The Weather Vane

Clubs in The Red

SGA Works to Curb Overspending

By Andrea Kniss
Staff Writer

Student clubs that overspent their budgets last year are officially off the hook.

Shortly after fall break, the Student Government Association (SGA) cabinet met with Vice President for Student Life Patty Helton to discuss a course of action after several clubs last year collectively overspent nearly $5,000 of funds allotted them by the SGA.

Welden Miller, SGA treasurer, said, “Lackily because of last year’s SGA’s foresight, we’re in a position to just forgive the overspending.”

This year’s clubs have last year’s SGA to thank for amassing a savings account large enough to sustain normal (but slightly frugal) club operations.

The Campus Activities Council (CAC) and The Weather Vane were the clubs deepest in the hole. Paul Johnson, director of student programs, explained that “CAC didn’t know they went over—they didn’t just go out and blow money.” Likewise, former Weather Vane co-editor Jeremy Good says he “thought we were in the black when we were actually in the red.”

According to Johnson, CAC’s goal is to offer positive on-campus events for students. Musical events are “fantastic” way to keep track of their own expenses and report to the Business Office, which calculated their costs without figures from the two purchases. As a result of this and other financial ambiguities, the publication ended up about $570 over budget.

Thus at the beginning of second semester, Good and The Weather Vane co-editor Kristine Sensenig caused some confusion that perhaps contributed to overspending, Miller said that all the clubs accepted responsibility and business will continue as usual.

To save money, the CAC planned a couple weekends with no movie showing in the Science Center. Weekend movies are an essential part of CAC’s business, and they saved only $500 to run and ticket purchases only bring in about $150.

Another cost-saving decision was made to hold the semi-formal at Massanutten Resort this year instead of at Massanutten Resort as in the past.

Johnson also anticipates a move towards “bigger and better” athletic functions, and hopes the CAC will work with the athletic department, thus reducing their need to plan and spend money on so many other activities.

Die Another Day: Just a Few Twists on Classic James Bond

By Robb McKinney
Contributing Writer

”Die Another Day,” the 20th in the Ian Fleming created James Bond franchise, tries to sum up the 007 phenomenon like no other film of the series.

The British agent Bond, a spy and assassin for England’s security force MI6, again finds himself in a unique position: able to save the world. After a failed mission to assassinate Zao (Rick Yune), a corrupt North Korean army officer who is dealing in stolen diamonds, Bond (Pierce Brosnan) is held captive and tortured for 14 months before finally being traded for one of the men he attempted to kill.

Striped of his double-0 status by his superiors, he escapes from the MI6 hospital and begins to chase Zao around the world in order to finish his mission. Halle Berry lends her less than impressive acting skills as Jinx, an NSA agent who meets Bond in Cuba and is also on a mission seeking Zao.

Together they trace Zao to Gustave Graves (Toby Stephens), a mysterious billionaire in Iceland whose diamond mine is producing diamonds chemically identical to the illegal African diamonds which brought our hero to Korea in the beginning.

John Cleese revives his role as Q, outfitting Bond with the ridiculously high tech car and gadgets that secret agents need to do their jobs, and Judi Dench again dons the mantle of M, Bond’s coldly sensible boss.

James Bond legacy, which boasts more sequels than any other title, began in 1962 with “Dr. No” and shows no sign of slowing. This latest in the series is packed with “inside” jokes for regular Bond fans. We see Halle Berry in a bikini almost identical to the suit worn by Ursula Andress in “Dr. No” and a few gadgets from previous films are stored in Q’s closet. “Die another Day” also brings 007 back in his Aston Martin, but the rotating license plate has been upgraded to an invisible poly-mer coating.

A few new touches have also been added to the series. This is the first film which shows Bond actually having sex, but not to worry, the scene is carefully constructed in a way to maintain the standard PG-13 rating. Bond is also referred to for the first time as an assassin, where in the past he has simply been an agent with a license to kill.

Director Lee Tamahori has also peppered the film with numerous John Woo style jump shots and slow-mo montages, which distracted from the action of the film and weren’t used in any sort of consistent manner. It seems even James Bond cannot escape the “Matrix”/”Snatch” bandwagon.

“Die Another Day” will please any Bond fan, but don’t expect your date to be impressed—the toys and action fill in the gaps left by traditionally poor dialogue and thin plot.