

It's almost baseball
season: a preview

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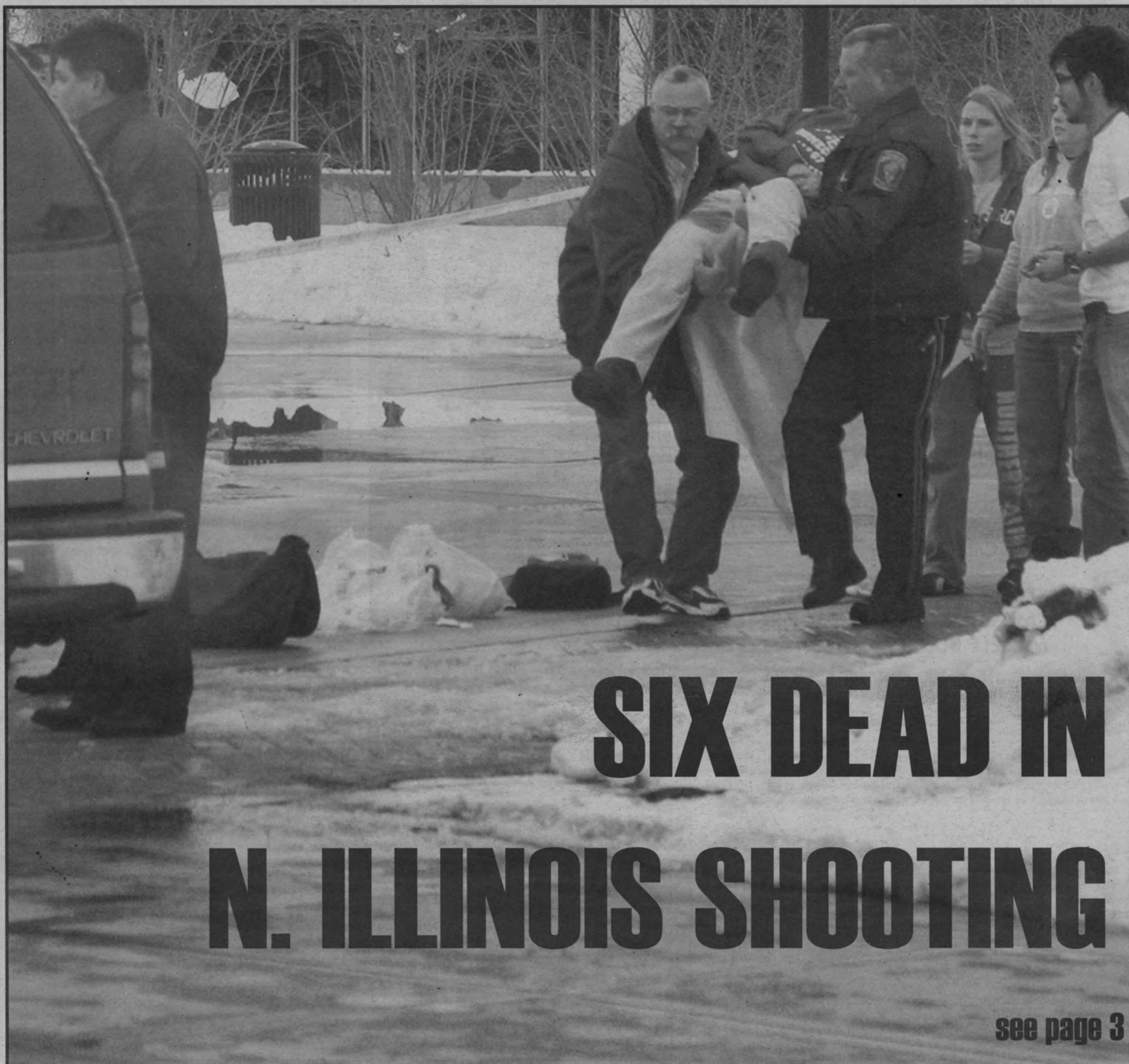
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A new residence hall is being constructed on Laird Campus. THE REVIEW/Ricky Berl

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'We didn't know what was going on'

Gunman kills 6, including self, on Northern Illinois campus

BY BRIAN ANDERSON
National/State News Editor

Five students were killed in a North Illinois University lecture hall on Thursday after a former student entered the hall and opened fire on approximately 150 students. The shooter then killed himself in the hall after shooting more than 20 people.

Thursday's shooting in DeKalb, Ill., marks the most recent major shooting on a U.S. college campus. The shooting at Virginia Technical Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va., in April 2007, was the deadliest in U.S. history.

The gunman, identified as Steven P. Kazmierczak, entered a geography class at around 3 p.m., CST, in Cole Hall on the NIU campus and opened fire. Kazmierczak fired more than 30 shots before reloading his weapon and turning it on himself. He fired approximately 48 shots.

NIU officials locked down campus minutes after the attack and by 3:20 p.m., a campus-wide alert was sent to students and faculty, informing them to stay where they were.

In a televised press conference, NIU police chief Donald Grady said Kazmierczak was respected by NIU staff, faculty members and other students. Kazmierczak graduated from NIU in 2006 with an undergraduate degree in sociology before moving onto the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign for graduate work.

Grady said there were no previous indications Kazmierczak would engage in activity like this.

Two of the four weapons carried by the gunman were legally purchased, according to CNN.com. Kazmierczak entered the lecture hall with a shotgun and three pistols. The pistols were hidden on his body as he carried his shotgun in a guitar case.

Four victims died at the scene, including the shooter, while two died after at a local hospital. Kishwaukee Community Hospital, located in DeKalb, treated more than 15 victims, most with gunshot wounds to the head or chest.

President George W. Bush asked Americans to "offer their blessings — blessings of comfort and blessings of strength," to the community at NIU, according to CNN.

Hillary Kowalski, a junior at NIU, said she was not on campus when the shooting occurred but after receiving a call from a friend, she decided to go to campus. She said campus was chaotic, as information and rumors were spreading about the shooting.

Kowalski said students were unaware if there was another gunman or if the gunman was actually dead. Additionally, some people did not even know a shooting had occurred.



Courtesy of The Northern Star, Jim Killam

The shootings at NIU came less than one year after the murders at Virginia Tech.

"We didn't know what was going on," she said. "I remember seeing some people were running and panicking and crying and some people just walking by because not everybody knew it."

Panic has been subdued but there is still a sense of fear throughout campus, Kowalski said. Some students went home the day of the shooting and have remained home, while others have been going back and forth to attend vigils and be close to others on campus.

"Right now it's a mix of emotion," she said. "There's the fear and the sense of loss and the sense of what should I do. And of course, there's sadness."

Kowalski said classes and sporting events have been cancelled for the entire week, and the only people returning to campus are the staff, who returned to work today. She said she knows students who would be disturbed if classes resumed anytime before next week.

"People need their time for mourning and grieving," Kowalski said. "People need to collect their thoughts and get themselves together. I think this time is really good for all of us."

"Some students, they need to be here."

John Brennan, the director of public relations for the University of Delaware, said the university has not issued a public statement about the NIU shooting.

However, university President Patrick Harker did contact NIU President John Peters after the shooting, Brennan said.

"President Harker sent a letter to the NIU president, but we didn't issue any other statement than that," Brennan said.

Amanda Walde, a NIU sophomore, said she received a phone call from a friend to inform her of the shooter.

Walde said she went to campus and offered rides to other students because the NIU bus system was shut down.

She said she felt like one of the first people to find out about the shooting. Campus was chaotic and people were confused as television networks had yet to pick up on the story.

Campus, filled with police activity, was congested and students had trouble calling others, Walde said. Rumors about the shooter and how many people were involved spread throughout campus, as no one knew exactly what had happened.

"No one really knew for sure. Nobody really had accurate information," she said. "Everyone was just really confused to begin with."

Aleksey Zozulya, a junior at the University of Delaware, said when he first heard of the NIU shootings, he could not believe shootings on college campuses were becoming such a common experience. After the shootings at V-Tech and Delaware State University, he said he wondered why people would still continue to do this.

Zozulya said while free and open access to lecture halls is convenient, he thinks it is odd that anyone can walk into lecture halls. With building security being so important, he said access cards could be the next step if people are getting hurt.

"We have them for housing, why not have them for lecture halls?" he said.

Brenna Schadeegg, a junior at the university, said she feels safe on campus, but incidents like this can happen anywhere.

Schadeegg said she signed up to receive e-mail and text messages from the university, but has yet to get one.

She said she commends the university for being proactive in its approach for campus safety instead of waiting until something happens here.

"At least they're seeing what happens at other places and trying to adjust the system as much as possible," Schadeegg said. "That's all you can really do and hope it works."

Jenny Franci, a graduate student

and residence hall director on campus, said one of her biggest concerns is the idea of a "copy-cat" killer. Franci said she has no idea how she would handle a situation like that on this campus.

"It scares me knowing that there is a possibility [of] having to deal with that kind of an issue," she said.

Franci, who is originally from Wisconsin, said she thinks the media overplayed the mistakes at V-Tech, but the NIU coverage was respectful and tastefully done. Additionally, she was glad the media did not sensationalize the shooting.

"I'm actually kind of glad the media didn't play it up because of the copy-cat idea," she said.

Walde said she collected herself before attempting to help others, but campus was still stricken with fear.

"It was just a very, very scary moment," she said.

A Closer Look

Shooter on NIU campus

- More than 25,000 students attend NIU which is located 65 miles west of downtown Chicago.

- The shooter was a 27-year-old graduate student in social work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

- There is no known motive for the shooting.

— compiled from CNN.com



Courtesy of The Northern Star, Jim Killam

An NIU student expresses disbelief after last Thursday's shootings.

Main Street feels effect of struggling economy

BY CHRISTINE GORDY

Staff Reporter

The rising cost of wheat is hitting Newark businesses hard, causing customers to pay higher prices for bagels, pastries and other similar foods.

Eduardo Cardenas, owner of Newark Deli & Bagel, said he has raised prices on his menu twice in the past three months.

An invoice from Cardenas' flour supplier, Lentz, documented wheat at \$9 a bushel, "an all-time high" on Sept. 14, 2007, according to Cardenas. Since that time, Cardenas said he received five more invoices accompanied with news clippings attributing the price jumps to increasing grain consumption in the international market and the weak U.S. dollar.

Cardenas said after three consecutive weeks of increases in the price of wheat, he fears what the future may bring.

"I am afraid to answer the phone, because it might be the flour guy again," Cardenas said.

Even the mention of the word 'flour' in Bing's Bakery piques the attention of front-end manager Tommy Guzzi.

Guzzi said his supplier's price of flour has gone up 50 percent in the last year, resulting in a 25-cent increase for pastries and Danishes, and approximately a \$2 increase for cakes.

Even though the bakery had to raise its prices, he does not think it will have a large impact on the number of sweets sold. Guzzi said although Bing's makes everything from scratch and uses up to 20 times as much flour as other bakeries, he does not believe the rising wheat price will cause the baker to lose business.

"I do not feel that there are enough bakeries in the area that we would have to compete with as far as pricing," he said.

Guzzi said he is not optimistic that wheat prices will

decrease any time soon.

Vincenzo Dellasmonica, owner of Margherita's Pizza, said he is also facing higher wheat prices, but unlike Cardenas and Guzzi, he cannot alleviate the problem by raising his prices because of competition.

"I cannot raise my prices with some guys charging only \$5 a pizza," Dellasmonica said.

He said he hopes prices will go down again soon.

"It is kind of ridiculous how the price of flour is going up," he said.

Carl German, a professor in the university's food and

resource economics department, said it is hard to pinpoint one cause behind the rising cost of wheat.

The problem could be contributed to energy costs, which are historically high around this time of year, German said, as well as the decreased value of the dollar, which makes U.S. commodities cheaper, increasing demand in the world market.

He also said countries with rapidly improving economies, such as India and China, are raising their standard of living. China has the largest population in the world and is taking advantage of the decreased value of the dollar by importing U.S. wheat, which causes competition and raises prices.

At the same time there is an increased demand for wheat, the supply of wheat has hit a 25-year low, he said.

"The wheat market is representative of a supply driven market, meaning the wheat price is expected to decline once the world supply gets back in line," he said.

German said he expects an increase in wheat production this spring in response to the rising demand from consumers. This should help lower prices, he said.

"There is not a shortage of wheat in general, only higher quality wheat," German said. "It is not that we are going to run out of wheat, but the higher quality wheat that goes into your pizza and bagels is in shorter supply than wheat is in general."

The rising price of flour is having a larger impact on business owners rather than consumers.

Sophomore Angela Amato said that although she noticed she paid a few cents more for her favorite toasted bagel, she was unaware of the flour shortage.

Amato said she doubts it will have an effect on how many bagels she buys in the future at Newark Deli & Bagel because the deli has little competition in Newark.

"It's the only place to get a bagel besides Dunkin' Donuts," she said.



THE REVIEW/Justin Bleiler

Local restaurants have raised their prices to reflect rising wheat costs.

Biden requests \$2 million to fund Del. crime fighting

BY JENNIFER HEINE

Senior News Reporter

Delaware is the seventh most violent state in the country, according to information released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden would like to change Delaware's ranking by having more of the state budget allotted towards legal services.

Biden requested approximately \$2 million more for additional lawyers and staff than Gov. Ruth Ann Miller proposed for the fiscal year 2009.

In a written response to the governor's proposed budget for the 2009 fiscal year, Biden stated he would like to see Delaware officials be more proactive and efficient in fighting crime. He also proposed getting rid of neighborhood nuisances, protecting senior citizens and lowering high costs of legal counsel.

The Department of Justice will need proper funding to prosecute crime, offer state agencies proper legal services and protect the public, Biden stated in the response.

"It is essential that we receive adequate resources to keep pace with the department's increasing caseload levels as well as meet the demand for legal services and our commitments to both the crime fight and consumer protection," Biden said.

According to the FBI, there were 681.6 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants, or 5,817 violent crimes in Delaware in 2006. In Newark, there were 183 violent crime offenses known to law

enforcement officials in 2006.

Lt. Brian Henry of the Newark Police Department said Newark is not as reflective of the high amounts of violent crimes in the state.

"We certainly don't see that ratio of violent crime versus population," Henry said.

He said last year in Newark the number of robberies and rapes dropped 30 percent and 15 percent, respectively. However, there was a small increase in aggravated assaults.

Rep. Nancy Wagner (R-Dover North) said that although she could not believe the FBI's statistics, she thinks being close to Baltimore and Philadelphia causes Delaware to have higher crime rates when compared to other states.

"We know there's a lot of crime when we read police reports, but I was surprised we were seventh in the nation," Wagner said.

Henry said Biden's proposal for more funding for crime would help court overloads. However, the request for more money would not have much impact on individual police departments.

"They can't handle all the cases that are presented to them which in turn gives more plea bargains," he said. "It seems to be more geared toward the prosecution side of it rather than the enforcement side."

Wagner said lawmakers should decide how to manage crime by speaking with those who directly deal with it.

"I think we have to look at the experts — the chiefs of police and the

state police — and follow their lead," she said.

Wagner said she thinks it is important for lawmakers to look at the causes of crime.

"If you look at the big picture, you say where does this stuff start?" she said. "It starts with young people who don't have the support system they need, don't have an education."

Wagner said this year, Delaware lawmakers do not have as much money in their budget because personal income taxes, corporate taxes and casino profits have all lost revenue. This means state lawmakers will have to cut or rearrange some of the items on this year's state budget.

"The traditional things that give us money in the state are all down," she said.

Newark resident Mary Hill said she thinks law enforcement officers should take their duties more seriously.

"I think some of the teenagers have too much freedom after-hours," Hill said.

Senior Ryan Hoover said he could not believe the high amount of violence in Delaware as reported by the FBI.

"I'm kind of surprised," Hoover said. "I haven't seen much violence this year."

However, Newark resident Thomas Kelly said he is not surprised Delaware is the seventh most violent state.

"Some parts of Delaware I wouldn't walk in at night," Kelly said.

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Internet phone keeps the lines open

Skype allows students to communicate through webcams and phones while abroad

BY BRITTANY TALARICO

Managing News Editor

Many university students take advantage of the numerous study abroad programs offered during Winter Session. These students come back for Spring Semester with new friends, fun stories, and often, a fresh tan. The expense of communicating with loved ones while abroad, however, can be a cause of concern. Skype is one of the pioneer programs in the Voice Over Internet Protocol movement, providing its users a free, easy way to make phone calls over the Internet.

Irina Gusin, account coordinator for Skype, stated in an e-mail message that Skype was founded by Niklas Zennström and Janus Friis in 2003.

"Niklas and Janus wanted to enable people to make free, easy calls over the Internet," Gusin said. "They wanted to push beyond cell phones and landlines and offer a way for people to connect with one another in new ways, taking advantage of the broad presence of broadband Internet access."

Skype was always a free offering to people everywhere in the world and is available in 28 languages, she said. The VoIP service made an impact in the United States in October of 2005, when eBay acquired it.

Gusin said that since Skype's creation, the number of users has been steadily climbing all over the world.

"Currently, there are over 276 million registered users worldwide which grew from 9.5 million at the point of its one-year anniversary in 2004," she said. "Of that, 20 mil-

lion registered users are in North America."

Skype-to-Skype allows users to talk with friends or family who are also registered on the program for as long as they want for free, Gusin said. Video Calling between Skype users is also free.

"By hooking up a webcam to the computer, users can speak with each other for a just-like-being-there calling experience," she said. "Whether this means checking in on loved ones who live far away, or keeping an eye on the family from an office computer, web calling is easier and more convenient than ever."

SkypeOut is a way to make calls directly from Skype to landlines and cell phones at an average price of 2 cents per minute, Gusin said.

"SkypeIn allows you to have your own phone number with almost any area code you choose," Gusin said. "So if your friends or colleagues who aren't using Skype want to call you by dialing a traditional phone number, you can still receive the call through Skype, no matter where you are."

"If you have friends, family or business colleagues in one location, you can choose that city's area codes so they don't have to pay long distance charges."

A Skype phone number costs \$60 per year, she said.

Other services Skype provides are Skype Voicemail, Skype Personalization and Skype SMS, Gusin said.

She said people of all ages use Skype every day to keep their conversations free and stay in touch with friends and colleagues any-

where in the world.

"Today we're seeing a growing popularity of Skype among college students, who use it talk to friends and family, and even for study groups," Gusin said.

Skype has partnered with leading consumer electronics manufacturers to market a wide range of devices and accessories to enable PC and non-PC users to benefit from Skype software, she said. Companies like Nokia and Sony have made the Skype experience mobile on such devices as the Nokia N810, the Sony Mylo and the Sony PSP portable gaming system.

"The software is easy to navigate and a good way to show parents how much money you can save on your own," Gusin said. "Also, features such as multi-chat and chat history come in very handy for study groups."

Sophomore Erin McAuliffe said she studied abroad in London this winter and her girlfriend, Senior Jo Huxster, introduced her to Skype.

"I used Skype every night for generally two hours, and I called my girlfriend and parents with it," McAuliffe said. "I didn't have to pay for any phone calls home because the Internet access we had in London was cheap."

She said the biggest advantage of Skype is it is free of charge, but she also enjoyed the video calling and the games offered to users.

"You can play games with people while you're talking with them," McAuliffe said.

Skype offers Checkers, Chess, Chinese Checkers and sketch interactive paint where users can see



what the person is drawing and draw with them, she said.

"I would be on the computer talking to Jo, and the people in my flat realized they could come over and play chess with Jo and talk to her, and they would steal my computer," McAuliffe said.

Skype was easy to navigate, she said.

"My mom is basically computer illiterate," McAuliffe said. "I installed it for her and showed her how to use it and she could handle it."

"The only time I wouldn't recommend it is if you have a slow internet connection, because there is a delay in conversation."

Huxster said she has been using Skype for three years and was introduced to the program by a friend.

"I started using it when one of my friends moved to London to study at Oxford University," she said. "Since then, I use it to talk to people here and abroad."

Huxster said she uses Skype to talk to people within the Newark community.

"I live off campus and one of my friends lives on campus, and he and I will talk on Skype," she said. "It is free, and we don't have the same cell phone plan, so we'll use it instead of wasting minutes."

Skype made it easier to be far away from her girlfriend, Huxster said.

"Erin and I would talk two to four hours per day," she said. "The program works really well and you don't need to know anything special to make it work."

Huxster

said her friend went on a world tour, and he communicated with her via Skype.

"He had a camera on his computer so I got to see different parts of the world," she said. "For [my friend], traveling with a laptop was like carrying a big cell phone with video."

Freshman Jeremy Zornow said Skype is common among Internet-savvy people, and it was one of the first VoIP systems.

"I was using it for about two months because I lost my phone," Zornow said. "I bought \$10 worth of minutes. You get three to four hours of talk time with 10 bucks." He said Skype has pretty low quality video because it compresses the images.

"[AOL Instant Messenger] has a lot higher quality than Skype," Zornow said.

Skype is a beneficial form of communication because it is less expensive than a cell phone or even a landline phone, he said.

"The idea is the more people who have a Skype account and use Skype, the more people you can talk to for free," Zornow said. "It is to talking on the phone as IM is to texting."

"It's making phones become almost an entertainment medium."

McAuliffe said she thinks Skype will continue to gain recognition.

"If it gains popularity, it should be successful," she said. "I just hope they don't start to charge money if it gets more popular, because that's its big appeal."



who's who in Newark

Bookateria owner feeds customers' knowledge

BY ELISA LALA

Copy Editor

Debbie Galla said owning a used book store was not always a dream of hers until 34 years ago.

"I read an article in *Mother Earth News* in 1974 about a man who opened a used book store business," Galla said. "Me and my husband thought it would be a good idea to open one of our own."

That is when the then soon-to-be university graduate opened Bookateria, a quaint used bookstore located on Cleveland Avenue, which houses a large collection of used books from romance novels to science-fiction works.

Bookateria, now a long-standing Newark landmark, is unlike any other local book store because of its credit system.

Rather than selling and purchasing used books, customers trade them in for credit which allows them to splurge on their next order. When they are finished reading those books, they can trade them in for new ones, Galla said.

If customers want to buy a book and do not have credits, they get it half-off of the original selling price, she said.

"The books in our store are always traded for credit, not purchased," she said.

Because of this convenient system, Bookateria has become a Newark gem, keeping it's customers coming back for years, Galla said.

Kevin Kerrane, an English professor at the university and a devoted Bookateria customer for approximately 30 years, said Bookateria has a unique niche, making it stand out from other local bookstores.

"The store is very user-friendly and quiet," Kerrane said. "They always have nice music playing and no other used book store sells soft covers in such good shape."

Galla said she prides her business on the quality of the books and the low-cost benefits for her buyers.

Kerrane said he respects Galla's commitment to good quality.

"Sometimes when I go to sell back a book they say it's too beat up," he said.

Mary Ellen Fish, a long time neighbor and friend of Galla, as well as a Bookateria shopper for more than 20 years, said Galla is knowledgeable of the books in her store and carries a large, diverse inventory.

"It's the best place for an avid reader like me because they have every book imaginable, but cheaper," Fish said. "You can get four for the price of one at Border's."

Bookateria also has many of the books on her children's summer reading lists, Fish said.

Galla said her customers are mainly Newark residents who enjoy reading and want a novel to relax with in the evening. University students are not as frequent patrons.

"The students are busy with their school work," she said.

Kerrane found a way to introduce Bookateria to his English students by giving his credits out as rewards.

"At one point I had more credits than I knew what to do with," he said. "So I asked if I could give my credits out to my students as prizes. Bookateria thought it was a great idea

because it brought in new customers."

Kerrane has also introduced the used book haven to his relatives.

"I let my grown kids use my credits, too," he said. "When I go in the store the employees ask, 'Which Kerrane are you?'"

Galla said Kerrane's daughter, a Newark school teacher, has brought her class into the store to browse the shelves.

Her customers, however, are not the only ones taking something away from the store. Galla said what she loves the most about owning Bookateria is getting to know the people who shop there and gaining knowledge through the diverse array of books.

"I like being exposed to so many different concepts from nonfiction, to science fiction, to religion," she said.

Galla said her favorite book is one she keeps in a drawer near the front of the store the "Tao Te Ching."

"It's a book about philosophy and religion," she said. Galla has also picked up a passion for yoga through a book at the store.

"I read a book on it and became interested," she said. "Now I am a certified yoga teacher here in Newark."

Galla said she hopes Bookateria will be a mainstay for several more years to come.

"We were the first book store like this in Newark and have been here the longest," she said.

Kerrane also has high expectations for Bookateria's future.

"I hope that they have a long and happy life as a business," he said. "Bookateria definitely helps to make Newark, Newark."

"I like being exposed to so many different concepts from nonfiction, to science fiction, to religion."

—Debbie Galla,
owner of Bookateria,
bookstore on
Cleveland Avenue

The new highs and lows of the stock market: Studies show stock trading poses threat of drug-like habits

BY SAMANTHA BRIX

Staff Reporter

The realm of addiction may be expanding to the financial world as studies show stock market trading can mirror drug habits.

Tisa Silver, an instructor of finance at the university, said trading can become addictive depending on if it is approached as an investor or a gambler. Traders with gamblers' mindsets often aim not to lose but lack any specific goals.

"When approached from a gambler's perspective, I believe trading can become addictive," Silver said.

While she would not immediately liken trading to a drug habit, she said similarities exist in the two behaviors in some cases.

"In some extreme instances, a person who trades stocks excessively may exhibit behavioral patterns similar to a person with a drug habit," Silver said.

Silver said drug users and traders are both on the prowl for a high.

"Because there are so many stocks available, one can always find higher highs," she said.

The Blue Hen Investment Club at the university allows students to manage and invest real money in the stock market.

Pat McManus, senior finance major and president of the BHIC, stated in an e-mail message that the BHIC has approximately \$1.11 million invested in the market.

McManus said the stock market is exciting and can sometimes become addicting.

"It is an incredible feeling watching a

stock that you've picked become a winner in the market," he said.

McManus said he distinguishes this sensation from the sensation involved with drug addiction.

"The stock market is generally used to create value and wealth," he said, while a drug habit is "physically and mentally detrimental."

Sean Keyvanfar, a junior finance major, is head of the retail sector for the BHIC. He said he checks the indexes twice a day, sometimes via Blackberry during class.

Keyvanfar said he likes the competition involved in the stock market, but would not label trading an obsession. He said trading could be compared to a drug habit when approached as a gambler.

"Nine-tenths of investors lose money and they enjoy their loss like a gambler does," Keyvanfar said.

To the successful 10 percent, trading is more about business and less about the losing high, he said.

"The amateur investors who are losing their money year-in and year-out are the ones who use trading as a mental high," Keyvanfar said.

Professor James O'Neill, faculty advisor of the BHIC, said he does not see trading as an obsession or addiction, but rather as a means of gaining income for a future purpose.

"The fundamental reason is to personally gain," O'Neill said.

He said stock market satisfaction comes from monetary gain and developing sensi-

tivity to the economy.

O'Neill said misconceptions about the stock market exist because many people do not understand what it is.

He said he does not believe trading is an obsession for most traders, with the possible exception of day traders, who are people who buy and sell on a daily basis.

"Day traders are looking for short-term gains, always in the market to buy or sell," O'Neill said. "It might be an obsession for these people."

Silver said stock prices change in response to new information, pressuring some to stay neurotically on top of their stocks to be successful.

"Learning the information and acting on it first can potentially provide the most profits," she said.

Silver said media attention to the stock market via television channels like CNBC and internet real-time quotes glues eyeballs to market changes and ensuing — sometimes obsessive — trades.

"The constant release of information and the subsequent fluctuation in prices makes some people trade obsessively," she said.



THE REVIEW/John Tansue



THE REVIEW/Melissa Day

Iron Hill Park was listed on several Web sites that listed gay hook-up locations.

Local park shut down after male solicitation incidents

BY KATIE ROGERS

Managing News Editor

Iron Hill Park, a well-known hotspot for men to "cruise" for sex, has been shut down by New Castle County in attempts to bring an end to more than a decade of sexual solicitation and trafficking.

New Castle County Councilwoman Stephanie McClellan said the park, which is listed on a number of Web sites for gay hook-up locations, officially closed on Nov. 1 due to underutilization and structural issues. The occurrences of sex and hook-ups were becoming more frequent and crimes were more severe at the time as well.

"The park is fairly secluded," McClellan said. "The trails are not wide open and large for runners, and it's a quiet kind of place. This is what ends up happening here and a variety of places."

In the time the park has been closed, plans for renovations to bring more people into the park have been underway. Ideas include a possible "bark park" for community members to enjoy with their dogs, as well as a disc golf set, she said. A community park watch may also be established in order to keep a closer eye on the nature of the area's usage.

McClellan said that as of right now, community members, some of whom feel the park should be permanently closed, have expressed their approval of the renovations and closure.

"The people who live around here have been dealing with trafficking and loitering in the area for years," she said. "Since we've closed the park, they've seen the problem go away, but we don't have any intentions of keeping it closed."

Cpl. Trinidad Navarro of New Castle County Police said in the

past, officers performed a number of operations in an attempt to end illegal activity at Iron Hill. Targeting the actual problem has proved difficult for police.

"Those who want to go there to meet people are not committing a crime," Navarro said. "Those who perform lewd acts are. Two men holding hands in a park walking on a trail is not a criminal offense. It's lifestyles chosen by those individuals."

He said although many community members have expressed their frustrations with the situation at hand, solutions are few and far-between. If more people utilize the park, Navarro said, he feels the number of crimes committed will decrease.

"This is as much a community issue as it is a law enforcement issue," he said. "We have been working with the community and we plan to continue our investigations of the park, but if there are more people in the park, there will be less offenses."

Sharon Collison, a resident of The Preserve at Lafayette Hill, a nearby neighborhood said she has continued to walk in the park every day since its closing and has witnessed suspicious activity at Iron Hill in the past.

"I've seen a lot of men walk into the woods alone, wait there awhile and then walk back out," Collison said. "I think they need to monitor the park more, and let people know they're monitoring it. I've seen what goes on but it doesn't stop me from going there."

Matt and Stacey Baxter, also residents of Lafayette Hill, said they have seen suspicious vacant vehicles and even found needles while at the park with their children. Matt said he feels the park's reputation for being a hook-up

spot for men gives the area a bad name.

"We don't use the park for those reasons exactly," Matt said. "That's how it has always been known."

Stacey said she hopes the area is cleaned up for all to use.

"They built a beautiful playground in there, but the park is still closed," she said. "I've seen so many vacant cars out there and it does make you nervous. We have four kids — a nearby park to use would be really nice."

Stacey said despite efforts to renovate the park, additional steps may be needed in order to bring more residents in.

"I'd like to have it be a family area, but I think it would take a lot to turn people's opinions around," Stacey said.

McClellan said she feels more park utilization is one of the only ways to bring about an end to sexual crimes in the vicinity.

"This has heightened and changed in the illegal nature here," she said. "There was an increase in prostitution, and we need to make enhancements to bring more people into the park. That's the only way we're going to turn this around."

She said an important point for the community to realize is that the closing of the park was not intended to drive people away. Every community member is entitled to use Iron Hill Park, which is set to re-open this spring, as long as his or her usage is legal.

"We closed the park to take the opportunity to make changes in order to bring more people in, and get a hold on the issue at hand," McClellan said. "So did we close the park to drive people away? No. We closed it to drive people in."

'Rollin' back' healthcare woes

New Wal-mart health clinics offer quick, alternative care

BY SARAH ESRALEW

Copy Editor

On Feb. 7, Wal-Mart introduced a plan to support 400 in-store, walk-in health clinics nationwide by 2010. The first installments of the initiative are planned for April in Little Rock, Ark., Dallas, Texas and Atlanta, Ga.

According to the press release, the co-branded clinics will work through partnerships with local hospitals in order to connect communities to names customers already know and respect.

Wal-Mart, which is the nation's largest company, first piloted the idea of walk-in clinics in September 2005 through August 2006 by leasing store space to outside clinics. Currently, the chain plans on standardizing and expanding the role of these health stops, under the name "The Clinic at Wal-Mart."

Customers will be able to access treatment for common ailments, preventive care, vaccinations, physical exams and other basic services.

Ken Miller, director of the school of nursing, said the consumer-driven demand for convenient health care has resulted in a spike in the number of clinics nationwide. The satisfaction rate for those who are treated in convenient care clinics is 83 to 90 percent, Miller said.

He said there are 850 clinics right now, and by the end of the year there will be 1,600 clinics. Miller said they are predicting with in the next five years, there will probably be nearly 5,000 of these clinics across the United States.

"Consumers wanted something that was convenient, something that was affordable and something that provided high-quality care," he said.

"They've got all three of those things in the convenient care clinics that are out there."

Convenient care clinics, which are usually staffed with nurse practitioners and physician's assistants, are the future in this country for health care, Miller said.

"They're serving a need, they're helping people," he said. "Thirty percent of people who visit these clinics are people who are uninsured, and if the clinics weren't there, they probably wouldn't be getting care."

"So I think we're filling a niche in that regard. But I think the clinics are something whose time has come."

Bethany Hall-Long, a nursing professor, said the United States has reached an all-time high number of uninsured people and in-store clinics are one solution for combating this public concern.

"I would love to see clinics at truck stops and highway stops centers where you have an interstate-commerce activity, where people actually are present," Hall-Long said. "Because sometimes people don't think about their health until there's a problem."

"So if we make services avail-

able, whether it's at a Wal-Mart or a Walgreens, then individuals are more likely while they're out shopping or buying their milk, to think, 'Wow, I haven't had my blood pressure checked in a long time,' or 'Wow, I haven't scheduled my annual mammogram.'"

She said this convenience gives people a chance to put their health at the forefront, especially when hectic schedules often leave little room for such concerns.

"As lives get busier, parents, children and college kids are involved in more activities," Hall-Long said. "We have jobs, we have multiple roles and many times with these multiple roles if you're not having a health problem, your health goes to the back burner."

Linda Bucher, nursing professor who works for the university and Christiana Hospital, said although people often associate clinics with being free, that is not usually the case.

"I'm sure that there is a fee for service," Bucher said. "Industry analysts note that most clinics have yet to turn a profit and they're referring to these Wal-Mart clinics. These in-store clinics need up to three years to recoup their start-up costs."

"You shouldn't be thinking that because it's a clinic it's free. I imagine they would also accept any insurance you may have."

Wal-Mart has projected a fee of \$65 or less for routine visits and some locations will be accepting insurance. In addition, the store is promoting a "price transparency" plan, which focuses on providing costs clearly and upfront.

Sophomore Brittany McCants said she would opt to go to her primary caregiver instead of "The Clinic at Wal-Mart."

The fact that Wal-Mart is organizing such a widespread healthcare initiative in light of its controversial reputation raises questions, McCants said.

"I feel like some people are very against Wal-Mart, like it's the devil," she said. "We take the medical field as having a lot of credit, so I guess Wal-Mart incorporates that, hoping to up their credit."

Hall-Long said as long as these clinics are meeting the required state laws, there should be no question of the effectiveness of "The Clinic at Wal-Mart."

"State laws are in place that provide for community protection, meaning you're being cared for by licensed expert individuals and that people are following basic conduct criteria for license and insurance," she said.

"They would be closed down and lose their license if there were problems in the practice," Hall-Long said. "Public safety is important, therefore, I have not heard where these clinics would not be effective."

X-Room offers guests a taste of technology

Courtyard Newark experiments with innovative hotel room

BY QUENTIN COLEMAN

Staff Reporter

In Room 114 at the Courtyard Newark-University of Delaware, guests can turn off the lights or change the temperature without getting out of bed. However, shutting off the alarm clock can pose a challenge. While chasing the elusive Clocky around in the morning can be a tough wake up call, the X-Room, short for "Experimental Guestroom," is at the cutting edge of hotel service technology.

Since its introduction as a fully-operational hotel room last October, the X-Room has been occupied for roughly 50 nights. The room does not deviate from the standard nightly rate, despite containing thousands of dollars in new technology.

"There are 17 or 18 leading-edge pieces of technology in the room," said Bill Sullivan, managing director of the Courtyard Newark-University of Delaware located on the university's northern campus. While technology in the room can be described as practical, convenient, or even wacky, the room gets plenty of positive feedback from its guests. One of the favorites is Clocky, a mischievous alarm clock that not only gives the sleeper a stern wake-up call, but also rolls onto the floor and hides in order to force the guest out of bed to catch it and turn it off.

Cihan Cobanoglu, associate professor of hotel, restaurant and institutional management, currently oversees the room and is largely responsible for pioneering the project. The basic idea for the Experimental Guestroom was derived from an exhibit touring hotel management conventions known as "Guestroom 2010."

"We saw the 'Guestroom 2010' at a convention," Cobanoglu said. "However, it was not a practical, working room. You just walked through and out the back."

The idea of a futuristic, experimental hotel room excited Cobanoglu, and working closely with Sullivan, the Courtyard

Newark-University of Delaware became the home of the X-Room. The X-Room incorporates many elements of the "Guestroom 2010" in an active, operational environment.

"Hotel technology tends to be behind the curve of current technology by a few years," Sullivan said. "The X-Room puts the technology guests have at home in their hotel room. If you have a flat-screen TV at home, then you will want one when traveling as well."

The X-Room also features several

"green" technologies, such as a high-pressure shower head which utilizes less water than the standard shower, and a blow dryer that uses 40 percent less power than a regular dryer.

The X-Room sports a device which allows the guest to control the room temperature and lighting at their bedside. Another new addition to the room is the Nintendo Wii system. Cobanoglu and Sullivan said the Wii is geared towards businessmen, in order to give them some time to jump around and

exercise. Another goal of the Wii is to provide the opportunity for competitions among guests, with a bottle of wine as the prize.

Sullivan said another new-age item soon to be introduced to the X-Room is the "power mat," which allows an ordinary surface to be transformed into a charger for your cell phone or iPod.

The X-Room is more than a guinea pig for hotel managers to test possible new technology. The room, along with the entire hotel, serves as a training ground for students.

Cobanoglu said exposure to the new technology is a great thing for his students, and it will be a plus for the resumé when it's time to look for jobs.

"I take my students to the room each semester," Cobanoglu said. "Our students are heavily involved with the hotel."

Around 50 students each semester fill roles around the hotel, from scrubbing toilets to management training.

Junior HRIM major Rohit Phatak said he has not seen the room yet, but feels technology in hotels is on the rise. Those studying HRIM should be familiar with upcoming designs and features of new-age hotel rooms, he said.

"Obviously, technology is advancing everyday," Phatak said. "So it's good to be exposed to it now."

The X-Room project is not only an opportunity for students studying hotel management. Several art students at the university have been asked to submit possible logos for the X-Room.

Room 114 is becoming more frequently requested by guests and garners public attention due to the fact it is available at no extra cost, and allows the opportunity to play with hotel management's newest technology. According to the X-Room's Web site it has already been featured in approximately 15 different publications and has its own video on YouTube.



THE REVIEW/Ricky Berl

The X-Room at the Courtyard Newark features innovative technologies.

Offices relocate for campus-wide renovations

BY JESSICA O'HARA

Staff Reporter

It is not uncommon to see many construction sights throughout the university's bustling campus. This semester, Smith Hall will be added to the list of these projects while undergoing extensive renovations to its heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

The result will force the Information Technology Services office to temporarily relocate beginning April 1. All services will remain in operation for the duration of the semester in new locations.

Leila Lyons, director of IT Services, said she does not mind the temporary inconvenience.

"User Services staff members understand that renovation work to campus buildings is a university priority," Lyons said. "The campus' physical structure must be maintained, so we don't mind being temporarily relocated while our building undergoes necessary renovation."

Though the Smith Hall air conditioning system is active from late spring to early fall, inconsistencies regarding temperature control have

occurred in the past, she said.

"We are very happy that the HVAC system in Smith Hall is getting updated," Lyons said. "The current environment is such that the basement areas are not well balanced with how much heat or air conditioning a particular area receives. Over the years, some offices have experienced extremes in temperatures that sometimes made working uncomfortable."

Smith Hall is one of many projects currently taking place on campus.

Robert Stozek, associate vice president for facilities, stated in an e-mail message that numerous projects and renovations are normal for the university.

The facilities department is constantly renovating across the campus to replace aging infrastructure and upgrade currently requested facilities to meet the needs of the university faculty, staff and students, he said.

"We currently have ongoing more than 200 projects of varying size," Stozek said. "This is a typical construction workload at UD."

He said because the projects

take an extensive amount of time, the work must be done throughout the entire year.

"This type of work requires intensive remodeling and installation of large equipment," Stozek said. "The amount of work involved cannot be done over Winter Session nor in one summer."

One of the larger projects underway is the new visitor's center on South College Avenue.

Louis Hirsh, director of admissions, stated in an e-mail message that the building is scheduled for completion by late spring with occupancy in June 2008. He said he feels the new and more spacious Visitor's Center will provide great advantages to the university.

"The new building will house the Offices of Admissions, Scholarships and Financial Aid and the Registrar," Hirsh said. "It will be great for prospective students and families. In one location they'll be able to get their questions answered about both admissions and financial aid."

"We will also have more space to conduct personal interviews."

He said one of the main moti-



THE REVIEW/Justin Bleiler

The IT-Services office will temporarily relocate on April 1.

vating factors behind the new Visitor's Center was to streamline and increase the coordination between Admissions, Financial Aid and the Registrar. The offices are presently in various parts of campus.

"Our staff had offices on different floors in Hullihen Hall, and at

certain times of the year we had staff members in Newark Hall, on Academy Street and in the building that houses the Institute for Energy Conversation, on Wyoming Road," Hirsh said. "It is very hard to function efficiently when staff members are so separated from each other."

Legislation refunds U.S. citizens in hope of stimulating economy

BY BRIAN ANDERSON

National/State News Editor

Recent legislation has been enacted by Congress and signed by President George W. Bush which sends millions of Americans tax rebate checks in an attempt to jumpstart the economy.

The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, which was passed into law by Bush on Feb. 14, provides tax rebates of a minimum of \$300 to individuals and \$600 to couples who are taxpayers with earned income of at least \$3,000. The bill also allows for additional \$300 rebates for each dependent child under 17 of an eligible taxpayer.

Representative Michael N. Castle (R-Del.) said the bill was a product of agreements between the president, Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), and the Republican minority leader, John Boehner (R-Ohio.). Though the House of Representatives and Senate both have a Democratic majority and the White House is Republican, both parties were able to cooperate and reach an agreement.

"It's about the first time I have seen all the parties sit down and agree to something," Castle said.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 385 to 35 and the Senate by a vote of 81 to 16.

Castle said there was little public debate regarding the bill, but there was internal debate, as questions whether the bill was affordable were raised. Any tax advantage or rebate would be added to the national deficit.

Even with these issues in mind, the bill passed because of what it could do for the economy in the future, he said.

"The decision was made that should happen and that this could indeed provide a stimulus to the economy," Castle said. "If it is given a chance to recover, it could produce more revenue than would be lost."

Laurence Seidman, professor of economics, said the government took the right step to try to stimulate the economy by putting money into people's pockets. Previous studies have shown that if the rebate is large enough, people will spend enough of it to help the slowing economy.

Seidman said rebates like these are a temporary policy that only gets used when the economy is slowing down. Once the economy begins to recover, the government must stop sending out rebate checks to avoid heavy borrowing for many years.

The size of the rebate, which will be sent out in May, compared to the size of the slowdown is what matters most, he said. The bigger the slow down, the larger the rebate must be.

Seidman said this should not be viewed as a one-time only policy. If the government reexamines the economy in a few months and the economy is still slow, another rebate check policy could be necessary.

"It's just like medicine to a patient. If the patient starts recovering, you can stop the medicine," he said. "If the patient stays down and continues to need the medicine, you need to keep applying to dosage."

This type of policy does not depend on people spending most or the entire rebate within one month, he said. Most people will spend approximately one-third of the rebate within the next half year.

Seidman said the severity of the slowdown is yet to be known. However, the government must be ready to issue another rebate check if this set of rebate checks is not enough.

"You need to be ready — I think it's likely that we will need repeated dosages," he said. "But this is a good first dosage."

Senator Joseph Biden Jr. (D-Del.) stated in an e-mail message that the rebate checks are the first step in the process of stimulating the economy. Confidence will be restored for some lenders, which will further help the economy.

Biden said the economy is still in trouble and more work needs to be done to help the future of the economy.

"Here and abroad financial markets are paralyzed, afraid of where the next bad news will come from," he said. "There is much more work to do to strengthen the long-term foundations of our economy. The crisis has not passed."

Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.) stated in an e-mail message that in addition to the rebate checks, this legislation provides tax cuts for businesses to additionally help strengthen the economy.

Carper said checks will be sent to Americans who are tax eligible, which includes seniors, disabled veterans and widows of veterans. Legislation like this, which involved much cooperation between the Democrats and Republicans, will help the economy in the near future.

"Is it perfect? No. Will it help? Yes, I think so," Carper said. "Perhaps the most positive aspect of the adoption of this economic stimulus package, coming on the heels of the extraordinary action of the Federal Reserve only a few weeks earlier, is to demonstrate to Americans that our nation's political leaders can still set aside our differences when the chips are down and quickly adopt a series of steps to help put our economy on the right track later this year."

"It's about the first time I have seen all the parties sit down and agree to something."

— Michael Castle, House representative (R-Del.)



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Courtesy of Bonaire 2008

The university will acquire an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle in April.

Water robots swim toward future at UD

BY SAMANTHA GRAYSON

Staff Reporter

A group of university students studied abroad this past Winter Session in Bonaire, on the coast of Venezuela. However, this trip was different from other study abroad trips. These students had the opportunity to study with autonomous underwater vehicles, one of which the university will be receiving this spring for research.

AUVs are unmanned mini-submarines that function like robots in that they can make sense of and respond to the environment. The robots are used for marine applications including homeland defense of important ports and harbors to find military mines on the seafloor. They also track for shipwrecks and fish within waterways. There are three different types of AUVs in existence. Two called Gavias and the original AUV, the Fetch1. The Fetch1 was developed by Mark Patterson, a professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, who attended the trip to Bonaire.

Patterson said he first developed the Fetch on his living room table with a friend in 1993. It was named Fetch because he wanted a robot that would go under the water and always come back without getting lost. Therefore it would "fetch" material and return.

He said Fetch is the oldest continually running AUV. It is similar to the Gavias, however, their looks slightly differ.

Patterson said he would like to give the Fetch a "makeover."

"I would like to upgrade Fetch's computer, sensors, and navigation," Patterson said. "I would also like it to continue to hold the record for the longest running AUV."

Geological Science professor Art Trembanis said the university will be acquiring one of the Gavia AUVs in April. The AUV will be used to address scientific research including mapping "dead zones" of low oxygen levels in and around Delaware Bays and measuring the flows of currents and sediment in and out of the coastal current that enters the Delaware Bay.

He said the AUV will be very helpful in getting information needed.

"The AUV provides an unparalleled way to gain access to the marine environment," Trembanis said. "AUVs are able to stay down longer and go deeper than traditional scuba diving techniques."

He said the trip to Bonaire was helpful in learning about the AUV and how they will be used at the university.

"This trip provided a full month of testing and demonstrating of the new AUV we will be receiving in April," Trembanis said.

He said the Gavia AUV has "plug 'n' play" modules on it, which are sensor and component systems. Plug 'n' Play means that these modules can be removed and replaced by the operator in the field allowing for the batteries to be switched out from a set that has been used and depleted to a new set that had a full charge without having to return to the lab. This asset makes the AUVs more practical than many other machines like it to use when research is being conducted.

The trip to Bonaire allowed approximately 16 undergraduate students to study the warm water of Bonaire and see the AUVs in action. With the AUVs students were able to study the Bonaire reefs.

Junior Kathleen McCoy, who attended the trip, said she was able to use the AUVs first-hand.

"We learned about the different parts and the ways that they collected data, such as where the side-scan sonar was located and how it was used to map the topography of the reef," McCoy said.

She said she believes the AUV the university will be receiving is going to be an important asset for research purposes.

"I am very excited that UD is getting a new AUV," McCoy said. "I find them very interesting and very important to conducting underwater research. It is also nice to know that UD will have the newest technology when it comes to ocean science."

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Applications due by March 3, 2008 for Newark AAUW Award

AAUW Award Nominations For Outstanding Senior Woman

The Newark Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) invites students to apply for its annual \$500 award to an outstanding senior woman graduating from the University of Delaware in May 2008. The award will be presented on UD Honors Day, Friday, May 9, 2008. The recipient will also be recognized at the May 2008 meeting of the Newark Branch of AAUW.

Principal criteria include academic achievement (with a minimum index of 3.25) and leadership in volunteer service, not only on campus, but also for the greater Newark area or her home community.

Applications are available in the Office of Women's Affairs (305 Hullihen Hall), on the web at [www2.lib.udel.edu/ref/aauw/] or by e-mail to Sandra Millard at [skm@udel.edu]. The deadline for submission of applications is March 3, 2008.

Submit applications, nominations, or questions to Sandra Millard in the UD Library at 302-831-2231 or via e-mail [skm@udel.edu].



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in the news

NORTH KOREA BEGINS NUCLEAR WEAPON DISMANTLEMENT

The former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory said Saturday that North Korea is serious about denuclearizing and is willing to contemplate a program such as that used to help former Soviet republics destroy their nuclear weapons.

Its main nuclear facility at Yongbyon, 60 miles north of Pyongyang, has already been shut down.

The high-security compound in North Korea has been compared to the national security research institution in Los Alamos, N.M. An excep-

tional working relationship between North Korean technicians and U.S. teams supervising the dismantling of a nuclear reactor, a factory to make nuclear fuel rods and a reprocessing plant, which was used to make weapons-grade plutonium, has been observed.

North Korean officials said they would not complete the dismantlement of Yongbyon until the United States completes the delivery of promised heavy-fuel oil and, more importantly, removes North Korea from an official list of state sponsors of terrorism.

80 PEOPLE DEAD IN AFGHANISTAN SUICIDE BOMBING

More than 80 people were killed Sunday morning in southern Afghanistan when a suicide bomber detonated explosives in a field full of men and boys watching dogfights near the city of Kandahar, police and government officials said.

The bombing, which also left at least 50 people injured, was the deadliest attack in the country since the extremist Taliban militia was overthrown in 2001 and replaced by a civilian administration.

Officials said the death toll could rise because many of the injuries were critical.

The bombing was the latest in a series of suicide attacks that have been attributed to the revived Taliban insurgency and its allies. In the past 18 months, bombers have attacked police and army buses, a group of legislators and schoolchildren outside a factory and a five-star hotel in Kabul, the capital.

The victims Sunday included the head of the local auxiliary police and 13 police officers who were watching the dogfights, which are popular in Afghanistan. The Taliban had banned dog fighting during the late 1990s because it involves high-stakes gambling.

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE RECALLS 143 MILLION POUNDS OF MEAT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has ordered the largest meat recall in its history — 143 million pounds of beef, a California meatpacker's entire production for the past two years — because the company did not prevent sick animals from entering the U.S. food supply, officials said Sunday.

Despite the breadth of the sanction, USDA officials underscored their belief that the meat, distributed by Westland Meat Co., poses little or no hazard to consumers, and that most of it was eaten long ago.

The recall comes less than three weeks after the release of a videotape showing what USDA later called "egregious violations" of federal animal care regulations by employees of a Westland partner, Hallmark Meat Packing in Chino, Calif.

About 37 million pounds of the meat — cuts, ground beef and prepared products such as meatballs and burrito filling — went to school lunch and other public nutrition programs, and "almost all of this product is likely to have been consumed," said Ron Vogel, a USDA administrator.

— compiled from the L.A. Times and Washington Post wire reports

police reports

MAN SEEN PEEPING IN WINDOW

A 46-year-old Newark woman called police at 1:01 a.m. Feb. 12 to report a man she saw peeping in her window, Cpl. Scott Simpson of the Newark Police Department said.

The woman told police she was in her bathroom, located in the front of her Blair Court house when she saw the man peering in her window, Simpson said.

The suspect ran when the woman approached the window. She later observed him attempting to open her car windows, Simpson said.

Police searched the surrounding area but did not find the suspect, Simpson said. The suspect is described as a white male, 45 and 55 years old, between five feet, nine inches and six feet, one inch, 195-215 pounds, wearing dark jeans, a white shirt and a black jacket.

UNATTENDED WALLET STOLEN

A 21-year-old university student called police shortly at 12:26 a.m. on Feb. 13 to report his wallet stolen, Simpson said.

The victim told police he left his wallet at the Sunoco station at 287 Elkton Rd., Simpson said. The victim told police when he returned to the station, his wallet was gone.

The clerk at Sunoco told police he gave the wallet to a customer who falsely claimed the wallet belonged to him.

—Josh Shannon

Anonymous group asks 'Why are they dead?'

Anti-Scientology cyber-group posts flyers across university campus

BY JENNIFER HEINE

Senior News Reporter

Flyers stating the Web site Whyaretheydead.net signed by "Anonymous" were hung last week all over the university campus. The Web site is an anti-Scientology Web site listing believers of the faith who have died.

The Church of Scientology refers to Anonymous as "a group of cyber-terrorists who hide their identities behind masks and computer anonymity."

Carol Bedgar, staff assistant for Residence Life, said all flyers must be stamped by Residence Life before they can be hung up around campus. The flyers signed by Anonymous did not get Residence Life approval.

"If it wasn't approved, a resident assistant or hall director or someone who would see them would take them down," Bedgar said.

Members of the anti-Scientology group Anonymous do not openly share their identities. Anonymous declared their hatred towards Scientologists after releasing a YouTube video in July 2007. Feb. 10 was a worldwide day of protest by Anonymous.

Whyaretheydead.net claims the Scientology followers died because of their beliefs.

Susan Taylor, public affairs director for the Church of Scientology in Washington, D.C., stated in an e-mail message that those people listed as dead on Whyaretheydead.net died because of natural causes or accidents.

In a statement from the Church of Scientology, Taylor said Anonymous justifies its actions against Scientologists by saying the Church members do not have free speech rights, but it is Anonymous



THE REVIEW/Ricky Berl

Anti-Scientology flyers have been seen around campus recently.

that suppresses free speech through "illegal assaults on Church Web sites so as to prevent Internet users from obtaining information from the Church."

The Church of Scientology said its members are being harassed through e-mail, telephone calls, faxes and the mailing of suspicious white powder to several Churches.

Mark Ebner, who was the first journalist to write about Scientology by joining the organization undercover, said he has no direct affiliation with Anonymous, but believes its members are well-organized and bring significant amounts of people to the anti-Scientology movement.

"[People in Anonymous] are very open-minded when it comes to religion and very vociferous about their opposition to dangerous cults," Ebner said.

In a statement from the Church of Scientology, it is said the "Communist Manifesto" by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" are Anonymous' guiding literature and "quite obviously, this group is not just anti-Scientology, it is anti-freedom of religion and anti-free speech."

Richard Hanley, professor of philosophy, said he finds Anonymous' tactics unusual, but can understand the logic in its responses to Scientology.

"I guess the anonymous part is kind of weird, but I guess that's in response to Scientology's very aggressive defense of their doctrines and their legal standing," Hanley said.

Scientologists keep track of all Web sites mentioning their religion as rumors spread of Anonymous disabling pro-Scientology Web sites, he

said.

"If the rumors seeking to disable Scientology Web sites are true, then I disapprove of that," Hanley said.

He said he thinks Scientology is "nonsense" but understands why people are attracted to the religion.

"It's a fairly recent religion and one of the things we know about Scientology is who started it," Hanley said. "That makes it a little bit unusual. But it seems to me it has a lot of the basic features that many religions have."

Ebner said he finds faults in Scientology and said the theology does not have a charitable arm.

"Scientology is designed as not so much as a religion, not anything like a religion, but more as a multi-level marketing scheme," he said. "You have to pay for any 'services' on an escalating scale."

Reverends of Scientology use mind-control techniques on their followers, Ebner said.

"They cut them off from the media, their families," he said. "They have a disconnection policy that is in effect."

Scientology has two aspects that make the doctrine totalitarian — clearing the planet so that followers focus on their analytical mind rather than their reactive mind and wiping out psychiatry and other manifestations of mental health care, Ebner said.

He described Scientology as an organization whose founder, science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, was solely concerned with making money.

"It's an evil, criminal mind-control cult with a goal of making money and wiping out psychiatry and what they call degraded beings," Ebner said.

A Closer Look

Scientology

■ Scientology is the study and handling of the spirit in relationship to itself, others and all of life. The religion comprises a body of knowledge extending from certain fundamental truths.

■ It is practiced in more than 125 countries and has millions of followers.

■ Famous Scientologists include Tom Cruise, John Travolta and Leah Remini.

— compiled from
Scientology.org

ONLINE POLL

Q: Do you think the media fairly covered Northern Illinois University shooting?

Vote online at www.udreview.com



editorial

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Media accurately covers shooting

Northern Illinois University incident not sensationalized

This past Thursday, more than 20 people were shot, killing six, including the gunman, in another college campus shooting at Northern Illinois University. The media was fair and accurate in its coverage of this event.

When covering such incidents, the media must find the balance between exploiting the situation and people involved and not giving the public enough information. For the shooting at Northern Illinois University, this delicate balance was reached. Important facts were shared in a way that neither disinterested nor left people in the dark.

The news coverage that was shared with the public in newspapers and on television was presented in a fair and unbiased way. Unnecessary data was not presented to make the important facts hard to find.

The public did not have to sift through the facts the media shared.

Furthermore, the information was not presented in the same way over and over again.

Although repetition is important when getting a point across and making sure the viewing public understands, after a while it dulls down the impact of the facts.

The media also did an adequate job in making the focus news coverage about the shooting and aftermath, and not the shooter himself. Often times when covering shootings, too much energy is used in sharing everything about the shooter's background and life story.

Too much media coverage on a shooter's life simply glorifies the shooter by making them notorious or infamous.

This can encourage copycat criminals. In this situation, only the essential information about the shooter was shared.

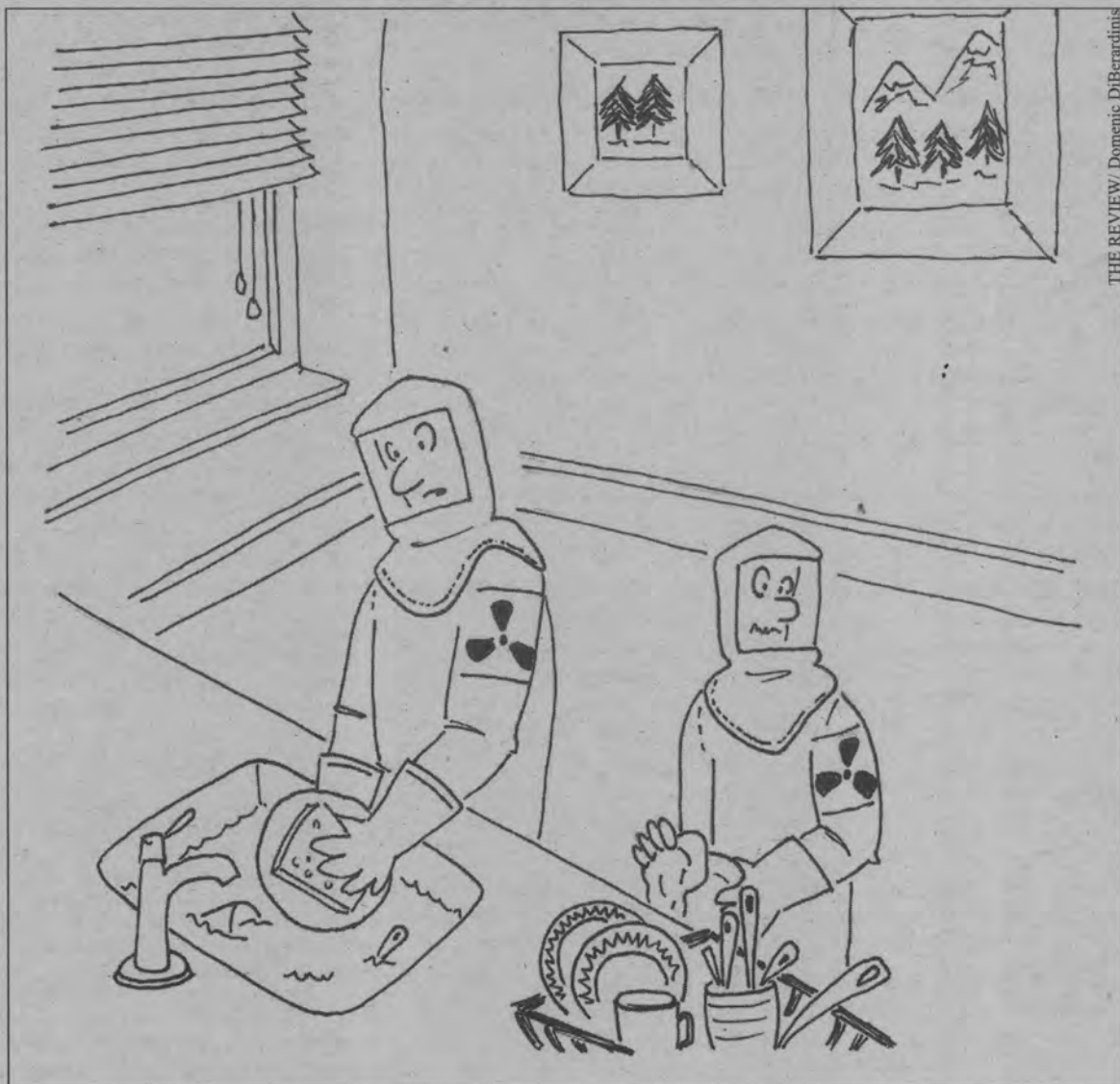
The media did not sensationalize what happened in their news coverage. Instead of flashy, over-the-top headlines and shaky videos, the information was presented accurately.

In the case of Northern Illinois University, the media did an accurate job presenting and sharing important information.

The next step to improve the media's coverage of such events would only be to cover them a bit more. Yes, over-repetition is a bad thing.

However, the information does need to be available.

The Newarker



THE REVIEW/ Domenic DiBerardino

"I hate it when mom makes nuclear nachos."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Take advantage of campus arts

As a new employee of the university — I am a communications specialist at the Center for Disabilities Studies — I have been interested in seeing all the cultural and educational events the university

has to offer. On Feb. 16, I attended a performance of "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," by the Harrington Theater Arts Company.

This talented group of undergraduate students did a wonderful job with Steve Martin's clever material. I encourage others to

attend the remaining performances on Feb. 22-24 at the Studio Theatre of the Louise and David Roselle Center for the Arts.

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The Review welcomes guest columns from those interested in writing.

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Tax rebates help the economy

A positive step towards leaving the recession behind

For the first time in nearly seven years, the government has issued a tax rebate for the lower and middle classes this upcoming July.

A rebate, intended for those who made between \$3,000 and \$75,000 in 2007, will have an opportunity to receive an extra bonus inside of their tax return.

The way it works is if you made more than \$3,000 and paid taxes, you will get approximately \$600.

However, if you did not pay any taxes you are only eligible for \$300 on top of your return.

Astonishingly, the vote to have this put into action was one-sided in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The House passed the bill by a vote of 385 to 35 and the Senate by a vote of 81 to 16.

This shows that the two sides, Republican and Democrat, can function together on some issues within the voting system.

The main reason behind this little extra bonus for the working classes is to help the economy begin to flourish once more.

Even though President George W. Bush's administration refuses to admit our economy is in a recession,

this seems to be a sign that they are leaning more towards the idea there is a problem.

By putting out the ideas of both a refund, and the hint that they would hope to see the money recycled through the economy, the administration has to be hoping for some sort of jumpstart to put the economy back into a situation where we are in the green and not the red.

Some of the downsides to this proposed plan, however, are that even people who have not paid any taxes are still eligible to receive the refund. Another major problem could arise if people do not spend the money, and actually save it going against the entire administration's plans.

But, in 2001, the last time this was attempted, the economy did seem to pick up, even if for a short period of time.

So we can only sit back and watch and hope that things will follow the same trends as the past.

Although this may not be the final solution to the recession, maybe it can be the stepping stone to get us back on the right track and get our economy to where we want to see it once again.

LAST WEEK'S POLL RESULTS

Q: If you knew of a Super Tuesday-like panel being held, would you attend?

60% Yes
40% No



opinion

13

New technology useless if not up and running



America runs on Durkin

Kelly Durkin

Problems with MyCourses and UDSIS cause students stress.

It is never promising to open your e-mail inbox and see a message from the university with a subject line that screams "Major Problem." But for the countless number of students who use MyCourses for their classes — myself included — that is exactly what greeted us on Valentine's Day.

Apparently, some files on the server got corrupted and messed up the entire WebCT system. Now, I know technology is finicky and sometimes things crash.

It is bad enough the platform crashed, what is even worse is that, in order to fix the problem, Information Technologies has to restore the system to its original, non-corrupted state from Feb. 10 — meaning all information put into MyCourses since that date, including student discussions, have to be re-entered.

Are you kidding me?

I doubt most university students wanted to type their discussions in the first time, let alone do it a second time. This is probably

the one and only time I'm glad I am lazy and a procrastinator and did not start on my online course until, well, I still haven't started yet.

Why? Because as of Feb. 18, four days later, MyCourses is still inaccessible.

How is this even remotely acceptable? Not only are a number of students on campus using the program as a supplement to the courses they take in-person — it is the only way students who are not on campus can access their courses. This includes distance learning students taking university classes from all parts of the country.

I registered for an online class because I thought it would be more convenient to learn sitting in my pajamas from the comfort of my room, rather than sitting in my pajamas in a classroom. This is not convenient. This is what most learned scholars refer to as "inconvenient."

And I cannot mention the word "inconvenient" without mentioning the epitome of online inconvenience at the university: UDSIS.

It has been a year and a half since UDSIS became the bane of my existence, and I still hate it. Registering for classes should be a joyous time in students' lives — it is like spring, an academic reincarnation, if you will. I can almost smell the flowers

just thinking about it.

But every semester, the system will inevitably lag and crash because there are so many students trying to register at the same time. Registration in real-time? Talk about a real hassle.

Just last month, I discovered that my academic progress report and transcript, whose presences I had so dearly missed and whose absences were a true annoyance, had reappeared on UDSIS. My progress report was incorrect and my transcript was not up to date, but at this point I am overjoyed at even the smallest of victories.

Baby steps, I tell you. Besides, it is not like we need the information on our progress reports and transcripts to graduate or anything.

For its part, the university is trying to broadcast that IT is doing everything it can to fix the problem. According to a message posted on the now-defunct MyCourses site, under another banner that proclaims "Critical Notice" in a lovely shade of purple, "IT staff have been actively engaged with the vendor (Blackboard) in resolving the problems with the WebCT server."

Actively engaged? That sounds like IT and Blackboard are playing a game of squash. After the system having been down for nearly a week, it doesn't seem like either side is being active enough.

In the meantime, the Web site lists ways for professors to communicate with students, one of which is through the universi-

ty's e-mail system.

Thank you for insulting my intelligence. Do you really need to tell us that we can communicate with our professors through e-mail? What is this, 1990? How do you think we were notified that WebCT was not working in the first place?

Here is an idea: the university has a department of computer and information sciences. Here is a final project if there ever was one: fix our online systems.

I bet they could do it.

As of 5 p.m. Monday afternoon, MyCourses is back up and running. Now that the system has decided to rise from the ashes, the fiasco should give the university cause to take a serious look at the online systems tens of thousands of students are accessing on a daily basis. It is absolutely unacceptable for students to be locked out of information for which they have paid a pretty penny.

The administration has dumped so much money into renovating the campus and building new Visitor's Centers and theaters, yet the students of the university are stuck with suboptimal programs like WebCT and UDSIS.

We have to deal with them every single day. Give us something that works.

Kelly Durkin is a copy desk chief for The Review. Her viewpoints do not necessarily represent those of the Review staff. Please send comments to durkin@udel.edu.

No justice in Kenya due to flawed government

Guest Commentary

Atieno Oduor

International pressure is necessary for improvement and safety of the Kenyan people.

The world has been greeted with shock at the horrific events unfolding in Kenya; the country is marred with bloodshed, thanks to its perverted leadership.

Kenya, known for its stability amidst troubled neighbors, is now suffering from the poor judgment of its self-seeking ruling elite.

Just at the crucial moment when the nation was making yet another positive stride towards democracy, came the incumbent President's decision to hijack the nation's presidency through a forced electoral verdict, a fatal decision that has plunged the country into weeks of post-election violence.

What was initially a spontaneous outburst against an electoral fraud has gathered momentum of its own and spiraled into a high-intensity tribal conflict.

Ultimately, the marauding mobs are merely finishing what Kenya's leadership started.

Ironically, the Army and the police are busy locking away terror gangs, while the nation's main perpetrators of injustice — the politicians — walk free.

They continue to unleash social, political and economic violence unchallenged against the masses.

At the height of Kenya's crisis, one would have expected that leadership of the country would be concerned with the magnitude of the human losses, but instead it was heartbreaking for the discerning majority of Kenyans that their leadership was engrossed in a bitter zero-sum game for political power.

It appears they would rather lead an empty nation than compromise on their political aspirations — which have failed to protect or provide for innocent Kenyans.

While the current mediation process, led by Kofi Annan, aims at reconciling differences at the elitist level, there is yet to be a mediation process between ordinary Kenyans and the leadership. For too long Kenyans have been subjected to mediocre leadership which denies their basic human rights.

Even after numerous elections deemed free and fair, the majority of Kenyans continue to fair worse with each subsequent

year. There is a catastrophic trend of increased mass impoverishment.

Despite lauded economic growth, most Kenyans toil night and day in depressed living standards. A lifetime of poverty has left most families unable to stand on their own feet.

Traditional family support structures continue to crumble thereby placing a heavy burden on the few working Kenyans.

The extent of poverty in Kenya has manifested itself in recent crisis with the poorest neighborhoods serving as the hot-bed of elitist politically-instigated tribal violence.

Already suffering from economic fragmentation, disease and a basket-full of imposed social injustices, it took only one wrong move for the nation to explode. Hence, in the on-going reconciliatory efforts questions of leadership aggression, excesses and incompetence against the people need to be addressed.

The governance structure conditions the majority to be powerless victims of the government. It is a system in which great privilege is given to those determined not to bow to the rule of law. A system where the

security exists as a disciplinary agency for those who agitate against the interests of the ruling government.

Civilians are expected to be passive spectators of social injustices unleashed by the status quo.

There cannot be peace where a few individuals walk away with mass murder.

The laments of innocent civilians are ignored unless there is international pressure. It is a flawed system that facilitates elite opportunism and aggression.

Kenyans, like the rest of Africa, realize that in the long run things cannot continue as they are, key national institutions need to be reformed.

It is imperative that the judiciary should be an independent institution whereby the appointment of justices of the supreme court are subject to parliamentary and legislative vetting in the spirit of checks and balances.

In order for justice to reign, the executive branch should no longer be able to monopolize sensitive state institutions such as the judiciary, media and the electoral commission through the unfettered appointment of cronies.

Atieno Oduor is a senior at the university. His viewpoints do not necessarily represent those of the Review staff. Please send comments to atieno@udel.edu.

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see page 24

John "Iggy" Taylor

*a Delaware man's
claim to 'Idol' fame*

see page 18



The first
male voice

delaware**UNdressed** see page 21

Facing entertainment's most notorious judges

BY EMILY RILEY

Copy Editor

Last September, Alfredo Austin stood among countless individuals. Some were dressed in drag, some in their Sunday best and everyone else somewhere in-between. Despite this motley gathering, Austin and company had one common goal — to become the next American Idol.

"The wristbands to get in and try out, that's what we were all waiting for," Austin says. "We got there at 6 a.m., just for those wristbands."

Austin got the wristband, and something more — a chance to sing before Simon, Paula and Randy.

Austin, a member of the university's Class of 2007 and a 2002 graduate of Christiana High School, made the trek last fall with thousands of other hopefuls to every undiscovered superstar's Mecca: the "American Idol" tryouts, this time at Philadelphia's Wachovia Center.

"I would have never done it if it weren't in Philly," he says. "I love to sing but New York is just too far to go."

But fans rallied around him and persuaded him to take the plunge.

"Everyone and their mom kept saying, 'Fredo, Fredo, try out man!' so I finally decided I would go for it," Austin says.

The encouragement and gusto from friends and family stems from a multi-faceted personal history of music and song-writing, he says. His passion for music-making began as a child in Connecticut and has evolved since then.

"Back in the day, I was singing in church choirs since I was 5 years old," he says with a smile. "I've always loved to sing."

After moving to Delaware in eighth grade, Austin's vocal repertoire expanded, especially as he reached high school. His musical activities ranged from Christiana's upper-level choir classes to roles in musicals, notably "The Wiz."

"That was definitely the funnest one I've ever done," he says.

After graduating, Austin attended the university, where he became the director of Vocal Point, an a cappella group on campus.

"I really love the concept of making music without instruments, just singing," he says.

Trying out for "Idol" was a seemingly similar experience. No back-up music is provided, but every audition is set to the tune of beating hearts and the hum of whispering contestants. For Austin, the crescendo was

contained in the producers' final decisions.

"If the judges like you, they'll let you sing longer just to see if you make a mistake," he says. "Some people will be doing great and then they get to the chorus and try to do crazy things with their voices and it's just bad. I cut myself off when I thought I was done."

After successfully making it through the first round of auditions, Austin readied himself to try out before another panel of "Idol's" producers.

"I sang 'Virtual Insanity' by Jamiroquai," he says. "I think they were expecting me to sing something by Boyz II Men or Stevie Wonder, something by a black man."

After receiving the green light again, Austin continued on to the final test before reaching Simon, Paula and Randy, where he sang Joan Jett's "I Love Rock N' Roll" before the show's producers. This would be his last performance for "American Idol."

"They said I wasn't enough of a performer," he says. "The dude before me was absolutely horrible and they let him go through. I guess they [have to] make good TV."

Austin says the producers let less talented and wildly-dressed participants through to judging in order to provide an entertaining contrast to the real contenders.

"There was someone stripping while they were singing and they got through," he says. "I saw one guy in this leotard. I mean, it was a figure skating outfit with tights and moccasins. They knew he sucked but they let him through."

Austin says although he gave his best shot, his luck may have been better somewhere outside of Philadelphia.

"Maybe if I went to Nashville and sang my style there, I would have had a better shot because it would be something they aren't used to," he says.

Now that all the anxiety and commotion of auditions has come and gone, Austin says he is happy to still be able to create and produce music. His career in the industry has now landed him behind the scenes in two area recording studios, allowing him to enjoy his passion and enhance his talents as a songwriter.

"I just want it to still be fun," he says.



Courtesy of John Taylor

John "Iggy" Taylor's song will be featured on "American Idol's" *Hits They Missed!*

Hockessin resident's song makes the 'Idol' top ten

BY LIZ SEASHOLTZ

Features Editor

At the Season Six finale of "American Idol," Jordin Sparks belted out "This Is My Now," the latest all-original tune to become the "Idol's" first single once the competition ended. "This Is My Now" was the winner of a nation-wide songwriter competition, yielding 40,000 entries.

John "Iggy" Taylor, a Hockessin resident who entered his own song into the competition, thought his tune was seemingly lost in the musical abyss of "American Idol." However, little did he know that "Idol" producers had plans for his musical genius and that of several more of the overlooked entries.

"I kind of forgot about it," Taylor says, "but then several months later I was contacted by a publisher in Hollywood that they heard my music and wanted to put it on an album, and I said, 'Sure.'"

The 10-song album titled *Hits They Missed!* was released early this winter, featuring Taylor's foot-tapping tune, "My Turn This Time," a country-sounding song about pushing forward in "a world that often says no."

Taylor, who is in his 50s, has been playing piano, organ and bass guitar since he was a teenager, when he attended Claymont High School. Since then, he has made five albums under the one-man band of Bad Betsy.

Taylor says many people think Bad Betsy is a multi-person band when, in fact, it's just him. The band name is the result of a sudden inspiration.

"I had this stupid little doll sitting next to my amplifier so I named her Betsy," Taylor says. "Every time I would hit a note she would fall over for some reason, so I just yelled at her one day. I yelled, 'Bad Betsy!' and then I was like, 'Whoa, I need to name my band this.'"

Even more interesting, the origins for his nickname, "Iggy," go back to when he was a baby.

"My father named me Iggy before I was even born," Taylor says. "He didn't like everyone referring to me as 'it' so he named me Iggy."

Taylor's parents were especially influential to his music career. He first started writing music because they were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Taylor says dealing with their illnesses was difficult and to cope with his frustration and grief he turned to his high

school love of music.

"To put it bluntly, I was going crazy dealing with different stuff every single day," Taylor says.

During this time, a friend decided to upload Taylor's music to the Internet, where his songs became popular and "the phone started ringing." Taylor says in the beginning, he was hesitant to distribute his music.

"I was surprised and embarrassed at first," he says. "I didn't want to share my music because it was more personal. I was like, pouring my heart out, and I had never written a song before."

When his parents passed away, Taylor was starting to make money off Internet sales of his music. He decided to donate all of it to the Alzheimer's Association, but problems arose after he spoke publicly against nursing homes.

"Everything was going good until I went on the radio and said that nursing homes were like prisons," Taylor says. "As soon as I said that, they didn't want to talk to me anymore."

He says Bad Betsy has received considerable recognition in the area and nationally, and chuckles while describing his most popular song.

"The one that has made me the most money, it's kind of amazing, is this stupid song called 'I Like Beer,'" Taylor says. "It's all over the Internet, and I get paid off the different downloads. It's crazy, of all the songs, that's the one that's making me the most money."

For now, Taylor is busy rocking out in Too Little Time, a band that plays in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Taylor says they are selective about what venues they play — for now they are only playing at concert-type venues where they play all original rock 'n' roll. He says Too Little Time is "definitely not a cover band." Currently, Bad Betsy is on the backburner.

"Bad Betsy is kind of my alter ego," Taylor says. "I doubt I'll go back because this band is keeping me busy."

Taylor also cooks hamburgers at several local hamburger restaurants and enjoys driving his sports car around Hockessin.

"I like to race it every now and then," he says. "You'll see me terrorizing the neighborhood."

He also is a fan of American Idol, the show that plunged him into national recognition.

Taylor says he lives by a single philosophy — "if it's to be, it's up to me," which he clarifies to mean basically anything one wants in life, go out and get it.

"Here I am, 50 years old and out playing in a rock 'n' roll band," he says. "Who would figure?"



Courtesy of Alfredo Austin

Alumnus Alfredo Austin waits in line at the Philadelphia auditions for "American Idol."

Through the picket lines and reruns

Del. writer recounts experience living through the strike

BY TED SIMMONS

Staff Writer

Had the Writer's Strike happened at any other time, Delaware resident Bill Marsilii might have found himself not only out of work, but out of luck as well. Marsilii was still riding the success of his first major screen play, 2006's "Déjà Vu" featuring Denzel Washington, when the Writers Guild of America began its strike nearly three months ago. He was only able to stay financially afloat due to the continuing residual checks he was getting from the movie's DVD sales.

"It's through a grace of God that I could sustain," Marsilii says. "I know people who, as soon as the strike started, the faucet turned off."

Marsilii is currently back at work. The WGA reached an agreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers on a new contract on Feb. 12.

Marsilii says it was a rough three months for some writers leading up to the signing.

"I met people at the picket lines who were really suffering on a daily basis," Marsilii says. "People were losing income and really taking a hit."

The new agreement gives writers part of the revenue from Internet streaming and downloading, a medium writers see as the next revolution in television.

However, Marsilii says he and his guild had to make some concessions as well, with film writers losing the very residuals that kept Marsilii paid during the strike.

"That was a large blow to feature film writers," Marsilii says. "On the other hand the gains were significant and worth striking over. I think everyone agrees the Internet is the future of entertainment in general. I remember you needed TV with rab-



Courtesy of Bill Marsilii

Bill Marsilii's screenplay for "Déjà Vu" kept him afloat during the Writers' Strike.

bit cars to get cable — soon cable will be replaced by an Internet line where your computer is the main way you watch television."

With "Déjà Vu's" box office totaling nearly \$180 million, a return to unemployment had Marsilii feeling surprisingly "heart-sick." He says a strike meant not only that he was out of work, but that the same producers he was collaborating with one day, he was at odds with the next.

"The danger is that personal, working relationships could get poisoned by hard feelings, ill-will or resentment," he says. "In an industry that depends on creativity, it's very dangerous when labor and contracts get in the way. Once those things are resolved it's hard for those people working originally to get that

momentum and creativity back."

Marsilii says he first started writing at St. Edmond's Academy in Wilmington. It wasn't until his college days at New York University that he considered writing screenplays. After his first two scripts failed to develop, he paired up with writer/producer Terry Rossio ("Pirates of the Caribbean" trilogy), who sent Marsilii the idea of a time machine that could let you look into the past. The two later developed the idea into "Déjà Vu."

The strike then provided a dramatic turn for Marsilii, as the same momentum he was carrying from "Déjà Vu's" success was given months to subside.

He says while screenwriters like himself are now getting to work after months of reruns and 50 briefcases worth of "Deal or No Deal," the immediate effects of the strike's resolution will not be seen on the big screen.

"Now that the strike is over, there's sort of this feeling that the Red Sea is rushing back in to fill the gap," Marsilii says. "I think the effects have already been seen in TV."

Although summer and Christmas schedules might be unusually thin this year as blockbusters such as "Star Trek" and "Angels & Demons" have been pushed back to 2009, Marsilii says he shouldn't be slowing down and his phone has already been ringing. He's working on three scripts, including a project for Disney that Marsilii says has made him anxious to get back to work.

"I'm elated that the strike is over," Marsilii says. "I have a feature project at Disney and within minutes [of the strike's resolution] I contacted the producers and said, 'Great, our parents aren't fighting anymore, let's get back to work.'"

Marriage creates perfect musical chemistry

BY CAITLIN WOLTERS

Copy Editor

It started with a church bus ride and ended with a fusion of Jack Johnson and Norah Jones.

Jenny and Tyler Somers, December 2007 and May 2007 graduates, respectively, realized right away they were perfect for each other, and not just in the "I-knew-you-were-the-one-for-me" kind of way. They both had a similar passion for something that would help create chemistry in their relationship — music.

The newlyweds have recently released their first CD as an independent duo, *A Prelude* — an acoustic combination of folk, jazz and pop — after singing together for more than four years. Jenny says both she and Tyler began performing at an early age because of their strong musical backgrounds.

"My parents were both very musical," Jenny says. "I started singing in choirs when I was 8, and in public when I was 11. I started writing songs a lot in high school and then we met each other in college and played together."

Tyler says he also had strong roots in music, particularly through his father.

"My dad is a jazz piano player and he leads a choir at a middle school and high school," Tyler says. "I grew up around it, always doing something musical."

They also had the opportunity to expand on their musical interests as students on campus, Jenny says. Jenny was a member of the Deltones, an a cappella group on campus that helped her fine-tune her voice, while Tyler was a double music minor in voice and music management studies. His music management minor was helpful in figuring out the business of releasing their independent CD.

Jenny says they realized how intimate it was to write songs together so they took their musical collaboration to the next level.

"Music is like a spiritual aspect of life," she says. "We played together my freshman year and developed a friendship. I recorded back-up vocals to a song he had written. But if Tyler didn't play guitar, I would still want to be married to him."

Tyler says much of the work to make the record was done by them and by people the couple knows in the industry.

"We pretty much do everything by personal contacts," he says. "Most of the recording was done by me. It was recorded in Nashville. I got that reference through a friend. It just works out like that."

Despite the extra work it is to release an independent CD, it was the right decision for their musical talents, Jenny says.

"Some artists lost control over what they're doing," she says. "I would much rather stay independent."

Tyler says he also wants to maintain direction over what he and his wife are making in the studio. They want the freedom to make their art the exact way they had always pictured it.

"We didn't want to have the recording label dictating the image we have to have,"

Tyler says. "We don't want to be portrayed as something we're not."

Jenny says the reason the couple decided against trying to release a mainstream album was because of the unique messages in the songs' lyrics.

"It has a real message, music that makes a difference," she says. "We're discouraged by the standard of beauty and culture that promotes superficiality."

Jenny says their message is exemplified in the song "American Dream," which was written about superficiality in today's society. "Why can't everything be as real as you are to me? / Why doesn't everyone say just what they mean? / Why must we hide behind smiles we strain to find? / Why can't everything be exactly as it's meant to be?"

Senior Beth Cohn, a member of the Deltones and friend of Jenny and Tyler's, says they are inspirational because of the way they integrate their talent together and still manage to be happy as a couple.

"It's pretty amazing, just because they were getting through school and dating and still stand to work with each other," Cohn says. "They're so talented and had enough drive to put it to good use. I'm proud of them."

Tyler says he and Jenny are moving to Nashville in June to continue to pursue a musical career in a place that offers more opportunity than the Newark area.



Photos courtesy of Jennyandtylerrmusic.com

Newlyweds Jenny and Tyler Somers recently released their first CD, *A Prelude*.

"We think there's more of an opportunity for an original music scene," he says. "There's more of an opportunity to take our music and not put it in Nashville, but among the nation. We want to meet people who want to help us out."

After their release it has become clear the couple wants to attempt a musical career on a larger level, Jenny says.

"We want to pursue it as much as we can," she says. "We want to do this as a job and tour. It's a lot of work and will take a lot of years."

Cohn says she thinks Jenny and Tyler will inspire other students who want to record a CD someday.

"I hope more students recognize this is a possibility," she says. "As long as you kick your own butt you can do amazing things outside of school."



A 'Jump' down from 'X-men' success

"Jumper"

New Regency Pictures

Rating: ★★ (out of ★★★★★)

For fans of the "X-Men" series, teleporting is not unexplored territory. The success of the aforementioned mutants may get some moviegoers excited about "Jumper," which may as well have been titled "Nightcrawler Spin-Off With Different Characters," but is not up to par with the successful marvel series.

In "Jumper," Hayden Christensen plays David, an average guy who discovers his ability to teleport while being bullied in high school. Upon realizing this power, he runs away from his abusive father to rob banks and travel the world until he is confronted with another "jumper" and a team of religious fanatics, headed by Samuel L. Jackson. The group is dead set on killing anyone like David.

The movie has all the elements of an entertaining story — a main character with superpowers who comes from a broken home, a partner opposed to teamwork, a loosely-sketched love interest and a religious fanatic trying to kill them all.

It's a shame the writers of the film couldn't put the pieces together in a more compelling way.

For approximately one hour, there is nothing to this film besides the fact that David can teleport, frequently traveling to exotic locations and easily stealing money.

He spends far more time satisfying his desires to travel and not nearly enough doing anything related to his partner, enemies, family or anything else that advances the plot. Unfortunately, great scenery doesn't make for a great movie.

As always, Jackson plays a convincing bad-guy. Although his bright silver hair seems a bit out of place, his calm yet psychotic demeanor is just as effective as ever. It's a shame the same cannot be said for his supporting cast.

Christensen's chemistry with Rachel Bilson, who plays Millie, his high-school-crush-turned-girlfriend, is virtually non-existent.

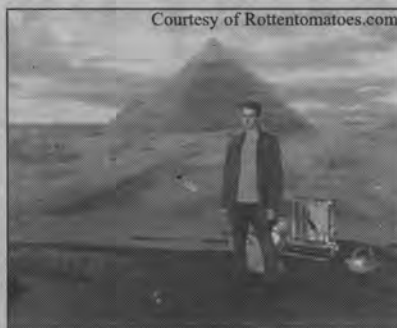
Despite a dragging middle section, however, the last 20 minutes of the flick are filled with non-stop excitement.

Impressive special effects throughout the film are best used during an action-packed sequence involving each character teleporting and fighting in locations that change every three or four seconds.

Though the effects are a visual treat, the filmmakers wait far too long to display them and instead choose to make audiences sit through an hour of David proving that he can, in fact, teleport.

In the end, watching the trailer for "Jumper" is just as effective as the movie itself.

— Adam Asher, aasher@udel.edu



A successful departure from rude to romantic

"Definitely, Maybe"

Universal Pictures

Rating: ★★ 1/2 (out of ★★★★★)

The trouble with most chick flicks is they're not about people. They're about characters — two-dimensional cut-outs living out dramatic romances that have no real-world counterparts.

"Definitely, Maybe" stands out against this backdrop of fairy-tale farce for its attempt to make a different statement. Instead of another variation on the tired boy-meets-girl anecdote, writer/producer Adam Brooks ("Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason") uses romance as a means to present a candid look at life through the eyes of a college graduate on the brink of growing up.

Ryan Reynolds is surprisingly convincing as William Hayes, the disillusioned father of 11-year old Maya (Abigail Breslin, "Little Miss Sunshine"). When Maya's first sex-ed class and the impending divorce of her parents prompt questions of Hayes' past — in part to prove that Maya was, in fact, a planned pregnancy — Hayes is forced to tell, literally, the story of his life.

Although the writing is at times contrived — Hayes telling Maya she's his happy ending, for example — audiences can't help but sympathize with the

leading man, whose naively optimistic expectations for life suffer endless beatings at the hands of the powerful women he loves. Brooks successfully avoids the serendipitous happy endings that plague most romances, making this film instantly relatable.

Ironically, the movie's biggest mistake is not found in Reynolds — despite being notorious for crass party humor ("Van Wilder," "Harold and Kumar go to White Castle") and the defeat of his first romantic lead ("Just Friends"), his endearing performance proves his versatility as an actor.

Rather, the pitfall is Maya's obnoxious, know-it-all personality. Breslin does her best with what she is given, but the writers take the overplayed child-as-the-voice-of-wisdom role beyond the line of believability. Think "Uptown Girls," where Britney Murphy's frank and liberating advice is mashed with the loud-mouthed, I'm-too-old-for-my-age attitude of Dakota Fanning's character.

It's refreshing to see a movie that focuses on the male's role in a romance, instead of taking the easy way out and blaming all women's problems on men's endless stupidity. Hayes is the proverbial Adam, his world constantly turned upside down by the many Eves who continuously cycle in and out of his life. If nothing else, men can thank Brooks for giving them a little credit and finally showing women that maybe they, too, need to share in some of the blame.

— Laura Dattaro, ldattaro@udel.edu

Somehow easily forgotten

Free Somehow

Widespread Panic

Widespread Records

Rating: ★★★★★ (Out of ★★★★★)

The jam band community is not about record sales or radio hits. For musical road warriors in bands like Widespread Panic, it's all about the music.

On their new album, *Free Somehow*, the veteran rockers prove that after more than two decades of playing their sound is still solid, but not without flaw.

The members' 10th studio album highlights their strengths as musicians and lyricists, but not necessarily their ability to retain an audience's attention. The shortest song clocks in at just under four minutes and the longest at just over eight, and although they all have their high points, a few have undeniable lows.

At its best, the group offers up a wide array of styles featuring both shredding and acoustic guitars in the same song.

At its worst, the laid-back style becomes consuming, producing long, slow ballads that drag in the style of Pink Floyd but with less genius.

That being said, its longest song, "her dance needs no body," is surely the album's best offering, divided into two sections and featuring a haunting orchestral arrangement to show off the group's tight rhythms and overall virtuosic musicianship.



Singer John Bell carefully croons through high and low registers throughout the record, but is best on the title track.

"I want to be free somehow / see the forest for the grass / wonder through it all / through the looking glass," he sings lightly, drawing in listeners with his sincerity.

The album has many highs and lows, and more of the former than the latter. This album will entertain listeners for the time its on, but it's doubtful that *Free Somehow* will make any kind of lasting impression.

— Adam Asher

Golden Delicious

Mike Doughty

ATO Records

Rating: ★★★★★ (out of ★★★★★)

For those who don't know Mike Doughty as the former frontman of the indie-rock band Soul Coughing, or from his many solo albums since he left the group in 2000, TV fans will probably recognize him as "that guy on all the soundtracks."

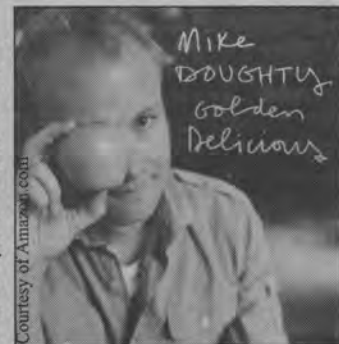
Doughty's music has appeared on popular TV shows like "Grey's Anatomy," "Veronica Mars," "Bones" and "What About Brian." On his new album *Golden Delicious*, he has added some new musicians to juice up his normally stripped-down style and powerful baritone vocals that lend themselves well to soundtracks.

As a poet, musician and writer, Doughty's lyrics have always had a lot of depth, and *Golden Delicious* is no dif-

ferent.

His unique and interesting voice and wide range of songs about everything from falling in love to the War in Iraq provide a mix of old and new sounds and a solid dose of sing-songy "na na nas" and "ding dingding dading dings" that will surely fit right into the beginning montage of the next episode of "Grey's Anatomy."

— Sammi Cassin, scassin@udel.edu



My Life's Been a Country Song

Chris Cagle

Capitol/EMI Records

Rating: ★★ 1/2 (out of ★★★★★)

Country music is not complicated. It's either a sweet love song about family and high school sweethearts or bars and beer in the summertime. So when Chris Cagle says his life has been a country song, he's pretty much narrowed his album down to two main categories.

On Cagle's fourth CD *My Life's Been a*

Country Song, there are a lot of both. "No Love Songs" is about some friends having a conversation in a bar while slowly getting hammered while

"It's Good to be Back" and "I Don't Wanna Live" are both nostalgic songs about love and the comforts of home.

That's not to say Cagle's album lacks any depth or quality. In fact, the easy-going and good-natured qualities of *My Life's Been a Country Song* are what give it charm and appeal. And even though the last track "Change Me" is a bit of a slow dud, Cagle already has audiences roped in enough to even care.

— Sammi Cassin



delaware UNdressed Missing: the male wardrobe



Adam Asher
Entertainment Editor

My wardrobe is currently missing approximately three pairs of mesh shorts, two T-shirts and at least one hoodie that I, at one time, called my favorite. I have not outgrown these clothes, nor did I lose them or throw them away. They are merely in the possession of girls, most of their names escape me at the moment, who at one time spent the night in my bed.

Sorry ladies, but just because we are willing, or in most cases eager, to take our clothes off for you doesn't make them your immediate property. If you want to sleep in something more comfortable than your formal dress, or prefer not to be nude while walking down the hall to the bathroom, that's just fine. However, you came into my room wearing clothes and you can leave with them. There is no reason to hold my shorts hostage.

After many conversations with friends and a recent clothes-hunting adventure that took weeks to track down a vest and tie from a girl who was suspiciously M.I.A. and absent when I actually picked up my

clothes, I realized this has become an epidemic.

I'll be the first to say it — men are simple creatures and when sex is the goal to be achieved we will do what's necessary. There isn't a whole lot we won't do to impress the opposite sex. We buy you drinks, we take you out to dinner, we make mix tapes, we dress a certain way or wear certain cologne. This is all hard work, which usually produces fruitless results. So please, if and when we succeed, let us have our dignity, and

**Look forward
to another guest
male perspective
next week while
Sarah is out**

don't be insulted when we want to keep our wardrobe.

When I was approached to write this column in the absence of Sarah Niles, I thought about all the dirty things a sex column would afford me the opportunity to say, and there are many. I thought of stereotypes about men that I could address, and about what problems the modern man faces on the virtually non-existent dating scene.

My short response to those fleeting thoughts is this — men and women will never completely understand each other, we simply experience things too differently, and the best we can ever do is compromise.

Women, you would never believe the dirty things that come out of men's mouths when you're not around and you're kidding yourself if you think otherwise. Guys, I spend my days working in a small cubicle surrounded by women who are generally ecstatic talking about countless topics that mean absolutely nothing to me and I can't figure out why. We're different — get over it.

I'm not an expert in any way shape or form, but I like to think that I've experienced enough to pass on some knowledge, or at least make a few observations, and I have never brought home a girl's sweatshirt or anything else that smells better than I do. I have, however, gazed in horror at the collections of stolen clothing that belong to some of my female friends. As I am typing this, a friend from Hofstra is calling me and bragging about three stolen pairs of boxer shorts. Apparently we, as different genders, place different values upon stolen paraphernalia.

So, boys and girls, let's put our inherent differences aside and agree on at least one thing — my clothes belong to me, and no matter how hot you look in them — and you do — at the end of the day, if you're not sticking around, do me a favor and wear your own clothes home.



fashionforward

The disappearing male model

When I imagine the ideal male body, I always picture lifeguards, a la "Baywatch." Distinct six-pack abs, strong muscular arms, dreamy tan skin and a charming bright smile — what could be hotter than that?



Larissa Cruz
Columnist

I don't believe I'm alone when I say a muscular frame is ideal. Guys frequently work out and down protein shakes, while girls fawn over posters of famous ripped men.

Even "Zoolander," the comedic movie about male models, depicts Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson as fit individuals with handsomely chiseled features.

This is how the perfect male is supposed to look.

Or rather, *was* supposed to look.

The runways in Paris, Milan and New York have created a new breed of male models. Thin and malnourished-looking men, who appear as though they have yet to reach puberty, are the latest trend.

Normally, female models are the group critiqued for unhealthy weights and eating habits. In response, numerous designers and organizations attempted to improve women's lifestyles and body images, but they left out a very important crowd.

When did the boys slip past the emaciated radar and become so surprisingly, and I suppose attractively, skinny?

I guess it was only a matter of time before the guys caught on to the girls' harmful tendencies, but the girls shouldn't be entirely to blame.

Maybe the clothes of the designers are at fault for fitting more snugly than before.

The music scene could also be to blame. The recent wave of alternative bands featuring lean front men rocking out with tight jeans exhibit boys who aren't afraid of their bony silhouettes.

Despite who or what may be responsible, the fragile body frame is unsettling, mostly because it doesn't promote healthy behavior. In addition, I can't help but worry whether I'd break their bones if I ever gave them a hug.

Don't get me wrong — the sight of a muscular guy bursting out of a fitted Prada cardigan in all his manly splendor does remind me too much of a bodybuilder, or a man who's overcompensating for his lack of character.

The trend is definitely interesting, simply because the skinny male model is such a new concept to fashion shows. I never would've thought the industry's male archetype would be admired for its ailing qualities and puny appearance. Washboard abs used to understandably fit the description, but those days are over.

Aside from possible eating disorders, the skinny phenomenon gives hope to geeky kids who used to be picked last in gym class. In this case, the quiet string beans have advantage over the hunky football players.

If the gaunt look continues to grow, I fear eventually all models, both female and male, will look identical. They'll all resemble androgynous stick figures. And what's the fun in similarity? The physical differences between genders are what make them appealing.

Hopefully, the boys bulk up a tad and find a happy, healthy medium between scrawny and super beefy. But I guess "Baywatch" is so '90s, after all.

Like Larissa's columns? Visit her new blog "I Can Dress Myself" at www.udreview.com

mediadarling The latest addition to Oprah's resumé

Oprah Winfrey: Those two little words are enough to arouse joy in the hearts of middle-aged women everywhere. They reduce some to tears, cause some to scream at nearly inaudible pitches and, on that not-so-rare occasion, spur others into spontaneous dance parties.

The question has often been posed — what supernatural power possesses Oprah and blesses her with the ability to shrink even the strongest women to blabbering idiots?

If you count yourself among those with a strange desire to do the "Macarena" every time Oprah's face graces your television screen, hope is in sight. The source of Oprah's mystical power has, at last, been revealed.

Oprah is a prehistoric goddess. The Venus of Willendorf, to be exact.

Got the Venus of Willendorf confused with the Venus of Urbino? That's OK, rookie mistake. Let me clarify.

The Venus of Willendorf, according to Donsmaps.com, is an oolitic limestone figurine unearthed in Willendorf, Austria, in 1908. The figurine, which depicts an uncommonly rotund, large-breasted woman in all her glory, most likely dates back to a time between 20,000 and 30,000 B.C.

Now, obviously, Oprah is not actually the Venus of Willendorf. She's a few years too young for that. The current estimate is Oprah was born in 1500 B.C. and will live forever.

That's besides the point, though. According to CultureKiosque.com, artist Daniel Edwards has recently been working on an "Oprah Sarcophagus" sculpture which bears a striking resemblance to the

Venus of Willendorf.

Edwards, who has most recently gained fame for sculptures depicting an autopsy of Paris Hilton, Britney Spears giving birth and Suri Cruise's first bowel movement, has now created a bronze, life-size sculpture of Oprah as an exaggerated goddess.

In Edwards' sculpture, Oprah appears plump, busty, armless and with big birthing hips. The last two characteristics bother me. How will sculpture Oprah carry all of her "Favorite Things" with no arms? And while fertility is generally a natural and beautiful thing, I'm not sure I want sculpture Oprah procreating. Can we get sculpture Stedman

snipped?

Edwards' sculpture of Oprah is also naked. Normally, this would raise some body-image issues and possibly a self-esteem crisis or two. Fortunately, however, last Friday's episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" was titled "How to Look Good Naked." It's just beautiful when the universe aligns. And when you're Oprah, you can make it align.

Yes, Oprah has earth-altering powers because Oprah has finally been equated with the prehistoric deities.

And doesn't it make sense? The last time you saw Oprah make Patti LaBelle appear out of thin air, didn't you question the laws of reason and logic? When you most recently saw Oprah try on a pair of thigh-slimming underwear, didn't you feel yourself privy to some brilliant show of magic? And when Oprah last handed over tens of thousands of dollars to an average soul, you told yourself the U.S. Mint had been renamed "Oprah's Minty Money Factory."

Oprah can boggle our minds every weekday at 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time because she simply is not of this world. To be fair, she's had an impressive run masquerading as an average human. According to her Oprah.com bio, she's a television pioneer, magazine founder and editorial director, producer/actress, online leader, philanthropist, television programming creator, satellite radio programmer and Broadway producer.

But let's get real. The one and only title that ought to head the list? Omnipotent divine being.

— Caitlin Birch, jecabi@udel.edu

Courtesy of Wireimage.com





The Review/Steven Gold

Home Grown Café on Main Street has made the push to buy local.

The latest trend to shorten the journey from farm to plate

BY EMILY RILEY

Copy Editor

It's hard not to notice the recent trend of "going green," as various companies have tried to incorporate it into their newest, eco-friendliest products. Hybrid cars and organic Cheetos are the new representations of environmental responsibility. But in Newark, this idea was manifested in a burger.

The 50-Mile Burger, a former menu item of Home Grown Café on Main Street, could have been considered a result of global warming, gas emissions and water pollution. Each food item on the platter came from Lancaster-area farms within 50 miles of Main Street, according to the restaurant's general manager Brett Tunstall.

"The burger had lettuce, tomato, onion and beef, all of which we got from a local farm," Tunstall says. "We also get our ice cream and sorbets from [Hockessin's] Woodside Farm Creamery."

While "going green" usually triggers notions of organic food, an emphasis on buying local produce is another option for those seeking to decrease pollution and expand on a "green" lifestyle.

Pam Stegall-Roberts, farmers market organizer at Newark Natural Foods, says there are a wealth of benefits from buying and eating locally grown foods.

"When you buy local foods, you're getting a higher nutrient and taste level," Roberts says. "It's also easier on the environment because it doesn't have to travel far to get to you. When you don't buy local, your food travels about 1,800 miles from field to dinner plate."

According to Fertileground.org, this statistic serves as a contrast to the minimal transportation and fossil fuel requirements needed to ship food from farm to market.

"It's much better for you and for the environment to get fresh produce when it's in season than to buy grapes that were shipped here from Chile," she says.

Stegall-Roberts also cites organic food as a healthy option instead of standard market produce, and says that recent concerns with plant and animal products fuel the trend.

"We've seen an increase in our amount of customers over the past few years," she says, "largely due in

part to all of the food recalls we've seen and all the additives that are put into processed foods."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, certified organic plants and animals are cultivated without the use of irradiation, pesticides, hormones and other synthetic chemical substances.

Chuck Roark, grocery manager of Newark Natural Foods, says unadulterated organic products aren't merely limited to plant and animal foods.

"We have many organic cleaning products, like wood polishers and laundry detergents, that we can't even keep on the shelves," Roark says. "You have to think about what's going into your body. Those chemicals in non-organic products get into the water, into the soil and into your body."

Though many people associate organically produced food with a healthy lifestyle, Dallas Hoover, professor of animal and food sciences, says this isn't always the case.

"There seems to be no nutritional difference between organic food and regular food," Hoover says. "Most people think of food safety regarding pesticides right off the bat when they are buying organic, but there's such an inconsequential amount of pesticides used with regular produce."

Hoover says relying on animal manure to fertilize crops instead of synthetic fertilizer can be potentially dangerous.

"With animal manure, that's where salmonella, E. coli and other bacteria reside," he says. "If the farmer doesn't farm properly, there's going to be a much higher instance of bacteria on the food."

Buying organic also means paying a higher price. For students, this factor often determines whether a trend will catch on or not. Junior Nikolett Varsa says she realizes the benefits of organic food but is hesitant to buy it because of the cost.

"I think that I'd get organic food, it's better for you because it's so much more natural," Varsa says.

Despite these benefits, however, she remains apathetic to making the switch.

"I really just buy whatever is cheapest," Varsa says. "I'm not against it, I just really don't go out of my way."

Discussing the 'dark side' of constant connection

BY MATTHEW ZANDER

Staff Reporter

YouTube has a section promoting its "Videos being watched right now..." *The New York Times* Web site has a list showing its most popular e-mailed, blogged and searched-for stories. Yahoo offers "Today's Top Searches." With a few simple clicks of a mouse, the public becomes hip to what's being discussed at the water coolers and on the latest gossip shows. By most accounts, these are positive developments.

Author Lee Siegel doesn't share that viewpoint.

In his new book "Against the Machine: Being Human in the Age of the Electronic Mob," Siegel contends the popular notion that the Internet is keeping us connected and educated is actually a complete fallacy.

"The Internet is a crutch with its dominant value being convenience," Siegel says. "Convenience crosses into immorality. I think people have to be aware of its pitfalls."

Siegel is a social and cultural critic who writes with a sharp

tongue. In the summer of 2006 he coined the phrase "blogofascism" after he became fed up with the idea of people sitting back under a cloak of anonymity and ridiculing others through the forum of a blog. Later in the year, he was forced to serve a suspension from his magazine, *The New Republic*, when it was uncovered that he was responding to bloggers that were attacking his columns under a false and misleading pseudonym.

"The blogosphere is a brutal place ruled by envy," he says. "I couldn't believe how people were allowed to just say what they wanted. Bloggers just want to be acclaimed."

"No one has talked about the dark side," Siegel says. "The Internet's credo is that popularity is the sole criteria of success. It draws you to what everyone else likes, not what you like."

Siegel's goal in writing the book was to caution people from relying too heavily on what the Internet offers, and instead, seek out and lean on more traditional sources of information intake, including personal relationships,

such as those between a student and professor. Students can now take online classes without ever meeting a professor and WebCT allows instructors to post exam scores, foregoing a student's ability to see where he or she lost points on a test or paper.

David Allen, a senior instructor of sociology at Temple University, has altered some teaching methods after reading Siegel's book.

"After using blogging in the classroom, [the book] got me thinking and rethinking some of the way [web technologies] have been used as a course tool," Allen says. "I have sought a more collaborative approach."

Not surprisingly, Siegel is also worrisome of using technology as a way of cultivating the youth.

"I think its use should be very minimal inside a college classroom," he says. "I've heard stories from professors that learning on the Internet isn't helping students. It's very superficial, they don't go deep."

It's important to remember, Allen says, there are better ways to access information.

"I had a librarian come into class to use electronic databases and almost the entire class was unfamiliar with them," he says. "They might skip going to the library and rather go online. The Internet is very central in exploring people's abilities but to leave the other ways of getting information because they are not as easy access would be a big mistake."

Allen also says what he likes about the book is its approach on the Internet takes nothing for granted and it's "refreshing that Siegel gets you thinking more critically about its value as a tool."

Freshman Max Rudnick says the book addresses an epidemic of which his age group is clearly suffering.

"I read the book and thought Siegel's point-of-view was very refreshing," Rudnick says. "I walk into a dorm room and two roommates are sitting with their backs to each other, staring at their laptops and talking to each other online. And they're in the same room."

The Internet can provide movie times, chicken marsala recipes, sports scores and stock quotes — the content is never-ending. A mere decade-and-a-half ago such a vast informational database would have been unfathomable.

But senior Kevin Gindi, along with many others, says he wonders if, with everything that has been given, something is taken away.

"I think it's just a case of people becoming lazy," Gindi says. "People use acronyms as opposed to typing out words. People will do research from their home as opposed to going to the library. I don't know, I hope it doesn't mean negative connotations for the future."



Courtesy of Amazon.com

Lee Siegel's book discusses the dangers of the Internet age.



Growing into the purple and red clash

The university's Red Hat Society embraces the beauty of age

BY BRIAN ANDERSON
National/State News Editor

In the fashion world, purple and red don't match, but that doesn't stop thousands of women worldwide from proudly wearing those clashing colors.

Wanda McCracken, a staff assistant in the English department, says the Red Hat Society is a worldwide bond among women over the age of 50 who dress in purple and a red hat to gather in small chapters and take some time off to have fun.

The university's own chapter was founded on Oct. 4, 2001.

McCracken, the leader of both the university chapter and her own chapter, says she and her fellow Red Hatters go to restaurants, theatrical plays and take trips to the beach at different times throughout the year. Women who organize RHS chapters are referred to as Queen Mums and members of the chapters are treated like the Queen's royal court.

Within her royal court, McCracken has appointed members to different roles, such as scribe and photographer. However, these jobs are low key and low stress.

"They're really kind of fun jobs," she says. "The secretary doesn't really have to take a lot of notes."

The university's chapter of the RHS has anywhere between 40 and 50 members — the number is always changing, McCracken says. Unlike her group, the university's chapter is low key and the members like to fly under the radar.

McCracken's own personal chapter currently has 28 members, most of whom she has known her whole life. McCracken was born and raised in Delaware and says her female cousins, aunts, childhood friends and co-workers make up her chapter, which has turned into more than just a group of friends.

"We've all become what we call a sisterhood," she says. "The people who didn't know each other when they first joined, like my colleagues and my family and my friends, they've all sort of become an extended family."

Throughout the year, Queen Mums of different chapters get together and organize a large convention, McCracken says. Members from Delaware chapters and chapters in surrounding states get together at the beach or in Dover for food and entertainment.

All RHS members bond together over their strong dedication to children and family, she says. As women age, children leave the home, spouses may die and retirement is in

view, and members of the RHS can turn to each other for support and advice.

"We're all going through these same issues together," McCracken says. "We have a whole family of people who we can talk to who may have gone through it before us. It's very therapeutic as well as fun."

"Warning"

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer
gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.*

*You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things
in boxes.*

*But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.*

*But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and sur-
prised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.*

— Jenny Joseph

Annie Humke, also known as "Ambassador Annie," works in RHS headquarters and says there are close to 40,000 chapters in at least 30 countries worldwide. The United States has the most chapters, but Canada, Britain, Australia and Mexico are full of RHS chapters as well.

Humke says the first time a group of women gathered together wearing purple clothing and red hats was 10 years ago in California. The RHS founder, Sue Ellen Cooper, was inspired by the poem "Warning" by Jenny Joseph, which describes a woman's wish to let loose and have fun as she grows older. "When I am an old woman I shall wear purple / With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me," Joseph writes.

Cooper then decided to dress in purple and wear a red hat out with some friends who did the same and the movement has grown from there. The poem gives women permission to fear nothing and simply have fun.

The RHS is the one place where women allow themselves to play, Humke says. Women have many responsibilities throughout their lives and the RHS gives them a chance to relax and enjoy life, but still maintain friendships with other women.

"The whole thing is to have fun," Humke says. "It's all about cutting loose and having fun — still playing dress up and still having girlfriends."

Gwen Davis, an administrative assistant in the office of the vice president, university secretary and RHS member, says when women are raising their families, they don't take the time to foster their friendships with other females. As women get older, they share common experiences and the RHS allows women to bond.

Davis says she has been in the RHS society for seven or eight years. A former Queen Mum of the university's chapter, she says she often organized dinners, high teas, gift exchanges and trips to the theater.

However, being in a chapter of the RHS doesn't mean members are free from responsibility, she says.

"Even though you hit your 50s, it's not a magical age where you suddenly have nothing to do," Davis says.

Davis says she has read the poem and one thing she takes from the poem is the idea of being yourself.

"It doesn't matter what people think," she says. "You're out there having a nice time and enjoying life."

Waltzing onto the national dance scene

BY STEFANIE GORDON

Staff Reporter

Senior Kaitlin McGowan used to spend hours per day in spandex and track spikes, attempting to hoist herself off the ground with a fiberglass poll, while alumnus Jonathon Anderson spent years honing his ballroom dance skills.

A year and a half ago, however, the two paired up to compete for the university ballroom dance team, and now hope to be the best in the nation at the 2008 National DanceSport Championships held in Baltimore this April.

McGowan and Anderson took first place in the Gold Smooth division of the Manhattan Amateur Classic dance competition held last month. The event was the regional qualifier for nationals.

The pair also took second place in the Silver Rhythm division.

In ballroom dance competitions, amateur competitors dance in the Newcomer, Bronze, Silver or Gold categories, depending on skill level. Open competitors dance in either the Prechampionship or Championship categories.

At nationals, McGowan and Anderson plan to compete in Prechampionship Smooth, Gold Rhythm and Silver Standard.

American Smooth consists of the waltz, tango, foxtrot and Viennese waltz. American Rhythm includes cha-cha, samba, rumba, paso doble and jive and International Standard is composed of the slow waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, slow foxtrot and quick step.

McGowan had been a varsity pole vaulter on the university track and field team before turning to ballroom dance. She started attending dance lessons her sophomore year after her roommate found the classes online.

"It was pretty addictive," McGowan says. "It was a nice change from track because track was very scheduled and organized. Practices now are more 'show up where and when you can.'"

She says both require technique and strength, but she believes ballroom dancing is harder for her because it requires partner work.

McGowan met Anderson when he was one of her instructors. At that point she had been dancing for approximately seven to eight months and needed a more advanced



Courtesy of Kaitlin McGowan

Kaitlin McGowan and Jonathon Anderson will compete in the National DanceSport Championships in April.

partner. Only a couple months after becoming teammates, the two also began dating.

Unlike McGowan, Anderson has years of experience under his belt. He was inspired to start dancing eight years ago by a movie.

"I saw the Japanese movie 'Shall We Dance?' and thought it looked interesting," he says. "A year later I took a swing class. Then Pat [Grim, one of the team's coaches] asked me to join her team. I said, 'Maybe.' Then she turned around to a group of people and said I joined."

Although Anderson had considerably more experience than McGowan, he quickly caught her up.

"He's been doing this for awhile, so I had to dance up to meet him," McGowan says. "He's good at catching people up. He's a great teacher."

In preparation for nationals, the two have increased their practice time to 12 hours per week, in addition to a variety of

dance lessons.

"Nationals and the Manhattan Classic won't be the same," Anderson says. "Nationals pulls in more people, and the level of skill is higher. I imagine that we'll make the top three, but you never know what the competition will be like. Nationals will be pretty steep."

Pete Taylor, the coach of the university ballroom dance team, says he believes McGowan and Anderson's teamwork is part of their successful dynamic.

"They have good chemistry," he says. "If one gets upset, they work it out, and vice versa. Working it out and figuring out what needs to be improved is what it's all about."

Taylor also emphasizes the pair's drive.

"Dance is also a competitive thing," he says, "and they enjoy the competitiveness of it. They try to rank in the top three of everything they're doing."

Lisa Bentley, another one of their instructors and a professional Smooth dancer, says she thinks McGowan and Anderson's current grind to refine their performance is what's going to help come nationals. She says the duo's success hasn't gone to their heads.

"They're very easy-going and aren't ostentatious at all," Bentley says. "They're very together, nice people. I like being able to chat and hang out with them before or after practice. It's great to see them out there on the dance floor because they really love what they're doing."

Anderson says his and McGowan's work on the dance floor hasn't come easily.

"Neither of us are natural dancers," he says. "Neither one of us has had 12 years of ballet or anything, but we balance each other really well. She's very strong, and I'm more musical. We're a good combination."

Anderson says anyone can dance.

"People think they don't have rhythm, but that's bullsh*t," he says. "They'll say, 'Oh, I can't do Hip-hop, I'm not a dancer,' but what they don't realize is that ballroom dancing is like a science. It's taught very slowly and methodically. Give it enough time and anyone can learn how to dance."

Anderson says dance enthusiasts can come from the most surprising of people.

"Oh, and men love dancing, they just don't know it," he says. "Especially the engineers. Man, they freaking love it."

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9		5		1				2
	7		2				3	
3		8				6		
	3				2			
1				9				3
			1				5	
		4				3		6
	8				1		2	
5				4		7		1

brainfreezepuzzles.com

Rules: Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3x3 block contains 1-9 exactly once.

Incoming freshmen kicked into college shape over summer

BY JORDANA ZIRPOLO

Staff Reporter

Instead of lounging by the pool and working on a tan, some future freshmen used their summer days to prepare for their upcoming transition to college life.

"It was an overall positive experience, as hard as that is to say," freshman Elaina Welch says. "As much as I complained, the summer program really gave me a head start on college."

The university's Summer Enrichment Program is designed to ease the transition from high school to college over an intensive five-week period. SEP targets the incoming freshmen class from within the university. Academic Enrichment Center director Lin Gordon says.

The program allows students to complete seven college credits — Critical Reading and Writing (ENGL110), their first math course and a one-credit SkilMod class, which teaches students time management and teamwork skills.

Tutors are hired to assist the students during study hours in the residence halls in group and individual sessions.

"The tutors also double as mentors," Gordon says. "Whether they are strong students coming in, they leave confident, strategy strong and as experienced freshmen."

Freshman Terrance Williams credits his successful first semester of college to what he learned in SEP.

"I started the Fall Semester with a 3.5 grade point average," Williams said. "Living on campus, going to class and having a schedule helped me know what to expect for the first semester at college."

Assistant director Michael McClay says the average day included classes from 8 to 11:40 a.m. and review sessions or study skills every afternoon between 1:15 p.m. and 3 p.m. Nights concluded with mandatory study hours Sunday through Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m.

The weekday curfew was at midnight. On Fridays and Saturdays, curfew was extended to 1 a.m.

"Structure is the backbone of SEP," McClay says.

Whether they are attending mandatory classes, or participating in mandatory study hours, the program also has their students take part in mandatory fun, Gordon says.

She says yoga classes, a Philadelphia dinner cruise and a talent show have proven to be student favorites year after year.

"It's all about finding a balance between work and play that promotes cultural activity," Gordon said. "This experience is somewhere between a convent and a boot camp."

Freshman Mike Dickinson found the program to be an adjustment in the beginning.

"I didn't think that I was going to be as busy as I was," he says. "There was extreme structure, concrete routine and little flexibility."

McClay says SEP is a great way for new students to make the transition to the university.

"The program doesn't simulate the college experience," he says. "SEP is the college experience with a few exceptions."

These few exceptions included restrictions that, if violated, resulted in loss of privileges. Whether the infraction was jaywalking or having visitors, including parents, stop by on an undesignated weekend, loss of privileges was implemented, McClay says.

Consequences included the removal of cell phones, TV and music. Loss of privileges also included "isolation," which is the college version of "time-out," and was granted to students who skipped mandatory study hours.

Leaving campus in a car for any reason would result in immediate dismissal from SEP without any credits, even if the passengers in the car were the student's parents, he says. Visitors were only allowed on the one designated weekend which still did not warrant students getting in a car.

Welch says part of the adjustment of freshman year is not only getting acclimated to campus, but also making a close group of friends, and finding a major that is the right fit. SEP introduced her to new friends, with whom she still keeps in touch.

The program also emphasizes the availability of resources that are available on campus for students, like the Center for Career Services and the AEC, McClay says.

The AEC is where students go for academic advisement, one-on-one tutoring and group tutoring. Gordon says she welcomes students to stop by, regardless of the situation.

Dickinson and Williams both say they still stop by the AEC to see their advisers that they met through the program.

Diversity was one of the highlights of the program.

"Where I'm from the majority of people are white," Williams says. "Diversity was a major part of program and everyone really did make the effort to get to know each other."

This past summer enrollment was expected to be 55 students, but there were more than 90 students who enrolled and completed the program, Gordon says.

"You had a mix of everyone," he says. "There were people with different perspectives and outlooks and even people who called sprinkles jimmies."



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CAMPUS EVENTS

Wednesday, February 20

"Exploring Cultural Diversity in Families" with Bahira Sharif Trask UD. Research on Race, Ethnicity, & Culture Lecture Series. 116 Gore Hall 12:20-1:10 pm

Thursday, February 21

Women's Basketball vs. Townson Bob Carpenter Center Nelson Athletic Complex 7pm

Friday, February 22

Master Player Chamber music master class. Gore Recital Hall Roselle Center for the Arts 1:25-2:15pm Free Admission

Saturday, February 23

"Full Fathom Five Woodwind Quintet" Bayard Sharp Hall 3-5pm

Jordan Miles, soprano degree recital. Gore Recital Hall Roselle Center for the Arts 8-10pm

"One Shot" Ronald K. Brown for Evidence Dance sponsored by The Center for Black Culture. Mitchell Hall 8pm \$20 general public \$15 student, senior

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" sponsored by Harrington Theater Arts Company Roselle Center for the Arts 8-10pm \$7 general public, \$5 student

HELP WANTED

Sunday, February 24

"Seussical" presented by Theatreworks USA. Mitchell Hall 2pm

\$12 general public \$10 UD faculty, staff, alumni, seniors \$5 students, children

Monica Wentz, viola senior recital Gore Recital Hall Roselle Center for the Arts 5:30-7:30pm

Monday, February 25

"The Business of Being Born" sponsored by the Student Nurses Organizations Trabant University Center Theater 5pm \$10 general public, \$3 students

"Victorian Relationship with Ireland" with Bernard McKenna, UD. 006 Kirkbride Hall 7:30pm

CAMPUS EVENTS

RATES

University Affiliated: \$1 per line
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Gore Hall 219



4:30 WELCOME

4:35 *ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS*: Out of the Classroom and Into Africa

Presenters: Sarah O'Neill and Samantha Sagett

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Steven Dentel, Civil and Environmental Engineering

4:47 *SOUTH AFRICA*: Appreciating the Value of Reciprocity through Service-Learning Activities in South Africa

Presenters: Megan Lawless and Grant Newman

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Norma Gaines-Hanks, IFS

4:59 *AUSTRALIA*: Health Beliefs and Needs of Aboriginal People in Australia

Presenters: Beth Lyons and Hattie Silliman

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Amy Nagorski Johnson, School of Nursing

5:11 *NEW ORLEANS*

Presenters: Amanda Strickland and Shaila Parker

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Maria Palacas, McNair Scholars Program

Help UD salute outstanding teaching, advising and mentoring

Nominations are now being accepted for the Excellence in Teaching Awards and the Excellence in Undergraduate Advising and Mentoring Awards.

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To submit a nomination, visit
[www.udel.edu/teachingawards].



The names of recipients of the Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Advising and Mentoring Awards are engraved on bricks in Mentors' Circle.

Did you know?

Tesia Harris' 21 points on Sunday is the highest by a freshman since Julie Sailer scored 21 on Dec. 18, 2001.

R sports

28

weekly calendar

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Men's basketball at George Mason, 9 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21

Women's basketball vs. Towson, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 22

Baseball at The Citadel, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 23

Men's lacrosse vs. Marist, 1 p.m.

Baseball at The Citadel (DH), 12 p.m.

Men's basketball at Toledo (O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters), 7 p.m.

Men's tennis vs. Delaware State & Washington College, 6 p.m. (Exhibition)

Women's tennis vs. Delaware State & Washington College, 6 p.m. (Exhibition)

Men's indoor track at Princeton Invitational

Women's indoor track at Princeton Invitational

Sunday, Feb. 24

Baseball at The Citadel, 1 p.m.

Women's basketball at James Madison, 2 p.m.

Players on the line



THE REVIEW/Justin Bleiler

Junior Jim Ledsome was 6-for-8 from the line in Saturday afternoon's 62-60 loss to Drexel.

BY MICHAEL LORE

Managing Sports Editor

Marc Egerson stepped to the line with 0.5 seconds left.

Deep breath. Deep breath.

The James Madison fans yelled and screamed around him.

Deep breath.

The referee under the basket bounced the ball to Egerson. He palmed the orange orb, getting a feel for it on his fingertips. Spun it in his hands. Bent down, then up.

Release.

The ball went in and Delaware took a one-point lead in its Jan. 23 match-up against James Madison. The Hens won the game after a failed half-court shot by the Dukes.

Down 65-63 with less than two seconds remaining, the ball was in-bounded to Delaware sophomore guard Brian Johnson. Johnson quickly found Egerson who drove to the net, put the ball up and was fouled by JMU junior forward Juwann James. The ball went in, tying the game, and the junior guard went to the line with a chance to win the game.

Shooting free throws from the foul line, or charity stripe as some call it, is harder than it seems. Egerson, who has had the same routine since high school, said it is something that takes consistency and practice.

"I make that shot every day in practice, so why not make it now?" Egerson said about when he stands on the line. "I try to get comfortable and not rush the shot."

Egerson's foul line routine is longer and unique compared to other athletes. The Georgetown transfer said sometimes, in practice, teammates get on his case about his free throws, saying "it takes too long" and some even try to emulate his style.

One of those players is senior forward Herb Courtney. Courtney, who leads the Hens with 139 free throw attempts this season, said players' styles on the line change for a few reasons.

Earlier this year, he said he took three dribbles on

the line, but has since eliminated one bounce.

"With this method, I feel a little more comfortable and I'm shooting it better," Courtney said. "It's all about how comfortable you are with it and whether it's going in or not."

Women's basketball senior Kyle DeHaven has been to the line 100 times this year. The guard has played in games ranging from a high-intensity NCAA Tournament first-round game at Michigan State to a conference game against George Mason.

She says making a free throw remains easy as long as she stays confident going to the line.

"I try not to put too much pressure on myself and head in confident," DeHaven said. "It doesn't matter if I'm an 80 percent shooter [or not]. It just comes down to a mental game."

Just like Courtney, DeHaven has changed her routine due to its inefficiency. She said she used to dribble the ball three times and spin it once before shooting, but it took too long. Now the Delaware captain spins the ball once, puts it on her knee with her hands set, puts it up and shoots.

"I take a deep breath and focus my eye on the rim," she said. "I don't like to take my time. The more time, the more I risk it."

Men's freshman guard Alphonso Dawson, who attended Harrisburg High School in Pennsylvania, said dealing with crowd noise while on the line is not a personal problem.

"I just zone out sometimes," Dawson said. "I'm kind of used to it playing at a big high school, so I learned to zone it out."

He said finding a rhythm on the free throw line took him a while, but he thinks he has the perfect beat down.

"Now, I step up, three dribbles, maybe a spin from time to time — depends on how I'm feeling at the moment," Dawson said. "I try to find that rhythm. I sort of have a beat in my head sometimes. Boom, boom, boom."

See PLAYERS page 31

commentary



SEIF HUSSAIN

"Calling all fans"

At the men's basketball game Saturday, while the band played the "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers" theme song and approximately 4,000 fans sat in the Bob Carpenter Center, the Hens' fan base flexed its collective muscle. At that moment, even during the heart wrenching 62-60 loss to Drexel, it was easy to see the divide in fanaticism between men's and women's basketball.

The women's basketball team has been more successful than the men's team in recent years, winning at least 20 games each season since 2004. Last year was a jewel, as the women won 26 games, earning an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, despite losing in the first-round to Michigan State.

Yet the fan base at their games is weak.

In that same time span, from 2004 to 2007, the men's team won only 11, nine and five games each season, respectively. Last year, the inaugural season for head coach Monté Ross, the team struggled, yet managed to pull an average of more than 3,000 fans per game.

The women's team, on the other hand, had a phenomenal regular season, yet had more than 1,000 fans at a home game on just nine instances.

Success obviously is not the only condition for popularity.

If women would dunk every once in a while or act more selfish with the ball, maybe more fans would come out. But rather than be Kobe-esque, it seems women generally play basketball in a more team oriented and fundamental fashion than men. They play like the NBA of the 1970s, before the dunk was king — when basketball was pure and strategic. This phenomenon is visible from the lowest ranks of high school to the WNBA, and the stigma that women's basketball is not very exciting sticks to every program.

The NBA features a slam dunk contest in attempts to separate those who can blow out a candle while dunking the ball from the rosters chock full of players who can simply dunk on a 10-foot rim.

See WOMEN'S page 30

Buchholz to lead UD from hot corner

BY JACOB OWENS

Staff Reporter

Delaware's baseball team enters the season with high expectations after making it to the finals of the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament, falling short to Virginia Commonwealth.

Despite losing players in last year's MLB Draft and graduation, it is business as usual for the baseball team, head coach Jim Sherman said.

"Like most seasons, we are aiming to go out and win in the regular season and bring that success to the championship," Sherman said. "No loss is going to change our drive."

A school-record-tying five Hens from last season's CAA championship runner-up team were selected last June in the MLB first-year player draft. Center fielder Brandon Menchaca was the first Hen to go in the draft, being selected by the Cincinnati Reds in the 13th round. Brandon Harris, Bryan Hagerich and Chad Kerfoot were all selected in rounds 25-30.

Pitcher Mike McGuire was chosen in the 46th round, but decided to forgo a straight transition to the majors and return to the university for his senior season.

"It just didn't feel right for me," McGuire said. "I wanted to come back this year, finish up school and be more proactive by getting some quality games in, while hoping for better results in the draft next year. There was some definite unfinished-business running through the decision."

Having a player like McGuire return to the team is good news heading into an uncertain season. He was a solid starting pitcher for three years leading Delaware to the championship game and pitching a one-hit semifinal game against Old Dominion last May.

"Mike is our frontline pitcher right now who's going to anchor this rotation and we expect a lot of good things from him this season," Sherman said. "He's never been healthier than he is right now."

Junior captain Alex Buchholz anchors the offense. He led the team in batting average, RBIs and hits last season. As he is expected to be a high draft prospect at the end of the season, Buchholz has raked in preseason awards, including PingBaseball.com first team All-American and Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball Newspaper first team All-American accolades.

Looking at his .383 career batting average, 127 career

RBIs, 108 career runs and 92 hits last season, it is not hard to see why Sherman and the team look to the third baseman this season for confidence in an offense that lost a lot of power with Menchaca's and Hagerich's departure.

"Alex [Buchholz] knows how to slow the game down," Sherman said. "So many young ballplayers seem to want to rush the game and that's where they make mistakes. He's another coach on the field and anticipates what's going to happen out there for us."

Despite the awards, titles and draft prospects looming over his head, Buchholz said it is important to stay dedicated and committed to where he is right now. Part of that entails becoming a better defensive player and role model for the growing number of underclassmen on the team.

"In the offseason, I started working harder on ground ball drills and the defensive side of the game to try and avoid this title of being only an offensive player," Buchholz said. "Then when we all got up here again, I kind of looked at it as a responsibility to help bring some of the younger guys along, especially with some of the freshmen who are going to be stepping right into this."

Freshman second baseman Jon Duvall, from Fredericksburg, Va., is stepping into a team with much recent success and many holes to fill. Duvall said he is glad the team has a family environment where camaraderie is just as apparent as the seriousness of training. He said when practice ends, most of the players stick around for extra batting practice and impromptu lessons from the upperclassmen.

"Alex [Buchholz] and Kyle Davis are great mentors because they know where to be and what to expect in certain situations and they let us know what the coaches expect of you even before the coaches have time to yell at you for being in the wrong place," Duvall said. "We're very lucky to have guys like that."

He also believes life as a freshman starter is a nerve-racking experience where added pressure is placed on a player earlier to perform at such a high level. Though there may be some stress transitioning from a high school team to a collegiate team, Duvall relishes the opportunity because "not everyone has a chance like this."

"There are definitely expectations of you and you really don't want to let them down, so you have to trust back to your fundamentals and then make the smart plays and hopefully you'll play well," he said.

Sherman said he understands the kind of pressure he has to put on some of the younger members of the team, but in the end he realizes this is the only way for things to get accomplished this season.

"Jon [Duvall] is going to get his feet wet right away and we're going to have a lot of other freshmen and sophomores expected to start and pick up some of the slack," Sherman said. "That's the reality of who we are and we're going to have to compete with who we've got."

All uncertainties aside, this team looks a lot like teams of the past, with solid pitching and Sherman's defensive prowess. Sherman said if management did its part this off-season and collected enough recruits who are going to be able to help the team, there is no reason to think Delaware is incapable of running at the championship again this year.

"We have a pretty strong core that provides a lot of voice to our team," Buchholz said. "I don't think we lost as much as some people think."



THE REVIEW/Ricky Berl

The Hens were picked fourth in the CAA preseason poll.

A little Newark exists in New York

Five Delaware grads play together on Titans

BY GREG ARENT

Sports Editor

The men's lacrosse team has seen talented players under the lights of Rullo Stadium. Several lacrosse stars at Delaware have gone on to be successful in professional lacrosse, helping spread the sport through the United States. No team has benefited as much from the Hens' lacrosse talent than the National Lacrosse League's New York Titans, which features five former-Delaware stars on its roster.

The Titans feature 2001 graduates, Kevvin Galbraith and Bryan Barrett, 2004 graduate Matt Alrich and 2007 graduate Jordan Hall. Delaware assistant coach and university alumnus Chris Collins plays goalie on the Titans' practice squad.

Alrich played with Barrett and Galbraith when he was an underclassman and mentored Hall as an upperclassman. Alrich said he loves playing with his former teammates, even though he was almost unable to. Prior to the NLL Draft, Alrich was traded to the Boston Blazers in exchange for the No. 1 overall pick.

The Titans drafted Hall and prior to the season, the Blazers franchise folded due to financial issues, allowing New York to resign Alrich. He said being with players he has experience with is a huge benefit on the floor.

"It definitely helps as a unit," Alrich said. "I've played defense with Kevvin and



Courtesy of Bryan Barrett

Hall has 12 goals and 15 assists this season.

Bryan both. We have a little bond together coming from Delaware and know each other pretty well off the floor and I played two years with Jordan.

"It all transfers from knowing each other off the floor to gaining chemistry on the

floor."

For Galbraith and Barrett, this is the third squad they have teamed up on together — playing in Delaware, then spending five years with the Philadelphia Wings before joining the Titans.

Although the players enjoy their time on the road with the Titans, they all stay grounded and Delaware head coach Bob Shillinglaw said the players still stop by to say hello. He said Hall has come to his office and Galbraith is a familiar face because he coaches lacrosse at Sanford High School in Hockessin.

Galbraith and many of the other Delaware alumni reunited in Maryland last year when they watched the Hens lose 8-3 against Johns Hopkins in the NCAA Tournament Final Four. Barrett said it is not always easy to get to games but he always checks the team's results.

"I haven't been to a lot of games because we usually have games on the same day or are out of town, but I did go to the Final Four and I follow how they are doing on the Internet," Barrett said. "It was funny actually, Kevvin, Alrich and I were playing for team USA for the World Championships in May. We were in Halifax [Nova Scotia] when Delaware was playing UMBC in the quarter-finals, so we were getting up-to-the-minute text messages."

"It was great seeing them have the run that they did."

Alrich said he was a mentor for Hall in college and continues to help him now that they are teammates. Shortly after Hall was drafted, Alrich helped him sign a contract with the team. Alrich said it is always good to have somebody helping you get through some of the trials and tribulations of being a rookie.

Galbraith said the bond he has with his long-standing teammates is important on the floor because he has to be willing to put everything on the line for them.

Barrett said the prevalence of Hens playing for the Titans is strange, but refreshing because it helps team chemistry on the field. Alrich said he looks forward to coming to Philadelphia to play in March and hopes to get a solid fan base at the game. He hopes to get the word out to his old lacrosse team and the rest of the university to come watch himself, Hall and the other alumni play in the backyard of their former stomping grounds.

Galbraith said more Delaware stars can be expected to continue their lacrosse careers after graduation.

"Coach Shillinglaw has done a good job bringing in talent now that they have full scholarships," Galbraith said. "I think we will be seeing more and more players from Delaware going pro. The guys we have had at Delaware are known for being hard workers and that is the most important thing at the next level."

Hens take national stage on the ice

BY MIKE PINA

Copy Editor

The university's synchronized skating team heads to Providence, R.I. on Feb. 21 to compete in the U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships. The team has been practicing the same four-minute, 40-second routine as a collective group since September and is ready for a National title.

Head coach Megan O'Donnell said although most students are not familiar with the team, it is still an unbelievable sight to see.

"There are as many as 20 skaters on the ice at the same time doing all different things like freestyle moves, circles and lifts," O'Donnell said. "It's a combination of ice dance and singles skating."

Judges grade skaters on two separate aspects of the routine — technique and artistic expression.

"Every year, our team picks a different theme and we go with that for our artistic presentation," O'Donnell said. "This year, our theme is winter. We have broken it down into four different stories: loneliness, sports and unity, childhood memories and celebration and traditions. We will close with a New Year's Eve ending."

On Nov. 30, the team traveled to Ann Arbor, Mich., and finished second at the Dr. Richard Porter Classic. The Hens competed against Notre Dame, Michigan State, Western Michigan and Miami (Ohio). Delaware won the Eastern Sectionals on Jan. 23 for the 10th time in school history. The top six teams at Eastern Sectionals advance to Nationals.

The consistent success of the program leads to large crowds and a dedicated fan base.

Senior skater Alyson Salonger said the reason for the sport's lack of popularity is because it is so difficult to do.

"You have to have a background in skating to do this,"

Salonger said. "You can't just pick it up — it's extremely difficult. If people gave the sport a chance and took a look at the amazing things we are able to accomplish on the ice, I think the sport would get more respect and ultimately more fans."

O'Donnell said synchronized skating could gain momentum if added to the Olympics. When she first contacted the admissions office to let them know about upcoming skaters, they did not even know the synchronized skating team existed.

"Synchronized skating is not an Olympic sport yet, but we are taking steps to get there," O'Donnell said. "We have been on CN8 and Lifetime, but the sport needs more national exposure. Most of our fan base is female because guys do not think

they would like it, but the men who give it a shot usually love it.

They can resonate with the teamwork concept and the fact that, unlike other team sports, we do not have a most valuable player."

Delaware's synchronized skating team formed in 1979 and was called the Precisionaries at the University of Delaware. It was the first university-affiliated synchronized skating team. The Precisionaries were successful after moving into the collegiate division. In its first four years, the team won three national medals and in 2005, officially changed its name to the University of Delaware Synchronized Skating Team. The Hens won the 2004, 2005 and 2006 National Bronze Medals and are 10-time Eastern Sectional Champions.

The program has been a success because of the team's unity, said Salonger.

"My favorite thing about being a part of the synchronized skating team would have to be the team aspect and the sense that we are a big family," she said. "When I came here as a freshman, I felt like I already had an advantage because immediately I had 20 friends."

The team has high hopes after its showings in Michigan and the Eastern Sectionals as Delaware expects nothing less than a National Championship.

O'Donnell said her team has been working diligently since September through cardio and weight training exercises. She said if they perform to their highest ability and skate like they practiced, then they should do well.

The team has shown where it ranks nationally and the skaters are excited for how things should turn out.

"I think we are going to do great," Salonger said. "We are the most prepared you could possibly be. We have been together as a team for so long, practicing since September and we really know our steps and routine."



THE REVIEW/Virginia Rollison

According to its Web site, the team features 23 members.

HESC 132: Don't forget to bring your towel

BY JAMES CHASTEEN

Staff Reporter

Two weeks into the semester, the last thought on most students' minds is class, except for those enrolled in professor John Schuster's HESC 132 scuba class.

Schuster, a member of the National Association of Underwater Instruction since 1985, has been with the university since 1984. He served as a part of the re-installation of the scuba program at Delaware during Winter session of 1990 and has been operating it since. He teaches various aquatic classes, including Life Guarding and Intermediate Swimming.

A select group of students who have completed the scuba class will have the opportunity to take a trip to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. this summer for an open-water diving experience.

Schuster said the trip costs approximately \$750, in addition to the cost of food and transportation. The fee includes an ocean-front condominium at Lauderdale by the Sea, all transportation, boat fees, instructor fees, diving fees, certification costs and gear rental. There are 14 spots available for students on the trip.

After completing the trip, students will be certified scuba divers with the exception of open-water training. There are three parts of certification. Schuster's course covers the first two sections of class concepts and contained water training. Students unable to go on the trip can go anywhere to complete their open water training.

The scuba, or Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus class, offered every semester, has limited seats and is in high demand. Schuster suggests a summer or winter course for underclassmen.

"Fall and spring are almost always all seniors because of class rank and GPA," he said. "I usually have the best of the university because of that."

Teacher's assistant Chris Coccaro said there is a \$70 fee for gear rental and maintenance of the equipment. This includes a scuba mask, snorkel, diving boots and fins, a buoyancy compensation device, scuba tank, regulator, a Submersible Pressure Gauge and a weight belt. All the maintenance is performed by a factory-authorized local scuba shop.

Once in class, students cannot get right in the water and scuba. Before getting in the water with the scuba gear, students must complete three weeks of class and a

swim test.

The swim test includes a 200-yard above-water swim, 25-yard under-water swim, a 10-20 minute float and a 10-pound retrieval dive from the bottom of our 13-foot deep pool. Students must possess "some aquatic skill," Schuster said.

Junior Griff Randle took the class over winter session.

"It's a great way to spend winter session," Randle said. "It's fun and challenging."

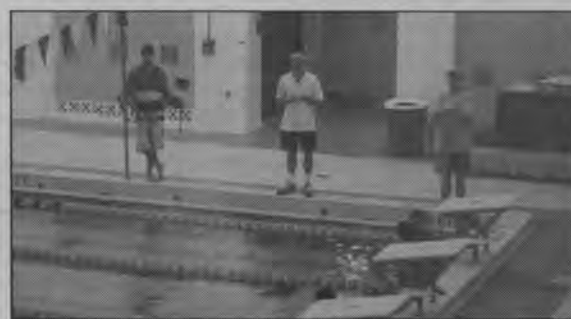
Randle wants to attend the trip this summer, but has been put on the wait list. Coccaro, who has been on other scuba expeditions, said Schuster's instruction is practical for real water scenarios.

"I spent January on a study abroad program in Bonaire and went diving at least once a day and while down there, several other students became certified," he said. "They made many of the same mistakes Schuster talks about and gives solutions for in class."

Coccaro said some of these elementary mistakes are being able to clear a mask, fixing a problem underwater, monitoring tank pressure, understanding the physics and physiology of diving, understanding pressure-related injuries, including how they occur and how they can be prevented and how to keep themselves safe underwater.

Randle said the class is a must for any student who has credits to spare before graduation.

"Scuba is something I think anybody can learn," he said. "If you like the water, then you have to take this class."



THE REVIEW/Jenny Lin

The class meets twice a week during the spring.

Women's athletics deserve support

Continued from page 28

The otherwise dunk-less WNBA decided to celebrate Lisa Leslie's dunk in 2002 as the WNBA's greatest milestone ever. True story.

It is not that the Delaware men's team has any actual divas on the court, as the team looks balanced. Nothing detrimental is affecting the team's chemistry. The women's team plays visibly more tactful basketball however, as do most women's teams in comparison to their male counterparts.

The women's recent 52-42 loss to George Mason was made more painful because the Cockpit, which should have been a cheering fiesta, was one student sitting by himself twiddling his spiked yellow wig. It was sad because one player's father was by far the most animated person in the arena, as he yelled jumbled sentences of encouragement to the team. Even YoUDEe could not hype up the scattered crowd of less than 1,000.

At the men's game, where the team put up a disappointing effort against Drexel, the scene differed. Yellow wigs overflowed the student section. The students chanted words of discouragement to the pack of Drexel fans. "Safety school, safety school," they yelled. Rude? Perhaps a bit. Funny? Much of the crowd seemed to think so.

YoUDEe was not only pumped, he had a legion of other mascots supporting him and the actual basketball game was so overwhelming to the fans that at halftime the mascots needed to stage an absurdly sloppy game of their own to corral the fans.

Maybe this season is lost for both teams, or maybe the teams will redeem themselves and pick up the pieces in the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament. Either way, to dunk or not to dunk, it would seem that really is the question for the fans. Dunking is obviously not the variable for success though, because Gerald Green can dunk all he wants, but he only shoots 33 percent and his team, the Minnesota Timberwolves, are still struggling. It almost seems like fans just want to see a little less teamwork, more flashy play and a lot more aggression.

In the end, a home win by the women's team can seem a lot more impressive than one by the men because of the home court advantage. If the crowd is the sixth player on the court, then the men are getting Air Bud every game and the women get that old dog Shadow from the movie "Homeward Bound", after he fell into the pit and broke his leg.

Take an evening and instead of sitting at home and playing "Halo", or whatever other procrastinating students do to avoid homework, check out some women's sporting events. Take a girl on a date to a women's basketball game. Chances are it is going to be quieter than whatever restaurant you could take her to on your budget anyway.

Seif Hussain is a sports editor for The Review. His viewpoints do not necessarily reflect that of the Review Staff. Send questions, comments and more fans to seif@udel.edu.

Players experimenting with foul line shooting

Continued from page 28

Freshman forward Marco Cooper has only been playing basketball for four years. Cooper, a native of the Bahamas, said he continues to tweak his unique foul shot. On the line, Cooper, a right-handed player, would dribble the ball with his left hand and shoot with his right.

"I would always go to my right hand, then my coach said I have to do it with both hands, so I started dribbling with my left and started going away from my right," he said of his distinctive foul shooting style.

DeHaven said free throws should always be made because they are a vital part to a game, especially if it is close — like when she was on the line late in the game against Boston College on Nov. 20.

"Free throws are two points," DeHaven said. "It's almost like those wide-open layups because they're the ones you're supposed to make. It's one of those things that's mental."



THE REVIEW/Mike Pina

Herb Courtney is 90-for-139 from the free throw line this season.

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Colonial Athletic Association Standings

Men's Basketball

	Conf	Pct	All	Pct.
Virginia Commonwealth	12-3	.800	19-6	.760
George Mason	10-5	.670	18-8	.692
UNC- Wilmington	10-5	.670	17-10	.630
William & Mary	9-6	.600	13-12	.520
Old Dominion	9-6	.600	14-13	.519
Northeastern	8-7	.530	12-13	.480
Delaware	8-7	.530	11-14	.440
Towson	6-9	.400	10-15	.400
Hofstra	6-9	.400	9-16	.360
James Madison	4-11	.270	11-14	.440
Drexel	4-11	.270	11-16	.407
Georgia State	4-11	.270	7-18	.280

Women's Basketball

	Conf	Pct	All	Pct.
Old Dominion	13-0	1.000	22-3	.880
James Madison	10-3	.769	17-7	.708
Virginia Commonwealth	9-4	.692	19-5	.792
Drexel	9-4	.692	14-10	.583
Towson	8-5	.615	16-8	.667
UNC- Wilmington	6-7	.462	15-9	.625
Delaware	6-7	.462	7-18	.280
William & Mary	5-8	.385	11-14	.440
Georgia State	4-9	.308	7-17	.292
George Mason	3-10	.231	9-15	.375
Northeastern	3-10	.231	8-15	.348
Hofstra	2-11	.154	4-20	.167

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Athletes of the Issue



Herb Courtney

Senior forward Herb Courtney scored in double figures against Georgia State and Drexel last week.

On Wednesday, Courtney scored 11 points, grabbed five rebounds, had one block and two steals to propel Delaware past Georgia State, 51-48. On Saturday, he led the Hens in scoring with 13 points and was one rebound shy of a double-double. With a little more than five minutes remaining in the game, Courtney scored five-straight points to tie the game at 52, although Delaware lost 62-60. As impressive as Courtney has been on offense this season, he has been equally important on defense, leading the team in blocks (38) and steals (33).

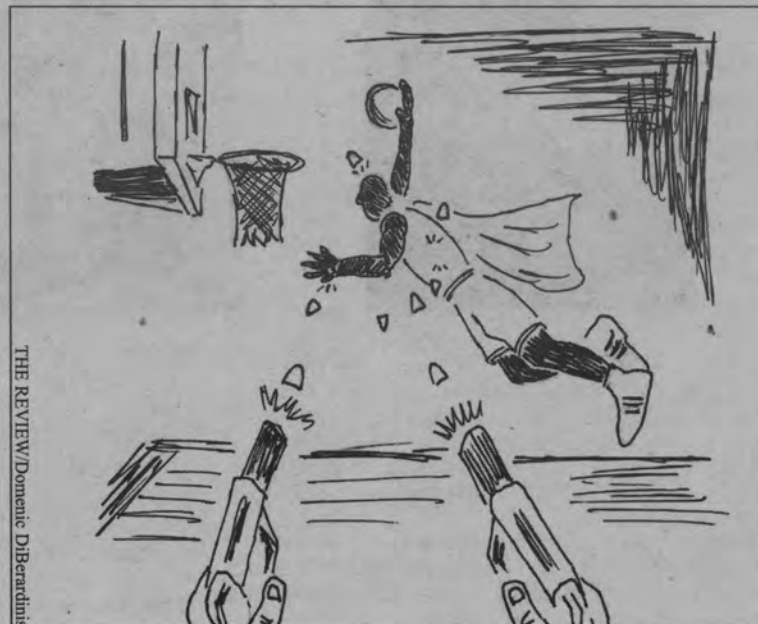


Tesia Harris

Freshman Tesia Harris scored a career-high 21 points in the Hens' 54-53 defeat over Hofstra on Feb. 17. With six seconds left in regulation, she hit the game-winning three-point shot, sealing the Delaware victory. Harris' 21-point game was also the highest by any Delaware women's basketball player this season.

On Feb. 14 against Drexel, Harris was the only Delaware player to connect from beyond the arc, shooting 2-for-4. In 36 minutes, she tallied eight points, four rebounds and three steals.

The guard has scored 105 points this season in 23 games, seven of which she's started.



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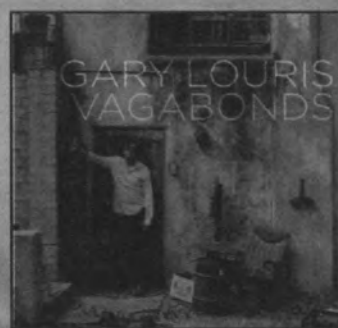
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