 13-2 tear sparked by John Zito and Kareem Washington. Zito scored eight of his ten point in this stretch. UMBC ended the first half with an eight point lead.

Washington was the man in second half. He did it all. He created steals on the defensive end, led the fast break, dished out assists and went on a scoring run of his own. In 29 minutes Washington produced a very impressive stat line. He compiled 26 points (5-8 3pt. fg), five rebounds, four assists and four steals. He moved into twelfth place on UMBC's all-time scoring list with 1,061 points.

"In order to help this team win, since I'm picking up a lot of double teams now, I have got to start being the guy who dishes the ball off and

start creating for my teammates. I've got to be the release guy," Washington said, who's been playing with a fractured heel.

The Retrievers played great team defense throughout the game. Their zone really confused the Seahawks, keeping them from taking many good shots. "When we played zone they weren't sending a man to the high post so we stretched the zone out and basically took Munir out of the game," Washington said. Munir led Stony Brook in scoring with 14, but only had two in the second half.

Another key was freshman center Michael Housman's defense on Cory Spencer, who torched UMBC for 17 points in their last match up. "Housman did a great job on the offensive boards, the defensive boards, and bothering Spencer. Shutting down Spencer really helped the rest of the defense", coach Tom Sullivan said.

The Retrievers shot 65 percent from the field in the second half and 48 percent for the game, which is a major improvement from recent performances.

On Thursday, UMBC took the show on the road to Beantown to face the Boston University Terriers. Boston had won 17 of their last 18 coming into the game, and added another after the game, winning 71-59.

In the first half UMBC had a 12

point lead after an outrageous 22-3 run, but Boston cut the deficit to seven by halftime (33-26). UMBC hit all four of their three-point attempts in the first half.

After the half Boston limited the Retrievers to ten points in the first 11:48, building a ten point lead in the process, 53-43. Washington scored nine straight points to bring UMBC back to within one with 5:13 to play.

The zone didn't help them against Boston as guards Matt Turner and Ryan Butt hit two treys in a row to put the Terrier's up 61-52 with 3:49 left. UMBC's Rob Gogerty hit a three on the next possession and UMBC forced a BU miss, but a pair of turnovers by Zito and a missed shot by Cory McJimson ended the Retrievers' hopes of a rally. Washington led all scorers with 19.

UMBC traveled to Northeastern only two days later. The Retrievers were down by as much as 17 and almost came back tying it at 72, but couldn't finish, losing 81-78.

UMBC shot a season-high 58.6 percent from the field, hitting 34 out of 58 from the floor, but even shooting 65.6 percent (21-of-32) in the second half couldn't win them the game. They also out rebounded NU 38-25. Four Retrievers scored in double digits including Andrew Feeley's 22, Washington's 15, Gogerty's 13, and Housman's season-high 11.

This Week in Sports

Women's Basketball

February 19 at New Hampshire (7:00)

February 22 at Maine (1:00)

The women's basketball team travels north this week to play New Hampshire and Maine. They won on Saturday and could easily pick up two more wins. Sophomore Maria Brown provided the scoring punch for the Lady Retrievers.

Men's Basketball

February 18 vs. New Hampshire (7:00)

February 21 vs. Maine (7:00)

The men's basketball squad lost a heartbreaker to Northeastern on Saturday. The team needs more wins to move up in the standings. They can start on Wednesday night at home against New Hampshire. Bring a friend to the game.

Indoor Track

February 20-21 at America East Championships

The men's and women's track teams take on the best from the America East this weekend. They will face stiff competition at Boston University.

Women's Tennis

February 21-22 at Army/U. Conn (1:00)

Women's tennis moves on to play Army and U. Conn this week. The women will have their hands full against Army.

Women's Lacrosse

February 20 vs. Duke (1:00)

The women's lacrosse team kicks off the 2004 season at home against Duke on Friday. This team is loaded with talent and should move into the win column by next week. Seniors Jen Dragoni and Tracie McClintic provide great leadership.

Softball

February 20-22 at UNCW Tournament

Head coach Joe French is back and his team is ready for a challenge this season. They will get it at the Wilmington Tournament in North Carolina. The pitching will be strong for the Lady Retrievers.

Baseball

February 20-22 at Tulane

The baseball team has spring fever and will start the season against Tulane. This team will combine speed and power to get in the win column.

ANDREW CHANEY
Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

McJimson and Davis are also big con-

"I have a great relationship with Cory," Davis said. Through the good and bad the two athletes have remained positive in the game they love.

ext
51260

Women's basketball for beating Northeastern. The women showed a little pizzazz on the court.

The New York Yankees
win this award. You can't
buy a World Series title.

Would you come to a men's basketball game if True Grit gave away floppy hats?

Will swimming and diving ever get a big team picture in the lobby of the RAC?

Yes-10%

No-15%

Undecided-75%

The UMBC women's basketball team beat Northeastern on Saturday for their second win of the season. Sophomore Maria Brown is the leader of the team. Maine has a perfect 12-0 record in the America East. Boston is close behind at 9-3 and Hartford is in third place at 7-5. Hartford and Binghamton have been battling for the third spot.

The senior from Baton Rouge gets his inspiration from his track teammates, especially the younger ones. "The freshmen and sophomores have a real desire to win this semester. Adam Grossman and others really inspire me because despite their youth, they are willing to put the team on their shoulders."



Spring 2004 Softball Preview

A Brand New Flavor on the Diamond

DAVID JUN

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

The UMBC softball team is expecting some spunk from the team as it ventures into a new era.

The 2004 Retrievers squad will use a strong freshman pitching class and good team chemistry to continue the winning trend for Retrievers softball.

Head coach Joe French has recorded back-to-back 40-win seasons and 300 career wins. He calls this season a "reloading" year and not what skeptics call a "rebuilding" year.

As the team fits into a new conference with players getting used to college and playing new positions all at once, the Retrievers will have to acclimate themselves both offensively and defensively.

With two conference titles in a five-year journey through the Northeast Conference, the Retrievers hope to get used to the America East Conference sooner rather than later.

The team has lost valuable players from last season such as UMBC Female Athlete of the Year Lisa Boone, power-hitter Lauren Hebb, Abbie Kahn, Christina French and Lara Seamon, which brings numerous concerns to the forefront.

However, Coach French says that his freshman recruiting class and the chemistry that the

team has already generated gives them a chance to "be over the .500 mark for the season."

"The team has gotten to know each other on and off the field through fall ball. The team chemistry is certainly the best in the three years that I have been at the school," French commented.

"This is also the most athletic team that I have seen here," continued French.

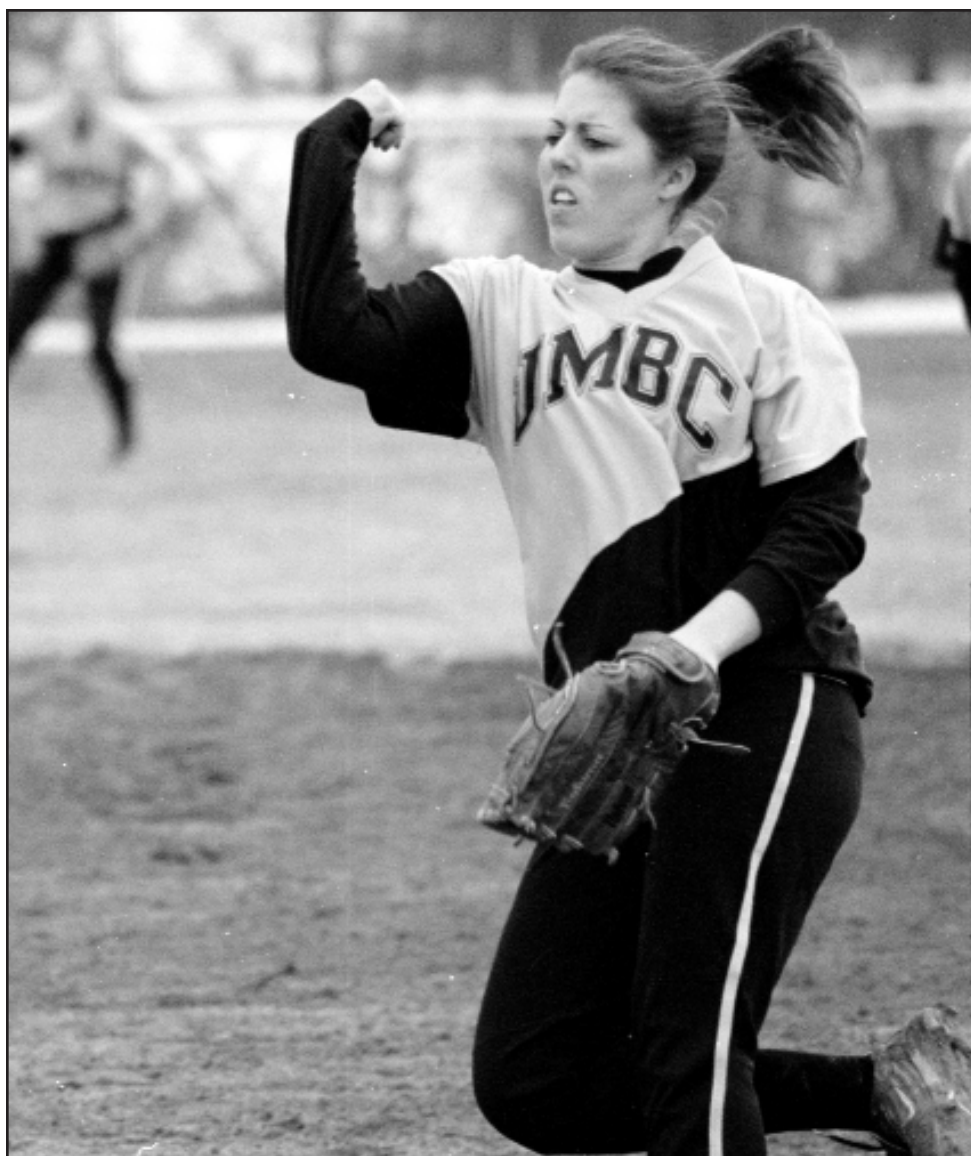
French says the three keys to the season will be pitching, defense and speed.

In terms of pitching, Lauren Nicholson and Amy Sadowl will be asked to build upon their performances from last season. As freshmen, they each posted up 18 wins as starting pitchers. Freshmen Kelly Claar and Jessica Taylor will be asked to provide relief out of the bullpen.

The defense up the middle is critical to winning in softball. A key strength for the Retrievers last season has become a sore spot for them this season. The team has a new catcher, second baseman, shortstop and center fielder this season. Preventing a defensive collapse up the middle will be a major concern for the team.

The softball assistant coach is Lisa Boone, the most distinguished hitting queen in UMBC softball history. A compiler of numerous records at the school, she aided the pitchers, hitters and newcomers on how to set themselves up properly for success this season.

"Our goal is to make the playoffs in May, and in order to do that we must stay away from errors, mistakes on defensive switches and use our team chemistry to produce victories this season," French said. The team will be playing the likes of Boston University, Maine, Stony Brook and Albany as they look to conquer a new conference. The queens of the diamond look to crown themselves at the end of the season when they start play officially on Feb. 20.

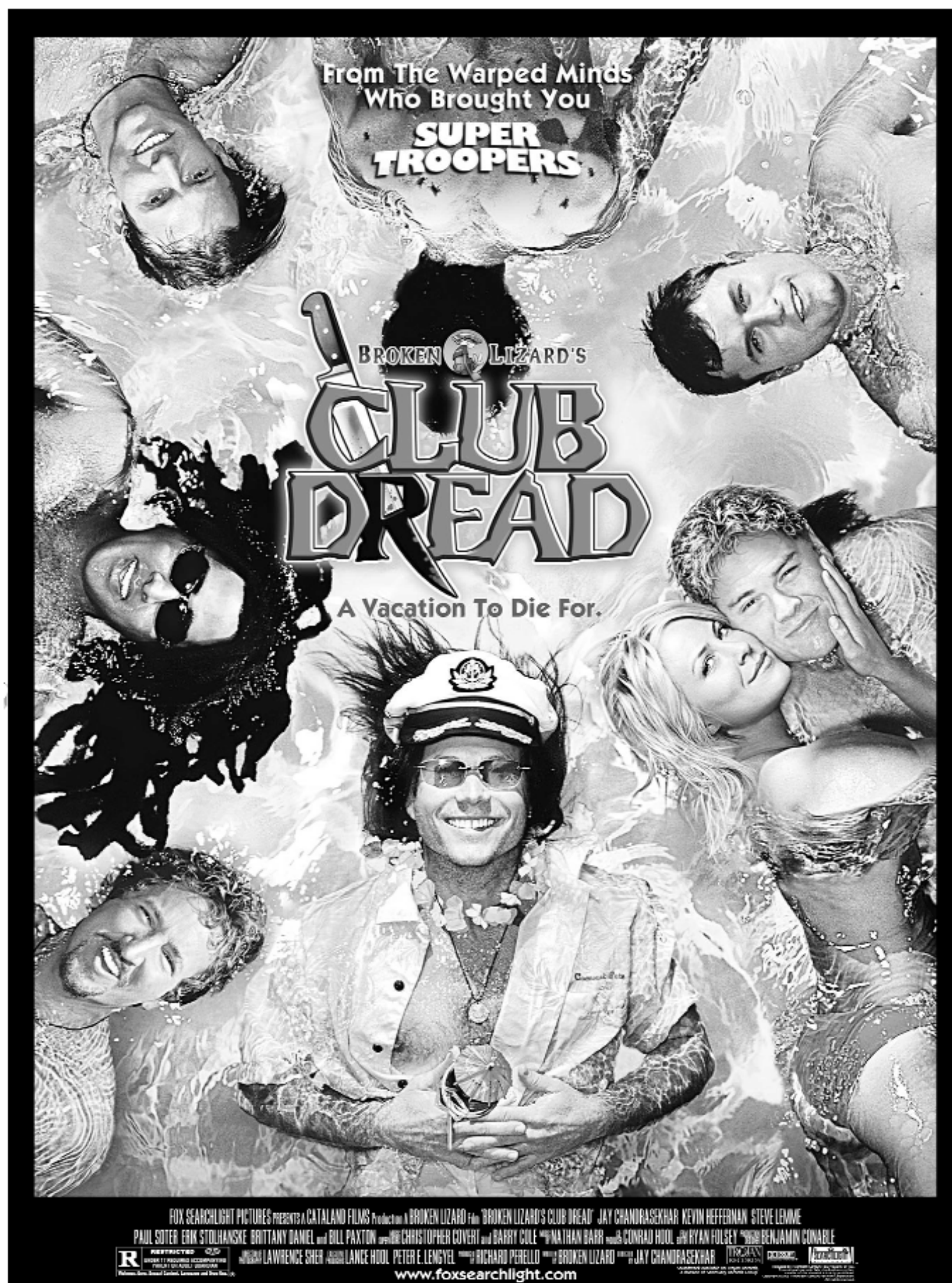


[Retriever Weekly File Photos]



THE RETRIEVER WEEKLY

INVITE YOU AND A GUEST TO AN ADVANCE SCREENING OF



Come to The Retriever Weekly's FunFest on the Commons Terrace during free hour on Wednesday 2/18 to win a pass (good for two) to an advance screening.

Passes and prizes are available while supplies last. No purchase necessary. Limit one per person. Employees of Fox Searchlight Pictures and The Retriever Weekly and UMBC are not eligible.

Classifieds

200 AUTO

WINTER/SPRING INTERNSHIP: Improve your resume and real world experience. Get ahead in a tough job market. Marketing, Human Resources, Management training, IT, Sales. Credit available upon completion. Call Todd Pauliny 443-277-7574.

300 EMPLOYMENT

OFFICE STAFF - Columbia sports company works with several NFL teams - help needed to call former clients - good compensation. www.footballcamps.com. late afternoons, evenings, and/or weekends — call 410-309-9921 or e-mail jasonc@footballcamps.com.

Experienced babysitter with car wanted to care for 2 children, ages 3 and 16 months in Ellicott City, Howard County. \$10/hr (negotiable) to start. Occasional & flexible Tuesday and Friday mornings or afternoons and weekend evening hours available. Please contact Sherri at sherri.lauver@ed.gov or at 410-750-3709.

Nanny wanted for infant in Ellicott City. Live in private historic guest cottage with 1BR, 1BA, and fireplace on horse farm. All utilities included, addi-

tional salary negotiable. 410-442-1777.

HEALTH CLUB IN CANTON seeks experienced and enthusiastic AEROBIC INSTRUCTORS various days and FRONT DESK STAFF Fridays & Sundays. Call (410) 342-1588.

PT Child Care Babysitter/nanny needed one day per week for infant in our Dickeyville home. \$10/hr. E-mail clk-loostra@yahoo.com or call 410-448-5295.

Teacher Senior Staff, Full-Time Position, Degree in ECE preferred, Senior Staff Needed. Pre-school program, Ages 3-Pre-K. Clarksville, Maryland. Fax Resume to Gerry at 443-535-8507 or call 443-535-8505.

800 TRAVEL

SPRING BREAK HOTELS! Search multiple travel websites at the same time for hotel rates using www.Travelaxe.com the best free hotel search tool

900 SERVICES

M4MUSA.com the #1 gay college dating website IM chat and 1000's of picture ads. America's largest gay dating service enter code UC29.

THE RETRIEVER WEEKLY



University Center 214
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250
(410) 455-1260

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Classifieds may be placed online by going to www.universaladvertising.com.

Club Notices 30 words free per week! in section
100-ANNOUNCEMENTS
visit trw.umbc.edu/ads

the
Student
Events
Board

it's not just a job

it's an **adventure**

apply for a position on
the Student Events Board!
pick up an application in
the Commons, room 2B10



applications due Monday,
March 8th in the SEB office
(Commons, room 2B10).

information sessions
will be held in the SEB office on:

Wednesday 2/18 1-2 pm
Thursday 2/19 5-6 pm

Sports

Men's basketball competes with Boston

Baseball is a big hit

Softball brings in a new talent

INSIDE

Women's Basketball Sends A Message To NU, Wins 61-51

AMIT CHAND

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

In what has been a long and difficult season for the Women's basketball team, the one constant has been the team's belief in their system. Rarely has the young squad ventured away from the tried and true Princeton-style offense. Second year head coach Phil Stern's patience has been tested this season but his adherence to the team's game plan has been steadfast.

"We're not going to do anything different, just come out and play our game," freshman Sharri Rohde said. UMBC (2-10, 2-19) stuck to their guns and split a two game home stand last week, dropping Wednesday's contest against the Boston Terriers (9-3, 14-7), 40-59, and defeating the Northeastern Huskies on Saturday (5-7, 11-10), 61-51. The victory against Northeastern should give the Lady Retrievers momentum as they prepare for the season homestretch and try and remove themselves from last place in the Am East. The team is also playing for a better seed in the conference championship.

The Huskies and UMBC traded leads early on as both teams played stifling defense leading to turnovers. Northeastern scored 11 points off of turnovers en route to a seven point run that gave them some breathing room while the Retrievers failed to take advantage of Husky turnovers. UMBC's lack of defensive rebounding in the first half allowed for Northeastern to get 11 second chance points and prompted Stern to exclaim, "Somebody get a rebound!" Northeastern's full court press helped

disrupt the Princeton offense as the Huskies went into halftime with the lead, 19-23.

"Coach said to keep our composure against the press," freshman Heather Luttrell said.

The second half saw the Lady Retrievers play tough interior defense, led by junior team co-captain Tyeia Powell. Sophomore Maria Brown and Powell, fighting her way back from several injuries, provided crowd-pleasing blocks as they helped the team chip away at the deficit. Junior Anastasia Goncharova broke the Huskies zone defense and sparked a run early in the second half by hitting three trifectas that put the Retrievers up, 33-28.

"Three point shooting is my specialty," Goncharova said. "I was looking for my shot and I'm really glad I was hitting them."

UMBC exploited Northeastern's zone defense in the second half to withstand a 14-2 run and go on one themselves for the win. "Coach said that we have to believe we can win and comeback from being down," Goncharova added. "[Northeastern] let up because they knew we were taking time off the clock so we wanted to get a shot off quicker in the last ten minutes of the second half," Stern commented. "Our team responded after Northeastern made their run. We controlled the tempo and ran our stuff."

In action earlier in the week, the Lady Retrievers were unable to handle the second place Boston Terriers' pressing defense in defeat. As has been the case all too often this season, UMBC's penchant for turning the ball over cost them the game. Boston went



[Andre Mercier]

Up For Grabs: Senior Mariana Santos battles three opponents for a rebound. The Women's basketball team beat Northeastern.

up early, 8-0, and never relinquished the lead. UMBC made its first basket with 8:28 to go in the opening half. The slow start prompted Stern to substitute out his entire starting five in the first half. The strategy worked to no avail as they went into halftime trailing, 14-23.

"We knew we had to come out more aggressive, more physical," commented Rohde on the rough first half.

Rohde led the way in the second half with four straight points that induced a 9-2 run. With the score 36-39, UMBC went cold from the field and failed to complete the comeback.

"We were running the same offense, we just had to play tougher and stronger," Rohde said. "We still played our game."

UMBC's next two games will be on the road, on February 19 against New Hampshire at 7pm and on February 22 against Maine at 1pm.

Women's Tennis Takes a Hard Fall

DAVID JUN

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

When it was all said and done at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center at Columbia University in New York, not a single match had been won for the Retrievers. UMBC women's tennis was woefully beaten this past weekend as the Columbia Lions stormed away with seven triumphant singles and doubles match victories.

Some of the more reliable individuals for UMBC such as junior Lana Khvalina, junior Aimee Lim and senior Tia Kaasalainen were all thoroughly beaten. Lim put up the best fight as she stuck around in her games, yet mysteriously found 6-4 and 6-4 losses up on the scoreboard.

Kaasalainen started strong and came out of a brawl of a match to lose 2-6, 6-3 and 6-4 in three games.

The combination of Khvalina and Kaasalainen gave a good effort, but in the end fell short of reaching their goal of another victory. The doubles combination of Fonseca and Rao was routed 8-5 as a punchless attack ended their matches.

A resilient team will hope to persevere and rekindle the glory in the face of the adversity.

The UMBC women's tennis team will take on both Army and the University of Connecticut at West Point, New York on both February 21 and February 22.



[File Photo]

A Sweet Stroke: The Women's Tennis team played tough against Columbia. They will get things together to play Army.

Fans Speak Out

KYRA WILSON

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

There is something to be said about a little bit of reader interaction. There is no reason for us to be doing all the talking about sports on this campus when it is you, the student body, who are supposed to be talking. Sure, we can give you stats, pictures, and accounts on the sporting events that you refuse to go and see, but we want to hear from you. Think of this as the Retriever Invitational, your chance to start talking to us about UMBC sports: the good, the bad, and the oh so ugly. We know you are bitter and want an opportunity to do a little ranting, but we also want to hear the good stuff. What good have you seen? Who have you seen that makes a difference on a team? What do you want as a Retriever fan? Yes, if you really must complain about the lack of football on this campus, we may indulge you with an article or two. There is also plenty of room for the national stuff too. Is that Claret guy going to ruin the NFL? Is the NBA dying a slow and painful death? Are the Orioles going to remain the laughing stock of the MLB? We can always bash the Ravens for fun. Any March Madness hints and tricks? Fantasy Baseball, maybe?

The point is, if we can't get you to go to the games, we want to know why. Are you bored? Do you not care? Do you not know? Are you too nerdy to show up because you have Orgo Lab? What is it?

There really could not be anything better to do on campus than to go to a basketball game or a lacrosse game every once and a while.

So here is the big idea. You send in your comments to fans@trw.umbc.edu, we read them and decide what is good. Comments may pop up in this article or others through out the section. If we get enough of a particular topic, we may decide to dedicate an article to it, if not, we'll pick a particularly good comment and write a response. Send us something interesting, creative. Something that will make us proud to share a campus with you.

Why have such a thing, you ask? Actually, we feel that any good newspaper should give its readership the benefit of the doubt and give them an opportunity to speak out. What better than the Sports section? Haven't you seen the commercials? Without Sports, there would be nothing to talk about. Without the Sports section, your cheeseburger at the Grill wouldn't be so tolerable.

Your comments are important to us, and so we will take them seriously. Sports connect us, inspire us, enrage us, and give us a passion like no other thing can. As you continue to watch, we will continue to write, and we will also continue to listen.

Remember to send your comments to fans@trw.umbc.edu. Out of respect for your privacy, we will not use last names in articles, nor e-mail addresses. Please make your comments descriptive, but concise.