

## Shrolics takes Davidson students to the swamp

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Students headed to the swamp this past weekend for “Shrolics”—Union Board and Patterson Court Council’s Shrek-themed Frolics weekend—filled with food trucks, slip ‘n slides and musical guests. Friday, April 25 marked the beginning of what many consider to be the highlight of each academic year. Last year’s Frolics (which had a “Jaws” theme) brought Del Water Gap and Briston Maroney to campus, setting a high standard for the 2025 weekend. Students danced the night away on the Old Tennis Court Lawn to two 30-minute sets by TikTok mashup master DJ Earworm, Davidson alum-led band The 502s and Musical.ly legend KYLE.

After classes (or, for very committed students, first thing in the morning) on Friday, students donned swimsuits and made



The 502s performing on the Old Tennis Court lawn for Davidson students. Photo by Henry Royster '27.

their way to PCC Circle. Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) Fraternity hosted “Acapalooza,” featuring performances by Davidson’s four a cappella groups the Delilahs, the Nuances, Androgyny and the Generals. Next door, both Rusk Eating House and the Black Student Coalition fired up burgers and hot dogs on their grills for a cookout. Meanwhile, some students made their way to the Jamie / Hart Courtyard to take a trip down a slip ‘n slide, though many were promptly kicked out by Davidson College Police. All activities led up to the main event: the annual Frolics concert.

First to take the stage was DJ Earworm. Earworm’s first set

was only thirty minutes long, but it left a lasting impression on Davidson students. “The mashups were crazy,” Kathleen Degnan '27 said. “Like, he really kept us guessing.” The stage presence of DJ Earworm was also notable to the audience. “The guy dancing around and hyping him up was funny,” Degnan shared when referring to DJ Earworm’s enthusiastic hype man who even took his shirt off and waved it like a flag when accompanying him on stage.

Following DJ Earworm was The 502s, an indie folk band led by alum Ed Isola '15. Isola even mentioned that one of the songs played in the performance was actually written in his senior apartment during his time at Davidson, emphasizing the band’s connection to the campus community. At one point the band embraced the Shrolics theme and displayed their very own Shrek headbands and played “Accidentally in Love” by the Counting Crows (which was featured in “Shrek 2”), a very fitting moment for the Shrolics atmosphere.

Regan Harvey '27 felt that the performance was perfect for Davidson. “I thought the overall vibe and environment was very positive and I really like the band’s music and instruments that I feel like went well with the Davidson and frolics vibe,” Harvey shared. “I also thought it was cool that he went to Davidson, it made the performance even more special.”

After a second DJ set from DJ Earworm, KYLE took the stage for a performance full of 2010s throwbacks like “iSpy” and “Hey Julie”. He even played some unreleased songs for the Davidson audience—which they got to vote on. Toward the end of his performance, KYLE took what seemed like a victory lap throughout the audience, running through the crowd and taking selfies with students. Brant Simmons '28 recalled “when he hopped down it was a bit of a jumpscare, but also awesome.”

Union Board President Davis Varnado '25 and Vice President Bea Middendorf '25 led Union Board’s Concert Committee this semester and assisted in the process of choosing the three artists of the weekend. The committee was open to non-Union Board members as well, allowing for the voice of the student body to be heard in the planning process.

Natalie Morris '28 participated in the concert committee that helped choose the artists for this year’s event. “We looked at the recommendations from google forms, we wanted to pick two artists that had pretty different vibes,” she shared the process. They eventually reached their final decision which was met by excitement by the committee members and artists alike. “The 502s have Davidson alums which was a cool full circle and then KYLE was super excited to come and even did a meet and greet/photo with the committee afterwards,” Morris added.

Union Board members worked tirelessly all year to make the perfect weekend event. Katherine Marshall '26, next year’s Union Board president and major events chair and frolics planner for the 2023-2024 academic year, discussed the work that

goes on behind the scenes. “The [three] major events chairs,



Davidson students dancing to KYLE’s performance. Photo by Henry Royster '27.

including Natalie [Russell '25], Sidney [Donnan '27] and Kaesy [Diaz Castellanos '27], [...] organize the major events of the year. So Fall Fling, Winterfest and Frolics [...] the three of them spearhead everything,” Marshall shared. “They really take it on. But it’s really cool because it then becomes a kind of collaborative effort from the Board. It becomes an all hands on deck weekend. It is the first time that the new Board for next year is volunteering with Union Board, so it’s big when it comes to the teamwork aspect of UB.”

The teamwork certainly paid off. Saturday had food trucks, snow cones, and inflatable games. Though the BORG ban attempted to prevent blackouts, a campus wide power-outage got in the way. Nevertheless, Union Board persevered and kept the day upbeat (and provided water to sweating students without AC). Connor Eating House hosted a party with a new student band, The Naked Tuesdays, later that night, closing out the weekend just as it began— with music.

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## Happy Easter: Lorde is back!

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Before Frolics Friday, it had been more than forty days and forty nights since the musical world had heard from self-declared “prettier Jesus” Ella Yelich-O’Connor, more commonly known as Lorde.



Lorde posing for the cover photo of her newest single, What Was That? Photo from Lorde’s Instagram.

Beginning in April, snippets of her new release “What Was That” spread through numerous Instagram accounts, including @lordecontent. Instagram posts and fan art floated around social media, with some fans assuming the song would be released on April 11. But as the saying goes, the Lorde works in mysterious ways. April crept by and Lorde did not release her newest song.

Despite doubts from listeners, Lorde in fact was back. She unofficially premiered this new song in Washington Square Park in New York City to an overwhelming crowd of fanatics on April 22. To gain traction for her secret release party, she also sent cryptic texts to fans at 4 p.m. that stated, “Meet me in the park / Tonight 7pm - xx.”

By 7 p.m., the New York City Police Department was shutting down the event and Lorde was directing everyone to leave the park on her Instagram story. But fans persisted: videos of mass movement through the streets of New York City flooded Twitter and Instagram. In the background, speakers and voices singing “Supercut,” “Perfect Places” and the like could be heard. Dev Hynes, also known as Blood Orange, arrived at the park with a speaker and played the still-unreleased song for frenetic fans. Finally, at 9 p.m., the woman of the hour(s) arrived, standing on a speaker and squirming around in classic Lorde fashion to officially premiere the song to her dedicated devotees. The artist then officially released “What Was That” on Friday, April 25.

Lorde opens “What Was That” with repeating piano keys before setting the scene: “A place in the city, a chair and a bed / I cover up all the mirrors, I can’t see myself yet.” Gone is the girl riding carefree out of the sunroof, on the streets of New York, dancing to “Greenlight.” It’s ten years later, and she croons, “Oh I’m missing you.” Devoted listeners quickly noted that Jack Antonoff is not credited as a producer for this song.

Could the content be informed by the formal production? Will the fan theories of a Lorde-Antonoff relationship during “Melodrama” re-emerge? Twenty-seven-year-old Lorde then looks back on “all the things we used to do,” as the beat drop suddenly transports listeners to the “back garden / when I was seventeen.” In the next verse, “I stare at the painted faces / They talk current affairs” reminds one of her roots in “Pure Heroine.” We’re back in “A World Alone,” where a nascent, teen Lorde sings, “People are talking” while only paying

attention to her dance partner. But this time, that dancer is no longer with her. In “What Was That,” she asks “Do you know you’re still with me?” but it’s only in memory. Acknowledging “It might not let me go,” Lorde gives into the memory, the melancholy, and dances to it. Maybe that girl from “Melodrama” isn’t gone. Maybe she’s just a muse now, reflected back with a more mature view.



Fans of Lorde gathering in Washington Square Park in New York City waiting for her announcement. Photo from Lorde’s Instagram.

However, the new release wasn’t the only thing that got fans excited: a music video accompanied the song. Filmed in part at the impromptu release party in Washington Square Park, the video emphasized the excitement of fans who yearned for new Lorde music after a four year hiatus. Lyrics like “MDMA in the back garden, blow our pupils out” signaled a shift from the mellow maturity of the “Solar Power” album back to the pensive and personal reflection of “Melodrama.”

This new single has sparked enthusiasm among Lorde fans and has built anticipation for Lorde’s future releases in the coming months. And even still, Lorde’s newest addition to her discography might not have even been the best pop release of the weekend.

In the span of three days, Addison Rae released the (in a word) perfect song “Headphones On,” HAIM released their third recent single in “Down to be Wrong,” providing a title, release date and cover art for their impending album “I Quit,” and Samia released her legendary, long-awaited and superb album “Bloodless.” Needless to say, many listeners haven’t left Spotify in days.

If listeners tuned into Charli XCX’s Coachella set in mid-April, they would already know that society is due for a “Lorde Summer.” Lorde appeared during Charli’s first Coachella performance for her verse on Charli’s hit song “Girl, so confusing.” During Charli’s second performance, “Lorde Summer” appeared in a massive font behind her—calling on her fans to channel their energy toward Lorde.

As the weather gets warmer and class days wane, prepare yourself. Uncover your mirrors, contemplate the “best cigarette of your life” and wake up from the dream. Put your headphones on, then take them off again. Turn the volume up so everyone around you can hear—there’s a lot to listen to.

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