

# Drag Queen Crowns

*Students Show Off Swagger for Title of Mr. and Ms. Mason*

**LAUREN JOST**  
*Connect Mason Reporter*

Take the chorus of “Never Gonna Give You Up,” mix with songs from *Mulan*, Beyoncé, and Madonna and finish with Britney Spears’ “Womanizer” lip-synched by a drag queen.

This was the scene of Mason’s Homecoming Pageant, “Swagger of a Champion,” which occurred last Monday night in Dewberry Hall.

Five Mason contestants vied for the titles of Mr. and Ms. Mason in a series of competitions in talent, formalwear, trivia and personal interview.

Miss Virginia 2009, Mae Phillips, introduced the five contestants for the talent portion of the evening. Participant Mariam Al-Koshnaw, who sang a jazzy version

of “Fever,” got the competition underway.

Second was Alpha Lambda Delta member Anthony DiCarlo, who chose to serenade the audience with the 1987 Rick Astley hit “Never Gonna Give You Up” while dancing in front of judge Rachel Siditsky of the Housing and Residence Life Office.

Sporting a glittered silver bra, blonde wig, and fierce zebra pants was Pride Alliance member and drag show host Reann Ballslee (Ryan Allen) who strutted to Britney Spears’ “Womanizer.”

Ballslee danced her way through the crowd, taking time out from performing to write her phone number and plant a kiss on a reporter’s notepad.

“Reann was by far my favorite,” said junior religious studies major



## We Got Skills

*Students Impress at Talent Show*

**MARIA CIANFICHI**  
*Staff Writer*

America’s got talent? More like Mason’s got talent.

Last Tuesday, students packed into the Student Union Building II ballroom to watch the annual homecoming week talent show.

The talent show, hosted by senior Lee Warner, began with an introduction of the three judges; Katie Murray, assistant director of programs and services, LaMar Rice, resident director of Chesapeake housing area and Key Jones, graduate assistant of fraternity and sorority life.

Kicking off the night was Vincent Lacsamana, who played the guitar and sang a medley of songs by Robin Thicke and Justin Timberlake. Audience members enthusiastically sang along to the JT song and could be heard whispering to one another, “wow he sounds just like Justin Timberlake!”

Singing popular songs while playing an acoustic guitar seemed to be the most common talent of the night. Second to perform was freshman vocalist major Brandon Showell who sang a crowd-pleasing version of “So Sick” by Ne-Yo.

Eric Vitoff and his blue guitar played an upbeat version of “Viva la Vida” by Coldplay.

“I really liked Eric, he was my favorite performer of the night,” said senior Jessica Monge. “He has a really good voice and could play the guitar really well.”

Alex Young, guitarist and vocalist showed dedication when he performed even when he told the audience that his guitarist backed out at the last minute. Young further explained that he had never played the guitar and sang at the same time.

The audience happily sang along with Young as he played Taylor Swift’s “Love Story.” Vitoff joined in to play the guitar while Young sang Jason Mraz’s “I’m Yours.”

“It was really nice to be able to get up and help that guy out,” said Vitoff.

Other singers included Marian McLaughlin who performed an original piece titled, “Chronicles of Yarnia,” and Mariam Al-Koshnaw who sang “Killing Me Softly.”

The talent show even welcomed Mason alum, Lady A, who performed two original songs which are set to appear on her upcoming CD.

Nate Peterson performed a

traditional Yugoslavian interpretive dance depicting a hunt and chase. Peterson had great facial expressions and charisma as he interacted with the crew.

“When I point my stick I want you to start my music, not before or after. Thank you, music man,” said Peterson before he began.

While the singers were popular, it was the dancers who took home the awards. Coming in third place was Marice Morales and Juan Zavala who performed a lively salsa dance.

Second place went to Mary Ann Reyes who performed an outstanding hip-hop routine to a mix of four different songs, including the popular, “Just Dance” by Lady Gaga. Her dance began slow and gradually got faster the longer she danced.

First place went to Mason’s first and only hip-hop dance team, Urbanknowlogy 101 who performed a phenomenal routine, keeping the crowd mesmerized with their dance moves.

“It seems as if they could be on MTV’s *America’s Best Dance Crew*,” said sophomore Brittany Rouse, who watched Urbanknowlogy perform for the first time.

## Songwriter C

*Pat McGee Appears Accessible, Hum*

**PATRICK WALL**  
*Broadside Correspondent*

Honest music in an intimate setting was on display Friday night as Pat McGee took the stage at the Johnson Center Bistro.

Program Board was responsible for organizing the concert, something the group enjoys putting together, according to Concert Chair Kristen Byrne.

There were no fancy lights or equipment to be found, just quality songwriting in an open and warm setting. This is fitting for the performer, since for McGee, playing live is about being true to the music.

“I’ve been doing it for so long that I just want to be honest and not put on a charade,” he said after the show. “I want to be known as a songwriter first and a singer and a guitar player second.”

McGee played from his catalog of songs spanning his 15-year music career. His brand of folk rock and pop drew a sizable crowd of all ages.

“We never do anything like this,” said freshmen Muriel Vinson, who had heard about the show and decided to stop by with fellow biology major Rebecca Kagan.

McGee relished the chance to play in front of a captive college audience.

“It’s sometimes pretty rare to get students to come out, so it was cool,” he said.

McGee is no stranger to the area. He grew up in Annandale and formed The Pat McGee Band in Richmond.

“This area is familiar to me, big time,” he said.

The show was McGee’s first time playing at Mason since the Black-Eyed Peas played before him at Mason Day a decade ago.

“It was before Fergie was in the band,” McGee said.

The performance showcased the breadth of McGee’s songwriting abilities. He and his fellow musicians jangled to the radio single “Beautiful Ways,” vibed to the jam-



President Alan Merten participates in the Homecoming Pregame Block Party with grad student Clark Bixler.



Ben Pereyra proposed to Staisy Kibart during one of the time-outs during the Patriots game against Northeastern.



Coach Jim Larranaga tosses free t-shirts to the crowd after the Patriots victory against Northeastern, 64-53.

No  
One  
Has

Like  
Us



# Owned Ms. Mason

l Ms.Mason at Annual Homecoming Pageant



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYER | ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Kaitlin Owen. “Britney Spears is my idol and I adored her portrayal.”

Ricky Malebranche, a Mason Ambassador, appeared onstage clad in samurai garb to begin his medley with “I’ll Make A Man Out Of You” from the Disney film, *Mulan*.

Malebranche finished with a rendition of Beyonce’s “Single Ladies” and \*NSYNC’s “Bye, Bye, Bye.”

Last to take the stage was junior Masonette Cragin Winkler, who performed a break-dance parody to a selection of popular rap songs.

Before contestants transitioned into formalwear, Phillips asked the crowd to shout out their favorite so far and the crowd overwhelmingly screamed “REANN!”

The potential Mr. and Ms. Masons strode onstage in ball gowns and tuxedos then showed off their fancy threads.

After the contestants modeled their formalwear, Phillips asked contestants trivia and personal interview questions.

“Mason Day, my freshman year, was the best experience I’ve had. I’ll leave it up to the audience to say why,” commented DiCarlo when asked what his favorite Mason memory was.

Phillips asked Winkler what it means to be a Patriot. “World peace?” responded Winkler in pageantry style. “It means all I can be as a college student.”

Students were invited to vote for their favorite contestants Monday through Friday last week. At Saturday’s homecoming game, Malebranche and Ballslee were crowned Mr. and Ms. Mason, respectively after the four-day voting period.

No  
One  
Has

## Laugh Attack

Comedian Kyle Grooms Entertains

DYLAN HARES

Staff Writer

One thing we have come to expect from the Program Board as a student body with nothing better to do is big names when it comes to entertainment.

Program Board surely delivered when they had Kyle Grooms take the stage in the Johnson Center Bistro as part of their lineup of homecoming activities.

Grooms is best known for his extensive stage experience with shows like Comedy Central Presents, BET’s *Comicview* and the *Def Comedy Jam*. We have also seen his face a few times on the notorious *Chappelle’s Show*.

After seeing his performance, it is easy to see where his comedic influences lie.

Kyle Grooms’ performance was prefaced by a short act by George Mason University alumnus Ryan Carter.

Carter, overall, was pretty funny. All of his jokes related to testicles, but he made it funny. He had good comedic timing and told us jokes we wanted to hear—jokes about testicles.

After Carter left, Grooms was brought on stage and was warmly welcomed by the audience.

“Tell us a joke, monkey,” Grooms yelled.

About 90 percent of Grooms’ jokes were race-



PHOTO BY I MAHMOUD LABABIDI

oriented, but he made it funny and used the environment and the atmosphere to his advantage.

He talked about his past, about the election and Chris Brown.

Grooms displayed a seamless impression of Barack Obama which really got the crowd going.

Surprisingly enough, Grooms was not reserved like many of the Program Board’s normal acts.

Instead of being reeled in, Grooms went all out, using every potty mouth word he had at his disposal—which the audience was all too eager to laugh at.

A lot of his jokes came from his Comedy Central specials like

the one about bottled water or the African-American family skiing down the mountain, but hearing him say these in person was definitely a lot funnier.

Some of his funniest material came from interaction with the crowd.

He did a hilarious impression of a girl who sneezed halfway through a joke and made jokes out of everything he heard the crowd say.

Some of his punch lines he carried a little too far and some of his more complicated jokes eluded the crowd, but overall he was received extraordinarily well.

The entire show was absolutely hilarious and was definitely time and money well spent, at least for the Program Board.

If you missed the performance in the JC, you can catch clips of Kyle Grooms on YouTube or on Comedy Central’s website.

To learn more about Grooms, visit his website, [www.kylegrooms.net](http://www.kylegrooms.net).

For the next couple of months, Grooms will be playing a full schedule of shows at colleges throughout the country.

To see a full listing to find out where you can see Grooms, check out his MySpace at [www.myspace.com/kylegrooms](http://www.myspace.com/kylegrooms).



PHOTO BY I PETER FLINT

Travis Parker does a backflip for a group of spectators at the Homecoming Pregame Block Party.



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYER | ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The Patriot kept the crowds energy up throughout the entirety of the Homecoming game this past Saturday.

## Gets Intimate

ble During Homecoming Performance



PHOTO BY I GRACE KENDALL

rock tune “Passion,” and rocked out to “Lost.”

Onstage, McGee was accessible and humble. He took requests, told stories from the road, and revealed the stories behind the songs. His brother even joined him onstage for a few numbers.

As for his future plans, McGee is recording a new album which is scheduled to be released at the end of the year, and is re-releasing his 2007 album, *These Days*.

For the local singer-songwriter, his goal is clear.

“I want people to walk away thinking that [the music is] unique, it’s original and honest... Hopefully they go away believing in it,” he said.

With a live performance like the one Friday night, it’s difficult to feel otherwise. In an era where style comes before substance for so many musicians, a show like the one Pat McGee played proves that

there are still artists out there playing for the right reasons.

McGee and company are currently on a U.S. tour and will return to the area in June for a show at the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival.

To learn more about Pat McGee Band or to listen to some of their tracks, visit the band’s official Web site [www.patmcgeeband.com](http://www.patmcgeeband.com).

Also available on their page, is the band’s most recent album *These Days (The Virginia Sessions)*, which was released independently in 2007 and features tracks the following tracks “Guess We Were,” “I Don’t Think I’m Listening,” “Elizabeth,” “Come Back Home,” “All Over You,” “Maybe It’s Time,” “The Hand That Holds You,” “You Want It All” and “End of October.”

A full listing of concert dates is also available on the band’s MySpace page at [www.myspace.com/patmcgee](http://www.myspace.com/patmcgee).

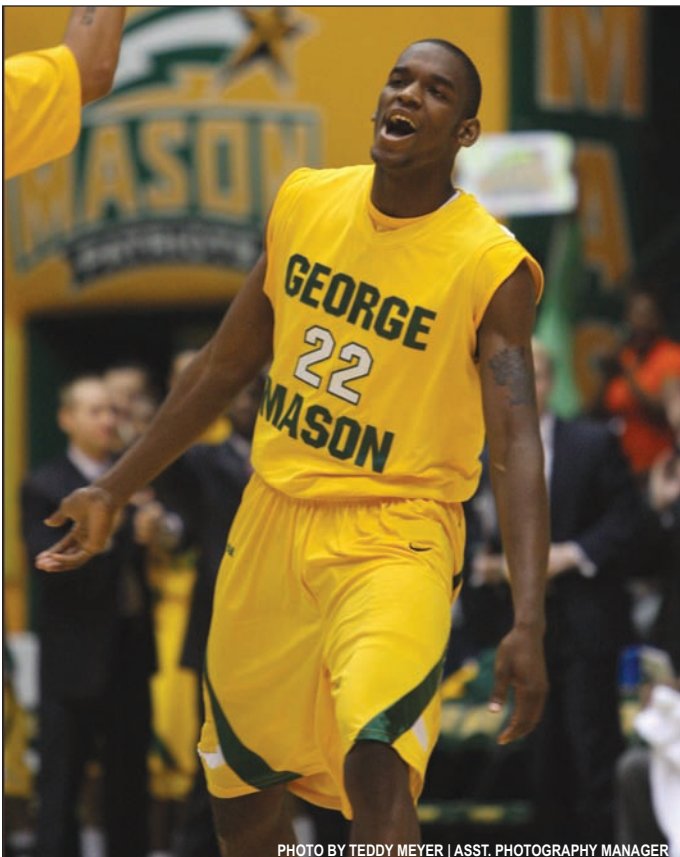


PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYER | ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Freshman forward Mike Morrison celebrates after he makes a basket in front of a packed Patriot Center.

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# style

INSIDE

- Straight off of his two wins at the Grammys, Ne-Yo talks about his new tour! **Style | 9**
- Read our interview with *Friday the 13th* star Jared Padalecki! **Style | 10**
- Is the new *Friday the 13th* remake worth going to see? Read our review and see! **Style | 10**

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The number of days until Spring Break!

## Olympic Gymnast At Mason

Broadside *Talks to Dominique Dawes about the Magnificent Seven, Mentoring*

EMILY SHARRER  
*Style Editor*

Last Tuesday, Dominique Dawes, a three-time Olympic gymnast and part of the 1996 Olympic Women's Gymnastics team that won the first ever gold medal for United States team competition, spoke at George Mason University. Before Dawes gave a motivational speech in Harris Theatre, *Broadside* had the chance to sit down with the famous gymnast to talk about her historic win and her current work mentoring young women.

**Q:** You've been rapped about by Lil' Wayne and been in videos for other major artists, did you ever think gymnastics would lead you there?

**A:** The Lil' Wayne rapping video wasn't something I was obviously striving for, but I did work with Missy Elliott and I've also worked with Prince and those are just little perks that I got for winning a gold medal.

**Q:** How does winning gold at the 1996 Olympics with the Magnificent Seven compare with the feelings you get today mentoring and coaching young women?

**A:** It's actually more important, the work I do today, and the feelings do match that. Obviously it's not as intense when it comes to dealing with pressure or the nervousness. I mean, I get nervous all the time before I speak or before I do an event...but as Michelle Obama



told me at one of the events I spoke for to promote Barack's campaign, she said 'you're not nervous, you're excited'...I'm excited about the opportunity of empowering and impacting the audience.

**Q:** At 19 did you realize the gravity of what you were achieving to be the first African-American to win an individual bronze medal and a team gold medal in gymnastics?

**A:** I don't think I recognized the magnitude until 2001. I was

watching Halle Berry go for [an Oscar] and she ended up winning and I sat there in my living room with tears streaming down my face and I was so excited for her, but then I also thought about the number of young African-American girls and also minority girls that were gonna watch Halle win and feel like they too could become an actress and they too could achieve the pinnacle in the arts. And so it was then that I opened my eyes to the impact I had



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEIER | ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

made on other people.

**Q:** Shannon Miller: nemesis or friend?

**A:** Friend. She just texted [me] today. We're hanging out in Oklahoma next week.

**Q:** So you keep up with the rest of the Magnificent Seven?

**A:** Shannon and I tend to do very similar work—I do a great deal of motivational speaking and I believe she is still on the motivational speaking circuit as well . . . but Amy Chow's a doctor, Kerri

[Strug] works for the local government . . . Amanda Borden owns her own gymnastics gym . Jaycie [Phelps], the last time we talked, which was many months ago—at least six months ago—she was coaching in Colorado and Dominique Moceanu is a mother and is coaching as well.

**Q:** What's the hardest skill you can still pull?

**A:** I really wouldn't know and don't want to know because I would probably injure myself. I do a little coaching on the side,

I'll do private lessons and mainly gymnastics clinics and of course people want me to demonstrate...some of my teammates will still do flips—I'm not interested. I can do splits I can hold a handstand for a minute and a half still, but when it comes to actual real gymnastics moves, like Olympic moves, I would truly injure myself. You would need a gurney next to me.

Visit [www.dominiquedawes.com](http://www.dominiquedawes.com) for more information.

## You Give Me Fever

*GMU Players Perform Comedic Play*

SARAH BUCHANAN  
*Broadside Correspondent*

The GMU Player's studio production of *Hay Fever* was loud and in your face. The play, written by Noel Coward, is a clever comedy featuring a quirky, socially dysfunctional bohemian family of the 1920s.

Judith Bliss, the matriarch and a retired English actress longs to return to the stage, bringing drama into everyday family life and inadvertently creating an interesting situation for a gaggle of unsuspecting and unwitting guests.

During the play's four day run last Thursday through Sunday, the premise provided drama students with the perfect opportunity to drop all reservations and indulge in their characters.

And cheese they did. Kelly Hennessy, who played Judith Bliss, kept audiences laughing with her wide vocal range and well-timed quips.

Melinda Peverall playing Sorel Bliss, moved from pose to pose like a silent era screen actor for a truly comedic effect. It was nice to see an actor finely move onstage with the quality of a dancer.

Michael Deveney, who had a memorable role in the GMU Players' production of *Sweeney Todd*, played whiny Simon Bliss, who was quick to jump into the fun.

His solid acting supported the events onstage and his performance was peppered with golden moments where he owned the scene. No one has ever reenacted jumping out of a window so humorously.

While the members of the Bliss family tried to steal their own show, their poor, less loud, guests were a welcome break from the drama.

Sean Ordway played an awkward and completely stumped Sandy Tyrell. It was cute watching his character as he tried to figure out what was going on.

Kathleen Mason gave an adorable rendition of Jackie Coryton. Buffy Billone and Chris Aldrich as Myra Arundel and diplomat Richard Greatham, respectively, were assertive characters that

orchestrated an eventual escape from the insanity.

The energetic movement of the actors was striking to see in a studio production. The lines were delivered enthusiastically, and there were many comedic moments.

However, the play lacked the layers and variety expected from an evening length work. The mood was consistently high and rarely ever dropped.

It was great that the play took off quickly, but it eventually became monotonous as the audience was rarely allowed to rest in a carefully placed crescendo.

Nevertheless, the set, sound and lighting worked harmoniously with the story.

"[*Hay Fever*] was a nice piece to work on because the collaboration was so good," said Hennessy.

Even through their final tech week, added Hennessy, sound designer Aaron Fisher was still trying out ideas.

His music choices were divine, and strategically placed chimes allowed for the actors to periodically bow to the audience after a clever line.

The lighting also supported the diva-esque moments by the Bliss family. Stylish as ever, scenic designer Sarah Emory created a two story bohemian set complete with fabric wall coverings and Persian carpets.

Ryan Allen's flapper costumes felt right at home with the design. Emory also added metaphor to the mix with lush proscenium curtains and old-fashioned floor lights that lined the edge of the stage.

The Bliss family's house was their own outlet for their imagination, acting and drama.

The Players are currently working on putting together their next production, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, written by Stephen Adly Guirgis.

The play tells the story of Judas, who is in purgatory and must call upon his lawyers to get him into heaven.

The GMU Players will perform *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* Feb. 26 through March 1 in Harris Theatre.

For more information visit [www.gmu.edu/departments/theater/performances.html](http://www.gmu.edu/departments/theater/performances.html).

MARIAN McLAUGHLIN  
*Staff Writer*

The Velvet Lounge highlighted the best of local metal acts on last Sunday. This two-story club located on U Street is just right around the corner from the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C.

The first floor is a bar and lounge area, and the stage is upstairs. It generally hosts local bands and traveling, small acts that are on independent record deals.

From time to time, bookers will combine the night with both kinds of musicians. The Velvet Lounge is pretty open to all genres, from metal to folk and acoustic acts.

Within the Lich Gate, a five-piece, metal-rock band from Fairfax, opened up the show at the small venue.

Being local, they had a lot of support from their friends. They combined sludgy and crunchy guitar progressions with speedy riffs and groovy bass lines.

The two guitarists would trade off solos each song, while the drummer and bassist held down a solid rhythm.

Their front man, more of a



PHOTO BY MARIAN McLAUGHLIN

screamer than a singer, harnessed an incredible amount of energy and spilt it forth into the crowd as he ran about on stage and swirled his dreadlocks about in vicious head bangs.

The show was incredibly

important to Within the Lich Gate because they were opening up for the Brooklyn-based band, Dysrhythmia.

The two guitarists of Lich Gate met five years ago at a Dysrhythmia show and always

catch the band when they are in town. Dysrhythmia is an endless source of inspiration for them. The band, supported by Relapse Records, has been around for a while and nationally tours a few times a year.

They are very technical and experimental, yet they possess so much raw energy and originality. Each song seems to be plotted out with much thought, almost like a math equation, but when performed live, they seem to just be totally spontaneous.

The band members are professional and have studied music, but confessed that sometimes, they don't even know what they are doing.

Within the Lich Gate is going to be booking more local shows within time, and Dysrhythmia finished up their East Coast tour so that they can now work on their fifth studio album.

More information about each band can be found online at [www.myspace.com/dysrhythmia](http://www.myspace.com/dysrhythmia) and [www.myspace.com/withinthelichgate](http://www.myspace.com/withinthelichgate). For more information on The Velvet Lounge and to see the club's schedule visit [www.velvetlounge.com](http://www.velvetlounge.com).

## Snap Shot



PHOTO BY RANDY JURICK

The Virginia Opera performed *Tosca* at the Center for the Arts on Feb. 13 and 15.



# Year of the Gentleman

## Grammy Winner Launches Tour

KYLE RIDLEY  
Staff Writer

R&B trailblazer Ne-Yo is kicking off his first headlining tour in style after a double win at Sunday's Grammy Awards. The multiplatinum selling singer-songwriter took home golden gramophones for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance and Best R&B Song for his number-one hit "Miss Independent" in addition to performing with Jamie Foxx and Smokey Robinson in a tribute to The Four Tops.

Ne-Yo, 29, brings his signature blend of soulful pop to the area this week for back-to-back shows at Washington, D.C.'s DAR Constitution Hall and Baltimore's Lyric Opera House.

The Las Vegas native is touring in support of his third album, *Year of the Gentleman*. The disc, propelled by hit lead single "Closer," debuted at number two on the Billboard Album Chart last September, selling 250,000 copies in its first week.

Ne-Yo titled *Year of the Gentleman* in honor of influential class acts of the past, particularly The Rat Pack. He said there is a noticeable lack of sophistication in today's industry and hopes "to remind cats what it's like to be a gentleman."

In the three years since arriving on the scene with debut CD *In My Own Words*, Ne-Yo has proven to be one of music's most influential songwriters.

The 11-time Grammy nominee and three-time winner has written a slew of chart topping radio staples for many of the industry's leading voices, including Beyoncé ("Irreplaceable"), Rihanna ("Take a Bow") and Mario ("Let Me Love You").

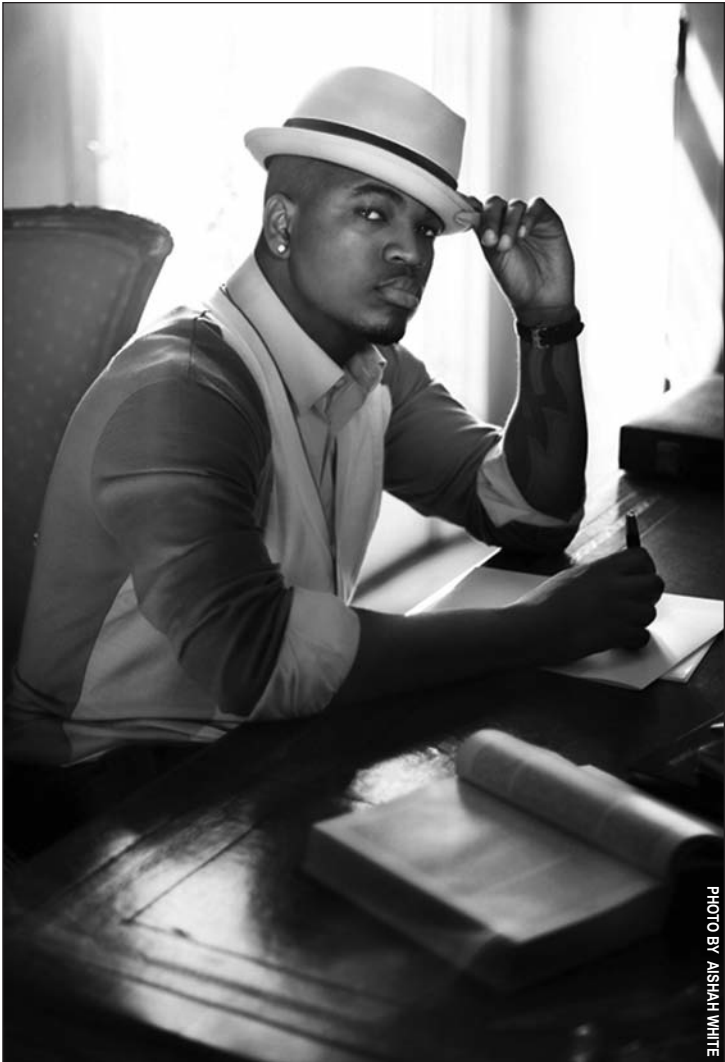
Despite his wave of success, the "Because of You" songwriter admitted he had started to feel unappreciated by the media and that his recent Grammy recognition came at just the right time.

"I was actually taking it a little personal with everything I've accomplished," said Ne-Yo. "It started feeling like I had to be something controversial to feel like I was exciting enough for these people to think I could be on their magazine."

He said his Grammy nods were "God's way of saying 'shut up and stop complaining.'"

The genre-crossing artist recently wrapped a joint European tour with the Pussycat Dolls and Lady Gaga and said he is eager to play for U.S. audiences once again.

He has co-billed with likes of Alicia Keys and Chris Brown, but looks forward to his first solo trek because he knows the seats will be filled with devoted



fans. "There's no love like hometown love," said Ne-Yo. "It's gonna feel good."

The soulful singer said he's "not the dude" that tries to make the crowd go wild, or tell people to wave their hands in the air.

"I'd rather use my charm or swag to entertain rather than always be dancing," he said.

Ne-Yo added his canon of tunes hits every emotion and he enjoys an audience who is able to dance, as well as sit and listen.

"My show is about the music . . . it's about how the music makes you feel," he said. "They're not bored—they're vibing."

Though he knows how to work the stage, Ne-Yo said his ultimate goal is to have the world recognize his songwriting skills.

"There may come a day where people won't care to see Ne-Yo perform . . . but I can be 198 and write a song," he said. "That's the beauty of being a songwriter—there's no expiration date on you."

Ne-Yo's 2009 calendar is crammed with diverse projects once his tour wraps in March. Talk about a full plate.

In addition to penning new material for himself and other up-and-coming artists, he'll star in two feature films, including George Lucas' *Red Tails*, about the Tuskegee Airmen. He also starred, executive produced and

wrote the soundtrack for the semi-autobiographical *Venice Beach*.

If that wasn't enough, Ne-Yo has also developed, written and drawn the first three episodes of a new animated series, *What the Bear*, for The Cartoon Network.

Writer. Musician. Dancer. Actor. Animator. Producer. It seems the sky holds no limit for the ever-rising Ne-Yo star, and nothing is going to stand in his way.

"I'm going to do it all before I leave this plane of existence," he said.

WANT TO GO?  
  
What's up: R&B sensation Ne-Yo performs

When/Where: Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at D.C.'s DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street NW, Washington, D.C and Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. at Baltimore's Lyric Opera House, 140 West Mount Royal Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201

Tickets: \$47.50-\$74 on ticketmaster.com

For more information on Ne-Yo or to check out some of the Grammy winner's hits, visit his MySpace at [myspace.com/neyo](http://myspace.com/neyo) or check out his official website, [yearofthegentleman.com](http://yearofthegentleman.com).

# Celebrity Gossip



## Parents Ignite Over Britney Spears' Controversial Lyrics

KERRY ROBINSON  
Broadside Correspondent

What has been happening in the lives of celebrities lately? There have been three celebrities who have stood out in the media spotlight more than others.

Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan and Geri Halliwell have all gotten a considerable amount of attention these last few weeks for scandalous song lyrics, remarkable weight loss and a quickie engagement.

Britney Spears, the princess of pop, is back in the public eye. From her revealing outfits to her breakdown in 2007, she has been no stranger to controversy.

The latest has involved her new single, "If U Seek Amy," which appears on the singer's newest album *Circus*.

To most teenagers and music listeners around the world, the song is similar to many of the singer's other popular hits with a catchy chorus intact.

Parents have watched their children singing the song and made a connection: when saying the title quickly, it suggests sex.

This theme is used in many of the songs we hear on the radio, so is it really a surprise that a singer who has been seen as a sex symbol for years uses sexual themes as parts of her songs?

The Parental Television Council has been working to get the song removed from the radio, but to no avail.

Britney was asked to change the title to "If You See Amy" which technically would have the same meaning if said quickly.

This controversy is not stopping Britney, however, the songstress shot the video for the single last Tuesday.

# Making Connections

## Center for the Arts Hosts 24-hour Arts Marathon

PEARSON JONES  
Asst. Style Editor

The College of Visual and Performing Arts is opening their doors to all inspiring thespians and artistic visionaries for an interactive marathon weekend of performing arts.

The 24-hour event, called Making Connections Arts Marathon will be held Feb. 20. The festival is open to the entire public and will offer an interactive open studio, renewal, conversation, reflection, and if you need anymore reason to come out, food and fun.

New York acclaimed artist Paula Murray Cole will be

leading an acting class while the CVPA will be overseeing the rest of the workshops for the day.

If the idea of getting up on stage and performing leaves knots in your stomach you can also test your talents with crafting images via photography, printmaking and digital animation or watch a live taping of GMU-TV.

The marathon will close curtain at dawn the next morning with a ceremony.

If you're still awake the next day, you can join everyone for a march down to the new Point in Space Gallery in Old Town Fairfax for the grand

opening.

"This festival offers students, faculty, alumni and the public expanded experiences ranging from movement, image-making, music and reflection," said Art and Visual Technology professor and organizer Helen Frederick in a press release.

"Combine this with going non-stop for 24 hours with some of Mason's finest faculty, a master visiting artist and fabulous students, and you have a truly unique experience," she said.

Visit [gmu.edu/cfa](http://gmu.edu/cfa) for more information about this event and other upcoming Center for the Arts events.



# LIFE IN A. MINOR

## THE SICK SOUNDTRACK

For about the past six days I've been fighting yet another cold. This is my second cold in about six or so weeks, following up on a mini-cold last weekend, which turned out to be a hangover. The close proximity of both illnesses, however, didn't really give me enough time to adjust to the healthy life.

I was still relishing the fact that I could speak easily, breathe through my nose and sleep for more than three hours at a time. And since I hadn't completely adjusted to normal, adult health, I felt somewhat shortchanged by this second onslaught.

Why did I, a humble columnist and college student, deserve such a horrible plague overtaking my body? This question led to increased bitterness as I, with my sinuses clogged and my throat raw, watched commercial after commercial for NyQuil, DayQuil, Sudafed, Alka-Seltzer, and the scores of other cold medicines that, when you take them, seem to cure you fully in less than 20 minutes. I was taking all these substances and I still felt like a mucus-filled ball of death.

Being excessively cold-prone in 2009 doesn't merit

much more whining, but at the heart of all my senseless complaining is a realization I had when my throat began to betray its owner a few days ago. I've spoken before about my propensity for singing along whether in the car, in the shower or whenever it seems to annoy other people around me. There is a magical feeling associated with singing along, one that connects you further with the artist and gives you a chance to really internalize the art.

Like memorizing a poem or quote from a film, memorizing song lyrics which accompany a tune helps your brain develop in a new way. Those of us lucky enough to call ourselves musicians believe highly in music's powers, and the easiest way for a non-musician to tap into these powers is to simply sing along.

When I am sick, though, my voice is often the first thing to go and the last thing to come back. And while my larynx did not suffer as much during this cold as it did during my previous one, I still found myself unable to sing along to my favorite tunes while I was driving to and from school.

So, I did what most of you readers may think I never do: I listened to NPR. Seems a bit senior-citizen-esque, but it actually felt rather nice to not be actively involved in what I listened to. All I had to do was sit back and drive while I learned about the group of underground computer nerds who pine for their 1986 IBM M-20 keyboards. I got to perk my ears up as tales of the auto-industry crisis seem to be condemning my beloved Chrysler Corporation to a slow, dismal, American-car style death.

I learned about foreign concerns, domestic concerns, economic concerns, military concerns; the concerns were endless, the knowledge was flowing. Through it all I felt so well-informed that I wanted to boast it in the most pedantic way possible.

I managed to curb my pretentiousness with the help of NPR itself, oddly enough. You NPR veterans know that in between the tidbits of information you often hear a few seconds of a song to provide a smooth transition between stories. These little snippets are often incredible, I've discovered, and if one goes to the NPR website there they

are, titles and all, ready for discovery.

I heard an awful lot of Ratatat one afternoon while listening to Morning Edition one day, then on the way home from class I heard some sweet jazz from The Bad Plus and the nice post-rock stylings of Six Parts Seven, all a part of the All Things Considered broadcast. Albeit these were nothing but fifteen to twenty second clips of single songs by these artists, but they still reminded me of their existence and sent me trolling through my iTunes list when I got home to treat my ears once more.




So maybe the next time you suffer from musical indecisiveness, or perhaps the next time you're sick and couldn't sing a note if you had to, try tuning it to ol' 88.5 FM.

You'll find yourself a well-informed individual, at least for the time being, and on top of that you'll also find a keen avenue for musical discovery that you've probably overlooked in the past. Just be smart and don't try and write down lyrics to the songs you hear while you're driving—that could get ugly.

## Is There Something We're Missing?

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# Jared Padalecki Talks to *Broadside* Star Discusses Newest Film

**KERRY ROBINSON**  
*Broadside Correspondent*

Some know him as Dean from *Gilmore Girls*, but now Jared Padalecki's name is becoming associated with a whole new genre. Padalecki stars in the recently released *Friday the 13th* remake and took time out to answer some questions about the his newest work.

Q: What makes this movie different from the original films?

A: Jason was cheesy toward number 12 of the series. It started off scary, but got campy. This movie is made for this generation.

Q: What did you do to get prepared?

A: I memorize the script and try to figure what story I am a part of. I make the character as real and believable as possible.

Q: What was the cast like?

A: They were fun to work with and all from different backgrounds. Everyone was equally a big part of the movie. No one had bigger roles than others.

Q: What is the most enjoyable part of the movie for you?

A: Being able to go up against Jason.

Q: Is it difficult to act scared in a movie?

A: It was a technique of

acting scared. It becomes distracting when make-up people come up and fix make-up during a scene.

Q: Do you like working on a film or TV series more?

A: Film. With film, there is more time to familiarize with the character and there is a definite end.

Q: Did you do your own stunt work?

A: I do my own fight scenes, but I had a stunt man.

Q: Who was your favorite cast member to work with on set?

A: Travis Van Winkle and I had a lot of fun, didn't have a lot of opportunity to talk to many other characters and Derek Mears was amazing.

Q: How was working with director Marcus Nispel and producer Michael Bay?

A: I really enjoyed *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* remake, wishing I was a part of the movie. Found out they were doing this movie and possibly had a role [available].

Q: What is your relationship with Jensen Ackles (from *Supernatural*) like off-camera?

A: We are buddies and live together in Vancouver. We are Texas boys. We are both happy for each other's successes.

Q: What is your favorite horror movie?

A: *The Shining*



Jason (Derek Mears, right) crashes through a window and grabs Clay (Jared Padalecki, left) in New Line Cinema's and Paramount Pictures' horror film *Friday the 13th*, a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

**JOSHUA HYLTON**  
*Staff Writer*

Fun fact: the fear of the day Friday the 13th is called paraskavedekatriaphobia. I wonder what fear of men in hockey masks running around murdering people is called.

Since reliable old Wikipedia could not come up with anything, it is probably safe to say that such a fear does not exist.

Could it be because not a single film in the *Friday the 13th* franchise has managed to be remotely frightening in even the most basic sense?

After 12 flicks, I am so desensitized to psychos in hockey masks that if Jason Voorhees came busting through my door right now, I would probably just keep writing this review.

Luckily for *Friday the 13th*, scares have never been the draw of this franchise. Unlike a

franchise like *Halloween* that is more effective when subtle, *Friday the 13th* works in the way raw meat does: the bloodier the better.

What is surprising, however, is that the film is not actually all that violent. Of course there is blood and it wholeheartedly deserved that R rating, but compared to the excessively and unnecessarily violent *Halloween* reboot, this is child's play.

That reboot and this one should have switched places. *Halloween* works better as an understated, suspenseful slasher with minimal amounts of violence.

Those films rely on ambiance and tension to drive them home. *Friday the 13th* should be gratuitously violent and fun, with little regard to character development or emotional connection, but that is not delivered here.

One of *Friday the 13th's* biggest problems is that the film

has an identity crisis. It knows it is nothing more than a teenage slasher movie and features plenty of jokes that will keep you smiling throughout, but then the tone of the picture starts to flop around.

Amidst the funny ha-ha's are the gruesome kills. The film attempts to be frightening during these moments, but it fails. The tone changes so drastically from one scene to the next that no real investment could be made one way or the other.

Still, I have a soft spot in my heart for *Friday the 13th*. As an all around movie fan, I am well aware that slasher movies rank low on the quality scale, but for some reason, this franchise does it for me.

It always has and it always will. There are elements in each of the 12 entries in the series that I love for one reason or another (excluding *Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan*—nearly unwatchable), and this is no

exception.

Despite the film not quite delivering on what it should be (and what the series was defined as throughout the '80s), this is still a solid effort that fans will most likely enjoy.

It is not scary, the kills are disappointingly unimaginative, and you will be able to spot every jump scene seconds before they occur, but you know what? It's fun.

It is not as good as *My Bloody Valentine* and if you want to see some blood this week, check that 3-D goodness out, but *Friday the 13th* should be sufficient if your bloodlust has not quite been quenched.

To view the *Friday the 13th* trailer, learn more about the cast and crew, view pictures and videos or to check local showtimes visit [www.fridaythe13thmovie.com](http://www.fridaythe13thmovie.com).



# And If Ya Don't Know, Now Ya Know Sorority Hosts "Know Hip-Hop"

**IJEOMA NWATU**  
*Staff Writer*

You might know that the birthplace of hip-hop is New York City. You might also know that the first hip-hop album to win a Grammy was back in 1989 by Will Smith and DJ Jazzy Jeff.

Well, there will be an opportunity to learn more about hip-hop on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. as the pink and green ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. will host, "OI Know Hip-Hop."

The sorority is one of several historically black Greek-letter organizations hosting events as part of Black Heritage Month.

The event, which will take place in the Johnson Center Room C, will feature a Jeopardy-style game with questions about hip-hop music and culture.

"So many times when we have Black History Month events, someone is coming to

speak or we talk about AIDS and things of that nature," said AKA President Sydney Potter. "I think that those things are fantastic and are very much needed. 'OI Know Hip-Hop' is an event to acknowledge the positive outcomes hip-hop has had on our culture as well as the world through Jeopardy."

If you can display your hip-hop knowledge, you have a chance at winning \$50.

According to Potter, the event gives students, even those who may not know much about hip-hop, the chance to have fun while learning a thing or two about hip-hop music and culture.

"It gives the students the opportunity to learn some things about hip-hop that they didn't know before," she said.

For more information about other Black Heritage Month events on campus, visit <http://odps.gmu.edu/>.

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