

# PIONEER

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Times

## Parking Woes Bring Out the Worst

By Melissa-Ann Crawford  
Special to the Pioneer Times

After waiting for a parking spot for nearly 40 minutes, Loren Shaw was thrilled to notice a student getting into his car right in front of where she was waiting.

Already five minutes late to class, Shaw was relieved to see a spot open when suddenly, a black Honda Civic slid right into the space as the other car exited.

"I clearly had my blinker on, but the other student could have cared less that I was there waiting," Shaw said.

Agitated, Shaw rolled down her window and yelled to the girl who took the spot: "What, did you not see me here?" The girl started cursing and yelled back, arguing that she was waiting for the spot as well. The argument continued for about five minutes, when Shaw ended it with one last remark, "You suck," then got back in her car to continue her search.

Confrontations like these are a routine part of the day for many students and part of the frustration that accompanies parking. While there have

been no reports of violence in association with parking wars, Detective Neil Lomonico, of the Department of Public Safety at WPU, said "there have been three or four harassment complaints filed over parking spots."

An unofficial copy of The Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics notes that 15 reports of simple assault cases have been reported on campus, along with four reports of aggravated assault, although none of them clearly state they were over parking.

WPU students complain that parking is a nightmare.

"There are never enough



Pioneer Photo by Matt DeFranza

spots, and everyone is greedy, looking out for him or herself," said Mike Fisher, a junior, who also had a run-in with a fellow student over parking.

While waiting for parking, Fisher too found it hard to control his temper when another student tried to take a spot he clearly said was his.

"I saw my cousin walking through the parking lot. I picked her up, and drove to where she was parked. I dropped her off three feet in front of her car and

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## Close Presidential Race Perplexes Populace

By Stephanie Leavens,  
Bethany Smalling, Mark  
Rendiero, Lisa Winter and  
Sara Wood

Special to the Pioneer Times

Andrea Lopez stayed up election night find out who the next president of the United States would be.

She's still waiting to find out. "It's the first time we don't know in the same night," said Lopez, a communication major at WPU.

More than three days after the election, the presidential race is still too close to call. Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush are locked in a historic dead heat for Florida's 25 electoral votes which each needs to win the race.

By Thursday afternoon, Florida officials were more than halfway through a mandatory recount that reduced Bush's lead in that state from 1784 votes to 403 votes. Officials in Gore's campaign

were cautiously optimistic that by the time all the votes were counted, including the overseas ballots which aren't due until Nov.

17, Gore would win, becoming the 43rd president of the United States.

In speaking with reporters on Wednesday Bush said "I'm confident (we'll) become president elect and vice president elect in short order."

Students at WPU have mixed emotions about the presidential election that is turning out to be one of the most historic in U.S. history. Some don't care about the results, believing the outcome has no bearing on their life, while others have found renewed interest in the process because of the controversy.

"I voted for Gore," said Charisse Carangelo, a senior.

**"This definitely tells us that the American election system isn't working. It needs to be revised and changed,"** Deanna Kobus, Junior

"Basically, I am a Democrat. I want Gore to win. I believe that if Bush gets into office the poor

will be poorer, the rich will be richer, and there will be no middle

class."

Despite the larger than normal turnout in some cities and towns, there were many students who did not cast their vote.

"No, I didn't vote. I got the absentee ballot too late but I would have voted for Gore. It would have been the first election that I would have voted in," said Steve Peralta, 22, a film student.

But he thinks that the current confusion has made the election more interesting to students.

"I think it has an impact on

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## Silence isn't just golden it's green

Student holds tongue for charitable cause

By Andrea Lopez  
Staff Reporter

He is late for the interview, but can't utter a single word to excuse his tardiness.

Instead he types something on his Motorola t900 Talkabout pager and shows it to his visitor.

"Sorry," it reads.

Brett Banfe, 18 from Haddonfield, is a freshman at William Paterson University and even though he hasn't decided what his major will be, he has decided not to talk.

For a long time.

A whole year, to be exact, beginning last Aug. 31.

It's a decision that has landed him on television (Oprah), in newspapers and made him the subject of more than a few conversation on campus, turning him into a certified phenomena — as much as that is possible when you're 18 and quiet.

But while he can't talk — or won't talk — he can still communicate, still let people know when he's sorry, or amused, or angry. He conveys these thoughts with the help of a two-way pager or a computer, as well as the use of his head, hands and eyes.

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## FROM THE VOTERS

**Education a Key Issue for Campus Voters**

By Goldie Avalos, Brooke Bocchetti, Christina Frannicola, Billy Kessel, Brenda Mol, Rachel Peterson, Scott Rogers and Stacy Thompson

Special to the Pioneer Times

Education is the key to the presidential election if members of the WPU community are to be believed.

In interviews across campus on Election Day, students and faculty alike repeatedly spoke of their concerns of and about the state of higher education, specifically the availability of grants and loans.

"Without the grants I receive from the federal and state government, I would not be able to be in the university," said Colleen Dorn, a junior.

Vice President Al Gore's education plans include spending \$176 billion over 10 years for pre-school, special education, school construction, teacher's salaries and more. In addition he proposes that \$10,000 of college tuition be tax deductible annually.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush would spend \$25 billion over 10 years to help disadvantaged students in K-2 learn how to read, spend \$6 billion to increase Pell Grants for first-year college students and high achievers in math and science.

"Not everyone is good at math or science," said Vennansha Williams, a senior from Old Bridge, who plans to vote for Gore.

For others, the issue is more about job security.

"I'm an education major and Bush wants to pull out vouchers," said Edra Beth Pantages. "That puts me out of a job."

In what many have described as the closest national election in the last 40 years, Bush and Gore are virtually tied in the race to become the 43<sup>rd</sup> president.

Poll after poll taken over the weekend of Nov. 3-6, showed the two candidates locked in a statistical dead heat. With absentee ballots returns expected to be heavy, the race could turn on those votes, many which may not be counted until after Tuesday night.

In other issue, students are concerned about access to health insurance not only for themselves, but for others.

"I think the system is (expletive) up!" said Dawn Morton, a student who has worked in the healthcare industry. "For such a wealthy country, it is ridiculous that we cannot support the elderly when poorer countries offer free health care."

But Bush and Gore are not the only candidates who have captured the attention of voters, Ralph Nader's Green Party is the choice of many who find themselves disenfranchised by the main stream candidates.

"I would vote for Nader over Gore because I definitely do not like the Democrats or the Republicans," said Matt Macaulay, a senior and music major at WPU. "I think this election is laying the ground work for the future of third-party politics in the U.S."

Though students are many years away from collecting Social Security, it's still on their mind.

"I may be only 20 years now, but eventually I'll be 65 and over and I want Social Security to be there for me," said Dorn, "and the way things are going now it won't be."

## **First-Time Voter Doesn't Trust Candidates, but Votes Anyway**

By Ruth Reyes

Special to the Pioneer Times

Shirley Abdelwahab woke up on Election Day and rushed to fit a visit to the polls into her busy schedule as a wife, mother and student at WPU.

This is her first time voting, however, she doesn't trust the presidential candidates.

"I think they all say just enough to get elected. You don't pick the best of all, but the best out of the worst," said Abdelwahab. "If one says pro this, the other one takes the other side; even if they don't believe in it."

But in the end, she made a choice.

"I'm voting for (Texas Gov. George W.) Bush," she said, basing her choice in part on Bush's father's career, former president George H. W. Bush, who she thought was credible and prepared.

"The apple doesn't fall very far from the tree," she said smiling.

However, her support for the Republican Party switched when it came to the New Jersey U.S. Senate race between Democrat Jon Corzine and Republican Bob Franks.

For Adelwahab, Corzine is the best choice for the Senate.

"He is more radical; he's also sympathetic for the Palestine issue," said Adelwahab, who is a Muslim.

For the mother of two, who on Election Day had to get to class, pick up her kids and rush home to cook dinner, the election schedule is inconvenient.

"It's annoying," she said, and suggested that polls should remain open later than 8 p.m. or voters should be able to mark their ballot anywhere, not just the polls.

*"I think they all say just enough to get elected"*

**"For such a wealthy country, it is ridiculous that we cannot support the elderly when poorer countries offer free health care."**

## **Some choose not to vote**

By Melissa Mele, Janelle Wiggins, Stacy Pille, Jennifer Pfeiffer, Krismely Santana and Gaetano Lacorazza

Special to the Pioneer Times

Presidential and senate candidates may not get much support from William Paterson University students on Election Day. Though college life may be the center of learning, no one seems to know about any of the issues concerning either race.

"I can't really say the issues directly effect me, because I don't really know what the issues are," said Danielle Griffith.

She wasn't alone in her feelings.

"Are you kidding me? I'm lucky I know who is running for president," said Rosann Lovine, a mother and student at WPU, when asked about the New Jersey U.S. Senate race between Democrat Jon Corzine and Republican Bob Franks

Others believe the candidates simply don't represent their concerns.

"I don't feel the need to vote, why should I?" asked Marcus Hester, 22. "None of these candidates represent me. I don't want to be responsible for empowering evil, this election is like the lesser of two evils."

His roommate, Rich Feenhy, agreed.

"My vote doesn't count," he said, concerned that his voice on matters such as taxes and gun control isn't heard.

But some students believe that this lack of awareness may prove costly in the end.

"People don't vote because they don't see that it is important now," said Mark Kalish, a sophomore. "We're kids, we're too carefree to realize that who we elect now will effect us in a few years."

For Julie Funicello, a sophomore, the fact that (Texas Gov. George W.) Bush is pro-life is the reason Vice President Al Gore is getting her vote.

On the other hand Omar Mustafa, a freshman is casting his vote for Bush for the opposite reason, who is a "firm believer in pro-life."

# Entertainment

## Movie, CD, Video

### & Concert Reviews

## 'Meet the Parents' Called a Laugh-Out-Loud Movie

By Richard Berta  
Staff Reporter

"Meet the Parents" is a wonderfully funny, often hysterical film about a man who just wants to make a good impression on his future in-laws, and is willing to go to any length to do so. And every time he tries things go from bad to worse.

Ben Stiller stars as Greg Focker, a male nurse who has to spend a weekend with his girlfriend's parents. While there he has to deal with her father; a retired CIA agent

played to perfection by Robert De Niro. His typical tough guy persona is mixed with a

funny sensitive side that works perfectly together. I really didn't care for Teri Polo as

Stiller's fiance, not only was her acting dull and bland, but she didn't seem like

she wanted to be there. I think a better choice could have been made.

On the other hand, De Niro and Stiller are so compatible, that you wonder if they

are acting, or actually meeting each other for the first time.



The gags, physical and verbal, come together so well that you will laugh yourself silly. Just try.

to show some restraint during the scene involving a champagne cork, an urn, and a cat.

I highly recommend this movie to everyone. Whether you have been through this

kind of situation or not, do yourself a favor and go see this film. If you liked "There's

Something About Mary," you will like "Meet the Parents." It's a laugh out loud movie,

don't be surprised if while walking out of the theater you start chuckling to yourself. I did.

## For DVD Lovers: An Essential Starter Kit

By Mike Schuster  
Staff Reporter

Problem: You just bought yourself a brand new DVD player, and you don't know where to begin updating your extensive collection of films. Well, the sad news is some of your favorite films are downright lacking when it comes to the DVD format. Extras and supplementals are EVERYTHING when viewing a DVD — it's becoming the norm to include audio commentaries, deleted scenes, alternate endings, and even storyboards when a movie is released on DVD. The added material gives viewers a "behind the scenes" look at movie making.

So, don't cheat yourself — the next time you're wandering aimlessly around the DVD shelf, look for some of these.

**"The Matrix"** — An essential start to your collection. A fantastic film chock full of supplemental foot-

age. *Best Extra:* Short documentaries showing how a special effect was accomplished, launched by a white rabbit icon flashing on



the screen.

**"Mallrats: Collector's Edition"** — Widely received as Kevin Smith's less than stellar piece, but with an HOUR of extra footage, this fun flick suddenly becomes an epic tale. *Best Extra:* Audio commentary with Smith and Jason Lee constantly picking on Ben Affleck.

**"Rushmore: Criterion Collection"** —

Wes Anderson's hilarious dark comedy with Jason Schwartzman and Bill Murray competing over a

lovely kindergarten teacher. Great extras such as storyboards, a "making of" documentary, and audition footage. *Best Extra:* The "Max Fischer Players" spots for the 1999 MTV Movie Awards.

**"Terminator 2: The Ultimate DVD Edition"** — Cameron's 1991 effects-laden blockbuster with over six hours of extra footage. Seriously. *Best Extra:* The "Easter Egg" clip of the T1000 searching John Connor's bedroom.

**"Toy Story 1 & 2: The Ultimate Toy Box"** — Pixar's triumphs in computer animation

with a third DVD filled with extras. *Best Extra:* The "Outtakes" section with the animated characters screwing up their lines, bumping into things, and other wacky occurrences.

**"Ghostbusters"** — The 1984 comedy you watched everyday as a child returns with deleted footage, storyboards, and documentaries. *Best Extra:* The live video commentary MST3K-style.

**"This is Spinal Tap: Special Edition"** — The film that led the pack of "rockumentaries" in the years to come. But none will touch the level of excellence as Rob Reiner's classic tale reached. *Best Extra:* Audio commentary by McKean, Guest, and Shearer while in character.

**"Fight Club"** — The best movie of 1999 NOT to be nominated for an Oscar in a major category. This double-DVD has everything you can want from this amazing film. *Best Extra:* Stills from the publicity "catalogue" featuring the clothing and props from the movie.

For future reference, when considering to buy a title on DVD, take a look at the extras. If there aren't that many, chances are the studio will release a "Platinum Edition" or a "Criterion Collection" in a year or two. But, these movies should tide you over until the Special Editions of "Se7en" and "Dogma" are released.

## "Requiem" Film: An Experience in Class by Itself

By Mike Schuster  
Staff Reporter

You shiver and squint slightly at the hazy halogens brightening the theater as the credits crawl across the screen. Glancing around at the faces in the crowd, you notice collective expressions of shock, amazement, and utter awe. Rather than rising from your seat and exiting, you follow the example of the handful of people left who silently wait out the last few moments of the film before leaving.

Minutes later, you stumble out of the building into the dim dusk light, contemplating the sheer genius of the past two hours. You weren't expecting this. You weren't prepared. You have just experienced "Requiem for a Dream."

Director Darren Aronofsky follows up his critically acclaimed "Pi" with a film that far surpasses any sophomore effort. Based on the 1978 novel by Hubert Selby Jr., "Requiem" tells the story of four addicts grappling with drug addiction and wanting nothing more than simple dreams that are just out of reach. Jared Leto plays the central character Harold Goldfarb, a Brooklynite in his

See REQUIEM, Page 8

## The Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band Rocks the Birch Hill

By Robin Kavanagh-Charman  
Staff Reporter

As the saying goes, if the club is a rockin' don't come a knockin', and boy did the Birch Hill Night Club rock in Old Bridge on October 17.

The Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band performed a spectacular mix of hard coreblues and their own signature rock before a crowd of 200.

The band first hit the mainstream in October 1997 with the release of its second album, *Trouble Is....*. During the three years the album stayed on the blues charts, three of its singles climbed to number one, including "Blue on Black" which won the 1998 Billboard Music Award for Rock Song of the Year. The album also won the Blues Album of the Year in 1998 and a Grammy nomination for Best Rock Instrumental Performance in 1999. Their current album, *Live On*, has been on the blues charts for more than 50 weeks.

But the band has not let success spoil them. On their current tour, they've played in nothing but small clubs, the Birch Hill being no exception.

At the concert, the small stage was sparsely adorned with instruments, stands, and amplifiers, except for the cheetah-print area rug in the middle. The band played right into the audience, making it seem more like a jam session between a group of friends rather than a concert stop near the end of a long tour.

After an electric opening performance by Mark Selby, lead vocalist Noah Hunt, bassist Keith Christopher, drummer Sam Bryant along with the band's namesake, 23-year-old guitar master Kenny Wayne Shepherd, were enthusiastically welcomed to the stage.

The group began with a hard-hitting string of four consecutive songs from their last two albums. The artistry of Shepherd's guitar style was perfectly matched by Hunt's powerful vocals.

Dressed in modest jeans and shirts, the guys slowed it down and played their current single, "Last Goodbye". The crowd went wild! The mixture of acoustic and electric guitars made the song beautifully melodic and noticeably powerful.

After a mixed set of old and new songs, the band sat down and showed their down-home

roots with an intimate set of acoustic originals and old favorites. Shepherd dedicated the ballad "I Found Love (When I Found You)" to his new bride, Melissa, and coyly sang the words to her as she sat off-stage. The couple was married last month in Shepherd's hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana.

The band wrapped up the show with their hits "Blue on Black" and "Slow Ride" followed by an encore. The last hour was filled with rocking improvisation, emphasizing the raw talent of Shepherd and his friends, and cover songs which eventually sent the crowd away more than satisfied.

Kenny Wayne Shepherd's musical talent is undeniable. At a young age he has masterfully combined the classic rock styles of Jimmy Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan with his own unique style stemming from southern upbringing.

And, with the powerhouse vocals of Noah Hunt, this band has already inspired a whole new generation of people to love rock-n-roll and the blues. If you like to rock and you haven't checked this band out, do it. They are worth it!

## Wallflowers shine with introspective lyrics

By Erik Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

The Wallflowers  
"Breach"  
Interscope Records

People took notice of The Wallflowers after their successful 1997



sophomore album *Bringing Down the Horse*, not just because the lead singer is Bob Dylan's son, but because of their knack for writing impressive folk rock songs that mainstream radio usually shies away from.

In The Wallflowers' latest release, *Breach*, lead singer Jakob Dylan plays with images of self-realization ("I've Been Delivered") and despair ("Up From Under"), mostly in a pace that's easy on the ears. The 10-track album, co-produced by Andrew Slater, the producer behind Fiona Apple and Macy Gray, opens with "Letters From the Wasteland", a song which grinds on quickly about twisted love ("You're every bridge I should have burned/Every lesson I've unlearned/In this smoke-filled waiting room/With incarcerated love sick fools").

Their first single from the CD, "Sleepwalker", about awakening to a lover's deceit, has one of the catchier hooks in the collection and pays homage to Sam Cooke's "Cupid" ("Cupid don't draw back your bow/Sam Cooke didn't know what I know").

And what CD these days wouldn't be complete without a hidden track, one here entitled "Baby Bird", with a melodic music box repeating throughout the song. Dylan's voice is also stronger, singing much more introspective lyrics. This record evokes The Wallflowers at their best.

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## Timecode's Style Breaks New Ground

By Mike Schuster  
Staff Reporter

Mike Figgis executes a feat in sheer logistics with "Timecode."

A film with a tongue-in-cheek take on the Hollywood studio system, "Timecode" is shot in real time on digital video, without edits, and split into four quadrants on the screen, each with a separate shot. Within these four quadrants, characters interact with each other.

But what grabbed my attention is how within this one long-take movie, action is completely in tune. So much so that a murder scene, a series of phone calls, and even an L.A. earthquake can be choreographed across the four boxes.

Confusing? It is at the beginning. Once the film begins and the four boxes spring up, it's a tad difficult to know where to



look. But here is where Figgis' filmmaking genius shines. Certain quadrants are "put to rest" with characters walking, driving in a car, or engaged in silent activity.

Audio is also faded up on the corners, Figgis wants the viewer to pay attention to.

But as long as you keep your eyes moving around the screen, you'll be able to catch the subtle moments in the film where the divisions between the corners seem to fade.

"Timecode" is a highly entertaining and recommended film. Amazing camera style and choreography supercede a relatively short running time of 97 minutes.

Final Rating - A-

# OP *editorial commentary letters*

## Laws Protect Journalists and Their Sources

The mission of this newspaper centers on providing an educational tool within a professional context. Translation: student reporters assume a professional role as they conduct their journalistic work.

The reporter, by virtue of his/her job, asks questions and expects interviewees to respond in a forthright manner. Everything should be on

the record.

In this new publication's initial weeks, some student reporters have found themselves being asked questions "off the record" by the person (s) supposed to be on the receiving end of the inquiries. In effect, students have discovered that some people in authority want to know the source of the reporter's information.

The Pioneer Times operates as a professional entity and thus falls under the state's Shield Law that protects reporters from having to reveal their sources. The mere idea that "adults" on campus believe they can intimidate student reporters is reprehensible to those who understand journalistic principles. If an interviewee does not want to answer a question, then

he/she can say: "No comment." And, like any other paper, The Pioneer Times can mention that the person refused to comment.

But when it comes to trying to eke out the name of a source from a student reporter, let the readership know: the staff writers will not reveal that information.

## Soaps Glamorize Addictions, Encourage Stereotypes

By Meredith Cooper  
Pioneer Editor

Whenever the debate about the lack of ethics on television resurfaces, soap operas are usually among the first shows to be attacked as immoral. Deception and lust are as essential to a soap episode as the actors themselves, and overly moralistic soap characters tend to be tossed into the background or written out of a show altogether. Yet while there is no denying that all soaps have provocative stories, the idea that daytime dramas are composed of nothing but characters with no social consciences, encouraging their audience on any level to have a "devil may care" attitude towards life is a blatant stereotype.

In his study conducted in the early 1990s, Prof. Kenneth Hahn of Mommouth University in New Jersey polled over a hundred avid college and high school soap watchers and concluded that the majority of

those captivated by soap operas were less likely to engage in other more questionable acts like drugs and excessive drinking. He referred to daytime dramas as the "clean addiction," implying that not only were these shows not harmful to their fans but also that programs like "The Young and the Restless" and "Guiding Light" were supplements for more risqué activities.

While Hahn's study has helped to separate soap operas from deviant behavior, it did support that soaps can become addictive. With this in mind, it has been easy for soap critics to alter their argument, saying that while individual soap episodes do not have a significant impact, the constant exposure to these shows reinforces unethical messages in the minds of their fans.

What this argument ignores, however, is that all basic soap opera plots have the same structure as morality plays. Although soap characters do scheme and betray one another, the villains of

daytime dramas are always punished for their crimes and never succeed in completely destroying the show's more heroic characters. The ABC soap "Port Charles," for example, dedicated almost an entire year of programming to a serial killer rampage but concluded this plotline by having the murderer captured and sentenced to a psychiatric ward. The occult soap, "Passions," currently uses the unsuccessful possession of a normally kind adolescent girl to show the triumph of good over evil.

Beyond dealing with the more extreme and philosophical aspects of morality, soaps also provide a public service by educating their viewers about current social issues. "One Life To Live" took a serious look at the consequences of irresponsible sex when Jessica became pregnant by her friend, Will, and grappled with the emotional and legal consequences of abortion. "General Hospital" taught its audience the dangers of not using proper contraceptives when

Robin relied only on birth control pills and contracted AIDS from her lover, Stone. This story line led to several safe sex public service announcements and to the creation of the Nurses Ball, an annual General Hospital plot point designed to educate and remind its audience about the facts regarding HIV.

There is no question that soap operas show the darker qualities of being human, but to say that soaps promote these traits as commendable or influence their audience to be cruel or reckless is as far-fetched as everyone in the world having an evil twin. Soaps have a wide cast of players, but only the morally grounded ones are triumphant at the end of the story. The rest, even if their only vice was irresponsibility eventually always have to face the consequences of their actions, and their fans tune in every week, looking forward to that moment when their fantasy world is morally set right again.

# Middle East Conflict: Is Media Coverage Biased?

By Amal Elrafei

Special to the Pioneer Times

Now, more than ever, journalists must make sure their ethical values and their news values are congruent. There simply is no separating the two.

When ethics and news are torn apart, objectivity and independence are compromised, and credibility is destroyed. Unfortunately, there is no known definition of ethics that a journalist can just follow. The challenge is for each journalist to have his or her own "code of ethics" provided by their sense of duty towards the public, and the vast responsibility that this noble profession has placed on them.

Assuming that one can have a working definition of ethics, it would be honest, unbiased, non-partisan reporting that would bring the untarnished truth to the public without exaggeration or omission.

Unfortunately this might not always be possible. That is why the media must be held accountable to the public for any biased reporting, passive lack of emphasis or lying by omission. This is what the media has been doing for the last two weeks in its coverage of what is called "The Middle East Crisis".

This report is formulating two

comparisons in this middle eastern situation: one is a two-country comparison and the other is a comparison between the two parties to the conflict.

Nothing reflects the double standards that exist about a situation better than how the media reported two similar situations.

The crisis in Yugoslavia took place at almost the same time as the crisis in the Middle East. But this is where the similarities end. The coverage of both was vastly different. The Yugoslavs were portrayed as fighting for democracy, and a lot of credit was given to them for the courage it takes to bring their struggles of freedom and frustration to the streets.

The Palestinians, on the other hand, in their own land as recognized by the United Nations, were portrayed as thugs, rioters, and instigators. They were not seen as their Yugoslav counterparts were, expressing frustration and fighting for justice and their human rights.

To find another blatant example of the media's passive and disproportionate coverage you only have to look at the lack of explicit coverage and description of the more than 100 Palestinians who were killed and the 3,000 who were injured. They were only referred to as unfortun-

nate casualties — only numbers with accompanying names or face

in the media, on the other hand, went great pains to bring the news that two Israeli soldiers, apparently under-cover agents, were killed. They had names, faces and real human stories behind each one.

The media's view, Israelis are the people with grieving families and friends. This is pure propaganda with the clear intent of humbling and dramatizing the death of Israelis. Palestinians, on the other hand, are kept nameless and faceless.

There was no outrage or inflammatory headlines when more than 10 children were killed. The death of 12-year-old Mohammed al-Di who was killed when he supposedly "was caught in the cross" trying to hide behind his father was covered briefly and only because a European journalist went there to take the picture.

The name of Sami Abu Jazar, who is killed when an Israeli rubbercoated steel bullet cracked his head while coming home from school was not mentioned at all.

The list goes on and on of the media's failure to bring the two situations equally to the public. Killing children was explained as being an unfortunate event, the responsibility of which lies solely

on the Palestinians who "are using them as shields to extract sympathy from the world".

The media are equating Palestinian rock throwing with the repression by the Israeli army and giving it as an excuse to shooting them dead. They are not only accepting the claim that violence is being de-escalated by using helicopters, tanks and rockets, but they are also reporting it as if it were a fact.

It is legitimate to write opinions in editorials and op-eds, but when the media's coverage is transformed into one big editorial, then the question of media ethics arises and comes to the forefront.

In the words of George Melloan, a Wall Street Journal reporter, editor, foreign correspondent and columnist, these questions should be asked. Has the media become partisan in its coverage of the conflict? Is the story being told honestly, or is there a spin being put on it? Is the media making the effort to be intellectually honest?

Telling the truth has always required courage, but in such a free society, one did not expect truth coverage to be so difficult to come.

*The writer is a graduate student at William Paterson University and is also a native of Egypt.*

## Letters

I was delighted to see the first issue of the Pioneer Times. The articles were diverse in their interest, and they were well written with real focus. Good Luck.

Dr. Edward Burns  
English

Congratulations on your first issue! It was a refreshing change and a pleasure to read intelligent and responsible reporting once again.

Keep up the good work!  
Barbara Stomber  
Development Associate  
Institutional Advancement

Please send your letters by e-mail to [pioneertimes@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:pioneertimes@student.wpunj.edu)

## The Pioneer Times

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## Letters to the Editor and Op-Ed Submissions

Letters to the editor and op-ed submission are welcome. Op-ed submission should be limited to 500 words. All submissions must include the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the writer. The staff will contact writers whose work is to be used.

Writers may e-mail their work to the [PioneerTimes@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:PioneerTimes@student.wpunj.edu) or send it to the Pioneer Times, William Paterson University, 108 Hobart Hall, Wayne, NJ 07470.

The Pioneer Times reserves the right to edit all submission for content and length.

# Pioneer Sports

## Billiards Team Looks for Recognition, Members

By Scott Rogers  
Special to The Pioneer Times

They are "pioneers" in their sport, but hardly anyone knows the 16 members of the William Paterson University billiards team.

Unlike the baseball team, which three years ago won recognition as Division Three National College champions, the members of the billiards team get little attention or support. They don't draw big crowds to their meets and no one really knows their names or achievements on the table.

But all of that is changing. The team is a member of the first collegiate billiards league in the country, playing against regional schools such as Passaic County

Community College, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Montclair State University.

Not too shabby considering that the team didn't even exist two years ago and the billiards club was the only outlet on campus for students interested in playing competitively.

In fact, a true rivalry with the PCCC team has developed in the brief time the two teams have faced each other.

"Things have been building up every time we face them," said team member Phil Rizzo said during a recent practice.

Walk by the pool tables in the

Student Center on any Tuesday or Thursday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and you're likely to see more than a dozen avid pool players practicing their game. The team is made up of 16 players, a | m o s t evenly split between men and women.

**M e e t s** which usually consist of eight players competing in 8-Ball or 9-Ball are held on Friday afternoons either at Crown Billiards in Pompton Lakes or at Breakers in Clifton. Eight members of the team ride the bench in case they are called upon to fill in. As for fan support, well, things could be better.

"The team is getting better," explained captain Arnel Fabian, who hopes a string of winning meets will spur greater support among WPU fans. "We would really like to be established as a team in order to gain more exposure."



Pioneer Photo by Matt DeFranza

If you think that the game is dominated by smoke-filled pool halls packed with greasy, beer drinking hustlers, think again. Things have changed in the world of billiards over the past few years. The WPU billiards team tries to separate itself from that old image of players and stresses good sportsmanship, athleticism, and most of all fun.

"We're a new team growing on campus and we invite anyone interested in joining to come out," said captain Janice Davidson.

Exposure is something that coach Steve Lillas can only hope for. The coach, who has been with

the team from the start, organizes his practices so that players work on basic techniques.

"Coach really helps out during meets on how we compose our shots, he treats female players with equal respect bringing us all closer," said Davidson.

The game's popularity has grown so much in recent years that billiard leagues are springing up all over the country. The sport even has a governing body known as the Billiard Congress of America which sets national competitions and maintains an official rulebook.

Once described as "a sport of kings and commoners," (www.bca-pool.com) billiards evolved from a lawn game similar to croquet. It was played in Northern Europe around the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Gradually the game moved indoors and began to be played on a wooden table with a green cloth covering intended to simulate grass.

Members of the WPU billiards team continue their season in search of not only a championship, but some new players and fans as well. Any student interested in joining the team for the late fall or spring season may contact Fabian at 720-5094.

Contact the Pioneer Times at  
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## The Pioneer Times

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Full page: \$200

Three-quarters page: \$150

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Quarter page: \$50

**BANFE**, cont. from Page 1

Not talking for 12 months wasn't a simple decision to make. Sticking to it hasn't been much easier. However, Banfe is committed to this test of sorts and hopes in the end to benefit from its completion.

"I'm doing this for a lot of reasons; one of the reasons is that I feel I'll become a better listener," he typed. "I think I'll come out of this with a great perspective of life. I'll sharpen my ability to communicate, and I'm also earning money for a charity."

Banfe's grandmother was involved in the conception of the Head Start Foundation, which gives children in poverty an early start on their education. Banfe decided to donate the money he earns to the organization.

A web site named Dare For Dollars is supplying the money that will go to Head Start if Banfe completes his year of silence. Dare For Dollars pays people who dare to do crazy things — like not talking for one year. Banfe earns \$20 for each day he says nothing.

He will also receive an extra \$5,000 if he doesn't talk for the whole year. In total, Banfe hopes to earn \$12,300 for the charity.

At first Banfe's parents thought he was crazy. They doubted that he would stick it out, their son reports. Today some people yell at him and others won't talk back, but a few have developed a sense of humor about this vow of silence, asking if his major is communication.

After visiting with him, people still say it was nice talking to him,

even when they were the only ones talking.

But surprise or astonishment is not the only thing his silence has produced, he suggested. He has inspired other people, making them think if they commit to something, they might also achieve some benefits.

"My mom has quit smoking, two of my friends on my floor and two of my friends from home have quit smoking, so I am happy that I'm bringing inspiration to better themselves," Banfe wrote to a visitor.

But if Banfe has brought inspiration to others, he is also getting inspiration from someone: his girlfriend.

She is computer student at William Paterson and even though she has never heard his voice, they maintain a relationship where she talks about her feelings and he types about his feelings. And it works. Her determination to become a famous actress motivates him, Banfe said, to fulfill his goal.

Banfe didn't have a clue how difficult or easy remaining silent 24 hours a day, seven days a week would be. He not only stopped talking to people, but he stopped talking to himself when alone. If he needs to use the telephone he asks someone else to make the call. If no one is around and he still has to make a call he simply waits.

"My necessities do not get in the way of my commitment," he wrote.

Maybe so, but <http://www.darefordollars.com> is

running a poll, viewers can vote on how many days they think Banfe will last without talking. The average guess is about 98 days. As of Nov. 7 he'd been silent for 68 days and earned \$1,360.

Banfe shares his campus room with two other guys and to facilitate the communication among them he gave each a pager identical to his own. The three message one another, especially when they are at different places on campus.

This semester Banfe is taking classes in philosophy, art, politics, writing, as well as freshman seminar. In none of them have his professors or classmates heard him participate. Instead, he writes down his opinions and gives them to a friend who reads the note to the class.

If he has a question, Banfe e-mails his professors.

While he no longer exercises his vocal cords by talking, he keeps them safe, as the doctor has confirmed, by laughing, coughing, or eating. A friend has taught him a little sign language — he has learned the alphabet — but he doesn't use it often. And there are frustrating moments. For example, people don't always understand what Banfe is trying to say with his hands — they pretend they do — and he confesses that his inability to communicate clearly in these instances is annoying.

Driving alone has its problems as well, especially if he wants to order in a drive-thru. He can't. He has to park and go inside to order.

But sometimes his predicaments aren't so laughable.

"I was in the elevator the other day and I hit the red button by accident, so the emergency unit was like, 'Hello, are you there?' I didn't want to say 'hmm' cause then they'd think, like, my leg was trapped and I couldn't talk," he recalled. "So I didn't say anything and they said 'I think we have an emergency in the north tower elevator,' and I wanted to be like, 'NO, sorry it was an accident' but I couldn't."

Banfe doesn't regret his decision. For him, the experience is worth it all because not only will he achieve his goal of becoming a better listener, but he will earn money for a charitable foundation.

But according to Banfe, Dare For Dollars has spies with wireless hidden microphones to make sure he keeps his end of the dare and also check in with his friends at school. The web site has offered an award of \$1,000 to anyone who can present a legitimate video showing Banfe talking before Aug. 31, 2001.

Banfe isn't sure he'll commit to a year of silence again, but for the moment, he is determined not to talk until the end of next August.

Then, no doubt, he'll have a lot to say.

To find more about Banfe, e-mail him questions or comments, or chat with him by visiting [dare.z.com/](http://dare.z.com/) or [www.notspeaking.com](http://www.notspeaking.com).

**PARKING**, cont. from Page 1

this girl put on her blinker before my cousin even had the chance to close the door."

Fisher stuck his head out the window and said, "This is my spot, sorry." The girl jumped out of her car and argued that she was waiting there and he had no right to claim a spot.

Fisher decided he was right and he and his cousin sat there yelling at the girl until she gave

up, got back into her car and drove away.

"I know I was clearly right; I see people do that all the time," said Fisher. "There was no way I was giving that girl my spot."

When Lomonico was asked about possible solutions to the parking problems, he said "there are 12 parking attendants during the week, along with two student patrols that patrol the parking lots

on foot.

"They are extra eyes and ears for our department. There are also campus phones all over the parking lot with blue blinking lights that go off once the phone is picked up, and they are able to respond in minutes, if there is a problem."

While there have been reports of broken car windows, mostly on weekends, the police associate

that activity with parties. So though students seem to have difficulty finding parking each day during the week, there is no need to be concerned about their safety, said Lomonico. He added that student patrols are available to walk students to their cars if they feel afraid for their safety for any reason.

**PRESIDENT**, cont. from Page 1

students. People are actually interested in the election, or at least that is what I have noticed," he said.

The nation is faced with a major question: Does the electoral system need a make-over?

"The American election system isn't working. It needs to be

revised and changed," said Deanna Kobus a junior studying political science.

Electors are nominated at state party conventions, one for each state's U.S. Representative and Senator. Those people then cast their votes for which ever candidate wins the popular vote in the

state. Thus, when people vote it is for the elector, not the presidential candidate.

In December, electors cast their ballots, for president and vice-president, traditionally remaining loyal to that candidate. If neither candidate wins the 270 necessary electoral votes, the

House chooses the president and the Senate would choose the vice-president.

"I think its so messed up waiting for a week to find out who the next president is," said Rasheeda Shappell, a freshman. "They should have used the vote count they had and decided."

**Write for the Pioneer Times! Contact Us At: [pioneertimes@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:pioneertimes@student.wpunj.edu)**

# Around Campus

## Prof. Tardi: 'Sopranos' Mocks Italian Culture

By Andrea Lopez  
Staff Reporter

She is not an Italian flag waver. She doesn't even own an Italian flag. She doesn't have any red-white and green objects or statues of saints outside her home. But, she is proud of being an Italian and praises her culture as strongly as she objects any wrong stereotyping of it.

Recently, Susanne Tardi, a



member of the Sociology Department at WPU, delivered a lecture entitled "Desperately Seeking Real Italians: An antidote to HBO's The Sopranos".

Her speech came on the heels of the university's decision not to allow HBO to film part of "The Sopranos" in the Sarah Byrd Askew Library. Tardi objects to the show's depiction of an Italian-American family.

"This show takes the core of Italian culture, the family, and they make a mockery of it," said Tardi.

According to published reports, WPU President Arnold Speert said the decision was based on a scheduling conflict, not on the objections of Tardi or

anyone else.

Tardi's concerns are based on the portrayal of the characters and their behavior in the series, which has won critical acclaim and several Emmys. The lead character, Tony Soprano, cheats on his wife and kills people; his mother put out a contract on him; his wife knows he's cheating and not only accepts it, but cheats on him too, and the priest on the show tries to curry favors with women parishioners, as well as asks them to do chores for him, like cooking.

Tardi thinks that non-Italian people who watch the show leave with the idea that this is what a typical Italian family looks and acts like.

Her objection to the filming has brought her publicity. The positive attention comes from Italian-Americans who also feel that their culture is being misrepresented in the series. The negative notices from Italian and non-Italian Americans who do like the show.

Tardi, who has watched every episode of the series, recognizes that the actors and actresses on the series are good and is aware of the show's popularity, but she doesn't think that they are being socially responsible.

She has found sex, violence,



Prof. Susanne Tardi

racism and sexism in the show, but not a good depiction of Italian families.

Tardi doesn't think that the show is unsalvageable. She wrote to HBO's top officials and told him how she felt about the show, recognizing his right to make money and the importance of winning awards. But, she also made her point that it is important to be socially responsible and has challenged the CEO to improve the show.

"I want The Sopranos to be more balanced," said Tardi. "I want them to have a disclaimer."

Tardi referred to an HBO movie called "The Year of the Dragon" which is about the Chinese Mafia. The movie included a disclaimer stating that the depiction of the Chinese Mafia was in no way an indicative of the average Chinese American who have contributed enormously to our society. Tardi wonders where is the disclaimer before "The Sopranos."

Asked about the portrayal of Italian-Americans if the movie "The Godfather," Tardi said that there were three Godfather movies while "The Sopranos" is an ongoing series, 13 weeks, three times a week. That constitutes brainwashing, she said, and exercises more influence on the audience.

"I am not anti First Amendment," says Tardi. "I don't believe in censorship, but I do believe in social responsibility."

## Lifestyles

a series of occasional columns focusing on issues facing the WPU community

By Robin Kavanagh-Charman

As we grow older, aspects of ourselves change and grow to fit the new people that we've become. After all, where would we be if we still ran around with dreams of being a grand prince or princess in the middle of a glorious fairytale?

The downside to the fairytale is that they don't tell you as a child that the dashing prince who sweeps you off your feet, often stumbles on the path of happily ever after. I wish someone had written the continuing story of Cinderella: Life after the wedding, work, two kids, divorce lawyers, mortgage payments, day care, and credit card bills. I would have liked to see the strength of character she would have had to develop to save her sanity.

So many of us single parents in classes are trying to forge better lives for our children and ourselves. Though our children are the most important people in our lives, we often forget about that other

See PARENTING, Page 11

## WPU's Artie Grimes: His Camp Experience Differs from Most

By Mary Ann Padula  
Special to the Pioneer Times

Artie Grimes spent two weeks at summer camp this year.

Not your everyday experience — he went to fire camp in Montana.

Grimes serves as a firefighter with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service as well as a senior emergency repairer at William Paterson University. Both positions are state-funded.

Grimes' firefighter services are utilized not only by the state;

he and his co-workers also are sent to assist firefighters in other areas of the country. Grimes has been out west 12 times fighting fires, and he completed two assignments in Montana this past summer during the highly-publicized battles against raging blazes.

Fire camps, says Grimes, resemble tent cities.

"Sometimes these camps look like large cities, and other times they start out small and just start growing as more firefighters arrive." A work day for these

firefighters can be "unlimited" depending on the breadth of the fire.

"This has been the worst year for forest fires on record, especially in Montana," says Grimes. "Usually, a firefighter is on his way within four hours of receiving a call to report for duty."

Grimes' love of the land has steered him into his second career.

"I enjoy the camaraderie, excitement and the spirit of people you work with in the firefighting field."

The Franklin resident has been employed by WPUNJ for 27 years, and as a State of New Jersey firefighter for the past 14 years.

Grimes is in the process of putting together a photo book depicting his experiences of fire camp life.

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**MUSIC**, cont. from Page 3

**Strong tracks fill in sameness of "Warning"**

**Green Day**  
**"Warning"**  
**Reprise Records**

There's a lot of the same ham and cheese on Green Day's sixth CD, *Warning*.

With catchy songs like "Waiting", which borrows Petula Clark's "Downtown", and the chipper, polka-ish "Misery", the band sounds a little less hardcore punk via The Clash, and more like their pop contemporaries, Blink 182.



But look past some of the CD's filling and there's enough substance to match the group's biggest hit, 1998's "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)".

Front man Billie Joe Armstrong is a little more reserved and mature on his choice of song topics (He tries to salvage a sinking relationship in "Church on Sunday" by reassuring "Trust is a dirty word that only comes from such a liar/But respect is something I will earn/If you have faith"). Is this the same guy who wrote songs about feeling like a dog in heat and masturbation?

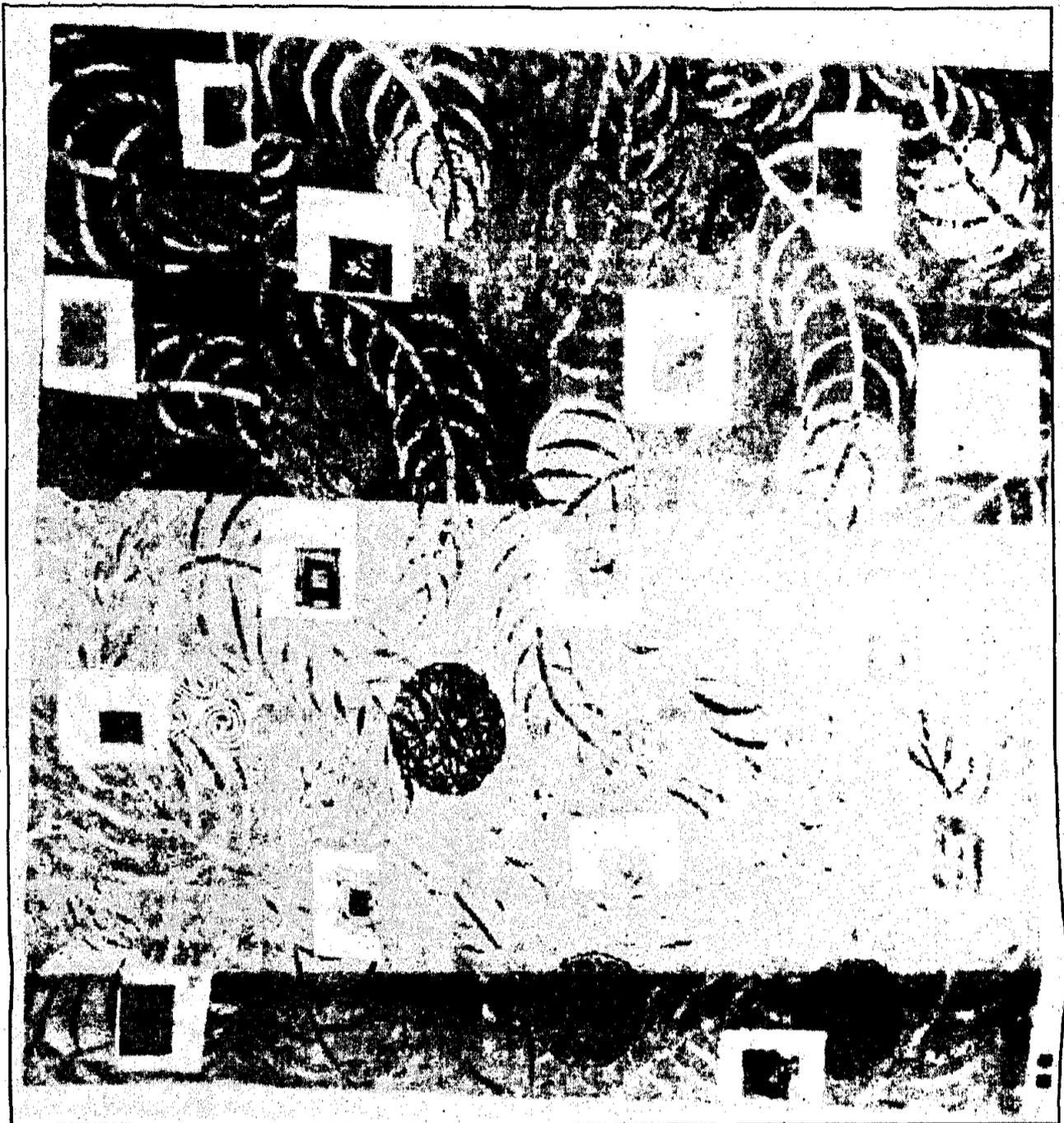
Green Day's newest music shows they've gotten their act together since *Dookie*, like when Armstrong sings "you're well rehearsed on every verse/and that was stated clear/but no one understands your verity."

In some way fans might compare that line to the CD. But with enough strong tracks to keep the less than exciting ones like "Minority", in the minority, ham and cheese doesn't sound all that bad.

**REVIEW MUSIC for THE PIONEER TIMES!**

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**Student Art On Display at Ben Shahn Hall**



**PARENTING**, cont.

from Page 9

person for whom we need to care: ourselves. We need to take the time to examine our lives as a group to face the next day.

As a parent, struggling to keep my own life in balance, I can now fully appreciate the needs and wants of those who have to take on the world alone. I have drawn strength from the opinions and experiences of others who have gone through the transition from the nuclear to the single-parent family. So now I want to share my experiences and opinions on the subject, to help someone else grasp a little more strength.

Nowadays when I wake up in the morning, I know at I am far from my childhood fantasies of where life was going to take me. I'm slowly rebuilding my life after my prince stumbled and let me drop to the ground but I realize that while I'm recovering the woman that I've become, I am also molding a beautiful little girl into a woman who will stand on her



Photographs by Meredith Cooper, Pioneer Times Staff

# The Back Page

## North Tower residents dissatisfied with university investigation

By Christina Frannicola  
Staff Reporter

Students and staff members who reside in the North Tower have expressed dissatisfaction with the way the university has reacted to a vandalism incident in the dormitory.

On the third weekend of the semester, the F-floor in North Tower was defaced with eggs, alcohol cans and bottles, garbage, clothing, papers, food, etc. Bulletin boards were damaged, signs were torn down and walls and the carpets were badly stained.

Although not all residents of the floor were involved in the vandalism, every one was assessed a \$7 fine; even Resident Assistant Margaret Corney, who went home for that weekend, was fined for the incident.

Upon her return, Corney was informed by others about the incident and was bombarded with questions.

"I was pissed off! As an RA I try to make a community and that breaks the community because everyone is fighting and it brings people against each other," said Corney.

By the time she arrived, most of the garbage had been cleaned up, but the carpet stains remained. The next evening, Corney hosted a floor meeting to address the situation.

"I spoke to residents collectively and individually to find out who knew what but nothing can happen until the guilty party confesses, and at this point I don't think that is going to happen," said Corney.

Joe Caffarelli, director of residence life, said he is frustrated with the

situation, especially since the Towers were renovated last summer, and new carpeting was installed. He encourages students to come forward.

"Nobody knows anything, but everybody knows something," said Caffarelli.

"The fine issued to residents

is only a mathematical paper trail and can be erased if the person or people involved either turn themselves in or are turned in by others."

The amount of the fine is not what appears to anger residents; it is the principle of the matter.

"We are all adults and this should never have happened," said Melissa Mulero.

In the four years she has lived on F-floor, Mulero has never paid more than \$10 in an entire year for room and floor damages combined, and now she already has a \$7 fine.

"This is absurd! In three years I have never had a problem until now!" said another F-Floor resident, Nicholas Ferrari.

Some students said they are upset with the Residence Life department. They feel the campus police should have been notified and that it is unfair to fine an entire floor.

"It's vandalism! That's a crime! The police should have definitely been involved!" said Kevin Burns, who was home on the weekend of the incident.

Corney acknowledged that the police were not informed.

"It was after the fact. I would not have called campus police either if I was on duty because what could they have done?" she asked.

Caffarelli says his unit is "doing the best we can" but they need information.

"The person does not necessarily need to come forward. If enough students turn them (the vandals) in and are willing to do so in writing," he said, "then an investigation can take place, then a judicial hearing. Action can be taken."

By mid-October, the rugs had not been washed. When that was brought to Caffarelli's attention, he immediately made a phone call and arranged for it to be taken care of. The rugs were cleaned the following day.

Anyone with information regarding this situation should contact Caffarelli or Corney.

## REQUIEM, cont. from Page 3

early 20s, who perpetually seeks his next high. He teams up with his right-hand man, Tyrone (played by a surprisingly talented Marlon Wayans), to start hustling dope on the street and work their way up to scoring a pound of pure heroin. Harold's girlfriend Marion (Jennifer Connelly) gets into the mix as well, and her hopes of professionally designing clothes slowly become impossible.

But the performance that will no doubt garner numerous awards is Ellen Burstyn's chilling role as Harold's mother, Sara. Receiving that once-in-a-lifetime chance of being on television, Sara becomes fixated on being able to fit into her special red dress to wear on camera. So fixated, in fact, that she becomes addicted to diet pills, a combination of uppers and downers that grab hold of her life with a vice-like grip. Never before has a refrigerator been the source of such torture and fear.

Aronofsky places these four unsuspecting characters in a downward spiral of decay and despair from which there is no escape. He subjects the viewer to a cerebral assault of visuals and score, a fusion that left me rock-

ing back and forth in a speechless daze. Supposedly, this film has more cuts than any other mainstream movie ever made, and I wouldn't doubt that for a second. Think of the cinematography as the "Fight Club for 2000."

And the soundtrack? Let me say that not since the cello in "Jaws" has a score accompanied the action so well in a film.

My deep, undying gratitude goes out to Artisan who released this film uncut and stood unflinching in the eyes of the MPAA. "Requiem" went out Not Rated, but theaters are treating it with NC-17 prejudice, which is a real crime. One viewing of this film could change the hearts of countless addicts that two decades of "Just Say No" could never achieve. And Artisan, obviously realizing its power, decided not to remove a single frame. Bravo.

Aptly titled, "Requiem for a Dream" is exactly like its subject matter. It simply cannot be put into words. The only way to know its power is to experience it for yourself. As for a rating, I dare not subject it to placement among a linear scale of enjoyment. It is in a class of its own and impossible to compare.

## calendar

Compiled By Tawauna Allen  
Calendar Editor

### Nov. 1-Dec. 1

The Art Department faculty presents the exhibit "Intuitive Abstract Painting," a display of paintings exploring various approaches to the making of intuitive abstract painting of our time. Paintings will be on display in the Ben Shahn Galleries Mon-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### November 21

The Thanksgiving Awareness Program concludes with the 7:30 p.m. Mass in the Chapel of The Bishop Frank J. Rodimer Catholic Ministry Center featuring the William Paterson University Gospel Choir.

### November 22

The sophomore class will sponsor a lecture entitled "Sex Education" in the Student Center Ballroom from 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

### November 30

The sophomore class will sponsor "Latin Pub Night" in conjunction with O.L.A.S. Festivities from 9 p.m.-1:00 p.m. in Billy Pat's Pub.

Please send calendar items to  
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**Have a Happy Thanksgiving!**