

# PIONEER

William Paterson University Wayne, New Jersey

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[pioneertimes@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:pioneertimes@student.wpunj.edu)

## Students face increasing stress with work, school schedule, limited time

By Nadine Spence  
Staff Writer

Imagine having only six hours a week of personal time. For many William Paterson University students this is all the time they get after balancing work and school.

A survey done by U.C.L.A. Department of Education last year found that half the nation's college students worked an average of 25 hours a week, while 30 percent worked fulltime to cover the cost of school. The poll included 364,546 students from 683 colleges and universities. In the survey nearly one in four students said they would work fulltime; this is not usually

a matter of choice.

Dana Clyburn is one of those students. A senior who works 40 hours a week at the U.S. Post Office in South Hackensack, Clyburn spends a minimum of 12 hours a week in school as a part-time student. She has a hectic schedule between work and school.

"I always feel over-

whelmed because I only have two hours between work and school," she said.

Clyburn says that although she had the job at the post office before she started school, school is her top priority.

As a part-time student she makes enough money to pay her tuition, but it has taken her longer to graduate. If she decid-

ed to go to school fulltime she would lose her job or work part-time and then struggle to pay tuition. There are other students who only have the option of working on campus.

Students who are overwhelmed with school often find some comfort in going to the Counseling Center. This has become a major issue on many campuses. Howard University hired new therapists and extended their counseling sessions to accommodate the increasing number of stressed

"Older students have their routine set and have worked out their time management,"

-- Yusaitis said.

See **STRESS, PAGE 5**

## Mens' basketball team rolling along as tournament approaches

By Erich Hoffman  
Staff Writer

At the start of the season, William Paterson's men's basketball team expected to be in this position: an 18-4 record, first place in the New Jersey Athletic Conference, and considered a top national championship contender.

So it should come as a surprise to no one that as March approaches, the Pioneers are gearing up for another appearance in the Division III NCAA tournament.

It took the Pioneers a little while to hit their stride. Going

into the season as the #1 team in the country brought high expectations, and the pressure was felt in tough losses to Ramapo and New Jersey City.

"We worked hard enough in those games," said Pioneers head coach Jose Rebimbas. "But we couldn't match the intensity of the other teams. Those teams were ready to play us."

"We felt added pressure," said senior forward Ray Ortiz. "It was a good pressure, but at times we got too cocky. Now, it's back on track, and we're playing well. We're playing our best basketball right now."

It would be hard to argue

that point. Before they suffered a recent disappointing 88-83 loss to Rowan, the Pioneers had run off a 12-game winning streak, showing why they were one of the top teams in the country. The task is to stay focused against every opponent, particularly the lower-level competition, when it may be tougher to concentrate for 40 minutes.

"We respect all teams, and we fear no one," said Rebimbas. "We challenge ourselves to play our best basketball night in and night out."

See **BASKETBALL, Page 7**

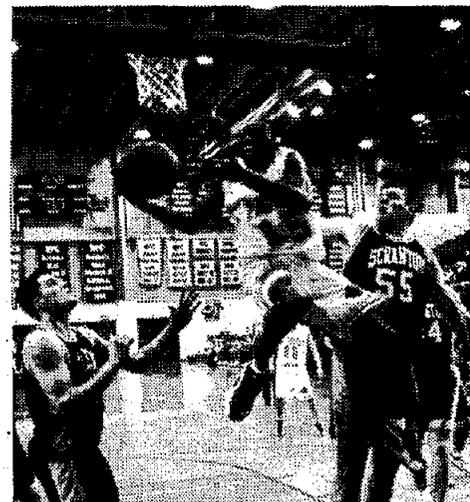


Photo courtesy of William Paterson University

The Pioneers mens' basketball team is gearing up for another run in the NCAA tournament.

## New parking configurations confuse students, cause misconceptions

By Melissa-Ann Crawford  
Staff Writer

"The time is getting closer. The time is going by fast. My teacher is going to be mad if I am late" — these are the thoughts running through many William Paterson University students as they rush to get to class.

The other questions that often run through their heads are "How did this new parking configuration help me out with

the organization of parking?

How does it make it easier for me to find parking? All the new configurations in the parking lot should help me get to class on time. Am I doing something wrong?"

"What we've done with the signs and gates is we tried to look at the population and divide up the portion in the most fair way."

-- said Williams

While no one is doing anything wrong, there is clearly some confusion about the purpose and outcome

of the new arrangements. "Originally we started with the postings of when and

where students can park, and we found immediate improvements with people's understanding when and where they can park," said Allen Williams, assistant director of Public Safety. "Everything was phased in, because it is a time consuming and difficult thing to deal with — to reconfigure and change because of construction cost and things in that nature."

See **PARKING, Page 7**

## Financial journalist predicts economic growth and lower interest rates

By Erik Ortiz  
Staff Writer

The thought of an oncoming recession is absurd, according to financial journalist Lou Dobbs.

Dobbs, former president of CNN financial and former anchor of two business shows on the cable network, spoke at William Paterson University recently as part of the Distinguished Lecturer Series of 2000-2001.

He finds reports by fellow financial analysts who have forecasted an economic slump as being "unabashed, unmitigated and total bull." He said the current fiscal government is "prudent and responsible" and gave three predictions for the upcoming year.

"There will be a 3 percent growth over the next four quarters," Dobbs said. "...inflation will not be an

issue...and unemployment and interest rates will decline."

Dobbs spread more positive observations when he assured that even though the Internet and its public stocks are riding downward on the NASDAQ, the potential for technology stocks are looking bright, and just because they are a tech-based stock, that shouldn't mean their downfall.

Dobbs also expressed his delight that the American government currently holds a \$2 trillion surplus and the wonderful potential that brings to the American public and President George W. Bush..

"I have covered five presidents and I have never seen any administration more organized than the one George W. Bush has come into," remarked the Harvard University graduate. "That is



Photo Courtesy of WPU

Financial journalist Lou Dobbs believes the possibility of an recession is absurd.

remarkable for a man who most of the year said he couldn't tie his own shoes."

Dobbs, who won a Horatio Alger Association Award for Distinguished Americans in 1999, as well as various Peabody, Luminary and Emmy awards for his journalistic achievements with CNN, left the channel in 1999 to become chairman and CEO of space.com, an Internet site devoted to the universe.

## Life Ever After

### Student group forming

By Robin Kavanagh-Charman  
Staff Writer

There is a woman I know who does a lot. She's 22, a sophomore in college who carries 18 credits and works 20 hours a week. She has a major, a minor, and dabbles in freelance journalism as a potential way to make some extra money.

She worries a lot, too. She worries about making her car payments, paying her credit card bills, making it to class on-time, getting her homework done; you know, the usual things 22-year-olds worry about. But she worries about other things.

She worries about paying for her divorce lawyer, diapers, pediatrician copays, Lactaid milk, baby shoes every two months, and baby clothes every four months. She needs to make sure she can pay all of these bills, plus much more, with her part-time paycheck, because she can't depend on a child support check each week. She wonders if she'll ever go out on a date again after four years of a bad marriage and two years of motherhood.

She's torn apart every time she leaves for class and her daughter cries, "Mommy, don't leave!" She wonders if she'll ever be able to talk to anyone about all of the conflicting stresses and emotions that she deals with everyday.

If this sounds a lot like your life, there's a new club forming that is worth checking out. S.P.O.C. (Single Parents on Campus) is a new organization that was developed by the Health and Wellness Center, Student Development, and myself. The purpose of S.P.O.C. is to generate an on-campus support system for the many single parents who attend WPU.

In the next few weeks, there will be organizational and interest meetings in the Health and Wellness Center. For dates and times, please call the center at 720-2360. Kids are welcome and snacks will be served.

Preliminary plans for the group include discussion groups about topics that are important to our personal lives, as well as the well being of our children. Activities for parents-only and family events are also in the works.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to ease stress is to talk about what's on your mind. And it's safe to say that single parents have their fair share of daily stress. By providing an atmosphere where people can share their feelings with others who know exactly what you're going through, our complicated lives can become a little easier.

And who couldn't use that?  
Robin Kavanagh-Charman writes a parenting column and covers news and features. She can be reached at CharmanR@student.wpunj.edu.

## Health services vouchers available to students

By Joannie Nunez  
Staff Writer

All students on campus are eligible for financial assistance toward one gynecological exam or one screening for sexually transmitted disease each year.

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey and William Paterson University's Student Government Association collaborated to grant the students a \$25-voucher that can be used toward a variety of services, including HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, Sexually Transmitted Disease screening, Substance Abuse Services, and the morning after pill. This coupon also allows students who are 24 years old to get a free Chlamydia test.

These services have proven to be an invaluable asset to much of the student body, particularly those who live up to the college student

stereotype of having little or no income on which to rely.

"I have no money," says Renee La Raia, a Special Education major.

La Raia believes all students should have access to these kind of services. She is also a firm believer that a person's income should not be a determining factor in deciding whether or not to get tested for a sexually transmitted disease.

"Besides, it's not like you're gonna go home and tell one of your parents, I need money to get tested," she said.

Although the SGA has offered these vouchers to the campus community for several years, there are still many students who aren't aware of the program.

"I had no idea there was a Planned Parenthood place around here. I would've used it if I would've known about it," says Susan Mourino, 21.

There are even those

who say the SGA should do a better job promoting these services to the students.

"I think they should tell more girls," says La Raia.

"You really find out through other students," agreed Sharell Parker, 21, a senior.

The process of getting a voucher is simple. Students must first go to the Health Center and provide it with his or her student identification. Second, the student fills out the top portion of an application. They are later supplied with their coupon and a list of places where they can go.

Finally, students must present their ticket to the Planned Parenthood Clinic to receive their discount. However, they are still responsible for paying the remaining balance of their bill.

Joannie Nunez covers news and features and can be reached at NunezJ@student.wpunj.edu.

## CORRECTIONS:

Because of an editing error, Dr. Ira Shor's title was listed incorrectly in the Dec. 8 issue of the Pioneer Times. He is William Paterson University's Distinguished Visiting Professor.

Because of a computer error, an exhibit at Ben Shahn was incorrectly labeled in the Nov. 27 issue of the Pioneer Times. The art show featured the work of faculty members from the Art Department.

The Pioneer Times apologizes for the errors.

# Campus News

## Student Government Association News

By Andrea Lopez  
Staff Reporter

### Student Speak-Out scheduled for 27th

The complaint desk is open. Well, you can say something nice, too. A Student Speak-Out is scheduled for Feb. 27 in the Student Center from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Students will have the chance to talk face to face to administrators and faculty members, said Samantha Lugo, the president of the Student Government Association.

"Students will be able to participate, share their views, concerns and suggestions. Without that we can't change anything," said Lugo.

According to Lugo, the average student rarely has the opportunity to meet with the head of a department and express his or her concerns.

Therefore, the student speak-out not only represents an opportunity to address current problems, but an opportunity to try to avoid future conflicts.

Representatives from the financial aid office, bursars' office, campus police, food service, hospitality services shuttle service, as well as the deans of all five colleges, will attend the session which is being sponsored by the SGA.

### System may allow students to cast SGA votes online

You won't find any hanging chads here. Come April students may be able to cast their votes online in the Student Government Association elections, said Samantha Lugo, president of the SGA.

While the system is still being worked out, the SGA hopes that online voting will increase student participation, as well as allow students the chance to vote from home or other remote locations.

"My main goal is to increase the voter's turn-out," said Lugo. "People like it when things come to them and this is a way to make voting more available."

In the past students have been required to vote on campus and present a valid WPU student ID, those who forget it on election day are out of luck. Under the new system, students won't need to present an ID and won't need to be physically present on campus, but rather will use an access code to vote.

The computerized voting system will log off the user so people don't get to vote twice, it will, however, allow the students to change their vote.

### Services available to students

A variety of services and discounts are available to students through the Student Government Association.

Students who need legal advice can meet with SGA attorney Gerry Brennan; he is available every Wednesday from 2 - 8 p.m. in Room 326 of the Student Center.

The SGA also offers a free notary public service, which is available at the association's main office, SC 332.

In addition, the SGA offers discounted movie tickets for \$4 and which can be used at many local theaters.

Students with a valid WPU ID can also get a discount at KFC, Wendy's and 10 percent at Casey O' Tooles, alcohol not included. For more information about other services call x-2157.

### Discounts, special serv-

## April job fair offers students opportunities for employment, internships and careers

By Paul French  
Staff Writer

As many as 80 employers and 1,000 students are expected to attend a job fair sponsored by the Career Development Center on April 5.

Changes have been made from past job fairs to create more opportunities for the students this year during the fair, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

in the Muchuga Student Center Ballroom and in the lobby of the Atrium

"Last year we brought in 875 students,"

said Sharon Rosengart, associate director of the Career Development Center. "We're looking to improve that. Our goal is to surpass 1,000 students."

The Career Development Center sent out about 600 invitations to companies and businesses, 40 have confirmed their appearance.

"We are looking at having about 80 employers," said

Rosengart. The school is hoping that if the students are given more opportunities, more students will show up. Employers attending are looking for interns, full-time, part-time, temp, and summer help.

Companies or businesses invited include pharmaceutical companies, certified public accounting firms, advertising agencies, banks, real estate agencies, environmental firms, hotels and casinos from Atlantic City, and representatives from the state government.

According to Rosengart, employment agencies have always been a "good source" for the students and six or seven have been invited.

Job fair preparation workshops are scheduled to take place from late March into early April. Each of the four workshops held last year had 30 or 40 students in each class. At the workshop, students receive

See JOB FAIR, on Page 7

"First impression goes a long way, just like in an interview,"

-- said Rosengart.



**IT'S TIME.....**

**to explore your major and minor options!**

Activity: MAJORS AND MINORS DAY

When: Thursday, March 1st

Where: Student Center Ballroom

From: 11:30AM - 1:30PM

Faculty from all majors will answer your questions.

Speak... to a career counselor.

Apply... for a major or a minor.

**BE THERE!**

**Free Gift to first 100 students**

Sponsored by:

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# Opinion



## Commuter is frustrated with lack parking

To the editor,

On Wednesday, January 24, like most days of attending William Paterson University, I was faced with an extremely stressful situation... finding a parking spot. Fearing that I would be late to class, I parked in the first available parking spot. Needless to say, I was ticketed. I paid the fine, but do not feel responsible for the school's lack of an adequate parking facility.

The main parking lots, located conveniently by the center of campus (Lots 4 & 5), are constantly filled. This causes many commuters to waste time waiting for a spot. By parking in the lots furthest

away from campus, commuters now must not only deal with the long, rush hour drive, but factor in the time that will be needed to wait and ride a shuttle, and/or the walk to class. As a commuting student, my time is as valuable as any other student or faculty member. I have seen, and been involved in, arguments over parking spots, resulting in angered students. At the same time, I have also noticed the barely, if at all, filled faculty parking lots.

There are numerous vehicles ticketed in the lots for inappropriate parking. Obviously, I am not the only driver forced to deal with this ridiculous situation. The parking situation at William

Paterson University is in need of help and must be addressed.

Expanding parking lots, or creating new lots, would not only result in less frustrated students but would also abolish the need for the writing of these unnecessary tickets. The funding used to employ persons to write tickets could be better spent by creating a solution to the overlooked problem.

Jillian Ann Uhl  
Student-Commuter

Copies of this letter were also sent to Arnold Spert, Roland Watts, John Urinyi Dona Fountoukidis and Richard Turner

## THE PIONEER TIMES

IS LOOKING FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WRITING, EDITING AND TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS.

COVER THE CAMPUS, REVIEW FILMS, WRITE OPINION PIECES.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Interested students should contact Prof. Elizabeth Birge at [BirgeE@wpunj.edu](mailto:BirgeE@wpunj.edu) or x-2656.

## PROFILE: That's Professor Mayor: Adjunct professor elected township mayor, teaches future teachers

Bethany Smalling  
Staff Writer

Prof. Judy Orson supervises 19 student teachers in William Paterson University's elementary education program, helping them design lesson plans or guiding them with problem students. But she could probably give them a civics lesson or two.

In November, Orson was elected to the mayor's seat of the Wayne Township Council, capping off 20 years spent in local politics.

Part of the platform she ran on included stabilizing the tax base with positive ratables, expanding recreational facilities, building a new animal shelter, and filtering the Internet at the town's library.

Orson, who has been an adjunct at the University for two years, spent 30 years teaching in the Wayne Township school system before she retired. She taught mostly third and fourth graders in such schools as Terhune, Lafayette, Pines Lake, and Ryerson Elementary Schools.

"Teaching is a gift," said Orson, whose student teachers will work in the Lodi and Garfield area. In this position, Orson instructs the future teachers about during their practicum.

To be "open-minded and flexible" is the best advice Orson can give her students as they begin their journey into the teaching field.

When asked if balancing both the responsibilities of teaching and running a town are difficult, the mayor replied, "no-- not at all."

Because the mayor's job is only part-time, she has a lot of flexibility in her daily scheduling.

Her biggest concern as mayor, but also as a teacher, is the over-crowding in the Wayne public school system.

"Overcrowding in schools leads to student conflict," said Orson. "Large classes eliminate personal one-on-one teaching style which is necessary in certain instances."

In the 26 square mile Township of Wayne there are two

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New Jersey Collegiate Press Association

## The Pioneer Times

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# More Campus News

## William Paterson University sponsors conference for women March 3

A conference designed to prepare women students to use communication and self empowerment as a tool for academic and career success is scheduled to be held at William Paterson University March 3.

The fourth annual Sister to Sister Conference "Empowerment by Respecting Self and Others: Embracing Womanism and Feminism," will be held in the Machuga Student Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free and the

event is open to women of all ethnicities. Breakfast and lunch are included.

"The primary purpose of the conference is to give female students a safe environment in which to share ideas and beliefs and to discuss issues related to personal success," said Georgia Daniel, assistant dean, Office of Enrollment Management and conference chair. "We want students to leave from the conference with a greater sense of self-commitment to personal

growth, and academic and career success."

An opening ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. followed by a series of morning workshops. Topics to be discussed include loving, knowing and empowering oneself; talking about sex; crisis intervention; career paths in women's studies; opportunities for academic success; sisters mentoring sisters; awareness of and understanding substance abuse; getting along with peers.

At 2 p.m. Dr. Grace

Cornish will deliver the keynote address. Cornish is a relationship expert, family therapist, motivational speaker and the author of "10 Good Choices that Empower Black Women's Lives," "10 Bad Choices that Ruin Black Women's Lives" and "Radiant Women of Color."

For additional information, please call Georgia Daniel at (973) 720-2929 or Paulette Brower-Garrett at (973) 720-2612.

## Pioneer hockey team enters new league with new hopes, same arena

By Andrew Lijoi  
Staff Writer

As coach Gary Schors gave a pep talk to his hockey team during a practice, the group was reminded of how cold it got in Mackay Arena, when the breath of their coach became visible.

The team has been playing at the arena for three seasons, where it is often colder inside than it is outside.

"Playing in the cold gives us a psychological edge," said Rob Carathan, assistant coach and former player for William Paterson University's hockey team.

Other teams that come to play at Mackay Arena aren't used to the bone-chilling temperatures, and complain about the conditions, according to Carathan.

Ice time costs up to \$190

an hour and influences the time the team can practice. The arena is located off campus more than 20 minutes away in Englewood, and practices occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. twice a week.

However, if fund raising does not cover all costs, each player is expected to pay up to \$1,000 to participate in the season. That price is usually reduced to about \$400 because costs are based on the minimum

Association, and has played against schools like the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Maryland. These schools tend to attract better talent because of full funding and on campus rinks. With a record of 3-8-4 and with one game remaining, the first losing season in six years by the Pioneers is accredited to a multitude of factors.

"We're adjusting to the new league, we're adjusting to the level of play, and the travel," said Carathan, "It's all new to us, and I think overall we've done well."

The focal point for the Pioneers, according to Carathan, has been to consistently build each and every game, so as to start off next season in the new league on a high note. And with only one player lost next year to graduation, the hopes are high for William Paterson hockey in the 2001-2002 season.

**"We're adjusting to the new league, we're adjusting to the level of play, and the travel,"**

-- said Carathan

Attendance at games by Pioneer fans is weak, which team members attribute to the location of the rink, according to Pioneer forward Aaro Jasper. Hockey is a club sport and is only partially funded by the Student Government Association. The rest of the funds needed are acquired through fundraising throughout the year.

amount of players allowed on a team.

For more than 20 years the Pioneers were a force to be reckoned with in the Metropolitan Collegiate Hockey Conference, winning one conference championship and several division titles. This year the team has entered a more competitive national league, the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey

### STRESS, from Page 1

students.  
Ann Yusaitis has been a counselor at William Paterson University for 34 years. Over that period of time she has dealt with a wide range of problems, from eating disorders to stress. She says that the common reason that students do not do well is that they work too many hours. She has found that a lot of students have their priorities skewed. They tend to put more emphasis on work than on school. When asked about what she would recommend for high school graduates who are not certain about their finances, she said, "I think a lot of students

should work year after high school and then come to college."

For other students who suddenly feel the walls closing in, she said that they should take a leave of absence and earn some money and then come back.

There seems to be a difference in the way that traditional students and non-traditional students schedule their time. Traditional students, especially those who have a family, tend to be more focused on school.

"Older students have their routine set and have worked out their time management," Yusaitis said.

Linda Jahren is a non-traditional student who is a full-time mom, a part-time student, and a substitute teacher with the West Milford Public School system. She has been a student for seven years because she could only manage class each semester. She said that fall 2000 and this semester are the only times she has been able to take two classes because she got financial aid.

"Between the cost of class and books I can only afford to take one class for the semester," Jahren said.

She has her routine set and there are times when she sacrifices work for school, but never

parenting. Fortunately her children can help to take care of themselves so that she can give more time to school. Although she has seven more classes left, about two years, she is doing well.

"Over all," she said, "I'm comfortable with what I'm doing."

William Paterson students are determined to meet their goals. And even when faced with financial obstacles they seem to find a way out.

No matter how long or how much it takes, students seem to make it.

## WPU needs music festival featuring local music, campus bands

By Eddie Dombroski  
Staff Writer

Al Schaefer has worked as the production manager for William Paterson University's Shea Center for approximately 13 years. In this time, some of

### COMMENTARY

the areas top musicians and national acts have graced the stage of the auditorium. Schaefer, however, has trouble recalling the last time he saw any local campus bands put on any type of performance on his stage.

Concerts like that "never materialize," he said.

The apparent lack of a music scene on campus is evident. With the exception of catching a live band at Billy Pat's pub, there seems to be no other avenue for local campus rockers, hip-hoppers, and alternative style groups to put on a concert.

"Those sort of things usually don't draw enough people," said Schaefer.

He pointed out various problems with putting local talent on stage at Shea, and it all boils down to one thing...money.

Although Schaefer could not say how much it would cost to put on a music festival at Shea Center, he did say that he would be happy to give any interested party an estimate.

"Estimates vary depending on the type of event," he said. "A lot depends on what needs and services these types of acts would require."

Robert Jenkins, a sophomore at WPU said, "I have heard CD's from excellent bands here on campus. The problem is I usually have to go to New York City to see them!"

Some students feel that the local music scene is dominated by top 40 cover-bands and the original acts are not given a chance to showcase their talents.

Others feel that it is time for the campus to open its doors to the original music acts that get few chances to play for large

audiences.

Obviously colleg students don't usually have lots of money, still they find away to go out and support local bands. Local acts like Majestic12 and Beyond Mirth have paced in crowds all over the tri-state area, still they are not considered serious applicants for a Shea Center billing.

Perhaps if the local campus acts unite their fanbases, the hopes of a diverse, original music festival can happen sometime in the future.

Schaefer said he'd support a local festival, "As long as it's not going to cause damage to our facility, or our patrons, we'd be happy to see that hap-

## "Boy's Life" provides the answers to the secrets of men and life

By Rachel Wekerle  
Staff Writer

It's no secret that most women wonder what goes on in the minds of men; why they act the way they do, why they think what they think, in a nutshell, what makes them tick.

But "Boy's Life," which recently concluded its run at the

Hunziker Black Box Theater, provides some of the answers.

The play, directed by Edward Mathews, is a two-hour chronicle of three friends' lives: Jack, Don, and Phil. While each of the men appears to be different, they have managed to remain friends from childhood to adulthood, through dating to parenting. The three central characters seem like average

guys: Jack (Tommy Drogan) is the married father, Don (Paul C. Reisman) is the "regular" guy, and Phil (Michael Liberman) is the misguided soul who hasn't yet found his way.

The play opens with the three sitting around an apartment hanging out. They talk about the past, the present, and whatever seems to be going on. It is immediately apparent that

Jack is the ringleader of the bunch, as he strikes up most of the conversations and always wants to play devil's advocate. Don, in stark contrast to Jack, is mild-mannered yet complacent with his life. Phil, bopping long to a Foghat tune, is the wayward one. He doesn't really participate in Jack and Phil's

See "BOYS LIFE," Page 8

## Responsibility for self and others stressed in during National Condom Week

By Erik Ortiz and  
Robin Kavanagh-Charman  
Staff Writers

After nearly colliding with the earth, Jay Riftenbary walked away from his mangled parachute and didn't complain.

As a military trainee, Riftenbary was the first selected to jump out of an airplane during his class's first airborne training session.

"The most fearful thing was when the door opened up," recalled Riftenbary. "I jumped and my parachute's lines were tangled and air didn't fill it properly... Luckily, I had paid attention to the emergency instructions... As soon as I began to bicycle my legs the lines untangled and the parachute filled with air."

Though he nearly died, Riftenbary made a conscious decision not to complain.

"As I was literally plummeting to my death, was I going to whine about it?" asked Riftenbary. "Blame other people? People have come to the idea that they're not responsible... Complaining about a bad situation will not make your

life better."

Riftenbary spoke to William Paterson University students Wednesday, Feb. 14 in the Machuga Student Center Ballroom, about taking responsibility for the negativity and misery in their lives and then focusing on becoming more positive and respectful toward others. His speech was sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center as part of National Condom Week.

"When people make wrong choices they tend to blame other people for their actions," Riftenbary said. "Using excuses from yesterday for why you can't achieve, doesn't work. It is your choice to be miserable. You can't use race, religion, school, the government or society as an excuse for your failures... Do all the people who are dying from AIDS or cancer complain...?"

Riftenbary's doctrines of being responsible for your own actions is a major part of preventing sexually transmitted disease, maintaining overall health, and living a happier and more successful life. His lecture was part of the Health and Wellness Center's continuing efforts to

educate students about sexually transmitted disease prevention.

"Being sexually responsible is one facet of self-responsibility and to accept responsibility for our own lives is key. And for me, having him come in the middle of Condom Week is wonderful because most of my clinical practice here at the university is centered on people being responsible about their personal health," said Nancy Ellson, coordinator of Wellness Services.

According to Riftenbary, a West Point graduate who wrote the motivational book, "No Excuses - I'm Doing It", there are three characteristics that a "happy person" lives by. Happy people accept responsibility for their own life, they know their purpose and are true to themselves and they establish a standard for themselves that they don't violate.

"People don't go to parties looking for the negative people," said Riftenbary. "It's good to be nice. When I go through a tollbooth on the parkway I say 'hi' to the operators. Sure, I sometimes get a look, but I feel good."

Students who attended the discussion agreed with

Riftenbary's advice.

"I think what he said was true," said freshman Thomas Lugo, a communication major. "People should start focusing on positive things instead of always worrying other people will put them down and doubt them."

Freshman Andy Cohen attended the lecture after hearing about it from his resident advisor.

"The talk was very motivating," said the communication major. "He [Riftenbary] made me realize that I'm responsible for my actions and that I should stop complaining when things don't go my way."

Riftenbary has passed on his feel-good advice to students all over the nation, stressing self-respect, forgiveness, integrity and accountability. To teachers and students he urged most importantly to "treat each other with a sense of value and purpose."

"I want to give young people some insight," Riftenbary revealed. "I would have given anything to have someone help me when I was growing up... life is about the choices we make and how we choose to live it in a positive way."

**BASKETBALL, from Page 1**

Added Ortiz: It's not easy to stay focused every night, but Coach (Reimbas) humbles us. We always do our best."

Led by the likes of Horace Jenkins, Ortiz, and Mfeed Thomas, the Pioneer are certainly headed in the right direction. But what about that national championship?

The last two years the Pioneers have been close, but

have come up short. They came closest in 1999, losing the national championship game to perennial powerhouse Wisconsin-Platteville.

"Since '99, we've been trying so hard to get back," said Ortiz. "Last year's loss was horrible. But in '99, Wisconsin-Platteville showed us what it's all about."

"Anything can happen in tournament play," added Reimbas. "It wouldn't be a

total failure to not win a national championship, but it is our goal."

As their play attests, team's chemistry is at its highest level of the season, and the motivation of a national championship is there.

"We want to show the nation we're good. We want to show we're not a fluke," said Ortiz. "We all hang out off the court, and we all get along. We're peaking.

That is a scary thought for the rest of the tournament field, and in the eyes of Reimbas, this is a program that has come a long way.

"We've won a lot of big games in a short period of time," said Reimbas. "This program used to win five games a year, and now we're winning 20."

The only question is if they can win in March.

**PARKING, from Page 1**

One common misconception of students was that with the changes parking spots were taken away from them, and given to the faculty.

"That was always the perception, and that is the great thing about the sign," said Williams, "because you can see the cemented-in area is faculty, and the rest of the campus is free."

Lot 7 holds fewer than 100 faculty spots, and the rest is available for the students.

The signs tell what time each section of the parking lot is open to students, or just designated for the teachers. The signs were put up first, and then the gates complimented the signs. The gates guard the faculty spots only from Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., outside those times the parking spots are available to everyone.

"The gate has alleviated the peck and hunt for parking for faculty," said Williams. The traffic flow has improved too, he said, and there have been fewer

complaints filed about parking spaces.

Williams said he'd like the students to take a minute and look at how the parking is the day of their classes and become accustomed to what they have to do that particular hour and day.

"If you want to wait, which is not something we encourage, wait, but it is easier and less stressful, to go to Lot 6 and catch the shuttle. It is less frustrating for everyone," said Williams.

Another common misconception about the parking lots is the fear there aren't enough spots for the registered cars on campus? The answer is that parking availability is based on what the University has available, not the number of registered cars.

"What we've done with the signs and gates," said Williams, "is we tried to look at the population and divide up the portion in the most fair way."

**JOB FAIR, from Page 3**

a brochure to help them prepare for the job fair. The brochure discuss such items as: having a good resume, dressing appropriately, how to approach an employer, and important questions to ask. Rosengart said that going in to a job fair, many students don't realize that they

are being judged from the moment they meet an employer.

The employers notice everything from how a student is dressed to the quality of their resume to how outgoing or quiet they are, she said.

"First impression goes a long way, just like in an interview," said Rosengart. "The

employers take quick notes about each student, because there are so many students. When they go back through their notes, that is what they will remember about you."

Rosengart suggested that students should show up to the job fair dressed nicely. Men should wear khakis and a nice

shirt; women should wear dress pants and a sweater or a dress. Students should have their resume done by the Career Development Center. The students might also want to bring a separate sheet of references with them in case an employer might be interested.

**Calendar of Events**

Send calendar items to the Pioneer Times at PioneerTimes@student.wpunj.edu or c/o Prof. Bire, Communication Department, 108 Hobart Hall.

**Feb. 27 Ben Shahn Galleries**

A reception for the exhibit by Dan Mills will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The work of Mills, an artist who uses found objects such as maps and collage techniques to make content specific works of art, is on exhibit through March. Also on view through March 2 are abstract paintings by Clytie Alexander.

"Oceania: Selections from the Joan and Gordon Tobias Collection of Oceanic Art" is on exhibit through April 27. The collection is now part of the University's permanent collection and includes sculpture, ritual objects, household utensils, weapons, masks, jewelry and more.

For more information, call the Ben Shahn Galleries (720-2654).

**Student Government Association Legislature meeting, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m., Machuga Student Center, Room 203-4-5.**

**Jazz & Java, Machuga Student Center Cafe, 12:30 p.m. For more information call 720-2271.**

**Feb. 28 Lecture - Machuga Student Center**

Dr. Susan Esquillin, director of Psychology Internship Programs at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, will discuss Child Sexual Abuse from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. For more information contact Dr. B. Pakizegi of the Psychology Dept. at ext. 2643.

**March 1 Majors and Minors Day**  
Faculty members from all majors will meet with students in the Machuga Student Center Ballroom from 11:30

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to answer questions and take applications.

**Shea Center Midday Artist Series.**

A jazz concert will be held at 12:30 p.m., admission is \$3. For more information call the Shea Center Box Office at 720-2371.

**Student Government Association Executive Board Meeting**  
Machuga Student Center, Room 326.

**March 2 "An Evening with Janis Ian"**  
Singer/songwriter Janis Ian performs at the Shea Center for Performing Arts, 8 p.m.. For tickets or more information, call the box office at 720-2612.

**March 3 Sister to Sister Conference IV**  
Based on the theme "Empowerment by Respecting

Self and Others: Embracing Womanism and Feminism," the purpose of the conference is to give female students an outlet for open communication and to develop a greater sense of self-commitment to academic and career success. To register, call Paulette Brower-Garrett at 720-2612.

**March 5 Student Government Association Club Presidents Meeting, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Machuga Student Center, Room 203-4-5.**

**March 6 Student Government Association Finance Committee Meeting, 12:30 - 2 p.m. Machuga Student Center, Room 324-5.**

**March 8 Student Government Association Executive Board Meeting, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Machuga Student Center, Room 326.**

# Academy Award nominated film, "Erin Brockovich," inspires viewers

by Steven Baker  
Staff Writer

A mother of three, twice divorced, with no money, living in a house crawling with insects, the tenacious Erin Brockovich manages to take her life and transform it.

No, this isn't another exaggerated Hollywood plot, but rather a movie based on a true story and an

## FILM REVIEW

Academy Award nominated film. Like those five nominations, including ones for best picture, best director and best actress.

As a victim in a car collision, Erin Brockovich (Julia Roberts) hires local attorney Ed Masry (Albert Finney) to represent her in court. After a disappointing trial and with only \$75 in her bank account, Brockovich, desperate for a job, simply turns up for work one day at her former lawyer's office. He reluctantly agrees to pay her a small fee.

While mindlessly filing cases, Brockovich stumbles across a pro-bono real estate case in Hinkley, California and

decides to investigate when she finds medical records mixed in with the files.

The story begins as Brockovich visits Donna Jensen (Marg Helgenberger), the subject of the medical records, who reveals that she's been in and out of the hospital with tumors and that her husband suffers from Hodgkin's disease. She tells Brockovich that the mega utility company, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG & E) wants to buy her home and that the company paid for doctors' visits for the family because there's evidence that chromium is in the drinking water, the same chemical that the company uses in its plant nearby.

While uncovering this evidence, the viewer's watch as Brockovich's three children go from sitter to sitter, spending little time with their mother. Eventually Brockovich's next-door neighbor, a biker, George, becomes the family's caregiver for both the children and their mother. He soon becomes Brockovich's love interest and spends more time with her kids than she does, even hearing her baby's first word.

With Brockovich's prod-

ding, Masry takes on the case of the chemical contamination with Brockovich acting as liaison between the firm and the community. She is able to get the majority of plaintiffs to agree on a binding arbitration lawsuit, which allows the attorneys to assemble a case proving that corporate PG & E knew of the contamination in its local plant and did not inform the community of its dangers. In the largest class action lawsuit to date, the judge awarded a sum of \$333 million dollars to the plaintiffs.

The film proves itself to be a success. Roberts' portrayal of Brockovich is compelling to watch, not only because of Roberts' own talents, but more because it is based on a true story. Watching her fight a utility giant, comparable to the fight of David against Goliath, brings the viewer hope and joy when she is victorious.

But however enjoyable this film is to watch, there are a few points where it misses the mark. The dynamics between next-door-neighbors George and Brockovich was, at times awkward and confusing. Also the relationship between Brockovich

and Masry was plainly lacking in emotion. Whenever a scene involving this duo appeared, I began to daydream, as they didn't keep my interest.

But Roberts does an excellent job as Brockovich; I wouldn't doubt it if she walked away with the Oscar in March, just as she did with the Golden Globe award last January.

The film's most redeeming scene is that in which Brockovich visits with plaintiff Donna Jensen once again to tell her of their success. She brings her boyfriend George along to show him what he helped to do in watching her children while she fought for this the Jensens. In this meeting, Brockovich tells Donna that her family will receive a \$5 million dollar settlement. Overwhelmed, Donna embraces Brockovich saying that she doesn't even know how much money that is.

This is a scene in which the justice system of the United States of America does right by its constituents, finally putting a community's interests over big business and proving that Brockovich did indeed "bring a small town to its feet and a

**"BOYS LIFE," from Page 6**  
conversation and seems to be in his own world. Somehow though, the three have gained friends.

Each of the men is in the type of relationship. Jack is married, but finds a love interest as he sits on a bench in the park while watching his son in the playground. Don keeps to himself about Lisa, his latest friend, who he cheats on but eventually marries. And then there is Phil. Phil loves Karen,

whom he has "dated" only twice. Karen wants nothing to do with Phil but he pursues Karen, professing his undying love for her. Each of the relationships is dysfunctional in one way or another; not too far off from the reality of actual relationships.

"Boy's Life" is part of the Performing Arts Theater Series and features WPU students, alumni, and students from other schools. Each of the actors was able to make their character their own almost to the point of

believing that this was really going on in their lives.

As Jack, Drogan is witty, condescending and right on target; the audience laughed at his sarcasm and sense of humor. Reisman, a high school senior, manages to pull off the idea and actions of an older Don. His character is sensitive, levelheaded, and reasonable; all qualities that shone through Reisman's performance. Lieberman gives a passionate and hysterical performance as Phil, making the

character's neurosis come to life with a touch of hysterics.

Raechel Heffers, Virginia Kamenitzer, and Monica C. Trim play the love interests of the men and help make them who they are. All three women are funny, sharp, as befitting their characters.

The two newcomers to the group, Oscar Ramirez and Gaby Ortega, who only had small parts, did very well. Ortega especially did a fantastic job at making the audience

## ORSON, from Page 4

schools, two junior high schools, and nine elementary schools.

"Teaching is a wonderful session—it gives you the opportunity to change the world," she said. "Children are the future."

For those students that are undecided about if they want to pursue a teaching profession Orson suggested that parents become active in child and after-school programs.

"Students can not change their mind mid-stream (in his profession)," said Orson. "You either love it, hate it, or you're not good at it."

Orson pointed out that she could teach her students to do the particulars in the classroom, but the rest is up to

the individual.

"It is hard to teach someone how to teach," she said. "A student teacher has to have the knack for it."

Orson doesn't feel that she has changed any since her new title came into effect last November. She believes that being mayor is just another role to add to her collection of wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher.

Despite her political role that she plays daily, one can get a sense that teaching is her ultimate passion.

"There is more to school than book learning," she said. "School should be social learning."

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