

## fooling Around

April Fool's Day pranks continue to bring mischievous thoughts to students

Story by Beth Focht • Graphic by Ruben Deluna

Short sheeting your roommate's bed or putting Saran Wrap on the toilet seat — the pranks people play on April Fool's Day range from simple tricks to elaborate plans, and as another April Fool's Day rolls around, students prepare for a day of mischief and mayhem.

April Fool's Day originated in the 16th century with the changing of the calendar for the Christian world.

In 1562, the new year was moved to January 1. Before this calendar change, the new year fell on April 1.

Some people did not believe or had not heard about the change in date, so they continued to celebrate the new year on April 1.

These people had tricks played upon them called "April fool's." Since then, this tradition has been passed down through societies to the celebrations of today.

Nadim Nabi, a junior information systems major, said April Fool's Day is one of his favorite days because there are so many things that can be done.

"Every April Fool's Day prank I have done has been so elaborate," Nabi said. "This day is my favorite because you can be totally evil to someone, and they have to forgive you because it is April Fool's Day."

April fool's pranks come in all shapes and sizes. They can range from the typical high school and dorm pranks to very elaborate plans that take weeks to plan out.

Nabi said he has pulled many pranks in the past and has had many pulled on him.

"One prank that really got me was when a friend of mine had me convinced an ex-boyfriend of hers, that I did not like, had come back into town and proposed to her," he said. "She had a ring and was going to quit school and go away and marry him."

"She had two accomplices that were calling me and really roped me into the story, and they led me on for about an hour."

April Fool's Day tricks may be easy to believe for a variety of rea-



sons. People might fall for these tricks because they are so believable, or some might just walk into them by chance.

Nabi said he is the victim of pranks all the time because his friends are good at pulling them.

"I fall for the pranks every time because I am so gullible when it comes to my friends," he said. "If they tell me something is wrong, I just end up falling for it, but I always tend to get even."

Mac Paradowski, a senior environmental design major, said all of the pranks he has played or had played on him were the kind people just walk into.

"Nothing I ever pulled was very elaborate, but they were little pranks that we could pull on any of the guys down the hall," Paradowski said. "If we could not plan in the dorm to get people down the hall, we did not do it."

Revenge might also be a motive for planning an April Fool's Day prank.

Nabi said pulling pranks in revenge are the most fun to plan.

"The best revenge prank I pulled was a collective effort to get even with the two accomplices of the engagement incident," he said. "We got a key to their apartment, and when they were in class, we went and moved all of the furniture out of the apartment. It was great! All that was left was the phone sitting in the middle of the floor."

For those who are short on ideas today, simple tricks are the easiest to plan.

Paradowski said a variety of simple tricks people play do not take a lot of planning.

"One thing you can do is take an envelope and fill it with shaving cream, put the open end under a door and then jump on it," he said. "That will get shaving creaming everywhere."

"Another simple trick is to take a rope and tie the ends to door knobs across the hall from each other. The people in the rooms then can not get out."

## WEEKEND PREVIEW

### Thursday, April 1

• 7 pm - **Blue Earth**, a local pop band, is performing at The Crooked Path.

• 7:30 pm - StageCenter presents, a Pulitzer prize winning play, "Picnic" at StageCenter.

• 7 pm - **High Stakes Rollers**, a bluegrass band, is performing at the Brazos Blue Ribbon Restaurant and Bakery.

• 8 pm - **Slick 50** and **Split 57**, two rock bands, will be performing at the Cow Hop.

• 9 pm - **John Wick** and **Full House**, two blues bands, will be performing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

• 9 pm - **Last Free Exit** is performing at The Theater.

### Friday, April 2

• 7 pm - **Inspector 12** is performing at The Crooked Path

• 7 pm - **High Stakes Rollers**, a bluegrass band, is performing at the Brazos Blue Ribbon Restaurant and Bakery.

• 7:30 pm - StageCenter presents, a Pulitzer prize winning play, "Picnic" at StageCenter.

### Saturday, April 3

• 7:30 pm - StageCenter presents, a Pulitzer prize winning play, "Picnic" at StageCenter.

• 7 pm - **High Stakes Rollers**, a bluegrass band, is performing at the Brazos Blue Ribbon Restaurant and Bakery.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Hannibal Lecter's return done deal

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Fans of the cannibal Hannibal Lecter will get another serving of the character this summer.

Author Tom Harris has finished the sequel to *Silence of the Lambs*, the book that sold 10 million copies and was turned into an Academy Award-winning movie starring Anthony Hopkins and Jodie Foster.

Harris finished *Hannibal* on March 23. Dell plans to release it June 8.

*Hannibal* features the reappearance of FBI Special Agent Clarice Starling. It opens seven years after Lecter's stunning escape from authorities.

"One of his earlier victims uses agent Starling as bait to draw the doctor into an intricate and unspeakable design for revenge," according to the publisher's news release.

Harris created Lecter in his 1981 novel *Red Dragon* and reintroduced him in 1988 in *Silence of the Lambs*. *Red Dragon* was made into the movie called *Manhunter*.

### Lewinsky scrawls autograph in Paris

PARIS (AP) — "Bonjour," Monica Lewinsky said over and over. "Merci, merci. Si ... I'm sorry. I mean oui."

About 300 people, including a healthy sprinkling of tourists, waited Wednesday on an unseasonably warm afternoon for a quickly scrawled autograph in their copies of Lewinsky's book.

"I told her she was a model for modern womanhood," said Jennifer Turminel, a Paris psychologist, after she got Lewinsky's autograph at a department store book signing.

Lewinsky was cheerful but businesslike, telling one dawdling autograph seeker that she was "trying to keep the line moving." To each customer she flashed a quick, broad smile.

### 'Music Man' star gets birthday gift

SMITHTON, Pa. (AP) — They had trouble in River City when Shirley Jones

starred in "The Music Man." Now the trouble's in her hometown.

Marty Ingels, Jones' husband, wants to give her a statue and a park for her birthday, but city officials do not want to have to maintain them.

Ingels is fed up with the town of 400, about 30 miles from Pittsburgh, and may put the statue at Westmoreland County Community College 10 miles away.

### Robertson presents 'cool' bible in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — It was quite a holy coterie: gospel singers, tap dancers and Pat Robertson introducing a "cooler" Bible.

In what is being billed as "the largest Bible-reading campaign in the history of America," the television preacher hit the stage Wednesday at Grand Central Terminal.

"We want to make Bible reading cool in America," said Robertson, introduced by actress Lynn Whitfield as strobe lights flashed across the ceiling of the station's Vanderbilt Hall.

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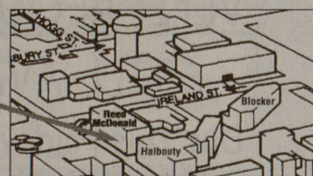
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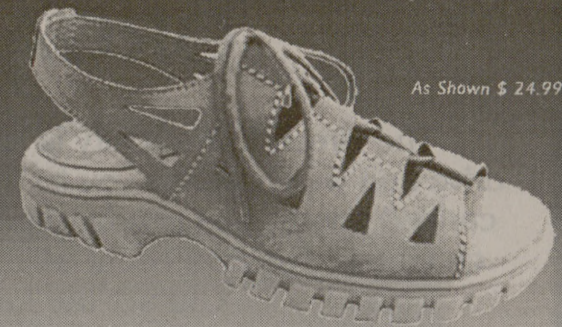
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