

The Bottom Line

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FEBRUARY 28, 2007

The Road to Nowhere Finally Finds Direction

Construction Begins on Allegany Business Center



CONSTRUCTION AHEAD Construction has started on the new Allegany Business Center - timber is being cleared, infrastructure is underway, and mines will be filled. Hopes of a Grand Opening by Fall of 2007 are pushing the project right along.

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AT WIRE
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The Poetic Guide

A look at Michael J. Burt, his poetry, and the people around him

MEGAN ZIMMERMAN
Staff Writer

After another day's worth of psychology classes, Michael J. Burt prepares to enter the Frostburg cold by wrapping a scarf around his neck and securing a solid black hat on his head. Just as he opens the heavy Guild doors to the quad, his cell phone rings.

He quickly rips off his right glove and reaches into his pocket to silence the Mary J. Blige that is echoing through the corridor. Michael looks at the tiny screen and sees it's the same girl who has been calling him constantly for the past three weeks. Any other guy would be turned off by the girl's persistence to get his attention, but this time it was different. The girl is not calling to romance Michael; instead, she needs his advice. She has been in an abusive relationship for almost two years and wants out, but doesn't know how, and only Michael can help. So instead of ignoring the call, Michael steps back into the hallway and answers, "Hi! How are you doing today?"

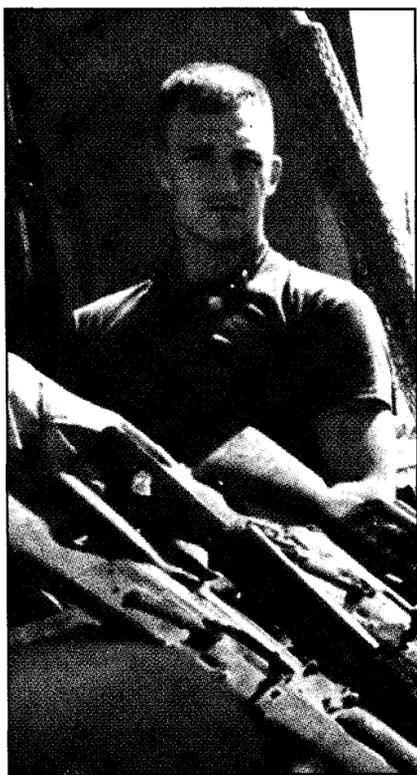
"A lot of people always tell me things. They feel comfortable telling me their deepest problems because they can see I'm genuine," says Michael. "Even my own mom has come to me for advice."

No one seems to have a problem getting along with Michael. His friendly smile gives him away, and he waves to say hello to almost every person he sees. Inside, he is just as warm. Underneath his thick wool coat is a black t-shirt he wears as a joke: It's a yellow smiley face on his chest with the words "I hate you" below. Everyone seems to know him, and he seems to care about everyone. "I just want to help people," says Michael.

Michael's desire to help people is obvious in his choice of study. He is graduating in May with a degree in Psychology and hopes to become a family therapist. "I've seen a lot of dysfunctional families, even with my distant relatives, and I've seen the whole drug thing kill them. I will never let that happen and I don't want to let that happen to other people," he explains. "That's what got me into it, even as a kid."

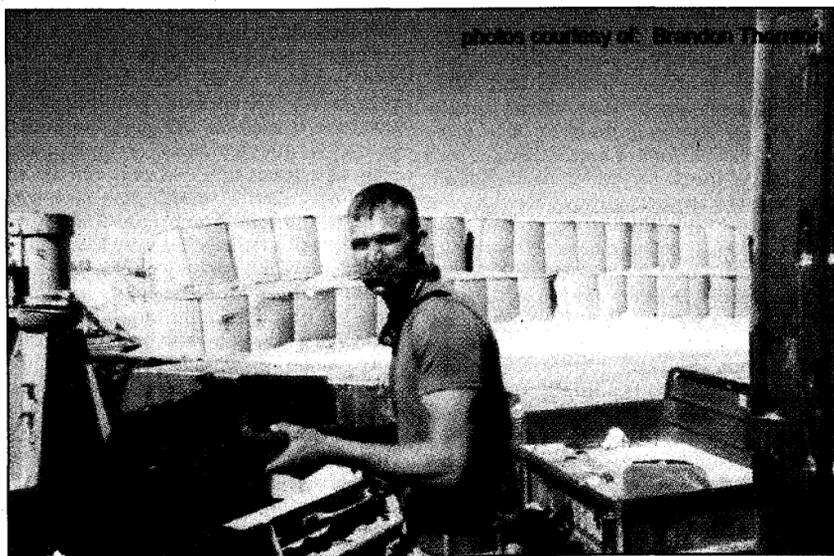
POETIC continued on pg. 7

From Frostburg to Iraq and Back a Student Swimmer's Journey



DARYL BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

Most people would find it difficult to find a relationship with swimming and the military. But for one Frostburg student they are some of the biggest parts of his life. Brandon Thornton is a Psychology major at Frostburg State University, a skilled swimmer on Frostburg State University's men's team, and a United States Marine. "I've been swimming for about ten



SWIMMER IN THE DESERT (Above) Brandon Thornton takes time for a photo session while preparing himself with the appropriate equipment for battle in Iraq. (Left) Far away from home, Brandon takes time to reflect on his experience in Iraq while surrounded by various types of firearms used for battle.

years. But I started swimming competitively in 2003," said Brandon when asked how long he had been in the sport.

With ten years of swimming experience Brandon makes his impact by participating in the 50 yard freestyle, the 100 yard freestyle, and the 100 yard breaststroke. When asked why he enjoyed swimming Brandon said, "It's a lot of fun. It's a good way to stay in shape and keep active. And the people on the team are really fun." With his swimming and educational career on the right track, Brandon would find his life taking a new and potentially deadly turn. His military background would come to the forefront of his life.

In the spring of 2004 Brandon would get the

call that he would be deployed to Iraq. Brandon has been in the Marines for about five years and is currently a Corporal in the reserve with the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion 4th Marine Division based in Baltimore, Maryland. Brandon was stationed in the notorious city of Fallujah, Iraq from February 2004 until October 2005. While in Iraq Brandon was a machine gunner with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group Motor Transport Platoon. "Mainly I did security for 100 food and equipment convoys that moved between bases. I also had to locate mass graves in Fallujah and did some traffic checkpoint work."

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OPINION

ARRR! Mormon Pirates?

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THE EC



Meet
Dr. Jibroni
Guess who
comes to the EC!

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OPINION

New Comic Artist

Jack McCall starts his series of "COUNTERINTELLIGENCE"

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The Road to Nowhere Has Finally Found Direction

Construction Starts on Allegany Business Center



UNCHARTED TERRITORY The building of the Allegany Business Center will mark the first project of its kind to be undertaken in this area.

MATT MCGUINNESS
Staff Writer

Western Maryland's economy, namely in Allegany County, has been in a slump. Once driven by large manufacturing plants offering a steady paycheck for decent hardworking blue collar types, Allegany County is a microcosm of sorts for business trends happening all over small-town America. Those trends being the closure of plants and factories, sending the work overseas and leaving whole communities with barely a leg upon which to stand.

The Allegany Business Center or ABC for short is by no means a Holy Grail which will change the economic face of the county, but it is a giant step in an all new direction for the area. Or as Matt Diaz, head of Economic Development for Allegany County, put it, "we are stepping into uncharted waters."

Diaz is right. This would be the first project of its kind undertaken in the area. Halfway between Pittsburgh and Baltimore, who both host a number of bioscience firms; Frostburg is an ideal location for a biotech hub to be built. Pairing the business center with the school will ensure plenty of work and opportunities for student interns as well as research means for professors.

The idea is this: If the area can provide opportunities for students in the fields of engineering and science, once they graduate they might actu-

ally have an incentive to stay in the area, making them a part of the local workforce and economy. Add the fact that there will be a number of people needing housing and places to do their shopping, you have a small initial boost right there. Once more people are living and shopping in the area, more companies will gain an interest and open up in Allegany County, essentially adding more of a selection of places to eat and shop. There are already several new communities being built around Frostburg and Cumberland, not to mention the need for more hotels oriented towards traveling business people. This will of course take time, but everything is right on track, more has been done in the last six weeks on the project than have been done in the past six years.

The timber is currently being cleared in the designated area, and there is already a infrastructure upon which to build. Soon the mines will be filled underneath. Dr. Jonathan Gibraltar, FSU president, said that groundbreaking will take place in a few weeks when the weather warms up. He also mentioned that the business center could be operational by fall of 2007. While no tenants have officially been announced, there is already one ready to move in, the name is being withheld until a press conference has been called. Ideally, all the companies currently in the Tawes Hall Incubator will relocate as well.

Although the University owns the land where the business center will be built, it is up to the

County and the private developer to build and fill the center with tenants. The County has a ground lease and a contract with Allegany Research Properties (ARP). ARP is a limited liability company set up by several investors from the area that want to see this project succeed. ARP then subcontracts the construction work to a builder and they take care of leasing the space inside to businesses. Those leases also include stipulations detailing the collaborative agreements with the University, such as employing student interns and working with faculty.

Diaz, who is an FSU alumnus, stated that "the general consensus from residents in the area is positive, residents are ready for a project like this to come to the area."

Times have changed. Bioscience, engineering, and information technology are the way of the future. This is a major step forward for both the county and the University.

There is one issue however, that *The Bottom Line* will be looking into in the near future. According to anonymous sources, a mining company offered to clear the timber and grout the mines for no cost to the University or county a few years ago. All they wanted was to mine the remaining coal contained in the mines. That proposal was protested by a large number of FSU faculty members. Why?

GotFrostburg

FSU Alumni Reach Out to Current Students with Internships, Opportunities

ELIZABETH BRATHWAITE
Staff Writer

If you're a business major, it's probably no news to hear that it is a competitive field and anything and everything that can be done to make a newcomer stand out should be done, especially internships. There are internship opportunities available through the Office of Career Services, but there's another, new way to get them: "Got Frostburg?"

"Got Frostburg?" is a group of FSU alumni who want current FSU students as interns at their companies or corporations they own or work for. They take pride in assisting current students in starting the climb of the ladder of success.

Up until a year ago, before Got Frostburg came along, students had to rely on whatever internships Career Services knew of, or what was advertised on a hallway bulletin board. While these are great ways to find out about some of what's out there, it does have its limitations. There's always the possibility that those who would be interested don't live near the location of the summer internship or the next fall isn't quite what they had in mind.

With Got Frostburg, students can go on the website and look through the dozens of companies and corporations with internship possibilities. Then, the student and the prospective employer can discuss it over the internet, and then meet during a school break to sign the contract. If the internship is being done for credit, then there's only the simple additional task of getting the Department Head of the student's major to sign and then send it to the Registrar's Office so it can be an official part of the student's transcript. The student pays for the credits earned, but it's worth it.

The university doesn't think highly of being out of the internship process, but Got Frostburg likes it because it strengthens the one-on-one relationship between the student and the employer.

It may be odd to hear that this association between the university and its alumni is a new resource for current students seeking internships since there have surely been alumni with internships spots to fill in the past.

As strange as it may sound, past administrators were not interested in having this connection with alumni. However, that all changed when Dr. Gibraltar came along. Brian McMearty, one of Got Frostburg's founders, describes Dr. Gibraltar's enthusiasm for this opportunity to help both current students and alumni as "a breath of fresh air...jet stream air! He is very open-minded for change."

Got Frostburg is equally excited about the chance to spare current students the hassle and headache that they went through to get internships during college. Connie Groer, Dean of the College of Business said that when Got Frostburg was up and running, they initiated contact with the university. She also said that it works for both sides to have contacts through the school. Employers will be familiar with the skills the student has and students will have some idea of the expectations of them.

So, now there is a choice to be made. Business students can wait and hope for the right internship to come along through Career Services, or they can go to www.gotfrostburg.com and find it for themselves. Ms. Groer explained that, whether the student is majoring in Business Administration or something else, there is bound to be some kind of opportunity for anyone who is looking, not to mention that "internships are a great way to get permanent positions". If a permanent job sounds like something worth having, then start investigating. All that is waiting to be discovered.

Redesigned Homepage a Building Block in FSU's Marketing and Branding Efforts

Press Release

"This redesigned homepage is one of many steps in an ongoing marketing and branding process the University is doing to let the world know what a great place Frostburg is," FSU President Jonathan Gibraltar said.

The homepage, which was given a makeover by FSU's Webmaster, Stephanie Cesnick, will feature brighter colors and more visual imagery, including a changing photo gallery of FSU students. It will also debut a special section titled "People Profiles", glimpses into the lives of FSU students, faculty and alumni that will list links, so that interested viewers can contact them and ask them questions about their experiences at Frostburg.

"The Frostburg State University family understands the importance of updating and maintaining a well-designed, well-informed, and easy-to-navigate Web site, and it is our desire to extend our brand through that important interactive forum," said Carol Gaumer, the chair of FSU's marketing & finance department who is directing the University's Marketing and Branding Task Force.

To check out the new homepage and learn more about Frostburg State University, visit www.frostburg.edu, or contact the Office of Admissions at (301) 687-4201.

CCM	<h1>Catholic Campus Ministry</h1>
FSU	
<p>Activities every Wednesday, 7:30 pm Osborne Newman Center</p> <p>*** Monthly Dinners ***</p> <p>Sunday Mass: 12 Noon & 8 pm, Cook Chapel in Frost Hall</p> <p>Reconciliation: Wed & Sun 5 pm - 6 pm, or any time by appt. Osborne Newman Center</p> <p>Father Ed Hendricks 301-689-5041 http://goliath.frostburg.edu/ccm</p>	

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The Grassroots Evolution Movement

Can a bridge be built from the solid ground of science to the intangibles of religion?

The Voltage Gate

Jeremy Bruno

The other major symposium I attended at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting was "Supporting Evolution at the Grassroots—Building Better Bridges"—pretty self explanatory. I had the fortune of meeting with some of the symposium's coordinators as well as several other science bloggers for dinner the night before.

Several of the most prominent proponents of science and evolution education spoke at the event, outlining where we have been and where we are going, so to speak.

Eugenie Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education and a notoriously potent opponent of creationism, gave a brief history of creationism/evolution with respect to citizen science organizations, noting that the internet has given these groups a greater platform from which to distribute information.

I finished Harvard Biologist E.O. Wilson's *The Creation* before I left for San Francisco, and he devoted the entire last chapter to "Citizen Science", encouraging (and relishing in the thought of) nonscientists - business persons, lawyers, chefs, moms, dads and kids, etc. - helping in bioassays, bioblitzes, compiling data, volunteering at labs and conservation organizations to not only get people outside, but to open wide the doors of science and make it accessible.

If education is indeed the end goal, the coup de grâce to creationism and pseudoscience, hands on learning like

this is far superior to any other form. Giving science a face (as with blogging), making it personal without jeopardizing its objective integrity might ease some of the difficulties the general public has with science (and math, for that matter).

Michael Zimmerman, Indiana University founder of the Clergy Letter Project, talked about Evolution Sunday (a commitment once a year from Christian clergy signatories to promote the theory of evolution from the pulpit around Darwin's birthday) and its successes for a bit, seeking to reframe the dialogue between evolution accepting people and the believers of creationism (There was much talk of knee jerk reactions to creationist assertions and of setting the parameters of the argument between all of us over dinner the previous night.) Zimmerman had 612 congregations participate in Evolution Sunday this year, a 30% increase from last year.

His other measures of success? "Lots of people have been calling me offensive," said Zimmerman.

Evolution Sunday leaves room for the pastor/congregation to decide how to celebrate, one of the greatest aspects of the event, said Zimmerman. One congregation from Colorado constructed a sort of labyrinth of science and distributed rosaries depicting the scientific events of the formation of the universe/earth/life.

In the future he plans to include congregations from other religions, specifically Judaism and Islam.

A couple of organizers from the

AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion (DoSER) spoke at the symposium, and one of the most poignant criticisms of the Clergy Letter Project came from Connie Bertka, program director of the DoSER.

Bertka's concern was that Evolution Sunday was too limited to be a comprehensive solution to the anti-evolution movement.

"Evolution Sunday will not reach

...fundamentalism is a result of fear; xenophobia, the fear of technology and the fear of the loss of tribalism...

evangelicals," said Bertka, the main religious group denying the evidence for evolution and condemning the faithful that embrace the idea. She's right; of the 612 congregations that signed on to participate in Evolution Sunday, only one signatory was evangelical.

Bertka said the main problem with Evolution Sunday is that it is not framed in the context of religious discussion. She questioned whether the choice of Darwin's birthday as the day for discussion among churches was "wise", suggesting that even this small detail could lead to polarization in the current climate.

Bertka also promoted a "contact" model between science and religion (as opposed to a NOMA style model, where science and religion are utterly separate), encouraging the admission that the two "fields" do intersect, and a continuing dialogue is the only immediate solution.

Rev. Henry Green, an evangelical Baptist minister straight out of my hometown of Annapolis, Maryland, shared his experiences with Evolution Sunday and the culture wars in his area. Very early he made a distinction between fundamentalists and evangelicals, saying that, at his church, "We don't check our brains at the door."

Green believes that fundamentalism is a result of fear; xenophobia, the fear of technology and fear of the loss of tribalism. They see themselves as victims and define themselves by oppression. "They are the new puritans," said Green.

Finally, Jon King of the Darwin Festival in Shrewsbury, England gave a PowerPoint tour of Darwin's birthplace, while Bob Stephens of the Darwin Day Celebration spoke a bit about his organization and the event. (I might be taking a little trip to England next year if time and money permits. Shrewsbury looks like a lovely place.)

With eight speakers and one moderator (Irv Wainer from the National Institute on Aging and the Alliance for Science), there was little time for questions, but several teachers were able to address the issue of evolution in the classroom and discuss the potential for change in the future. The gears are starting to rotate, but it will take a constant effort to build up momentum for this movement in the public forum.

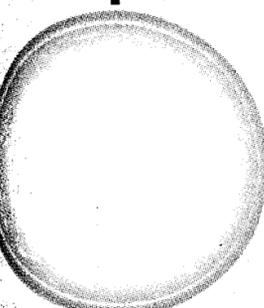
The rest of the series of AAAS coverage are online: thevoltagegate [dot] blogspot [dot] com.



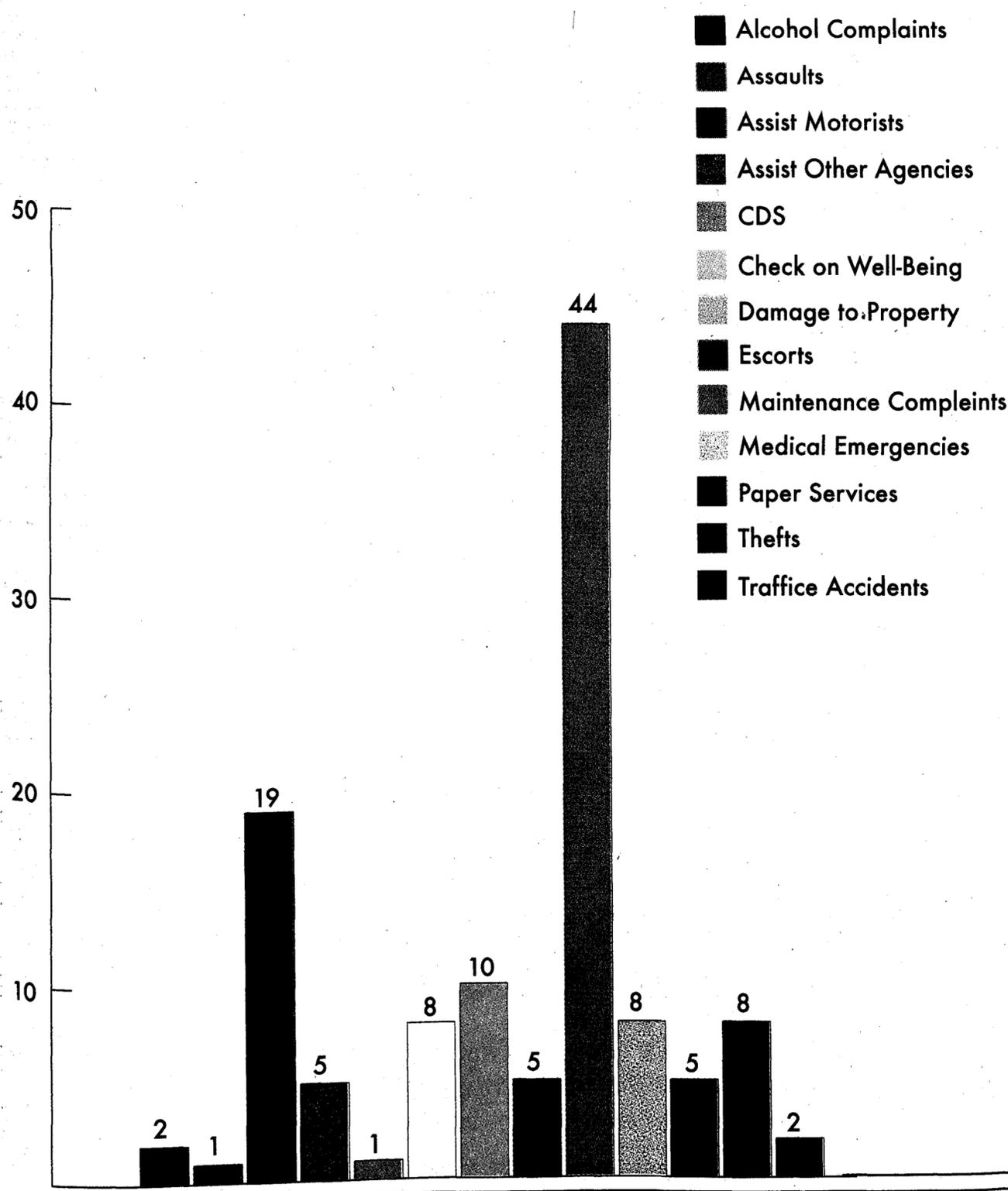
A-T-C-G
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יהוה



DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 19, 2007 - FEBRUARY 14, 2007 FSU POLICE RESPONDED TO THE FOLLOWING:



CRIMELINE

2/23 Tampering with Fire Equipment: A dry chemical extinguisher from the laundry room in Simpson Hall was removed and sprayed throughout the hall.

2/20 Theft: Cumberland Hall resident reported her FSU parking permit stolen from her vehicle, parked in the Foundation Lot.

2/20 CDS Complaint: Police were summoned to the first floor of Sowers Hall for the smell of marijuana. Two adult civil citations were issued for underage alcohol consumption. Criminal charges will be filed for CDS possession and possession of CDS paraphernalia.

2/16 Damage to Motor Vehicle: Student reported minor damage to his vehicle at the Edgewood Commons parking lot.

2/17 Alcohol Violation: Two students in Gray Hall were cited for underage consumption of alcohol.

2/18 Theft: Cumberland Hall resident reported theft of her room key.

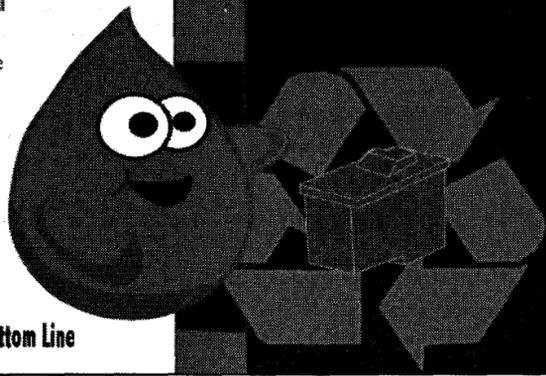
One of the first rules of crime prevention is "Be Aware of your Surroundings." It's so simple, even a caveman knows it. That's why you almost never see a caveman walking down the street focused on his Blackberry, preoccupied by a cell-phone conversation, or unable to hear approaching footsteps because of his iPod.

Brian Shanley, Chief of Police
Frostburg State University



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IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR MAY 2007 GRADUATES!!

If you are planning to graduate at the end of this semester, please note the following:

- The 130th Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 26, 2007 in the Harold J. Cordts Physical Education Center. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will hold its service at 10:00 a.m., while the College of Business and College of Education will present their graduates at the 2:00 p.m. ceremony.
- If you have not yet filed for a graduation application at the Registrar's Office, YOU MUST DO SO IMMEDIATELY. All mailings related to Commencement are based on the listing of students who have filed for graduation.
- The first mailing, which details additional information about Commencement, is scheduled for the first week in March. Information is sent to both your local and your permanent address. If the Registrar does not have an updated local address, please provide them with this information as soon as possible, or you can update your local address online.
- Caps and gowns are provided at no cost to all graduates; however, you must be fitted in advance. Order your cap and gown now at the University Bookstore. Please place your order by March 12.
- A Grad Fair will be held March 12 in the Alice Manicur Assembly Hall in the Lane Center from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Vendors will be present for ordering your class ring or diploma frames. The bookstore will also be present for fitting and ordering your cap and gown or ordering your announcements. There will also be other University services available as well as giveaways and refreshments.
- Full details about Commencement are on the University's website. Go to "Current Students" and Commencement information is under Academics on the left side.

If you have any other questions about Commencement, please contact Brittni Teter at 301-687-4423; bkteter@frostburg.edu.

Bobcat

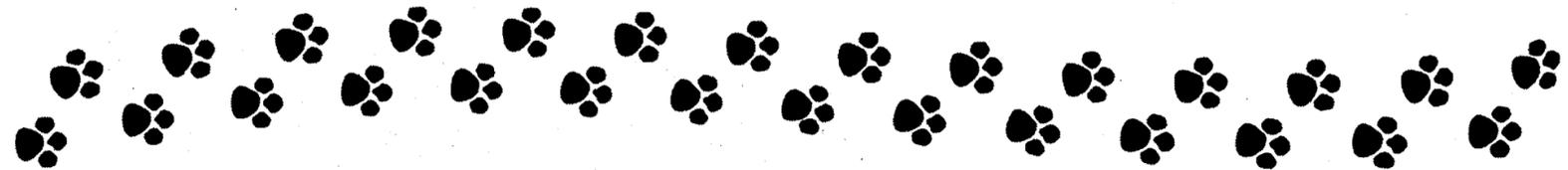
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 The Bobcat Express Office is located in the South Wing of Chesapeake Hall
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ARGH! (could we talk to you a minute about Jesus Christ?)



*Pirates of the Tabernacle
The Curse of the Mormon Pirates*

Interviews with God Michael Weaver

GOD: Ah, it's good to be out at sea with my long white hair blowing in the salty wind.

MW: You said God. I'm just worried about getting lost. You threw our compass and sextant overboard saying you didn't need them since you created navigation the same day you created pregnancy, but being so far away from land and in the Bermuda triangle is really scaring me. How'd we get here anyway?

GOD: While you were drunk on cursed ale I picked up from the voodoo fruit stand, I went over and built a Super Wal-Mart on top of a graveyard. I thought they were just regular, normal Americans, but it turned out they were Native Americans. Anyway, a spiraling vortex popped into existence, swallowed us up to the sound of the Dixie Chicks and dropped us here on this fully functioning but vacant boat with black sails, black cannons, and a black version of Dustin Hoffman.

Dustin: Hello!

MW: Hey Dusty... So that must be why I've been transformed into half-goat, half pomegranate, and why you're wearing a bra.

GOD: Actually I put that on after we got here. Feel how soft it is...

MW: Wait a second there, God... What the Hell is that!?

GOD: It's a pirate ship! And the flag says "LDS". Ah, good! It's a drug dealer's ship! Let's pull over and buy some

drugs-I want to be so high this ship looks like Rosie O'Donnel.

MW: No, you fool. It's the church of Jesus Christ of Ladder Day Saints, and they're boarding us!

Gadianhi: Ahoy! Avast, Mateys! It is too late, ye land lubbers. Arrg. There's no escaping the fabled ship of Pirate Mormons! My name is Gadianhi, and this is me first mate, Korihor.

Korihor: Garr! Aye, Cap'n. Could ye spare a few moments for a blimey old buccaneer? We'd like to talk to ye about the squiffy, Lord Jesus Christ, arrg.

Gadianhi: Chernolg! Do ye not realize that he was handsomely killed for yer sins, and betrayed by the hornswagging Judas? Aye, he was nailed to a jurymast, as the legend goes, but sometimes if you hold your ear up to a sea shell, you can still hear the Romans...

MW: Guys, thanks for the info, but I already know about all this stuff. The real question is what are you pirates doing out here and how are you even Mormons?

Korihor: Did you notice the beauties we had "walk the plank" a few minutes ago?

Gadianhi: Yar! Those were me wives... We met on an old Cog and now we won't meet again until I see the bottom of Davy Jones' locker. Gahar! Dead Mormons tell no tales...

GOD: Still. Shouldn't you pirates be in Utah? Why would you be in the middle of the sea?

Korihor: Gaharjaragarmalibar! We

be lookin' for sunken treasure, supposed to have gone down into the deep near these parts!

GOD: How can you can be pirates and Mormons?

Gadianhi: Garnerfharoldthor! Is it even possible for a man to be one without he being the other, me hearties?

MW: He's got a point there, God. Arrg. What did Jesus do if not pillage

Satan? And wasn't a sea dog like the addled Joseph Smith just finding buried treasure himself as a young corsair?

GOD: Oh no. You're talking like a Mormon now too!

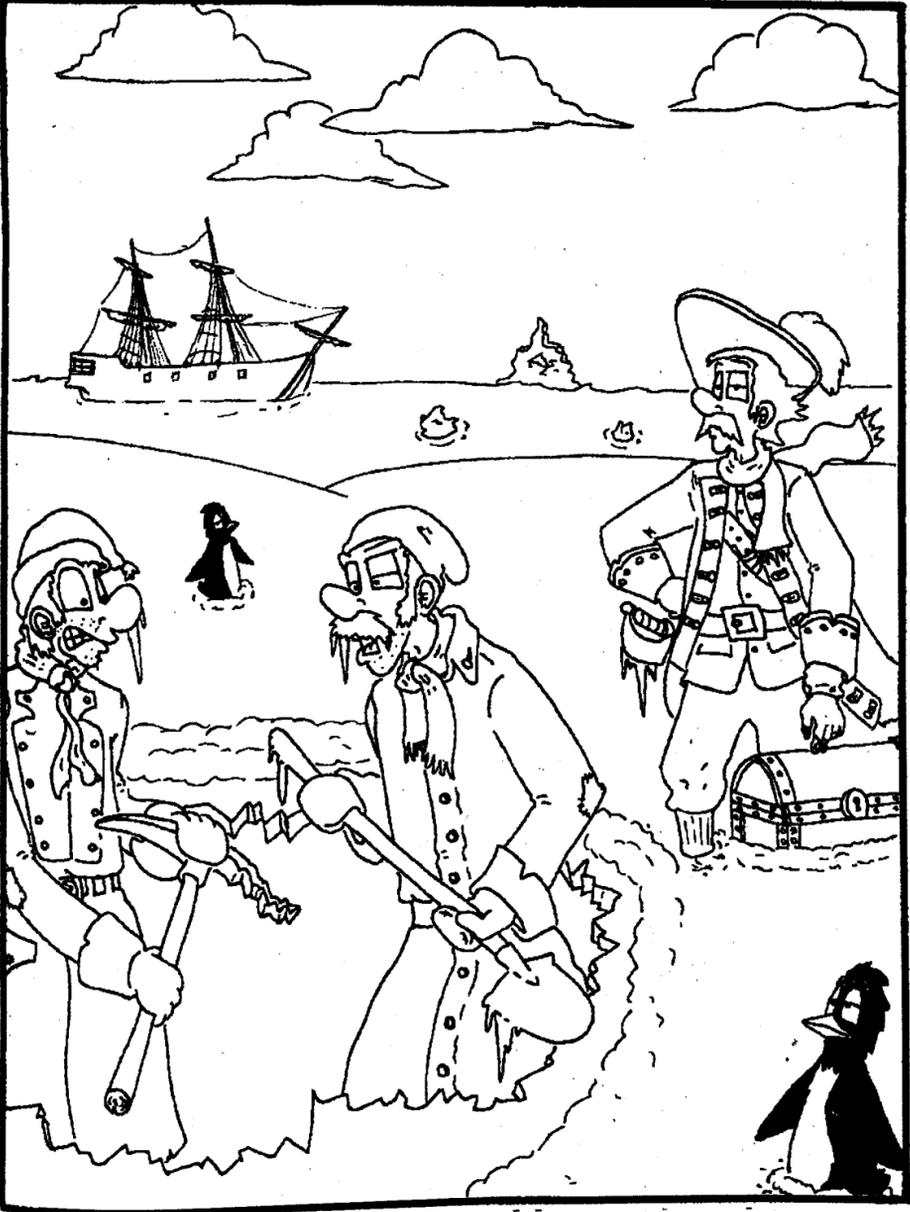
Korihor: Jebidiahdarbegads! Look at yer hand, old sea dog! It's the cursed black spot of Depp!

Gadianhi: Abrel-argsnok! It means

that any universe you ever have or will create will be plagued forever with suffering, contradiction, and despair! There be only way for ye salvation but it means sailin' to the ends of world...

MW: I think I'll go splice the mainbrace with Joseph Smith while he sings me a shanty... Hmm. At least its starting to look like Rosie.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE By: Jack McCall



"Forget the Arctic, why couldn't we have been Pirates of the Caribbean like everyone else?"

Everyone's Special, but Only this Month

**No Gods
No Masters**
Donovan Martin

February seems to be the month for supporting oppressed minorities in this country. It is Black History Month and Frostburg just put on yet another performance of the Vagina Monologues in celebration of V-Day. These are very special events in our liberal society but I'm often left wondering: what's the use? Are these events, these times of special observance, really going to affect any change in American culture or society? In all likelihood they will not.

Why? There are certainly enough people working very hard to make these types of observances a success. I do not want to imply that these efforts may be in vain but we owe it to those oppressed groups we claim to represent to consider the possibility that those efforts are in vain.

To my mind just setting a day or a month aside isn't going to effect change and here's why. Black History Month still perpetuates the idea of the African American as some one "other than." Their history is not "our" history in these terms. The two histories are separable, distinct, and more importantly, irreconcilable. Placing black history outside of our collective history only serves to further entrench the idea that blacks are not a part of the whole that goes to make up our culture.

A real step toward cultural equality would be an uninterrupted emphasis of the achievements of black people along with the achievements of anyone else who has contributed something to their field regardless of ethnicity or national origin.

A similar line of thinking occurs when I consider V-Day and the Vagina Monologues. I completely agree that women are oppressed in large parts of the world. However, I'm not sure how a group of women, in an already very liberal college campus setting, hosting an expose on their genitalia is going to alleviate the suffering of those women in the U.S. and around the world. I saw a girl deliver a monologue praising the vagina for having hundreds of thousands more nerve cells than

the male penis and lauding how much more sensitive her organ was, postulating in some vain way that this made her vagina "better" than a penis. I can only view this as counter productive to the idea of equality and inclusivity.

All that comes through with this display is that women, as sexist men has proclaimed since biblical times, are different, other, and morally separate from their male counterparts.

Before I proceed and procure more criticism than I deserve, I want to point out that many activities which both the Vagina Monologues and Black History Month encourage do bring a lot of money to institutions that attempt to forward minority rights. I know that the Vagina Monologues donate large portions of their proceeds to local women's shelters and there is a whole myriad of projects geared toward helping lower class blacks achieve upward mobility.

My criticism is not so much of the intentions of these projects but of a society that forces these projects to become regulated to a short time or to a singular event. Real liberation for women will only exist when women can freely talk about their bodies and sexuality in everyday life, not just at this one event.

As I've said before, liberation for black Americans exists beyond the confines of February. It is realized only when the achievements of black are elevated to an equal level as the history of white Europeans that currently dominates the curriculum of most public and higher education institutions.

In reality, it is socialization that results in the kind of man bashing commonly seen among some groups of feminists as well. The concept of strict competition for dominance and a status anxiety regarding our power relations within society often regulates all talk of equality to a debate on what is better while ignoring the core goal of achieving a reciprocal dialogue.

For now, I applaud the efforts of those who make such celebrations possible but cannot help but question the ultimate achievements of celebrations which have been so narrow in scope.

The Bottom Line

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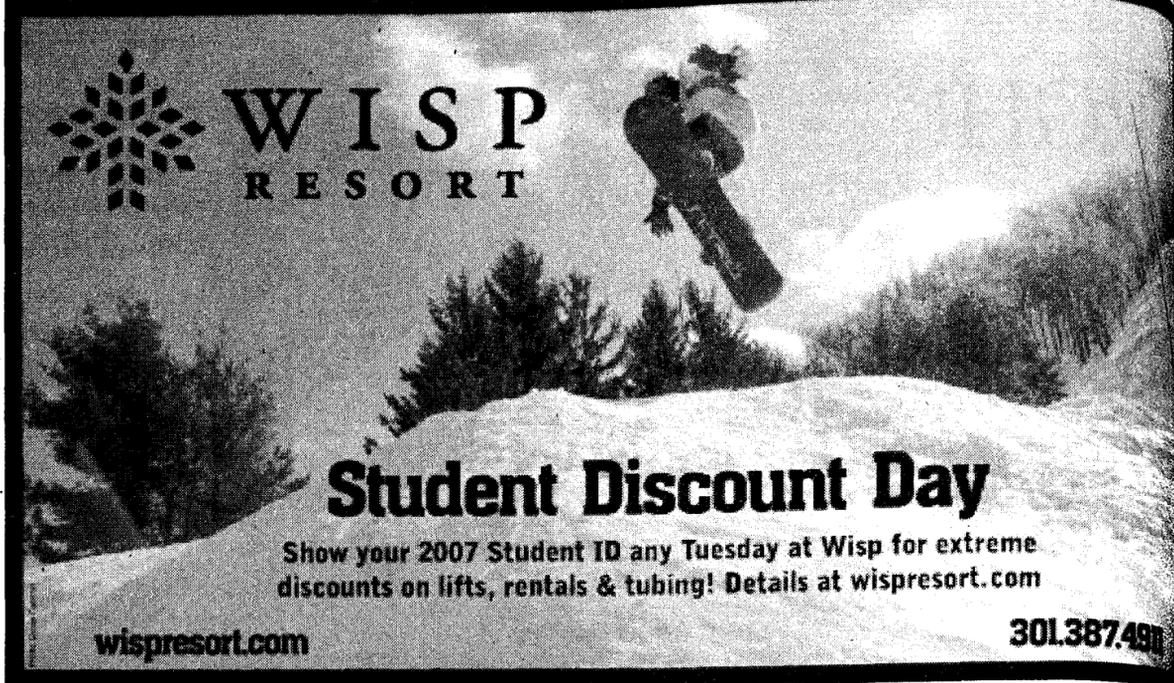
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FIVE Women, TWO Nights, ONE Hit Show

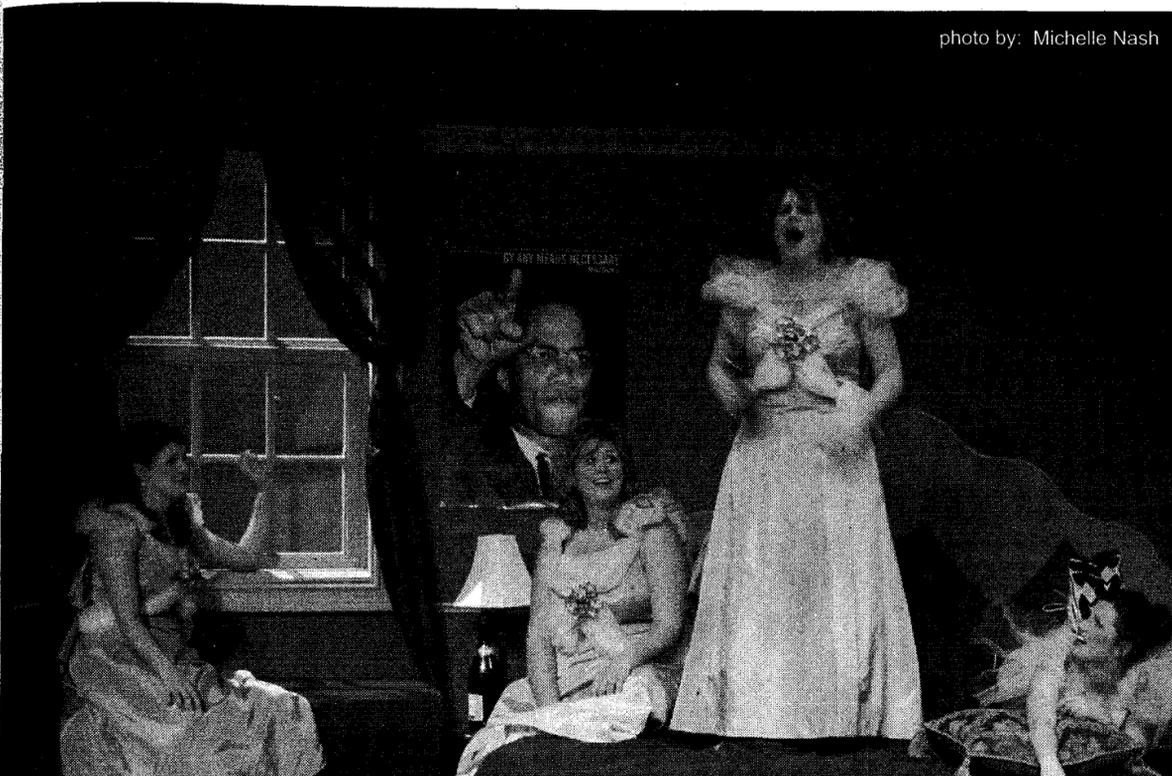


photo by: Michelle Nash

DRESSED THE PART (from left to right) Shea Mikal-Green, Jenny Tabb, Shannon Huber, Ashli Mazer. Shannon Huber takes the spotlight as she performs her solo surrounded by her fellow bridesmaids.

JAMIE WIESNER
Staff Writer

If you had the pleasure of attending Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, a wild comedy presented by the Performing Arts Center, then your week ended on a high note. The play ran for two nights only, beginning Friday, February 23rd and left audiences clamoring for an encore.

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress is a play about five women who are forced to be bridesmaids for their estranged friend, Tracy. Over the course of Tracy's wedding reception, each woman finds herself hiding in the attic to escape the disaster below them; meanwhile the women discover that they have far more in common than the lime taffeta nightmare they are made to wear.

Each of the bridesmaids were easy to

relate to because they each had their own troubling secrets that they eventually disclosed to one another, deepening their bond and breaking apart the stereotypes that defined each of the five women. The play was touching and honest and hit all of the right notes with the crowd.

The cast and crew did an amazing job. The set was beautiful and Pier One-esque, the music was appropriate and the talent was immaculate. I have to say that my favorite character was Georgeanne, played by Frostburg student Jenny Tabb. Georgeanne is a drunken, tear-stained bridesmaid who married for stability, and instead ended up with a stalemate. Bored and unsatisfied with her nonexistent sex life, Georgeanne has a one night stand in a bar parking lot with an old fling and ends up feeling more alone.

I think the reason the play was so enjoyable was the age-appropriate humor. There were endless sex references and crude humor, drug use and lots and lots of booze. It's not exactly the sort of play I'd take my Grandma to see, but it's definitely appropriate for a night out with the girls.

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress was a perfect blend of comedy and drama that really won me over. I would unquestionably recommend this play to anyone who enjoys a good laugh. It's a shame that this play only ran for two nights. I'm sure that by word of mouth alone, the place would've been packed for a week at least.

The play was certainly a crowd-pleaser and the curtain closed to an uproarious standing ovation.

Cover to Cover

Jennifer Government, though Action-Packed, Fails in Setting

BOOK: Jennifer Government
AUTHOR: Max Barry
PUBLISHER: Doubleday 2003

KARL FRIEDL
Staff Writer

With the risky launch of the new \$2,500 Nike Mercury sneakers, the Nike Corporation has had to think up a brilliant new marketing strategy to assure themselves high sales of the shoes. Enlisting a low-level sales marketer named Hack for the job, they have decided that he must go out and kill at least ten teenagers for their shoes, thus awarding the new sneakers with enough "street cred" that they will fly off the shelves. As the rather villainous duo of Nike managers John and John both note, murder is simply the price of doing business in Max Barry's *Jennifer Government*.

In a bleak vision of the future of a capitalist world, the corporations that dominate and control the planet have become so powerful and important that people no longer even have last names, instead taking the name of whatever mega-corporation they happen to work for. Following a series of stories and events that begin with Hack Nike's new assignment, his unemployed girlfriend-turned-corporate-saboteur, Violet, a depressed stockbroker named Buy Mitsui who fails to kill himself after realizing he can't work a pistol's safety release and the rouge government agent with a mysterious past and the urge to do what is right (aptly named Jennifer Government), the book gives us some rather dark predictions of things to come:

While there was plenty of action and page after page of rather tongue-in-cheek humor regarding the state of the modern corporation, I found that I had more than my fair share of problems trying to keep all of Barry's characters' names and stories straight in my head.

While they do end up coalescing into a well thought out dystopian science fiction novel, I still found myself having to reread previous chapters in an attempt to keep the story straight.

The real problem with *Jennifer Government*, however, is that it fails to fully flesh out any real sense of setting for its characters. Perhaps giving the reader a sense that the world is a faceless, cold and sterile place is an illustration of the kind of damage unchecked business could do. However, in the end it left me with the sense that some detail had simply been left out by Max Barry.

While the book does have its fair share of problems, there is still something in the plot that kept me reading on. Looking past the disjointed opening and lack of any detailed setting, there is a meaningful story with a good mix of love, action, humor and adventure as well as Max Barry's own warnings about the future of our world. While it is an easy and enjoyable read, don't expect anything ground breaking in Max Barry's *Jennifer Government*.

Rating: ★★★★★



What I've Learned from American Lit

I'll give you a hint: it starts with an "S".

SexPress
Amanda Baldwin

Freud argues in his school of psycho-analytic criticism, that an author expresses a deep, sexual desire. If that is the case, then American authors are some sort of freaky!

For example, Faulkner, when writing *The Sound and the Fury*, must have had quite the obsession for his sister or a sister-like figure in his life. He has brothers admitting to incest, brothers hating other brothers because of the incest and brothers that castrate another brother so that he is not able to procreate.

Henry James (you know, that guy who wrote *Turning the Screw*) had some homosexuality issues. He wrote a story about a governess who takes care of a little boy who says dirty things to other little boys because an older man said those things to him. Homosexual and a pedophile... nice, Henry.

Everyone has heard of Edgar Allan Poe, but does everyone know that some of his poems were written for his cousin? Ew.

Anne Bradstreet wrote about missing her husband and how the two are still one, even through distance. But did she ever write about pleasuring herself? No. She did not even write about longing for her husband sexually... her work just might precipitate that of Ellen.

Ben Franklin came right out and argued that sex

should be part of one's daily routine and not just sex with a single person—sex with multiple people! All while maintaining chastity.

Charles Brodken Brown wrote about Edgar Huntly, a man who searches for his friend's murderer and instead follows another guy through the woods and over cliffs. *Brokeback Mountain*, anyone?

Emerson and Thoreau had some sort of sexual repression. They all liked to hang out in nature "al naturale" (if you know what I mean). However, Emerson did tell his friend, Walt Whitman, that he wrote too frankly about sex and that people might not enjoy reading it. Funny, I wonder what he'd say to me....

Nathaniel Hawthorne, author of *The Scarlet Letter* obviously had some issues with fidelity... maybe he should have worn a red letter? Or maybe he was cheated on — or just afraid of it? OOOOORRRR maybe he liked sleeping with married women so that they had to wear a red letter on their chest...

Mr. Melville, you don't name a whale "Moby-Dick" and get off easy... I wonder what he had on the brain... all those sea men, perhaps?

Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, wrote stories about both Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. No wonder M.J. thought it was okay.

I'm not saying Freud's right, but if he is, American writers are, well, kind of twisted. Catch ya later!

Capitol Quartet Brings Spirited Sounds of Saxophone to Frostburg

Press Release

Music lovers are invited to enjoy the bright, brassy sounds of the saxophone in a variety of different music genres when the Capitol Quartet plays at Frostburg State University's Performing Arts Center at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4.

Featuring saxophonists who are alumni of premier military bands and faculty from some of America's leading music schools, the Capitol Quartet brings together top talent for spirited and unforgettable performances. The group's innovative program repertoire typically features special arrangements of timeless masterpieces by composers such as Bach, Beethoven and Mozart, as well as classical and jazz standards and contemporary works for saxophone. The Capitol Quartet is also committed to expanding the repertoire of the saxophone quartet. They have recently commissioned four new works for saxophone quartet by composers Mark Wieser, Charles Ruggiero, James Curnow and John Fitzpatrick.

To purchase tickets or for more information about the Capitol Quartet, call the FSU Cultural Events Box Office at (301) 687-3137 or toll free at 1-866-TIXX-CES, or visit online at ces.frostburg.edu.

This tour of the Capitol Quartet is made possible by a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the generous support of the Best Western Braddock.

FSU is committed to making all of its programs, services, and activities accessible to persons with disabilities. You may request accommodations through the ADA Compliance Office at (301) 687-4102, TDD (301) 687-7955.

POETIC continued from front

Although Michael's academics lie in psychology, he has a passion for writing. He says his writing has taken his career on a detour. "My poetry kind of jumped in and took control. I want to focus on it right now, and eventually I'll go to graduate school."

Michael says he only writes what he feels, but critics say he has a talent for putting word on paper. Michael recently celebrated the release of his second book of poetry entitled *Love Changes*. He says most of the poems are about his struggles with love. But the poems are not limited to his life; he also writes about others' experiences with dating, marriage, family, and death.

"All of the poems are based on real experiences of mine or my close friends and family," says Michael. "But I wish some of the poems weren't so real."

Included in *Love Changes* is a poem about the girl trapped in an abusive relationship who has been calling him for weeks. "They know I write about them, and they are okay with it."

One critic said Michael's poetry has a hint of "emotional optimism." "I think she meant there is hope in my writing," Michael explains. But in *Love Changes*, only half of the poems have a happy subject matter, while the other half seems gloomier. "Some of the poems are sadder, but in the end, there is always hope," he explains.

"I often write about people in bad situations because those people who are struggling need to hear it to help them get through," he explains. Michael says that "those who have lost love need support," and he gives it to them. "Love can change for the better or worse, but there is always hope in love."

Long after the start of classes have emptied the halls, Michael is still leaning against the stairwell with his phone to his ear. He talks softly to the girl, calming her with his warm voice. "You're a strong girl... Okay; I'll talk to you later tonight. Take care, you hear me?"

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Thursday, March 8, 2007

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The Tournees Festival was made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the French Ministry of Culture (CNC), the Florence Gould Foundation, the Grand Marier Foundation and the Franco-American Cultural Fund.



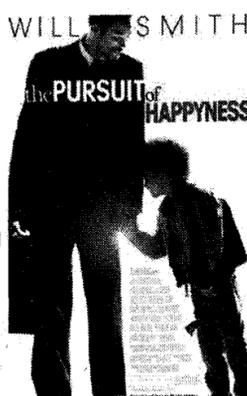
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UPDATE

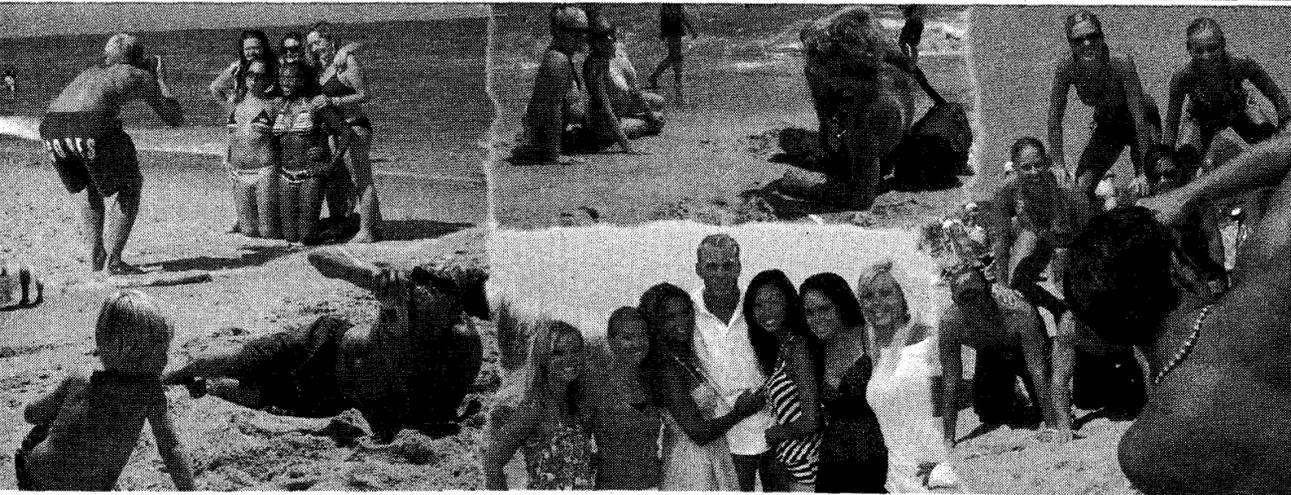
There was Speculation that the story about the 9 Year old with the Bone Cancer who wanted to receive get well Cards was a Hoax.

After some research, It was announced that the story about Little Josh is in fact TRUE!!!

On the other hand, the address stated in the last two issues of the Bottom Line was incorrect.

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THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

The Bottom Line

Have any concerns or ideas that you would like heard? The Bottom Line Staff would like to Listen!

Wed. February 28th Open Forum at 7pm in the Lane Center Game Room

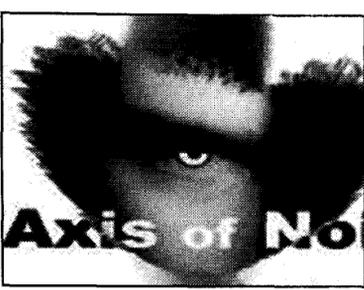
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Axis of Noise

More Than Just Sound in the Background

STEPHANIE THORNTON
Music Editor

The search for talent in the Frostburg area continues. Axis of Noise, self-proclaimed on their Myspace page as "grunk", has been around in the local scene for nearly five years. Lee Ajung, current guitar and vocals for Axis of Noise, was born in Malaysia and raised in various cities all across the United States until ending up in Frostburg, Maryland before high school. This was fortunate for Lee because, while in high school, he met Joe Clark, Lee's long-time best friend and current bassist for Axis of Noise. The two of them started playing music together after high school. Since



then, they've gone through over 30 drummers, but right now they seem to be clicking with Jeff Ward. With Red Hot Chili Peppers being a huge influence upon the both of them at their start, they were "solid funk rock," according to Lee. Since then, their sound has been changing, and they were able to develop a band name in the midst. "Now we've evolved to incorporate heavy metal meets grunge, meets grunge, meets funk," Lee explained. "So we're like an axis of noise." Ta-da!

So what is "grunk" exactly? "Grunge and funk," said Lee. "Our original favorite bands are grunge and funk. I like the heaviness of grunge as well as the social commentary." Lee explained that some of his favorite bands are Pearl Jam, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Rage Against the Machine, old Metallica and Primus. He respects not only their musical ability, but what it is they have to say. He takes this into consideration with his own band. "I want my music to mean something. I want to make music that is more than just sound in the background."

According to Lee, Axis of Noise has a very dedi-

cated fan base. "They put a lot into it, and they're very supportive," he said. Their audience isn't just made up of their peers, it includes people of all ages. The older folks can get into the older, grunge or metal sound incorporated in Axis of Noise, while young kids can respect the funky new sound.

Currently, while they appreciate their loyal fan base, Axis of Noise is trying to get out of Frostburg. Lee said the band is networking and trying to land shows in the Pittsburgh, Philadelphia or Baltimore areas. "We would like to pack it up and move out to California, but we don't have the capability." They have been playing shows with a few out-of-town bands, and Lee is hoping "they'll hook us up with some more shows."

Lee said the biggest pro to the local scene is the ability to see their best friends at every show, but there seems to be a lot more cons to performing in the Frostburg area. "There is the risk to playing the bar scene," explained Lee. "You get around drunk people and they want to fight or spill beer all over your amps." There is also the 21-and-over aspect. Axis of Noise has a hard time getting anyone under 21 into their live performances when many local bars are the only places they have to perform. "Unfortunately, there aren't too many places to play," said Lee. They've become a regular performance at Duncan's in Frostburg and the Blue Stone Tavern in LaVale. If you want to check them out, they have a show coming up at the Blue Stone Tavern on March 10th.

Axis of Noise has already released an album. *Here it Comes and There it Went* is the title, and you can find it on their official website, www.axisofnoise.com.

Lee also designs all of the merchandise for Axis of Noise through the website www.cafepress.com. He uses Adobe Photoshop to create the images. There are T-shirts, dog T-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs and Ladies' undies available along with their album, *Here it Comes and there it Went*.

The Bottom Line

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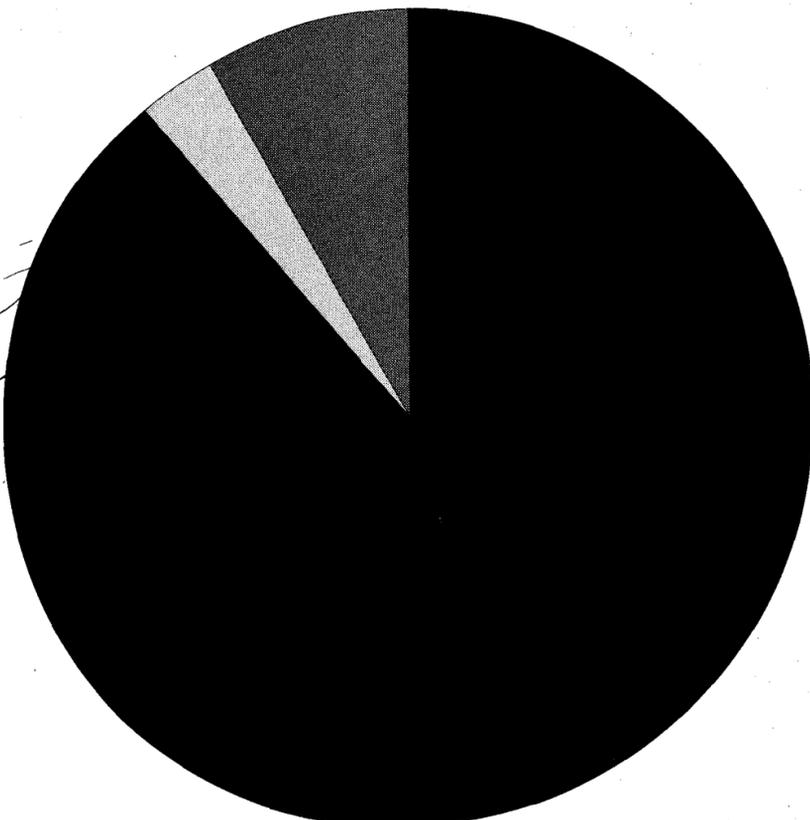
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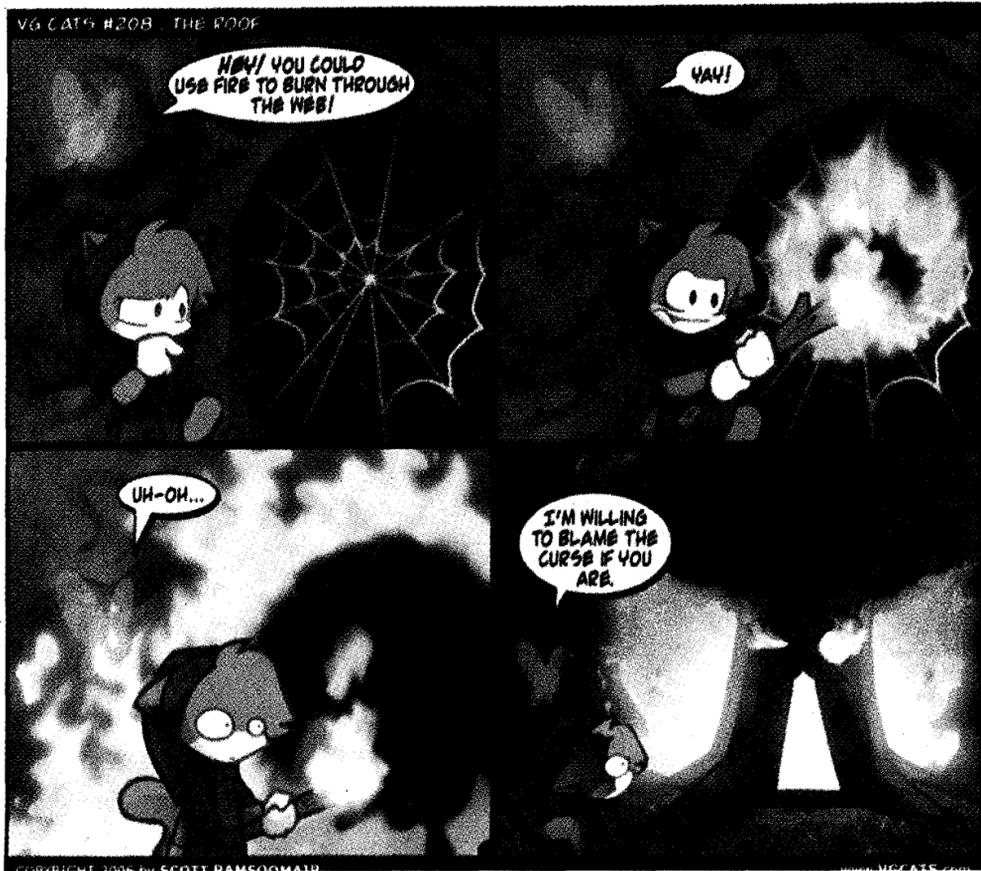


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Another Transition Online

Webcomics make the leap from obscurity to "sheik" (at least to geeks)



VG CATS is just one of many web comics to gain worldwide fame in recent years. Sites like TopWeb-Comics.com aggregate these comics for easy access, and allow users to rate them, creating a hierarchy of popularity.

AT Wire
Derek Hidey

Last week, Xfire hosted a special chat session with Scott Ramsomair, the creator of VG Cats, a weekly web comic dedicated to parodying video games. Only about 50 Xfire users who signed up were invited to participate and ask questions. I was one of the lucky few to get a spot in the chat.

Web comics have become very popular over the past several years. Even more popular than just web comics are the web comics that relate to video games. Ramsomair's creation is one of the more popular of these web comics, and with good reason. There are currently 227 VG Cats comics, most of them drawn by Ramsomair himself. The comic originally

involved two cats, one male cat named Leo and one female cat named Aeries, who played video games together. Since then, Ramsomair has turned the comic into more of a parody. Rather than focusing on two gamers, he has taken Leo and Aeries and placed them in the universes of the games. Like any traditional comic, the style of VG Cats has changed a lot since its original design.

"Along the way I watch different shows, read different comics and try to adapt style changes," said Ramsomair. "It's just one of those things that [happens] naturally."

Even though the main topic for VG Cats is video games, Ramsomair admitted that he will cover topics outside of that realm. "It keeps it fresh for me," says Ramsomair. "I

can get bored with video games from time to time."

While web comics may not reach people in the same way that traditional newspaper comics do, the format for them is better because they apply to specific audiences. VG Cats attracts video-game enthusiasts from across all the genres. A World of Warcraft fan can find just as much humor in Ramsomair's comic as a Halo fan. The VG Cats website currently has 6,301 registered members and is continuing to grow in popularity.

Rather than Ramsomair being a comic artist first, he considers himself primarily to be a gamer. His creative abilities as an artist are secondary to his passion for video games. Most comic artists would consider themselves to be artists above anything else, and this is what sets creativity apart from creativity explored through video games.

I know I've advocated about how video games need to be taken more seriously by the mainstream of our society, but can you blame me? All of these amazing and creative things are happening every day thanks to video games. Yet, all people hear about and all they care about is how the latest murder crimes relate to the latest installment in the Grand Theft Auto series. Web comics, such as VG Cats, are taking a traditional form of creative expression, turning it upside down and over-clocking it.

Despite the fact that video games and the culture surrounding them isn't being represented fairly by the Jack Thompsons of our society, people like Ramsomair have taken it upon themselves to explore original and creative ways of expressing their passion: video games. When Ramsomair was asked whether the fans, the money or the experience kept his passion for comics alive, he replied, "The games."

Events, Events Galore

What's Coming Up This Semester

SAMM FRAZEE
Staff Writer

The Cultural Event Series, better known as CES, is the main reason Frostburg gets bands and entertainment. The CES is made up of 3 different stages: Main Stage Series, CES Jazz Club and the Special Events. During the spring semester, the lineup on all three stages is extremely exciting. On the Main Stage Series in March, the Capital Quartet is coming back, The Cashore Marionettes presents "Life in Motion" and let's not forget about Los Folkloristas. On the CES Jazz Stage, there is the Preservation Hall Jazz Band as well as Mike Tomaro coming to perform at the University. On the Special Events Stage the Theatre Works USA is coming to present "Ramona Quinlan".

Coming in April, the largest performance being held by CES is the Goo Goo Dolls concert. Last semester the CES held events such as the Alternate Routes and the Theatre of Illusion. Each semester the CES holds one large band in concert.

This semester it is the Goo Goo Dolls. The concert being held in April is going to be one amazing night and everyone will have a great time. Tickets are on sale now in the Box Office in the Lane Center and are selling quickly. The Goo Goo Dolls will be performing chart-topping hits from "Slide" to "Broadway is Deeper Tonight."

The Capital Quartet is considered to be an exciting ensemble. These four saxophonists play a wide variety of music from classical masterpieces to more contemporary pieces of music. The Capital Quartet will be playing in the Performing Arts Center Pealer Recital Hall on March 3rd. Los Folkloristas preserves the Mexican and Latin American music and is made up of seven members who play over 100 instruments. They are coming to perform on April 30th in the Performing Arts Center Pealer Recital Hall.

In the CES Jazz Club this semester, one of the events being held is the Preservation Jazz Hall Band. The band is said to bring the sounds of the French Quarter of New Orleans to all of the audiences around the world. The Preservation Band will be performing March 15th in the ARMAH of the Lane Center. They are performing on the drama theatre, is "Ramona Quinlan" which is more for little children, but brings to life the fictitious character created by Beverly Cleary.

Frostburg's Cultural Events Series promises to provide a wide variety of arts and theatre to the University. This semester the performances are extremely diverse, ranging from the sounds of Mexican Jazz and finally up to modern pop music and theatre events for the family. There is something for everyone being shown by the Cultural Events Series this semester.

Buy tickets now for whichever event seems most interesting to you, before tickets run out. Go out and have a great evening with friends. The purpose of the Cultural Events Series is not only to learn about diversity in music, but to enjoy yourself, have fun and create lasting memories.

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THE EC: EVERWOOD COMMONS Heather Ravenscroft



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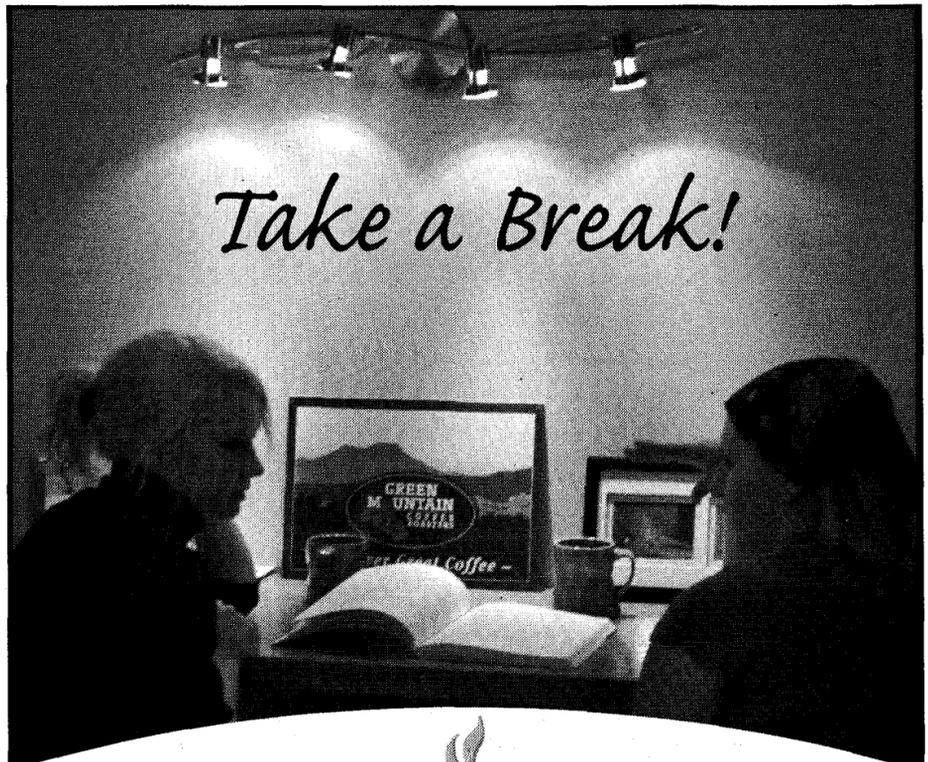


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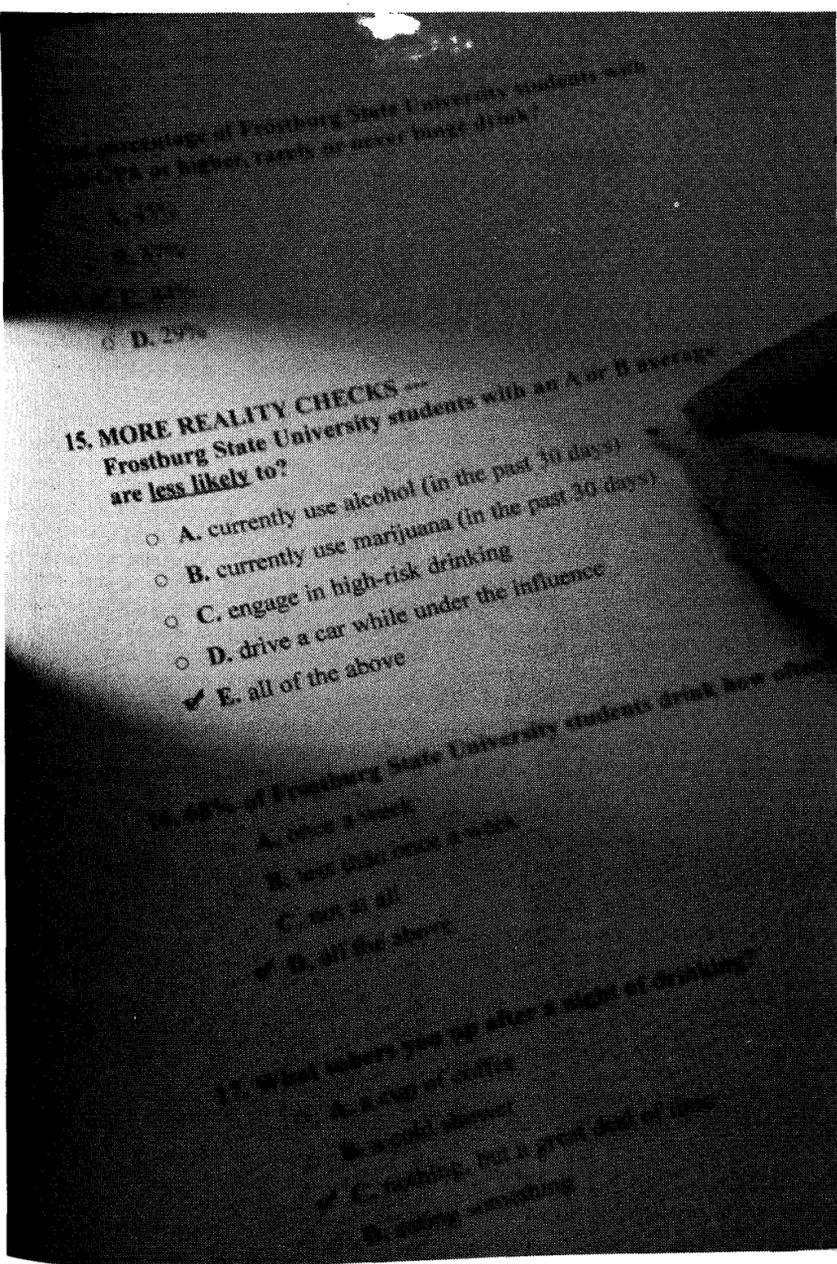
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3.2.07 SOFT vs. Rutgers-Camden (@ Va Beach) 9am	3.2.07 SOFT vs. NC Wesleyan (@ Va Beach) 1pm	3.2.07 TRK @ ECAC Division III Indoor National Championship All Day	3.3.07 BSB vs. Old Westbury (DH) (@ Va Sports Complex) Noon	3.3.07 LAX vs. Marymount 1pm
	3.3.07 SOFT vs. Rowan (@ Va Beach) 1pm	3.3.07 SOFT vs. Polytechnic (@ Va Beach) 3pm	3.3.07 RK @ ECAC Division III Indoor National Championship All Day	3.4.07 BSB vs. Old Westbury (@ Va Sports Complex) 1pm

Bobcats Score Second Place Finish

Men's Tennis surprises field at pre-season tournament

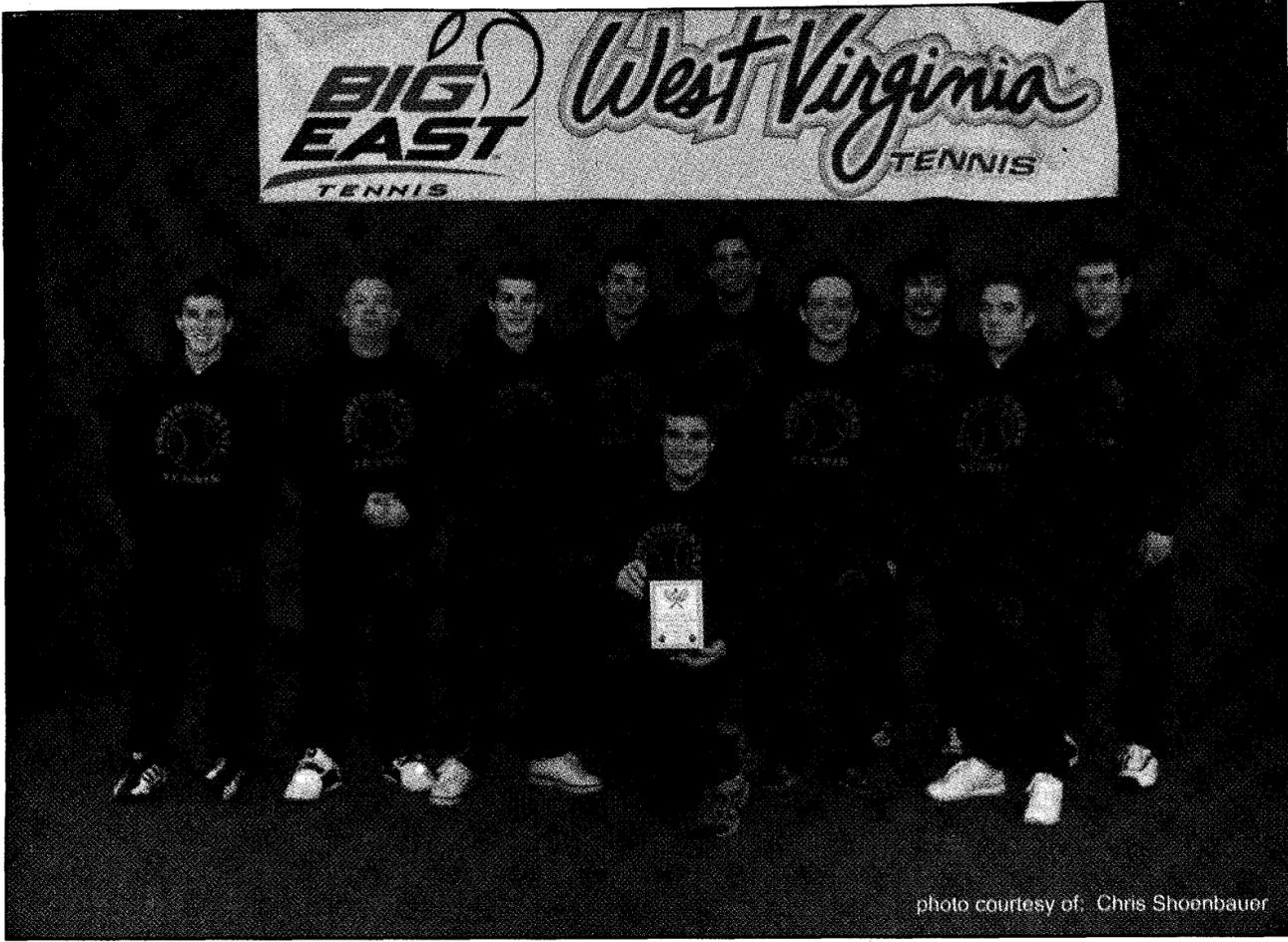


photo courtesy of Chris Schoenbauer

A TEAM EFFORT The men's tennis team finished in 2nd place in the WV Wesleyan Winter Invitational. (from left to right: back row) Brad Yoder, Coach Stuart Swink, Matt Chisholm, Greg Shedd, Ryan Rice, Tom Wetzel, Genya Cole, Andy Chisholm, Shawn Wade (front row) Chris Schoenbauer

GREG SHEDD

Staff Writer

Frostburg State tennis entered its pre-season tournament in Morgantown facing off against some formidable opponents. The tournament featured WV Wesleyan, Fairmont University, Waynesburg College and Frostburg State University. Among these teams, Fairmont and WV Wesleyan are Division II. WV Wesleyan was nationally ranked at number 38. Although Waynesburg is also Division III they finished 3rd in the PAC championships last year. In the WV Wesleyan Winter Invitational every victory in the regular draw accumulates one point while a consolation round victory yields a half point.

Frostburg came out and played as they knew how. In singles, Frostburg's #1 and #2 players Greg Shedd and Andy Chisholm, both lost in the first round to WV Wes-

leyan's top players. Shedd lost 6-3, 6-2 to a very large serve and a phenomenal backhand. Andy Chisholm lost 6-1, 6-1 to incredible speed, shot selection and great volleys. However, Shedd and Chisholm weren't done yet. They met in the consolation finals where Shedd took the victory 9-7.

Matt Chisholm, playing at #3 singles, won his match against WV Wesleyan 6-2, 6-4 after a bye to advance to the finals. He faced off against the WV Wesleyan player who defeated Frostburg's #4 player, Ryan Rice. In the final Matt came out firing, taking an early 2-0 lead before eventually losing to the incredible ground strokes of his opponent 6-3, 6-0. Brad Yoder in his first real competitive match lost to his opponent from WV Wesleyan. Chris Schoenbauer led the singles squad in the third singles bracket winning his first round against Waynesburg and then win-

ning the following two rounds including the singles championship against players from WV Wesleyan. Also winning in singles was Tom Wetzel who crushed all opponents in the fourth bracket. Although this seemed to be a lot of losses, the points added up to where the Frostburg Bobcats were in second place led by, oddly enough, the WV Wesleyan Bobcats.

Doubles was more of the same for the Frostburg State Bobcats. Shedd/M. Chisholm won the first round against Waynesburg by a forfeit and stepped up into the final against the immense talent of the top Wesleyan players. Shedd and Chisholm kept the match surprisingly close and tense showing great hands at the net and big serves until eventually losing 8-3. Rice and Andy Chisholm faced off against the WV Bobcats and had a similar result losing 8-2. However, once again, senior captain Chris Schoen-

bauer teamed with senior Brad Yoder to lead the pack and overcame all odds winning the third doubles championship against the WV Wesleyan Bobcats in an epic match with Frostburg winning 9-8 with a score of 7-5 in the pro set tiebreaker.

The Bobcats dominated this tournament, smothering all other competition. The WV Wesleyan Bobcats won the invitational and will have a very good season due in most part to the new talent. The Frostburg Bobcats, however, defeating both Fairmont and Waynesburg show the dedication and talent needed to bring FSU an AMCC title. The second place showing in this event gives Frostburg men's tennis a lot of confidence going into the regular season. The Bobcats begin their season on March 15th when they travel to conference opponent Pitt-Greensburg for a noon match.

Criticizing Athletes & Coaches

We all need a reality check

Armchair Q.B.

Chris Schoenbauer

Far too often athletes and coaches get criticism that they don't deserve. We are guilty of dishing it out, including myself. However, ever, criticism is

type of thing that gets readers interested more often than not. But this week, I want to take time to show the appreciation that most athletes and coaches deserve.

It is far too easy to sit back and pick apart every part of what appears to be going right or wrong with a team. What most people do not understand is what goes on behind the scenes.

Many coaches put in a ton of time and effort. This goes in to practices, organization, recruiting, game planning and so on. Most of their spare time is spent preparing things for their team to be better in all facets.

Sometimes coaches do not always make the right decisions, but who does? Coaches are put under the microscope more than many jobs in this country. It doesn't always matter what the team does, one bad performance can take a coach's job away from him. Take for example Marty Schottenheimer, who led the San Diego Chargers to a 14-2 regular season this year. However, because of a second round playoff loss he was fired. Many have justified this because Marty has a reputation for not being able to win in the playoffs. Apparently leading a team to a 14-2 record and having the players of that team love their coach means nothing.

Gary Williams can also be used as a prime example. Williams came to his alma mater Maryland, in the late 80's and rose the basketball program from the dead. He took a team that received the NCAA "death penalty" and molded it into a national champion. Yet the past two years there have been people actually calling Williams to be fired for two seasons where his team failed to make the NCAA tournament.

Maryland basketball is a prime example of criticism and how many athletes and coaches do not deserve most of it. Even this season there has been much criticism of the program until the Terapins recently knocked off Duke, and then number five UNC on Sunday night. After the game during an interview Gary Williams was reduced to tears. This is the man that knows how hard his players work. He is the person that knows what that team has gone through to get where it is now. "A lot of people were criticizing us before. Now what?" said point guard Grevis Vasquez.

It is easy for us to sit back and criticize everything about athletics. Most of it, however, is unwarranted. How would we like it if someone was watching us do our jobs and criticized us every time we did one little thing wrong? What if anytime we couldn't do something perfectly, your boss was on your ass and the media was writing about how you should be fired or a change should be made in the company?

We read everyday in newspapers about someone else who needs to be fired or some athlete that is giving constant sub-par performances. We read on message boards about how teams are under performing and how pathetic they are. Everyday someone, somewhere is taking a shot at a player, team or coach. We are talking about 18 year old athletes in college. Sometimes it seems like we are the ones who are pathetic for ripping on these athletes and coaches.

I have been extremely guilty of this at various points in my life. I have written articles even complaining about certain things in our athletics here. While some of them are valid, at times myself, and all of us, are overly critical about something that players and coaches work so hard for. It's not that they aren't trying. They are, they're working their butts off everyday. Sometimes however, we all fall short.

I want to end this article with a quote by Theodore Roosevelt that we should all think about when we are ready to criticize these players and coaches (whether a standard citizen or a journalist). "It is not the critic who counts... The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy course; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."



A LONG WAY FROM FROSTBURG Brandon Thornton served as a Marine before swimming for the Frostburg Swim Team.

JOURNEY continued from front

If his time in Iraq sounds uneventful and normal, it was quite the opposite. Brandon also experienced the dangers of war. While in Iraq Brandon stayed at Camp Fallujah where he lived in a building on a former Iraq military base. "The living areas were pretty nice. Once we got them fixed up, we had things like air-conditioning, electricity, and little fridges," said Brandon.

Like most of Iraq, Camp Fallujah was not immune to attack. "We took about 10 or 15 rockets a day. They would send the rockets over our wall around breakfast and dinner time maybe trying to hit our chow hall." Brandon went on to say, "Most of the rockets hit far from any US personnel. I had a few whiz over my head and detonate close enough to knock me down. We took a few casualties but most of those were injuries."

While living at Camp Fallujah was somewhat dangerous, the amount of danger encountered varied depending on where you were staying. "Most of the trouble was in the big cities but they have buildings that offer good protection and amenities. But if you were camping in the middle of nowhere you had nothing and that included trouble. So it was a payoff," said Brandon.

Of course spending time in Iraq would leave anyone with a number of unforgettable memories. When asked what he would never forget Brandon said, "I'll never forget the Battle of

Checkpoint 10. It wasn't one of those big fights you see on TV, but me and my friends thought it was a big deal so we called it the Battle of Checkpoint 10." While in Iraq Brandon even got to stay at Uday Hussein's former home. "I'll definitely never forget staying at Uday's palace in Ramadi," said Brandon. You may remember Uday as one of Saddam Hussein's sons that were killed in 2003.

While Brandon had an eventful tour of duty in Iraq he safely returned home to friends and family in October of 2005. When he returned to Frostburg, Brandon got back to work on his college and swimming career. They just finished up a pretty good season in February and won a few races in the freestyle and breaststroke events. "We had a good season, but we need more swimmers. The more swimmers we have the better our chances of winning more events," said Brandon. He went on to say, "Anybody that enjoys swimming or competing should come out. You don't even need experience, even if you been out of the water for awhile you can still come and join us."

Brandon is definitely one of the many exceptional students at Frostburg and he cements this with one statement when asked would he be willing to go back to Iraq Brandon said without hesitation, "Yes. I definitely would." Now that he is back in Frostburg school and swimming are his focus, but he is always ready to serve his country again.