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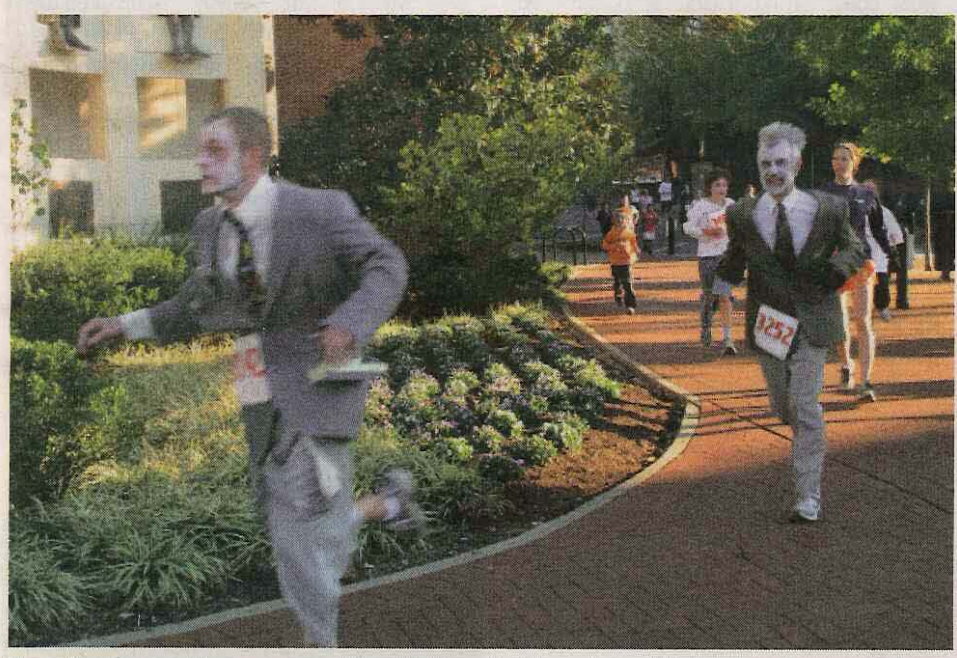
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Zomb-er event Inaugural Zombie 5K draws hundreds

WHEN director Brian Wimer first conceived of the zombie-laden running race as a guerrilla marketing tool for his new film, *Danger. Zombies. Run.*, he figured he might get a hundred people or so willing to don deathly makeup to run after willing victims through the streets of downtown Charlottesville.

Apparently, the director of the award-winning *Mantra* and other horror fare tapped an unrecognized demand for zombie-related athletic events, as approximately 500 runners, some who traveled from out-of-state, participated in the inaugural "Zombie 5K" on Sunday, October 17. They filled the streets with staggering— or sprinting— undead hot on the trail of human runners.

"Everybody had a good time," says Wimer, who expressed relief that his biggest fear was not realized. "No one got hurt!" he exclaimed.



Two dapper zombies race past City Hall on the Downtown Mall.
PHOTO BY JEANNE NICHOLSON SILER



Professional make-up artist Nancy Minor turns 19-year-old Ben Elron from a typical UVA second year into a nightmarish vision of decay. PHOTO BY COURTENEY STUART



The family that slays together, stays together? Jason Hubbard brought his zombie sons Hugh and Liam to run the 5K. PHOTO BY COURTENEY STUART



Satiated after slaying hundreds of human runners, zombies celebrate following the first Zombie 5K. PHOTO BY COURTENEY STUART



Healthscare, anyone? Zombie nurse Elissa Lauer prepares to streak fake blood across the faces of human runners who've been "killed."
PHOTO BY JEANNE NICHOLSON SILER



Zombies Rick Perrault and Ha Savedge flank brave human runner Michele Savedge. PHOTO BY COURTENEY STUART



Zombies Leigh Wilkerson and Ka Showalter battle in Lee Park before chasing their victims through the streets of downtown Charlottesville. PHOTO BY COURTENEY STUART