

William Paterson University • Volume 70 No. 11

\$9k in computer equipment stolen from campus buildings

By Larry Clow Editor in Chief

Almost \$9,000 worth of computer equipment was stolen from campus buildings during a string of robberies that campus police believe occurred during Thanksgiving break.

Computers, monitors, and printers were reported stolen from Hobart Hall, the Science Building, and the Atrium on Monday, Dec. 1, according to Campus Police Chief Michael Horvath.

The (incidents) reported on Dec. 1 occurred over Thanksgiving break," Horvath said.

Stolen from the Atrium were a computer and flat screen monitor;

stolen from the Science Building were a laptop computer and a global positioning system; stolen from Hobart Hall were a computer monitor and printer.

Campus police are investigating the robberies and have several leads, according to Horvath.

Three laptop computers were stolen in the North Tower between Nov. 3 and Nov. 4, according to the WPU crime log. The thefts do not appear to be related to the thefts that occurred over Thanksgiving break, Horvath said.

"Right now, we haven't tied those incidents from the towers to those incidents in the Atrium," he said.

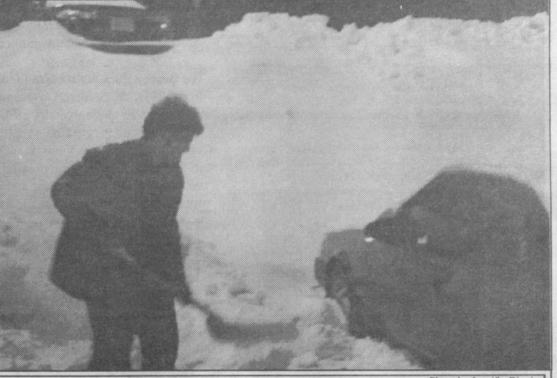


Photo by Jennifer Riggins

Beacons removed from SC rack

Approximately 200 copies of The Beacon were illegally removed from a distribution rack located on the first floor of the Student Center sometime between Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.

The Beacon is the independent student newspaper of William Paterson University. It receives no

funding from the university or the Student Government Association and generates revenue through the sale of advertising. The Beacon has a circulation of nearly 4,000 copies.

Anyone with information about the missing papers is encouraged contact editor in chief Larry Clow at 973-720-3264

Snowstorm pummels university

region last weekend, dumping more than a foot of snow.

Saturday and Sunday due to the incliment weather.

While many students stayed inside or ven-

tured out to dig out their cars, senior Frank

Simini coped with the storm in a different way

"I just sort of plowed it and made a boatload of money," he said.

free

Monday, December 8, 2003

Simini made over \$400 plowing snow during the weekend. He also helped other students by plowing cars out of parking lots

Couple lectures on relationship shadowed by AIDS virus

By Jennifer Riggins Managing Editor

What would you do if you fell in love with someone who is HIV positive?

Shawn Timothy Decker grew up in the 80s, believing he would die of AIDS. Now, 17 years later, he and Gwenn Barringer are planning their wedding, as they travel around, visiting universities to share their experience of dating and having sex when a partner has AIDS. Decker and Barringer spoke on Wednesday, Dec. 3 as a part of the Department of Residence Life's AIDS Awareness Week

In 1987, Decker was diagnosed with HIV, which he contracted because of plasma injections to treat his hemophilia. "Back then, if you have AIDS, you're gonna die and its

gonna be painful," said Decker. Upon diagnosis, Decker was promptly expelled from the sixth grade. After a legal battle, when he was re-admitted for the seventh grade, they passed around a flyer in homeroom

advertising his illness to the entire school. When he was diagnosed, Decker was given a life expectancy of six months to two years. In the mid-90s, he was told he had 10 years.

"Now they've gotten tired of trying to put a number on me," said Decker.

"When condoms break, it's the person failing the condom, not the condom failing the person." -Gwenn Barringer

Barringer, who met him through service through an AIDS service organization, says she is not scared of getting AIDS. They have been having sex and using condoms for more than four years.

"When condoms break, it's the person failing the condom, not the condom failing the person," said Barringer.

In addition, different kinds of condoms - generic versus brand name - are not more or less safe because they are all tested the same way. The couple suggests trying them all until you find what feels best for you.

If they wish to one day have children together, there is now a successful "sperm-washing" process that over 300

Americans have been born HIV-negative with an HIV-positive father

In 1999, Decker was diagnosed with AIDS, right after he started dating Barringer.

"I'm the healthiest I think I've been in 15 years," said Decker.

Decker said that the medical community does not have any luck curing viruses; they cannot even cure the common cold, and HIV is a much more complicated mutating virus. However, he thinks a vaccine is "not too far off", possibly within the next 15 years.

Still, HIV-AIDS patients like Decker remain in "Insurance Hell", as for the same plan, Decker has to pay five times as much as Barringer.





On the road with The New Amsterdams Page 11

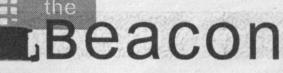
Insider

Shopping for Gentlemen Page 7



Heavy snow pounded the North Jersey

William Paterson University was closed



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Calendar Events

Thursday

SGA Executive Board Meeting

SC 326

4 p.m.

Greek Senate Meeting SC 203

5 p.m.

Thursday Spotlight Series

Center Cafe

6 p.m.

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Monday

Friday

12.11

Mass @ Prince of Peace

Chapel 12:30p.m., 5 p.m.

First Aid/CPR

Rec Center

7 p.m.

Exams Begin--Good luck!

Kevin Meany Christmas Show

Shea Auditorium

8 p.m.

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12.08

12.12



Next semester, The Beacon will need your help. We need news, sports, and features writers! We need advertising sales representatives! We need graphic designers! Most of all, we need YOU! Call 720-3264 or email: beacon@student.wpunj.edu TODAY!

Tuesday 12 • 09 Beacon Staff Meeting SC 310

12:30 p.m.

Mass @ Prince of Peace Chapel 12:30p.m.

> Java & Jazz Center Cafe 12:30 p.m.

SGA Legislature Meeting SC 203 3:30 p.m.

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Saturday 12 • 13 Men's/Women's Swim vs. NJIT 1 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Hunter

Campus Calendar submissions are taken on a space-available basis: first come, first printed.

Submissions for calendar due fridays by noon for following Monday's publication. Fax: 973-720-2093

Email: beacon@student.wpunj.edu

SC 203 5 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Kean Rec Center, 6 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Kean Rec Center, 8 p.m. Sunday 12 • 14

Wednesday 12.10

SAPB Meeting

Mass Prince of Peace Chapel 10:45 a.m., 7:30 p.m.

CCM Christmas Concert Prince of Peace Chapel 8 :30 p.m.

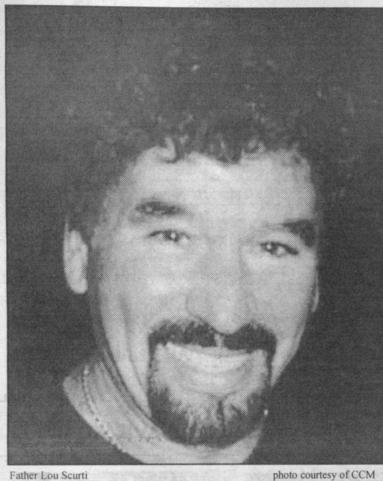
> A Christmas Carol Shea Auditorium 3 p.m.

Come up and check out The Beacon in the Student Center, room 310

2 the beacon • december 08, 2003



"Father Lou" celebrates 30 years in priesthood



Father Lou Scurti

By Larry Clow Editor iin Chief

Father Lou Scurti has been a fixture in the William Paterson campus community for a quarter of a century. This week, he celebrates another important milestone as he marks his thirtieth anniversary in the priesthood.

"Faith and the church has always been in my life," Scurti said.

Scurti, originally from Jersey City, was ordained on Dec. 8, 1973. When applying to college, he was torn between Seton Hall University, where he would study divinity, and New Jersey City College, where he would study art history. He decided to go to whichever college accepted him first. His acceptance letter from Seton Hall arrived on a Friday afternoon; a letter from NJCC arrived the following Monday. Scurti made his way to Seton Hall and it was there he decided to become a priest.

"It was a combination of family, social environment, and the piece that's inexplicable, the calling, the Holy Spirit," he said. "I taught high school before I became a

priest... the part I enjoyed the most

was the counseling, the listening ... " Art has also had a major influence in Scurti's life. A painter and sculptor, Scurti holds a degree in art history from Johns Hopkins

University. His artwork hangs in the chapel, which will host an exhibition of his work in 2004. As a child, he often sketched scenes from the Bible.

"I appreciate church art. I've been painting and sculpting since I was a child," he said. "Sometimes I tell people I was born with a pencil in my hand."

Scurti came to WPU in 1978. At the time, there was no chapel on campus, and Scurti worked out of the Newman House, a small building formerly located next to Gate One

"I'm lucky because I came into a progressive Diocese," he said. "Originally, I thought I'd only be here one or two terms (eight years)."

However, Scurti stayed, and said the campus ministry has grown tremendously since he started.

"I don't think I would have wanted to stay as long as I have without the enthusiasm of the community,"

he said. "Once we built the chapel (in 1999), so much has blossomed."

During his time on campus, Scurti has not only served as a spiritual adviser, but also has worked as a professor, teaching classes in history, sociology, and the fine arts.

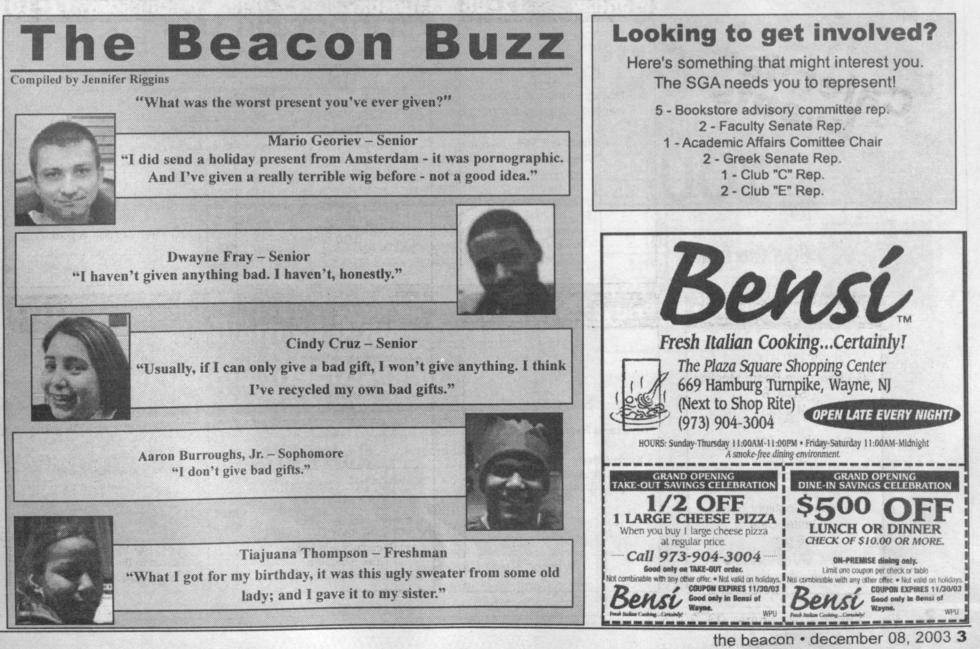
He sees college as an important place for students to explore their spirituality.

"These are the formative years that students need the access of faith resources," he said. "Students go through experiments, it's very important to be here, be present, and be available, if there's a need they know where to go."

In addition to his ministry and his work as an artist, Scurti also is a licensed family and marriage therapist. He said keeps up with his busy schedule with the help of faith and a handy day planner.

Although he's not sure what the next 30 years will bring, he is confident faith will guide him.

"There are a few irons in the fire...it's in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Things don't always logically follow on top of one another," he said.



Ask the Adviser: Study tips for final exams

By the staff of The Gloria S. Williams Advisement Center

It's that time of the semester where students can be found shouting that nasty little F-word all over campus. That's right, it's time for FINALS! Now, before you start hyperventilating, there are a few tricks that you can utilize to help you get through this stressful time

1. Find out when your exams are. This is the most important step in preparing for finals. The last thing you want is to be caught off-guard by a professor that planned the final exam for the class before finals week starts. The final exam schedule can be found on page 36 of the Master Schedule for this semester. (Make sure that you look in the Fall 2003 MS and not the Spring 2004 MS). It is also a good idea to double check with your professors to make sure they have not scheduled the exam for an earlier time. Copies of the exam schedule can also be found in the Advisement Center located in Wayne Hall. At the bottom of this page is instructions for special exam schedules. These include evening classes, Saturday classes and multi-section classes. The schedule can be a bit confusing, so don't be afraid to ask a fellow student, professor or one of the advisors in our office for help reading it.

2. Make a study schedule, and stick to it. You do not want to be stuck cramming the night before each of your exams. All nighters are not as good as they seem. They will only make you tired and less focused during your study time and during the test. Allowing an extra hour a day from now until exam time should give you plenty of time to review your course material thoroughly, but without it being overwhelming.

3. Find out which material will be on the exam. Professors will most often inform their students as to whether the exam will be comprehensive (includes all material discussed during the semester), partially comprehensive (covering all materials from a certain point on), or if it will only be on the material covered since the last test taken in that course. If the syllabus for your class does not say, you've lost the syllabus and/or you simply are unsure, do not be afraid to ask the professor.

4. Don't over study. Yes, it is possible to over study. For example, if you have already read a chapter, then skim over it and concentrate on the areas that give you the most trouble. It isn't necessary to read every word of every chapter, repeatedly. Make sure to read the summaries and make sure you understand the main point of each chapter. Reading everything and placing a high importance on all of it will make it harder to remember which parts are important and which are simply supporting materials. This also applies to your notes. A good study habit to develop throughout the entire semester is to take the time to review your notes at least once a week. That way, when it comes to exam time, most of the information will be familiar and

easier to understand. If you haven't kept up to date with your reading or reviewing, then now is the time to do it. In cases such as this, it is especially important that you find out what material specifically you need to concentrate on. Most professors will usually give you a general idea of what to concentrate on if you ask.

5. Visit the Academic Support Center. The ASC is located in Hunziker Wing, room 218. There are tutors available for a variety of subjects and the center also has some review materials available to help you prepare for your exams. These services are available during the entire semester, so if there is a class you are having difficulty with, stop by the ASC and see what they have to offer.

6. Get to know the library. The library is an excellent place to prepare for exams. It offers a quiet location, privacy and also access to people and materials that can help you complete your project, write your paper, or find more information to allow a more complete understanding of the topic you are studying. The library also has computers available and will have extended hours during exam time. The hours should be posted on the doors of the library or you can ask one of the many library assistants what the hours are.

7. Remember to take breaks, but not too many. Taking small breaks to get something to eat, watch a TV show, sleep, or to take a walk, etc. are important. Your brain needs these breaks to allow full processing of the information you've just studied. Just like

mentioned in number 4, if you spend too many hours at a time studying without stopping can actually make your studying less effective. After a while, all of the information can start to turn into a blur of nonsense. Breaks can also prevent you from becoming overwhelmed or simply bored.

These steps are not a foolproof way to ace exams week, but they can help. Everyone has a different style or method for studying, so it is important to find out what works best for you. Now, let's review: Find out when your exams are, what they are on, make time to study, but allow time for breaks, and don't be afraid to ask for help. Setting up study groups, making flash cards, and reviewing your notes/readings are all good ways to help you prepare for exams and also prevent you from getting overwhelmed by finals week.

> Want to get involved? Call us today at 973-720-3264 and find out how you can join The Beacon



Student groups sponsor Vermont ski trip

skiers/boarders. Lessons are available and Smugglers' ski school has an excellent reputation for working with beginners. They also offer activities such as indoor pool/ hot tubs, cross-country and snowshoe trails, ice skating, snow mobile tours, snow tubing and much more. Since Smugglers' Notch is near Canada there are also plans to offer an evening bus trip to Montreal, Canada if enough participants elect this option.

Tickets are currently on sale in the Campus Activities office, room 332 of the Student Center. Contact Ginny Way at x3244.

For additional information or specifics you may contact Nick DiMinni, Outdoors Club Advisor at x2481. We look forward to seeing you on the slopes!

beacon@student.wpunj.edu

send us mail!

50/50 Raffle on December 4,

Gerry Brennan SGA Attorney

Available Every Wednesday in SC 326 from 2-8pm

campus news



WPU Crime Log: Nov. 20-Dec. 4

November 20

At 1103 hours, a campus police officer responded to Lot 6 on a reported criminal mischief to a motor vehicle. A report was filed, and there are no suspects at this time. This case is open for further investigation.

At 1144 hours, a campus police officer responded to Access Road on a reported attempted robbery. Four individuals approached on individual and demanded money. When this one individual failed to comply, this individual was assaulted. This victim did not seek any medical attention. There are no suspects at this time, and this investigation is open for further investigation.

At 1550 hours, a campus police officer responded to the South Tower on a reported theft. A report was filed and this case has been referred to Residence Life for further action.

At 2249 hours, a campus police officer responded to the North Tower on a reported criminal mischief to a sprinkler head. A report was filed and this case is open for

further investigation.

November 21 At 0302 hours, a campus police officer responded to Lot 6 on a reported upset female. As a result, a report was taken and this case is open for further investigation of a possible domestic violence.

November 22

At 0107 hours, a campus police officer responded to the Towers circle on a reported robbery. This involved an attempted removal of the victim's cell phone and the taking of the pizza this individual was delivering. The actor was apprehended. The victim declined prosecution and this case is closed.

At 0231 hours, a campus police officer responded to Heritage Hall on an individual attempting to enter using another individual's identification. This individual was referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

November 24

At 2117 hours, a campus police officer responded to South Tower on a reported use of a controlled dangerous substance. As a result, one individual was referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

November 26

At 0537 hours, a concerned parent called campus police to report that two individuals residing in Century Hall had not returned home. As a result, missing persons investigations were begun. Reports were taken by a campus police officer. Two individuals were located as well as another suite mate. These cases are cleared.

November 27

At 0544 hours, a campus police officer took a report of a missing person from Hillside Dormitory. This individual was located and the case was cleared.

December 1

At 0740 hours, a campus police officer responded to Hobart Hall on a reported theft of a computer, printer, and a radio. A report was filed and there are no suspects at this time. The case is open for further investigation.

At 0844 hours, a campus police officer responded to the Science

Building on a reported theft. A laptop computer and a GPS system were taken. A report was filed and the case remains open for further investigation.

At 0911 hours, a campus police officer responded to Hobart Hall on a reported theft of a computer monitor and printer. A report was filed and there are no suspects at this time. This case remains open for further investigation.

At 0919 hours a campus police officer responded to Lot 6 on a reported theft from a motor vehicle. A report was filed, and there are no suspects at this time. This case remains open for further investigation.

At 1241 hours, a campus police officer responded to the Atrium on a reported theft of a computer and flat screen monitor. A report was filed and there are no suspects at this time. This case remains open for further investigation.

At 1454 hours, a campus police officer responded to Hobart Hall on a reported recovery of stolen property, a printer and keyboard. A report was filed and there are no suspects at this time. This case remains open for further investigation.

December 2

At 1337 hours, a campus police officer responded to the facilities office on a reported bias incident. A report was filed and the case remains open for further investigation.

At 1546 hours, a campus police officer responded to Hunziker Hall on a reported theft of keys and change. A report was filed and there are no suspects at this time. This case remains open for further investigation.

December 4

At 0226 hours, a campus police officer responded to Heritage Hall to assist a shuttle bus driver. This involved two individuals attempting to harass two other individuals, along with the driver of the bus. This case remains open for further investigation.

Scenes from the SGA 2003 Holiday Party

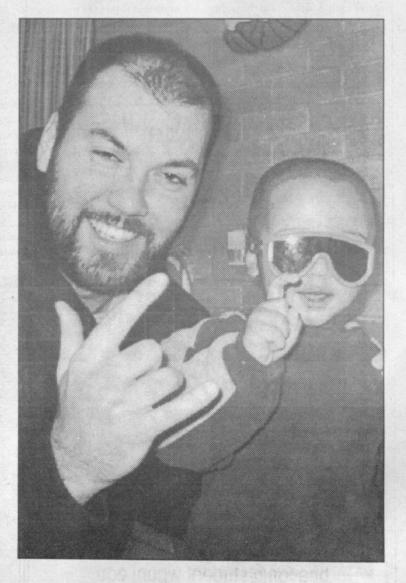
CUR

The Student Government Association hosted the annual Holiday Party on Sunday, Dec. 7 in the Student Center Ballroom. Over 50 children from Paterson attended the party, where they were treated to games, gifts, and a visit from Santa himself, played by junior Jim Schofield.

Above: Santa listens patiently as children tell him their holiday wishes.

Right: Junior Gary Rich makes a friend at the Holiday Party

Photos by Jennifer Riggins



Graduating senior reflects on friends, family, time at WPU

By Michael Arp Contributor

Graduation is supposed to be an exciting and joyous time, so I ask myself why I am not happier about graduating from William Paterson University. To tell you the truth, I feel more guilt than any other emotion. I can't help thinking about all my friends that have come and gone here at WPU; not only the ones that will graduate after me, but the ones that have wasted so much time and money only to decide to give up after a year or two.

I am the first of my group of friends to graduate, and I feel as if I must dedicate my graduation to all my lost friends that have touched my life at WPU, only to disappear into obscurity due to many diverse reasons. My entire crew from freshman year has disappeared; I am the only person left of that group of friends that I, in my naïve youth, thought would graduate together. A few left for the Army or Marines, a few more due to lack of money, a few others to deal with legal

issues that forced them out, some just flunked out, and then there are the ones who had the sense to just transfer out of WPU. All but two of these "good" friends of mine have fallen out of contact with me. I guess my ide-

ing William Paterson. I met so many wonderful and interesting people during my tenure at this school with whom I have had the opportunity to share so many memories with. I met my beautiful and amazing girl-

"Also, unlike most people here, I don't regret attending William Paterson. I met so many wonderful and interesting people during my tenure at this school with whom I have had the opportunity to share so many memories with."

alistic view of graduation was silly and immature, but at the same time it is somewhat depressing to leave this school knowing that most of my friends will never experience what I am about to.

Don't get me wrong: I am happy to graduate and feel as if I am ready to leave William Paterson and begin my "real" life. Also, unlike most people here, I don't regret attend-

friend of over three years, as well as certain friends that I will never forget. As my last classes wear down into what will be my last finals week, I can't seem to shake the image of these forgotten souls lost that have become merely a statistic and a Social Security number in the bowels of the William Paterson file system.

So, to make my point succinctly, I am liv-

ing proof that people do graduate from this school. With this in mind, I must dedicate my graduation to all the people who have come and gone, touched my life, only to disappear out from it once again, and the crazy cats who still remain here, as I depart, who have become friends if not almost family to me. Graduation, to me, has become a mixed emotional roller coaster that has led to this one moment of clarity. I will walk on January 25, 2004 not just for my family and myself, but for all those who could not, due to whatever cards life dealt them. Even though most are no longer in my life, bros and hoes alike, I tell you all I could write a book on the insane memories that we all have shared. I would not exchange these times and experiences for anything in the world. Good Bye William Paterson University; even though I talked so much shit about you during my stay, there is no place I would have rather spent the last four and a half years of my life.

Blocked amendments show democracy not found in SGA

Commentary By Corey Schor College of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative

Members of the Student Government Association Executive Board blocked key amendments to the SGA Constitution during last week's Executive Board Meeting. The first proposed amendment would have allowed Class Presidents the right to nominate students to fill vacant positions within their own classes. The current system allows the SGA president to nominate any student to a vacant position without the consent or

approval from any of the class officers. For example, the president can appoint his or her friends to the position, but the other class officers. will have no say in the nomination process. Some members on the Exective Board might reply that the president takes into consideration a request from the class president; however, the president has not done this on all occasions in the past. This is an indisputable fact. The simple fact is that the president should not have the complete power to make and block nominations to every vacant position on the legislature.

The second proposed amendment would allow Club B, C and E Representatives to be appointed through Club Presidents' meetings. Once again, the Executive Board denied the clubs the right to choose their own representatives. To fill a vacant Club Representative position in SGA, the President must nominate an individual and that nomination must be approved by twothirds by the Legislature. The problem is that the SGA Legislature has no ability to deny a particular appointee because they have to give the benefit of the doubt to the president's appointees and believe the

appointee will be fair and impartial on every topic covered in SGA. Keeping the nomination power in the hands of the SGA President is clearly not in the best interest of the students. For example, the President can block a nomination based on his or her personal views rather than based on the qualifications of the nominee. It is good to have differing opinions within an organization. With this decision, the Executive Board, in support of the President, is telling the students that one person is running the entire show in a clearly dictatorial fashion. This President will only

appoint Legislators that agree with her agenda.

However, I do applaud the courageous efforts of Senior Class President Dan Kreifus, Junior Class President Catherine Sohor, CJR Chair Dan Clarke, and all members of the Court of Judicial Review who approved the two amendments because they believe in fairness, diversity of opinions, and democra-CY.



6 the beacon • december 08, 2003

Understand III

features



The Gentlemen's Corner

Christmas shopping for the discerning gentleman

By Pat Bennett and Brian "Brain" Morris Staff Writers

Good evening everyone and welcome to this semester's final edition of The Gentlemen's Corner. Since the Christmas Season is officially upon us, we will be discussing how a gentleman does his Christmas shopping and what one can get a gentleman for the holidays.

Brain: A good gentleman would try to spend as little time in the crowded shopping malls and department stores as possible. We all know the dangers of those crazy broads with the baby carriages and kids on a leash, running around looking for the Tickle-Me-Elmo and Christmas Barbie Play Houses for their pain in the ass kids.

Pat: Right. Before a gentleman enters a store, he knows exactly what he wants to get. That way, when he makes his way into the store, he can focus all of his efforts and energies on obtaining that gift. No bullshit, no problems...except for the nagging kids, broom-swinging broads, and pissed-off clerks. Ain't the holidays fun?

Brain: Just like a military mission, one must make a better plan before he makes the dreaded jump into the



"I want a box of Macanudos, a bottle of Jack Daniels, a pair of slippers, a DVD player and 'The Republic' for Christmas."

mall for his shopping adventure. A well executed battle plan in the mall can always make for good conversation at the pub or around the pinochle table.

Pat: Definitely. Now, if a man doesn't want to venture out to the mall, he can always make his way over to the computer.

Brain: Why bother with the stores when you have a whole world of shopping at your fingertips? And even better, you don't even have to wear pants to shop. And every man knows anything you can do without pants is the way to go.

Pat: Yeah, you can shop in your boxers and wife-beater, or, better yet, naked. No shoes, no shirt, but this time you get service. And you don't have to deal with the crowds – just a slow internet connection.

Brain: You can have all your shit shipped to your house in two weeks. And the only person you have to see is the UPS guy.

Pat: Unless you leave a note for

him to leave it at your doorstep. Once a gentleman has done his Christmas shopping, it's time for his loved ones to do some shopping for him.

Brain: I hate when people always ask me what I want for Christmas, because I have no clue what I would want. I say just look at the stuff I already have and go from there.

Pat: It's easy for me – booze, cigars, CDs. Basically, anything manly, like slippers, a suit. Any electronic equipment like CD players, DVD players, speakers, computers, cameras, or watches is always cool.

Brain: That always works for me. I personally like books. Usually something that has to do with history or philosophy will work for me.

Pat: I once got a pony for Christmas...thanks Mom. I would have preferred a dog, but no, they mess up the house. I jokingly put a pony on my list one year and I actually get one. Go figure! (I love you, ma!)

Brain: I hate when people in my family get something to be put together or something that has to be connected because I'm always the one that has to deal with it.

Pat: When you were a kid, didn't you get things that had to be assembled?

Brain: Yeah, and I always had to put everybody else's crap together before my own. And sometimes my mum would not let me use my toys until father looked at it. So when I was a lad it could be weeks before I could play with my toys.

Pat: That sucks. I always insisted on opening and playing with my toys on Christmas Day.

Brain: I couldn't always do that, remember, I have a hundred million family members, so I always had to go here and there.

Pat: Ahh yes, the joys of a large family.

Unlike a woman, a gentleman is easy to shop for. You can never go wrong with booze, cigars, books, music, and electronics. And unlike a woman, men shop the same way Al Bundy has sex – in and out in less than two minutes. Brain and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, too! We'll see you all next semester. And if you don't like it, tough shit...

Patty's Bar-time Review: The 2003 bar retrospective

By Patty Kunath Staff Writer

I know I've been sluggish this semester with fulfilling my duty as the bar reviewer, but I am here to make it up to you in my final bar-time review. Final is such a drastic term--I don't want to write myself off completely. I could re-negotiate my contract to allow myself some cameo appearances and perhaps some walk-on roles in The Beacon. Maybe I could show up in the classifieds, stick my picture in there so I won't be forgotten. Either way, that won't stop me from reflecting over my award-winning career as a bar reviewer. So, without further ado, I present to you a glance at the best bars I've been to since turning 21.

New York City has a lot of great bars. I always recommend going to McSorely's, located at 15 E 7th street, to start off a night. It's always an interesting experience. The beer there is cheap and you only have two choices, so it is easy to get drunk fast. You can get a good buzz at McSorely's without emptying your pockets. Right down the street is the Burp Castle. This place has an extensive list of beers and features monks as waiters! However the Burp Castle will empty your pockets if you select beer from the specialty menu. The Korova Milk Bar, located on 200 Avenue is also slightly pricey; however, there are shot deals on Friday nights. Korova's specialty is Moloko, a milky drink from "A Clockwork Orange," the film that inspired the bar.

New Brunswick is a great city in New Jersey that is host to many college bars. Stuff Yer Face, located at 49 Easton Ave., is an all time favorite, serving the best stromboli in town, not to mention fishbowl sized drinks. The upstairs is now an Irish bar, which I have yet to check out. Tumulty's is another Irish bar, a couple blocks down on College Ave. The upstairs is a restaurant, while the downstairs bar hosts open mic on Wednesdays. Near Tumulty's is the Court Tavern on 124 Church St, a historic bar that has hosted such acts as Nirvana and the Smithereens. My favorite bar to visit in New Brunswick would have to be the Ale N' Wich, on the corner of Hamilton and Louis. There is so much to please at this bar: a pool and foosball table, a great jukebox and an outside patio with a Simpson's mural. Oh yeah, and the alcohol is good, too, featuring rarities like Black Voodoo Magic Beer

If you love the 80's and dancing, Aldo's Hideaway (749 Marin Ave, Lyndhurst) and the Loop Lounge (373 Broadway, Passiac) are the places for you. Both offer a night of New Wave (Fridays at Aldo's, Wednesday and' Saturday at The Loop) spun by DJ Ted Wrigley. Both have a cover for men after 10 p.m., but there's no cover for the ladies. Aldo's offer's a discount on well drinks before 11 p.m. The best part about dancing at these places is that they often play the video's to correspond to the songs they play. There's nothing like seeing Rob Smith singing when you're dancing to "Friday I'm in Love".

Finally getting closer to campus, a must for

all is the Shepherd and the Knucklehead. It is within walking distance (in good weather) down the street at 529 Belmont Ave. I have walked this distance both there and back, so I personally know it is possible, although I recommended you do not walk it alone. This small, but comfortable bar has an astounding 20 beers on tap, ranging from Shipyard Pumpkin Ale to Rogue Shakespeare Stout. The Shepherd is an enclave to writers, artists, vagabonds, and other free spirits-pictures of Jack Kerouac adorn the walls. There are only two booths and maybe a dozen chairs, but that won't stop you from having a good time! There are plenty of games and books available for those who manage to get bored.

That wraps up my bar hopping reflection. I haven't been able to touch on all the bars I went to, but they are remembered. It has been a great experience, sharing my own personal experiences with you and perhaps I shall reappear sometime in the future.

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Based on the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America, APO regularly performs service to the college, community and country as the principle focus of our activities. We have collected almost \$200 to support pediatric AIDS research, cleaned up the trails around campus, participated in the Breast Cancer Walk and collected kitchen goods and school supplies for needy families. APO is always looking for new ways to serve all mankind. If you are interested in helping to serve, or if you just want more information, visit www.apowpunj.tk or stop any brother wearing our letters and ask. Hoobastank Interviewed

Meet The New Amsterdams

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Willy P Rock Show Recap: FIXER, 9 Circles, Tokyo Rose, and Jeremiah Freed live





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Backstage With Hoobastank

By Jessica Sager and Jessica Zacharda Courtesy of Planet Verge magazine

On the way to see Hoobastank in Philly with the All-American Rejects for the Nokia Unwired Tour, our cab crashed into the side of a Volvo while turning on red in a "No Turn On Red" zone. But once we got there to chat it up with drummer Chris Hesse, he was wearing a hat that said "Fuck You!" So we knew it would all be okay.

How long have you guys been together? Hesse: We've been a band for almost nine years. That's a long time!

Where the hell did your name come from? Hesse: It's a gas station in Germany. It's the only name of anything from there that I remember.

Were you guys in any bands before forming Hoobastank? Hesse: Yeah, I was in a couple bands in high school, and the rest of the guys were in bands too.

What odd jobs did you have before being a band full time?

Hesse: I worked in a nursery.

Aww!

Hesse: No, no, a plant nursery, not kids.

Hesse: Dan and Doug worked in YMCA with kids, and Markku worked as a set designer for porns. Can't be that hard? Bed, fluorescent lights? Boom, you're done!

What's the first CD you ever bought? Hesse: Hmm, Air Supply's Greatest Hits.

What bands are you guys into right now? Hesse: We're all into pretty much everything. Markku likes a lot of trip hop and electronica, and the rest of us are into rock. I really like heavy stuff.

Who are your biggest musical influences for this album?

Hesse: Hmm, I dunno. We all like Primus and Fishbone and Faith No More. We like a lot of funk.

Any strange fan experiences? Stalkers, babies on your doorsteps, voodoo dolls, all that good stuff? Hesse: Not really, haha.

In light of the RIAA suing adolescents on welfare, what's your view on downloading music?

Hesse: I dunno, I'm kinda torn, 'cause you know, one side of the fence is, it is stealing, and record sales are down, and this is the way we make our money-it's ruining the music industry and a lot of bands who

> you'd like to see tour can't because they can't afford it. But on the other hand, I downloaded music before, and people don't really think about that when they're downloading them.

What are your pet peeves about touring? Hesse: Being away from home for really long.

And what are your favorites? Hesse:Bowling! We love bowling!

What do you hope to accomplish with your music?

Hesse: We're not a real deep political band; we just like making music. Speaking of political music, what do you think of bands and artists getting involved in politics and protesting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Hesse: I think people need to do whatever they need to do, if they can influence people, hell yeah, do it!

Dream tour-anyone, living or dead, who

Hesse: Hmmm, we've already done that a lot! I love touring with our friends, like Incubus? I'd love to tour with the Foo Fighters, though. That's my personal goal.

Compare this tour with your tour with Sum 41? Hesse: It's different.

Way to go, Captain Specifics. Hesse: I know, I know.

Link: www.hoobastank.com

would it be with?

Photos of the Week

Sergio from The Early November live at Krome. The band returns there on December 14.

Photo by Joelle Caputa/The Beacon

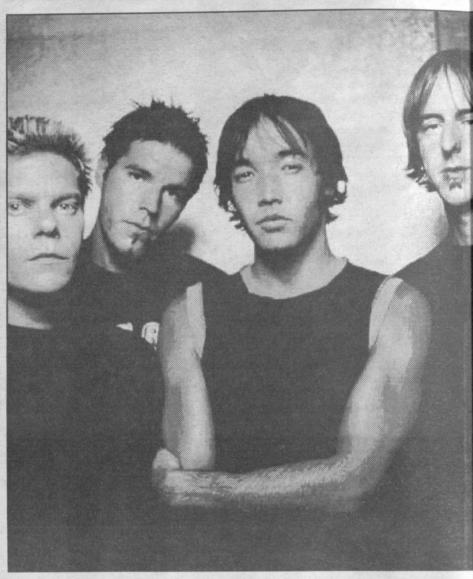




Les Claypool performing with his Frog Brigade at the late, great **Birch Hill Nite** Club.

Photo by Joelle

Want more pics? Visit www.planetverge.com



On The Road with The New Amsterdams

Justin Niemiec The Beacon

The New Amsterdams is an offshoot of emo pioneers The Get Up Kids. Matt Pryor is the primary singer and songwriter for both groups; he started The New Amsterdams as an outlet for his acoustic based compositions. On the group's latest tour in support of Worse For The Wear, released in August on Vagrant Records, Matt and his guitar hit the stage, since the musicians who have backed him on the album were unavailable. The tour finished up last week in Boston and was co-headlined by Straylight Run (who feature exmembers of Taking Back Sunday). I spoke to Matt over the phone a few dates into the tour

How did you hook up with Straylight for this tour?

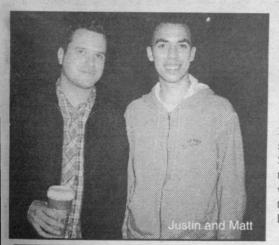
MATT: Well, we have the same booking agent and they also wanted to do a national tour, so

since we share some of the same audience we decided to tour together.

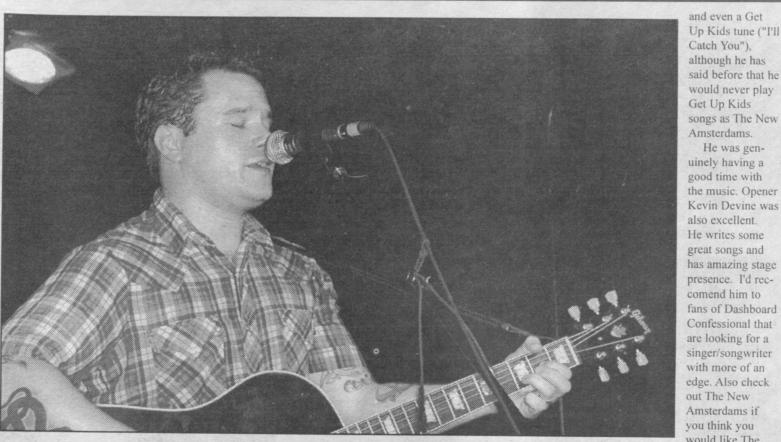
Were you guys friends before the tour started?

MATT: Actually, we'd never met, but we've become friends (laughs). They're really great people and great musicians though, I'm having a good time with them so far.

What's it like up on stage by yourself?



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MATT: I'm adapting (laughs).

How are you playing the piano and organ songs?

MATT: I converted them to guitar. They're a little different, but I think they're working out like that.

So what's your writing process like? How often do you write songs?

MATT: I try to write every day but I just wrote two albums ["Worse For The Wear" and the new Get Up Kids record, out next Spring] so I've been slacking off a bit. I don't want to keep writing the same song over and over again though, so it's good to take a break.

The tour hit The Downtown in Farmingdale, Long Island on November 22. The crowd was clearly not there to see The New Amsterdams, however. Straylight Run is from Long Island, so the hometown crowd was anxious to watch them play and payed little attention to Matt, which was unfortunate. His performance suffered because of this.

He sung poorly (my girlfriend said he sounded like "an angry toddler who has somehow smoked cigarettes for 40 years") and seemed upset at the crowd's reaction (or lack of reaction) to him.

Being a huge fan of both of Matt's groups, I decided that I didn't want a bad crowd to spoil my experience (it was my first time seeing New Amsterdams), so I

dragged an old friend to Maxwell's in Hoboken to the next show on the tour. This time, Matt was the headliner: the Straylight Run tour had ended on Long Island.

This time, the crowd was comprised of New Amsterdams fans. Matt responded by taking requests, playing fun covers, and generally showing the audience a good time. He played and sang much better than he did just two days earlier. He also included more of his older material from his first two albums

would like The Get Up Kids with a laid back feel and some acoustic guitars.

and even a Get

Up Kids tune ("I'll Catch You"),

would never play

He was gen-

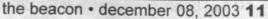


Music News:

Last week in the Beacon, we brought you an interview with up-and-coming New Jersey musician, Val Emmich. This week, we found out he just singed a deal with Epic Records! Look for a re-release of his album, Slow Down Kid, coming soon. Catch Val and his band live this Friday, Dec. 12 at the Starland Ballroom in Sayerville, opening for Fountains of Wayne. Info at www.valemmich.com







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Don Angelini The Beacon

Coheed and Cambria "In Keeping Secrets of Silent Earth: 3"

After turning critics' heads and blazing new creative trails with "The Second Stage Turbine Blade," Nyack, New York's Coheed and Cambria pick up where they left off with "In Keeping Secrets of Silent Earth: 3". As a word of caution to those new to the Coheed experience, frontman Claudio Sanchez's vocals have an extremely high range, which will hopefully grow on you.

This album is undoubtedly a new direction for this band and the musical and lyrical maturity puts "In Keeping Secrets" worlds apart from their debut. It also marks part three that coincides with the four-part graphic novel Sanchez will be releasing the beginnings of soon. The science-fictional lyrics are roughly excerpts from the ongoing saga of well...Coheed and Cambria.

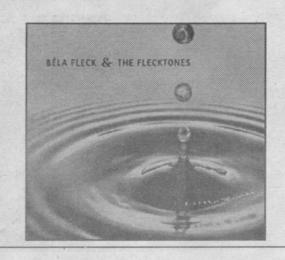
To those familar with their sound, expect surprises galore underneath their progessive rock/emo-core Star Wars-meets-the-bible formula, such as the Santana-esque "The Velourium Camper I: Faint of Hearts" or the demonic backing vocals of "The Velourium Camper III: Al the Killer" and the title track. The concept is brilliant and the musicians behind it have undeniable talent. No one tells a story quite like Coheed and Cambria so I strongly suggest you gather around to listen.

Link-age: <u>www.coheedandcambria.com</u> <u>www.equalvision.com</u>



This is the last issue of the Insider this semester. We know it'll be hard to part with us, but don't worry because we'll be back in January with interviews galore. Here's a sneak peak: we'll be sitting down with the guy you know and love as "Screech." Yep, Dustin Diamond talks to the Insider about his band, Salty the Pocket Knife... Robbie LaFalce (Co-Insider Editor) The Beacon Bela Fleck and the Flecktones "Little Worlds"

The new release from Bela Fleck and the Flecktones is three discs of 'Flecking' fury. For the past decade or so, the Flecktones have been making an incredible hodge-podge of music drawing from jazz, bluegrass, funk and several other genres. This particular release is a very amazing accomplishment for the band and much of this is to be attributed to



Don Angelini The Beacon

Snapcase "Bright Flashes"

For over a decade, Snapcase has made Victory Records their home for unleashing some of the east coast's fiercest progressive punk-hardcore upon the masses. On "Bright Flashes", listeners are offered a unique look at things to come with remixes and



the guests that grace the album, including: Nickel Creek, The Cheiftains, Bernie Williams (from the Yankees), Derek Trucks and many other amazing musicians. The Flecktone's last album entitled "Outbound" was star-studded with guests such as John Medeski (of Medeski, Martin, Wood) and Shawn Colvin.

Some highlights include the tracks "Puffy and "Off the Top" [featuring Nickel Creek] both on Disc I, "Sherpa, on Disc II and Next, Pineapple heart on Disc III. Every song is a fantastica!ly amazing display of all of their almost superhuman musicianship. The album's mood has many ups and downs, from somber love songs to even a corny rap song about Jed Clampet from the "Beverly Hillbillies". The styles of music are so varied that no matter what kind of music a listener is into, they reach out and tickle that spot.

The three-disc set also comes in a one disc compact version. The disc includes more or less a greatest hits from the three disc release and is entitled "10 From Little Worlds".

I give this album an A+ and recommend it to all readers. This and all the Flecktones' albums are available on Sony records. Link: www.flecktones.com

outtakes from their 2002 showing "End Transmission" and covers of Devo, Jane's Addiction, and Helmet. Believe/Revolt (Relocation Blueprint) provides a solid introduction to the album while Refused fans should take note on Exile Etiquette (Only British People Can Fly). While I have never heard the original versions of "Mountain Song" or "Blacktop", I did enjoy their renditions of "Gates of Steel" and (although I found Joey Cape's vocals more fitting in Lagwagon's take on this one) "Freedom of Choice". As far as the outtakes go, while done in true Snapcase fashion, only "Makeshift

> Tourniquet" stood out while the other four songs seemed to be missing something. The enhanced portion of CD includes concept art, bonus mp3 remixes and outtakes (slighty disappointing), live and studio photos and downloads, and the video for "A Synthesis of Classic Forms". For diehard fans, the new material has its moments. Otherwise, you may want to explore the band's previous releases first before trying "Bright Flashes" on for size.

Link-age: <u>www.snapcase.com</u> www.victoryrecords.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM EVERYONE AT THE INSIDER! HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM EVERYONE AT THE INSIDER!

12 the beacon • december 08, 2003

SAPB Rocks Willy P

Joelle Caputa Co-Insider Editor

On Saturday, November 22, SAPB hosted its first-ever rock show in Whitman Gym. Tokyo Rose, FIXER, Jeremiah Freed, 9 Circles, and Change of Structure all took the stage throughout the night. The campus media organizations united to promote the show. WPBN television taped and will be broadcasting it. The week of the event, WPSC 88.7 interviewed Fixer, Change of Structure, and Tokyo Rose on the air. The Beacon conducted interviews with every band all semester, to introduce you to them. Posters were hung up all over campus and flyers were handed out. Yet, the night of the show, hardly anyone came! We'd like to know why. So send your anwser to insidernj@hotmail.com and we'll send you a free surprise.

Why didn't you go to the rock show?

a.) I didn't know there was one because I don't listen to the campus radio station, watch WPBN, read the Insider, or pay attention to flyers on campus.

b.) I don't live on campus and won't come up

- here on a Saturday night. e,) No alcohol was served and I like to get drunk on Saturdays.
- d.) I don't like rock music.
- e.) I prefer to stay locked up in my dorm room all night.
- f.) I am not open to listening to new music.g.) I'm a big tool and just didn't come.



Yearbook Pictures Yearbook Schedule for 2004

Yearbook pictures will be taken in the Student Center, 2nd floor room 115. The schedule is as follows:

First Portrait Session: December 2003

Monday	December 1, 2003	10:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday	December 2, 2003	12 noon - 8:00pm
Wednesday	December 3, 2003	12 noon - 8:00pm
Thursday	December 4, 2003	9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday	December 5, 2003	9:00am - 4:00pm

Make-Up Portrait Session February 2004

Monday	February 2, 2004	10:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday	February 3, 2004	12 noon - 8:00pm
Wednesday	February 4, 2004	12 noon - 8:00pm
Thursday	February 5, 2003	9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday	February 6, 2003	9:00am - 4:00pm

Final Portrait Session March 2004

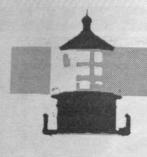
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

March 22, 2004 March 23, 2004 March 24, 2004 March 25, 2004 March 26, 2004 10:00am - 5:00pm 12 noon - 8:00pm 12 noon - 8:00pm 9:00am - 5:00pm 9:00am - 4:00pm

Attire: Men Yearbook pose: Suit/Business Attire Women Yearbook pose: Blouse/Business Attire

Sitting fee: \$10.00

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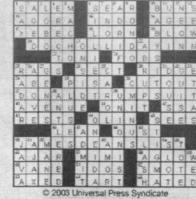
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1:30	1:32	1:34	1:40	1:42	1:50	1:55		
2:00	2:02	2:04	2:10	2:12	2:20	2:25		

EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

Saturdays								
WAYNE	LOT 5 HERTIAGE & PIONEER		VALLEY RD	PREAKNESS	POWER ARTS	NJ TRANSIT		
A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.		
8:00	8:05	8:10	8:20	8:25	8:30	8:45		
9:00	9:05	9:10	9:20	9:25	9:30	9:45		
10:00	10:05	10:10	10:20	10:25	10:30	10:45		
11:00	11:05	11:10	11:20	11:25	11:30	11:45		
P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.		
12:00	12:05	12:10	12:20	12:25	12:30	12:45		
1:00	1:05	1:10	1:20	1:25	1:30	1:45		
2:00	2:05	2:10	2:20	2:25	2:30	2:45		
3:00	3:05	3:10	3:20	3:25	3:30	3:45		
4:00	4:05	4:10	4:20	4:25	4:30	4:45		
5:00	5:05	5:10	5:20	5:25	5:30	5:45		
6:00		-				-		

Sundays								
WAYNE	LOT 5	HERTIAGE & PIONEER	SHOPRITE	POWER ARTS	NJ TRANSIT			
P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.			
12:00	12:05	12:10	12:25	12:30	12:45			
1:00	1:05	1:10	1:25	1:30	1:45			
2:00	2:05	2:10	2:25	2:30	2:45			
3:00	3:05	3:10	3:25	3:30	3:45			
4:00	4:05	4:10	4:25	4:30	4:45			
5:00	5:05	5:10	5:25	5:30	5:45			
6:00	-	-	-	-	-			

Weekday Express

Express shuttle service between Lots 6 and 7 runs every ten minutes from 9:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.

Department of Public Safety, Parking and Transportation Services 973-720-2780, 3000, 3001 Thank You to everyone who helped out at this years Student Government Association Holiday Party

Alain Martin Kashif Wright Aaron Burroughs Jr. Viergina St. Phard **Jim Schofield** Lewis Newton III Marsha Johnson Kerry-Ann Gre Anna Gomah Christina Malatatopoulos Sheila Maurice Olivia Amanfor Virginia Besche Gary Rich Kim Tinker Antoinelle Burke Kalli Protopsaltis Nick DiMini

arten Contract

Organizer, SGA Exec. Vice President

Mercedes-Benz Leadership, SAPB

Club B Rep.

Soph. Class President

Beacon, APO (Alpha Phi Omega)

SGA Vice President

CARIBSA

CARIBSA

USA

USA, SBA, SAPB

SGA Junior Class Vice President

SGA President

Beacon, USA, Political Science Club

Political Science Club, SGA Club B

Field Hockey, Club B Rep. Political Science Club

SGA

SGA Office Manager

SGA Financial Manager

Classifieds

classifieds

Ad Rates Business Rate \$0.50/word WPU/Non-Profit:

\$0.35/word

Payment All ads must be paid in advance. Make Checks

payable to The Beacon

All ads must be received by noon, Friday before publication date.

Deadlines

Send Ads: **Contact:** The Beacon 300 Pompton Rd, SC310 Wayne, NJ 07470 Attn: Ads

beaconads@wpunj.edu Subj: Ads Phone: 973-720-2571 Fax: 973-720-2093

Travel Services

Spring Break 2004. Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator. Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas, Florida. Hiring campus reps. Call for discounts: 800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com

#1 Springbreak operator! Check our web-site for the best deals. www.vagabond tours.com. Cancun, Bahamas, Jamaica, & Florida. Group organizers, EARN FREE TRIPS & CASH ... Call today! 866-273-2500

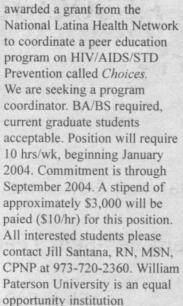
Spring Break '04 with StudentCity.com and Maxim Magazine! Get hooked up with Free Trips, Cash and VIP Status as a Campus Rep! Choose from 15 of the hottest destinations. Book early for FREE MEALS, FREE DRINKS and %150 Lowest Price Guarantee! To reserve online or view our Photo Gallery, visit www.studentcity.com or Call 1-888-SPRINGBREAK!



NEED CASH? Garden work. N experience. Transportation available. Good Pay. ASAP 973-962-9356.

Part-time office assistant reception, meet/greet, phones, clerical. Various schedules available. Work is 15 minutes from school. 201-612-9055 fax 612-8795

Teaching Assistants Wanted-No experience necessary. Must be reliable, open-minded, love children. Special Education major preferred. Free ABA training. (973) 890-9573



The Counseling, Health and

Wellness Center has been

opportunity institution commited to diversity.

Babysitter needed

In Wayne for 10 month old

twins, esp. 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Mon.-Fri. Call Laura

973-616-5688

after school 3:30-7:30PM Mon-

Thurs. 11 and 14 year old girls.

Child Care Services



Bartending Instructions (201) 372-1110 United Bar and Nightclub Association, Inc. WWW.UBNA.ORG

Bring your current school ID to BODY WORKS TANNING SALON 30 Passiac St in Garfield 973-249-1100 and receive a free bronze annual membership! Any questions come in or call!\

Announcements

Looking for love...

But in all the wrong places. You've been to the pet store, the grocery store, the garbage can, and the gas station. But have you looked in The Beacon? Only the cutest, most intelligent, funniest, and all-aroundamazing eligible bachelors and bachelorettes place personals in The Beacon. Previous success stories include a hotel heiress who found love (and a video camera) and two movie stars who merged into a single,

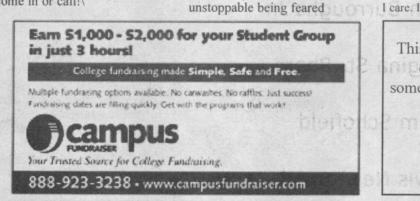
throughout the galaxy. Call 973-270-2571 today and place your ad!

This is the end

Well, that's it. It's all over for the semester. Not a single one of you responded to any of the personal ads. I bet you don't even care. It didn't used to be like this. We used to talk all the time, read to eachother before bed. You're seeing another man, aren't you? You don't love me anymore! I knew it! What will we tell the children? I...I just can't go on like this! I can't live in a loveless relationship! My mother always said you'd cheat on me, but I didn't listen. Oh, why didn't I listen?! That's it. I'm going to my brother's house. You can sleep in this bed of LIES! Go on, cry. See if I care. I've had enough.

This space is what you could use to tell someone what they want to hear.

> 973 720 2571... Tell them!

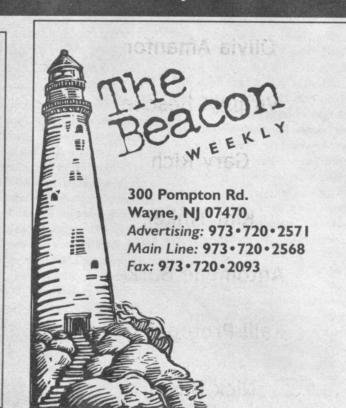


Do stuff for the Beacon. It is fun. Cheese is good. Be a writer or artist or designer or monkey butler.

Come to our meetings Common Hour Tuesdays SC 310

Tip for extra holiday ca\$h:

Lots of businesses are hiring for the holiday season. If commitment isn't really your thing, get one of these jobs and drop it after Christmas. They'll be happy for the help and you'll be happy for the cash.





Must Drive. Refs.

973.492.8813.

Do you need a Roommate? Female student seeks apartment close to school. Preferably non-smoking female, with no pets, but willing to negotiate. Call Malika 973-720-4910.

Are you reading this? So are 4,999 other people. Want them to read about YOU? Advertise to them. Call 973 720 2571 for rates.





McPhail reachs 1,000 points

By David Graham Staff Writer

Senior point guard Kat McPhail scored her 1,000th career point on Wednesday, Dec. 3, but it still wasn't good enough to stop center Liz Martin and The College of New Jersey. Martin finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds as the Lions topped William Paterson by a score of 71-58 in the Pioneers home opener at Wightman Gym.

McPhail sunk two free throws with 5:37 remaining in the first half to become the 16th player in school history to reach the millennium point total. Her 12 points, and the 12 points of Allison Mopsick, were tops for the Pioneers.

TCNJ lead 37-28 after halftime led by the 10 points of Theresa DiMedio, who finished with 15 on the night. The Lions took the lead about one-minute into the game and never looked back from there, maintaining it for the rest of the game. The Pioneers cut the lead to 6



Information Office

points, 46-40 after a bucket by Michelle Bush early in the second half, but an 8-2 run by the Lions. right afterwards sealed the win.

NFL playoffs: what to expect

By David Graham Staff Writer

With only three weeks left in the NFL season, the playoff picture has pretty much been set; with some teams that no one would really expect getting in. Here is a breakdown of both conferences.

The AFC was definitely the best conference to watch this year because of the tight races in the Northern and Southern Divisions. Remember that only six teams from both leagues make the playoffs, with the winners of each of the four divisions automatically clinching a spot. In the AFC East, the New England Patriots are on top and will get home-field advantage throughout the playoffs and the Kansas City Chiefs will easily come out of the West to take the first seed in the AFC playoffs and also get home-field throughout.

In the Northern Conference, the Baltimore Ravens and Cincinnati Bengals, this years Cinderella story, will play each other on Sunday December 7, with the winner taking the division, and the loser taking one of the wild card spots to get into the playoffs. The same will be seen in the Southern Division as well, with the Tennessee Titans and Indianapolis Colts facing off on the same day. Both teams will still make the playoffs, one as the division champ, and the other as the final wildcard spot.

The NFC playoffs are going to be really interesting this year, because the New York Giants, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Atlanta Falcons, and San Francisco 49ers, all teams predicted to make the playoffs before the season started, will have a front row seat in front of their

TVs, watching the games from home. The Philadelphia Eagles will come out of the Eastern Division, and Minnesota will come out of the North, as expected, but the rest of the playoff field will be filled with a couple surprises.

The Carolina Panthers, the most underrated team going into the season, will come out of the South, and the Kurt Warner-less St. Louis Rams will win the Western Division. The race for the last two wild card spots will take place between four teams. The teams are the Green Bay, Dallas Cowboys, Seattle Seahawks, and New Orleans Saints. The powerful offense of the Seahawks will get them into the last spot, and the newlook offensive and defensive packages of Bill Parcells and the Cowboys will get them into the playoffs as well. Now that all of the teams are set, here is a prediction on how the playoffs will turn out this year:

AFC Wildcard:

Tennessee over Baltimore, Indianapolis over Cincinnati **AFC Divisional** Tennessee over New England, Kansas City over Indianapolis AFC Championship Tennessee over Kansas City NFC Wildcard Carolina over Seattle, Dallas over Minnesota **NFC Divisional** Philadelphia over Dallas, St. Louis over Carolina NFC Championship St. Louis over Philadelphia Super Bowl

Tennessee over St. Louis

Roy Jones Jr.: Best boxer ever to live?

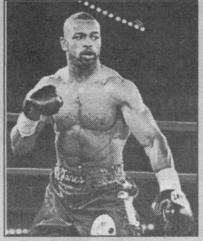
Sports on the Brain

by Corey Schor Staff Writer

Roy Jones Jr. is the best pound for pound fighter in the world. Jones defeated Antonio Tarver on November 8, 2003 by majority decision to reclaim the Light Heavyweight Title Belts he vacated. This fight proved to be Jones' biggest challenge in a storied career. He looked tired and worn out, but champions come on strong in the last few rounds, and that is exactly what Jones did! Let me remind everyone that earlier this year, Jones moved up to Heavyweight and captured the WBA Heavyweight Title. He went up twenty-five pounds to fight a man at two hundred and thirty-four pounds. Jones only weighed in at two hundred pounds! He defeated a bigger, stronger man but he clearly out skilled the pathetic John Ruiz. My point is moving up and down the weight scale is very hard on a fighter. Jones had to sweat off fifteen pounds before he fought Tarver. A fighter must weigh less than one-hundred and seven-five pounds to fight in the Light Heavyweight division. Despite the massive loss of weight, Jones was able to pull out a win based on heart.

Jones has two more good fights in him. Who should Jones fight to finish off his impressive career?

Fighter A: James "Light Out" Toney! Toney is the current IBF Cruiserweight Champion (190 Pound Division). Jones faced Toney ten years ago as Super Middleweights



Roy Jones Jr.

(168 Pound Division). Jones won a unanimous decision against a good champion, but since then, Toney has gained even more respect in the boxing world. Toney has revived his career and, in my opinion was, in the best fight this year to win his IBF Cruiserweight Belt. He also defeated legendary champion Evander Holyfield in the process. Boxing fans around the world are craving a rematch for either Toney's Cruiserweight belt or Jones' Heavyweigh belt.

Fighter B: Heavyweight Champion of the World Lennox Lewis. Lewis is the true Heavyweight Champion--he has defeated almost every Heavyweight challenger in the last ten years and is Ring Magazine's true Heavyweight Champion. This match up would be David(Jones) vs. Goliath(Lewis)! Lewis is 6'5, 245 pounds, while Jones is 5'11

200 pounds. If Jones defeated Lewis, it would staple Jones as the best fighter ever to live. Jones has become the first Middleweight Champion to become Heavyweight Champion, but this would legitimize his claim as Heavyweight Champion.

Roy Jones Jr. please fight Toney and Lewis. Boxing fans are not interested in Mike Tyson anymore. Jones has a chance to go into history as the best fighter ever. Will he take the chance or challenge? Only time will answer that question.

Other Boxing News:

- There's a huge fight card in Atlantic City on December 13, 2003. Three championship fights on one card means fans can expect a great night of boxing

In my opinion, Oscar De La Hoya should get a rematch against "Sugar" Shane Mosley. Boxing got another black eye, since the decision favoring Mosley was incorrect.

Corey's Champions by Divisions

Lightweight (135lbs.) Super Lightweight (140lbs.) Kosta Tyzu Welterweight (147lbs.) Junior Middleweight (154lbs.) Oscar De La Hoya Middleweight (160lbs.) Super Middleweight (168lbs.) Light Heavyweight (175lbs.) Cruiserweight (190lbs.) Heavyweight (190lbs & over)

Floyd Mayweather Jr. Ricardo Mayroga Bernard Hopkins Joe Calazage Roy Jones Jr. James Toney Lennox Lewis