



THE IRON BLADE

SINCE 1955



Ferrum Folks:

Will Pettus see page 5

Vol. 55, No. 5

55 Years of Ferrum College News

October 19, 2009

Shooting raises concerns within campus community

Ashley Hale
Editor-in-Chief

A shooting at the Nolen's Hill apartments on Sunday, Oct. 11, injured two Ferrum College students. The victims were taken to area hospitals and released. No suspect has been apprehended; however, the investigation is ongoing.

The campus police directed the Iron Blade to speak with Natalie Faunce, director of public relations. Faunce reported that the altercation began in Franklin Hall near Papa Johns. Here, six students and six non-students exchanged threatening words in what seemed to be a fight over a female student. After a brief dispute, the small crowd soon dispersed.

The confrontation moved from campus in Franklin Hall to off campus at the Nolen's Hill apartment complex,

which is rented out by a person unaffiliated with the college.

Chris Brown, a resident of the Nolen's Hill apartments and a senior at Ferrum College, was at his apartment during the night of the incident. From his second level apartment, he could see the parking lot beginning to become full of students and nonstudents around 11:45 p.m.

What started out as a small gathering quickly began to grow out of hand reported Brown.

"There were at least 100 people here," Brown said, "probably more."

The noise level began to rise, and Brown admits to contemplating calling the police to come and break up the "party."

Brown heard yelling and went to his kitchen window to see what the

see **SHOOTING** page 2



Nolen's Hill apartments--the location of the Oct. 11, Sunday morning shooting incident.

photo by Ashley Hale

Relay for Life Kick-Off to be held Oct. 27

Ashley Hale
Editor-in-Chief

Ferrum's annual Relay for Life kick-off party will be held Tues., Oct. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Panther's Den. All clubs, organizations, faculty, staff, and students interested in Relay for Life are encouraged to attend to learn about the planning and organization of this year's event.

Travis Smith, CAC's vice president and chair of Relay, and Rebekah Motley, CAC president and co-chair of Relay, have begun to work hard in order to plan and organize the "second largest event on campus, Relay for Life," Smith said.

"The purpose of the kick-off is to get everyone excited about Relay for

Life," Smith said.

"Relay for Life is going to be bigger and better this year than ever before. We will be announcing some new plans for this year's event at kick-off that we are really excited about," Motley said.

The theme for this year's kick-off is "Birthday Party." The room will be decorated with balloons and streamers. Activities of the night will include playing birthday games such as pin the tale on the donkey. Prizes will be given.

The party theme is in keeping with the American Cancer Society's current advertising campaign, which calls the organization "the official sponsor of birthdays."

see **RELAY** page 6

RHA needs volunteers for Haunted Forest

Jordan Edelin
Staff Writer

On Thurs., Oct. 29, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) will be hosting a Haunted Forest in the Chapman Woods. Admission to the forest is \$3 or \$2 and a canned food item. The canned goods will be donated to the St. James Center, and the money will be filtered back to the students through programs created by the RHA.

The RHA are encouraging other organizations to participate. This year the RHA need tour guides and scarers. They also need a setup crew and a cleanup crew. Clubs can earn community service by participating.

Organizations that choose to par-

ticipate have a choice of how they can help. Last year the soccer players were scarers and a few of the sororities and fraternities sold tickets and collected the canned goods. Those who would like to participate can dress up as zombies or clowns, or re-enact scenes from horror movies such as "Scream" or "Nightmare on Elm Street".

The Haunted Forest is a great way to spend Halloween this year. The RHA encourage everyone to attend and be prepared to be scared. Clubs, organizations, or students that would like to join in on the Halloween fun should contact Toni Davis, residence hall educator, at tdavis@ferrum.edu.

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"Real Roots" to take center stage at the 36th Blue Ridge Folklife Festival

Public Relations Office

Horses, howlers, and hipsters—even a jumping mule with a flair for painting—will share the bill at the 36th annual Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, western Virginia's largest celebration of living heritage. The Blue Ridge Folklife Festival showcases "real roots" in a one-day family-friendly event like none other. The 2009 festival will take place **Saturday, October 24th**, on the campus of Ferrum

College. Gates open at 10 a.m. for a full day of activities running through 5 p.m.

One of 13 major venues on the Crooked Road Music Trail, the Blue Ridge Folklife Festival highlights music, crafts, foods, dancing, quilting, kids' games, work horses, hunting dogs, moonshining, vintage tractors, custom cars, and much more. *The New York Times* has called the festival "thoroughly authentic."

For 2009 four music stages will of-

fer the best in lively fiddle-and-banjo tunes, bluegrass, ballads, gospel, and blues. At 1 p.m. an afternoon sock hop will reunite two of the area's '50s rock 'n' roll groups, The Dazzlers and Don Day & The Knights. For those whose dance tastes lean toward even older styles, mountain dance workshops will explore the artistry of Blue Ridge buck dancing, flat footing, and clogging. Also on stage, retired moonshiners, revenuers, and rockabilly performers will share memories

in storytelling workshops.

Fine Blue Ridge crafts are widely appreciated, and nearly 50 folk artisans will be demonstrating their traditional skills, everything from tatting to blacksmithing. Many will have their handmade items for sale. The Blue Ridge Folklife Festival's 2009 quilt show will also feature dozens of private-collection antique Virginia quilts.

see **FOLKLIFE** page 2 —

Blood drive draws 80 donors, 27 first-timers

Heather Bozarth
Staff Writer

Ferrum students and community members joined together in an effort to help save lives Wed., Oct. 7 in the Ferrum College Fitness Center. The Bonner program, directed by Kate Hersey, coordinator of Student Development, sponsored the school's quarter-annual blood drive.

The blood drive was a great success with 80 donors and a total of 67 units, or pints, of blood collected.

Twenty-seven out of the 80 were first-time donors. In hopes of an even better turnout next time, Hersey plans to work with Food Services to include iron-rich meals in the cafeteria for a few weeks before the next drives.

Hersey urges those who are interested in participating in the next blood drive to take the time to register early. Registration tables can be found in



Christina Moreno relaxes during her donation at the Oct. 7 blood drive.
photo by Heather Bozarth

the atrium of Franklin Hall two weeks before a drive is to take place.

Those with tattoos may give blood, as long as the tattoo was given in a licensed parlor. Those who donated blood at this blood drive can still donate next time. Each blood drive is scheduled so those who donate can give blood at each blood drive.

The Bonner Program makes sure the donors have fun at the drive.

Raffle tickets are distributed at the blood drives. Hersey and the Bonner students give away prizes ranging from shirts to umbrellas. Lesley Krigger and Sean Perkins were winners at Wednesday's blood drive.

The next blood drive will be held December 3. Join in the fun and save lives at the same time.

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SHOOTING from page 1

commotion was about. He saw people gathered in the road and then saw the flash of the fired gun, which, according to police, has been identified as a 9 mm.

"I yelled to my friends to call the police," Brown said. "It was just crazy after that. People began running, but (the parking lot) didn't clear out immediately."

The first call to authorities was received at 12:10 a.m. Officers arrived at 12:12 p.m., reported Faunce.

Within minutes, a reported 23 officers were on the scene. Law enforcement officers from Ferrum College, Franklin County, and Virginia State Police were present. Local game wardens also responded to the call.

Law enforcement blocked all roadways and only allowed students to walk back to campus, Brown said.

There was a routine road check scheduled on the night of the incident. Faunce reports that an officer was stationed at the corner of 40 and 602. If the gunman had driven toward campus, he would have been apprehended by the officer, Faunce said.

Officers remained on the scene until 3:30 or 4 a.m. Brown reported.

Though no arrests have been made, authorities have focused on a suspect from Danville. According to an article published in the Franklin News-Post on Tues., Oct. 13, the suspect is reported to be a black male, age 18 to 20, wearing a white t-shirt with a logo.

In the event of any arrest, Director of Campus Safety and Chief of Police Elizabeth Legg will inform the campus community, Faunce said.

The event has raised concerns among Ferrum's student body. Elizabeth Byrd, a senior, voiced extreme dissatisfaction about the delayed

notification from the e2campus alert system. "The first alert was not sent to students until 3:24 a.m., several hours after the shooting," Byrd said.

Students have reported dissatisfaction with the manner in which authorities handled the situation, and feel that although the event occurred off campus, Ferrum is such a small community that this was still a threat to security.

"Franklin County police did not feel like this was a threat to our students," Faunce reported. "As always, our number one concern is the safety of our students."

Faunce reports that due to the scheduled road check, the gunman would have been caught had he moved toward campus.

"We are not saying 'it is off-campus, so it is not our problem,'" said Faunce. "If the off-campus event was a threat to our students, we would use all forms of communication to inform our students that there was a threat to their safety."

Though students did not receive immediate e2 alerts, other forms of communication were utilized, Faunce explained. She said Jason Jones, dean of students, implemented procedures to notify the residence life staff.

Jones said he uses a phone tree system to disseminate information as quickly as possible, notifying residence hall educators who, in turn, notify other staff members. He also said that as the incident occurred on Homecoming weekend, all residence life staff were on duty. Jones said he was in continual communication with his staff throughout the night.

Faunce noted that the e2campus system is used in a variety of situations, but "students need to be educated on when we use it,"

In any event where students' safety is being compromised in some way, an alert will be sent. In the event of cancelled classes, severe weather, local fires, or dangerous animals on campus, an immediate alert will be sent out, Faunce said.

With regard to any comparison being made about the gunman reported on campus in February 2008 and the recent incident, Faunce said the earlier incident "was one armed, unidentified person in a residence hall of over 400 students. We did not know his intent."

By contrast, Faunce said, the cause of Sunday's incident was known. The intention of the gunman was not to harm students in general.

Administrators decided to send an e2alert after they had communicated with authorities, Faunce said. "We were hearing rumors and receiving questions from parents, so we sent the text message to quell the rumors and inform everyone of what happened," Faunce said.

According to Brown, another shooting incident was reported during the same weekend in "Trollville," a community near the Route 40 bridge that frequently serves as a gathering place for some Ferrum students. Brown said he was in Trollville on Fri., Oct. 9, when a nonstudent fired a shot or shots into the air. No one was injured.

Faunce confirmed that this incident occurred and that there were no injuries.

On Mon., Oct. 12, another report of a firearm originated in Clark Hall, when a female student saw a male student running with his hand inside the front of a sweatshirt. The student reported concern that the individual was armed. Franklin County Sheriff's Department officers and State Police

FOLKLIFE from page 1

Horse pulling competitions, coon dog treeing and racing contests, sheep herding demonstrations, and the Virginia State Championship Coon Mule Jumping Contest will delight animal fans. At midday "Amazing Grace," herself a champion jumping mule, will put paint to canvas to show off her artistic side, and her paintings will be auctioned off to the crowd.

A working rock crusher, wheat thresher, baler, grist mill, plus dozens of old engines, and tractors will pulse with the power of old machinery. The festival also annually includes one of the largest hot rod, restored, and custom car shows in the region.

For youngsters the Blue Ridge Folklife Festival offers a continuous slate of games that entertained earlier generations. When hunger strikes, everything from fried apple pies to black pot chicken will be at hand at dozens of country food booths.

The festival brings together the best of the Blue Ridge's living roots, covering the campus of Ferrum College. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and senior citizens. Parking is free. For more information or advance tickets, call 540-365-4412 or visit www.blueridgeinstitute.org.

responded, The suspected student was searched, but no fire arm was found.

Faunce attributed the young woman's report to anxiety. "Students are edgy," she said, "and we understand that, but our number one priority is the safety of our students."

The campus community is now begin informed of developments in the Nolen's Hill shooting through the release of news releases and by local media.

On Monday morning, key faculty members including deans and members of the Faculty Council met to discuss the event and measures for keeping faculty informed.

Brown says he is concerned that his apartment complex will now have a bad reputation because of the weekend's event. "The people in this apartment do not condone this kind of behavior," Brown said.

Brown states that "(the campus) is very lucky that no one was killed. The cops did a great job at handling the situation." He said he is not worried about his own safety.

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Editor's note: The e2campus mass notification system is available to all persons affiliated with Ferrum College, including parents of students. e2campus users can request notification via cell phone, web page, RSS, PDA, e-mail, text pager, Google, AOL, or My Yahoo! Page. To sign up for an e2campus account or update account information, navigate to the following URL: http://www.ferrum.edu/campus_safety/ferrum_e2campus.aspx.

Opinion/Editorial

High-strung and broken-hearted

Glenn Thompson
/special to the Iron Blade

I was twelve the year I saw the ghost, and I guess you could probably say with some certainty that the experience changed my view of life.

From the first through the twelfth grade, I lived from one to six blocks from the high school, in a half-dozen directions. At times in my youth, its grounds had been my playground. At the age of 6, I knew that I would most likely spend the latter part of my formative education years in those hallowed halls. The school was built at the beginning of the twentieth century, and the buildings reflected the overachievement of the architecture of that period. Don't get me wrong, I loved those buildings. They were two to three stories of brick and marble arrangements, with long hardwood halls, tall windows, and magnificent gray marble stairways leading up to their entrances. They truly don't build them like that anymore.

The school had history of course, and in the forthcoming years, I would take part in the making of more of the same. But on one particular evening, the past and the present were slated to come together in a way that would shape the future...at least mine.

Many of us can point to one particular moment in our lives as the time when we decided that there was more to life and death than this simple

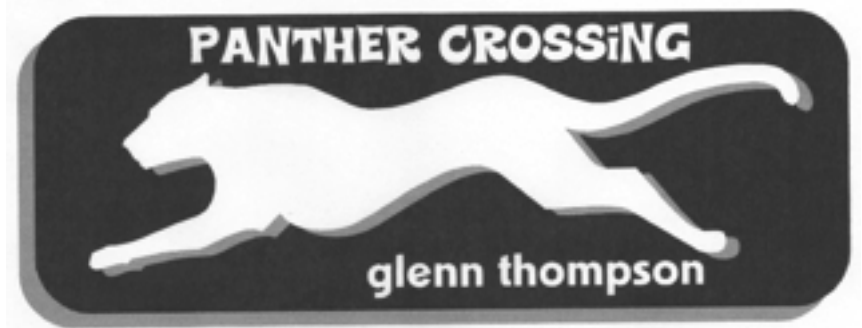
earthly existence.

This was mine.

I had read an article in the school paper the year before about Lily. She was named after her mother's favorite flower. According to the writer, she attended the school in the period prior to World War One when the school was new. You know the period. High-button shoes and long dresses, because a flash of ankle would incite young men to who knows what, and a tonsorial standard involving the revival of heat set ringlets of hair for young ladies.

Well, it seems Lily got involved with a young man of great means and small ethics, and found herself in the family way. Lily, always known as a high-strung young thing, apparently went to the young man and experienced a heart-breaking rejection. In great pain, she left her house in the dead of night and somehow made an entrance into the school building. Once there, she hung herself, using a section of rope cut from the stage curtains of the auditorium. Her body was discovered the next morning, and scandal of course, ran rampant through the school, instigating the departure of the young man to continue his education at a boarding school elsewhere. Sad, really.

The article was unclear as to exactly where the body had been found by early arriving staff, but it



was assumed that it had been in the auditorium somewhere. Not true, as the intrepid young Gbuster...yours truly...was to discover but never reveal until now, my eager readers.

There were unconfirmed rumors that her sweet young ghost had walked the hall since that tragic night. Many times, when crossing the grounds in the evening, I would climb the marble stairs and seat myself on the balustrade at the top, watching through the large glass double doors, hoping for a sight of the elusive Lily walking down the dark hallway. The hallway was lined with alternate rectangles of dark and light, created by the windows spaced down its length, illuminated by the streetlamp and the moon if it was making an appearance. Collectively, a half-dozen postings over the summer had proven fruitless. Then, one balmy night of the full moon, when I found myself along the well known path around midnight, everything changed.

No, I'm not kidding, it was the standard horror story setup. The only things missing were an oncoming storm and organ music.

I decided it was a great night to take my seat and give my erstwhile spiritual paramour another chance. As I settled in, I happened to notice a dark streak on the wall inside that faced the entrance. This wall sided the ascending stairs and was awash in moonlight from the tall windows on the turn landing. I think it was the strong light of the moon that made it so noticeable. I did not recall it being there on previous nights, so I observed it intently, trying to discern its cause. As I watched, it slowly widened and lengthened and started to take on a most distinctive shape. Over the course of an hour or so, it filled out into the shape of a body...a very obviously-female-type body.

As the shape grew, it also darkened. I became aware of details along the edges of the inky figure; a

row of buttons along the edge of a pointed ankle shoe, ringlets of hair falling off the shoulders, and a pattern of lacey shadow at the collar and hem of a dress. I could even distinguish the braids of the rope that the figure hung from, which seem to descend to the area of the railing above. Lily had chosen a place where she would be seen by many, and I was one. The pain of her broken heart must have been unbearable to her.

Strangely, I wasn't afraid. I continued to watch and think about her, and then something occurred to me. Maybe, somehow, I was being had. I quickly ran down the steps and looked up at the window, but saw nothing. There was nothing on the window that would cause such a shadow, and no shadow on the wall. I took the stairs two or three at a time, determined to catch someone in the hall, dress dummy in hand.

There was no one in the hall or on the stairs. But there was still a shadow shape on the wall, but it was fading. It had gone from hard black to gray, and was losing the distinction of its shape. Soon, it was a streak on the wall...then it was gone.

There are those who would say that I saw what I wanted to see, or that I was under the influence, or whatever. I don't think so...and I was not. I think I saw what I was meant to see, and will never forget.

I learned in Chemistry that energy cannot be destroyed. It can only be changed or dispersed. We are on this earth for a short while, but I believe the energy that powers us came from somewhere and goes somewhere. I don't pretend to know where. I am not so insecure as to have to put a name or face to it all, I just accept it. Energy leaves a trace they say, and perhaps Lily, in the extremes of her emotions and sorrow, simply left a trace, and I happened to find it. Happy Halloween.

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Address letters to the editor of The Iron Blade through campus mail, or e-mail iblade@ferrum.edu; all letters must include names and phone numbers and are subject to editing for grammar, space, and potentially libelous material. Names may be withheld in special circumstances, subject to the discretion of the editor, but in no case will a letter be printed if the identity of the writer is not known to the editor or advisor.

Opinions expressed in The Iron Blade do not necessarily reflect those of Ferrum College administration, staff, faculty, or students.

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To contact The Iron Blade, call 365-4304 or e-mail iblade@ferrum.edu.

The 50th Anniversary crest on page one was designed by
Iron Blade alumna Sandy Southard ('04).

How do you know if you are experiencing domestic violence?

If your partner repeatedly uses one or more of the following to control you;

- pushing, hitting, slapping, choking, kicking, or biting
- threatening you, your children, other family members or pets
- threatening suicide to get you to do something
- using or threatening to use a weapon against you
- keeping or taking your paycheck
- puts you down or makes you feel bad
- forcing you to have sex or to do sexual acts you do not want or like
- keeping you from seeing your friends, family or from going to work

YOU HAVE BEEN ABUSED!!!!

Come out to help raise awareness and stop domestic violence!

When? Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Where? Vaughn Chapel

Help Take Back The Night!!!!

Ferrum Forum

compiled by Matt Bird

What is your most memorable Halloween moment?



Ashley Norton

Went to the haunted forest and fell in the pond.



Ryan Easterly

Hanging out with my family on Oct. 31.



Sarah Whitten

Got mad at my little brother and ripped his dog tail off.



Tyler Easterly

My best friend dressed up as a woman.



Philip Griffith

Went up to my neighbor's house when I was 5 years old and got scared by my neighbor in a gorilla mask and peed my pants.



Nick Eutsminger

Went on a mission trip and taught Haitian kids about Halloween.



Brittany Bolluck

Spent my last Halloween in Laguna Beach.



Tucker Poole

Went to East Carolina and had a blast.



Penny Patrianakes

When I was 6 years old. I dressed up as Madonna.

Features

Student Activities Calendar

compiled by Kai Dabney
Staff Writer

October 19

CLASSES RESUME

8:30 a.m. Art Exhibit - "Sustainability: Trash to Treasure"

E. Taylor Greer Gallery, Stanley Library, through Nov. 3

5:30 p.m. American Chemical Society (Virginia Blue Ridge Local Section) meeting

6:00 p.m. Weekly Agriculture Club Mtg

7:00 p.m. The Church

October 20

6:15 p.m. Ferrum Outdoors - Rockwood indoor climbing, Gym

October 21

3:30 p.m. Intramural Flag FB begins
6:30 p.m.

Colleges against cancer Relay for Life meeting

8 p.m. 2 on 2 basketball

8:30 p.m. Improv show

Volleyball vs Averett University

October 22

Academic Majors Fair

8 p.m.

Recharging Thursday night bible study

October 23

Last Day to add ½ Semester classes

October 24

10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Folk Life Festival
Football Away vs Shenandoah
Kaplan free test Drive

October 25

Women's Soccer vs Washington & Lee

The Iron Blade wants you

If you want to write, take photographs, design pages, or sell advertisements, the campus newspaper needs you.

Staff meets on Mondays at 1:25 p.m. in LA 202A.

If you can't make the meetings, contact Ashley Hale, editor, at ahale@ferrum.edu.

If you want to be a new staff member for Spring 2010, pre-register for ENG 131 (journalism practicum).

Ferrum Folks: Will Pettus

Tristen Ashley
Senior Staff Writer

Willie Chappell Pettus III was a beloved friend, colleague and Ferrum alumnus. One needs only to look at his Facebook page to prove it.

Pettus, known as "Frog" to many who knew him, died Sept. 23 at the age of 35 from heart failure. Pettus's own Facebook page has become a tribute to him and his life.

Facebookers have been steadily writing on the page since his death, and most are writing directly to Pettus. Comments like "you will be forever missed" appear often on the page.

There are literally hundreds of comments that attest to the kind of person Pettus was. Some are short stories. Some simply thank Pettus for being a part of someone's life. Still others say how much he'll be missed.

Reading the page gives one a brief glimpse into the person that Pettus was. Some friends and family commented on how helpful he was. One friend remarked how easily Pettus made friends into family. Pettus' passing on has inspired many to write and comfort one another.

A Facebook group has been started called "In Loving Memory of the Man Named Frog (Will Pettus). This group already has over 650 members.

Pettus graduated from Ferrum in 1997 with a degree in agriculture. He taught for several years at Appomattox Middle School and at Prince Edward High School. Pettus also went to Longwood University and graduated with a degree in anthropology.

Pettus had been working for Virginia Tech as part of the Conservation Management Institute. He was working on site at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in Kentucky with the Student Conservation Association at the time of his death.

According to his co-workers, he was carrying a log when he suddenly sat down and collapsed. Crew members started CPR and called an ambulance. Rangers arrived shortly after and continued CPR until the ambulance arrived and he was prepared for transport. Pettus was pronounced dead approximately 90 minutes after collapsing, according to a park press release.

Odell Gray, an admissions counselor, graduated with Pettus. Gray and Pettus spent a lot of time together at Ferrum. "We ran in the same circles, I guess you could say," says Gray.

Gray says he couldn't believe that his friend was gone. "It's one of those things that hits you, literally hits you, in the gut," he says.

"Frog was one of the most honest guys you'll ever meet. He'd help you in any way. He was always happy," recalls Gray. "He was almost like a



photo from Will Pettus' Facebook page

Boy Scout."

Pettus was known for taking pictures and was the photography editor for this newspaper when he was at Ferrum. "He always had his camera with him," says Gray. "He'd share (pictures) with you. He wanted to capture everything going on around him. He didn't want to forget anything."

Gray never knew when he might see his friend. "Frog would just pop up, show up out of the blue," Gray laughs. "Everyone knew Frog. He was there. He was always there."

Pettus would just arrive for Agriculture Club events like no time had passed. He could be seen frequently at events like Homecoming, Folklife, and Spring Fling.

Sam Goin met Pettus through the Ag Club in 1994. Goin considered Pettus his best friend and even stayed with Goin's family in Buckingham County for a while after he graduated.

"After we graduated, we would come and make the stew for the Folklife Festival. We'd be out there at 3 in the morning and here comes Frog around the corner," says Goin. "We knew he was going to be there."

Goin says he could always count on Pettus. "He was the best man at my wedding," says Goin. "He was always dependable."

Pettus seemed to make friends everywhere he went. Goin remembers going down to Daytona Beach to watch the race a few times after graduation. "Frog would always run into someone he knew," laughs Goin. "It wasn't always someone from school. It might have been someone who lived down the street. Frog loved to talk to people."

Goin also explained the origin of the nickname many friends used for Pettus. "He got it from Froggy from the Little Rascals. He had a deep voice like that," says Goin.

Goin says he still cannot believe that Pettus is gone. "I'm still in shock. It hasn't set in yet," he says. "When we were at the funeral we kept waiting for him to come around the corner. He would have loved having all those

people there."

Goin says that there were people from as far away as California that came to Pettus' funeral. "He touched so many lives," he says.

Bob Pohlrad, professor of biology, knew Pettus through the Ag Club. "Will was always on the sidelines," he says. "He led by example, through subtlety."

Pohlrad says he has worked with many people in the Ag club through the years and he says that he's noticed that most students have a willingness to help. "It is a personality trait that Will exemplified," he says. "It probably came out of his upbringing. There is no question that he touched people's lives."

Pohlrad says Pettus was adventurous. "Will did stuff. He modified what he was interested in," he says. "Because of that he didn't have regrets, I would assume."

Pohlrad says that he understands loss as he has been through it before. "Quite often you don't realize how valuable (someone) is until they are gone," he says. "We all think of it as our loss but here is one person (Pettus) that has so much to offer and he won't get that chance anymore."

Pohlrad says that it is sad to see such a man pass away at a young age. "We should feel happy that he was able to do as much as he did," he says. "It is important to remember Will as a part of this family as we would any member of our own family."

Another faculty member who worked closely with Pettus is Lana Whited, professor of English and advisor to the Iron Blade, who also recalls having Pettus in her American literature class.

Whited remembers that Pettus was interested in writers like Henry David Thoreau. "Will was intrigued with the concept of self-reliance. He had built a cabin before he came to Ferrum," she says. "He liked camping and adventures in the natural world."

Whited says that Pettus also liked to learn. "I think for a person to

see **Folks** page 6

Movie Reviews

Advice for “Couples Retreat”--RETREAT

Michael Rich
Senior Staff Writer

“Couples Retreat” is rated PG-13, which I find quite sad. Whenever a raunchy comedy is rated PG-13, it is basically saying that they want to cater to the teenage crowd. Earlier this year, “The Hangover” proved that an R rated comedy could succeed at the box office. “Couples Retreat” proves just the antithesis for PG-13.

The movie contains four couples on their way to island marriage retreat center. Trust me when I say that it takes a long time for them to actually get to the island. First there is Dave (Vince Vaughn) and Ronnie (Malin Akerman), who I guess have the most stable of the relationships. Joey (Jon Favreau) and Lucy (Kristin Davis) are counting down the days for their

daughter to leave for college so they can get a divorce. Shane (Faizon Love), who is currently getting a divorce from wife Jennifer (Tasha Smith), is in a relationship with Trudy (Kali Hawk), who is just past jailbait territory. Lastly we have Jason (Jason Bateman) and Cynthia (Kirstin Bell), who are a couple considering a divorce because they are unable to conceive. When the hyper organized Jason announces that they got a spot on the island everybody agrees to go with some hesitation.

These four couples land on an Island called Eden. This place is run by a Frenchman named Marcel (Jean Reno). Much to the couples amazement, they’re on Eden West. Eden West happens to be the couples retreat. Eden East is for the singles. How many people would guess that by

the end of the film all of them end up on Eden East?

You know I love a good innuendo as much as the next guy, but “Couples Retreat” makes it really hard to appreciate. When the script was being written by Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn, they must have been thinking that it was funny. Sadly, what is translated on screen is very different result. What makes it even more disappointing is that first-time director Peter Billingsley (He was little Ralpie in A Christmas Story.), seems more interested in giving Vince Vaughn all the one liners.

Couples retreat is like a man in his 30’s trying to remember the good old college days. The results are not only embarrassing but something downright contrived.

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Black Mask Improv Club performances just for laughs

Christopher Champagnie
Staff Writer

The Sale Theatre was in an uproar of laughter Wednesday, October 3rd. Ferrum College’s very own Black Mask Improv Club took center stage and gave an amazing performance. Hosted by Club President Chaz Pando and Artistic Director Jade Jones, this was the campus club’s third performance of the semester. The laughs were as good as ever and the show was a complete success.

In the fashion of other improv shows, such as “Who’s Line is it Anyway” and “Wild and Out,” the members of the Black Mask Improv Club play interesting and imaginative games with the hopes of making the audience laugh. Just a few of the games played were “Questions” and “Director’s Cut.”

“Questions” is a game where, two at a time, performers find out just how hard it is to hold a conversation when they’re only able to ask questions. The audience gives a location and an action for the performers to act out, but the performers can only ask questions. If one of the two performers makes a statement, then they’re buzzed out and a new challenger is brought in.

In “Director’s Cut,” three performers become actors in another performer’s movie. The audience chooses the theme of the movie and then the three performers act it out until the director, played by the fourth performer, yells, “cut!” The director then tells the trio that they did the scene all wrong and to do it again but this time with a slight change chosen by the director. Changes are often slow motion, rewind, and fast forward,

but it’s never too strange to hear the director say, “as if you were men in drag.”

This isn’t, however, a performer only show, and there is no reason to think that the audience is only allowed to give suggestions for scenarios. The Black Mask Improv Team has found many ways to incorporate the audience into the fun of improvisation.

In one game, so deservingly titled “Mannequins,” two volunteers from the audience become the arms and legs of two members of the improve team. The audience gives a scenario and the performers must act through it, but only by moving their mouths. Anything else they need moved has to be moved by the volunteer audience members. The game gets really funny when the audience member forgets to move the performer’s head to see where they’re going or to point in the

right direction.

The show always ends with the game “Freeze Tag.” In this game, two or three performers come up and act out any random scene, usually given by the audience. After about 30 seconds or so, any other member can yell, “freeze!” and the performing members must freeze in place. The member who yelled “freeze!” then takes one of the performer’s places and starts a completely new scenario that the other performers need to follow.

The Black Mask Improv Club is doing a great job of making the campus laugh. It’s a definite must-see for any student who feels too stressed. Just remember to look for the black masks around campus. When you see them, get ready to laugh.

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earn two degrees on the same level (bachelor’s) says that he is genuinely interested in learning,” she says. “I would say that Will came to college to learn things, not just to get a degree.”

Pettus was always willing to help in any way that he could, Whited recalls. “He always did what you needed him to do and did it cheerfully.”

It is his smile that friends say they will miss the most. “Sometimes I would look up and Will would just be standing in my doorway, smiling,” Whited recalls.

Whited also remembers Pettus’ giving nature. “He would literally give you the shirt off his back,” she says. “Even though he was interested in self-reliance, no one who was Will’s friend ever had to be self-reliant.”

Ferrum alumna Sandy Southard (04) knew Pettus first through the Ag Club. “Frog used to show up for Spring Fling early, and he’d stay all day,” says Southard.

Southard and Pettus both had a love of photography. Southard was the Iron Blade photography editor



photo by from Will Pettus’ Facebook

for three years. “We found we had a common bond,” she says.

Southard says that Pettus’ example as a Ferrum alumna is what she wants to live up to. “At every big event, he was always there,” she says. “Frog was the epitome of what an alumna should be for Ferrum.”

As an alumna herself, she and other Ag club members want to keep Pettus’ legacy going. “We are trying to honor him by establishing

a scholarship fund in his name,” she says.

Southard said attending the viewing for Pettus was one of the hardest things she’s ever had to do, but it was worth it. “It was amazing to see the people he touched,” she says. “Life was an adventure for him.”

One simply needs to see Pettus’ Facebook page, which lists almost 800 friends, for evidence of the people that he impacted.

Southard says she looks at the page frequently but has not yet written on it. “I have some great memories of him,” she says. “I don’t have the words sometimes to describe the kind of friend he was.”

Pettus has left this world but the memories that he leaves behind will live on forever in the hearts of his many friends. Perhaps he best summed up his outlook on life in his last Facebook status update:

“Will Pettus is full of sunshine and day dreams.”

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~Special thank you to the Ferrum Alumni Office and to all who shared their memories. T.A.~

RELAY from page 1

Teams are encouraged to come and register and begin fundraising. The registration fee is \$10. Team captain packets will be distributed.

At the kick-off clubs and organizations will receive new ideas on how to raise money. This year awards will be given to the team and faculty member who raise the most money. These awards will be announced Tuesday night.

According to Motley, this year’s goal is \$18,000, which is a little less than the \$20,364 raised last year. “This is to compensate for the struggling economy, but we still hope to surpass the \$20,364 raised last year,” said Motley.

Cupcakes and pizza from Papa John’s will be provided.

“Kick-off is always so many things; it is informational, it is fun, and it is touching,” Motley said.

This year’s Relay for Life will be held April 9 and 10.

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Sports

Rodge's Hodge Podge

Roger L. Keaton, III
Sports Editor

It was great to see **football** have a decisive home victory, even though the second half was a little more interesting than I would have liked. I especially liked getting 25 percent off my new cap. ... The team is averaging the most points per game in conference. The biggest problem is that the team is giving up the second most points per game. ... The halftime Homecoming festivities looked a little off to me. **Tiesha Terry**, member of the women's basketball team, walked out with **Brandon Jackson**, member of the football team, and **Tyler Ross**, football student assistant coach. Terry and Jackson won king and queen but it seemed like someone was missing but not mentioned when Terry walked out with two gentlemen. ... **Volleyball** had a dominant win in three sets at Averett; too bad it didn't count as a conference match. The rest of the weekend was very forgettable for the volleyball team. ... **Women's soccer** lost another heartbreaker, this time 1-2 in overtime to Southern Virginia University. ... **Virginia Tech** moved up to 4th in the AP and USA Today polls after drubbing Boston College and is the first team with a loss in those polls. Preliminary BCS standings place VT third. ... The **University of Virginia**

destroyed Indiana 47-7 and looks to have righted the ship after three losses to start the season. ... The two Virginia schools are the only teams undefeated in ACC play. ... **JMU** lost a tough game to **Richmond** 21-17 and fell to 2-3 while the victors improved to 5-0. ... **William & Mary** won again after losing for the first time this season and is now 5-1. ... **Tim Tebow** triumphantly returned from a concussion suffered two weeks earlier to lead **Florida** to victory 13-3 over **LSU**. As a side note, Tebow remains the favorite for the **Heisman**. ... In **MLB** the **Angels** beat the **Red Sox** in three games, as did the **Yankees** with the **Twins** and the **Dodgers** over the **Cardinals**. The only series that went longer than the minimum was the **Phillies** beating the **Rockies** in four games. ... I'm looking forward to the upcoming **basketball** season and have been wondering what the Ferrum men and women starting lineups and rotations will be. Coaches **Bill Tharp** and **Bryan Harvey** have some decisions to make. ... In golf **Tiger Woods** went 5-0 as the Americans won the President's Cup. ... In **NASCAR** Sprint Cup action **Jimmie Johnson** once again won at California and took over the points lead; **Mark Martin** fell to second.

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Steven Harris had 115 yards rushing and 3 scores as Ferrum defeated Methodist in the Homecoming game Oct. 10.

photo courtesy of Sports Information

Panthers dethrone Monarchs

Chris Brown
Staff Writer

Ferrum raced out to an early 14-0 lead and survived a late 4th quarter rally in collecting their first conference win over visiting Methodist University 49-35. Over 3,000 fans packed the stands to watch an offensive shootout.

Ferrum's offensive line dictated the assault, opening holes for the running backs who accumulated over 400 yards on the ground. Sophomore Steven Harris led all rushers with 115 yards rushing and reached the end zone three times, which included a touchdown run of 52 yards. Junior Mike Vann ran for 91 yards and a

touchdown. Junior fullback Quintel Banks also ran for a touchdown while senior signal caller Matt Dobson threw for 140 yards and accounted for a touchdown pass and run as well.

Ferrum's win is the third straight over the Monarchs and improves their record to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the USA South. The next opponent for the Panthers is Greensboro College at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 17th. The team will be on the road Saturday, September 24th at Shenandoah University with kickoff coming at approximately 7 p.m.

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Men's soccer drops two

Chris Brown
Staff Writer

Ferrum was unable to find the back of the net as the Panthers fell to ODAC foe Hampden-Sydney 0-1. The score was a defensive struggle until Tiger Bryan Wharton scored a goal on a penalty kick in the 76th minute of play. Ferrum had a few shots on goal in the final minutes of the game, including a shot by senior John Lapointe-Ridley that sailed high in the 84th minute. Junior goalie Ben Pittsley had 13 saves for the Panthers.

The Panthers returned to action in front of a homecoming crowd October 10th, when they fell to USA South foe and 2008 NCAA participant N.C. Wesleyan 3-7. N.C. Wesleyan led at halftime 3-0, but the Panthers fought their way back into the game behind Thomas Robinson's two second half goals. Senior Zack Poole also found the back of the net and Lapointe-Ridley had an assist. With the losses Ferrum's record drops to 2-7 overall and 0-1 in USA South action.

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Women's lacrosse training hard for spring

Caleigh Gibson
Staff Writer

Though the season does not start until February, the women's lacrosse team is already hard at work to

make this season a successful one. Coming off of last season's record of 4-9, this year's team is working that much harder to make this season a great one. That the team has several returning starters and is only losing

one senior from last year helps the team even more. Senior midfielder Jen Phan, junior defender Phyllicia Garner, junior midfielder Cara Jacobs, sophomore Monica Samayoa, and junior goalkeeper Vena Taylor all

return as starters this year. The first game of the season will be February 25, 2010, at home vs. Bridgewater College.

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Brett Favre has now beaten every team in the NFL. And retired from half of them. The Toronto Blue Jays have gotten rid of GM J.P. Ricciardi after eight years of mediocrity. No word yet on whether Major League Baseball will follow suit with the Baltimore Orioles.

The Indiana Fever have taken a 2-to-1 lead in the WNBA Finals. Not in games, but in fans.

Eli Manning has a bad foot. In medical terms, he has been diagnosed with Detroitus Lionitus.

Delonte West skipped a practice with the Cleveland Cavaliers. It's nothing serious, he just needed time to reload. Rush Limbaugh is in talks to purchase the Rams, because Limbaugh has plenty of experience showing blind allegiance to a failed franchise.

Actually, Limbaugh is buying the Rams because the St. Louis arch reminds him of McDonald's. New York's Eli Manning may not play Sunday against the Oakland Raiders. But only because he's merciful. Matthew Stafford is expected to miss the Detroit Lions next game. Not because he's injured, but because he has better things to do. Scott Boras is suing Gary Sheffield for \$600,000. We suggest a fight to the death.

The WNBA Finals are going to a fifth and deciding game. It's all a part of the new reality show, "So You Think You're Bored?"

Alabama linebacker Courtney Upshaw is taking anger management classes. Which should prepare him for getting screwed by the BCS.

And a new poll has confirmed that the Dallas Cowboys are still America's favorite football team. Of course, this is the same America that watches "Rock of Love Bus."

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