



Photo by Monique L. Lionetti, Courtesy of the Herald and News

Congratulations--Graduates celebrate during January's commencement ceremony at the Rec Center.

Graduates receive degrees and praise at winter commencement

By Emily Shafer
Staff Writer

Hell froze over...at least according to Norma Murphy's mortarboard during William Paterson University's winter commencement ceremony on January 27.

Murphy, 64, graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting after 23 years of attending college off and on. Murphy celebrated her 65th birthday the day after her graduation.

Nearly 500 students attended the 174th commencement at the university which honored students who completed their degree requirements in August and December. Overall, 800 students graduated of which 693 received bachelor's degrees and 107 received master's degrees.

The graduation ceremony began with the traditional Pomp & Circumstance, followed by the America the Beautiful, a

new addition to the ceremony tradition.

The commencement speaker was Dr. Robert Chandross, the Visiting Distinguished Scholar at William Paterson University during the year 2001-2002. Chandross spoke of the University's slogan "Making a Difference", and encouraged the graduates to acknowledge those who influenced their lives.

"Clearly, you the graduates have made a difference to your families and friends, as they have to you," said Chandross. "So, I would ask you as graduates first of all to stand and applaud those who have made a difference for you.

"Each of today's graduates and your families have many reasons to be proud of the hard work that has enabled you to achieve the accomplishments that are being recognized at this commencement."

Many graduates,

SEE GRAD, PAGE 2

Rothman threatens suit against WPU over ZBT

By Dan Diaz
Staff Writer

David Rothman, father of William Paterson University student Jeffrey Rothman who died during spring break last March in Myrtle Beach, S.C., has threatened to sue the university if it doesn't suspend the Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) fraternity and apologize to the family for its pain and suffering.

A civil suit brought by Rothman against three of the fraternity brothers was settled in October when they pleaded guilty to failing to adhere to a state statute that required them to gain permission from the family to raise money for the scholarship fund.

The men--Glenn Felson, Michael O'Hare and Brian Russo--were ordered to pay \$240, the amount they claimed

to have raised. Originally the fraternity was accused by Rothman and the Jeffrey Rothman Scholarship Fund, set up by the Rothmans in their son's memory, of purposely retaining money that was raised by ZBT under false pretenses that it would be given to the fund.

Now Rothman claims that the court-ordered payment hasn't been made.

"Not one cent has ever been turned over to the Jeffrey Rothman Memorial Scholarship Fund by the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity," Rothman said in an e-mail sent to members of the local media, as well as William Paterson University President Arnold Speert and Provost Chernoh Sesay. "And this is after four days of fund-raising on campus and one day off

SEE ROTHMAN, PAGE 7

William Paterson to lose more than \$2.8 million in state funding

By Jill Sanders and
Armando Triana
Staff Writers

Students may face larger classes, faculty members may travel to fewer conferences, and some of the 39 positions open at William Paterson could go unfilled as the school deals with the loss of more than \$2.8 million in state funding because of New Jersey's budget deficit.

"I'm hopeful we can do things so students don't know there are cuts," said President Arnold Speert.

Speert could not comment on whether tuition will increase for the fall 2002 and spring 2003 semesters and said the University was still studying the issue. However, he said he hopes the cuts will not affect the students and does not want to price the University outside the scope of students.

According to the president, the University may hold off on filling some of the 39 available positions at the institution, which includes five administrative and professional openings and 30 faculty positions.

Another way to make up the loss in funds is to reduce the number of classes being held, he said, therefore increasing class size, and cut travel.

On meetings held January 22, Gov. James E. McGreevey

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BUDGET, FROM PAGE 1

called on the state's four-year colleges and universities to reduce their budgets by five percent to prepare for a cut in state funds. The cut is to prepare for the states \$2.4 billion revenue shortfall for the fiscal year 2002.

The New Jersey state budget set aside \$1.2 billion dollars for the state's four-year schools. A five percent cut is a loss of \$65 million for the current fiscal year that ends June 30.

Rashad Davis, president of the Student Government Association, wasn't aware of the cuts but noted that McGreevey hadn't been in office long when they were made.

"I was surprised by his actions since he has only been in office for a week-and-a-half, and was supposed to be a candidate more supportive of higher education," said Davis.

"I think that the University and President Speert are very serious in placing these cuts without letting students know that there's been any," said Davis, agreeing with Speert's ideas.

Since a change in tuition for the current semester is not possible, William Paterson must find other ways to make up the \$2,858,000 loss of state-appropriated funding.

Dr. Jess Boronico, dean of the Cotsakos College of Business, said the five percent cuts "will not have an impact [on the new building.]"

"The cuts will mostly be administrative," said Boronico.

The new business building, which has yet to be named, is scheduled to open July 21. Speert also said the development of the new build-

ing would not be affected because funds have already been allotted specifically for the project; however, the cuts raise concerns about staffing there.

Yasmine Young, a sophomore resident at William Paterson, has concerns about a potential increase in class size.

"Students learn better in a small environment. It's ridiculous to place more students in a class. Classes are already crowded," said Young.

Things may get worse for William Paterson and other state schools as McGreevey suggests that the revenue shortfall for the fiscal year 2003 may double to \$5 billion. The university will prepare for the 2003 shortfall in theory this year, said Speert. He said that the institution is not preparing for another cut in state funding, but neither is it expecting an increase in funds.

"It would be tragic if funding gets cut and students and their families are not able to afford higher education," said Davis. "[I fear] that people aren't going to be able to afford to go here."

Young worries that the University may lose student residents if tuition does increase in the fiscal year 2002.

"I'm going to have to commute to save money," said Young. "I can't take out more loans. I'll have no choice but to leave one of these semesters."

Speert is optimistic, however, that William Paterson can weather the cuts.

"We will take a long range look at what we're doing," said Speert. "We're in an upward movement. I want to see that continue."

departments, isn't sure that he's ready to leave the school...but he knows it's time.

"Graduation, to me, means the closing of one part of my life and the opening of another," said Choate.

Angela Sarrica, president of the class of 2001, offered kind words in her speech to the class, acknowledging the personal growth of the graduates and her confidence in their endeavors.

"We've come a long way since we were freshmen," said Sarrica. "Set your mind to it and achieve and succeed in the world around us."

Several graduates mentioned how proud their family's

The Pioneer Times

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STUDENT PRESS LAW CENTER



PT photo by Gina Moffitt

Enjoying the weather

A happy trio enjoys last month's unseasonably warm weather. The second week of the spring semester yielded temperatures in the 60's and students all over campus too advantage of the warm weather.

GRAD, FROM PAGE 1

family members, and friends shed tears expressing a wide range of emotions...happy, sad, pride, relief...happy that they are finished, sad about what they may be leaving behind, and pride in their accomplishments.

"All emotions are rolled into one," said Michaela Bailey, a graduate with a degree in sociology. "I accomplished a lot. I'm relieved and very excited, but nervous about the real world."

For some, graduation is a beginning and an end in their life. Ed Choate, a graduate from the history and education

are, especially since they are the first ones in their family to graduate. Michael Thomas Adams is one such student, according to his mother.

"I'm very proud of my son," she said. "It was tough to see him through, to make sure he stayed on track. I know I'm gonna cry, just as his father did when we dropped him off in his freshman year."

Michele Bakker was very nervous. Graduation is the end of a period in her life and it's really happy, but really sad. She said that she still has yet to clean out her book bag and is scared because she knows that she has to grow up.

As Bakker's mother

helped her adjust her mortarboard, the student began to cry.

"I'm very proud of my daughter," said Bakker's mother. "But this graduation means that she's not my baby anymore."

The commencement is a tradition...a tradition that President Arnold Speert looks forward to.

"In two short hours, we get the chance to celebrate your success," said Speert, in his comments to the class.

"Recognize how wonderful you are and how much potential you have, and how much you will be able to accomplish."



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Pioneer Commentary

Jan. graduation should be just as festive as May's

On January 27, 800 of your fellow William Paterson students graduated with their bachelor's and master's degrees. Did you know?

In May, the whole campus is abuzz with the anticipation of graduation. The exams are a little easier to take. That last class goes by a little faster. Everything looks greener, smells cleaner...is just all-around better. It's the perfect-the traditional-time to leave the university with pomp and circumstance, to show all of you family and friends (not to mention hundreds of frenzied strangers) that you have accomplished something great.

So what is it like to graduate in January? It's dark and cold, as January tends to be. A new semester is starting, bringing with it not attitudes of hope and wonderment, but dread and anxiety. Students are embroiled in thoughts

EDITORIAL about the unknown amount of work that may be waiting in Monday morning's class. There's no vacation coming, no end to exams, no days of laughter and freedom. Instead there are only months of lectures, research and projects due. No wonder graduating students in January don't receive the attention that those in May do!

But should those who don't follow the traditional path be subjected to less community festivity than those who stay on the beaten path? No way! Our campus is almost by definition non-traditional. The public perception of achieving a college degree in four years is almost an impossibility at William Paterson, unless you are willing to load up on credits each semester and give up your summers.

The majority of the students on campus commute, living lives far and away from that of traditional on-campus students. We have a lot of students working for their first degree after having children, grandchildren or divorcing a spouse. We have students working for their second and third degrees to expand their scope of knowledge and experience. Our campus is so full of diversity that the administration found it necessary to hold two

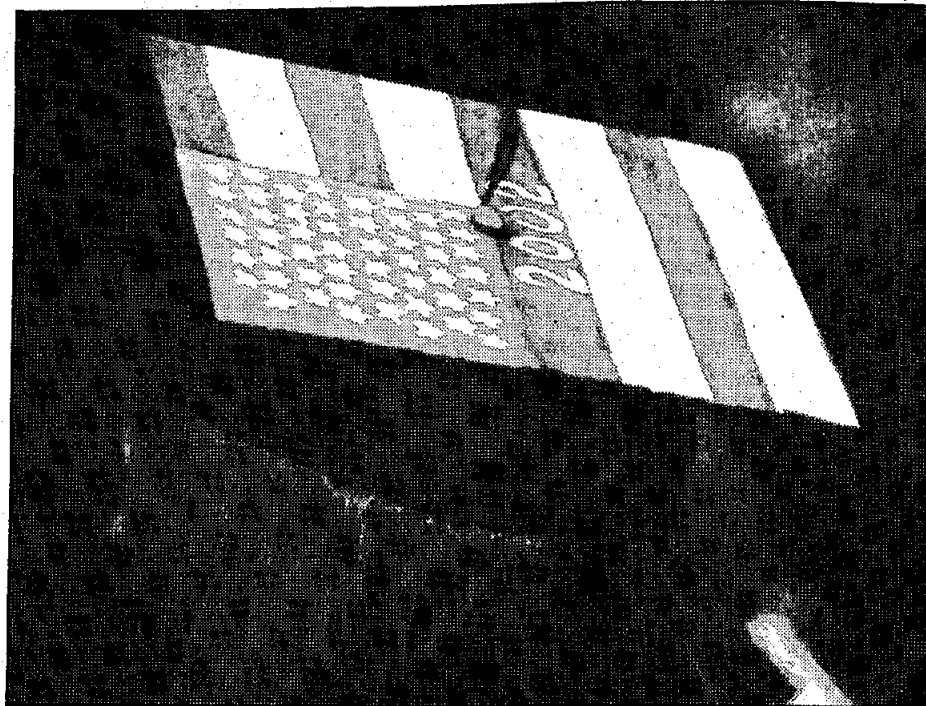


Photo by Monique L. Lionetti, Courtesy of the Herald and News

graduations a year. That should be celebrated.

We should keep the January graduation ceremony. Many students want to graduate as soon as possible and start new lives away from school. The January graduation give those students another option beside waiting until May to graduate. But this campus needs to make a concerted effort to make graduation in January just as special and festive as the one in May.

A good start would be more publicity. The ceremony took place on a Sunday afternoon. Who knew? Many students went away for the weekend or scheduled classes for that day. Some professors had to teach. Schedules could have been changed if the event was publicized more and an image of the importance of the ceremony was presented.

So if you know someone who graduated in January, make sure they know that you are proud of them. They worked hard for their degrees and deserve all of the success that life has to offer, even if it seems that their passing was almost forgotten.

Enough excuses; take responsibility for actions

By Karen O'Gara
Staff Writer

"George, said his father, do you know who killed that beautiful little cherry-tree yonder in the garden?" "I can't tell a lie, Pa; you know I can't tell a lie. I did cut it with my hatch-et."

Most of us are familiar with the old tale of George Washington and the cherry tree. It has since been disproved as truth, but it probably still lingers in the classrooms of

COMMENTARY most elementary schools. The myth was invented by Mason Locke Wees in a biography of Washington that was published directly after his death. It tells more about America's views of morality than it does about Washington himself. It embodied an 18th century ideal of honesty and responsibility.

Americans' ideals of honesty have since fallen to the

wayside. Today, all you need is money and a good defense lawyer and you don't have to be responsible for even the most heinous crime.

I have a nephew who blames the sun for being in his eyes every time he strikes out at the plate-an innocent enough way of shifting the blame from himself. This however should not apply to crime.

But why do I have to watch the news and listen to some lawyer ramble on and on about how his client is innocent because he or she suffered from a sort of momentary lapse in judgment due to some unseen force?

In the latest case of "the devil made me do it," Andrea Yates stands accused of killing her five children. According to her own confession, she did it. One by one she held them underwater in their own bathtub. The crime shocked the nation. What happened next shocked me.

Andrea's husband, Russell Yates, said he does not blame his wife for murdering his five children; he blames her mental illness.

According to Associated Press reports, he "supports her because her severe depression has driven her to kill...she wasn't in the right state of mind."

The right state of mind! Perhaps she was just having a bad day!

When an individual commits such an atrocity, why is the first reaction to shift blame to someone or something else?

In 1999, two students built pipe bombs, set them to go off in their school cafeteria and waited for the frenzied students to run from the building into the schoolyard. They then fired their automatic weapons at them, killing 12 and wounding 23 others.

Let's see, where shall we point the finger of blame? Perhaps the parents are to blame. They must not have

been watching their children properly? How about Hollywood? Let us hold them responsible for the lasting role it causes in creating a violent society.

And while we're at it, throw in the video game people as well. After all, they should share some of the blame. How about blaming the victims parents for sending them to school that day or the National Rifle Association for speaking out against anyone who dares challenges the 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights?

Wait, I have a crazy notion, how about blaming Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the two boys who actually perpetrated the shooting.

Is it just too simple in today's society to say that someone has done wrong and should pay for it? No matter what the circumstances of the crime, or what outside forces influenced the perpetrator of

SEE RESPONSIBLE, PAGE 5

Pioneer Commentary

Glamour, glitz and the red carpet..who's up now?

By Holly Tedesco
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. Members of Hollywood's elite are scrambling to cast their nominations for the 74th annual Oscar Awards. The nominees aren't out yet but guaranteed you won't recognize half of them. It's time for the Academy to tell us who the best is.

That's the problem with most of these award shows-the nominees are either **COMMENTARY** obscure movies or ones you just weren't interested in paying the money to see. Because of that I've decided to pick my own favorites for 2001.

BEST MOTION PICTURE DRAMA:

"Training Day" — Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke set it off in this nonstop unpredictable picture. If you haven't seen it, you should!

BEST MOTION PICTURE COMEDY:

"Legally Blonde" — Surprisingly one of the most delightful movies of the year. Reese Witherspoon is adorable! This leads to the next category.

BEST ACTRESS IN A COMEDY:

Reese Witherspoon
BEST ACTOR IN A COMEDY: Gene Hackman in the "Royal Tenenbaums". You can't go wrong with Hackman. He's always great!

BEST ACTRESS IN A DRAMA:

Sissy Spacek for "In the Bedroom". This is another must see movie!

BEST ACTOR IN A DRAMA:

Denzel Washington for "Training Day".
BEST ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE: Cameron Diaz in "Vanilla Sky". The movie was a bust but Diaz shined in her character.

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE:

Ethan Hawke in "Training Day".
BEST DIRECTOR: Peter Jackson for "Lord of the Rings, Fellowship of the Rings" — this movie - one of three planned — can be enjoyed by anyone!

Some honorable mentions that are noteworthy but will never be up for an award: "Rock Star", "Joy Ride", "Not Another Teen Movie", "American Pie 2", and "Riding in Cars with Boys". And that's a wrap!

Letters to the editor are always welcome!

Send any letters or opinion articles to
pioneertimes@student.wpunj.edu

Seniors: Take it one day at a time

By Victoria Marlin
Staff Writer

Sometimes it seems as if it's a never-ending cycle: the fall semester just ended and yet the spring semester has just begun. No matter how long breaks are, they never seem to be long enough.

Some of us come back from break refreshed and ready to start the new semester with a bang, while others come back even more stressed than before. In the end, though, after the first week of school everyone is starting to feel the stress of what is yet to come.

From dealing with the Bursar's Office, about the fact that — yes, you did pay your bill, so would they please reinstate your classes, — to paying for or trying to figure out how to pay for your books, which you might

COMMENTARY never use. From trying to juggle your school and work schedules, to staying up all night and trying to finish all of your assignments. And, oh yeah, cramming for that exam you have to take tomorrow.

But no matter how crazy these things will make you, for seniors a bit of relief can be found in knowing that soon all this madness will end with graduation. In reality, though, this is when the real madness begins. Being thrown into the "real world" and hoping that the knowledge learned during our college career is all we will need to survive.

So just remember that no matter how hard and crazy it seems, take it one day at a time and you will make it through OK. Good luck to all for the spring semester.

BABYSITTER WANTED

Professor seeks sponsible student to supervise 12-year-old daughter on Wednesdays from 3:30-7:30 p.m. Responsibilities include helping with homework and iving to lessons in Hawthorne. Must have vn car. Salary negotiable. Contact Drindel at 973-720-3337.

Koontz's ne novel 'mesmerizing'

By Sara Kiessling
Staff Writer

Dean Koontz's 31 novel, "From the Corner of His e", is captivating, mystical, anmesmerizing.

Once again Koontzises his unique style of writino draw you in and keep yceading. This is a story of gd vs. evil, with a complex plotat is truly scientific and supertural.

This sci-fi thriller is se through the eyes of threnain characters. Bartholomev a gifted child with beautifuleresting eyehose talents exid the laws of phcs. Born undeiraculous circumstances, Bart remains the epitome of lvery despite the loss of his oversight and the unfortunate deaof his mother.

Angel a little girl o is the product of a rape, presses

a gift just as extraordinary. Her father, Junior, is a murderous, cunning maniac who will do anything to prevent his own demise. When he dreams that someone named Bartholomew will bring him down, he goes on destructive rampage determined to wipe out all of his potential enemies.

By a twist of fate, Barty and Angel are united in a mystical and magical battle of good vs. evil that challenge what is known about the supernatural and reality.

The story follows many leads with the twists and turns of many added sub-plots until the inevitable confrontation of the characters. With numerous supporting characters to add to the mystery, this novel keeps the pages turning all the way to the brief, but enticing climax.

This novel is a must read for Koontz fans and anyone who enjoys the mystical, spiritual, and unexplainable.

BOOK REVIEW

RESPONSIBLE, FROM PAGE 4

the crime, the evil can still be traced to individual choice. Responsibility implies accountability-if one carries responsibility one is also accountable for what one does.

Murder is a choice that a person makes, and a choice that could be avoided, no matter what social or medical forces are in play. Russell Yates says his wife was not in the right frame of

mind when she killed their children. Of course she wasn't, but she is guilty and neeto take responsibility for her actions.

Young Georgeashington accepted it in the story of the cherry tree. Then ag, it is only a fable. Today we can teach our children the story Bill Clinton and how he pointed his finger at the camera and sa "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Monica Lewicy."

Calendar of Events February 6th to 20th

By Kerry Johnson
Calendar Editor

Wednesday, February 6

The Ben Shahn Galleries presents three new exhibits. In the Court Gallery, "Issues of Identity in Recent American Art." In the South Gallery, Bernarda Bryson Shahn, a selection of paintings, prints, drawings and illustrations. In the East Gallery, James Ransome, "A Life's Journey," featuring original drawings and illustrations and a selection of books. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The exhibit is on view through March 8th. For further information call x-2654.

Thursday, February 7th

The William Paterson University Wind Ensemble will host its *18th Annual Band Day* for instrumental music students from the State of New Jersey. After a series of morning clinics, the students will enjoy a mid-day concert featuring William Paterson's Wind Ensemble, Brass Quintet, Instrumental Soloists, Jazz Combo, and Percussion Ensemble. Dr. J. Craig Davis conducts the concert at the Shea Center for Performing Arts which begins at 12:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the general public. For further information call x-3466.

Sponsors of African Heritage Month present a *Bob Marley Luncheon* with a performance by Exodus Supreme Band at the Machuga Student Center Ballroom from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. For further information call x-2519.

The Department of Community Health presents "*Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about a Nutrition Minor*" at the Machuga Student Center, Room 326 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Open to all students, majors, and faculty. For more information contact Dr. Grodner at grodnerm@wpunj.edu.

Sponsors of African Heritage Month present a *discussion on the "Destruction of the Black Male Image."* The discussion will take place at 8 p.m. in the Machuga Student Center and refreshments will be served. For further information call x-2519.

Friday, February 8th

Intramural 4 on 4 Volleyball team entries are due at the Rec Center. Experience the fun and excitement of volleyball without needing the standard number of players. The fee is \$12 per team. For further information call x-2777.

Sunday, February 10th

The Jazz Room Series presents Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. Originally led by composer and William Paterson Jazz Program founder Thad Jones, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra is one of the most creative and innovative jazz bands in the world. The concert begins at 4 p.m. at the Shea Center. A sit in Meet-the-Artist session precedes the concert at 3 p.m. in Shea 101. For further information call x-2371.

The Hobart Recital Series presents a special Valentine concert featuring Noelle Perrin, flute, and Anna Reinerman, harp. The recital begins at 5 p.m. followed by a dinner at 6 p.m. at Hobart Manor. Tickets are \$40. For more information call x-2371.

Monday, February 11th

Sponsors of African Heritage Month present a performance of "*Seven Quilts for Seven Sisters*" from noon to 1:45 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Machuga Student Center Ballroom. For further information call x-2519.

The American Red Cross will hold an *Adult CPR Class* at the Rec Center from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Participants will learn res-

cue breathing, choking skills, CPR for adults, and how to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack. The fee is \$25 for WPU students, \$35 for faculty, staff, and alumni. Pre-registration is required. For more information call x-2777.

Wednesday, February 13th

Sponsors of African Heritage Month presents a *Sister-to-Sister Forum* in the Towers Pavilion at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For further information call x-2519.

Thursday, February 14th

The Midday Artist Series presents the Orchestra featuring Mark Laycock, conductor, Gary Kirkpatrick, pianist, featuring a preview of John Link's "concerto for Piano and Orchestra," and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. The concert begins at 12:30 p.m. at the Shea Center, admission is \$3. For further information call x-2371.

The Women's Center presents the *3rd annual WPUNJ production of the "Vagina Monologues."* as a part of V-Day, a nationwide day dedicated to transforming consciousness about violence against women. Tickets are \$5 at the door but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. (Suggested donation \$1 to \$5). The production is from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. at the Atrium Auditorium and refreshments will be provided. For further information contact Sheri Newberger, Director of the Women's Center at x-2946.

Friday, February 15th

The Rec Center sponsors a one day *Wiffle Ball Tournament*. There is no fee and pre-registration is required. For further information call x-2777.

Saturday, February 16th

The Orchestra at William Paterson University presents Mark Laycock, conductor, Gary

Kirkpatrick, piano, works include Bach's "Symphony No. 2," John Link "Piano Concerto," and Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5." The concert begins at 8 p.m. at Shea Center. Admission is \$25/20, WP students with ID \$5 (limit 2). For further information call x-2371.

Sunday, February 17th

The Jazz Room Series presents Karrin Allyson as both a vocalist and pianist, performing her latest release "Ballads - Remembering John Coltrane," pays homage to one of jazz's most influential instrumentalists and composers. The concert begins at 4 p.m. at the Shea Center. A Sit In And-Meet-the-Artist Session precedes the concert at 3 p.m. in Shea 101. For further information call x-2371.

Tuesday, February 19th

Sponsors of African Heritage Month present a *Marcus Garvey Memorial* at 7:30 p.m. at the Machuga Student Center Ballroom, refreshments will be served. For further information call x-2519.

The Department of Recreational Services is sponsoring a *Water Safety Instructor Course* on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The course runs until May 7. Participants must be at least 17 years old. The fee is \$165 for WPU students, \$175 faculty, staff, and alumni. Pre-registration is required. For further information call x-2777.

The Department of Recreational Services is sponsoring a *Lifeguard Training Course* on Thursdays from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The course runs until May 9. Participants must be at least 17 years old. The fee is \$200 for WPU students, \$210 faculty, staff, and alumni. Pre-registration is required. For further information call x-2777.

ROTHMAN, FROM PAGE 1

campus."

ZBT attorney Pal Endler disputes that the settlement money remains unpaid though he was unable to provide proof of payment.

Rothman plans to attend the university's board of trustees meeting on March 2. He is not on the agenda, but will be allowed to speak at the conclusion of the meeting when the board opens up the floor to new business.

The meeting is scheduled to take place on the day that his son would have turned 21, less than two weeks from the one-year anniversary of his son's drowning while on vacation with his fraternity brothers.

"He asked to speak before the board but was advised that since the meeting was open to the public that he should raise his issue at the end of the meeting under new business," said Marc Snaeffler, the executive assistant to the president and board of trustees,

in a brief telephone interview.

"If he does not show up, not a single syllable will be mentioned of his issue."

At the meeting, Rothman plans to demand that the university suspend ZBT, as well as make a public announcement regarding the issue.

"I want the university to suspend ZBT for breaking the academic code," said Rothman in a telephone interview. "I would also like a public apology to me and my wife for all the suffering we have been put through, as well as assurance that guidelines will be set up to ensure this never happens again. I don't understand how the university can remain silent on this."

A representative from the university, who asked not to be named, said in a telephone interview that although no comments could be made on the board's behalf, they would take into consideration any issues brought up by anyone during the public part of the March 2 meeting.

The university spokesman also stated that if a lawsuit is filed against the university, it will file an answer accordingly. If it is felt that the case does not have merit the university will move to file a motion to dismiss.

As far as the suspension of ZBT, it is the university's understanding that the dispute is with individual members of the fraternity and not with the organization itself. Therefore, no action can be taken against the organization because the organization itself did not commit any violations of the school's codes.

In addition, Rothman has filed a criminal complaint in Clifton Municipal Court against one of the fraternity brothers, Glen Felson. The official complaint, failure to make required dispositions, falls under the theft statute. Felson is accused of purposely retaining \$400 from the scholarship fund.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office wouldn't comment on whether or not it

plans to file formal charges. No court date has been set, according to the Clifton Municipal Court.

"I offered Glenn Felson and his father three chances to settle," said Rothman, "they refused to settle and so I was left with no choice but to file the criminal complaint. They made this decision, not me."

Endler believes the new accusation against Felson is unfounded.

"The boys acknowledged (in court in October) they had committed a technical violation in neglecting to gain permission from the Rothman Fund and the family to raise funds and the amount they were ordered to pay was paid," Endler said, "this new charge was filed with no proof. This is basically just a case of harassment against Glenn."

But Rothman disagrees. "This is not about money," said Rothman. "I will fight until I am convinced that my son did not die in vain."

COLUMN, FROM PAGE 8

Although the last sack came rather easy to Strahan, it doesn't mean he didn't earn the record. Strahan is one of the team leaders on the Giants; he plays hard and is a good role model. Gastineau was even quoted as saying he was glad someone like Strahan had a chance to break his record and that he hoped Strahan would be able to use the record in a positive way,

unlike Gastineau did. Every fan (including Packer fans) in the stadium that day cheered for Strahan.

It's not everyday a fan gets to see a great player break an NFL record. Fans were so anxious to see it happen that at one point during the third quarter the crowd began chanting Strahan's name. There was no specific reason behind the cheer, maybe it was part encouragement,

and maybe it was part thank you.

Giants fans thanked Strahan that day for giving them something to cheer about this season. A dismal season ended on a positive note and for that, Giants fans are grateful. If the NFL is going to let the record stand and not review the sack, fans should be able to do the same.

TITLE IX, FROM PAGE 8

was a lot of inequity in sports and there was more money spent on men's teams. He feels that Title IX is beneficial to women athletes because they are offered more opportunity and equal playing time.

But Title IX was never just about sports, but also about education.

"Title IX changed the way that educational institutions viewed the potential for women and girls," said Dr. Ronald P. Verdicchio of the College of Education. "Male PE (physical education) teachers had to change their teaching styles when gym classes became mixed gender. I

think the latter helped boys as well as girls, in that, gym class became safe for the talented girl athlete and the non-talented boy."

But for all the inroads that Title IX has provided, including helping to produce such star athletes as Venus Williams, Serena Williams and Jennifer Capriati, there are those who believe that the playing fields still aren't level.

"I think it is important to realize that in high school and college, women's sports don't earn equal recognition as male athletics," said Prof. Helen Dedes of the Women's Studies Department.

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BASKETBALL, FROM PAGE 8

In order to do this the Pioneers need to sweep the final five games. However, an unusually split playoff field among conference bidders this season has left the team with high hopes, despite the slow start.

Generally a 7 to 6 conference record leaves most teams four or more games behind first place. This season however, with the aid of last week's win over Ramapo, brings the team to just two games from first place.

With six teams within

four games of each other, playoff dreams can only be realized with a 3-2 or better finishing record and a little help from lady luck.

The Pioneers face fellow playoff hopeful Rutgers-Camden Scarlet Raptors (6-7 NJAC) led by high-scorer Brian Turner tonight at Camden and follow with a home battle vs. another playoff hopeful Rowan Profs (8-6 NJAC) at the Rec Center Saturday.

The women's team has a far rockier path to take for the remainder of the season. Still a young squad, the Lady Pioneers

won 4 out of 16 games overall and just 2 out of 11 among NJAC competitors.

Despite this fact, the team scored a single basket victory over mid-field contender Ramapo, lifting the spirits of the team.

But being an NJAC member does not make winning easy. Aside from this the Lady Pioneers were faced with nationally ranked competition during the break with games against Marymount (VA) and St. Mary's (MD), both of which prevailed in the games.

Though it may look

dreary for the ladies, the team follows a similar pattern to the men's team. After an 0-8 season opening, the team has followed with a modest 4-8 continuance of the season with recent victories over Rutgers-Newark, Ramapo and the College of Staten Island.

With playoff hopes lost, and little more than something to prove in the final games of the season, the rebuilding Lady Pioneers look to continue their new found victories against Rutgers-Camden (8-5 NJAC) tonight.

PIONEER SPORTS

Strahan earns sack record amidst some recent controversy

By Kerry Johnson
Staff Writer

As a Giants fan I'll be the first to admit they had a rather disappointing season.

In fact, at times it was a really disappointing season. When the team lost the second to last game to the Philadelphia Eagles to end any playoff chances, everyone knew the last game against the Green Bay Packers was meaningless. However, Defensive End Michael Strahan gave the final game of the season some meaning.

COMMENTARY During the Philadelphia game Strahan earned 3.5 sacks to leave him 1 shy of the record set by former NY Jet Mark Gastineau in 1984.

I was planning to watch the game at home that Sunday but was lucky enough to wind up with a ticket. While heading up to East Rutherford my father, sister, aunt, and I were listening to the pre-game show and the big story of the day was Strahan and the sack record. Sports reporters were discussing the chances of him getting the record, how Strahan and Packers quarterback Brett Favre were good friends, and that Mark Gastineau would be at Giants Stadium in case Strahan should break his record.

As we arrived at the stadium it looked as if we had entered Green Bay country. Packers fans had taken over the place, but we weren't too discouraged. As the Giants defense was introduced the crowd went wild when Strahan came running out onto the field.

As the game progressed, the Giants continued to lose, but the fans were still cheering for Strahan. There were a few close calls, but with only 2:42 left in the game Strahan sacked Favre to earn 22.5 sacks on the season and to break Gastineau's record by half a sack. A meaningless game finally had some meaning and the crowd gave Strahan a standing ovation for his efforts.

When watching the replay of the final sack it looked as if Favre gift-wrapped it for Strahan. Favre sort of fell down as Strahan landed on top of him. While listening to the radio the sports reporters immediately began to debate whether or not Strahan earned the record. Favre and Strahan are good friends and both talked about the record all week. Did Favre give Strahan the record, or was it in the play for Favre to go down if he couldn't complete the pass?

SEE COLUMN, PAGE 7

Pioneer basketball improves over break; outlook is good

By Joe van Gaalen
Sports Editor

As the year 2002 comes along, both the men's and women's basketball teams have lengthened their stories to tell about their respective seasons.

Over winter break, the Pioneers teams won 9 out of 3 games on the men's side and 3 out of 7 on the women's. While both teams come off recent victories against the Roadrunners, local rivals from Ramapo College, it is the men's team that has brought with it more than just a victory.

After a rocky season start of 3 out of 4 wins, the men's team rebounded with a record 9 out of three 3 over the winter break and a 5-game winning

streak to add to their accolades.

Standing at 12-8 (7-6 in the New Jersey Athletic Conference), the Pioneers scored recent wins over Montclair State, New Jersey City and Ramapo College, the top three teams in the conference. At current, the Pioneers are fifth in the NJAC, just one-half game out of post-season play because fourth place Rowan University has the advantage of playing one more conference game.

As the Division III conference playoff week draws near, the Pioneers sit just behind the drawing line, with five games to go. A general NJAC hoops playoff rule of thumb is the number 12; no team with 12 wins had not made it into the conference.

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 7

Title IX recalled as William Paterson suggests women's tennis team

Pioneer Times
Staff Report

Before 1972, there were few organized girls' or women's sports teams. Before 1972, boys and girls had gym class separately. Before 1972, there was very little funding for women in education.

Because of Title IX, legislation passed in 1972, all this changed.

On June 23 of that year, Congress enacted an Education Amendment declaring that "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits

of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

According to the Women's Sports Foundation website, in 1972 there were only a little more than two women's athletic teams per U.S. college or university. At William Paterson University on the 30th anniversary of that legislation, the effects of Title IX are evident. The university has six women's intercollegiate sports teams including basketball, volleyball, softball, soccer, field hockey and swimming. In addition, indoor and outdoor track and

cross-country teams are coed.

And now the school is researching the possibility of a women's tennis team and a women's lacrosse team, according to Keith Woods, coach of the women's basketball team.

"Title IX has been successful here at William Paterson as far as creating equal opportunities," he said. He believes opportunities are greater not only for the athletes but for the coaches as well.

Edward Gurka, head coach of men and women's swimming, says Title IX was needed because there

SEE TITLE IX, PAGE 7

Men's Basketball Winter Break Key Wins:

Wed. Jan. 9	Sat. Jan. 26	Wed. Jan. 30
Rowan 56	New Jersey City 70	Ramapo 70
WPUNJ 57	WPUNJ 80	WPUNJ 74

Women's Basketball Winter Break Key Wins:

Sat. Dec. 29	Sat. Jan. 12	Wed. Jan. 30
Coll. of Staten Is. 85	Rutgers-Newark 38	Ramapo 66
WPUNJ 89	WPUNJ 61	WPUNJ 68 OT