

Volume 39, Issue 04

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Come on, turn the page...you know you want to.

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Kaidye Hansen [Retriever Staff]

**Chicken Little:** Concrete blocks that had teetered above students from a perch on the UC walkway were removed by campus maintenance crews last Friday. The long wait to fix the problem was offset by the painstaking manner in which the blocks were removed; prepping the work area with 3/4" boards to prevent machinery from cracking the lower concourse and extensive safety precautions. The campus now awaits the completion of the project, which includes replacement of the blocks.

## Commuter gold card offers students discount

SHIRA HELETZ

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

In another move by campus officials to involve commuter students more in the campus and local community, the Off Campus Student Services (OCSS) has upgraded their discount card to the new Commuter Gold Card.

The new card, gives students a 10% discount off purchases in the Commons food court if used along with a campus I.D. Discounts are also available at the Golden Gate Chinese Restaurant and R/C Theatre's Hollywood Cinema in Arbutus. The card may not be used in the Skylight lounge.

The card is another step in the University's "cashless" trend, an attempt to encourage students to use their campus I.D.

Despite its name, the card is available to all students, including resident, part-time and graduate students. The commuter community will have the greatest benefit from the card since resident students primarily use their pre-

paid meal plan.

Commuter student, Yang Li commented, "It's nice to have a discount, but it seems unfair that resident students don't get the same benefit from it because they have meal plans. It's not like its enough for gas money."

One of the main goals of the card is to, "draw students back in area business by connecting UMBC with Arbutus and Catonsville and of course, to give students a discount," explained Adam Trice, Off Campus Student Service (OCSS) Graduate Assistant.

With the Gold Card, the OCSS hopes that the commuters will stay on campus and become a more active part of the campus community. "Mostly commuters go off campus to eat, and the card will be an incentive for them to stay," said OCSS Director Ramona Arthur.

Senior Lisa Denson, who commutes, commented, "The card is a good idea. I hope it works to bring commuters to socialize on campus."

Students can get the Gold Card by visiting OCSS office in the Commons,

Room 309. The membership fee is \$5.00.

To further integrate commuters more into the campus social life, several events, including movie nights, free Tuesday breakfast in the Main Street Lounge, and Commuter week at the

end of October, have been planned for the current semester.

Shira Heletz is a staff writer for the Retriever and can be reached at [shria1@umbc.edu](mailto:shria1@umbc.edu).



Stephanie Potter [Retriever Staff]

**Save Big:** Kim Barteau in the Off Campus Student Services office hands Tim Regan his new Gold Card which will save him money eating on and off campus.

### Four Day Forecast

tues: 80/56°

wed: 83/61°

thu: 83/63°

fri: 82/61°

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## College News

### MTV gives it the college try

In the race for the prized 18-49-year-old crowd, MTV is returning to its roots with a round-the-clock music channel just for college kids.

Twenty years ago, the music net launched as a round-the-clock music video service with some short-form programming to break up the day. But MTV has long abandoned musicvids as the heart of the network. Ditto sister web MTV2, which has taken to reairing its sister network's teen-targeted reality skeins.

As students return to college campuses, enter mtvU, proof that audiences — and advertisers — still want the M in MTV.

With a built-in brand name, cheap programming and a demo to die for, the college cabler, a free service to 6 million co-eds at 720 campuses, is on track to turn a fast profit.

And the costs don't come cheaper: It takes less than \$5 million a year to run the operation.

Viacom's cable group ponied up \$15 million to buy mtvU (formerly College Television Network) in October 2002, promptly turning it into a network heavy on videos (read: free programming) from the kind of college-friendly fringe artists MTV cut its teeth on.

In addition, all of mtvU's original series run no longer than the length of a music video. "Stand-Ins," a show starring substitute teachers like Sean "P. Diddy" Combs or Marilyn Manson as they take over a class for a day, lasts just 3 to 4 minutes.

Currently, mtvU doesn't have much competition by way of other national college-exclusive channels. There is only commercial-free U Network, which launched last week and operates on investor donations and student submissions for its programming.

And unlike the competitish, mtvU benefits from its corporate parentage.

CBS and MTV provide customized news updates every half-hour. During student primetime — 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. — mtvU runs classic MTV series like the animated laffer "Daria." The R.J. Cutler-produced docudrama "Freshman Diaries" got a second run on mtvU after its Showtime premiere with bonus content not aired on the feevee cabler featuring select cast members talking about the show.

Net topper Stephen Friedman reveals the network is also close to snagging repeat rights to Nickelodeon hit "SpongeBob Squarepants" half-hour.

The music and backing of MTV is the key reason why, in spite of mtvU's limited reach, Madison Avenue is finding the fledgling cabler highly attractive.

Students consume mtvU on the TVs set up all over campus, in communal areas like student unions, gyms and dining halls, as well as in their dorm rooms and apartments.

MTV research indicates that students spend an average 16 minutes watching mtvU every time they visit a dining hall and 23 minutes in fitness centers, according to Nielsen. That's enough time to digest up to five of the channel's shows.

## Behind the Scenes

### Mama's Boys melt your heart

SUN

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

They hole up on the third floor in the Commons, close to the back room; you can hear their voices shake the ground.

If you followed the melody to room 328 and pressed your nose against the glass, you could see a room of guys sing to...not music...but their voices. Pulsing to the rhythm of their vocal chords,

UMBC's a cappella group the Mama's Boys, perform an awe-inspiring rendition of "Stacey's Mom".

For the ill-informed or the ignorant, an a cappella is a group of singers who sing without instruments.

"We make music with our mouths," explains Mama's Boys president James "Jeeves" Murphy.

"We take popular and not-so popular music and arrange it with just our voices," adds vice president Jordan Hadfield, "We're a contemporary a cappella group."

By being contemporary, the Mama's Boys incorporate doo-wop, barbershop, classical, and pop music styles to enrich their approach with variety and vigorous emphasis in all elements of the music scene.

"We're damn good," James Grant declares. He isn't lying, you've probably heard them at Involvement Fest reeling in the largest crowd or seen them opening up for Quadmania last year.

The Mama's Boys are the brain child of co-founders Jeeves and Hadfield. Both wanted to set up an a cappella group in high school, but the project fell through. At UMBC, the guys met like-minded people, like Ray Remesch and his friends, and decided to form a new group.

"It was like two different worlds in different galaxies coming together" says one member. A string of connections and friends joined and together with their forces combined they became UMBC's very own a cappella group the Mama's Boys. The group is made up of seven to

eight part harmonies. Remesch is responsible for most arrangements of the pieces that the group sings, but other members are active in the process, such as Alex McCrae and Chett Miller.

The name for the group came from bouncing around during meetings, the group was almost named Fetch when someone cried out "Mama's boys!" during a brainstorming session. The name stuck around and was soon officially passed by a vote.

Big things are brewing for the Boys since their birth two years ago. The Mama's Boys are planning a huge festival in the fall called Festivus Acappellius on October 30th in the UC Ballroom. They are expecting a huge turnout to listen to other East Coast a cappella groups from George Washington (Emocapella), College Park (the Generics), and St. Mary's (the Accidentals) to name a few.

Do not expect a grueling death match of vocal triads, this festival is about sharing the music. The cool quirk is each a cappella group has its own distinct style.

"There aren't any arch-nemesis," Jeeves adds seriously, "we're all for all here, the a cappella scene is a supporting scene." Along side this fall festival, a holiday concert and spring competition are in the works.

So what does it take to be a Mama's Boy?

Unfortunately, auditions were already held so you have to cross your fingers for next year. The Mama's Boys aren't limited to males.

"A cappella is like a fraternity," explains Manager Kristi McDurmon. "This group



Christina Gatto [Retriever Staff]

**Mama Knows Best:** Mama's Boys will serenade campus at upcoming Festivus Acappellius on October 30th in the UC Ballroom.

just happens to be all male."

No formal vocal training or music major pre-reqs need to embellish your resume. To be a Mama's Boy you have to have "the vocal ability, the clickability". "Only one of us is a music major," Hadfield points out, "What sets us apart is that we're from a variety of organizations and majors, but we connect here."

Auditions include a quartet try-out and a question-and-answer session. It's vital that a prospective Mama's Boy fit with the other Boys. The guys mesh together well, their humor and sense of responsibility to the group meets with their values.

Remesch states, "We're community and family oriented." "We're a fun loving group of guys," Hadfield says. "We hang out like brothers," grins another member.

The Mama's Boys are made up of 15 members: Billy Becker, Joe Garifo, James Grant, Jordan Hadfield, JP Leblanc, Jon Martin, Alex McCrae, Chett Miller, James "Jeeves" Murphy, Chris Najmi, Brett Patterson, Ray Remesch, Mike "Classic" Tomzak, Thaddeus Walsh

Manager: Kristi McDurmon.

Sun is a staff writer for the Retriever and can be reached at sana1@umbc.edu.

## UMBC a great school for girls

from COSMOGIRL, page 1

involved. Ladies can get involved in sororities, join a sport or become active in other student organizations. UMBC does not only encourage involvement, but leadership. The Ethiopian-Erittuan Student Association, UMBC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Hispanic-Latino Student Union, Social Work Study Association, Pre-Med Society and the Retriever Weekly are all among the vast number of organizations in which females hold office as president of the organization.

The October 2004 issue of CosmoGirl! affirmed what many UMBC students, faculty and staff already know: the women of UMBC are Olympians, world chess champions, peer leaders and attend a school where it is definitely cool to be smart.

Danielle Williamson is a staff writer for the Retriever and can be reached at dan6@umbc.edu.

## Tell people older than you what to do.



yourvotecounts.org

# ACTiVATE: Supporting female entrepreneurs

RESHMA DESAI

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

UMBC was recently awarded a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support the creation of the university's Achieving the Commercialization of Technology in Ventures through Applied Training for Entrepreneurs (ACTiVATE), which hopes to aid female entrepreneurs throughout Maryland.

While UMBC is still developing a structure for ACTiVATE, everyone involved has hopes that the program will become a success and one that can be continued even after the NSF grant has ended.

ACTiVATE is a joint effort on the parts of several UMBC departments including the Center for Women & Information Technology (CWIT), UMBC's techcenter, and the Office of Technology Development. The program will also be supported by many other Maryland universities.

According to Ellen Hemmerly, Executive Director of UMBC's techcenter, the program

is a year-long course in which female participants receive both classroom instruction as well as practical, hands-on training from professionals such as venture capitalists and entrepreneurs themselves.

"There's a lot of opportunity [for women], but not enough support," said Stephen Auil, Director of UMBC's Office of Technology Development.

Auil, with the help of colleagues, will be obtaining the various technologies that will be used in the course. The technologies, said Hemmerly, will come from UMBC and other universities in Maryland.

The year-long training that participants receive will be divided into three phases, the first of which involves thirty women working in teams of two to research a given technology.

"[At the end of that phase,] seven or eight teams will be selected to go on to phase two...where they will develop a business plan to market their technology," said Auil.

From those seven or eight teams, three or four will be chosen to go on to receive funding to market their technologies and to essentially develop real businesses.

"The funding," said Hemmerly, "will come from different companies in the public sector."

Starting early next year, the program will receive its first batch of participants.

For these first three years, ACTiVATE will be free of charge. However, after that, participants will have to pay a tuition fee.

Program directors say they are not sure yet who will be eligible to apply for the program.

"We're still working on developing the selection criteria," said Hemmerly, "but we want women with business-oriented backgrounds. Some participants, once enrolled, will decide that entrepreneurship is not for them, but we hope to still introduce them to the opportunities available to them in the entrepreneurial world."

Anyone interested in ACTiVATE can contact Claudia Morrell, Director of CWIT, at 410-455-2822 or at <cmorrell@umbc.edu>.

*Reshma Desai is a staff writer for the Retriever and can be reached at reshma1@umbc.edu.*

# Advising resource center aids undecided students

PATRICK TYLER

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

The new Advising Resource Center (ARC) opened last Wednesday in the Academic Services Building to crowds of undecided and pre-professional students looking for aid.

The new center replaces the old walk-in advising section of Academic Services, workers hope that the advising presented currently will cut down the need for the old service.

"Our goal is to help undecided students to find majors using a computer questionnaire we have," said Katie Gange, an Inter-Disciplinary studies major and student coordinator of FUEL, which stands

for- For Undecided and Exploratory Learners.

To achieve these goals undecided students are allowed to take a Self-Directed Search (SDS), which is a computer questionnaire, that rates students according to their preferences in learning.

Students are given a Holland Code that describes them as either Artistic, Investigative, Realistic, Conventional, Social, or Enterprising learners. The student is given three of these codes, the codes are then checked against different majors which may appeal to their thinking styles.

The center also schedules advising sessions for people who are interested in different majors once they have completed the questionnaire.

FUEL is a series of workshops that hope to help undecided majors find their niche at UMBC.

Aside from aiding undecided majors the ARC helps pre-professional students take graduate entrance exams and find schools.

"WE have materials for professional exams such as the MCAT, GRE and LSAT and we also get a lot of mail from graduate schools that we pass onto students," said Tiffany March, an English major at UMBC.

Employees say that a long-term goal of the center is to allow pre-professional students to both sign up for and practice tests in the office.

*Patrick Tyler is an editor for the Retriever and can be reached at tyer1@media.umbc.edu.*

# UMBC mourns loss of ResLife employee

The UMBC community mourned the death of Sherrilyn Rush-Rogers last week, the former administrative assistant in Residential Life died last Monday of complications from illness.

Colleagues in Residential life say that they will remember Rush-Roger's humor, generosity, candor, and friendship. Co-workers characterized her as one to come in early and stay late to make sure that work got done.

Nancy Young, a co-worker and friend explained Rush-Roger's charity.

"She ran our office charity campaign for the United Way, but when she did that she would kick it off with a big event in the back. She always provided food and beverages out of her own pocket," said Young.

Young also said that Rush-Roger's was very dedicated to her family, recalling one time when co-workers were discussing favorite vacation spots. While other workers discussed Hawaii and other dream destinations Rush-Rogers maintained that Chestnut Grove, VA, her hometown and where much of her family still lives, was the best choice by far.

Rush-Rogers was buried Saturday in Chestnut Grove, VA. She is survived by her husband, parents, and siblings.

-Chrissy Gregg



## Police Log

### Theft from building

A UMBC student reported the theft of her purse from an unlocked cabinet in the Off Campus Student Services office on September 7.

### Driving on a Suspended license

A UMBC student was charged with driving on a suspended license, September 9, after the student presented the license to university police while borrowing a battery charger. Police checked the license with the MVA and when they discovered it to be suspended sent an officer to where the student was jumping his car. In lot 8 the officer witnessed the student operating the vehicle and stopped and charged him with driving on a suspended license.

### Possession of CDS- Marijuana

A 23-year-old UMBC student was arrested September 9, after police were called to Westhill apartment when an RA noticed the smell of marijuana coming from a bedroom in the Chester building. Police retrieved two marijuana cigarettes. The student was released pending trial.

### Malicious destruction of property

A Honda civic was discovered on the third level of the Walker Avenue garage with its side door ajar and vent window broken out on the morning of September 9. There was nothing reported stolen.

### Malicious destruction of property

A non-UMBC student reported damage to the handle and passenger side door of his vehicle while it was parked in the Commons garage September 9.

### Act of intolerance

UMBC police found negative racial comments written on the stall walls of the men's bathroom on the second floor of the social science building on September 13. There are no suspects.

### Theft from building

A UMBC student reported to campus police last Monday that he had taken candy from a damaged vending machine in the Westhill apartment complex without paying for it. The student said he did not know who damaged the machine.



## World News

### Fan pursues Bonds home run ball, strikes out

Los Angeles (Reuters) - A baseball fan who bought up 6,458 seats at Los Angeles' Dodger Stadium in the hope of catching and selling Barry Bonds' 700th home run ball admitted on Thursday he had probably struck out.

Los Angeles investment banker Michael Mahan crunched some numbers back in March and spent \$25,000 to buy all the bleachers in the stadium's right-field pavilion for the Oct. 1 and Oct. 3 games when he figured Bonds would become only the third man to enter the 700-homer club.

But with Bonds on Thursday already at 699 home runs and with 12 games to go before Oct. 1 Mahan said the chances of being there for the milestone were slim.

"I am just looking to see a good game and having a good time. I am not overly disappointed. There was a chance, that's all there was," said Mahan, a lifelong Dodgers fan.

Mahan said he was not out of pocket. He sold 3,000 tickets to a broker, hundreds more through his Web site, gave others to family and friends and donated 400 to a local kids charity.

Every buyer signed a contract promising to hand over to Mahan any Bonds home run ball they might catch. Mahan would sell the ball — which he said experts claimed might fetch up to \$500,000 if it were the 700th — and split the cash with the fan who caught it.

It is not the first time that baseball fans have gone the extra mile for souvenirs as the San Francisco Giants slugger pursues the 755 all-time home run mark set by Hank Aaron in 1976. Bonds is currently third behind Aaron and Babe Ruth, who has 714 home runs.

Two tussling baseball fans ended up in a San Francisco court over ownership of the ball that Bonds hit for his 73rd home run in 2001, a record for single-season homers. That ball, which was once estimated to be worth as much as \$1.5 million, was auctioned by a judge's order for \$450,000.

### Thieves rob bus full of policemen

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Reuters) - Forty-six Brazilian policemen traveling to a sports competition were caught with their guard down this week when four Brazilian thieves robbed the bus carrying them to the event.

The bus with 46 unarmed policemen from northeastern Paraiba state was headed to the city of Salvador in Bahia when two cars with armed robbers forced them to stop on the country's main interstate highway on Tuesday.

"The robbers took their cameras, cellular phones, wallets and even the sports uniforms and sneakers," a police spokesman said.

The suspects, who escaped, apparently did not know the bus was full of police when they stopped it, he said.





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# Student Government Association

## Food Action Team

Tired of the food on campus? Want more options?

Want change?

**Join the Food Action Team!**



The Food Action Team (F.A.T.) was created by students, for students, in the Student Government Association this year. This team's sole purpose is to take action on the many food issues that students bring up. We believe that students really are concerned about the food service on campus and do indeed want to make a difference. The F.A.T. will act as an outlet for students to discuss options, ask questions, and better their entire food experience on campus. We will be holding meetings on a weekly basis and are open to any ideas. The next meeting will be held on Friday the 24th in the student orgs room. It's time to finally have our voice heard.

So, come out and start fighting fat with the F.A.T.!

If you are interested please email Jordan Hadfield at [jhad1@umbc.edu](mailto:jhad1@umbc.edu)



This year the SGA and SEB are once again partnering up to register students to vote at the SEB movie nights! It is the goal of both of these highly visible student organizations to make sure that each UMBC student makes use of his or her constitutional right in possibly the most important election of our lifetime. Stu-

dents that register to vote gain free admission into the SEB movie and students that present a valid voter registration card receive a \$1 discount of the \$2 admission price. The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming Presidential election is Tuesday, October 12th. Absentee ballot applications will also be available at the SEB movies. The next SEB movie will be Dodgeball on September 22, 23, and 25. For more information on voting, visit the Rock the Vote site linked through SGA's site <http://sga.umbc.edu>.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was quoted as saying "Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country."

**DO it  
on campus**

## Attention all student organization officers:

If you have NOT already attended a SOOT (Student Organization Officer Training) meeting, the last opportunity for you to do so will be on September 29 from 1:00 to 2:15 p.m. in room 318 of the Commons. If you do not attend a SOOT meeting, you will not be able to access your SGA funds. If you have any questions, contact Chris Krummel at [sga-treasurer@umbc.edu](mailto:sga-treasurer@umbc.edu).



The First Year Council is a new organization which seeks to help all new students, including freshmen/freshwomen and new transfers, become better acquainted with college life, especially at UMBC. We utilize a group of motivated first year students to reach out to all first year UMBC students through events, lectures, workshops, etc. First year students are encouraged to form a stronger connection with UMBC through engaging in leadership opportunities, becoming involved, serving UMBC and the local community, attending fun events, and forming life skills, such as time management.

For More Info, Contact: [fyc-board@listproc.umbc.edu](mailto:fyc-board@listproc.umbc.edu)



## Involvement Fest 2004

Picture highlights from the SGA table at Involvement Fest. You haven't missed your chance to get involved, visit the SGA office located in the Commons, room 2B13



SGA President,  
Dom Cirincione



Election Board Chair, Lauren Stillwagon



SGA Vice President, Elan Schnitzer

**Any ideas or thoughts?  
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# Opinion

Save some cash...or time  
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INSIDE

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor can be sent to [editorinchief@trw.umbc.edu](mailto:editorinchief@trw.umbc.edu) or delivered to UC 214, 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 wanted to respond to your September 14, 2004 editorial about problems with the Walker Avenue Resnet service. OIT implemented a new authentication system for the recently constructed apartment complex that will scale better as we grow and provide a similar authentication method to the campus wireless system. We tested this new system during the entire summer and all seemed fine.

Unfortunately, we did not experience any problems until students returned to campus, and the system was under full load. Once we saw the Vernier system required Walker students to re-authenticate frequently we began working through the problem immediately. In retrospect, we probably should have communicated this sooner to Walker residents, perhaps through flyers at building entrances (since they couldn't easily get or read email).

The difficulty in this project is that there is no single action we could take to fix the problem. We make a change, monitor the effects and then make other changes as needed. The diagnosis was further complicated by significant outbreaks of the Sasser Worm that increased our network load at the start of the semester. This is not an excuse for poor network performance, but it is a fact of Internet life we faced in solving the Walker Resnet access problem.

We believe that the majority of these problems were resolved when we made some final changes to the system on September 14, 2004. If Walker Avenue residents find otherwise, they should contact the OIT Help Desk at 5-3838, [helpdesk@umbc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@umbc.edu) or ECS 020. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused and wish everyone—including Walker residents—a successful and productive academic year.

Michael Carlin  
Office of Information Technology  
Director of Infrastructure and Support

see LETTERS, page 11

## Sick of America? Go somewhere else

Until college, traveling around the world never seemed so appealing. Thanks to the good people at the Study Abroad Office, exotic locales such as Finland, Mexico, Denmark, and many others are at your disposal. If those don't quite cut it, check out the programs of another university. Really, you can't go wrong with an extended stay in another country that allows you to live the easy life and still get credit for it.

A big turn-off, though, seems to be the I-don't-have-enough-time perspective. Sure, at UMBC there are a handful of liberal arts students that have way too much time on their hands, with their 39 credit majors and 20 credit minors. However, the overwhelming majority of students find themselves stuck within the more rigorous science and technology end of the spectrum. With more requirements to fulfill and the possibility of more than four years spent at UMBC looming before most students even begin, it's easy to see why the population of students that study abroad is rather small.

Yet, programs do exist for those engineering or chemistry majors. It just takes a little bit of research to find the right one. Not only can you study your field in another country, but you can also receive some credit for it and meet great people. Oh, and take a break from America for a few months.

## Pitch black: biking around UMBC

For many UMBC students who live in Catonsville, the unfortunate reality of not owning a car means riding a bike instead. This may seem great, as it is exercise. But as if riding a bike rain or shine wasn't bad enough, there is also the matter of riding it in the pitch black darkness throughout the week. Now that it is getting dark early riding at night is an experience that will leave you scarred for your life.

Catonsville was not designed for after-dark bike riders – there are hardly any streetlamps, and if there exists one lamp every half mile or so, they are usually broken. A bike with a light on it makes little difference, as even the most powerful light would not be able to illuminate many of the dark roads. Bike riders are riding blind, but to make matters worse, cars with bright lights drive by and take the last bit of vision.

The shuttles are not very dependable and after 9 p.m. only go every two hours or so, which means for now there is no option but to ride a bike. It would really help if more streetlights could be installed. Joggers that make their nightly rounds are in danger too; there are people walking, running, and biking along Maiden Choice all the time, and one day a car might just drive a runner off the street.

The speed limit on that road is 25 mph, but come on, we all know that no one is able to keep their cars going that slow. But as long as there are no lights, drivers should use their foot lightly on the gas; you never know what might show up in front of them when you pass that hill.

## Racial profiling: an outdated tool in the war on terror

Since the horrible attack on our country that was September 11, 2001, counter-terrorism experts, law enforcement, and regular citizens across the United States have been seeking effective strategies to prevent terrorists from striking again. One technique being advocated by some groups is widespread, institutionalized use of racial profiling. They argue this would be effective because the 9/11 hijackers and perpetrators of other recent terrorist attacks all fit a similar ethnic profile. This could include surveillance of certain communities, airport/border searches based on race, or other types of selective security measures.

Unfortunately, racial profiling is a counterproductive strategy, and will only put our nation at greater risk for future terrorist attacks.

As many American citizens with Arabic, Pakistani, or even Indian heritage will tell you, there has already been de facto discrimination against their cultural groups for years, but with increased frequency since September 11. Such intrusions (legal or not) are in violation of basic human rights, and go against the spirit of this country.

Even ignoring ethical considerations, the strategy is not effective. Of the nineteen 9/11 terrorists, nine were actually pulled aside and searched extensively anyway, which clearly did not prevent the attack. Short of implementing Orwellian levels of surveillance and counter-terrorism measures, there will always be ways to circumvent the system. Efforts should instead be focused on plugging up existing security holes and increased intelligence gathering, instead of expecting to catch terrorists at the last second.

Also, terrorist groups have been making increased effort since 9/11 to recruit new members with characteristics outside of the expected profile. For instance, the shoe bomber caught in Chicago shortly after 9/11 was a British citizen and of African descent.

Creating a profile of a likely terrorist only creates an expectation. Terrorists are aware of this, and will find ways to strike us with the types of people we are not looking for.

Increased vigilance on all fronts is the best way to minimize the chances of another 9/11. Strategies based around racial profiling violate human rights, and would not work anyway.

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## Opinion

## FOX News is conservative, and that's OK

IAN BUKOWSKI

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

College students live a fairly insulated life. If you pay few taxes, live at the same place you go to school, and spend a sizable portion of your week studying or partying, it is of particular ease to ignore most of the transgressions of the outside world. However, it remains the fact that media is inescapable. Whether you occasionally catch *Crossfire* or log on to *NYtimes.com*, even the most isolated student has at least a basic exposure. Along with this exposure comes the ever present "media bias."

Journalists and commentators alike come under fire from nearly all sides. On one hand, the new left loves to attack FOX News, attempting to somehow link poor journalism with conservatism or bolstering their anger with baseless FOX-helped-rig-the-election conspiracy theories. On the right, groups like the Media Research Center rally against liberals, devoting their efforts to exposing liberal media bias.

When conservative or libertarian media sources on the radio and the internet present a rejection of liberal media as "fair and balanced," this is not always the case. Rallying in opposi-

tion to a bias does not guarantee bias-free news. In many instances, this approach simply tips the scale in the other direction.

Neither side is taking an objective journalistic high ground.

And both sides miss the point. From NPR to the *Washington Post*, many media sources are, in fact, known for pushing a perspective left of center. One of the most notable sources on the subject, the Pew Research Center, illustrates the prevalence of liberal ideologies in the media, noting that journalists tend to be more liberal than the general population. While this mere fact does not necessarily mean that these journalists can avoid their personal slants, the reaction puts an accusatory finger that has at least some backing. Conservatives who claim that mainstream media leans left may in fact stand on solid ground. Liberal responses that the *O'Reilly Factor* is far from straight facts also have some validity. While O'Reilly himself may not represent a perspective outside hard-line party views, his perspective is not devoid of his own bias. To some extent, both sides are probably right, and that is OK.

Attempting to provide objective reporting is important. Right or left, journalists should

strive to accurately report information. Newspapers and television shows do serve as organizations that should not have a strong ideological viewpoint. This goal, while likely not completely obtainable, is of concern to the average media consumer. However, this is not to say that it should be the only concern or even the most important concern.

An increasing obsession with attempting to resist bias has let other issues fall to the wayside. The report put out by the Pew Research Center also investigates public perceptions of media bias, which point to much more significant issues. Many cite a growing concern for a lack of accuracy in journalism, as well as a lack of complex stories, which points to a national news media that is growing less effective in simply providing news. Coupled with a hazy distinction between entertainment and actual news, the industry as a whole has shortcomings other than simply biased coverage.

The study also indicates that a large percentage of Americans on the left identify FOX as conservative and many on the right identify NPR as liberal, which points to an important consideration. Media bias is not some pervasive, underhanded entity. An increasing number of

Americans are aware that news is not always the straight truth, and in turn they are able to view news with a necessary degree of discrimination. Though bias is not completely transparent, a skeptical public reduces this deficiency, and that same public should instead be more critical of poor journalism in general.

While many seek "alternative news sources," they mistake an attempt to avoid bias (whether this actually succeeds or not) with quality news reporting. If you are reading *Adbusters* or some libertarian blog, keep in mind that an "alternative" source is susceptible to the same problems of mainstream media. The movement against bias in the media (oftentimes against liberal bias) has actually produced an opposing group with an equal degree of bias. In all the commotion about bias in the media, it is easy to lose track of other concerns—from correctness to quality. "Fair and balanced" is an important ideal, but "accurate and appropriate" should be a practical reality.

*Ian Bukowski is the Opinion Editor for the Retriever Weekly. He reads the Economist because they bring more style than Wu Tang. Drop him one at ianb@trw.umbc.edu.*

## Quotes from the Quad

photos by Mark Finizio

## What's your opinion of Joseph Stalin?



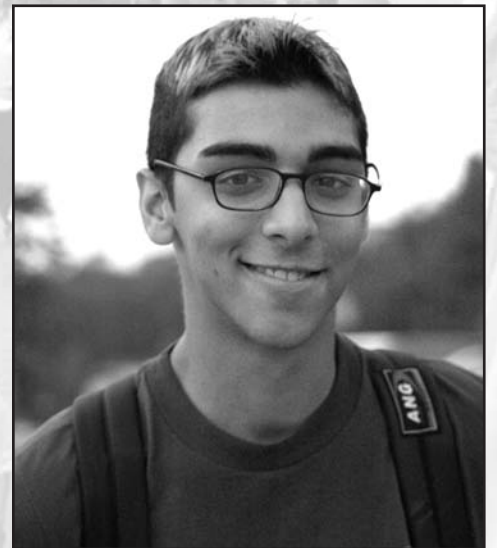
**Diane Kirby, 19**  
**Sophomore, English**

"Can I just say...that I don't think about Stalin that much?"



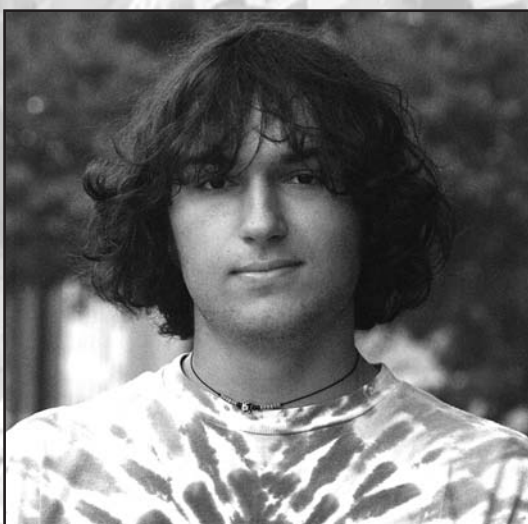
**Lewis Leibowitz, 19**  
**Sophomore, Sociology**

"Of Stalin? Proved that communism only worked in theory - not in practice."



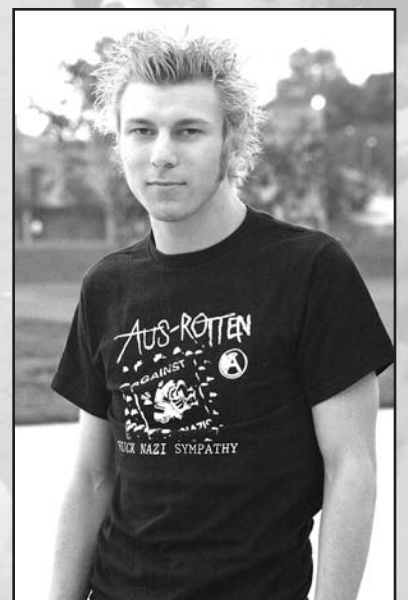
**Neal Karkhanis, 18**  
**Freshman, Political Science**

"Honestly I don't really have an opinion. Can't say that I know too much about him"



**Kevin Zeichner, 19**  
**Freshman, Economics**

"Well I think he was a butcher; He deprived his people of power and was an expansionist."



**Mikey Padgett, 19**  
**Freshman, Sociology**

"I think he was an evil human being but kind of ruled at the same time cause he did what he wanted and executed a lot of people which I think was great."



# Point

## Smart kids shop at the UMBC Bookstore

TREVOR BLANK

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Okay, so it is textbook-buying time and you're in a financial crunch. You think to yourself, "Hey self! We should go to *half.com* to buy our books and save big money!" Then approximately five to seven years later (depending on your luck), your shiny new or used textbooks will have arrived in grandiose form with a much heavier wallet to carry around! Hooray for you!

Reality check: you have just made a huge mistake. Not just because I said so, which carries some weight on its own, but also because you have chosen to not buy your books from the UMBC Bookstore. There are many risks to buying your textbooks elsewhere: credit card fraud, identity theft, not to mention the long waiting period for textbook arrival and practically non-existent return policy. At the bookstore, you have the ability to bring back books when you drop a class that you hate or when you realize there are internal problems with a textbook. The UMBC bookstore presents a buffer to students facing problems with their books and/or classes.

The other thing to consider is that professors can sometimes decide to change booklists or change reading requirements and leave students unaware of this until the first day of class. By this time you may have shelled out \$80 on a book online that you can't return, whereas the cool kids that shopped at the bookstore are first in line getting back *straight cash* (Dave Chappelle style). Remarks after such experiences include, "I'm rich, bitch!" and "Gee, now I can afford new clothes" (Source: the book return line on September 14th in the Commons). Another thing to remember is that sometimes books change from required to "recommended," which can be another deciding factor in what to buy.

Several other situations limit your book-buying experience and can ultimately cost you some unnecessary expenditures. You may find a friend with whom you can share a textbook. You accidentally get the wrong book edition or the website incor-

rectly reports the book's information. You never get your book due to the website's incompetence or problems with payment. Translations can be screwy depending on who did the translating. And lastly, if you don't have a credit card you don't even have access to some of these sites and services. Tough luck, partner. There is a lot more transparency with the bookstore. You see what you get, you know how to return it, and no questions are asked. Going through internet services sometimes involve third parties, the transfer of personal information, and a great deal of hassle in getting books of questionable quality and worth. You're much better off, if you decide to purchase books, to just go for them at the library.

The real solution to the whole textbook dilemma is to not buy them at all. You heard me right. I only buy textbooks that I can't find at a library—and believe me, there are lots of libraries in the area. If you are really strapped for cash, why take the risk of losing money to invest in buying books over the internet when you have available return policies at the local store (which often offers the same price for new books as amazon.com) or your local library, which is *free*? Think about it, kiddies. I'm right.

*Trevor Blank is a staff writer for the Retriever Weekly and can be reached for comment at [opinion@trw.umbc.edu](mailto:opinion@trw.umbc.edu). He also hates half.com and boycotts their service.*



LIZA WOODS

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

College students are obviously accustomed to being broke, mainly due to rising tuition costs and other fees that are out of our hands. But at least a money-saving solution to the necessary evil of textbook-buying is in your hands, or to be more specific, a mouse click away. The computer is useful for so much more than downloading music, "Googling," or playing games; it also can save you a ton of money on your books and put some of your paycheck back in your wallet. If your shopping is done early enough, online bookstores can end up saving you hundreds of dollars over the course of the school year.

When I shopped for my spring textbooks last semester, I had sticker shock after seeing the prices at the campus bookstore, where some of the most expensive books can be \$100 and beyond. Since I had procrastinated and didn't have time to wait for books to be shipped, I was forced to purchase that semester's books from the bookstore. I learned my lesson this semester because, with notepad in hand like a good reporter, I wrote down the names, editions, authors and prices of the books, and took my list and my business elsewhere. I searched local stores like Barnes and Noble, Borders, and Books-A-Million, and after having salespeople quote prices to me that were very similar to the campus bookstore, I took this matter to the computer.

**Buying books:** Those large piles of books can cost upwards of \$100 a piece, is there an easier way than facing the bookstore?

# Counterpoint

## Computer+thrifty students = extra cash

Shopping online can be a huge asset, especially when you consider most of the time the used copies of books are gone at the store, leaving only the alarmingly high-priced, new edition.

There are many sites online to buy textbooks like *ecampus.com*, *bigwords.com*, *abebooks.com* and many more, but the ones that really saved me money were the sites that allow you to compare prices of multiple bookstores all at once. I am reluctant to give away my secret because I know I may have increased competition for books by fellow classmates and other economical students like myself. But I have this burning desire to help my fellow students who I feel are being robbed by bookstores that jack up textbook prices and take too much of our hard-earned money. The two best sites, in my opinion, are: *AllBookstores.com* and *directtextbook.com*, which let you check the prices of all the sites listed above and then some.

One book I could only find as new at the campus store was \$57; instead, I got it off of *AllBookstores.com* for \$42.75. If you are allowed to get older editions of a textbook, you can really save money, with some books below \$10 online. Sure, there is the problem with shipping fees, but some are quite reasonable since if you add the price of the book plus shipping costs, it can at times be below the used price at the campus store.

*AllBookstores.com* states, "Our price comparisons include: shipping cost, shipping time, sales tax (when required), availability, and condition (new or used)." They also show you deals that can give you free shipping in their special deals section. I know that getting your books online may seem like a lot of hard work to save, at times, only a few dollars, but it isn't. It is well worth the effort when you think that if you are buying five books and save at least \$6 per book you have enough extra money to buy two CDs. Or at least you have that money in your pocket where it belongs, instead of in the campus bookstore's register.

*Liza Woods is a staff writer for the Retriever Weekly, and can be reached for questions and comments at [lwoods1@umbc.edu](mailto:lwoods1@umbc.edu).*

# Susquehanna renovations leave residents with mixed feelings

ELLIOT S. GERLACH

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Most students returning to UMBC this year have probably noticed a few changes



Matt Stockslager [Retriever Staff]

**Too hot:** Kevin Lynn attempts to adjust the thermostat to a comfortable level.

around campus. One of the major projects that took place over the summer was the remodeling of Susquehanna Hall. As a resident there before the renovations (and planning to live there again this year) I was practically trembling with anticipation to take advantage of the new features in Sus.

One such feature, which greatly met the satisfaction of the returning residents, was the new windows. This year, windows are able to do something one would expect a window to do, but haven't done in Sus for years: open. Finally, the residents are no longer doomed to rooms sealed off from the outside world. They can now enjoy the cool fall breezes and fresh air that they could only dream about having in previous years. Thank you, Residential Life.

The other main feature for which many had high expectations was the new air conditioning units. The first thing one notices about the new units is their unquestionably unique design. In one of the far back corners of the rooms stands a bulky-looking gray box, roughly two-by-three feet running from the floor to the ceiling. At first glance it may appear that a very tall gray monster will be living with

you in the corner this semester. There is, however, method to this new system that uses hot and cold water to regulate the temperature.

As Nancy Young, the Director of Housing at UMBC, explained, "The water pipes for the new units enter through the ground level. Pipes distribute water to each unit vertically through the 'stacked' units in your corner. If you picture your unit, there is one in the rooms above and below you in the same corner."

Young also mentioned that the system is not set up in the more expected horizontal fashion because of the location and specifics of the bathrooms in the building's design.

So now that the physical design of the air conditioner is explained, what are the residents to do with that huge grey thing in the corner? For the answer to this, only four words are needed: magnetic poetry, college edition.

The aesthetics of the system are not really the main concern for most residents, however. They are more interested in the rather sketchy nature of the AC controls.

The main problem with the controls is that there is a very limited range in which you can change the temperature. There is a base level somewhere near or at 70 degrees Fahrenheit and it can only be changed down two and a half degrees or up two and a half

degrees. To make it, oh, so much more exciting to deal with, every so often the system resets to the base temperature. If you are feeling confused about this, don't feel alone; a good number of Sus residents don't understand the interface either.

As much as the residents may want a thermostat control where the temperature range is larger and stays at a certain temperature indefinitely, the reason for the system is the obvious one of efficiency.

"Energy cost is a large percentage of your housing cost and a quickly growing cost. We are making energy efficiency decisions both because we are trying to keep your housing costs from increasing more than they have to and just because it's the right thing to do environmentally," said Young.

Of course, since us poor college students should logically be on the side of anything that keeps costs down, this system is an overall good one, despite any confusion caused by the unique design. Regardless, residents of Susquehanna should consider themselves lucky, especially the freshmen; these new units are a huge step up from the uni-vents of yore, may they rest in peace.

*Elliot S. Gerlach is a staff writer for the Retriever Weekly. He can be reached for comment at [elliott@media.umbc.edu](mailto:elliott@media.umbc.edu).*



## F-ing this, that, and your mom, and other such malapropos adventures

MARY KATE BUKOWSKI  
Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

Warning: Please be advised that the following article contains at least seven or 15 counts of profanity, and should probably not be read by my parents, the elderly, or children under the age of six-and-three-quarters. Totally not kidding — close your eyes and turn the page now, balls.

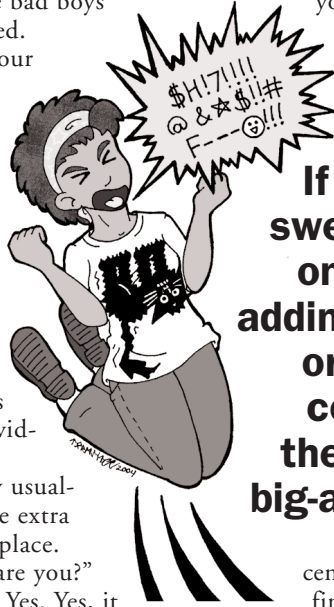
When I was a little kid, there was no swearing in my house. The Bukowski children were not to use bad words, and even a “crap, this sucks” would lead to maternal hysterics and a warning of our “treading on thin ice,” or another similarly confusing crazy-time threat. My dad saying “damn it” caused a general state of freaking out, and anyone repeating a cool-kid new synonym for *penis* usually concluded his or her narrative with a mouth full of soapy goodness. Mmm-mmm, Ivory.

We just didn’t use the cussin’ words at home. And we actually still don’t. Or rather, we’re not supposed to, but whatever — I do what I want. Whatever I damn-hell-ass want. (Uh, not seriously... don’t tell my

mom.)

So, when I left the house — and went oh, I don’t know, *anywhere* else — imagine my shock. Not only were the damn taboos used, those bad boys were friggin’ abused.

Submit, for your consideration, the seemingly tame, “How the hell are you?” Um, I was usually just fine, thank you. I don’t know where the hell “the hell” came from, and it seems to just take away the emphasis from how an individual actually is — which is ironically usually the intent of the extra words in the first place. Wouldn’t a “how are you?” be more effective? Yes. Yes, it would.



**If out-of-place swearing is the only means of adding thickness or length to a conversation, then there is a big-ass problem.**

Example number two (Mom, for real, stop reading): “So, I’m at the fucking store, waiting in the f\*\*\*ing line for like a f\*\*\*in’ half hour...” I’m on to you, man. I know you just went to a regular store, waited in a regular line, and it was probably only for ten minutes or so, Mr. or Ms. Hyperbole. Don’t try to fool me with the angry, misplaced adjectives; I know what’s up. But, it seems that *Trains, Planes, and Automobiles*-inspired f\*\*\*ing montage is all too common in the everyday dialogues of the everyday individuals.

OK, so maybe it does have something to do with my censored childhood, but does anyone else find the use of “swear” words as fillers a little awkward, unnerving, and/or distracting

(and don’t lie, ‘cause you def do)? I have no problem when choice words are used to express choice emotions — that’s totally supafine. Go right ahead with the fussin’ and cussin’ if that’s how you do. But, if we have any hopes for effective communication, and making sense of the language society has crafted and coined, it would probably be a good idea to throw in a little consistency. And packing a dictionary/the-saurus set isn’t going to hurt anyone, either. If out-of-place swearing is the only means of adding thickness or length to a conversation, then there is a big-ass problem.

You know what’s fun? An appropriate modifier. It’s really the best. So, how about we all ditch the middle school speakings, and jump on board with the latest verbal sensation that’s sweeping the nation and practice some cool, great, and suitable grammar?

Mary Kate “The New Effin’ Hotness” Bukowski is the badass muffukin’ Assistant Opinion Editor for the hella sweet Retriever Weekly. Her fiiiine ass can be reached for comment at marykate@trw.umbc.edu, bitches.

## Despite talks, Communist death squads still endure

EPHRAIM HAREL  
Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Columbia is currently beset by an array of rebel groups, death squads, and a thriving cocaine industry. This forty-year swirl of misery has created millions of refugees and thousands of dead. Yet, Columbia is finally making halting, but noticeable, progress towards peace.

Columbia slipped into chaos after two Marxist groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), rebelled against the government. FARC is the larger of the two, and ELN was backed by Cuba. The Marxists support their war by selling cocaine, supplying the American market. The rebels became notorious for bombings and kidnapping soldiers, police officers, businessmen, Americans, and politicians. The Communist guerillas would often prey on wealthy landowners who responded by forming their own right-wing paramilitary groups. These rightist paramilitaries, commonly referred to as death squads, unleashed a brutal campaign of terror against labor leaders and peasants suspected of rebel sympathies. The best known of the right-wing paramilitary groups is the United Self-Defense Forces of Columbia. The Colombian military often had a very cozy relationship with the death squads, their natural allies in the fight against the rebels. However, the rightists were often more interested in crime than in ideology. Cocaine soon became the primary source of income for the rightists as well.

The Americans view this conflict with a great deal of concern. The effects of this distant war haunt America’s inner cities with a steady flow of cocaine. Narcotics color every aspect of America’s role in the war; understandably, the chief U.S. objective is to staunch the flow of drugs. For this reason, America funnels to Columbia the third largest infusion of foreign aid.

The U.S. Army trains the Colombian army and the U.S. State Department provides a great deal of support for a controversial drug interdiction program. Under this program, the Colombian air force shoots down planes suspected of trafficking in drugs that ignore warnings. This program was canceled after a similar policy in Peru resulted in the downing of a plane ferrying the family of an American missionary. Supposedly, the kinks have been worked out, and the shoot-down policy has been recently reinstated. American aid is also crucial to a recently resurgent coca eradication effort. Current estimates indicate that eradication is

exacting a significant toll on coca production.

A peace effort in the 1990s resulted in negotiations, while granting the Marxists a safe haven the size of Switzerland. This attempt at appeasement yielded disappointing results, as the Marxists simply continued their unsavory tactics unabated. The Colombian populace opted for a different path and elected Alvaro Uribe president in 2002. A right-of-center politician whose father was killed by the Marxists, Uribe has promised an unrelenting military campaign against the leftist insurgents and vigorous negotiations with the right-wing paramilitaries. The Colombian army, heeding America’s admonishment, has significantly reduced their ties with the paramilitaries. Withering under the renewed military assault, the Marxists have retreated to their hideouts, yet the war is not over by any means.

Talks with the rightist paramilitaries are progressing slowly. Some rightists have indeed disarmed. Internal dissension among the rightists has led to the assassination and disappearance of some leaders inclined towards negotiating with the government. Many of the rightists want a complete pardon for the crimes they have committed. Uribe has balked, insisting on a modest jail term for the worst offenders. Human rights groups are incensed at the prospect of people responsible for atrocities escaping from any serious retribution. Nevertheless, some of the most notorious paramilitary leaders addressed the Colombian Congress, defending their checkered past.

Despite all these negotiations, the death squads are disinclined to cease their narco-trafficking and murders. It is a sign of the state of Columbia that these unimpressive advances are still viewed with optimism. Uribe has maintained much of his popularity and is seeking to change the constitution to allow himself a second term.

The United States is firmly backing Uribe, hoping for additional progress. Yet, the U.S. should demand greater human rights compliance from Columbia. The recent murder of labor leaders by the Colombian army is deeply troubling. As the holder of the purse strings, America has considerable leverage and should exercise it.

However, the Marxists are on the run, the death squads are talking, and cocaine production is down. It is little surprise that the American government and the Colombian populace are betting on Uribe.

Ephraim Harel is a weekly staff writer for the Retriever Weekly. He can be reached at eharel1@umbc.edu



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# Role of religious conviction misunderstood by both candidates

AMBER SAMPSON

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

This semester's Social Sciences Forum kicked off last week with a lecture by political scientist Rogers Smith, entitled "On a Mission from God? The Story of American Peoplehood Today." As usual, the 7th floor of the library was an interesting place to be.

The purpose of the lecture was to discuss the use of stories of peoplehood—persuasive stories that promote civic identity and political community—specifically to justify foreign policy decisions.

While Smith explained that there are sever-

al types of stories that can be used to bring the electorate on board, he focused on what he called "ethically constitutive" stories—those that politicians tell to convince citizens that their policy goals are in line with constituent values because of religion, heritage, geography, ancestral vision, or whatever else. These stories, Smith asserted, are never absent from political debate because of their power and versatility.

The premier example given of constitutive story in American politics was President Bush's use of religious language to justify interventionist foreign policies. Smith was outright about his discomfort with the President's proclamations in various speeches that the United States is enacting the "plan of heaven" and that we are only actors in the story that God has authored. He claimed that this kind of storytelling is contrary to democratic ideals because it removes the authority of people to make their own decisions, asserting that everyone needs to get on board with God's plan—no questions asked. He argued that whenever an ethically constitutive story closes off democratic discussion of moral legitimacy, its use is questionable.

I can say absolutely that I agree with this proposition, but I can't say that Bush is the only one in the political spotlight closing doors to debates about moral legitimacy. While the complete coupling of personal religious conviction with public action can be dangerous—as in when one's own idea about what God wants trumps all other discussion—neglect of religious conviction is no solution. In this way, both presidential candidates, in my view, fall woefully short of a proper understanding of moral deliberation.

Senator Kerry (along with other former candidates for the Democratic nomination, including Howard Dean) has been vocal about his hesitation to connect his religious faith with his politics. This separation philosophy has been most evident in his stance on abortion. He has said publicly that his views on abortion are in conformity with the Catholic Church and that he believes that life begins at conception, but that he doesn't feel comfortable imposing that belief on non-Catholics.

Following this pronouncement, Eileen McNamara, a legal abortion advocate and writer for the *Boston Globe*, questioned a "curious conscience" which allows Kerry to vote in favor of the state-sanctioned termination of what he knows to be human life. She stated that she felt more understanding toward an abortion opponent who lobbies against any legislation antithetical to her conscience than toward a Senator who feels that conscience has nothing to say to voting behavior.

It's true that, as Smith pointed out, religious argumentation may be abused to excuse activities which are morally questionable. However, in Kerry's case, the ever-popular "separation of church and state" can also be used to excuse the compromise of unpopular personal convictions.

This isn't only a problem because of the Democratic Party's weakness in appealing to religious voters. It goes beyond campaign politics.

The real problem is that religious conviction hasn't found its proper place in modern public debate. I raised the issue during the forum that most often, when people criticize the use of religious myth in political speech or of religious conviction as motivation for public action, the conclusion they draw is that myth is dangerous, and ought to be expelled from the public sphere. The prime examples usually given of religiously-motivated actors are suicide

bombers and clinic arsonists—the "radicals."

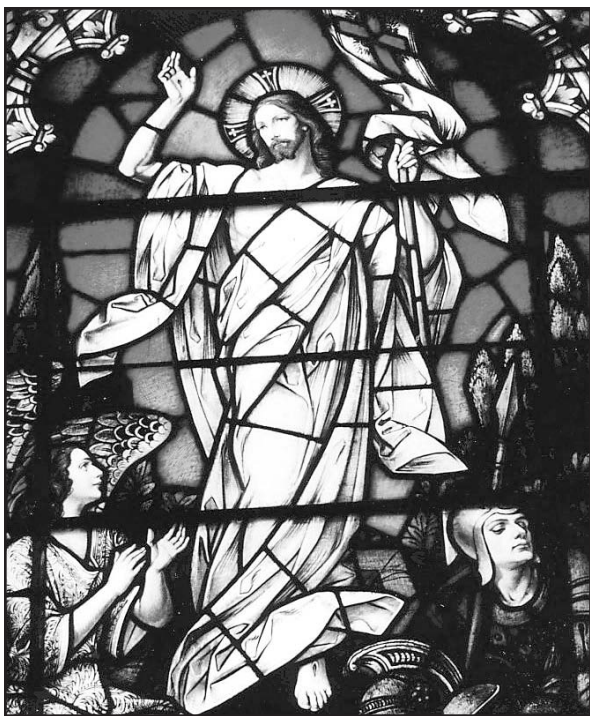
This, of course, ignores the countless other "radical" ideas that religiously-motivated political movements have had: that people ought not to be enslaved by other people, that women's contributions in society ought to be valued, that mentally ill persons ought not to be warehoused, that racism is not divinely sanctioned, that the pursuit of wealth at the expense of the powerless is unacceptable.

These movements, far from grounded in only rational deliberation, were and are fueled and nurtured by Biblical stories of liberation. Continuing today, in all of America's impoverished neighborhoods, people of faith live out their convictions about justice and mercy, realizing that those convictions extend to the correction of economic and political forces, social systems, and institutional injustice. These people, in my opinion, have long formed the heart of the Democratic Party, but neither party this election season has revealed a remote understanding of them.

Religious tradition has always had something to say to the way the world works, or ought to. And regardless of what anyone thinks of their claims, religious people have done far more good around the world than anyone gives them credit for. Religious conviction is not antithetical to democracy or freedom; in fact, a society that feels no need to act on conviction will find its democracy to be a tyranny of majority preference and popularity.

We need to make a way for religious tradition to inform our public debates, particularly about moral legitimacy. As Smith agreed, religious story ought not to be either expelled or unquestionable, but valued in the search for right action.

*Amber Sampson is a staff writer and copy editor for the Retriever Weekly. She can be reached at for comment at [amber@trw.umbc.edu](mailto:amber@trw.umbc.edu).*



Courtesy of [www.sofc.org](http://www.sofc.org)

Religious icons: What is the role of religion in American politics?

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## Letters to the Editor

from LETTERS, page 6

Dear Editor,

In Rebuttal to Tiufekchiev's article "Why talk to child killers?" President Bush had the perfect opportunity to create an alliance with Russian President Putin in the war on terrorism. Instead of walking into the Russian Embassy and expressing sympathy, President Bush could have boarded Air Force One to meet with Putin further strengthening U.S./Russian relations. This would show to the world that Bush is a true leader and serious about terrorism. The problem is the same when we look at Hartline's article, "Don't let political correctness...." It stems from the "enemy within." The enemy within is the extreme liberal right who upholds "sensitivity" as the solution. Examine the language the press uses when describing the people carrying out these acts. Chechen insurgents, fundamentalist Islamic terrorists, Islamic rebels, freedom fighters. Why not call a kettle, "a kettle," i.e. Islamo-fascists.

Why fascists? Fascist regimes are totalitarian and historically suppress creativity, productivity and contribute little to the rest of humanity. This phrase is not used to describe the terrorists due to "sensitivity." Sensitivity to the point where we are afraid of offending someone or more likely being sued by the red-diaper doer baby lawyers of N.Y.U. due to violating someone's civil rights. Europe is quickly falling apart from this very socialist view of "sensitivity." It is this same sensitivity that causes President Bush to behave more like Mr. Rogers in the neighborhood than a true leader in the war on terrorism.

We are showing our sensitivity by not resorting to the technique used in WWII when we placed all Japanese-Americans into concentration camps. The parallel is that we are taking into consideration that not all people of the Islam faith are terrorists, but on the other hand, most terrorists are Middle Eastern men between 18 and 40 of the Islam faith. Therefore as humiliating as this may be why shouldn't they be profiled? Profiling has proven to be effective in deterring crime so why waste precious resources on patting down elderly women or Al Gore. It's a matter of survival and security. Freedom and sensitivity is of little consequence when you're dead. Remember one can find the cost of freedom buried in the ground; mother Earth will swallow you, so lay your body down. So which do you choose, a hard or soft option, security or sensitivity?

Christopher Paul

Dear Editor,

In light of the comments made in the Point article I am impelled to voice my personal opinion. 9-1-1 was a state of emergency for the United States. It brought terror to our front doors. The attack on Sept. 11 was one of America's greatest travesties; this I do not deny.

We as Americans are arrogant and believed to be untouchable. The fall of the Twin Towers was not only a gut punch; it was a wake up call. I personally though nothing like this would ever happen to us. We have been terrorizing other countries for decades and have never seen war first hand. So I guess we reap what we sow. No, I am neither anti-American nor anti-patriotic, I being real. A lot of us don't want to accept the truth; "United We Stand" is a catch phrase. This country was brought and built on division (from the Englishers who wanted to escape Queen Elizabeth's rule, to the slave that died building this country).

It's amazing how false comfort can bring temporary relief to a people who have been in fighting for centuries. The reason for the "patriotism" dying is the lack of unity and love. Tragedy has a way of temporarily connecting people, but the true connection is shown without any tragedy having to occur.

Veara Pack

## "THE SEMINAL FILM FOR THIS GENERATION."

Claudia Puig, USA TODAY



"Natalie Portman is a FRESH, FUNNY heroine with an emotional range... beauty at the surface, but a real glow from deep within."  
Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY



"★★★★★"  
Peter Debruge, PREMIERE  
"HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT... a winner."  
Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE



"Writer-Director Zach Braff has a genuine filmmaker's eye and is loaded with talent."  
David Ansen, NEWSWEEK



"Peter Sarsgaard is CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT."  
Jami Bernard, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

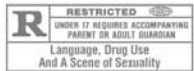


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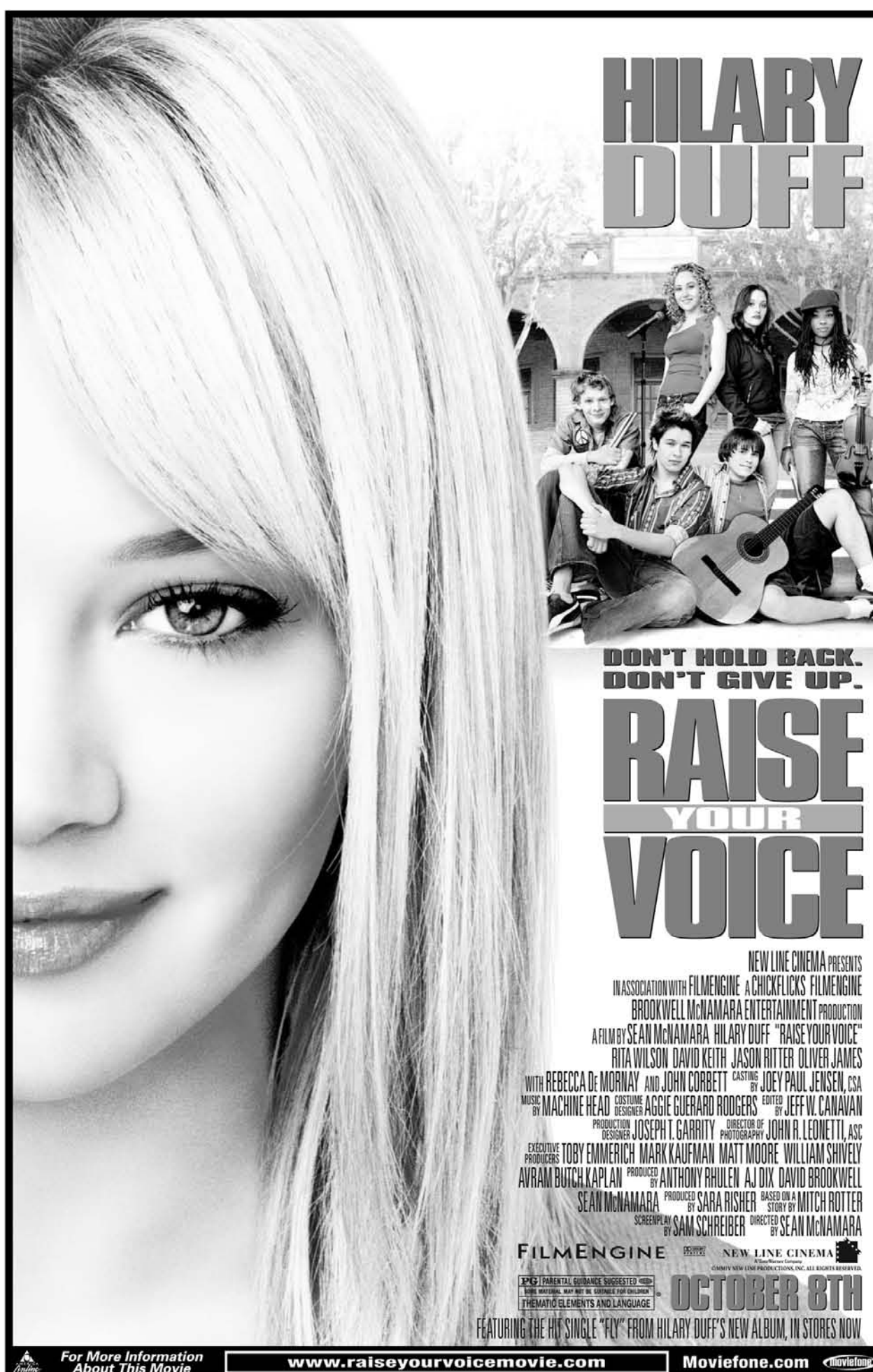




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WITH REBECCA DE MORNAY AND JOHN CORBETT CASTING BY JOEY PAUL JENSEN, CSA  
MUSIC BY MACHINE HEAD COSTUME DESIGNER AGGIE GUERARD RODGERS EDITED BY JEFF W. CANAVAN  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JOSEPH T. GARRITY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN R. LEONETTI, ASC  
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## IN THEATRES OCTOBER 8TH



# Features

Danzig's "circle" less than perfect

Fable: Choose your own adventure

Zatoichi: slice-of-life story

16  
16  
17  
INSIDE

## Sex addicts, exhibitionists and even bears (oh my!) in *A Dirty Shame*



**Fetishize this:** Shame is a fellini-esque look at desire and depravity.

PATRICK TYLER

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

John Waters ventures into familiar territory with his newest, *A Dirty Shame*, an oddball comedy about sexual addiction taking over the small town of Overlea located just outside the Baltimore city limits in Overlea on Harford Road.

Tracey Ullman (*The Tracey Ullman Show*) stars as Sylvia Stickle, a housewife turned sex-addict prophesized to find the ultimate sexual practice. The supporting cast is littered with mid level stars including *Jackass*'s Johnny Knoxville playing Ray Ray Perkins, a tow truck driving sexual healer who leads a band of sex addicts bent on world domination, Chris

Isaak (*The Chris Isaak Show*) playing Ullman's husband Vaughn, and Selma Blair (*Cruel Intentions*) as the huge-chested exhibitionist daughter of Ullman and Isaak.

The movie begins in true Baltimore fashion with Ullman preparing scrapple in a cramped Harford road kitchen for her daughter who is on house arrest for flagrant exhibitionism. Ullman, a neuter, according to family has no sexual desire and cannot understand the frequent outbursts of her daughter or requests from her husband. On the way to work Ullman receives an accidental concussion that leads her down the path of sexual addiction... a path laden with gay bears, adult babies, and human sandwiches. It is a good place

to note that this movie carries and NC-17 rating for pervasive sexual content.

The movie gains conflict as concerned "neuter" citizens start a coalition for decency and battle against the sex addicts. Waters actually spoke about this movie in his visit to campus a few years back and the film is more hilarious than he had mentioned.

*A Dirty Shame* is Water's 16th film in a 40-year career of absurdity that has made the Baltimore native a legend. The writer-director has been filming movies in and around Baltimore since 1964. The light tone of the movie well outweighs any blatant sexual exploitation and the film gains balance with human elements to such as Ullman and Blair bonding over their sexual addiction.

As with all Waters movies it is for the open minded and not faint of heart but with the right attitude this is one of his more enjoyable movies. With catch phrases like "Let's go sexin'" and "Prepare for the carnal rapture" the movie moves from joke to joke seamlessly. Oddly, Waters makes no cameo in his movie this time but there is a guest shot from David Hasselhoff. The movie moves at a good pace except for a small segment in which the addicts lose their sexual powers before the final showdown between addicts and neuters. The movie was pure waters fun and definitely his best since *Serial Mom*, a highly recommended movie for anyone willing to go through the halls of sex acts in search of the ultimate climax.

## An afternoon talk with filmmaker John Waters

PATRICK TYLER

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

In the rear room of the One World Café in Baltimore, John Waters sits, lounging comfortably in a well-worn blazer. This is just one stop in a whirlwind tour of book signings and press meetings for his newest movie *A Dirty Shame*.

In the café in Charles village in Water's native Baltimore, he looks relaxed discussing his life and films.

"The thing about Baltimore," he says, "is that people here that are crazy think they're normal."

It has been through the exploitation of this absurdity that Water's has made a 40-year career setting his movies in each of the boroughs of Baltimore and the surrounding areas.

Sadly though Waters says, "the Baltimore I've been making movies about is slowly disappearing with rehabilitation," a phenomenon that Waters is displeased about.

"We do fancy terribly," he chuckles, "but we do low great."

Waters is a king of low. His dirty films have shocked audiences for years and his newest film set a new bar for the director with an NC-17 rating.

"The people from the MPAA said that they stopped taking notes during the movie."

Waters remains unphased with the rating and bad reviews like one from Canada that said it was, "so unfunny you'll want to rip your genital

off."

Waters says that his movies have always been about exposing his audience's taboos, which is why his sexual exploitation comedy was long in the making. He explained an incident in the Hellfire club in New York years ago when he saw a man, "licking the floor and jacking off with a half hard on all night."

The character shows up in his latest movie. Waters stages a war between the "neuters," the sexually uptight, and the sex addicts who let their fetishes run free.

Waters quoted a saying of his mother as his mantra in life.

"Each to their own said the old lady as she kissed the cow."

While being interviewed a college photographer circled Waters, as she pulled behind her Waters stopped her.

"No bald shots and no low angles," he laughed, "I've been doing this for long enough to know they make you look bad."

Waters said that he valued the form of humor as a protest tool, an idea that has come through in his films.

"You use humor to humiliate the enemy. You don't need a bomb if you're witty enough."

When asked what sort of status his movies presented to actors Waters quipped, "Being in one of my movies is like skydiving. People are just shocked you got through it."

Before long the fans gather, free food is offered but Waters declines as he rushes to a book signing. Pictures are taken with hometown fans.

Waters is rushed out a side door saying quick goodbyes before he vanishes somewhere into the crowded streets of his native Baltimore.

Patrick Tyler is an editor for The Retriever Weekly. You may reach her at [tyler@media.umbc.edu](mailto:tyler@media.umbc.edu).

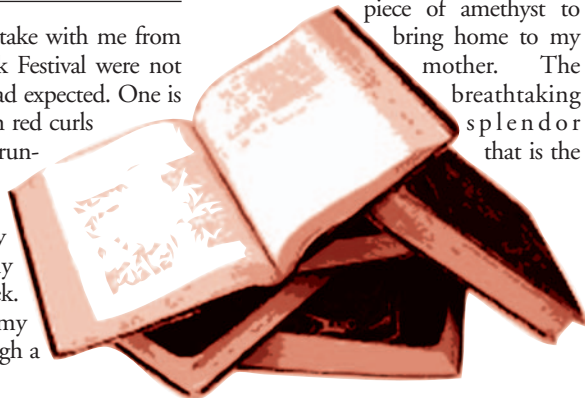
## Living art: Baltimore Book Festival is a great service to its city

SARAH PEVNER

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

The images I take with me from the Baltimore Book Festival were not the images that I had expected. One is of a young girl with red curls almost to her feet, running by the children's exhibits with an exquisitely detailed butterfly painted on her cheek. Another is of my father riffling through a

box of geodes at the Waldorf School booth in an attempt to pick the best piece of amethyst to bring home to my mother. The breathtaking splendor that is the



Peabody Institute's six story library is imprinted in my memory. This was not the book festival I had expected.

The Baltimore Book Festival is in its ninth year, which is surprising because it seems that so few people know about it. Though it is heavily advertised within the city itself, I hadn't seen or heard much about it prior to receiving this assignment. Even my parents, who lived for years in Baltimore, were taken aback to hear that it is almost a decade into the making: how on earth could my parents, who have filled their house with thousands of

books, been unaware of such a local paradise?

And truly, that's what this festival is: the local-ist equivalency to paradise that I will ever find within Baltimore City. Amazing to think that Baltimore city, a city that many detractors deride as practically illiterate, is the backdrop for a completely literary and artistic weekend.

Nestled within three blocks of the Mount Vernon area, the Book Festival is an overwhelming visual canvas. Booths stretch out for miles, it seems, lining the uneven cobblestone streets.

The central focal point, for those who need one, is a lovely fountain with four iron-casted fish spitting water into a pond.

Mount Vernon is really a magical part of Baltimore's landscape in a way that I hadn't realized until this weekend. The cobblestone roads are uneven and hilly and the buildings are lovely and ornate. A building that my father and I spent a little time looking at was carved so innately that it was hard to believe; there were carvings of an artistic rendering of father time on the sec-

see BOOK FEST, page 17



# Comic-Con: Indulging the kid and collector in all of us

DARLA MERCADO

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Where is one likely to find fans of The Flash, Cowboy Bebop, and Voltron on a sunny Saturday? At the Baltimore Convention Center, of course. The Fifth Annual Baltimore Comic-Con, which was held from September 11-12, united fans of various genres in the world of comics with their idols in the industry, as well as many retailers from across the nation, selling everything from *InuYasha* collectibles, to *He-Man* and *She-Ra* memorabilia (anyone born between 1980 and 1987 knows and loves *He-Man* and *She-Ra*!), to framed paintings of classic heroes such as those in *The Justice League*.

Comic-Con attendees were also able to sit in on interesting discussions held with esteemed members of the comic book industry such as John Romita, Sr., the man behind the sketching and inking of favorites such as *Spider-Man* and *Captain America* for the last thirty years, and acclaimed *Futurama* voice actor Billy West.

In an interview with Marvel Comics editor Tom Brevoort, Mr. Romita described his life and times courting the interests of influential comic book companies such as DC Comics and Marvel. The artistry of Milton



Darla Mercado (Retriever Staff)

**Geeks now and forever:** Artists, actors, and those who adore those like Tom Brevoort and John Romita Sr. gathered in Baltimore.

Caniff in the classic comic, Terry and the Pirate, inspired the young Mr. Romita to follow the comic book industry.

After battling his way uphill as a young "ghost artist" working for Stan Lee, and then climbing his way up the company ladder through the years by inking characters such as

ters, then you have to care about them," he said. His philosophy behind creating characters people attach themselves to for decades is exactly what perpetuates memorable heroes who stand the test of time.

Moving on from paper to celluloid, Billy West held a discussion with ardent *Futurama*

*Captain America*, *Spider-Man*, and the *Fantastic Four*, Mr. Romita has amassed an enormous following of fans who can credit him for creating scores of childhood memories with his impressive artistic and storytelling abilities.

Explaining the magic behind his own creations, Mr. Romita explained the job of the comic book artist: "Fight the problem that this is a 2-D thing — make it real... First you have to believe the charac-

ters, then you have to care about them," he said. His philosophy behind creating characters people attach themselves to for decades is exactly what perpetuates memorable heroes who stand the test of time.

Mr. West derived his characters' voices from every day voices he hears. For example, he came up with Dr. Zoidberg's voice when he was recalling a time when he regularly attended plays in a Jewish neighborhood in lower Manhattan. "Some of these actors were new arrivals to the country, so they had all these Yiddishisms and accents that would come up whenever they spoke their parts [says in a voice reminiscent of Dr. Zoidberg, "I stole the

see COMIC-CON, page 18

# Flat Tuesdays: Unfinished and noisy, but music, drinks on tap

PATRICK COYLE

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

Flat Tuesdays, UMBC's Mardi-Gras themed lounge, opened last Thursday to great success and large crowds, with a happy hour special and open-mic that lasted most of the evening.

Happy hour, held from 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Thursday, featured any of the three draughts on tap for \$2.00.

"It was packed," said Desiree, a bartender, "We went through two kegs."

The crowd was a mixture of faculty and students, drawn as much by the prices as the opportunity to relax after work in a laid-back lounge setting. Though alcohol is only permitted upstairs and only 21-and-over patrons are allowed into the upper galley, the entire cabaret maintained a jovial atmosphere with students

lining up early for the start of open-mic in the lower galley.

In some areas, Flat Tuesdays has a long way to go. The walls, though painted brightly, lacked the planned artwork of Louisiana. The high tables and stools have more a coffee-house feel and less a pub feel, though this may be by design. Also, the iron-work remains incomplete, standing at an odd mixture of rich flower-patterned bars and standard steel-twists that sit on unpainted and inaccessible balconies.

The biggest problem, the only unforeseen aspect, was when noise from Flat Tuesdays clashed with the performances. In the upstairs cabaret, there are thick walls along the balcony that block the view of the stage. Only the most dedicated patrons who lean uncomfortably far out can see below to the lower cabaret. The performers kept a steady rotation, but for the first two hours, they often fought to be

heard over the upstairs chatter. This was particularly obvious when one theater student delivered a dramatic monologue which was difficult to hear.

Yet, as the evening progressed, a sense of cohesion formed between the two levels. Edan Perrigo, whose band "The Thread" will play a full length set Saturday in the cabaret, brought the two rooms together with a solo rendition of Sublime's "Date Rape" that brought the focus of both Flat Tuesdays and open-mic night to the stage. Afterwards, the upstairs seemed willing participants in the events below, cheering, yelling requests, and even singing along.

The performers were coffee house regulars and all provided excellent entertainment. Alex MacRae, another guitarist, who played several small acoustic sets, said he enjoyed playing there. "It's a very bright

atmosphere," he said of the cabaret. And others were enjoying themselves as well; after Alex broke a string midway through his set, several guitarists waiting in the crowd offered their instruments so he could finish.

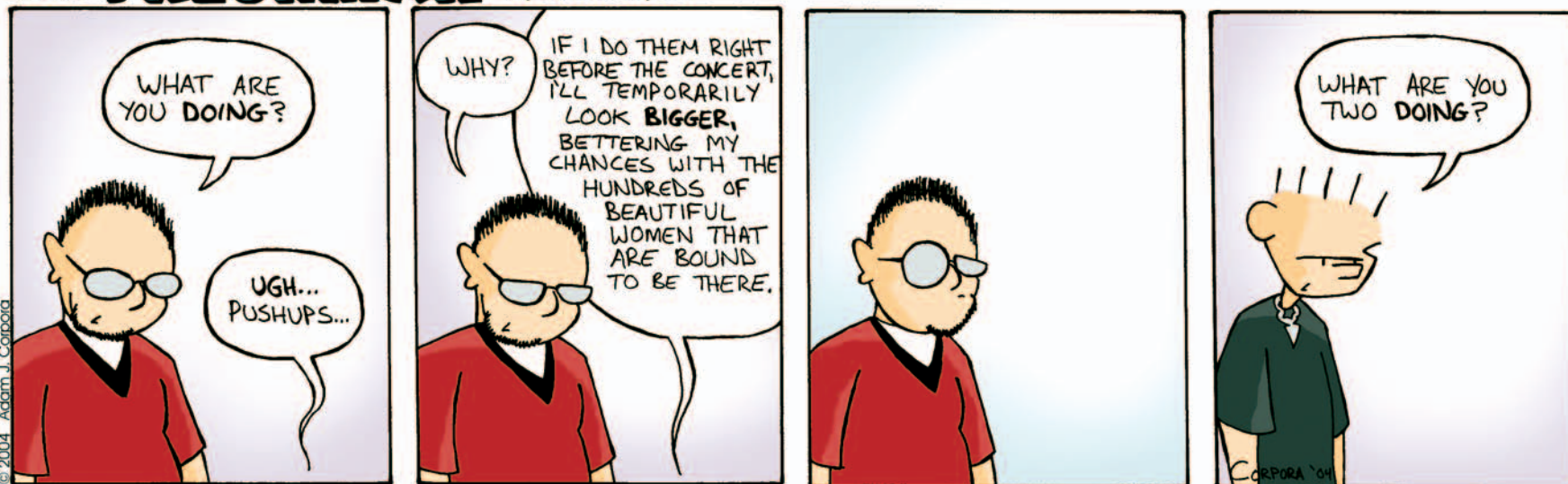
All combined, the experience was enjoyable, being slightly more lively than standard coffee-house events but less crowded than the bar scene. Flat Tuesdays and open-mic night below is a solid mixture of fun and a safe destination for anyone unable to drive into the city but unwilling to stay home on a Thursday or Saturday night.

Flat Tuesdays will feature the band "The Thread" this Saturday from 8:00 – 11:00 PM, 21-and-over upstairs and all ages in the lower cabaret. Admission is free.

Patrick Coyle is a staff writer for The Retriever Weekly. You may reach her at coyle1@umbc.edu.

## THE FRESHMAN

by Adam Corpora



TheFreshmanOnline.com



## Horoscopes

by Kristina DeBold and Jami Sapia

*Disclaimer from Kristina and Jami: In case you were questioning these horoscopes... YES, WE ARE PSYCHIC. THESE HOROSCOPES ARE REAL; LIVE YOUR LIFE ACCORDINGLY.*

### **Aries** (March 21 - April 20)

Binge eating ice cream? :-) Go for it—you look way thin. Is that you Mary Kate?

### **Taurus** (April 21 - May 21)

Remember a watched pot never boils. So simmer down now!

### **Gemini** (May 22 - June 21)

Venus, the planet of pleasure is moving into your sign this week. Indulge and enjoy, Gemini!

### **Cancer** (June 22 - July 23)

You creativity is at a high this week. Go make a masterpiece, Cancer! Or should we just call you Picasso?

### **Leo** (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Step it up and take a chance. Let's hear you roar, Leo!

### **Virgo** (Aug. 24 - Sep. 23)

Get low this week! To the window, to the wall!!

### **Libra** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! Theme of the week is **Party Hard!!** We're not leavin' til we're heavin'!

### **Scorpio** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

J. Lo's got nothing on you. Shake what ya mama gave ya!

### **Sagittarius** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Stop yelling at the lunch lady! She's just doing her job!

### **Capricorn** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

In the words of Lou Reed, take a walk on the wild side!!

### **Aquarius** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Stop being cheap, take your girlfriend out to dinner. And remember: Going Dutch = Going home alone.

### **Pisces** (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

UGG boots in 90 degree weather? Fashion Faux pas! UGG boots in 50 degree weather? Fashionista!

## New Danzig album a downer despite strong backing band; Circle of Snakes' bite is tame



**Satan's child:** 49-year-old Glenn Danzig is still pulling the same-old stuff, now with devil gloves.

**DOUGLAS MILLER**  
*Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff*

Former Misfits front man Glenn Danzig has had a solo career with a lot of ups and downs, going from platinum to relative obscurity in a matter of years. The original *Danzig* band that existed between 1988 and 1994 was one of uber-producer Rick Rubin's (*System of a Down*, Johnny Cash) first signings. They played stripped-down, bluesy metal and were one of the musically-tightest groups on the early 90's alternative rock scene.

However, the egotistical Glenn Danzig fired his group once the sound stopped selling and turned industrial/aggro for a few years. That style didn't really sell either, so he returned to something closer to his original style in 2002. Now, Danzig is trying again with *Circle of Snakes*,

which he claims will be his last album under the *Danzig* moniker.

Danzig still cannot keep a real band together, but this time he at least hired another band (alt-metalers Prong) to be his backing group. Consequently, this is the strongest Danzig lineup since the original band.

Guitarist Tommy Victor brings a rhythmic, highly distorted guitar style that makes this album sound like a cross between the original Danzig band with guitarist John Christ and, unsurprisingly, Prong. His down-tuned riffing might come precariously close to nu-metal for some listeners, but Victor may be the most technically proficient guitarist to ever play in the group. There are more complicated passages and guitar solos on *Circle of Snakes* than on the last three *Danzig* LPs combined.

Unfortunately, despite his rock-solid back-

## For good or ill: Fable lets you write your own tale: heroic, villainous or anonymous

**KYLE MAHANEY**  
*Retriever Weekly Staff Writer*

The great philosophers of the past 3000 years have searched for answers to the big questions: What is good? What is evil? Does kicking chickens into the sides of barns fall into either of those categories?

Finally, thanks to *Fable* we have a definite answer to at least one of these queries.

*Fable* is the latest opus from Peter Molyneux, the last British man with a god complex and creator of *Populous* and *Black & White*. Always one to break new ground, Molyneux pulls us off the clouds and down to the forest path for his first role-playing adventure game.

In *Fable*, you take a character from childhood through adulthood as a developing hero. The kind of hero you are going to be is up to you, giving you a dizzying array of choices designed to either heighten your goodness or bring you to the depths of evil depravity - or just turn you into a fat, lazy tavern owner who doesn't quest and plays memory games all day with the card dealer.

In any case, *Fable* promises to be the most ambitious project to come out of England since the Normandy Invasion. The element of choice is easy enough to state, but think what it must take to program in a fully adaptable person, affected by morality, battle, diet, even the amount of sun they get. It makes the results that much more impressive.

The game shares some similarities with Maryland's own *Morrowind* and pulls away in many other notable ways. As open-ended as it was, *Morrowind* could sometimes feel aimless and byzantine in structure. *Fable* on the other hand is not quite open-ended, although you can always elect not to go on the plot quests and spend your days fishing instead. It is also roughly a quarter of the size of the earlier game, but each location is

much richer in inhabitants, textures and opportunities for meaningful activity.

Trying to decide what counts as a highlight in a game that will likely remain a highlight of the industry for years is a futile endeavor. Besides, it's the quirks that are more fun to talk about any-



**Courtesy of game-revolution.com**  
**A time for heroes:** Craft your own destiny in Big Blue Box Studios' latest RPG.

way.

Alcoholism is like an impressionist painting: you go completely blurry and whatever you do, you'll insist you were framed [insert rimshot here]. Just try not to drink too much or you won't be much good on quests (remember, adaptability has consequences.) The vomiting is no fun either.

The side activities you can engage in include digging for treasure anywhere there's earth, a variety of memory games and my personal favorite, fishing. There's something hypnotic about the fishing system in this game. Every time I pass a pond or a river, I have to stop to fish at least once. Even in the depths of the evil Darkwood Swamp with zombies and werewolves nearby I just had to cast my line.

ing support, Danzig simply seems to have lost the ability to write interesting material. The best songs on *Circle of Snakes* like "When We Were Dead" and "Black Angel, White Angel" are among his strongest compositions in at least a decade, but too much of the album blends together into a repetitive dirge.

The lyrics on *Circle of Snakes* stay away from the embarrassingly self-parodic style of 2002's *777: I, Luciferi*. Unfortunately, the campiness of that album was probably more entertaining. There is nothing on *Circle of Snakes* that goes beyond the usual semi-coherent mix of gothic, satanic, and comic book imagery typical of Danzig for his entire 25+ year musical career.

Vocally, Danzig acquits himself quite well on *Circle of Snakes*. The talk-singing of his industrial days is completely gone. Instead, Danzig returns to his Jim Morrison-influenced, demonic gospel style that made him so entertaining long ago. His distinctive voice is put to great use across the entire record, and should silence those that say his voice is gone.

Perhaps it is a testament to Danzig's tenacity that he is still around at all. Glenn is now over 50 years old, but still looks and sounds about the same as he did 15 years ago. However, on the basis of this album, Danzig has nothing new to offer musically anymore.

*Circle of Snakes* is a solid if unremarkable entry into the *Danzig* cannon. Longtime fans will appreciate the more traditional style of the material, but there's little on here to interest casual or new listeners. With first week sales of *Circle of Snakes* at only 6,500 copies and *Danzig's* "Blackest of the Black" farewell tour already cancelled, it looks as if Glenn may have already outstayed his welcome.

*Douglas Miller is an editor for The Retriever Weekly. You may reach her at doug@media.umbc.edu.*

Moving along from fishing and drinking we find quite the opposite activity, marriage. There are several good reasons to marry: there is the dowry; there are the gifts she will give you if you treat her well; and of course there the prospect of being called "a norty boy" when the lights go out.

Of course you can marry men too, but they don't provide nearly as much of a benefit. Still if you are curious, go ahead. You can have a bride in every town after all. Remember that: sex before marriage, no. Polygamy, big yes!

If you are trying to be evil, divorce will score you the most points. There is nothing worse in *Fable* than hitting your wife. Even killing her isn't as bad. So if you're trying to be good, remember it's better to kill her and hide the body if she tries to divorce you. Those crazy British programmers.

The only complaint I might have about the game is the targeting system. Because you can choose to be evil, you can target anyone- even if you're trying to protect them. The targeting system simply targets the nearest being, whoever it is. This can lead to frustration as you bring your obsidian great axe down without really meaning to on the skull of the little boy you were rescuing from the goblin cave.

Other than that, the entire gaming experience was enjoyable. Even walking through the beautifully rendered landscapes was a relaxing treat.

There is nothing wrong with this game that quick reflexes cannot fix. It is top shelf in every way. If you have an X-Box, shame on you for not having it already. If you don't have one, think of this as the best reason yet to get one. There is no way you could possibly be disappointed with the likes of *Fable* at your fingertips.

*Kyle Mahaney is a staff writer for The Retriever Weekly. You may reach her at kyle1@umbc.edu.*



# Swords, samurai and style: Zatoichi a surprising success

KATIE BETTER

Retriever Weekly Guest Writer

Being a typical American, I tend to expect almost any live-action movie about samurai to be an emotional epic, dripping with blood and the occasional flying limbs. That was my attitude walking into *Zatoichi*, expecting a fantastic gorefest with flashing swords and pretty robes.

Oh how wrong I was.

Would you believe that this movie is a comedy? The story follows an old samurai named Zatoichi as he hobbles around on his cane, carrying vegetables for old ladies, chopping wood and occasionally grabbing some sake (Japanese alcohol).

He doesn't seem like a very interesting character at first glance until, without batting an eyelash, he slices into some bandits with his sword—a lethal weapon sheathed in his nondescript walking cane.

Why? Our friend Zatoichi is blind. He hobbles his way into a peculiar town rampant with the gangs typical of feudal Japan and is saddened by the stories of its oppressed people.

There are a number of subplots going on in town: two siblings, O-Sei and O-Kinu, pose as geishas (prostitutes) in their search for the murderers of their family; Hattori, a skilled samurai, fights for the most powerful crime lord in town for the money he needs to cure his dying wife; lastly a young man called Shinkichi struggles with his gambling addiction while his crotchety old Aunt O-Ume gives him a piece of her mind.

title character is one of its most enjoyable elements.

Kitano also uses a unique twist of digital technology to enhance the traditional, period battle sequences. Audiences get an interesting combination, something definitely appropriate for the film's comedic style. This movie received its R-rating for "strong stylized bloody violence" after all. To be honest, the fights scenes were accompanied by chuckles from the audience; the spraying blood reminded me of spurring Jell-O, which I thought was pretty funny. Of course that's not always a bad thing, because it makes it easier for the fainter of heart to stomach watching fingers being sliced off as easily as a hot knife cleaves butter. In any case the swordsmanship is fantastic and fast-paced, so Jell-O blood or no, it's exciting to watch and very memorable.

My favorite aspect of the film had to be the music. The musical and rhythmic elements truly made this film "stylized." Traditional instruments shape much of the atmosphere; Kitano makes effective use of authentic Japanese instruments such as flutes, drums and the koto (a type of stringed instrument). The music accompanying every scene, though sometimes subtle, manages to always feel appropriate, even satisfying. Even the exploratory use of ethnic rhythms leaves a satisfyingly curious audio "aftertaste." For example, in several scenes Kitano does long, wide shots of farmers breaking it down with percussion beats out of this world...or at least that time period. They may just be hoeing their field, but every stroke of their arms and every strike of their hoes are met with a crisp, click-clacking beat that somehow feels



courtesy of zatoichi.co.uk

**Blind Justice:** "Even with my eyes wide open, I can't see a thing," says legendary swordsman Zatoichi.

We follow the blind Zatoichi as he rights wrongs and sets things straight like every good guy should.

Pretty serious stuff, huh? Throw in some unpredictability and give the characters some quirks and the mood lightens up when it needs to. The acting is well done given the personalities of the characters. You have the wise, mysterious old man, the cranky auntie, graceful and vengeful geishas, stern warriors, raucous gangsters, the clumsy youth, the village idiot, lots of nameless henchman, dancing farmers and much, much more.

The actors fit each mold perfectly; their interactions support the solid, character-driven plot, which director Takeshi Kitano advances while simultaneously delving into each character's respective back story. Kitano himself stars as Zatoichi, a singular achievement since he performs both tasks admirably; the film's direction is solid and Kitano's gentle, sagely characterization of the

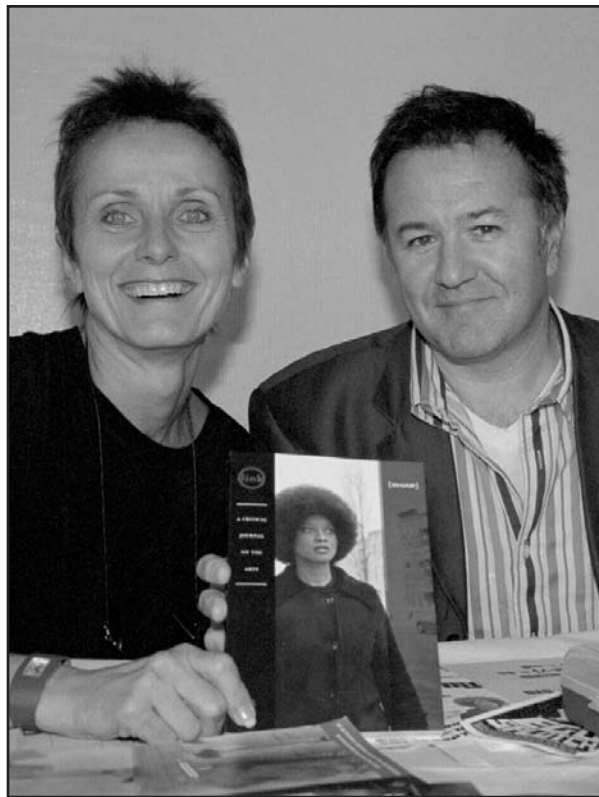
artistic and right-on.

The fight scenes, too, benefit from Kitano's use of music. The energy in the combat scenes is dramatically heightened by the addition of a bass beat to the background music, giving it a pulse-pounding, almost subliminal sense of rhythm. To round out the film, audiences get a musical-style finale complete with the ensemble cast dancing away at a cultural festival! Certainly not to be missed!

*Zatoichi* is certainly out of the ordinary, with its unique combination of technology-assisted gore, light humor and inexplicable use of music. You don't have to be familiar with Japan's rich history or culture to understand the humor or importance of the story being told. *Zatoichi* is a film for all cultures that will have you walking out of the theater with a grin.

Katie Better is a guest writer for The Retriever Weekly. You may reach her at [better1@umbc.edu](mailto:better1@umbc.edu).

# Bookfest brings out the best



Heidi Heimsal [Retriever Staff]

**All Bases Covered:** UMBC Associate Dean Kathy O'Dell and Mark Durant debate and discuss their works.

from *BOOK FEST*, page 14

ond story, and tiny lions made up the base of its outdoor lamppost. It's truly the artistic heart of the city, flanked by the Walters Art Museum, Center Stage, the Peabody Institute and the Enoch Pratt Free Library. It's a lovely, old fashioned and beautiful part of Baltimore that's shamefully easy to forget.

The best part about this festival is the amount of participation it garners from local businesses. According to the official website (<http://www.promotionandarts.com/resources/up182.aspx>), there were over 125 exhibits and organizations in attendance. Among those booths I visited were the American Institute of Graphic Arts, Artists' Books, the Baltimore Blues Society, Usborne Books at Home, Strebor Books International and the Crafts Corridor. My father made a newspaper hat at one of the children's tents and scoped out 50 cent sci-fi books at the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc. At the Next Big Thing Stage, we both learned about the art of self-publishing. We befriended the local artist responsible for creating Baltimore's well-known art cars: bizarre art-car amalgamations decorated with hands, Barbie dolls, magnets and Mardi gras beads. He invited us to his Guy Fawkes celebration.

There's something for everyone at the Baltimore Book Festival, and this is what makes it so great. What amazed me were the amount of tiny publishing houses and self-publishers; I had no idea Baltimore had so many! One tent featured only romance books written by African American women; at the tent for a Red Emma's, a local socialist bookstore, goateed college students discussed Marx while eating kettle corn. Usborne Books at Home sold unusual children's book titles, of which I consider "Fairy Cooking" and a book about learning to sing opera tunes my favorites. Food was everywhere, ranging from pretzels and sweet tea to beer and kielbasa. In many ways this festival rivals the long-ago days of the Baltimore City Fair, a city tradition that has sadly become extinct as a result of economic ups and downs.

In the middle of the day my father and I sat down at a picnic table to eat and rest our feet. There we listened to The Goldtops, presented by the Baltimore Blues Society, an authentic up-tempo blues band. Stretched out underneath the clouds on an old picnic bench, we watched as an African-American teamster and his wife danced the jitterbug while an older Caucasian man in cowboy boots did an improvised line dance. A woman danced with two small, yappy dogs wearing sweaters, and what is quite possibly the world's cutest baby ran around holding a bag of popcorn as big as he was. I have had very few days quite as lovely as this one, and none of them in Baltimore.

The Baltimore Book Festival allows those in

attendance to imagine a time that was comparably simpler and certainly much safer. We're able to pretend that we're living in a time period in American history that encourages inclusion and community building and sharing. One booth selling books posted a sign that claimed that profits would go to building Mount Vernon's first public playground. For a day, in Baltimore City, everyone was on equal footing—the police even treated the homeless man making conversation with fairness and grace. There was nothing ugly or dangerous about Baltimore at that moment, and for me, that was a revelation.

I think what an event like the Baltimore Book Festival aims to do is leave its audience with a visual impression of something that isn't visual. What is literacy, really? What is the importance of reading as a leisure activity? How necessary is a sense of community? Often it would be too easy to say these things are not very important, or very necessary, but perhaps that's what the point is. An event like this doesn't leave in the minds of its participants a list of booths visited and dollars spent, but

instead, leaves something so much more important and complex.

Baltimore's local landmarks also threw open their doors to the public for the weekend. The lovely Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church welcomed passers-by to sneak a peek at its stunning interior. All stained glass and walnut, hand-carved pews, this church was an event in itself. We spent a good ten minutes talking to the Pastor about the placement of the organs, the iron work and the hand carved staircases. The Peabody Library, as I mentioned, was also open for viewing, and it's quite possibly the most breathtaking building in all of Baltimore. Clearly created by someone with a real love for books and their visual presentation, the Peabody is a sight for sore eyes: the perfect library. Complete with narrow central staircases, a real card catalogue and pristine wooden conference tables, this six story library has made it onto a small list of my favorite places in the world.

The Baltimore Book Festival is free, easily navigable and completely worth the time of everyone in the area. This isn't some nebbishes' book festival. Instead, this is a book festival that everyone can love. Being there on a cloudy September day in Maryland almost broke my heart because it was so unerringly perfect and uncomplicated that I didn't feel I deserved it. A festival like this should only come along once in a very great while; however, Baltimore is supremely lucky to have it every year. Check it out next September because there's something for everyone and very little possibility of disappointment.

Sarah Pevner is a staff writer for The Retriever Weekly. You may reach her at [spevner1@umbc.edu](mailto:spevner1@umbc.edu).

**upcoming events at**  
**SYNERGY**  
**Christian comedy night**  
with host Sean Sarvis and "FUDGE"  
**Fri Sept 24 8:30 & 10:30pm**  
**FREE with a love offering taken**  
*we got the heat and we're gonna rock this town!*  
**80's night**  
**Oct. 31 \$5/8 9pm**  
**spoken word night every 1st & 3rd wed 7pm - \$5**  
**18+ after 11pm | always alcohol & smoke free**  
**4935 Harford Ave, Beltsville MD near cvs**  
**right off Rt. 1 north of the Capital Beltway**  
**www.synergymaryland.com**



## AROUND

Beginning [Sept 23]

Events Happening Throughout  
the Greater Baltimore-Washington Area

## TOWN

Thursday, September 23

## Musical Mixology

For a quarter century, the guitar duo of Jorge Strunz, a native of Costa Rica, and Iranian-born Ardeshtir Farah have been creating an entirely new kind of music, here titled "Latin / Middle Eastern Fusions." Before their 8:00 p.m. performance, the two will host a panel discussion on this unique style of sound; be at the Freer and Sackler Gallery's Meyer Auditorium in Washington, D.C. at 6:30 for the start of the event. TM\*

## Particle Man

Those admirable music geeks keep pressing on, doing their own thing, delighting fans and confounding the unconverted. Yes, it's *They Might Be Giants*, who have come from humble beginnings in a small New York high school up through their uber-band-like success, creating everything from an album of kids music, the theme music for the *Daily Show* and *Malcolm in the Middle*, and their newly-released DVD called *Gigantic*, packed with literally tons of TMBG goodness for those interested. And, what ho? The two-man group is playing the Recher Theatre in Towson tonight at 7? Yup! TM\*

Friday, September 24

## The Road Home

The hard-rocking Wilson sisters, who formed the band *Heart* some 30 years ago, may not have been very visible on the music scene in the last 10 to 15 years, but have re-energized and are planning to kick some ass at the D.A.R. Constitution Hall tonight at 8, for what is apparently the final date on their current tour. The daughters of Beach Boy Brian and wife and sister-in-law of Cameron Crowe (they collaborated on the soundtrack to *Almost Famous*) will kick things off

tonight at 8 o'clock. TM\*

Saturday, September 25

## 2 Great Tastes that Taste Great Together

Well now, there really isn't much info available about this event, so far as I can see, but it does sound intriguing: tonight at the Vault in Baltimore they're hosting a "Fashion and Rock Show." So that about explains it; if you like your rock and you like your fashion, be there at 8:30 with about \$10 I think. TM\*

Monday, September 27

## Put a Little Seoul in Your Life

Today marks the Baltimore Korean Festival, a cultural program with traditional dances, tae kwon do demonstrations, games and more. It takes place from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at War Memorial Plaza at Fayette and Gay streets. Call 410-242-6838 for info.

Tuesday, September 28

## A Spirit's Naissance

One of the most notable bands in rock and roll is coming to the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall tonight: *Wilco*. The band that drifted from alt-country in its early albums like *A.M.* and *Summerteeth*, got ditched by their label for being too uncommercial, then was picked up by another arm of the same parent company and had their biggest hit record in Yankee Hotel Foxtrot, has earlier this year released a collection of songs that reveals much about the band's fears and ambitions, *A Ghost is Born*. Word is that they're putting on an incredible live show this tour, so be there at 8 this evening. TM\*

\*TM = Ticketmaster: (410) 481-SEAT; [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

Got an upcoming area event? Email [swiley1@umbc.edu](mailto:swiley1@umbc.edu) (min. 2 weeks notice).

## Incidentally...

Events Happening On and Around the UMBC Campus  
Beginning [Sept 21]

Tuesday, September 21

## A Thousand Hounds: A Walk with the Dogs through the History of Photography

Join the AOK Library as they put on an exhibit chronicling the history of photography through the use of over 120 images of dogs. Dating back to the 1840s, these images reveal as much about the development of photography as they do about the role of dogs as companions. The exhibit can be seen in the library's gallery all this week. For more information, call 410-455-2270.

Wednesday, September 22

## Live Music

Catch a performance by *Shwa* at 1 p.m. on Market Street.

Thursday, September 23

## Learn How to Ace Your Next Interview

This week's weekly Wednesday workshop, presented by the Career Development Center, will be on polishing your skills as an interviewee. Walk into your next job interview with more confidence and charisma as you listen to a GE recruiter provide valuable tips on how to prepare and what kinds of questions to ask. The

workshop will be held in the Math/Psych. Bldg., Rm.103 from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, September 24

## Pub Night

Relax and unwind at Happy Hour in the Upper Cabaret (of the Commons) from 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Saturday, September 25

SEB Movie: *Dodgeball*

Where? Lecture Hall I. When? 8 p.m. Tix are \$1. Come throw a couple balls at the dodgeball game before the movie by the tennis courts.

Sunday, September 26

## Ravens vs. Bengals

Come watch the game at the Retriever Sports Zone from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Monday, September 27

## SGA Senate Meeting

Wondering what's going on with the SGA this semester? Find out at their meeting in the Commons, Rm.318 at 5:30 p.m.

Got an upcoming event? Email [reshma1@umbc.edu](mailto:reshma1@umbc.edu)



## Toon heads meet their heroes

from COMIC-CON, page 15

children's food!"]," he said, "The whooping sound that Zoidberg makes is obviously from *The Three Stooges*."

Interestingly, Mr. West's normal speaking voice bears an almost exact resemblance to that of Fry. Having heard the dozens of voices Mr. West imitated, it's not quite easy to go back to watching *Futurama* re-runs on Cartoon Network without recalling the ease with which Mr. West shifted not only from one voice to the other, but also the personali-

ty of those characters.

Attending such a convention really makes one reflect on the role that comic books play in the chronicles of modern American history. I doubt that anyone who witnessed the conferences with Mr. Romita and Mr. West will ever look at another comic-book based movie, commercial, or animated television show with the same eyes ever again.

Darla Mercado is a staff writer for The Retriever Weekly. You may reach her at [darla1@umbc.edu](mailto:darla1@umbc.edu).

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Heidi Heimsal [Retriever Staff]

**Sew what?:** Happiness is a warm knitting needle, if Katie von Brand, Andy Crochunis, and Clare Ryan have their say.

**Write for Features. Get free stuff. x51260.**



# RecSports 101: Intro to fun

This Week: Party on the beach.

DUSTIN FISHER

Retriever Weekly Staff Writer

We're about to have the most fun tournament we'll have all year (dodgeball excluded) and you might not be signed up for it yet. I'm going to give you one more chance because that's the kind of guy I am. And if you show up, the party will be that much better.

This Saturday, 9/25 at the Walker Apartment beach volleyball court, we'll be having a triples beach volleyball tournament followed by a cookout in the courtyard. And get this — it's FREE. As of right now, weather.com says it's supposed to be 76 and sunny the whole day. So bring your SPF 30 and your metal detectors because we're going to have a party on the beach.

The tournament will probably start sometime around 11am (check the website on Friday for an update) and we will run a men's league and a coed league. Sometime around 3 or 4 p.m., we'll fire up the grill and cook some burgers and hot dogs for everybody who participates. The tournament should last until about 5 or 6 p.m., but the fun should never stop.

For those interested about the tournament format, that will likely be determined by the number of you folks who show up. We will have a men's and a coed league that will play intermittently, giving everyone a little bit of a break. The coed teams must have at least one girl on the

court, but they may have as many as 3, in case there is an all girls team that would like to play in the coed league. Players may enter both leagues if they would like to. That does not, however, entitle them to eat twice as much. Each team will play at least 3 games throughout the day and approximately 4 teams (based on number of teams in each league) will make the playoff bracket which will start upon completion of the round robin tournament.

Free agents, listen up. There are enough of you to ensure that you all have your own team. Don't worry about being the only person there without a team, because you won't be. This gig is about meeting people and having fun (and eating free food).

Teams and free agents may register by stopping into RAC 321 or online at [www.umbc.edu/athletics/Recreation/Intramurals/](http://www.umbc.edu/athletics/Recreation/Intramurals/). The sign-up deadline is Wednesday 9/22. If you miss the sign-up deadline, check the website on Friday to find out exactly when the managers meeting will be. The meeting will take place at the beach volleyball court at Walker Apartments at the beginning of the tournament. Depending on a few variables, the meeting will be sometime around 11 a.m. or noon.

As usual, if you have any questions, concerns, or food suggestions, call Dustin at 410-455-1540 or e-mail us at [recsports@umbc.edu](mailto:recsports@umbc.edu). Thanks for reading and I'll see you on the court.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 PC "brain"
- 4 Reassure
- 8 Roman historian
- 12 Sweetie pie
- 13 Pierre's girl
- 14 La Scala highlight
- 15 Goddess of dawn
- 16 Career path (2 wds.)
- 18 Large mammal
- 20 — -a-brac
- 21 Musical note
- 22 Opposite of cheer
- 23 Therefore
- 27 Female deer
- 29 Sister
- 30 Work, as play
- 31 Time div.
- 32 Myrna — of old movies
- 33 Noisy bird
- 34 You and I
- 35 Raring to go

### DOWN

- 37 Howl
- 38 Mo. fractions
- 39 Side of bacon
- 40 Moon, poetically
- 41 Shoe width
- 42 Where Mongolia is
- 44 Radius neighbors
- 47 Huge blossoms
- 51 Demand payment
- 52 Dairy-case item
- 53 To be, to Brutus
- 54 Greek letter
- 55 Demeanor
- 56 Diary opener
- 57 Half-star movie

### DOWN

- 1 Tobacco plug
- 2 Cry of disdain
- 3 Dangerous
- 4 Tearoom
- 5 Doctors' org.
- 6 Portuguese port
- 7 Part of MGM
- 8 Theft
- 9 Tax shelter
- 10 "Old" London theatre
- 11 Tibetan ox
- 17 Polynesian

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	P	E	P	C			T	O	T	E	M
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T	E		K	A	R	M			E	R	R
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			J	A	M	M	I	N	G		A
W	E	A	R				R	I	N	D	A
A	R	R	E	S	T		P	U	E	B	L
Y	O		S	H	O	E			W	I	C
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STUMPED? Call for answers • Touch-tone or rotary phones 95¢ per minute • (900) 226-3574 code 500

## SCHEDULE

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0:00			The Vague Push Jake Herndon	Zero Hour Ian Brown and Patrick Bladen	Subversion Soundbombing Jon Salvia	Zero Hour Ian Brown and Patrick Bladen	The Monk Bought Lunch Michael O'Sullivan
1:00					Subversion Soundbombing Jon Salvia		
11:00		Student Free Radio Kate Fukawa-Connelly and Heather Moss		art@radio Steven Bradley	The Dolores & Damion Show Jessie Newman & Matt Metzger	The RIGHT Time James Motsay and Jonathan Haag	
12:00		Dissonant Rock Disco Joe Hamilton		Head Case Jeremy Swan			
13:00	Mobtown Ska Sounds Brian Rudell, Bob Mezewski	Scott Meixel Live! Scott Meixel		The David Gill Show David Gill	Classics, Total Classics Matt Stockwell	The G Spot v2.0 Patrick Pierson and Jon Deveau	
14:00	Mobtown Ska Sounds Brian Rudell, Bob Mezewski	Rock and the Hard Place Stephen Puopolo	Neal Karkhanis	Rock and the Hard Place Stephen Puopolo	Corrupted Utopias Brendan Howell	The Captain's Corner Wesley Weber and Bill Streckfus	
15:00		Live Fire Manic Hour! I.R.A.	Progressive Politics with Brian and Jordan Jordan Hadfield, Brian Bailey	Cooking With Cheese Ross Dixon	Luda iz mah Boi Jeanna Beard, Nikki DeBlase	Shorty Rox Kate Leitkowski	Variety Talk Hour with Jon Jon Grabe
16:00		An Hour With The Mess Wesley Weber	Birth of the Cool Matt Stockwell	The Gift of Sound Stuart McSpadden	Down in the Groove Ross Dixon	Shorty Rox Kate Leitkowski	
17:00		Shoot First and Ask Christian Slater Dave Chrismer	Scott White	Kyle's Metal Hour Kyle Brooks	Laying Down the Law With Chris Christopher Pierce	Eric Houston	
18:00		West of the Mississippi is a Place Called Xanadu Gary William Hudiburgh III	Championship Radio Oliver Baranczyk	Pull the Plug Tim Regan	West of the Mississippi is a Place Called Xanadu Gary William Hudiburgh III	Eric Houston	
19:00		Championship Radio Oliver Baranczyk	N.E.R.D.C.O.R.E. Katie Stansbery and Liz Erdman	N.E.R.D.C.O.R.E. Katie Stansbery and Liz Erdman	The Ultra-Heavy Beat Jonathan Rayne, Mary Ricks	Deez Notes / Sine your pity on the rammy tam Laura Sanderson and Mike Pollard	
20:00		Rough Cut Stephanie Forbes	The Sofa King Fun Show Dustin Blottenberger	Just Another Radio Show Russell Brammer	The Sofa King Fun Show Dustin Blottenberger	DJ Herbal-T Show Mike Bell	
21:00	Bangin Beats and Wild Rhymes Max Knee	La Voix (The Voice) PIERRE KAPANGE	Pull the Plug Tim Regan	eye for an eye makes the world go blind Rob Savillo	Split Personality Dustin Blottenberger and Josh Betz	DJ Herbal-T Show Mike Bell	
22:00	Bangin Beats and Wild Rhymes Max Knee	My Life, My Music Tyler Beck	The Bleeding Hour Douglas Miller, Noel Mueller and Ian Bukowski	Like It Is Stephen Mallary	Louder Than Love Josh Betz	Working for the Weekend Jeeves, Ask	
23:00		Death or Glory Brian Jaeggi and Evan Swann	Bite My Shiny Metal ... Joe Garifo	Midnight Snack Danielle Williamson and Meron Solomon	Do Drugs Ganesh Kumarachandran	Working for the Weekend Jeeves, Ask	





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## Music review corner

By Noah Albro

### Further Seems Forever unique; Valerian's newest earsplitter



**This band hides nothing when it comes to musical creativity**

*Further Seems Forever: Hide Nothing*  
(in stores now)

This album is good music, people. *Further Seems Forever* does nothing but improve upon their last CD, *How to Start a Fire*. The band burst onto the independent label Tooth & Nail Records and continued to rock even after cycling through two singers in two albums. The band's original singer Chris Carrabba left the band to form *Dashboard Confessional* and Jason Gleason stood in for their first full length album *How to Start a Fire*, but also phased out. In spite of the changes that occurred in the vocalist position, the band still managed to develop their sound and found an amazing singer in Jon Bunch (lead singer of *Sense Field*).

Bunch's vocals are so powerful they just cut through the speakers on songs like "Light Up Ahead" and "Hide Nothing." The harmonies on this CD are intense and Bunch's vocal style is coupled so intimately with the music of the band that at some points his voice becomes almost instrumental in tone.

But the vocals are only the beginning of

this CD. The guitar work on this album is phenomenal; guitarists Josh Cordoba and Josh Colbert are so creative on every song that the listener can easily get lost in the guitar riffs. Cordoba and Colbert don't mirror each other once on the entire CD. They play so consonantly yet so differently, the guitar nuances on *Hide Nothing* absolutely blow my mind.

That's not to say that this entire band isn't insane, though. The drums on this CD are all over the place, drummer Steve Kleisath is incredible. His beats are so unique and unexpected that he will continually catch the listener off guard. And of course, with all this talent, their bass player Chad Neptune (who acts as the front man of the band) is amazing and equally inventive with his instrument. The overall sound of *Further Seems Forever* isn't restricted by any genre limitations; this band plays the music that they like. Pick up this album for some serious replay value (you won't catch everything the first time around).



**The only hint of sorrow was my crying ... 'cause it hurt my ears**

*Valerians: Imitations of Sorrow*  
(available November 2)

The Valerians hail from the far lands of Finland and, honestly, I really wish that they would just stay there with their music. The first track of this album, "Homesick" actually sounded really promising and I got excited...what the hell was I thinking?

The vocals on this CD truly began to scare me; lead singer Olli Koskela has no idea what type of music he wants to sing. On the first track, he has a rough Gavin Rossdale (singer of Bush, which isn't all that great, but I gave it to him) sound but on track two he just loses his mind and the rest of the CD (minus a couple tracks) turns into vocal mayhem. I can understand vocal diversity and trying to

mix it up a little bit, I have no problem with that, but this is just plain madness.

On a positive note, the guitar riffs on the CD are pretty good. Guitarist Toni Ritonon and Matti Toivonen do their best to carry the fanatical vocals of Koskela and manage to do a decent job on songs like "Never Bring Me Down" and "Angel of Death." But even their best efforts couldn't make up for the total lack of any rhythmic creativity from drummer Janne Jaakelainen and bassist Tipi Anderson.

Overall I wasn't even remotely impressed by this album and I doubt that we'll see these guys on any Top 100 rock music charts in this lifetime.



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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
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4PM Erickson Field  
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# Sports

## Cross Country competes at Navy in windy conditions

ASTRID SPERLING

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

On Saturday, September 18, the men's and women's cross country squads competed in the Navy Invitational and Salty Seadog Invitational, respectively. What made the task challenging for everyone participating was the gusty conditions the runners had to race in. With the remnants of Ivan hovering over Maryland, the weather was probably not the best to run in, but UMBC's athletes did their best with the men placing 4th overall and the women placing 7th.

For the women in the field of nine schools with names like American and Navy, the fight for points was not going to be an easy one. Freshman Stefanie Potter was the best competitor for the Dawgs, placing 9th in the 6K with a time of 23:30.40 in a field of 97 runners. Cara Wettlaufer finished the run in 24:26.93 and 21st place. The top two runners came from American University, (Keira Carlstrom 21:45.11, Kelley Taylor 22:51.85). The Navy women won the overall team competition, before American and Furman.

The men's team was a little more successful than the women and proved themselves in the 80-man strong field of runners from eight schools. The best competitor for the Retrievers was Junior Izudin Mehmodovic, who placed 12th in the men's 8K with a time of 25:47.34. Next to cross the finish line for UMBC was Sophomore Shawn Shokey in 21st place with a time of 26:09.86. Six spots later, Junior Ryan Cartwright closed his race in



File Photo [Retriever Staff]

**Breezy competition:** The ladies place 7th in Salty Seadog Invitational.

26:28.26. Just like in the women's competition, two runners from the Eagles finished in first and second place. The winning time for Pat Macadie was 24:58.29. American University also won the overall team competition in front of Navy, followed by Furman, with UMBC only one point behind.

Fans of UMBC cross country will

be disappointed as the team will not have a single home meet. Next up on the schedule however, is Lehigh Paul Short Invitational in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on September 25.

*Astrid Sperling is the Sports Editor, she is looking for writers to cover sports events. She can be reached for comments and questions at astrid@trw.umbc.edu*

## This Week in Sports

### Volleyball

The ladies need to pick up their game after three losses in the Nittany Lion Invitational. They get their next chance to prove what they are made of in their next home game this Tuesday against Coppin State at 7 p.m. On September 23, the team plays Loyola at 7 p.m. also on the UMBC court. And the final game of the week will be at James Madison on September 24.

### Men's Soccer

Be on the look-out for the postponed game against Old Dominion; the date will be announced sometime this week. But in the mean time the Retrievers will try to remain undefeated when they play George Washington at home on September 22 at 3 p.m. And September 25 will hopefully be a good day in Albany, when the team travels there for their next away game.

### Women's Soccer

The soccer ladies will get a little break this week and only play one game, which will be on September 24 on home ground at 4 p.m. against Marshall. Go and cheer your on your Dawgs; it might be your last opportunity to catch a bit of sun.

### Field Hockey

The Hockey team will return to action this week, with three games, all of them away from home. On September 21 they will face Buchnell, three days later they will be in Maine against the conference opponent, and on the 26th the team travels to Rhode Island.

### Cross Country

The men's and women's teams will compete in the Lehigh Paul Short Invitational on Saturday, September 25.

## Volleyball ladies get crushed in Nittany Lion Invitational

ASTRID SPERLING

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

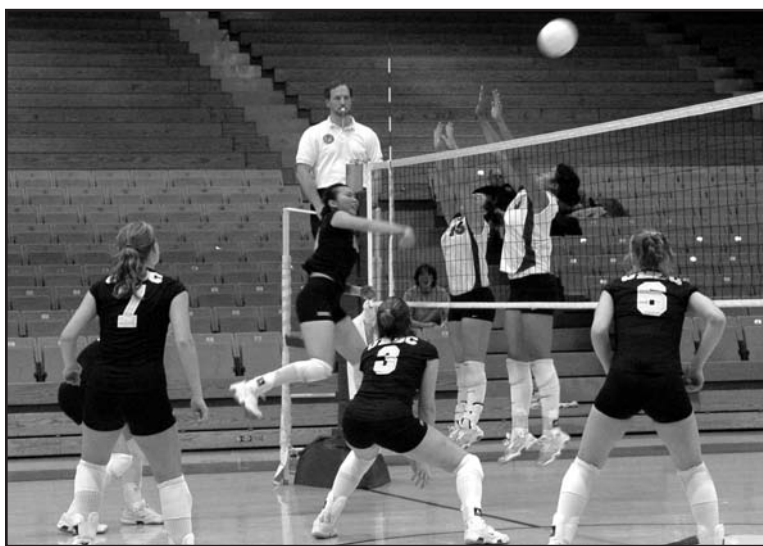
The Volleyball season reminds of a roller coaster this year as it constantly goes up and down. This past week the Retrievers picked up a win against Morgan State in front of their fans across town. Many were hoping that this might be the beginning of another winning streak, but come the Nittany Lion Invitational at Penn State over the weekend, the Dawgs' luck quickly changed.

UMBC dominated the entire game against the Morgan State Bears, the final outcome of the game with 30-24, 30-20, 30-16 made the Retrievers look very good. At the end of the three game match, the ladies posted a record of a .287 hitting percentage on a total of 46 kills, with 17 errors on a total of 101 attacks. Many players contributed highly with their performances, such as freshman Emily Berman, last week's America East player of the week, who posted 15 kills total with a hitting percentage of .375, senior Jocelyn Teoh who picked up her third straight double-double with 12 kills and ten digs,

and junior Megan Gross, who recorded a total of 32 assists and eight digs.

Two days after the win over Morgan State, the team traveled to Pennsylvania to compete in the Nittany Lion Invitational. The first game meant a face-off with no. 5 ranked host Penn State. The undefeated Lions made UMBC look like they were in a different league. The three-game match ended in 30-14, 30-12 and 30-12. However, the game had positive highlights for the Retrievers as well. Teoh surpassed the 1000 kills mark, which was an exciting point in her career. Freshman outside hitter Marisa Gross posted a career high of eight kills in the three games, which was a high hitting percentage of .263. The Lions however, were too dominating and the lady Dawgs never saw a true chance. Penn State tallied 18 kills in game one, 16 in game two and 18 in game three, hitting over .400 in each of the three games.

Next up on the Retriever schedule was the second game in the invitational against West Virginia. The Mountaineers stomped all over the Dawgs, although not as badly as the Lions. Again it was a three game match



File Photo [Retriever Staff]

**Disappointing:** Volleyball lost 3 out of last 4 games.

that ended in the win for West Virginia with 21-30, 15-30, 22-30. The hitting average for the Mountaineers was .352 with spectacular individual performances by players such as Abby Tevis, who recorded 13 kills with no errors and a hitting percentage of .565. Although, the Retrievers were not losing all the balls yet. Teoh once again

recorded a double-double with ten kills and 11 digs, Berman posted 11 kills, while Megan Gross helped with 30 assists. Folk had a strong game with seven kills and no errors which gave her a hitting percentage of .467.

The final game of the tournament was another loss, yet the closest of the three. The opponent this time was Yale.

Even though the team on the other side was too strong once again, there was no stopping the Retrievers with many of them showing excellent performances. Teoh kept up her solid play with yet another double-double (20 kills, 11 digs), Gross recorded 49 assists and 22 digs, Berman had 15 kills to show for herself, and Jessie Folk 11, while Britney Hodson led the Retrievers in hits with .467. Yale had four players with double digit kills, which proved to be too many.

The trip north was a big disappointment for the lady Dawgs, who drop 5-7 for the season. However, the team now needs to focus on their next opponents and develop strategies to come out as the winning team. Next up on the schedule is Coppin State, another home game on Tuesday, September 21, at 7 p.m. Come and cheer on your Retrievers who could do with a little more support from their fans here at UMBC.

*Astrid Sperling is the Sports Editor, she is looking for writers to cover sporting events. She can be reached for comments and questions at astrid@trw.umbc.edu*



# Meet the athletic staff – Coach Hartman-Mumma

ASTRID SPERLING

Retriever Weekly Editorial Staff

Kristy Hartman-Mumma first took the job as UMBC's field hockey coach in March of 2000. Notable is the fact that the year 2000 was the first year of Division I Field Hockey and Hartman-Mumma has been an important part of it from the beginning. She has never let the team down. Even in the difficult first years when the program was struggling with lack of success, she stood by her team. Now, more than four years later, field hockey is looking better than ever. Hartman-Mumma and Assistant Coach David Peel are now hoping that the sport can have its America East premier this year.

Hartman-Mumma was born in Annapolis and describes herself as a very local person, as she has lived in Maryland her whole life. She grew up and went to school in Severna Park where she had her first encounters with field hockey.

Her mom encouraged her to play, and instantly Hartman-Mumma loved the game. After high school however, Hartman-Mumma made a very hard decision and chose to concentrate on school, rather than her sport. She went to UMBC to get an education in Information Systems. At the time, the school did not have a field hockey program. Even though she was new at the school, she did not feel lost and thought UMBC provided her with a welcoming environment.

After college though, Hartman-Mumma decided against a desk-job and helped to create the field hockey program as the new head coach. Now, in the beginning of the new season, the players can already see progress as they have more wins than last year after just six games.

Coach Hartman-Mumma is a busy woman during the season. On a regular day, she comes in before 8 o'clock in the morning to do lifting with her girls. Then she goes on to teach classes, grabs lunch, checks and answers emails, looks at the cur-

rent practice plan, talks to players, and around 3:30 p.m. heads to the field, where the most important part of the day takes place - practice. But when she leaves the stadium around 6:30 p.m., her day is still not over. She returns to her office only to find piles of paper that need to be organized and calls that need to be made. "Coming to the office always reminds me how much work I still have at the end of the day," Hartman-Mumma says.

## Field Hockey Coach Kristy Hartman-Mumma talks about the sport, future plans, dreams, and private life.

Hartman-Mumma cannot recall just one single moment that was the highlight of her experience as the head coach. There are little moments that make her happy all the time. Everyday in practice she works with her players on something specific that they struggle with, certain elements or techniques, and when the players finally master those things these are the moments when Hartman-Mumma is truly happy. "I'm proud of my girls when they finally do something new that we've been working on, and add something to their 'bag of tricks.'"

What the coach likes about UMBC is that

there seems to be a positive energy; people are excited and proud. Even though people tend to complain a lot, Hartman-Mumma thinks that UMBC is the right place for someone with great aspirations.

While Hartman-Mumma enjoys traveling, her favorite country is the U.S., which she began to appreciate even more on her many journeys outside the country. "People here have so many opportunities," she says. However, when it comes to field hockey, this country is probably not the perfect place. "The place I wish UMBC was modeled after is Holland. The country is so welcoming and it promotes the sport as a part of family and social life." The field hockey programs in the U.S. are not the best and Hartman-Mumma is sad to say that the U.S. has not been able to send a team to the Olympics since 1996.

Even though the sport takes up a big part of Hartman-Mumma's life, it is not the only thing she enjoys. One of her favorite things is sleeping, which she does a lot on a day off. Also, she very much enjoys going out to eat, usually a little drive away so she can get the feeling of getting out somewhere. Hartman-Mumma feels she should make more time for catching up on the news. She feels bad that Americans in general have a very limited worldview and she, therefore, tries to read up on world news as much as time allows.

Like most coaches, Hartman-Mumma is a sports fanatic. She enjoys watching tennis and is the proud owner of season tickets to the Ravens, but

unfortunately she does not have the time to attend the games as much as she wishes.

For UMBC field hockey, Hartman-Mumma has many plans and hopes. "When I first took the job in 2000, we did not even have enough players to put up in the perfect line-up. Now we have more than one person for many positions, and I can create the line-up according to who played how in what game. With this advantage over the past years, we hope to make it to the championships this year." She says that her seniors have demonstrated great patience and that the time has come for them to be rewarded for their hard work.

## Quick Questions:

If you could have any job, what would it be?

A TV news anchor, because I'm addicted to the news, and that way I could catch up on them every day. But right now I'm very happy being a coach.

What is your favorite food?  
Doritos - I love junk food.

What is your favorite restaurant?  
Sidestreet in Ellicott City.

What is your favorite movie?  
Top Gun and Coyote Ugly.

What is your favorite book?  
A book that I had to read at school, called Politics and the Presidency, and I think everyone should read it.

Astrid Sperling is the Sports Editor, she is looking for writers to cover sporting events. She can be reached for comments and questions at [astrid@trw.umbc.edu](mailto:astrid@trw.umbc.edu)



Heidi Heimsal [Retriever Staff]

Dedicated coach: Hartman - Mumma enjoys sleeping and cheering on the Ravens.



## Pennacchia accelerates with every game

ANDREW CHANEY

Retriever Weekly Guest Writer

Men's soccer defender Mike Pennacchia will have it his way or no way this season. The sizzling senior scored the game-winner against Mt. St. Mary's and then helped his team knock off N.C. State with an assist to junior Marcus Gross.

Pennacchia is off to the best start in his career with a team-high 8 points.

With his play against Mt. St. Mary's, Pennacchia took home America East Co-

Player of the Week. He shared the honor with Binghamton sophomore Bryan Arnault.

Pennacchia is a smart defender with a strong kicking foot. He is the kind of player who will dive on the ground for a loose ball when the game is on the line.

Last year this gritty defender helped his team secure a Homecoming victory with two great plays along the sideline.

This year Pennacchia has surprised the coaching staff with his offense. He scored two goals against Mt. St. Mary's, one coming off of a penalty kick.

The success he is having on offense to start the season comes as no surprise to the coaching staff. Pennacchia has the ability to score goals, but is most useful on the defensive front.

The coaching staff is delighted to have a healthy Pennacchia back in the lineup. With Gross and the other scrappy defenders on the field, this team could generate some high-scoring contests.

Andrew Chaney can be reached for comment at [sports@trw.umbc.edu](mailto:sports@trw.umbc.edu)

## Athlete of the Week: Derek McElligott

Jessica Prosen

Derek McElligott needs to score nine more goals during the remainder of his last soccer season at UMBC to overtake Ray Ford's 28-year school record (51) for number of all-time career goals scored in Division I games. McElligott has had a decorated collegiate career, earning both Second Team All-South Atlantic Forward honors and First Team All-Conference recognition.

"Derek's a natural finisher," says junior center back Marcus Gross. "He can score any type of goal at any time in the game."

This powerhouse forward came on strong at the beginning of last season, scoring 13 goals in the team's first 12 games, surpassing UMBC's historic mark for most goals scored in the fewest number of games. McElligott concluded his junior

year with a seventh place national standing for number of goals scored and tallied a total of eight multiple goal-scoring games in his collegiate career, four of which were during his junior year. He topped off his third UMBC season with the award for Most Outstanding Male athlete of the year.

"He keeps the ball well and has some quick feet," explains freshman midfielder Matt Watson. "More than anything, if he is quiet all game he will just suddenly get a goal. Putting the ball in the net just comes so naturally to him."

As a high school standout McElligott led Greater Grace Christian Academy to three national Christian school league titles and graduated with an impressive 188 goals and 51 assists. As a newcomer to the UMBC men's soccer team in the fall of 2001, McElligott quickly showed his expertise and dominated the field from the beginning. He earned NEC Rookie of

the Week honors on two separate occasions and finished third in the NEC and fourth in the South Atlantic Region for goals scored per game that year.

The men's team kicked off their 2004 season in full force with a 10-0 victory over the New Jersey Institute of Technology in the beginning of September.

"[The season is] going really well; we haven't lost a game yet," says Watson. "Beating North Carolina State was a real confidence booster, so it's looking like its going to be a really exciting season for us."

Come cheer on your Retrievers at the UMBC stadium as they take on George Washington University this Wednesday at 3 pm.

"Go out with no fear and play to our potential," comments Gross on how the team can continue to be successful. "If that happens, we'll have an amazing season"







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## IN THEATRES OCTOBER 8TH



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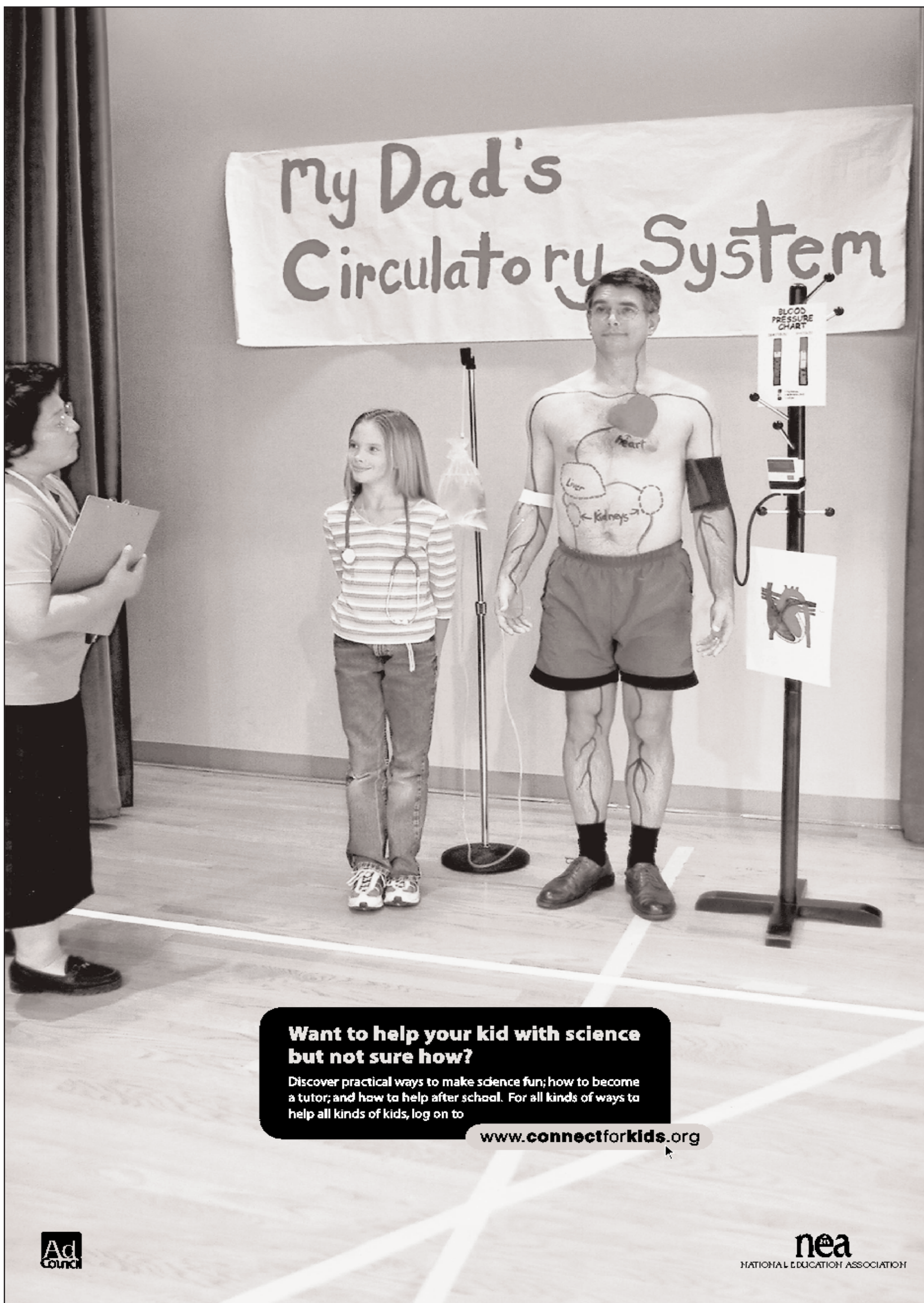
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# Sports

Cross Country at Navy Invitational  
Meet Coach Hartman-Mumma  
AOTW - Derek McElliot

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INSIDE

## FIRST STATE SPLIT

UMBC falls to Delaware, beats Delaware State.



Mark Finizio [Retriever Staff]

**Ready to attack:** Roula Adams prepares to shoot.

**DOUGLAS MYERS**

*Retriever Weekly Staff Writer*

Women's Soccer had Delaware on their mind last weekend, as they faced the University of Delaware Fighting Blue Hens and the Delaware State Hornets. They lost their away game at Newark, as UD silenced them 3-0. They came back to UMBC soccer stadium to

soundly defeat Delaware State 5-0.

For the second year in a row, the Retrievers were shutout 3-0 by the University of Delaware. The Hens outshot their opponents 20-3 last Friday night, putting constant pressure on UMBC's defense. The Retrievers could not withstand the withering press, and broke down at key moments.

Junior Allison Kendro got the only goal Delaware needed at the



26th minute. She was fed a cross from her freshman teammate Lindsay Boyd. The two insurance goals were scored by freshman Katie Beekman. At 38:57, Beekman took a cross to the left post from senior Christina Martinek. Towards the end of the game, a Martinek shot was blocked by Retriever goalie, junior Robin Babaris, only to knock off the foot of Beekman. The two goals were Beekman's first two collegiate goals.

Babaris made five saves on the day. Junior J.J. Golibart, and freshmen Kersha Walker and Amy Morrison made the 3 Retriever shots, but only Golibart's was on goal.

After such a tough game, women's soccer was able to have



some fun on Sunday. Everyone got in on the action as five Retrievers scored in a rout of Delaware State. UMBC outshot the hornets 31-2.

Senior Roula Adams scored her first goal of the season at the 10:23 mark, an unassisted shot to the left corner. The rest of the first half was quiet; the Retrievers made 12 shots, but couldn't get another goal in. Megan Jupiter got the ball rolling in the 48th minute off a pass from Kelly Fiorani. Freshman Casey Smith got two assists, feeding the ball to Alexis Rogowski at 57:49 and another to sophomore Andrea Perkinson two minutes later.

The final goal was recorded by freshman Aryn Epstein towards the end of the game: a shot to the right corner that was assisted by freshman Morgan Sachetti.

Robin Babaris made one save in nearly 75 minutes of play. Senior Kelly Lizon played out the

ALL PHOTOS MARK FINIZIO

game but faced little opposition from the anemic Delaware State offense. The Hornets fell to 0-2 on the season, with two consecutive shutouts to Maryland Teams (they lost to Mount St. Mary's 9-0). It was the second time in two years that the Retrievers shutout Delaware State; the last time was a 12-0 trouncing.

Women's Soccer is in action this Friday, when they face the Thundering Herd of Marshall University. The Herd are 3-4-2 as of Saturday, and have dropped their last four games. Game time is at 4:00, at UMBC Soccer Stadium. The Retrievers start conference action in two weeks, as they head to Maine on October 1st.

*Douglasmyers@gmail.com is a good way to reach the author.*

## Men's soccer beats NC State, remains undefeated

**AMIT CHAND**

*Retriever Weekly Staff Writer*

The Retrievers came out on the winning end of the toughest challenge yet of their young season, defeating the NC State Wolfpack 2-1 on Wednesday. The Dawgs never trailed the entire game after scoring on the first shot of the game. Both Retriever goals came before halftime while NC State failed to score in the first half. The win on the road keeps UMBC undefeated at 3-0-1.

The game's first goal came by way of junior Marcus Gross. Gross received a cross pass in the box from senior Mike Pennacchia and proceeded to head the ball in for the goal. Gross's goal, his second in the

season, came at the 4:28 mark. Pennacchia was named Am East co-player of the week for his efforts last week. The assist by Pennacchia was his fifth point in the last two games.

More than thirty minutes would pass before the Dawgs struck again. Junior Powell Cucchiella took a pass from freshman Matt Watson down the right side of the field and slipped it past the challenging Wolfpack goalie Jorge Gonzalez for the game-winning goal 36:29 into the game. The goal was Cucchiella's second for the season.

Junior Aaron King scored the only goal for NC State 10 minutes into the second half. The unassisted goal was the only blemish on a strong outing by junior goalie Andy

Marchica. The starting goalie totaled four saves in the game. Sensing that UMBC was threatening to cruise to victory, NC State put the pressure on UMBC's defense with 10 shots after the half. The Wolfpack managed a single shot in the first half versus four by the Retrievers.

UMBC's highly anticipated match up on Saturday against Old Dominion was postponed due to rain. The Retrievers will play their first home game in more than two weeks on September 22 at 3pm against George Washington.

*Amit Chand is a staff writer at the Retriever Weekly. He can be reached at amit1@umbc.edu.*



Andrew Schoenfield [Retriever Staff]

**Top notch:** Men's soccer triumphed in yet another game.