

SACRED STONES

A Main Street store interprets runes, rocks used in an ancient alphabet

Mosaic / B1

ODU rules Hens

After a 71-62 loss to the CAA-leading Monarchs, UD hosts UNC-Wilmington in hopes to snap a three-game losing streak.

Sports / B6

Fridays

THE REVIEW

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UD triumphs at competition

BY ADAM SILVERSTEIN

Staff Reporter

The university's dance, cheerleading and mascot teams jumped, flipped and danced their way to winning performances in Orlando, Fla., at a national competition from Jan. 14 to 16.

Dance team members won first place for their routine in the hip-hop competition.

Junior Alyssa DiSabatino, a dance team member who helped choreograph the hip-hop routine, said the team competed for the first time in this specific event.

"Hip-hop is totally different from a jazz dance," she said. "There's less technique, more free-form dancing and people are just more excited about hip-hop."

In a two-minute routine, the team incorporated modern hip-hop songs into their dance. Ten judges evaluated each team's performance in technique and creative choreography.

The team danced to Janet Jackson's "Dance All Night," Beanie Man's "King of the Dance Hall" and Missy Elliott's "4 My People."

During one portion of the routine, the music stopped as the team silenced the crowd, DiSabatino said. At one point the team danced in unison with-

out music and also incorporated blindfolds into its set.

Junior Lauren Steffens, a dance team member, also helped choreograph the routine. She said the energy that flowed between the crowd and the dancers was incredible.

"It was the most awesome, ridiculous thing," she said. "It's Disney World, so you can't understand until you experience it."

After practicing for 30 hours each week until Christmas Eve, the team beat nine other schools to win the hip-hop championship, she said.

"We just wanted to dance to the songs that we like when we go out to party," Steffens said. "Our own style came out of those songs and developed from there."

Nicole Zehnder, the dance team coach, said the team received a trophy and will receive money toward its program.

"The crowd's reaction not only from the UD following but from everybody was overwhelming," she said. "People were clapping and screaming all throughout the routine, a loud roar from the crowd."

ESPN broadcast the event from Orlando. With its first place win, the dance team will be on television in two months,



Courtesy of Heidi Owsley

The university dance team won first place in the national Spirit Team competition Jan. 16 in Orlando, Fla.

Zehnder said.

The team also placed seventh in the jazz competition, dancing to Annie Lennox's "Take Me to the River."

The cheerleading team also was victorious after winning third place in the competition.

Joe Mackley, head coach of the cheerleading team, said teams receive points based on the routine's difficulty, syn-

chronization, crowd involvement and ability to perform skills like pyramids, tumbling, arm motions and general cheerleading skills.

The crowd played a large part in pumping up the team, he said.

"We have the best crowd down there, and they were just awesome this year,"

Sophomore Seth Riblett, a

cheerleading team member, said he was nervous about the crowd.

"The crowd is very close to the front of the mat and it's televised, so you really have to work on not letting the crowd take you out of your focus," he said.

Riblett said he was happy

see SPIRIT page A4

Timothy's liquor license suspended

BY CAIT SIMPSON

Staff Reporter

Timothy's at White Clay Creek had its liquor license suspended earlier this month after three documented accounts of serving alcohol to minors.

Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner John Cordrey said such actions were taken after the Delaware Division of Alcohol Beverage Control and Tobacco Enforcement found three cases of serving alcohol to minors within an 11-month period.

The last circumstance included the Newark Police Alcohol Division and a compliant minor, he said.

Owner Tim Deber described the incident as the result of a set-up.

"The Alcohol Beverage Committee, as well as the Newark Police, sent in an underage girl who was two weeks shy of 21," he said. "The bartender should have carded, he was trained to card, but for some reason he didn't."

Cordrey said Deber pleaded guilty to making the sale.

The license was suspended Jan. 17 after the hearing and further transgressions could result in a total revocation of the license, he said.

Timothy's license will be reinstated Feb. 11, he said.

Cordrey said the investigation was part of the attempt to cut down on the statewide problem of underage drinking.

He said Timothy's was not targeted, nor was the Newark area.

Deber said despite the obstacle, the restaurant has stayed open for business and has seen a very positive response from regular patrons and families.

However, the restaurant had to make several changes after the license suspension, he said.

"We had to lay off a majority of the staff for the three week suspension period," he said.

Sophomore Kathleen Costello, heard of the suspension as a result of the temporary layoffs.

Costello visited Timothy's for the first time a couple weeks ago. She had just learned of the suspension but was not deterred from meeting a few friends for dessert.

"I knew they were under investigation at the time but the Board had not suspended the license yet," she said.

Costello said she was prohibited from playing pool upstairs, where the dance floor is located; because she is underage.

"They carded everyone who tried to go upstairs," she said.

The suspension coincided with the slowest month for student patronage as the majority of the student body is absent from campus, he said.

Deber said he is adamant that the restaurant would be undergoing very serious reforms in its treatment of underage drinking.

"The entire staff is going to be retrained," he said. "Everyone will have to wear a button that reads 'Are you 21?' which will remind servers to ask all customers who try to order an alcoholic beverage. Everyone will be carded whether they are 21 or 90."

He said the restaurant remains hopeful and is very sorry the incidents occurred.

Cordrey confirmed Deber's reform plans and added it was unfortunate the restaurant had its license revoked.

Thousands rally for Roe v. Wade anniversary

BY RENEE GORMAN

Staff Reporter

Thousands of people gathered in Washington, D.C. Monday on the 32nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade for the annual March for Life.

Protesters braved the cold at the nation's capital to object the case, which made abortion legal in all 50 states in 1973.

David Williams, a Newark resident attended the march. He said he took part in the event as an effort to show his opposition toward abortion.

President George W. Bush called from Camp David to give his support to the marchers, Williams said.

"I've been working with members of the Congress to pass good, solid legislation that protects the vulnerable and promotes the culture of life," President Bush said.

Williams said he also saw Senators and Congressmen participating in the

march. He said at one point a group of women stood on stage holding signs reading, "I regret having an abortion."

Williams said he has been attending the march for nine years, and this year he said he saw more young people than ever.

No one has anything to gain financially from the event, he said.

"It is just the right and moral thing to do," Williams said.

Suzanne Cohen, vice president of public affairs for Planned Parenthood of Delaware, said the use of contraceptives should be an issue both sides of the debate can agree on. Preventing unwanted pregnancy is the way to prevent abortion, she said.

"The common ground should be promoting the widespread use of birth control," Cohen said.

William said his personal belief is that contraception is okay, except the type that kills the fertilized egg.

However, not all in the anti-abortion movement agree on this matter.

Bush has tried to earn support from the anti-abortion community, and in 2003 he signed a bill banning partial birth abortion. Williams said if a seat opened on the U.S. Supreme Court, he believes Bush would nominate an anti-abortion candidate.

Cohen said Roe v. Wade is in danger because Bush has shown a definite interest in appointing justices who will vote against abortion.

Bush used Anthony Scalia and Clarence Thomas as model justices, she said because they are both against abortion.

New Castle resident Sue Bullock said a few of her children attended the event, but she stayed home and looked for the march on television.

"I watched the news all day, and there was no media coverage," she said.

Cohen said Planned Parenthood did

not counter protest because the organization thought it would have been unproductive.

Instead, Planned Parenthood organized its own events, like a screening of Vera Drake, a film which depicts London while abortion was illegal, to honor the anniversary.

Cohen said the right to an abortion must continue to be made available.

Abortions should be a decision made by the woman herself, along with her physician, her family and her conscience, she said, and lawmakers, politicians and courts should not choose for her.

Abortion would still occur even if it is formally outlawed, she said, and the procedure would be performed in a more dangerous manner.

"It does not get rid of abortion," she said, "it gets rid of good health care."

Protesters 'turn their backs on Bush' in D.C.

BY DEVIN VARSALONA

Administrative News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — They stood underneath hazy skies patrolled by helicopters, between lamp posts draped with American flags, behind barriers guarded by standstill policemen, in between thousands of jovial families in patriotic garb and underneath the fixed watch of sharpshooters on every rooftop.

There was nothing to distinguish the 5,000 Turn Your Back on Bush protesters in the crowd lining President George W. Bush's Inauguration Day parade route.

They carried no stickers or signs. They represented many generations, races, careers and creeds. They did not menace the police or throw snowballs at President Bush's motorcade.

The only difference was their silence and the direction they faced when Bush's limousine passed their scattered groups along the 1.7 mile parade route.

The simple but powerful statement is what appealed to Junior Sajan Philip, Delaware state organizer for TYBOB, and the dozen other Delawareans who traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the largest collective Inauguration Day protest.

"When I heard about this, I knew I had to do it," Philip said. "It was the non-violence factor. Just turning your back on someone silently is making a huge point without the chaos."

Philip visited the TYBOB Web site after a friend recommended it. He said he was instantly amazed by the site, which detailed everything from non-violence tactics to signing up for text message updates.



Courtesy of TurnYourBackOnBush.org

Several groups sponsored Turn Your Back on Bush to protest the president's inauguration.

Two weeks before the inauguration, Philip said he noticed Delaware did not have a state organizer. At that time, 10 weeks after the launch of their internet campaign, TYBOB had a state organizer for 40 states and close to 2,000 promised participants.

Philip volunteered as a state organizer, then emailed friends, student groups and radio stations.

He helped fuel what TYBOB Field Organizer and college student Sarah Kauffman called an outstanding grassroots action.

"Volunteers saw the Web site and just started flocking," Kauffman said. "At one point someone showed up at the D.C. office from California, then people started volunteering 14 hours a day."

Kauffman believes the movement grew so rapidly because it easily connected people with individual oppositions in a united presence.

"We gathered as citizens coming to see a parade," she said, "except we faced in a different direction representing our unified different vision."

The action quickly brought Philip in contact with Delawareans such as sophomore Will McVay, who said he is vexed by the president's statements.

"I'm here to remind the president he doesn't have a mandate because 70 percent of the country didn't vote for him," McVay said, while other protesters nodded vigorously. "Either they voted for an opponent or they didn't vote at all."

At the Delaware group's designated meeting spot on the corner of Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, McVay first met Jess Milligan, president of the university's Students for the Environment.

"I came to show the president I was one of the people who didn't vote him in office and doesn't agree with his issues," Milligan said.

The Delaware group was in a hot spot to do just that. A fervent Christian coalition was stationed across the

see BUSH'S page A4

Building blocks of learning

Students compete in LEGO contest

BY MIKE HAZELTINE
Staff Reporter

Thirty-nine teams of focused and energetic children from Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey spent Saturday competing with robots constructed of LEGOs at the Bob Carpenter Center.

The teams of students, ages 9 to 14, programmed the miniature robots with word commands from a LEGO computer program to perform the tasks associated with the tournament's theme. Points were given based on how successful the robots completed the missions.

John Larock, a public relations officer for FIRST, said the nonprofit organization, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, established the tournament to make technology more accessible to students. The organization encourages students to think of practical ways to use science and technology.

"The tournament's goal is to inspire youth," he said. This year's theme was labeled "No Limits." Larock said, which focused on the difficult tasks the disabled face in a normal day.

Pennsylvanian Mike Wittwer, who attended the tournament in support of his son Kenzie, was enthusiastic about his son's involvement.

"It is a special program and a terrific way to get kids interested in engineering," he said.

Bus Welsh, 10, said his team had its share of fun building and competing, but it also dealt with lots of work. He said the most challenging obstacle was programming the robot.

"One problem in programming would lead to another," he said.

Larock said the league, made up of 6,000 teams worldwide, consists of teams of 10 students and two to three parent or teacher mentors.

Starting in September, students worked with a kit supplied through their school by LEGO brainstorming strategies and programming for their robot, he said.

Students also researched the theme and gave a presentation to the tournament judges. Judges determine the winners based on the teams' research, creativity, design, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Depending on how they do at the tournaments from November to January, Larock said, teams have a chance to compete in the championships in Atlanta this April.



THE REVIEW/Chris Fahey
Two participants prepare a LEGO robot for competition Saturday in the Bob Carpenter Center.

The Delaware program has grown in success since it arrived here, he said. Family members and teachers have helped it grow by publicizing the LEGO league in schools and supporting the children.

In 2001, there was only one team, he said. Now, there are 25 to 30 teams in the Wilmington area.

FIRST, created by Dean Kamen in 1989, started with a focus on high school students. With growing interest in the tournaments, FIRST has extended to the 6- to 10-year-old age group to make technology available to younger students.

LEGOs teach life lessons

BY MIKE HARTNETT
News Features Editor

The intensity was unbearable. Dinner was not on the table yet and the pets were not fed. Time was running out.

Suddenly, the small LEGO robot, resembling a mini bulldozer, stopped stalling and climbed the stairs, put the CD back in its case and busted through the gate to pick up dinner.

The buzzer sounded and shrills of joy echoed throughout the Bob Carpenter Center while proud team members jumped up and down.

As snow blanketed the Northeast Saturday, hundreds of parents and children from the Tri-State area braved the weather to participate in the FIRST LEGO League Tournament, co-sponsored by the LEGO Group and For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

Along with building a LEGO robot, each team was required to present a project that would address and solve a handicap accessibility problem.

Perpetual Motion, a seventh and eighth grade team from West Chester, Pa., presented "Mini-Golf Unlimited" to the judges.

Seventh-grader Dan Gitzel said "Mini-Golf Unlimited" is a golf course designed for people with muscular dystrophy, a disease characterized by the progressive weakness and degeneration of muscles that control movement.

The participant will move a joystick attached to their wheelchair in order to swing the club, he said. When the ball goes into the hole, it will get sucked up through a chute to a ball return at the beginning of the next hole, similar to a bowling alley.

Seventh-grader Tanner Taylor said team members came up with the concept because their robotics teacher has muscular dystrophy.

"I was thinking about what fun things he would like to do but can't," Taylor said. "So I asked him if he would like to play mini golf and he said yes."

Gitzel said he understood why LEGO chose a handicap accessibility theme for the tournament.

"The people at LEGO want us to know that our society is not made for the handicapped and want us to know it's hard for them to perform some things," he said.

By midday, frantic parents were huddled behind yellow rope cheering on their children, while siblings held up homemade signs to support their brother or sister.

Seated at a table, away from the pandemonium of the competition, a group of sixth-graders in bright orange shirts were waiting anxiously for their second round in the robot challenge.

Cassidy Moellers, a member of TechMOEtronics from Swedesboro, N.J., said her team is composed of a class from her school's gifted program. The 11-member team began planning in November and worked on the robot twice a week for 40 minutes each day.

Moellers said her job was to program the robot to move and pick up objects. The programs are downloaded to the RCX, or the brain of the robot, from a transmission tower connected to a computer.

Diane Jablonowski, the class' teacher, said the students wrote a rap for their handicap accessibility project about how Old MacDonald is handicapped and cannot open the school's front door.

The rap provides a solution to the problem involving the school's secretary pushing a button to open the door.

The tournament came to a close early because of the snow.

As parents and children quickly collected their LEGO pieces and tools and headed for the doors, Valerie Vavala calmly sat in the stands with a smile on her face.

"I think we did better than expected," the eighth-grader from MOEskeeters, a team from St. John the Beloved in Wilmington, said. "Last night things weren't going well, we had some minor problems."

Vavala, whose favorite subjects are math and science, said she has always played with LEGOs at home.

"I love to build things," she said. "I want to do something scientific when I'm older."

Minner addresses concerns, goals for second term

BY ALEXIS BLASO
National/State Editor

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner gave her first State of the State address of her second term Tuesday.

Minner expanded on the issues she addressed at her inauguration last week to a crowd of officials, supporters and residents, beginning with her plans for continued improvements in education.

"As I said last week, we must complete the process of education reform that was begun more than a decade ago," she said.

Minner also spoke on the level of performance she expects from teachers working in public schools.

"Now that schools and students are being held accountable for their performance, it is time for teachers to be held accountable as well."

Minner plans to implement a teacher accountability system by the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year.

In addition, Minner spoke of her proposal to increase the Delaware Teacher Corps, a program that pays the college tuition of 10 students in exchange for their promise to teach at Delaware public schools.

She also stressed the need for increasing mathematics standardized test scores that should be higher than they are.

"Therefore, I propose that we begin placing math specialists in middle schools in the upcoming year," she said. "These teachers will provide the extra attention that some students need to learn and master before they fall behind."

Her suggestion for the Delaware Student Excellence Equals Degree Scholarship was addressed.

SEED would guarantee students who succeed in school will be able to further their education with an associate's degree from affordable Delaware institutions of higher education.

Minner confronted the issue of a healthier Delaware and the struggle to battle high cancer rates statewide.

Emma Fulton, a cancer patient, was present as part of a new program that has provided funding for 23 cancer victims who otherwise could not have afforded treatment.

Minner also said she plans to address high infant mortality rates that have raised

concerns of health officials.

Problems with the cost of healthcare for families in the state are another part of Minner's agenda.

"I believe the best approach that we can take here at the state level is to increase the purchasing power of Delaware's health insurance consumers by creating a statewide purchasing pool," she said.

"That will give individuals and small businesses in Delaware the same bargaining power and risk-spreading abilities that big companies have now."

In an effort to improve environmental regulation and conservation, Minner endorsed plans for the Recycling Public Advisory Council to increase Delaware's residential recycling rate from 4 percent to

30 percent.

Livable Delaware is a program she said she wants to strengthen and expand on, to protect the state's natural resources.

The speech also highlighted improvements in both Delaware's economy and unemployment rate.

"Delaware continues to have one of the strongest economies in the country," she said, "with one of the lowest unemployment rates among 50 states."

Minner expressed her intention to control the worker's compensation insurance with plans to propose an Industrial Accident Board Screening Committee.

Other key goals for her second term include plans to make Delaware residents safer and bolster staff numbers at the state's prisons.

Gymnasiums breeding grounds for sharing germs

BY MIKE HARTNETT
News Features Editor

Zach St. Pierre picked up a weight belt and towel, two essential items for his routine, as he prepared for his workout at the Carpenter Sports Building.

The graduate student knows the gym is a place where germs can spread.

"I work out five days a week, so I'm pretty sure I have [contracted a virus]," he said. "Just from the amount of people running in and out of here, plus people being sick."

As the cold and flu season continues, students exercising around campus could be leaving the gym with more than tired muscles and sweaty clothes.

Often overlooked, a gym is a thriving environment for germ transmission.

Donald Lehman, medical technology professor, said infectious agents carried by people could be transmitted in gyms through respiratory droplets people sneeze, cough or exhale.

The university's main fitness center, located in the CSB, is visited by hundreds of sweaty students each day who could

be carrying a contagious cold.

Barry Miller, assistant director of the CSB, said cleaning is a top priority in a gym setting.

"We're a high volume facility with lots of people, just like an airport," he said. "So more people means more trouble."

Throughout the day, Miller said his staff uses Triad, an anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral cleaning solution to clean everything top to bottom.

Besides the gym, locker rooms get cleaned once a day, he said.

"That can get dirty really quickly based on what classes are down there or if it's raining outside and people with dirty shoes come in," Miller said.

Gym-goers are also expected to assist with some of the cleaning using the Triad solution, he said.

"After participants are done working out they're supposed to spray down what they put their hands on and if they sweat on it," Miller said.

Lehman said sweat does not pose much of an infectious

risk. Sweat can spread bacteria from skin surfaces onto the equipment, but it will not spread infection because people already have the bacterium on their skin.

If students are suffering from the common cold, Lehman said, they should not visit a gym because they pose a risk for transmitting infectious agents to someone else.

Whether students have a cold or not, he said there are precautions to take in preventing germ transmission.

"I recommend using disinfectants that gyms provide to spray down the equipment both before and after working out," Lehman said.

Senior Sumanth Swaminathan said he only wipes down equipment after using it and realizes maybe he should do more.

"You could wipe down equipment before you use it every time," he said.

Miller also recommends students wash their hands and take precautions if they have an open wound — but they do not have to go overboard.

"They don't have to clean the floor, we do that."



THE REVIEW/Jessica Sitkoff
Experts say gym equipment should be disinfected before and after each use.

Police Reports

LETTUCE FEED YOU BURGLARIZED

Someone burglarized Lettuce Feed You on East Main Street between 9 p.m. last Wednesday night and 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning, Newark Police said.

This was in connection with the burglary of Brew Ha-Ha the same night. Cpl. Tracy Simpson said: The person or persons used an unknown object to gain entry into the business after hiding in Brew Ha-Ha until after it closed.

There was \$50 worth of damage to the rear door and \$1,200 was removed from the cash register, she said.

The alarm at Grotto Pizza on Main Street sounded at 4 a.m., but nothing was taken from the restaurant, Simpson said. There were pry marks on its exit door. However, the manager said they had been

there for three weeks.

Brew Ha-Ha had \$575 in damages and \$257 was removed from the cash register, she said.

There are no suspects at this time.

GETTY STATION BURGLARIZED

Someone removed cash and merchandise from the Getty Station booth located at the 100 block on Elkton Road between 11:30 p.m. Wednesday night and 8:10 a.m. Thursday morning, Simpson said.

The exterior lock to the booth was broken and \$160 in cash was missing, as well as several packs of cigarettes, cigars and 28 lighters, she said.

There are no suspects at this time.

MAN ATTEMPTS VEHICLE THEFT AFTER COLLISION

A man who had been drinking attempted to steal a woman's vehicle after he collided with another vehicle last Friday morning at approximately 4 a.m., Simpson said.

The man's car collided with another vehicle in the intersection of Elkton Road and Christiana Parkway and fled the accident on foot, she said.

Police located the man in a nearby residential garage where he was arrested while attempting to steal the elderly resident's 1998 Mazda, Simpson said.

Related traffic charges are pending further investigation, she said.

— Lindsey Lavender

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Mentoring Month highlights need for tutors

BY MIKE HARTNETT

News Features Editor

Oprah Winfrey had a mentor, so did Cal Ripken, Jr. Now many university freshmen have mentors as well.

During the month of January, people have been paying tribute to the mentors in their lives who sometimes go unappreciated.

On campus, the Learning Integrated Freshman Experience program is an academic mentoring program for university freshmen and those students at Delaware Technical and Community College's three campuses.

Meghan Biery, coordinator of the LIFE program, said there were 700 students and 42 mentors in the program Fall Semester.

Mentors either taught at Del Tech in the Associate Arts program or on campus in student clusters, she said.

Sophomore Kristin Zanon spent one hour each week during the Fall Semester mentoring a group of freshmen at Del Tech through the Associate Arts program.

"I was not in the LIFE program last year," she said, "but I had heard so many good things about it from my friends that I wanted to get involved in some way."

In the program, Zanon said students are able to take classes together, form study groups, live together and establish faculty contacts.

"The LIFE program is just one of the ways that right off the bat you go into a large school but feel like you have many small school qualities," she said.

Senior Brian Hill also mentored at Del Tech during the Fall Semester. His class focused on contemporary issues, especially the presidential election.

Many of the students in Hill's class were first generation college students, so he said it was his responsibility to give them advice on how to succeed at the college level.

Hill, who is also a first generation college student and grew up in the same Wilmington area as many of his students, said the class was challenging despite these similarities.

"I was a little more disciplinary than I would've liked to have been," he said. "But you adapt to it."

The Del Tech arts program is more challenging than the university, Hill said, but there is more reward in it and reason to do a better job because a lot of the students are in need of guidance.

Biery said students in the Del Tech AA program can get their associate's degree in two years then transfer to the university and get their bachelor's degree.

Junior Barry Shainker has been a mentor at the university for two years. During the Fall Semester he mentored students in a leadership and decision-making cluster focusing on acquainting students with academic resources and extracurricular activities on campus.

"It's too easy for students to become overwhelmed and fail out," he said.

The cluster also visited the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia and held a dating auction for a family that lost its father, he said.

Shainker said he decided to become a mentor after his positive experience in the program freshman year and has learned a lot in the past two years.

"I'm learning how to be a teacher," he said. "I can see myself possibly going into some sort of education field and working with children."

Main St. welcomes new stores

BY LINDSEY LAVENDER

City News Editor

Several businesses on Main Street are moving in or relocating this winter, offering students a new variety of food, clothing and accessories.

Assistant Planning Director Maureen Feeney-Roser said businesses moving in include Tan Inn, Cucina di Napoli, Echo and Shaggy's Seafood.

"Shaggy's has done all the demolition and they have gotten approval from the Board of Health," she said. "We are anticipating an opening in April."

Echo, an upscale clothing and home accessory store, should open in March, Feeney-Roser said.

CVS Pharmacy, located on East Main Street, has been closed since Jan. 2, and movers began to remove the remaining property on Monday.

"The Mid-Atlantic Ballet, located behind the building, is looking at expanding their business," she said, "but the owner of the building submitted plans to add a second floor."

Feeney-Roser said Goodwill Industries, also located on East Main Street, is currently talking to a tenant, but no plans have been made.

"The process is definitely cyclical," Feeney-Roser said. "Some businesses like to hang on for the holidays or even until the end of January to see how the business fares."

Carol Pappas, manager of Tan Inn, said the salon opened Dec. 11.

"We opened at a bad time," she said, "but the world's getting out now."

Tan Inn is one of two salons, she said, and the other salon is located in Smyrna.

"Including myself, there are currently 14 employees, and they are all students," she said.

Pappas said the business decided to open a Main Street location because the



THE REVIEW/Jessica Sitkoff

Cucina di Napoli is one of four new businesses to open on Main Street.

students are prime customers, and Main Street attracts business.

"Our goal for the spring semester is to meet the tanning needs, or wants, of the students," she said.

During Winter Session, business has gone well, Pappas said, and over the past week, it has been picking up even more.

Pappas said she is not worried about competition from other surrounding tanning salons.

"I think now people are going to have to beat us," she said.

Across the street at Cucina di Napoli, alumna Ashley Procope, manager of the new restaurant, said they opened on Monday and are doing really well.

"Every day is picking up more," she said, "and considering it's Winter Session, we are really impressed

because we have more customers than expected."

Procope said her family, which owns the business, decided to open on Main Street because it is a great location and a good community.

"Plus, a lot of our customers at our other restaurants, Café Napoli and Trattoria, asked when we were going to move to Newark," she said.

Manager and owner Pasquale Procope said he wants to bring new ideas to Newark and the rest of Delaware with the restaurant.

"We offer fresh fish and seafood, and over the last five days, we have served a lot of seafood for lunch," he said. "It's great because in the short time we have been open, I see the same people twice a day," he said.

Winter storm brings out shovels, plows

BY CAIT SIMPSON

Staff Reporter

The first storm of Delaware's winter season dumped more than 10 inches of snow on the university, leaving behind the need for a massive removal effort.

Early Monday morning, the university facility workers were seen clearing walkways with snowplows. Many dangerous areas of campus, such as the stairs to Laird Campus, were salted so far in advance they remained snow-free throughout the storm.

Assistant Director of Facilities Mike Loftus said the Grounds Crew consists of 40 workers who are responsible for clearing the sidewalks, main pathways and parking lots. The custodial staff clears the area outside of the residential buildings.

Senior Justin Sager said he thought the university handled the snow much differently than last winter.

"Last year they didn't fully shovel the walkways initially," he said. "This year they cleared more and there seems to have been more salt spread to prevent ice."

Loftus said the Grounds Crew did not actually change anything from last year.

"The staff starts to get prepped in late fall and then mobilizes the snowplows and de-icers after any indication of a severe storm," he said.

Senior Lauren Ware said she was also satisfied with the university's snow removal effort.

"The sidewalks have been a little icy, but there are always people out there salting and snowplowing them," she said.

Despite the efforts of the university, some students remain dissatisfied with the extent of the snow removal.

Senior Nicole Miller said many of the walkways were not completely clear Monday, two days after the snowstorm.

"This year on campus it's easier to walk to class in bad weather but it's still hard without sidewalks shoveled," she said.

Sager said he agreed, citing follow-up shoveling as the school's greatest

problem after the winter storm.

"It seems like they shovel once and then the snow continues to fall or drift back onto the paths and turns to ice," he said.

Loftus said the Grounds Crew cleared the walkways immediately after the storm, but city plows frequently push street snow back onto the walkways.

His workers try to keep up with re-clearing the snow, he said.

"We clear everything we can. We start as soon as the storm ends and continue until the job is done," he said. "Complaints often come in through the main-dispatch number and we take care of those as they come."

The most important thing students could do to ensure speedy snow removal is to not step on the snow because packed snow is more difficult to remove, Loftus said.

Miller said traveling to class is a major concern because the university does not close even though weather conditions render it nearly impossible for some students to get to class.

"Last year I lived off campus and I relied on the buses a lot," she said. "And when those stop running because of the weather, it's a sign that school should be closed rather than making students have to drive in."

Commuters face even more problems than snow-covered walkways when trying to get to class.

Sager said most of the problems arise in the clearing of off-campus apartment areas.

The trip to campus takes even longer because many areas outside of university property are not cleared, he said.

Ware said the discrepancy in the university's closings and the state's public school closings was unsettling.

"It might have been more prudent to cancel classes on Monday, when the streets and walkways were at their worst," she said. "It seems strange not to cancel classes when the local school district cancelled them the night before."

"At least we could have slept in."

New parking garage opens on Elkton Rd.

BY JIA DIN

Student Affairs Editor

A new five-level parking garage located on Elkton Road opened Monday and will house 715 spaces.

The garage takes the place of the Orchard Road parking lot located near the Amy E. du Pont music building.

David Hollowell, executive vice president of the university, stated in an e-mail message that construction for the \$12 million garage began in the spring of 2004 and took approximately 10 months to complete.

The project was funded by \$2 million from parking system reserves and \$10 million from revenue bonds that will be repaid from parking revenue over the next 30 years, he said.

The new garage was built to address the loss of 600 parking spaces due to the construction of the Center for the Arts building project, Hollowell said.

Steve Ruble, capital projects engineer for facilities, planning and construction, said the garage benefits the Center for the Arts, scheduled for completion in August 2006, because of its proximity to the building.

"We've provided additional spaces that the existing lot didn't have," he said. "We've been able to better the situation a bit."

Hollowell said the parking problem created by the Center for the Arts construction will now be relieved due to the opening of the new garage. People who wish to attend performances at the center in the future will have convenient parking options, he said.

Capt. Jim Grimes of Public Safety said the garage is a beneficial addition to the parking system on campus.

"It's added to the number of spaces we have in the central part of campus which is where we have a high demand," he said.

Lt. Jenni Sparks of the parking services division of Public Safety said the garage is the same in its pricing structure as the other two campus garages located at Trabant University Center and Perkins Student Center.

Cashiers will be present from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. on weekdays throughout the academic year, and from 7 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. on weekends, she said.

On-campus student residents are able to purchase year-round parking permits for \$550 and employees can purchase year-round parking permits for \$400, Sparks said.

"It's exactly the same pricing as the other garages on campus," she said.

Junior Kim DePaul said she thinks commuting students should be able to purchase year-round permits for the new garage.

"This is good for people who live on campus because they can park their car safely," she said. "But commuters would probably like having the option of a permanent parking spot. They'd probably be willing to pay the \$550 too."

Junior Phoebe Holmes said the new garage is convenient, yet unsightly.

"It's big and ugly," she said. "It's not aesthetically pleasing at all."



THE REVIEW/Jessica Sitkoff

The new parking garage on Elkton Road was built to replace the Amy E. du Pont music building lot.



THE REVIEW/Jessica Sitkoff

Shuaib Meacham, education professor, lectured about the literary value of hip-hop Wednesday in Morris Library.

Professor discusses cultural aspects of hip-hop music

BY KATHLEEN COLLINS

Staff Reporter

Hip-hop has value as an educational aid for students beyond its entertainment aspect, a university professor said Wednesday in Morris Library.

Shuaib Meacham, education professor, told an audience of approximately 80 that some students do not see education as useful beyond school.

"Hip-hop can help students apply education and knowledge to their daily lives," he said. "Through it, they are learning self-representation and are shaping an identity."

Meacham said children living in cities view hip-hop as a way to escape the city and enter a new lifestyle.

This the "urban American dream," a variation on the concept of the "American dream," he said.

"Schools in urban areas aren't the best and aren't there for the students," he said. "Hip-hop is there, and the children can relate to it. It tells them what clothes to wear and what to drink."

Hip-hop has not always been seen as a positive force in education, Meacham said. A study performed at Harvard showed hip-hop widened the achievement gap between black and white children.

"This professor was saying that hip-hop was having a negative impact on literacy," he said.

Meacham said the rhythmic music is an effec-

tive educational tool for creative writing and literature.

"This music can help teach poetry to students," he said. "The lyrics are more applicable to their lives than the words in poem, and students are willing to accept them more."

It is important for teachers to find literary devices in lyrics, Meacham said.

"If you look at Jay Z's 'Meet the Parents,' there are themes in there similar to Oedipus the King."

Meacham said other hip-hop artists, such as Wu Tang Clan, Rakim and Mos Def reference writing in their lyrics. He has also looked for connections to literacy in hip-hop lyrics in his own research.

"Mos Def mentions literacy and writing in his songs, and criticizes hip-hop for its increasing emphasis on corporate sponsorship," he said.

Rakim wrote his writing process into the lyrics of one of his songs, and explains how it will be his escape when he is finished, Meacham said.

He said Baseline is a group of black teenagers who are taught to use hip-hop to help promote literacy among students.

"Students that normally struggled with writing were able to apply their knowledge of hip-hop to what they were writing," he said.

Graduate student Davida Pitts said she has seen the Baseline group learning through hip-hop and how it has helped them improve their public speaking skills.

"I've seen how these kids' poetic skills have improved with the influence of hip-hop," she said. "Their confidence is improving and their presentation skills are improving."

Pitts said she was impressed with the lecture and how Meacham was able to give credibility to hip-hop in front of a diverse group of intellectuals.

Graduate student Lymelle Thorpe said it is important that hip-hop be seen as a form of music that can influence everyone.

"Hip-hop doesn't influence youth only as music," she said. "It's also an influence to find other careers. Hip-hop isn't all negative, it's really supposed to be positive."

Paul Anderson, assistant director of administrative services, said programs such as Meacham's lecture are important in increasing diversity awareness.

"The committee's goals are to promote awareness and to really celebrate it," he said. "We're a better university because of diversity. We want a campus that is open to all walks of life."

The Library Diversity Committee sponsored the lecture.

Lawmakers challenge three-tiered diploma

BY HEATHER STONER
Staff Reporter

The Delaware State Legislature is circulating a bill that would eliminate the three-tiered diploma system and replace it with a normal high school diploma, a state official said yesterday.

State Rep. Pamela Maier, R-21st District, said her goal in introducing the legislation was to get away from the three-tiered diploma controversy.

"We want a state of Delaware diploma for students who have passed the required coursework," she said.

Maier, who is co-sponsoring the bill with Rep. William Oberle, R-24th District, said an amendment to the bill is being examined which would prevent Delaware's Department of Education from setting regulations on diplomas that are tied to test scores.

The three-tiered system is currently under review by the U.S. Department of Education, which is set to deliver a report Feb. 15.

If implemented, the three-tiered system would rank a student's

diploma as basic, standard or distinguished, depending on the results of a standardized test taken in 10th grade.

This system has been met with numerous complaints from both lawmakers and Delaware residents.

Pam Nichols, spokeswoman for the Delaware State Education Association, said the diploma should not be based solely on test scores.

"We think that the three-tiered system needs to be re-examined, because it bases a student's performance on only one indicator," she said.

Yvonne Johnson, co-chairwoman of Delaware Advocates for Children's Education, said the tiered system is unacceptable.

"We don't want any tiers," she said. "We want all students to be able to achieve a diploma based on their GPA and the grades they have achieved in four years of high school."

Johnson's concerns with the tiered system are linked to her distaste with the type of test used to determine the rankings, a test she

said is invalid and unreliable.

"Last year they had an [Advanced Diploma] Calculus question in the math portion," she said. "What 10th grader takes AP calculus? This test is designed for students who think outside the box."

"It's not measuring what it should be measuring. We're not against testing — we're against high-stakes testing."

Concerns about the three-tiered diploma stem from a fear that students may be stigmatized due to their diploma's ranking.

Nichols said while she has not seen any evidence of bias in college selection based solely on diploma distinction, a diploma should be comprised of multiple indicators and not just test scores.

Johnson said students who have an Individualized Education Plan because of a learning disability are treated unfairly under the system. They earn a Certificate of Completion rather than a diploma upon their completion only of high school.

"We want to create a system that is fair for all students," she said. "I don't want to stigmatize students who have an IEP."



Courtesy of TurnYourBackOnBush.org

A Turn Your Back on Bush protester shuns President George W. Bush during his inaugural speech.

Bush's Inauguration draws protest groups

continued from A1

street. Texans in cowboy hats sat in the \$250 per person bleacher seats next to them.

However, Philip said TYBOB had grouped them with the founders of the anti-war groups Iraq Veterans Against War, Military Families Speak Out and Gold Star Families for Peace. All groups demand the immediate return of the troops in Iraq.

Bystanders turned wide-eyed as young IVAW founders Mike Hoffman, Tim Goodrich and Alex Rybov took off their winter coats and exposed their Marines and Air Force fatigues.

"You're disrespecting the soldiers," a man shouted from the stands.

The veterans ignored the taunt.

"How is this disrespectful, especially for us?" Hoffman asked supporters. "We served our country and took the lives of people we had nothing against. Now, I have to speak out. I have to do whatever I can to save my friends still in Iraq."

For Philip, their presence alone made it worthwhile.

"I can now defend myself better because I heard their stories," he said. "I didn't go because of the Iraq vets, I didn't know I would meet them, but now I feel like me going there to support them was what it was all about."

Minutes later, Philip received a TYBOB text message on his cell phone saying Bush was on his way. Word spread, and the Chicago police stationed at the corner grouped closer.

As Bush's limousine passed, the Delaware group turned in unison with the veterans and military families.

The group stood for seven hours to turn for 30 seconds.

Spirit teams compete in nationals

continued from A1

with the team's performance but expected to finish higher.

"Last year we got sixth place, so we were pleased to finish higher and happy to get on ESPN, but we always want to do better," he said.

Team members practiced for close to 20 hours each week, Riblett said. After Fall Semester, the team practiced double sessions six hours per day until the contest.

The mascot team, featuring YoUDee, won fourth place at the competition.

An anonymous member of the YoUDee mascot team said they faced stiff competition this year, as they were up against 10 other schools.

To compete in the event, mascot teams had to send in a video highlighting the mascot's best moments over the entire year, he said. Fifty percent of the team's competition is based on the video, and making the video was difficult.

"We put in a ridiculous amount of hours on the video, and then it was ranked seventh."

The six members of the mascot team spent countless hours preparing for the 90-second skit and nearly 11 hours editing the music, which ranged from The Beatles to Snoop



Courtesy of Lauren Kaplans

The university cheerleading team won third place at a competition in Florida.

Dogg, he said.

"We were expecting to finish higher, but we were the only ones to move up between the video and the skit, so we were proud of the result."

Del. Lotto Game runs out of luck

BY LEE PROCIDA
Staff Reporter

The Delaware Lotto Game was discontinued Wednesday and replaced with the new Multi-Win Lotto.

A message displayed under the winning Lotto numbers from Wednesday's drawing informed players of the change.

The Delaware Lottery, the third largest contributor to the Delaware general fund, has experienced steady sales during the past few years, but the Lotto game has seen declining revenues.

Wayne Lemons, director of the lottery, pointed to something he calls "jackpot fatigue" to account for the drop in sales.

"The revenue hasn't been declining for the lottery overall, just for this particular game," he said. "People aren't attracted to the small jackpots. They don't buy tickets until the jackpot gets very large, then the next jackpot has to be even bigger for people to be interested."

In addition, Lemons said it is a national

issue, not just a state problem.

"Pennsylvania just discontinued their state Lotto game," he said. "Massachusetts also stopped their Lotto after 17 years. Because we don't have a large population, it's hard to get a very large jackpot."

In 1997, the Lotto stopped using the "teardrop" numbered ping-pong ball method, Lemons said. Instead, computers are used to randomly select winning numbers.

By 2002, the winning numbers were no longer broadcast on television, he said.

Andy Somers, owner of Books and Tobacco on Kirkwood Highway, points out one problem that has risen since the drawings stopped being televised.

"We've seen a drop in sales since they took the drawings off TV," he said. "The average customer isn't comfortable not seeing the numbers picked in front of them."

However, Lemons said surveys indicate only 7 percent of lottery patrons tune in any given day to watch the televised results.

"We haven't found a lot of people complaining," he said.

Another disconcerting issue is that no one has won the jackpot of the Delaware Lotto since Feb. 16, Lemons said.

"The goal of the new game is not bigger jackpots, but more chances to win," he said.

Larry Lanouette, who played the Lotto game three times a week, expressed interest in the new Multi-Win game.

"We were upset they stopped broadcasting the results on TV and about the fact that no one has won since February of last year," he said. "But we're definitely going to try this new game out. We'd rather win little prizes more often than huge prizes almost never."

Annie Patel, who works at the Newark Newstand, also expressed excitement about the new game.

"We expect a lot of people on Friday to be excited about the new game," she said. "It should be interesting to see what happens."

Indie film series wraps up screenings

BY HEATHER STONER
Staff Reporter

The True Indie Film Series came to an end after its fifth film screening Wednesday night in the Trabant University Center theatre.

"Blood Simple," directed by brothers Joel and Ethan Coen, also known for their movie Fargo, put a comedic spin on film noir. It won the first Grand Jury Prize in the Sundance Film Festival and the first Independent Spirit Award for best director.

Alex Keen, coordinator of the series, said "Blood Simple" is a good representation of the independent film movement of the early 1980s.

"It's easily the most jolting of the series, and a great example of how indie cinema can successfully mix multiple genres," he said.

With a cast that includes John Getz, Frances McDormand and Dan Hedaya, "Blood Simple" follows the chilling trail of a cheating wife and her lover, a vindictive husband, and a twisted private investigator whose lives intersect in startling, often humorous confrontation.

Many audience members seemed captivated by the film's suspenseful scenes.

Freshman Ray Sheldon said "Blood Simple" had its funny parts.

However, freshman David Sophrin, said he was not amused.

"It was a waste of two hours," he said. "I thought it was terrible."

Keen said he hoped to enlighten students to the true definition of an indie film through the series, as opposed to

movies shown during Spring and Fall Semesters.

He said he thinks the series, which was sponsored by the University's Student Centers, was a success.

"By showing these films, I hope to convey that at one point

indie films were very much outside of mainstream cinema, and that these films paved the way for the resurgence of the modern art house," he said.

Keen also said he was thrilled with the consistent attendance throughout the film

series.

In addition to "Blood Simple," "Swingers," "Clerks" and "Sex, Lies, and Videotape" were also screened as part of the Winter Session lineup.

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Editorial

January 28, 2004 A5

Snow

The first snowstorm of the year has come and gone, and as snowstorms usually do, it has inspired many reactions from students.

The Review believes the university and the Grounds crew did a good job removing the snow lingering on campus walkways.

However, the removal of snow from city streets was less than spectacular.

Newark has been criticized in the past for not adequately removing snow, and it comes as a surprise that this still remains an issue. It is time for more people to voice suggestions on how to improve the city's system of snow removal.

For students who live off campus and have to trek a little further to get to class, the lack of efficient plowing is a serious concern.

With that in mind, students who live in houses are encouraged to shovel their sidewalks.

Shoveling a sidewalk so other students have a clear path when they walk to class is

an action of common courtesy, and one that most should do.

Still, many students do not shovel their sidewalks, and police have the authority to give citations.

Basically, if the city is willing to spend money to clear the snow (efficiency aside), students should be willing to clear their sidewalks.

Despite efforts made by the university grounds crew, conditions Monday morning were not suitable for commuters to drive in, or even for students walking to class.

Therefore, The Review contends that classes should have been cancelled Monday, along with other public schools in Newark.

It is understandable the university was reluctant to cancel classes because it is Winter Session, but if it was not safe for school buses to be out on the road, it was not safe for university students either.

WHERE TO WRITE:

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Move over My Little Pony, make way for Botox



Alexis
Blaso

Blah Blah
Blaso

When I was a seven-year-old girl, thoughts of Barbie, My Little Pony and Hello Kitty danced through my head.

What did not flow through my mind as a seven-year-old girl were thoughts of Botox, diamonds or carbohydrates.

Apparently, times have changed.

When searching for a birthday present for my seven-year-old cousin, I came across her favorite store at Christiana Mall.

As I peered into the window, I thought to myself, this should be easy, considering it was packed with little girls.

Cheesy as it looked, I made myself as inconspicuous as possible and darted in with the hopes that no one I knew would see me.

When I entered and began to look around, I discovered the store's target clientele should not be elementary age schoolgirls, but rather women of an Anna Nicole Smith-nature.

Everywhere I turned there were obnoxious comments and phrases embroidered on sleep masks, pillows and jewelry boxes.

"I Heart Botox," "I Need Diamonds" and "I Hate Carbs."

Is this a joke?

Little girls should be eating buttered popcorn at the movies and



THE REVIEW/Lauren Zane

pink frosted doughnuts with sprinkles, not counting how many carbohydrates they are consuming.

A need for diamonds and love for botox are just absolutely absurd for anyone, nevermind a young girl.

What really did me in was a little girl, approximately ten years

old, standing in line to buy a mirror that read, "I Don't Kiss and Tell."

Do you think she even understands the sexual connotation of that saying? I would bet my life she does not.

Whatever happened to sayings like, "Best Friends," impressed on necklaces that split in two parts, or "I Love Gymnastics," on pillows and duffle bags?

I guess Best Friend necklaces have been replaced by the tacky Playboy Bunny on necklaces, and "I Love Gymnastics" was thrown out the window to make room for the arrogant, "I Love Me" saying.

I am well aware that little girls try and behave more mature than they actually are, but this is extreme.

I played dress-up, stole my mom's make-up and wobbled around in her high heels, but I had no idea of the materialistic issues young girls face today.

Companies should take into account the appropriateness of the merchandise they are providing to certain retailers that target young females. Perhaps manufacturers should put aside the millions of dollars they make off of innocent girls and take some responsibility for future generations.

Alexis Blaso is a National State News Editor for The Review. Please send comments to alexisblaso@hotmail.com

Weyco needs to 'butt out' and leave its employees alone



Monica
Simmons

Not that
Monica

While 24-hr news channels are about as unpredictable as Tucker Carlson's wardrobe, I did stumble

upon one report on CNN this week that was not only shocking, but offensive.

An Okemos, M.I. company, Weyco, recently instituted a drastic policy — stop smoking or risk termination. According to the new policy introduced Jan. 1, Weyco employees are subject to monthly nicotine tests to ensure they are not smoking, even in the comfort of their own homes. Four employees were fired this week when they refused

to submit to testing. Twenty more have quit, preferring to find work elsewhere.

I have been smoking for five years. Yes, I know I am killing myself. Thank you for your concern, but it is really none of your business.

I am not defending smoking. It is unhealthy, but still legal. Smoking is fatal in some cases, but so is drinking, sunbathing and over eating. Life is fatal, folks, and the choices a person makes to protect or destroy his or her health are personal.

This is not about smoking, but the personal liberty that seems to be dwindling with every passing year.

Howard Weyers, president of Weyco, said the policy is mainly an effort to curb climbing healthcare costs, while at the same time encouraging employees to pursue a healthier lifestyle.

According to data released by the Center for Disease Control in 2001, Michigan had the third

highest obesity level in the country at 24 percent, while their smoker rate ranks them at 18.

In a country plagued by significantly higher obesity levels than the rest of the world, I wonder if Weyco is concerned with their healthcare costs, why it is not monitoring the eating habits of their employees?

It is simple. Michigan is also the only state that specifically bans discrimination on the basis of weight, and thus Weyco cannot fire its employees for being overweight.

A private company such as Weyco has as much right to enforce this policy as an employee has to dismiss it, but these disparities should not be ignored.

Furthermore, should a non-smoking candidate be chosen over a stronger, more qualified smoker just because the former helps keeps healthcare costs lower?

A better solution would be to pass the burden of increasing costs to those employees who continue to smoke. If companies such as Weyco are concerned with the loss of productivity, they can simply ban employees from smoking at work.

There should be limits to how far an employer can infringe on an employee's personal life. While smoking is certainly unhealthy, it does not interfere with a person's ability to perform their job.

Thus, my only advice to Weyco is to butt out.

Monica Simmons is a News Features Editor for The Review. Please send comments to brand-new@udel.edu

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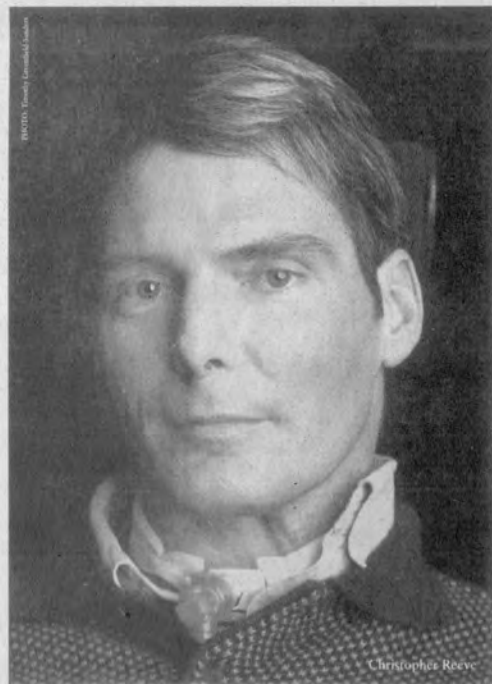
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ENTERTAINMENT THE ARTS PEOPLE FEATURES

Album Reviews:
Bright Eyes,
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Brothers

B2



The story's in the stones

Ancient alphabet gives insight on the energies of the human soul

BY HEATHER STONER

Staff Reporter

Her hands flutter around a formation of polished stones, each engraved with a small symbol. With her eyes narrowed in concentration, she moves one stone, and then another, silently drawing meaning from the delicate markings. When she begins to speak, there is confidence in her voice.

"Laguz," she says, slowly pronouncing the name of the rune. "Travel, union, spiritual friendship. We go through different archways to reach a new sphere. It's a nice rune."

Driven by her fascination with her European heritage, as well as her love for language, Patricia Lang has been reading runes for more than 20 years. Recently, she brought her skill to Main Street's Crystal Concepts.

"If your ancestors come from the British Isles or Northern Europe, the runes are a natural part of your history," she says. "They're a real alphabet, not affiliated with any particular religion."

To me it's philosophy, it's psychology and it's a bit of spirituality all mixed up into one.

The runes are a 24-character alphabet, called the futhark, and they were used by ancient civilizations in Europe. The earliest archeological evidence of the runes dates back to 200 B.C., Lang says.

Carved on wood, bone, stone or sometimes simply drawn, the runes are used to give an idea as to what sort of energies are present in a person's life, and to offer guidance for navigating change and struggle.

"The ancient stone casters, so they say, would toss the runes on the ground and read them however they turned up," she says. "The concept of change is always the precursor to growth. That's how one needs to look at it. If we keep going with the flow, that's not a good idea. One has to steer the boat a little."

Some of the runic symbols represent fire, water and sun. Others represent animals or tools. The shapes of the runes are simple and can be found everywhere, Lang says.

"One of the lessons I had when I was learning this was to look for the shape of the runes in my environment, and you can find them in everyday shapes, in the architecture of buildings."

Lang says runes are a reflection of the energies present in a person's life, rather than simply a means of discerning the future. She wrinkles her nose at the mention of "fortune-telling."

"The meanings of these runes are basic. You know what that rune means, and you keep the image in your head throughout the

see RUNES page B3

Writer finds humor in everything

Absurdities place Christopher Moore on best seller's list

BY CHRISTOPHER MOORE

Managing Mosaic Editor

I am not Christopher Moore. Well, I am, but I'm not. Christopher Moore is a writer, a ridiculously funny writer, at that. His burgeoning success matches his wit in ways that many writers fail to play into.

Moore doesn't create books poking fun at addictions like Augusten Burroughs. He doesn't construct comedic dialogues about sexuality or the complexities of the mind. Moore creates outlandish storylines that take on subjects rarely broached in literature. Some border on vulgar, but Moore's literary stylings tend to gloss over the randy nature of his writing.

With eight books to his credit, Moore's latest, "The Stupidest Angel," has catapulted him into a new category he had only skirted around before — successful writer.

"The Stupidest Angel," a combination of modern, West Coast fable and twisted adult humor, became a best-selling novel over the holidays, spurred in part by Moore's uncanny ability to tell a story that is as tongue-in-cheek as it is charming.

"A lot of [ideas] just came from sitting around thinking about Christmas in California," Moore states in an e-mail. "I also read a ton of Christmas books and watched a lot of Hallmark specials."

"I wanted the book to really be a send-up of the typical modern Christmas story."

Moore's desire to create an anything-but-typical story extends far beyond his latest novel. His other works, including "Fluke: Or, I Know Why the Winged Whale Sings," "Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal" and "Island of the Sequestered Love Nun," are as unconventional as they are appealing. Moore's wit also has garnered more accolades than he can count. Denver's Rocky Mountain News even heralded him as "the greatest satirist since Jonathan Swift."

"It cracks me up," Moore says, "I mean, that's a lot of ground to cover between Swift and me."

"I have a friend who writes personal essays based on traveling the world on a bicycle who was once called 'the modern Mark Twain on two wheels' so he and I joke back and forth about ridiculous comparisons," he says.

Comparisons aside, Moore's writing style is as simple as his characters, something he attributes to the ability to mold personalities by simply paying attention to the world around him.

"My stories usually start as 'a guy,'" he says. "I have an idea like, 'this guy is doing research on humpback whales' or 'this girl gets turned into a vampire, but she doesn't get the instruction manual' then



Photo courtesy of Christopher Moore

Writer Christopher Moore recently hit No. 16 on the New York Times Best Sellers' List with his latest, "The Stupidest Angel." His other novels include "Island of the Sequestered Love Nun" and "Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal."

I research the subject and I fill in the personality and history of the chapter based on what I need them to do, and based on information I hear about real people.

"I eavesdrop on conversations, I take little peccadilloes from real people I know, then plug them into my character."

"My characters are all sorts of Frankenstein monsters, that is, pieced together from parts of other, real people."

He says writing for a living means giving up the ability to live a real life with all the sitting, reading and writing.

While creating his 1997 novel, "Island of the Sequestered Love Nun," Moore dug deeper into his fictionalized character creations, producing a story that revolved around cargo cults — religions based on the worship of World War II bomber pilots. His initial intention was to have his book ultimately merge the cults with scuba diving.

"I started piecing together how I would get a character involved with a cargo cult, what he would have to be, how I would get him there, all of that," he says. "Then I went to Micronesia and lived among the islanders for a month, gathering impressions of the variety of discomfort and anxiety one could conjure on a primitive island, then I pieced it all together into a comic story."

Moore adds that he took flying lessons and hung out with pilots to gain a grasp on their world views.

"The book ended up with no scuba diving in it at all, by the way, so it's not a predictable process," he says.

When Moore's own writings aren't keeping him busy, he seeks out other writers who tickle his humorous fancy.

"I always like a new Carl Hiaasen book, or a book of David Sedaris' essays," he says. "As long as they don't write the same book over and over again, I'll stick with them."

see LIFE page B3

'Aviator' leads with 11 nods in 2004 Oscar race

A preview to the Academy Awards

The announcement Tuesday morning of the 2005 Academy Award nominations has set Hollywood all abuzz.

The films and talent selected this year include a number of revered, A-list names, many of whom already have the golden statuette embellishing their homes, as well as newcomers who, after being placed on lists among greatness, prove they have a fighting chance in what some would think is a shoo-in for others.

Yet, while all the nominees are talented in their own right, only one name graces the inside of each envelope.

Some say the "Golden Globes" are typically a good foreshadowing of Oscar night, but regardless of who or what won two weeks ago, the race is on, and the panel of judges has some tough decisions ahead.

Best picture nominees

Probably the most prestigious award of Oscar night, a nomination for Best Picture adds an air of excellence around any motion picture title. A plethora of superb films throughout 2004 should make being awarded the Oscar this year an especially humbling gesture from their Hollywood peers.

With 11 nominations, "The Aviator" tops the list as the favorite. A star studded, not to mention extraordinarily talented cast puts Hollywood, as an industry, under the microscope. Leonardo DiCaprio and Cate Blanchett fill the shoes of Howard Hughes and Katherine Hepburn to tell the story of Hughes' progress in the flight industry under the direction of Martin Scorsese. One speculation, however, which might hinder its Oscar chances for this blockbuster is that some say movies for Hollywood about Hollywood never do as well as they should.



"The Aviator"



"Finding Neverland"



"Million Dollar Baby"



"Ray"



"Sideways"

see FILMS page B3

The darker side of brightness

"I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning"
"Digital Ash in a Digital Urn"
Bright Eyes
Saddle Creek
Rating: ★★★★★

stray tracks

Anyone who is educated in critically-popular music knows Conor Oberst, or Bright Eyes as his albums would have one call him, isn't just some emo crybaby, out trying to swoon his way into the hearts of the record-buying public via sappy dirges aimed at heart-breaking girls.

Oberst also doesn't subscribe to mainstream musical techniques that allow his contemporaries (Saves the Day, Jimmy Eat World, et cetera) to achieve varied levels of success, from sales, airplay or a

combination of both.

Oberst sticks to his artistic guns, stretching the envelope in ways other artists of his caliber tend to never accomplish. This not only sets him apart, it puts him at the lead of the singer-songwriter pack.

With dual releases to follow 2002's critically acclaimed "Lifted or the Story is in the Soil, Keep Your Ear to the Ground," Oberst is clearly not taking any chances in letting his "Critical Darling" tag slip.

Known for his wordy, melodic rants, Oberst paints portraits and tells tales of the woefully broken with the ease of writers twice his age—think Tom Waits in corduroy.

"I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning," a collection of acoustic lamentations on love, follow in the same vein of "Lifted..." only upping the emotional ante that has made his previous albums so effective.

"Lifted..." which contained the ridiculously powerful "Let's Not Shut Ourselves" topped many a critics list, not only because its creative audacity trumped anything released in 2002, but because Oberst's sentimental nature matched his viper-tongued ability to lash out at those who had affected him. "I'm Wide Awake..." is the perfect continua-

tion. "Luu," the album's first single, is a self-conscious ballad about the inability to maintain a healthy relationship. With a haunting echo attached meandering around his vocals, Oberst sings:

"And I know you have a heavy heart / I can feel it when we kiss / So many men stronger than me / Have thrown their backs out trying to lift it / But me, I'm not a gambler / You can count on me to split."

Emmylou Harris contributes her haunting harmonies on the jilted "We are Nowhere and it's Now," which, along with "Luu," are the strongest of the album's already remarkable tracks.

"I'm Wide Awake..." is a cohesive blend of sadness and introspection, which seldom strays into the "I wear my heart on my sleeve" territory that troubadours like Dashboard Confessional's Chris Carraba tend to dive into.

"Digital Ash in a Digital Urn" on the other hand is an experimental affair. Stark in texture but rich in feeling, it's as cold as it is enthralling.

Four collaborations with Yeah Yeah's guitarist Nick Zinner expand Oberst's dark pallet with digital embellishments that complement his moody lyrics. The excep-

tional "I Believe In Symmetry," a statement on the mediocre choices one makes in life is a joyously sarcastic romp of swirling sonic details that wrap around a soaring guitar melody.

Oberst sings, "And if it seems like an accident / A collage of senselessness, you aren't looking hard enough / I wasn't looking hard enough."

"Digital Ash..." is a bit too reminiscent of late '90s Radiohead, but it still sounds like Bright Eyes—no harm, no foul.

Both releases, though completely different in approach, create commendable albums to follow the heady opus that was "Lifted..." Both remain true to the formula, which has worked so effortlessly for Oberst—both tenacious and moody, lively and dynamic. When played together, on shuffle, they create a mosaic of sound that perfectly matches the various turmoils and joys, which tend to punctuate the lives of anyone who is anything less than enthralled with being in love in their twenties.

Christopher Moore is a Managing Mosaic Editor at The Review. His most recent reviews include Marianne Faithfull (★★★★★) and Rufus Wainwright (★★★★★).



New Releases to Check Out

"Before the Poison" Marianne Faithfull
 "Bloody Mother Fucking Asshole" Martha Wainwright
 "Nightbird" Erasure
 "Be as You Are" Kenny Chesney
 "Free Me" Emma (formerly Baby Spice)
 "Liars" Todd Rundgren
 "Worlds Apart" Trail of Dead
 "Atta Girl" Bettie Serveert
 "Lair of the White Worm" God Dethroned
 "Curtains" John Frusciante

"Knuckle Down"
Ani DiFranco
Righteous Babe Records
Rating: ★★★★★

Ani DiFranco is back yet again to spill every emotion in the poignant, yet colloquial style defining her since her teenage years. Old fans will appreciate DiFranco's articulate, cathartic display of emotion while those unfamiliar with this feminist might be disturbed by the deep, dark trip into her psyche.

Her new masterpiece, "Knuckle Down," was released on her own label—Righteous Babe Records. Proving she can produce both quantity and quality should come as no surprise, as she has released more than 20 CDs, EPs and DVDs since 1990. "Knuckle Down," however, is the first time she opted to co-produce, thanks to the help of guitarist and songwriter Joe Henry.

DiFranco's 2004 album, "Educated Guess," was an entirely solo effort. "Knuckle Down" moves back to the studio where she collaborates with an array of guest musicians.

Although her music moves away from hard edginess to more mellow sounds, her captivating vocals and intricate, percussive guitar work remain constant.

DiFranco wears her heart on her sleeve while she strums passionately about personal issues, from politics to family to heartbreak, creating a collage of intense emotions. Anyone who appreciates music that isn't sugar-coated will lose themselves in DiFranco's world for 57 minutes, not necessarily because it's beautiful, but because it's real.

All 12 tracks evoke candid, blunt and poetic lyrics. Her intimate, introspective demeanor is refreshing and songs are sung in first person, revealing her personal attachment to the album. The album's title track lures the listener in with a light-hearted mood displayed through quick strums of her guitar chords and the carefree lines "That's just my cowgirl alter-ego / Riding on her bar room bull."

However, the album gets progressively darker. "Sunday Morning" is a mellow ballad remi-



niscence of an old lover. By track eight, "Parameters," her tone is haunting as the entire song is spoken about finding an unexpected stranger in her bedroom.

DiFranco never promises optimism, and this is clear by the last track, "Recoil." The album ends on a somber, yet comforting note as she connects to her avid fans with the last verse, "To all the people out there tonight / Who are comforting themselves / If you should happen to see my light / You can stop and ring my bell."

—Kate Hollinger

Chemical Brothers
"Push the Button"
Astralwerks/ EMI
Rating: ★★★★★

The Chemical Brothers' fifth release takes the listener on a musical escapade. "Push the Button" is a highly eclectic mix of musical textures that manages to push more than "the button." The Chemical Brothers are again at the cutting-edge of electronic dance music pushing the musical envelope.

The Brothers manage to incorporate vocals from Q-Tip, Kele Okereke and The Magic Numbers without sacrificing their trademark sound. The British duo are chameleons of genre on "Push the Button" delving into dance/trance, hip-hop, electronic, rock, funk and pop all within the same album.

"Push the Button" kicks off with the track "Galvanize," a throwback to '80s hip-hop, featuring vocals from Q-Tip. The A Tribe Called Quest rapper generates a retro feel while driving home his political message: "Don't hold back / And you shouldn't even care / About those soldiers in the air /

And the crooked stare / Because there is a party over here ... the time has come to Galvanize."

The Brothers revisit their political soapbox on "Left Right." Anwar, the rapper on the track, lays down the album's most vivid anti-Bush lyrics: "He laid on his back / His firearms on his side / A fallen soldier / Now his war is over / Don't matter which side is wrong or right / Some innocent lives will be lost on the battlefield tonight / So hungry to kill / Only this death could curb his appetite / What is the difference between Bush and Saddam? / The hate only leads to innocent bloodstreams."

The album progresses and themes of political activism are separated by completely different textures of music and lyric. "The Boxer" evokes a dance-party groove with its luscious upbeat feel. The lyrics are as polar opposite to political as anyone can imagine.

"I can't seem to shake this feeling / I can't put it down / But I must remember / I am a hustler / I am a full moon / I am a tiger /



Sleeping in your room." Highlights of the album include: "Shake Break Bounce," "Marvo Ging," "Hold Tight London" and "The Big Jump." Containing their infectious beats, it wouldn't be hard to imagine dancing to any one of these tracks in a European nightclub.

Clocking in at a little more than one hour, "Push the Button" is as experimental and eclectic as ever. The Chemical Brothers have again reinvented and proved themselves as giants of the genre.

—Carter Perry

Price of Fame

Possibly flying on the wings of her blissful marriage or being motivated by her rumored bun in the oven, Britney Spears has written an amiable letter of "truce" to her longtime rival Christina Aguilera, who once called her a "lost girl," to end their years of tension and rivalry.

There might be a little more sex in the city in the next coming months. Allegedly, stars Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick are trying to get pregnant again. The actress is rumored to be seeing the same doctor who saw her through her pregnancy with son James Wilkie in 2002.

An autopsy has cleared up questions of what caused rapper Ol' Dirty Bastard's fatal heart attack on Nov. 13, 2004. It seems a mixture of cocaine and the painkiller Tramadol were responsible for the unexpected death.

Apparently, it was a full house on Jan. 8 when the Olsen twins were spotted with their ex-boyfriends Scott Sattiano and Matt Kaplan. A portion of this visit was devoted to Kaplan giv-

ing Ashley an hour-long back massage.

Wedding Bells filled the air for rapper NAS and singer Kelis on Jan. 8, no word yet on any future collaborations.

Singer D' Angelo was arrested for drunk driving and possession of drugs on Jan. 9.

Ashlee Simpson's ego has taken another beating after she was booed yet again by a crowd of 72,000 at the Orange Bowl. Big sis' Jessica Simpson stood up for Ashlee saying she has sold more albums than Jessica did herself in her first two years.

The British royal family managed to be utterly embarrassed yet again, this time by Prince Harry's poor choice at a costume party. Harry decided to deck himself out in a World War II Africa Korps uniform, which included a swastika armband. Some say since he is hoping to go to the Royal Military Academy in May, he should have chosen a more sensible costume, such as a leopard like brother, Prince William.

—Leah Conway

horoscopes

Aries

(April 21 - May 21)

An unexpected phone call from an ex might leave you feeling confused. Don't stress too much, they just miss being able to talk.

Gemini

(May 22 - June 21)

When the weather is cold, sometimes the best way to cure the winter blues is to join a new club or participate in a new activity. Take an art or dance class to stay active.

Cancer

(June 22 - July 22)

Lately, it seems like everything is a waste of time, but tomorrow's a new day. Take advantage of wanting to be alone and do something constructive you've wanted to do for a while. Clean out your closet or put pictures in an album.

Leo

(July 23 - Aug. 21)

Be open to love's possibilities. There are plenty of people out there who may be looking for a little companionship. Keep your head up and a smile on your face, you never know who's around the corner.

Virgo

(Aug. 22 - Sept. 23)

Good news is all around and opportunities seem to reach out and grab you this week. Enjoy the good fortune, but make sure not to rub it in other's faces.

Libra

(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

While Winter Session might seem like a drag, use the opportunity to boost your GPA and get yourself into a good study habits for Spring Semester—it will be worth it.

Scorpio

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Watch what you say around co-workers. Your opinion can seriously hurt some feelings without realizing it.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

A road trip through the countryside is just what you need to calm frazzled nerves and to get back on track. Grab some good tunes, fill up the tank and hit the road, Jack.

Capricorn

(Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

Use the free time that you have right now to catch up with the friends you've lost touch with, they need you to be more of a role in their life right now.

Aquarius

(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Who says a shopping spree can't boost your spirits? Take a few friends and hit the mall. A few new pieces will update your spring wardrobe and make heads turn.

Pisces

(Feb. 20 - March 20)

You have been working way too hard lately, take a night off from bar hopping and stay in to pamper yourself. You will feel rejuvenated and ready to rock 'n' roll.

Aries

(March 21 - April 20)

A selfless deed will make you feel great and will help someone out more than you know. Take that extra second to make someone else's day.

—Jenni Wright

feature forum

Jenni Wright
 Entertainment Editor

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There's no place like home

highly acclaimed Review and the entire electricity of UD.

But what I can't stand goes all the way back to my freshman year, Fall Semester, when all of those ridiculous ice breaker games are being forced down your throat by an RA. You know, one of the get-to-know-you parts of the day, which included telling everyone where you come from. When I brought up Pike Creek, and the fact it is about 10 minutes away, hitting every red light, the other residents asked me "well, why don't you just commute?" The same reason any of them wouldn't want to.

I want to enjoy the college experience just like everyone else. Sorry I live within the same county as my school, but it definitely doesn't make me any less of a Blue Hen at heart.

Another constant insult to being a Delawarean is the when the Jersey kids and the Maryland-ers hit the road, local businesses think there is no one else here and close shop. I know that maybe in-state kids don't hold down the largest part of the population like we used to, but we are still a good chunk of the numbers here, and if we are here, then there is bound to be some sort of a scene in Newark.

So, I get to go home when I want to do laundry, when I don't feel good and I can stop in and see all of my friends who

go to other out-of-state colleges. I can keep the job I had before I came to college and I still get to be a regular at my favorite bagel shop. I can drive home on Christmas morning, and come back in time for eggnog if I forgot to grab that card for my aunt. I can have lunch with my mom and still be back in time to make it back for my 12:30 class. So I would have to say being close to home has made for a pretty easy three years here.

Not to just ramble on my familiarity of the area, but I still know all the cool places to eat out and I had no weirdness at all getting used to street names. To top it all off, I can still go to my hairdresser, my mechanic and my grocery store. There are some things that can never be found when you head to a new town. I would hate to have to plan my dentist appointments around the same time when I am going home for my cousin's wedding.

When it all seems too much, there are still places I can go unknown to UD students where I can call my own.

But I have finally figured it out. I know why I get teased—all of the out-of-staters are just jealous. Admit it, you know that if you could have your mom's pot roast and play with your dog whenever you wanted, you would rather be local too. So ha, I know your secret.

Honestly, I know Delaware is small,



THE REVIEW / Kristen Margiotta

and many wrongly think there is nothing going on when school isn't in session, but I have been in Newark for two summers now and there is always something going on, Always.

So, don't diss the local kids, they bring the flair to Newark. Besides all that,

Delawareans know how to get you to the mall, the nearest Borders and if you play your cards right, we might even take you to our houses for a home-cooked meal that beats the socks off of anything you could ever find in a dining hall.

Jersey Girl 1: So how long does it take you to get home? Jersey Girl 2: Oh, I live off of exit three on the turnpike ...

I hear all too often the conversations of many university students getting ready to go back to North Jersey and Long Island. But what about the people, like myself, who could potentially throw a rock at their house from where they live in Newark?

I remember moving into my dorm freshman year and everyone talking about how far they had to drive in the pouring rain to get there when move-in hours started. Of course, I made my two trips to and from the dorms in a mere 20 minutes.

I mean, this is still a state school, and that means there are a whole lot of Delawareans trudging around this campus.

There are plenty of reasons why I stayed here at this university, just as there are many reasons why out-of-staters come here.

I love this campus, the English department, writing for the fantastic and

Pilates: a good stretch for those on the go

BY ANNA DOCTORS

Staff Reporter

The lights are dimmed, the music is soft and soothing and the only voice heard is the instructors.

"Inhale and put your arms at your sides while pulling your navel back toward your spine," says Leanne Higgins, the Pilates instructor at the Carpenter Sports Building.

Pilates, a combination of strength training and yoga exercises, teaches focus and breathing techniques while strengthening different facets of the body.

Pilates focuses on the core muscles from the ribs down to the hips.

Higgins, who has been teaching Pilates for almost two years, says it teaches balance, coordination and agility.

"You're relaxing and sweating at the same time," she says.

Pilates is a class anyone can take as long as they have the motivation to work at it, Higgins says.

The Power Pilates class is held Monday nights and its participants range in age from 18-year-olds to a woman in her early seventies, showing the versatility and appeal of the exercise.

Joseph Pilates, creator of the workout, wanted to show the amount of power the mind can have over the body, Higgins says.

She says her first Pilates class was an absolute disaster. Women much bigger than her had an easier time performing the exercises, she says.

Taking the class proves that focusing your mind is an important part of the workout and its exercises.

There are definite results people will notice pretty quickly, Higgins says, for example your posture changes drastically from the strengthening of the core muscles.

Domenic Sicilia, director of the Bob Carpenter Center, says he can immediately see results after Higgins' class.

"Let me tell you, when I take a break from the class, I really notice a change in my posture," he says.

Now that Higgins has been teaching Pilates for a while she often catches herself doing basic Pilates moves, like pulling her navel back toward her spine, while driving her three children to school.

Senior Constance DeCherney, who has been practicing yoga and Pilates for four years, says, "I would say Pilates is more about core



THE REVIEW / Jess Siskoff

Students take a break from studying to stretch their bodies and minds.

strengthening techniques, while yoga is more about relaxation and discipline. There is definitely a difference between them," she says.

DeCherney says she feels completely energized for hours after a Pilates class and she has definitely noticed changes in her body.

"I have a much flatter stomach and my lower body is more flexible and a lot stronger," she says. "I am also conscientious about my posture more so than ever before."

There are also numerous mental benefits Pilates classes offer.

"One thing I have learned is you can calm yourself down by slowly breathing through your nose," DeCherney says. "You can center yourself in any nervous situation."

She also feels Pilates has made her more organized. She uses Pilates and yoga classes as a form of therapy when times get stressful.

DeCherney, who has a basic understanding of the art of yoga and Pilates, suggests beginners start with yoga because she thinks it helps make for a better Pilates student.

"Yoga teaches the basics, which help out a lot for Pilates," she says.

Three reasons to start taking Pilates classes are that it helps increase focus, gives you fast results and looking great the next day, DeCherney says.

"I would definitely recommend the university's Pilates classes," she says, adding, Higgins' class was "especially awesome."

Amanda Brandone, an employee at the university, started taking Pilates classes this past summer and says she has seen major changes in herself mentally and physically.

She first started with Pilates workout videos, which she says were wonderful because they taught her the basics and helped her get comfortable enough to take an actual class.

Another benefit to taking Pilates or any exercise class is that you become more aware of what you're eating.

Brandone says, at first, she cared more about exercising rather than changing her diet, but just from working out her eating habits changed immensely.

"I refuse to buy cheese ever because it's my favorite thing and I know I would eat it all," she says. "I used to eat turkey and cheese sandwiches and now that I don't eat cheese, I won't buy turkey either."

"I have lost weight and can see a huge difference in my strength and posture."

Pilates is one of those workouts that can be done anywhere.

Mentally, Pilates is very focusing, it's more stress-relieving than

relaxing and it also helps build self-confidence, Brandone says.

"I walk out of that class every week and I'm psyched."

Brandone says Pilates and other classes are also fun because

they are all different and always new and exciting.

"Pilates is a fantastic workout, it's a great challenge that gives the feeling of accomplishment and you just feel better on a day-to-day basis."

Films, actors, actresses compete for Oscars

continued from B1

"Finding Neverland" and "Million Dollar Baby" tied with seven nominations each for the award. While whispers of Academy consideration have surrounded "Finding Neverland" since its conception, the film got only one acting nomination, for Johnny Depp's lead role, which doesn't bode well for it to be chosen in the best picture category. It might, however, have a better chance to win in the other categories, such as Original Score, Film Editing or Costume Design.

Clint Eastwood's direction, lead performance and love of his peers gives "Million Dollar Baby" a fighting chance to take the award. Timing might be everything for this movie. The film's recent release has it fresh on everyone's mind and the No. 1 topic of conversation even before the nomination was announced.

"Ray" and "Sideways" round out the category, and while the likelihood of winning is slim, the nomination seals the fact they are high-quality movies, which might boost the chances for the actors nominated individually from these two films.

Leading Actor nominees

Jamie Foxx's portrayal of Ray Charles in the motion picture "Ray" seems, thus far, to be an overwhelming favorite. Only the 10th person to receive a double nomination, Foxx's name is falling off everyone's tongue and might prove to be the extra boost he needs to take this leading category. Yet, DiCaprio's representation of Hollywood legend Howard Hughes in "The Aviator" keeps popping up in conversation. After missing a nomination for his king-of-the-world performance in "Titanic" years back, maybe this is DiCaprio's big chance.

Depp's performance in "Finding Neverland" earned him this Oscar consideration, as well as Eastwood for his lead-role in "Million Dollar

Baby" and Don Cheadle for his dramatic depiction of Paul Rusesabagina and the Rwandan genocide in "Hotel Rwanda."

Leading Actress nominees

After Hilary Swank swiped the Oscar for her role in "Boys Don't Cry" from Annette Benning's lead in "American Beauty," a few years back, the two are paired up against one another again. This year, Benning appears to be the frontrunner for a best actress statuette for her portrayal of 40-something vixen in "Being Julia." Swank, along with Kate Winslet, however, offer stiff competition for their portrayals in "Million Dollar Baby" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," respectively. Riding against Winslet, however, is the fact the movie was released almost a year ago — remember?

Newcomers Imelda Staunton starring in "Vera Drake" and Catalina Sandino Moreno from "Maria Full of Grace," prove they have Hollywood staying power with the consideration for an award in such a prestigious category. A win for either of these women would be a major upset for their mainstream rivals and cement the probability of a long lasting career.

Best supporting actor nominees

M.A.S.H. star Alan Alda receives a supporting nod for his ultra-conservative role in "The Aviator," but his competition will be solid when pitted against Foxx's second nomination for his work in "Collateral" and Clive Owen's depiction of an adulterous husband in "Closer."

Screen veteran Morgan Freeman's role in "Million Dollar Baby" was also recognized by the Academy along with "Sideways" supporting star Thomas Haden Church.



THE REVIEW/ric photo

Annette Benning is nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Leading Actress category for her work in "Being Julia."

Best supporting actress nominees

For her role as four-time Oscar winner Katherine Hepburn, Blanchett continues to rack up acting nods. Competing against her is multiple time nominee Laura Linney for her work in "Kinsey."

Virginia Madsen, who starred in "Sideways," Sofie Okonedo from "Hotel Rwanda" and "Closer's" Natalie Portman round out the list, making it a close race for the female's best supporting role.

—Mosaic Staff



Photo courtesy of Christopher Moore

Moore is a classic jokester, which lends to his creativity.

Life influences comedic author

continued from B1

Moore, who tends to appreciate the comedic talents of Eddie Izzard, Dave Barry, Jon Stewart, David Letterman and the British television show "Absolutely Fabulous," says he wishes the market for seriously funny writers was larger than it actually is.

"I always like the people who no one is sure what they are really doing," he says, "like Kurt Vonnegut and Tom Robbins."

"As far as books I'll reread again and again, the comic works of [John] Steinbeck do it for me."

A native of Toledo, Ohio, Moore now resides in California, where his literary successes have afforded him the luxury of enjoying his life while working on his books.

"I've had great reviews, I make pretty good money and I live in a beautiful place getting paid for what I love to do," he says.

Moore's placement on the New York Times Bestseller List last year has furthered his success but he is aware of the stigma that comes along with lists and rankings.

Making "the list," Moore says, is the pinnacle for any successful writer, but he isn't at the point of worrying about where his next book will debut.

"Life is just a grand parade of disappointments leading off into the abyss," he says, "but if you're lucky, you can derive joy from the colorful variety of those disappointments."

"I have to do a commencement speech at a high school here in Kauai in June," Moore says.

"I'm thinking about starting it with that line."

Students find disconnection practically impossible

BY DEVIN VARSALONA

Administrative News Editor

Laughing over crackling cell phone static, Junior Soco Vernetti openly admits to her obsession. She says it's nothing to be ashamed of anymore because almost everybody she knows shares it.

"I'm telling you, I'm addicted to instant messenger," she says. "It's sad, I even leave it on at night, and it's not like anybody is going to need to tell me something at 4 a.m."

But now she congratulates herself. Recently, she's been signing off America Online Instant Messenger rather than leaving it on.

"I'm really trying to ween myself off it," she says. "It's the easiest way to get in touch with me, but it definitely can be a waste of time."

Vernetti, like most other students, was originally drawn to using AIM as the quickest mode of college communication. Even her cell phone, which she always carries, has seen less use than her laptop.

Regardless, she questions whether this constant connection is proving human interaction is being squashed by computers.

That's why she won't be buying the T-Mobile Sidekick II.

The Sidekick, T-Mobile's newest product, champi-

ons itself as the easiest way to "stay in the know (and on the go)."

It's a cell phone, sure, but it also has a speaker phone and can make international calls.

It is not exactly a computer, but it does have a daily planner, AIM, e-mail and Web surfing abilities. T-Mobile attests its miniature keyboard makes it better than most cellular products.

And not only does it have a camera with a flash, there is an online photo gallery.

In the industry, these phones have been dubbed "smartphones," says Amy Hivouini, a sales representative at T-Mobile in Middletown.

"It's the coolest device we have," she says. "It's fashionable and it's absolutely the best way to communicate."

There are similar smartphones, such as the Motorola A630, PalmOne Treo 630 and the Nokia 6600. But aside from a wittier name, the Sidekick has something these phones don't — endorsements from Snoop Dogg and Paris Hilton.

Despite celebrities marketing the Sidekick as the latest must-have, it might not be fashionable enough. After four months on the market, the Middletown store has sold fewer than 100 Sidekicks.

The \$300 price tag might be deterring the 18 to 35-

year-old age group from buying it, or, as Vernetti says, it might be too much all at once.

Some students, like Junior Tom Isherwood, are still resisting the pressure to go cellular, let alone get Sidekicked.

"I like being able to hide sometimes," Isherwood says in an e-mail message from Egypt, where he is now interning. "If I had a cell phone people would be able to find me all the time. Also, I think they're annoying. They go off during movies or shows or classes."

But even Isherwood can't ignore being completely connected. Like Vernetti, he is constantly signed on AIM, although he doesn't prefer to use it to chat — AIM is his online answering machine.

"I can be unreachable when I want to be, but I can still get messages people needed to send me," Isherwood says. "The disadvantage is that people can stalk me pretty easily whether I'm away or online. But ignoring people through AIM isn't a big deal."

Seemingly everyone from AIM addicts to college professors are digitally connected, and it's become nearly impossible to be digitally unattainable.

"Eventually, I guess it's going to get harder for people to have one-on-one conversations," Vernetti muses. "I don't know. Maybe this is like the downfall — we're becoming more like computers and less like people."



Runes offer positive alternative to fortune telling

continued from B1

day. It's like a philosophical thought. You see where it takes you. You seek to find yourself through the interpretation of what's there."

Using the runes as a guide to her own life, Lang says she finds peace and calm in their meanings. They offer reassurance and inspiration in the context of her daily life.

"With our stressed out world, anything we approach, we need to approach centered, with calmness," she says. "Anything we use is a tool, anything. Why not use them? That's how I feel about the runes."

Lang disagrees with the use of runes as a negative medium. The purpose the runes, she says, is not to foresee doom but to act as a hopeful guide to a person's reactions and perceptions of everyday occurrences. To her, a negative reading does not interpret to negative fortune.

"They have negative connotations in books, but I look at negative runes as a guide for what you need," she says. "That to me is the point of reading the runes to someone else. Not necessarily give someone a sugar coated lollipop, but to tell them what to look for, and to make them feel good. Give the cue on what you can do to improve."

"It's just like anything in the human experience. Some people have used it for bad, some people have used it for good. It's up to you how you use them. Don't judge the letters — judge the person who used them wrong."

Cathy Rash and Nedre Carter, owners of Crystal Concepts, offer several other services. These include Chakra, Reiki, Tarot reading, palm reading and massage. Lang hopes to offer a workshop in rune reading, teaching others how to experience the runes, by using runes associated with their name to learn what sort of energies exist in their own lives.

Lang says her love for runes is sometimes associated with witchcraft, or dismissed as fallacy. Her philosophy, however, remains unchanged as she encourages people to approach the runes with a clear and open mind.

"A lot of people look at this stuff as magic or evil," she says while collecting her rune stones and depositing them back into their gold carrying pouch. "To me, it's psychology. Psychology attached to the concept that people like to play."

"We like drama," she says. "These are pretty little things. Why not play and let yourself learn something?"

"But, I'm very serious in my play," she says with a smile.

The Review

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Pass the keys to a designated driver.

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Sunday. If you drink during the game,
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Community

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in the Hugh M. Morris Library. The
exhibition is free and open to the public.
For library hours, call 831-2231 or visit
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lib.udel.edu/infor hours.

The City of Newark Parks and
Recreation is offering our short but
sweet preparations at the George Wilson
Center kitchen with three different classes:
Be My Valentine begins Friday,
January 28-February 11 from 1:15-2:15;
March Madness starts Fridays March 4-
18 from 1:15-2:15; and Spring Fling
Fun on Fridays, April 8-22 at the same
time. For more info., call 366-7060.

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Newark Parks and Recreation
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16). Call 366-7060 for more information
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Community

The City of Newark Parks and
Recreation is offering the American Red
Cross certified babysitting course for
kids ages 11-15. These programs meet at
the Newark Senior Center. The classes
are February 9-16 from 7-9 pm. for
three nights, or April 2 from 9-3:30 pm.
All sessions must be attended. For more
info., call 366-7060.

Newark Parks and Recreation
Department is currently taking registration
for its Lifeguard Training and
Lifeguard Challenge Course for those
interested in receiving their lifeguard
certification. All classes are held at the
Carpenter Sports Building at the
University of Delaware.
The Lifeguard Training Course will be
held March 11-20th on Fridays from 5-
9:00pm and Saturdays/Sundays from
8am-4pm. The Lifeguard Challenge
Course will be held Friday, April 15th
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Call 366-7060 for more information or
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Should football jump to Division I-A?



MIKE FOX

UConn, a longtime Delaware rival and I-AA member, joined I-A as an independent a few years ago, but this past season joined the Big East and won its first-ever bowl game. So why not Delaware?

Joining I-A would be the culmination of a natural progression of program improvements, starting this year with Jerry Oravitz as the first director of football operations. After refilling the abandoned special teams coach position, Delaware Stadium is in need of a facelift. The media abhors the Tub's press box (former Sports Network analyst Tony Moss called it the worst in Div. I-AA) and needs to be replaced, along with the scoreboard, which should be swapped for a Jumbotron video screen similar to Montana's. With more students packing the south end zone and with more than 10,500 season ticket holders, increased seating is a must, possibly constructing a horseshoe arc of seats to replace the north end zone bleachers. A football-only athletic facility also needs to be constructed. All of these improvements will also boost recruiting.

Delaware has the fan base and the money to make it happen.

After these renovations are made, Delaware would be ready to make the transition to I-A, and the Big East would be the logical choice. Without Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College, the Big East is too weak to even deserve a BCS berth so Delaware could easily become competitive. Joining the MAC or C-USA may be more probable, but a move to the Sun Belt would be a dramatic step down.

The facilities and Tub need a tune-up, but Delaware has already proven it has the talent to be perennially competitive. The Blue Hens have a 79-62-5 record against I-A programs, and make the I-AA playoffs an average of every other year. Delaware already has I-A talent: some of this year's verbally committed recruits alone have rejected offers from Pittsburgh, West Virginia, Michigan St. and Purdue to name a few.

Speaking of recruiting, Delaware could become second only to Maryland as a top recruiter in the Mid-Atlantic, the same way UConn only rivals BC for recruits in New England (Maine, New Hampshire, Northeastern, Rhode Island and UMass

are I-AA). Think about it: Temple and Rutgers are awful, Navy is armed forces and all other local Div. I football schools are I-AA, like UPenn, Towson and Villanova.

Critics will point to former I-AA programs that made the transition and then fell off the planet, like Louisiana Tech, Nevada, La.-Monroe and Arkansas St., but besides UConn, former I-AA programs Marshall and Boise St. have achieved great success in I-A. What Delaware needs is to reach I-A after a string of successful seasons, like Marshall in the mid-1990s, so recruiting won't suffer and the momentum won't be lost.

It is time to step up to the challenge and Delaware's road to I-A greatness is paved with blue and gold.

Mike Fox is the executive editor at The Review. Send comments, questions and bids for a Delaware bowl game to mikfox7@yahoo.com.



ROB MCFADDEN

Delaware football is hands-down one of the top Division I-AA programs in the nation. Championships are being won, fans are coming in droves and high school seniors are turning down Division I-A offers to come here.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

While the success of some former I-AA schools like UConn and Marshall have left some Delaware fans asking themselves "What if...," there is no reason whatsoever for Delaware to

move an inch.

What would be the point? Why risk losing the atmosphere that makes Delaware football so attractive in the first place?

Our football program makes money, which is something some I-A schools can only dream about, and the University of Delaware as a whole is doing very well financially.

So money is not a good reason to jump.

Um, what else is there?

If Delaware moves to I-A, it will not be as a member of a BCS conference. No matter how well the Hens perform, they will wind up in a meaningless, mid-week, late-night bowl game against Troy State.

Woohoo! I can hardly contain my excitement.

As someone who has attended nearly every Delaware game, home and away, for the past two years, I guarantee you there is nothing I-A football can offer Delaware that a I-AA national championship cannot, other than occasional ESPN coverage. But if that's your sole reason for wanting to move to I-A, you're a pretty shallow person.

Another reason we should stay in I-AA is that I shudder to think of what would happen to the teams of some of our other sports. Can you picture our men's basketball team in the Big East? If we're not even winning in the Colonial Athletic Association yet, can you imagine how long it will take to be competitive in a major conference?

Not to mention men's soccer...

But that's a little off topic.

Even though I believe Delaware should stay in I-AA, I still think the goal should be to be the best football program on the East Coast. Stadium expansion needs to be completed ASAP. An overall facilities upgrade is in order. There is no reason why the Hens can't be one of the top 40 to 50 programs in the country, even at the I-AA level.

Keeler and Co. have done a fantastic job recruiting. If they have more to sell, they'll be able to steal recruits from any team in the country.

It wouldn't hurt to have at least one I-A opponent scheduled every season either.

I'm off-topic again.

The bottom line is that Delaware has a tremendous program with a great future in I-AA. It would be a mistake to risk that for ... what?

Robby McFadden is a managing sports editor at The Review. Please send all questions, comments and autograph requests to robmc7@udel.edu.



Should Delaware football make the jump from Division I-AA to Division I-A? Review editors Mike Fox and Rob McFadden debate the pros and cons.

Hen Peckings

• The Delaware softball team is tied for third place in the 2005 Colonial Athletic Association Preseason Coaches' Poll. Defending champion Hofstra received the most first-place votes ahead of James Madison and the other third place team, Towson.

The Hens return seven starters from last year and all four members of last year's league-leading pitching staff that had a combined 1.63 earned run average.

• Delaware assistant football coach Paul Williams has accepted a position at Western Michigan. Williams served as the Hens' assistant coach for the past six seasons and will serve as the defensive backs coach for the NCAA I-A Broncos.

Williams will join former Delaware standout Bill Cubit who was recently named the head coach at Western Michigan on Dec. 7.

• Delaware men's soccer goalkeeper Kyle Haynes was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America East Region All-Academic team for the second year in a row.

The NSCAA All-Academic Teams honor men's soccer players within all divisions of college soccer who are juniors and seniors and have a 3.0 grade point average or better.

In 73 career games, Haynes has played a school record 6,762 minutes in goal. An honors political science and history major, Haynes minors in philosophy and legal studies and has a 3.75 G.P.A.

• The Delaware women's basketball team has received national recognition for the second week in a row. The Hens received three votes in the USA Today/ESPN/WBCA Women's Basketball Top 25. This marks the third time in school history that Delaware has received a vote in the Top 25 poll and the first time that they have ever received multiple votes.

— Compiled by Chase Trimmer

The art of buying scalped tix

BY TYLER MAYFORTH

Staff Reporter

One of the biggest games in the history of Philadelphia sports was approaching, and I did not have a ticket. Yet.

My cousin came over Friday night, and just like William Hung's career, what started as a joke turned into a reality.

Me: "Hey, the Eagles game is going to be great on Sunday."

Him: "Yeah, I know."

Me: "Wouldn't it be great if we went to the game?"

Him: "Yeah, too bad it's sold out."

But that had not stopped me before from going to a game. So the challenge was laid out — get tickets to the Eagles-Falcons NFC Championship Game.

I have scalped my way into a Red Sox-Yankees game at Fenway, the Mt. Everest of all scalping opportunities. At the Sox game, I sat so close I could feel the breeze of Jason Giambi's steroid-induced strikeouts. So I figured the NFC Championship game would be no different.

I searched the classifieds in The News Journal, and called every number that was listed in the "Ticket" section. The answers were either "No," or with the money that I would have to spend, I would be left with enough money to buy myself one textbook next semester.

After I exhausted the classifieds, I went on to look at The Philadelphia Inquirer. The last description I saw seemed promising — "Two upper level tickets with reserved parking, price negotiable." I called him, and sure enough, he had two tickets left for the game.

I asked him how much he wanted for both. The answer? \$800.

\$800! That is more of a rip-off than going to see Ashlee Simpson live.

I am going to let you in on two of my secrets when scalping tickets:

1. Be persistent.
2. If all else fails, lie.

Negotiations were furious. Trying to cheat a stubborn scalper is like fighting yourself. You both know your next move.

Me: "Sir, you need to understand that first level tickets are going for \$400 each. Second level seats are starting at around \$300."

Scalper: "Alright then. How about \$300 each?"

[This is where rule No. 2 comes into play.]

Me: "Honestly, there is a person in section

Negotiations were furious. Trying to cheat a stubborn ticket scalper is like fighting yourself — you both know your next move.

206 who is offering me two tickets for \$550. I might as well go to them."

Scalper: "No, I wouldn't want you to go to the other people. How about \$550 for the pair then?"

Me: "I mean section 206 does look pretty good to me. Also, don't forget that we are college students down in Newark, and we have to come up in the snow."

Mr. Scalper: "Alright. You can have the tickets for \$225 each."

Me: "Deal."

So the next part of the negotiations came into effect. Where would we meet to finish the deal?

He told me that he lives in Northeast Philadelphia, only about five miles from Lincoln Financial Field. "That's not too bad," I thought. So I talked to my cousin, and we agreed to meet him at his house on Sunday.

When I hung up, I realized what I had done. I brought a persistent scalper down \$175. Almost my best effort ever, second to when I brought the Bostonian down from \$300 to \$75.

When I woke up Sunday morning, I looked outside. The low thick clouds, the color of the Phillies' road jersey, hung ominously over my dorm room. If it did not snow, it was missing a good opportunity. I began to think that this was really not a good omen.

Sure enough, my cousin came by bright and early at 8:15, as I put on eight shirts and two pairs of pants to combat the bone chilling cold that was going to greet me at the stadium.

We drove up to Philadelphia and passed the Linc. Five miles went by very fast, and slowly turned into 15. We began to see signs for Trenton. This guy had as much direction as a broken compass.

Eventually, we arrived at his house and thoughts ran through our minds about us either being jacked or the tickets being fake.

Our fears were put to rest as he assured us that they were legitimate, and the parking was in the cheerleader's lot.

We tailgated and then enjoyed one of the greatest games in Philadelphia sports history.

As I sung the Eagles Fight Song many times, and my toes went numb halfway through the third quarter, I knew that my mission was accomplished and it was well worth the hassle.

Anyone have tickets to the Super Bowl?

The Review does not support the practice of purchasing or selling scalped tickets.

The Road Report

Hens suffer third consecutive defeat

The Delaware men's basketball team attempted to halt its two-game losing streak Wednesday night against Colonial Athletic Association leader Old Dominion only to suffer its third loss in a row 71-62.

Turnovers and poor three point shooting were the main factors again for Delaware's loss. The Hens (7-12, 4-4 CAA) committed 20 turnovers and missed all six of their three point attempts in the first half.

Delaware had to battle back with 5:34

remaining in the second half due to a nearly insurmountable lead of 17 points posted by Old Dominion. They were able to cut the Monarchs lead down to nine points with 1:53 left, only to see their chances slip away.

Delaware's junior forward Harding Nana played a terrific game with 16 points and 12 rebounds and showed why he is one of the best power forwards in the CAA. Senior guard Mike Slattery lived up to his preseason selection of All-CAA first team when he dished out six assists and recorded 14 points. The only drawback to Slattery's performance was his team-high four turnovers, which gave him a 3 to 2 assist/turnover ratio for the game.

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Delaware had to battle back with 5:34

— Compiled by Greg Price

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- Searching for Iggy's fix ... see page B5

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Commentary

TIM PARSONS



NHL on the ropes?

The sports world has had its share of interesting stories over the past few months: The Red Sox winning the World Series for the first time in 86 years, the basket-brawl in Detroit, Philadelphia finally winning an NFC championship along with the T.O. saga.

Throughout all the hoopla of the last few months, has anybody seen hockey?

National Hockey League players have been locked out for 135 days. Seven-hundred and thirteen of 1,230 regular season games, along with the All-Star game have been lost.

At this point, I think it's time to put the NHL logo on milk cartons and file a missing persons report.

Talks between the National Hockey League Players Association and the owners have picked up over the past week, but the only thing that has been determined is that there will be more meetings rather than fixing the labor problem.

The dispute basically boils down to the owners wanting to institute a salary cap on players to help curb future losses that have been afflicting NHL franchises, and the players will not accept this.

The worst part about the 2004-05 labor dispute is that it's amazingly close to being the first major North American sport to lose an entire season to lockout.

The longest recorded lockout in history was in 1994 when Major League Baseball players walked out in August of that year and stayed off the field for 7.5 months, canceling the World Series for the first time in 90 years.

The result to baseball in the following years was devastating. Most fans were outraged over the strike and left supporting the game forever. Average attendance numbers are just now, 10 years later, approaching the numbers that they were in 1994.

Much of the recent resurgence in baseball has been due to the stellar post-seasons of 2001, 2003 and 2004. You can bet the Red Sox championship in 2004 will push baseball popularity even higher in the next few years.

Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa's home run race in 1999, Barry Bonds setting the single-season home run record in 2001 and Bonds approaching the all-time home run record which he is expected to break early in 2006 have contributed to new interest in baseball.

But don't expect the NHL to have this kind of resurgence when or if it comes back.

The NHL is by far the lowest of the four major sports in television revenue and popularity but don't tell that to fans in Montreal, Toronto, Detroit, Denver, Edmonton, Ottawa, Vancouver, Philadelphia or any other hockey town.

Hockey has a large, almost cult-like following and you can bet that more people miss it than you think, especially those fans in Canada.

Our neighbor to the north has lost their national pastime. It's more cataclysmic than the United States losing baseball because we have three other major sports to fall back on, but hockey is basically the only sport that Canada has.

It's ridiculous when ESPN is televising the World Junior Hockey Championships in an effort to get some hockey on the air just to remind Americans that hockey still exists. The network even devised their own league called ESPNHL. The league will be cut down to 20 teams and will eliminate many of the features of the current game to make it faster and more interesting.

The threat of losing players is also up in the air as many of the current NHL players are now playing in leagues overseas or have shown interest in the new World Hockey Association which will start play next fall.

With no hockey, America is missing out on one of the most exciting games to watch when it matters.

Year in and year out, the NHL provides some of the best sports entertainment when the playoffs roll around.

We may not see the NHL again soon either. NHLPA president Trevor Linden told players last Friday to expect the NHL lockout to last deep into next season, meaning the NHL could still be gone at this time next year.

I guess it's up to college hockey then to get my fix. Go New Hampshire!

Tim Parsons is a managing sports editor for The Review. Send questions, comments and Patriots hate mail to tparsons@udel.edu

REVIEW SPORTS

www.review.udel.edu

Who popped out this day?

- 1928 - Pete Runnels
- 1946 - Paul Shmyr
- 1953 - Colin Campbell
- 1974 - Jermaine Dye
- 1977 - Daunte Culpepper

UD looks to halt losing streak

Men have lost three straight

BY STEVE RUSSOLILLO

Staff Reporter

It has been a roller coaster ride for the men's basketball team all season long. The rocky ride will continue on Saturday when the Hens host conference foe UNC-Wilmington.

Delaware (7-12, 4-4 Colonial Athletic Association) has been plagued by injuries. Five scholarship players have been sidelined at one point this season because of injuries.

The Hens began the season with a very modest 4-3 record in non-conference action. Three of the first four victories were decided by three points or less.

Delaware suffered a tremendous loss when senior All-CAA point guard Mike Slattery broke his right thumb in the victory over Rider on Dec. 11. The injury sidelined the star point guard and leader of the team for five games. The Hens lost all five including his first game back. All in all, the six-game losing streak was Delaware's longest drought since 1990.

Despite a dreadful losing streak and a dreary outlook on the season before conference play even began, the Hens bounced back with an exciting three-game winning streak. The streak began with a double-digit road win over William and Mary and continued with a thrilling home victory against George Mason. Delaware extended their win streak with a blowout win against James Madison.

While the Hens' overall record was not impressive, their 4-1 conference record was good for second place in the CAA.

But since then, the Hens' roller coaster ride has moved in a downward spiral. Delaware has dropped their last three games, and a 4-4 conference record leaves them tied for fifth in the CAA with George Mason.

On Wednesday, the Hens traveled to first-place Old Dominion. The Monarchs (18-2, 8-0 CAA) defeated the Hens 71-62 in a sloppy game. Delaware committed 20 turnovers and shot only 36.2 percent from the field.

The Hens can take solace in the fact that they lost by only nine points to a team that is ranked No. 24 in ESPN college basketball analyst Dick Vitale's Top 25 Poll.

Junior forward Harding Nana had another great game against the Monarchs. He posted his thirteenth double-double in the last 15 games, scoring 16 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. He has proved to be one of the best players in the CAA this season. Nana is leading the league in scoring and rebounding, averaging 19.9 points and 10.3 rebounds per game.

Slattery contributed with 14 points and six assists. He is averaging 9.9 points and 6.9 assists per game.

"We gained a lot of confidence knowing we can play with a top 25 team," Slattery said. "We know that we can beat anyone in our conference."

The schedule does not get any easier for Delaware. Following Wednesday night's game against Old Dominion, the Hens host second-place UNC-Wilmington on Saturday.

The Seahawks (11-6, 6-2 CAA) have won six of



THE REVIEW/File Photo

Junior Andrew Washington and the men's basketball team host Colonial Athletic Association rival UNC-Wilmington tomorrow at 7:30.

their last eight games. They are currently two games behind Old Dominion.

"UNC-Wilmington is a slow it down, tough, hard-nose team," Slattery said. "We just need to step up and match their intensity."

On Wednesday, senior guard Halston Lane scored the winning basket with three seconds left in overtime to defeat Drexel 63-62. The dramatic game-winner was his second this month and gave UNC-Wilmington sole possession of second place.

Junior guard John Goldsberry has led UNC-Wilmington all season long. The all-around player is leading the team with 12.5 points per game. He is first on the team with 4.2 assists per game and 30 steals for the year. Goldsberry has been a force shooting from the outside all season long. He is ranked third in the CAA, shooting 41.5 percent from three-point range.

Following Saturday's game, the Hens hit the road again and travel to George Mason.

On Monday, the Patriots (9-8, 4-4 CAA) will host a rematch of one of the most thrilling games of the year. Delaware's junior guard Rulon Washington beat the Patriots on January 12 with a game-winning three pointer in overtime.

The dramatic three-pointer crushed George Mason's hopes of an impressive road victory, and propelled a three-game losing streak.

The Patriots snapped their losing ways with a victory last Saturday against James Madison, and posted a second straight victory Wednesday night against Hofstra. George Mason will be looking forward to gaining some

revenge over the Hens on their home court.

Junior guard Lamar Butler is currently leading the Patriots in scoring, averaging 16.4 points per game. He is shooting 43.5 percent from three-point range, good for third in the CAA.

Junior center Jai Lewis has been a force inside for George Mason. He is averaging 13.8 points and a team-leading 8.2 rebounds per game.

The Hens will conclude a busy week with another road game against James Madison this coming Wednesday. The Dukes (4-12, 2-6 CAA) have struggled and are looking to gain respectability in a tough conference. James Madison took one step in the right direction Wednesday night when they defeated Virginia Commonwealth on the road.

Senior guard Daniel Freeman had been the leading scorer for James Madison in the beginning of the year, but is currently inactive with a foot injury. Sophomore guard Ray Barbosa has picked up the slack, scoring 14.8 points per game.

Junior guard Jolmo Belfor recorded team-highs with 17 points and seven assists against VCU. He also added eight rebounds to lead the Dukes to victory.

Freshman center Gabriel Chami was just named CAA Rookie of the Week. He averaged 14.5 points, along with 3.5 rebounds during his magnificent week. Chami also shot an impressive 80.8 percent from the free throw line.

Delaware will look to reverse their three-game losing streak Saturday against UNC-Wilmington. Tip-off is set for 7:30 at the Bob Carpenter Center.



THE REVIEW/File Photo

Senior forward Tiara Malcom, sophomore guard Tyresa Smith and senior forward Tiffany Young have led UD on a 12-game win streak.

CAA-leading Hens to host JMU

BY GREG PRICE

Assistant Sports Editor

Win streaks are tough to maintain for any team in any sport. The women's basketball team has now plowed through more than half of their schedule with 12 consecutive wins to own the top spot in the Colonial Athletic Association and recently earned three votes in the USA Today/ESPN Top 25 Poll.

The votes are the most Delaware has ever received and earmarks them for a possible bid in the NCAA tournament.

But before any talk of the Big Dance goes further, the Hens (14-2, 7-0 CAA) will first look to extend their win streak against James Madison Sunday at the Bob Carpenter Center.

The Hens have played tremendously well overall this season but in their last game they showed signs that their streak could come to an end. While Delaware did defeat Hofstra 70-54, they only shot 30.4 percent from the field and committed 21 turnovers. It was the first time the Hens shot less than 36 percent during their win streak. What saved them was clutch free throw shooting. They made 27 of 28 attempts to pull out the win.

James Madison (10-6, 3-4 CAA) will roll into the Bob after a 22-point blowout win over UNC-Wilmington with hot shooting freshman forward Tamara Young leading the trail. She scorched the net with 17 points and ripped down nine boards to give the Dukes the win. Yet it was only the second win in

the team's last six games.

In what figures to be a tough CAA battle both teams sport a dynamic guard-forward combo. Delaware will have senior forward Tiara Malcom and sophomore guard Tyresa Smith leading the pack. The Dukes will counter with Young and sophomore guard Lesley Dickinson.

Malcom, the pre-season CAA Player of the Year, is having a standout year for the Hens and leads the team in points, minutes, and rebounds per game.

Smith is second on the team in scoring with 11.3 points per game and is a feisty perimeter defender who nabs 3.31 steals per game, good for second in the CAA.

Dickinson, who was last season's CAA Rookie of the Year, averages 13.7 points a game and has a sweet stroke at the free throw line shooting 85 percent for the season.

Both tandems will prove to be deciding factors in the game, but each team does have a game-altering x-factor.

For James Madison sophomore center Meredith Alexis has proved to be a dominant inside force, particularly in CAA games. Alexis averages 10.4 boards and nets 12.1 points in seven conference games this season. She recorded a game high 15 boards along with 11 points in a big win against Drexel that ended the Dukes three-game losing skid.

Senior forward Tiffany Young has come off of the Hens bench to give the team an extra offensive

and defensive push all season long. Young has not started a single CAA game, yet she manages to tear the court up with 12.9 points a game with an amazing field goal percentage of 56.9 and snatches 7.4 rebounds.

Delaware will look to take care of the basketball far better than they did against Hofstra, especially since James Madison forces 21.5 turnovers and 10.2 steals a game. The Hens will also attempt to avenge last year's crushing losses to the Dukes.

Last season James Madison took both games in the season series including a nail-biter that handed Delaware a fourth-straight loss.

The Hens led 60-54 with 1:51 left, only to see the Dukes sink two three-pointers. Delaware's then freshman guard Liz Hayes missed several clutch free throws in the closing seconds that would have put the game out of James Madison's reach.

The Dukes' then freshman forward Shirley McCall was able to capitalize and made a put-back just before the horn sounded, sealing her team's win 62-61.

Dickinson would finish that game with 19 points and eight rebounds complemented by Alexis' 14 points and 7 boards of her own.

The Hens will put their streak and pride on the line Sunday with tip-off time at 1 p.m.

Thursday night's women's basketball game against William & Mary ended too late to be included in this issue.