

Graduates challenged to 'give back'

By Stephen Lucin
Staff Writer

Reach out. Give back. Make the world a better place.

That was the message both speakers left with the graduating seniors at William Paterson University's 178th commencement that was held Jan. 25 in the Rec Center. More than 900 students were awarded degrees from the university.

Daniel Kreifus, senior class president, spoke of the current unrest in the world and urged his classmates to "give something back to the world."

"Take an hour a week, an hour a month, anything you can spare," he said. "Do something for someone to make their world a better place."

Dr. Arnold Speert, university president, continued with that theme noting that the newest alumni would need to make individual commitments in order to effect that change.

"As you pursue those futures, you will play active parts in other communities," said Speert. "Armed with your education you are empowered to participate in shaping the vision of your family, your place of business, your town, your state and your nation. What you choose to do as an individual will have a greater effect on your family, your neighbors and your friends



Michele Sanabria / Pioneer Times

From left to right, Erin Boska, Anna Cannizzaro-Torres and Michele Cannizzaro, all of Sparta. The three show off their diplomas. More photos from graduation can be found on Pages 4-5.

than decisions from Trenton or Washington."

As an example, Speert talked about the anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court case and said that there is still work to be done with civil

rights. "Court decisions and laws govern our behavior but don't necessarily change how we think," he said.

Valerie Benjamin, mother of Talisha White, 27, who graduated with a bache-

lor's degree in psychology and a certificate in education, said her daughter had begun substitute teaching in Asbury Park and was looking forward to teaching first, second, third or fourth-graders.

"Talisha loves kids," she said. "She loves watching them light up and learn; she's really gifted."

Stacey Campbell, who earned her degree in communication with a focus in journalism, said she plans to become a kindergarten teacher as well as a freelance writer for magazines. However, she was a bit apprehensive about job security following graduation.

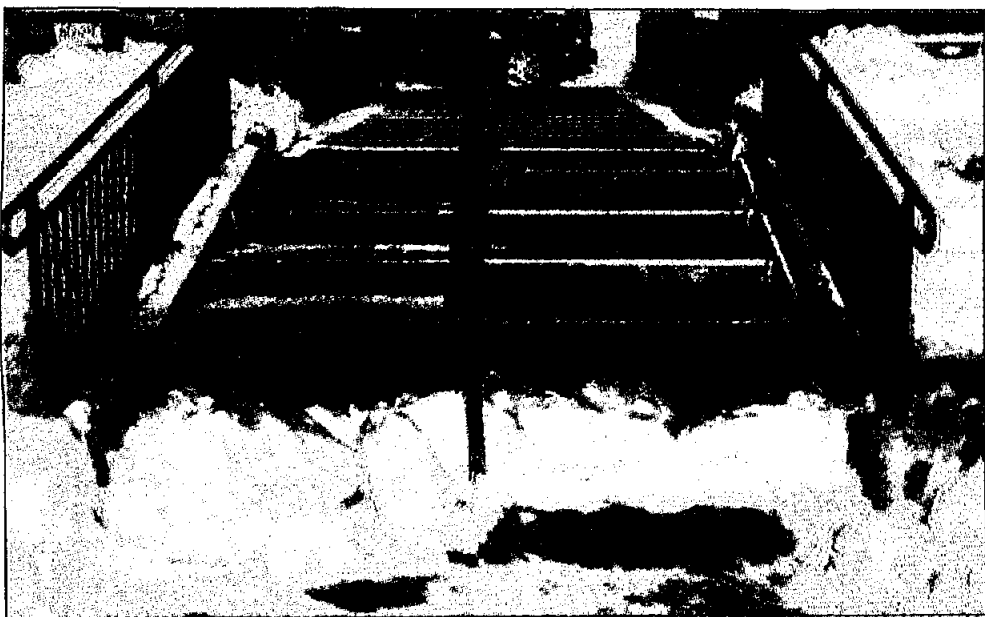
"The way the job market is today, you can't even get a job with a degree. But it betters your chances," she said. Eventually she hopes to attempt a master's degree in education.

Umberto Giallombardo, a degree recipient in business and finance, said that he saw his degree "as a good cornerstone for the future."

He was recently being promoted at Fleet Bank, where he's worked for the past four years while in college. Giallombardo hopes to one day own his own business with his friend and fellow graduate, Anthony Oade, who received his degree in graphic design. Oade said he looks forward to a job in his field.

Aside from their plans, they both agreed that they were "glad to be out."

Snowstorm leaves mess on campus



Tracy Calabrese / Pioneer Times

Snow blocks access to one of the stairways on campus. See story on Page 3.

Bomb scare empties Hobart Hall

By Valerie Mifsud
Staff Writer

Students at Hobart Hall were evacuated suddenly on late Friday morning, Jan. 30, due to a reported bomb scare. After quickly grabbing their belongings, students rushed to the nearest exits to safety.

At around 11 a.m., students in classrooms at the rear of the building could hear a voice screaming to "get out of the building." A faculty member burst into Christine Foster's Public Speaking class, telling the instructor and students to get out of the building as quickly as possible.

Students and Foster, an adjunct professor, were confused by the noise in the hallway, until they realized what was happening.

"I was surprised, naturally," says Dr.

John Omachonu, chairman of the Department of Communication, located in Hobart Hall.

Omachonu said he spoke to the campus police the morning of the bomb scare.

"They didn't give many details," he said. "Just that someone called and said there was a bomb in the building."

Those evacuated stood in the 20-degree weather in the back of Hobart Hall, along Central Avenue.

About 10 minutes later, a shuttle van arrived to transport students to the parking lots. The van, which only carries 12 to 15 students at a time, had to make several trips to transport all of the students away from the building.

Campus police were contacted on Saturday about the reported bomb scare, but said no information was available at press time.

In This Issue:



Ashton Kutcher
gets dramatic in
'The Butterfly Effect'

See Page 7

Campus calendar & briefs	6
Commencement photos	4, 5
Commentary	2
Entertainment	7
Police Blotter	2
Snow Removal	3
Sports	8

PIONEER Times

E-mail:

PIONEERTimes@student.wpunj.edu

Editor/Layout

Nicole Canfora

Managing Editor

Bernadette Scott

Calendar Editor

Anna Kozlowski

Staff Writers

Lauren Armbruster

John Bertollo

Melanie Beshlian

Tracy Calabrese

Larry Clow

Rachel Gold

Jessica Lancellotti

Melissa Lelbe

Stephen Lucin

Daiana Marciano

Valerie Mifsud

Diego Perri

Photographer

Michele Sanabria

Advisers

Prof. Elizabeth Birge

Dr. Tina Leshner

S P L C
STUDENT PRESS LAW CENTER

**New Jersey Collegiate
Press Association**

Excuses, excuses: WPU gets off with slap on wrist despite noncompliance

William Paterson University is off the hook again. The U.S. Department of Education decided recently to excuse William Paterson University from a potential \$55,000 in fines for violations of the Clery Act, a federal law that requires colleges and universities to disclose crime statistics.

In October, the Education Department ruled that WPU violated the law by not providing the crime log to reporters from The Beacon and the Pioneer Times as well as not recording a reported crime. When the student newspapers requested the university's police blotter, they were provided with a "daily synopsis report." According to the daily synopsis report, a bones summary of the activities of campus police officers, campus officers spend the better part of their locking and unlocking doors. This document was clearly not what the newspapers were looking for.

What was the university's excuse? Well, it's hard to pinpoint, exactly. In an interview last semester, WPU President Arnold Speert said that he and Marc Schaeffer, custodian of public records at WPU, thought the "document we maintained that fulfilled the description is what we provided." Speert went on to confuse the matter: "At one point in time, we believed it (the crime log) as not public information. I didn't know it, and Marc Schaeffer didn't know it (the crime log) was in existence."

However, when the state Attorney General's office, which represents WPU, responded to the DOE's ruling, Deputy Attorney General Cheryl Clark wrote, "Lori Michael (a Pioneer Times and Beacon reporter) did not ask for copies of the bi-weekly report or the crime log. If she had...that is what would have been provided to her."

It is hard to imagine university officials did not know there was a crime log in existence and it is even harder to imagine they were not aware that the term "police blotter" is a synonym for "crime log." Hiding behind a wall of confusing statements and semantic arguments has just made the university look foolish and bungling.

Since October, the university has been providing the crime log to reporters for the Pioneer Times and The Beacon. However, reporters must venture to campus police headquarters and copy the crime log by hand into their notebooks. If reporters want a hard copy of the crime log, they must file an Open Public Records request, pay a fee, and wait at least a week to receive the crime log. Sure, the crime log is available, but student reporters must still jump through more hoops than a trained seal to get the crime log. Other schools, such as Montclair State University, are far more accommodating.

It is unfortunate that the Department of Education has chosen to accept the university's defense that the whole issue has been a misunderstanding. While WPU may have escaped a series of hefty fines, they have not escaped the eyes of the student media, which, in the end, may prove to take a more exacting toll.

-- Larry Clow, senior, is the editor of The Beacon.

Adjunct professors need to be more accessible by e-mail, phone

I missed my first Field Biology class this semester because of two flat tires.

I tried to contact the professor to get the assignment for the next class because I figured that would be the "responsible" thing to do.

I used the William Paterson University e-mail system and was surprised to see my message to the professor was returned and marked "undeliverable." My second approach was to search the WPU web site for a phone number where my professor could be contacted but nothing was found. According to the web site, e-mail was the one that had been returned as "undeliverable." No phone number was listed and office hours were MIA -- "missing in action."

So, my question is this: How does a student contact

his or her professor if that person is an adjunct?

A solution might be for all students to train to become a private investigator or conduct a simple search on the university's Web site in order to find the correct contact information. Students are continuously being lectured to "be responsible," yet the university itself has failed to do the same.

When I go to the next class -- the second class -- I will be one assignment behind.

Still, I will have the comfort of knowing that I can contact any of the university's custodians thanks to the "Boiler Room" listing that can be found on the Web site's "Faculty and Staff" page.

-- Daiana Marciano is a communication major.

Police Blotter

A campus police officer responded to Wightman Gym on Jan. 19 at 7:38 p.m. A backpack was reportedly stolen from the ladies locker room. A report was filed and there are no suspects at this time. This case remains open for further investigation.

The smell of burning marijuana brought campus police to a room in the North Tower Dorm on Jan. 19 at 9:57 p.m. Two individuals were referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action, and a report was filed for marijuana and alcohol possession. This case is considered cleared.

Campus police responded to a complaint of something burning in the North Tower Dorm on Jan. 19 at 11:08 p.m. Found were a pile of burnt paper towels and a heavy smoke condition. The area was vented. The incident

has been determined to be an accidental fire, which caused minor damage to the area.

During the above incident, an officer responding to the North Tower on Jan. 20 at 12 a.m. observed alcoholic beverages during a room check procedure. Police reported underage drinking, and one individual was referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

A damaged door handle and possible criminal mischief brought campus police to Hillside 11 on Jan. 21 at 12:16 a.m. Police questioned individuals on the scene and filed a report. This case remains open for further investigation.

Students voice concern over snow removal

By Tracy Calabrese
Staff Writer

To students snow means cancelled classes. Yet to the university's facilities personnel, it means 20 to 30 hours of labor to clear the campus of snow and ice.

Raj Vohra, assistant director of facilities, says everyone pitches in to help with snow removal. His department relies on custodians, carpenters, and others to lend a helping hand after a snowfall. Their main concern is clearing the sidewalks and making sure the fire exits are clear of any snow and ice.

"We will definitely make sure that all of the sidewalks are taken care of," said Vohra.

Sophomore Deb LaFalce questions the job done by the university's removal team.

"I say snow removal and I leave it at that," said LaFalce. "When your dad tells you to shovel the driveway, do you shovel just half of it? No, I don't think you do. When the administration tells their employees to shovel the sidewalks, obviously they never listened to their dads. If it's an area with heavy walking traffic, they will shovel the middle of it. If it's an area without heavy traffic, they will shovel none of it."

With the recent frigid blasts, any snow or ice that melts during the day immediately re-freezes at night. A calcium chloride ice melting substance is spread onto walkways and staircases all over campus, but it can only do so much.

"The walkway on the side of the Victor Machuga Student Center leading to the gym and the pool was very slippery," said sophomore Heather Catanese. "But they have done a better job this year so far, than last year."

The stairway and platform from the student center leading to Caldwell Plaza is an area on campus that is never completely cleared of snow. Ron Reinhardt, superintendent of grounds, said employees only clear areas that are highly traveled and ensure sufficient paths are cleared on both sides of the staircases.

Heavy snowstorm periods make the floors wet and slippery. The absence of "Caution Wet Floor" signs is also a concern to Vohra.

"We will talk to the custodians of the buildings to make sure the signs go up," said Vohra.

Resident students face additional problems during inclement weather. Reinhardt said campus police notify residents to move their cars during a snowstorm. Once Lot 5 is cleared, residents are required to move their cars to their so Lot 6 can be cleared.

"I have been a resident for a few years now and I have never received a phone call to move my car," said Deena Servodio, a senior. "I parked in Lot 2 last semester and they just plowed me in. I didn't have a shovel either."

Vohra recommends that resident and commuter students keep shovels, ice scrapers, and flashlights in their cars dur-



Tracy Calabrese / Pioneer Times

A vehicle sits atop a pile of snow in one of the university's parking lots.

ing the winter months. Employees in Facilities begin plowing after about an inch or two of accumulation is on the ground. Yet, if it starts to snow while students are in class, the plow operators have no other choice but to push the snow

behind the cars, since there is nowhere else it can be placed.

"We can't fly the snow somewhere else," said Reinhardt. "It's either got to go in front of or in back of the parking spaces."

Campus Ministry Calendar

FEBRUARY

25	2:30, 5 & 7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Masses
22	2 noon-3p.m.	Art Exhibit Reception
22-27		Art Exhibit
29	7:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.	Healing Masses
	1p.m.	Pre Mass Concert
		Annual Lenten Retreat

MARCH

7	2 noon-7 p.m.	Campus Ministry Retreat
	7:30 p.m.	Irish Night
15-20		Spring Break
28	7:30p.m.	Model Seder & Mass
28-April 1	7:30p.m.	Busy Persons' Retreat

APRIL

4	7:30 p.m.	Passion (Palm) Sunday with Passion
8	7:30 p.m.	Holy Thursday Liturgy
9	7:30 p.m.	Good Friday Services

10	7:30 p.m.	Easter Vigil
11	10:45 a.m.	Mass only
18	7:30 p.m.	Asian Night

MAY

2	9:30 a.m.	RCIA Confirmation Mass
	11:00 a.m.	Prince of Peace Breakfast & Tricky Tray
16	10:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.	Volunteer Appreciation Day
		May Crowning
		Installation of CCM Club Officers
18		WPUNJ Graduation

JUNE

13	10:45 a.m.	Mass in Honor of St. Anthony
6-27	10:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.	Masses continue

Chapel is closed during the months of July and August

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday

12:30 p.m. -- Mass
6:30 p.m. -- Vis to Preakness Nursing Home

Tuesday

12:30 p.m. -- Mass
3:30 p.m. -- Tutoring at St. Therese School

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. -- Catechism Classes at North Jersey Developmental Center
5:00 p.m. -- First Wednesday, Small Faith Community

Thursday

4:45 p.m. -- Taping of TV show, "The Word Alive and Well"

Friday

5 p.m. -- Mass

Sunday

10:00 a.m. -- Music Ministry Rehearsal
10:45 a.m. -- Mass
5:00 p.m. -- Music Ministry Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. -- RCIA
7:30p.m. -- Mass

Director of Campus Ministry: Rev. Louis J. Scurti, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.Div., LMFT
Associate Campus Ministers: Gerard Reynolds, Meghan Callahan, Sr. Jane Feltz
Music Ministry Coordinators: Alan Morales, Ed Thompson

Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace Chapel
The Bishop Frank J. Rodimer Catholic Campus Ministry Center
219 Pompton Road, Haledon, NJ 07508
Phone: (973) 720-3524 Fax (973) 595-5312
Email: scurti@wpunj.edu Web site: www.princeofpeacechapel.com

All are invited to our events -- social, service, self-awareness and spiritual!

Graduates take center stage at

*Photos by
Michele Sanabria*



Pateon resident Kenya Fulgencio, who received a degree in accounting, and her family at commencement exercises Jan. 25.



Above, Meredith Liotta of East Hanover, who was graduated with degrees in psychology and education, with Brendan Boyle of Peapack. He received degrees in communication and anthropology.



Joe Stelia of Lake Hiawatha and Alex Boccia of Cedar Knolls. Each were graduated with a master's degree in music education.

"Take an hour a week, an hour a month, anything you can spare. Do something for someone to make their world a better place."

*-- Daniel Kreifus,
senior class president*



Michele Nicastro of Mountainside, who received degrees in physical education and health, with her mother. At far left is Dr. Kathy Igaillis, exercise and movement science, and at far right is Dr. Gordon Schmidt, director of physical education.

WPU's 178th commencement

At right, Michelle Giusto of Palisades brk, Janine Amoresano of Florham Park and Christine Ruel of Kearny celebrate receiving their degrees in special education.



Mario Georgieve of Pompton Lakes and Junior Rodney of Passaic with their degrees in business.



Lucia DeLuca and Barbara Brieva of Gafield, and Elisa Alberto of Cedar Grove. They were graduated with degrees in English, Spanish and English, respectively.



Nicole Ferreira of Bergenfield with her family after commencement. She graduated with a degree in communication.

Campus calendar & briefs

TUESDAY, FEB. 3

**African Heritage Month
Opening Ceremony**

12:30 p.m.

Machuga Student Center Ballroom

Ben Shahn Galleries

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

South Gallery: American Impressions
and Contemporary American
Printmaking

East Gallery: Debra Pearlman,

Court Gallery: Jim Toia - The Piet Project

On view weekdays through March 5

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

THE MEETING

7 p.m.

Shea Center

Call CASL at 973-720-2271 for more
details.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

African Heritage Month-Back to Jazz
TBA

Call CASL at 973-720-2271 for more
details.

Midday Artist Series

12:30 p.m.

Shea Center

Halcyon Trio featuring Andy Lamy, clarinet,
Brett Deubner, viola, and Gary
Kirkpatrick, piano

NPC Around the World

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Machuga Student Center Ballroom

Thursday Evening Spotlight Series

6 p.m.

Machuga Student Center Cafe

Call CASL at 973-720-2271 for details.

Theatre: Shakin' The Mess

Outta Misery

8 p.m.

Hunziker Black Box Theater

Co-presented by Spotlight Theatre
and the African-American Alumni.

Tickets are \$8 and \$10.

For reservations call (973) 720-2176.

Additional dates:

Feb. 6th 8 p.m.

Feb. 7th 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Feb. 8th 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

Former NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani

8 p.m.

Shea Center

Distinguished Lecturer Series:

"Leadership in Difficult Times"

SUNDAY, FEB. 8

Jazz Room Series

4 p.m.

Shea Center

Joe Wilder, the elder statesman of jazz,
kicks off the Jazz Room's spring 2004

season.

Concert at 4 p.m.

"Sittin' In" Meet the Artist session

at 3 p.m., Shea 101

Hobart Manor Recital Series

5 p.m.

Hobart Manor

Gary Kirkpatrick, WPU music professor,

Franco Gennarelli, concertmaster and

violinist and Andy Lamy, principal

clarinetist. Dinner at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for reservations

call (973) 720-2371.

MONDAY, FEB. 9

NPC Recruitment

Call CASL at (973) 720-2271

for more details.

Additional dates:

Feb. 10

Feb. 11

TUESDAY, FEB. 10

Bob Marley Day Luncheon

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Machuga Student Center Ballroom,

CARIBSA

Call CASL at (973) 720-2271 for more

details.

Java & Jazz

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Machuga Student Center Café

Campus Activities/Jazz Studies/SAPB

Call CASL at (973) 720-2271 for more

details.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12

Midday Artist Series: Band Day

12:30 pm

Shea Center

18th annual band day for students hosted
by

the William Paterson University Wind
Ensemble with J. Craig Davis, conductor.
Admission is free and open to public.

Club Fair

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Machuga Student Center

Call CASL at (973) 720-2271 for more

details.

Thursday Evening Spotlight Series

6 p.m.

Machuga Student Center Café

Call CASL at (973) 720-2271 for details.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13

UHHCO Hip Hop Eravaganza

Time: TE

Machuga Student Center Ballroom

Call CASL at (973) 720-2271 for

more details.

SUNDAY, FEB. 15

Jazz Room Series

4 p.m.

Donald Byrd, the legendary hard-bop
trumpeter, joined by Joes Williams on
piano,

as well as other star sidemen.

Concert at 4 p.m.

"Sittin' In" Meet the Artist session at

3 p.m., Shea 101

MONDAY, FEB. 16

President's Day -- University closed

TUESDAY, FEB. 17

Java & Jz

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Machuga Student Center Café

Campus Activities/Jazz Studies/SAPB

Call CASL at (973) 722271 for more
details.

**African Heritage Month - Health
Issues**

7 p.m.

Tower Pavin

Call CASL at (973) 720-2271.

Campus Briefs

Health & Wellness Center

Dedicated, outgoing volunteers are needed
to help the new "CHOICES" project, a prevention
program for HIV and AIDS. They
plan on centering on a way to reach out
and educate students, reducing their risk of
contracting HIV and AIDS.

For more information or if you are inter-
ested contact the Health and Wellness
Center at (973) 720-2360.

New litter sign

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged
to submit ideas for a new litter sign. The
winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to
the campus bookstore, or will have \$25
added to your Pioneer Card.

Lettering and graphics should be white,
green or blue, and contain no fading.
Submissions must be on an 8.5-by-11-inch
piece of paper. Be sure to include your name,
phone number and e-mail address on a sepa-
rate piece of paper. All images must be clear.

The sign will be part of an 18-by-12-inch
sign in standard university colors. The win-
ner, will be selected by a panel of judges,

will be featured in a future newsletter.

Submission allows the university to use
the sign without additional compensation.
Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15.

All submissions should be sent to: Val
Weiss, Recycling Coordinator, C/O WPU
Facilities Dept.

WPU offers loan repayment program for graduate nursing students

Full-time nursing graduate students are
able to receive loans through the Nurse
Faculty Loan Program, a nationwide pro-
gram administered by the U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services, Health
Resources and Student Administration. After
graduation, up to 85 percent of the loan can
be cancelled in exchange for working as fac-
ulty at a school of nursing.

The NFLP was created to manage the
nursing faculty shortage and to increase the
number of qualified faculty.

"Without qualified nursing faculty, we can't
educate the nurses of tomorrow," says Julie

Bliss, chair of WPU's nursing department.

The nursing program at WPU, which is
accredited by the Commission for
Credentialing of Nursing Education, offers
students advanced practice nurses, education
and administration.

The science degree in the nursing pro-
gram prepares future nurses with the
advanced knowledge and practical skills rele-
vant to health needs of client populations.
Full-time students must take nine academic
credits per semester.

The loan, which doesn't have to be repaid
until after graduation, provides up to \$10,000
per year to cover tuition, fees, books and
other related expenses. Everyone with a bac-
calaureate degree in nursing is eligible for
the graduate program.

Applications to the graduate program are
now being accepted. For an application, con-
tact WPU'S Office of Graduate Studies at
(973) 720-2237 or at

http://ww2.wpunj.edu/admissn.
For a NFLP application, contact Kem
Louie, director of the Graduate Nursing
Program at (973) 720-3215 or (973) 720-

3511, or e-mail louiek@wpnj.edu.

Giuliani to give lecture at Shea Center on Feb. 6

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph
Giuliani will be visiting the university on
Feb. 6. Giuliani will be giving a lecture at
the Shea Center at 8 p.m., where the audi-
ence will be able to participate in a question-
and-answer session with him.

Prior to the lecture, he will meet with Dr.
Tina Leshner, a professor of communication,
and a select group of students who are study-
ing journalism or political science.

During his administrative Giuliani
reformed welfare, encouraged economic
growth and decreased the crime rate of New
York City by 57 percent. He was named
"Person of the Year" by TIME magazine for
his leadership during the World Trade Center
crisis.

As a principal in GiulianiPartners, he cur-
rently deals with emergency preparedness,
public safety, financial management and
leadership during crisis.

'The Butterfly Effect' keeps viewers in suspense

By Rachel Gold
Staff Writer

"The Butterfly Effect" will keep you in suspense for every one of its 113 minutes.

Although it's not really scary, it has those "spill your popcorn" moments. The main character, Evan Treborn (Ashton Kutcher), has suffered from blackouts since childhood. His mother has him tested for fear he has the same problem as his father, who was institutionalized until his death.

It turns out that Evan suffered a number of traumas during his childhood. First he couldn't remember that his father was killed and, that as a child, he drew himself as a killer. He also failed to remember that his dog was tortured, or, that in a joke gone wrong, a friend lost an arm in a dynamite explosion. He also had no idea that he was forced to star in "kiddie porn" movies directed by his friend's father.

No wonder he had blackouts. No wonder his mother brought him to a psychiatrist.

A psychiatrist suggests Evan keep a



Ethan Suplee, left, and Ashton Kutcher, right, star in "The Butterfly Effect."

Photo courtesy of www.butterflyeffectmovie.com

journal to help him remember. So Evan does, and just for good measure, his mother moves him far away.

In college, Evan learns that his father had recreated forgotten memories and changed them. Evan is determined to do the same thing. On the seventh anniversary of not having any blackouts, Evan discovers that by re-reading his journals, he can change the forgotten memories.

As Evan reads, he gives the audience the illusion he is traveling back in time and changing his past. In one memory he causes his childhood love, Kayleigh Miller (Amy Smart), to commit suicide. He keeps trying to change the memories of her until he finally ends up with one where she doesn't exist. Each time he reads an entry, the story changes. That makes the movie a little confusing, but you can still follow it if you don't get up for popcorn. In the end everything is happy, an unusual end to a supposedly scary/mystery movie.

This movie would appeal to anyone who enjoys suspense. The film does contain distasteful scenes with child abuse and animal torture, thus earning a well-deserved R rating.

Valentine's Day has its roots in Roman history

By Melanie Beshlian
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is fast approaching and some students feel that love is in the air while others simply feel its nothing but hype.

"We should make it a national holiday," said political science major, Gary Rich. "Then it would be worth while if we could get off of school or work. Valentine's Day is really just an excuse for couples to do something different than they normally would and for this country to make more money."

The holiday is celebrated each year on Feb. 14 with the exchange of romantic verse messages called valentines, greeting cards and, of course, flowers and candies.

According to HistoryChannel.com, Valentine's Day is a holiday in honor of St. Valentine.

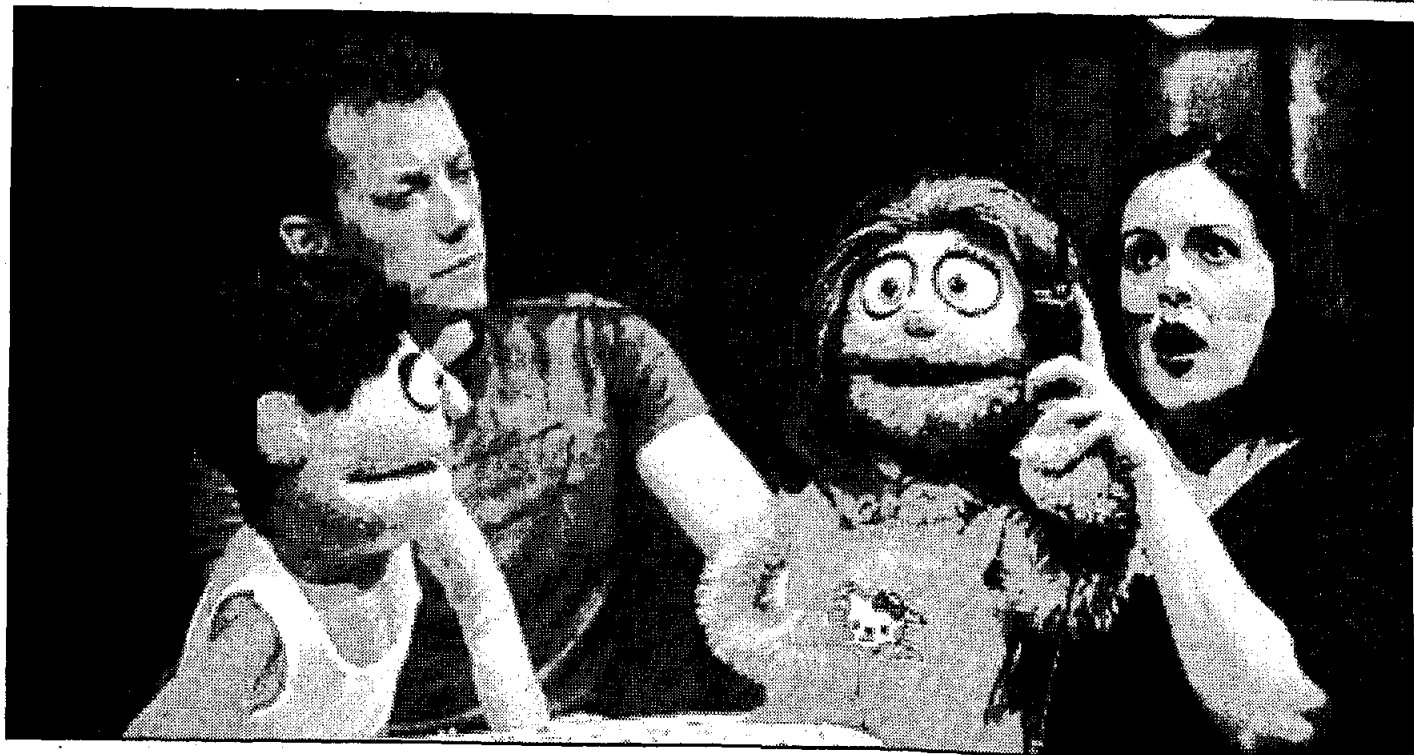
In medieval times, Roman Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriage for young men who were potential soldiers. When the future St. Valentine heard about the new law, he agreed to perform marriages on couples in secret.

Once Claudius II realized what was happening, he ordered Valentine be put to death. While in prison, Valentine fell in love with a young girl who came to visit him and in writing her a letter, signed it "From your Valentine."

In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland created the first valentine greeting card in the United States. Today, millions of these cards are sold annually.

Despite its historical background, students still feel that Valentine's Day is too commercialized.

Chanise Renae Stoute, a communication major, put it this way: "Think of me when Hallmark doesn't tell you to."



Princeton, John Tartaglia, Kate Monster and Stephanie D'Abruzzo perform in 'Avenue Q.'

Photo courtesy of www.AvenueQ.com

Stereotypes are un'fur'led on Avenue Q

By Jessica Incellotti
Staff Writer

Ramshackle brownstones line the gray cityscape of Avenue C calling to mind a seedy Sesame Street, stereotypical of any New York City outer borough. One might presume that this typical inner-city neighborhood is rife with cack-slinging gangsters, but like the musical itself now playing in Manhattan, all preconceived notions will be shattered.

On Avenue Q, humans, monsters and puppets coexist exploring social issues and delivering messages of tolerance, acceptance and hope. Princeton, a puppet, who arrives on Avenue Q post-graduation, is determined to find his purpose. There he meets the building's superintendent, Gary Coleman, whose purpose is to prove that as bad as you may have it, at least you're not Coleman.

Kate Monster is a 15-year-old kindergarten teacher's assistant searching hope-

lessly for her soul mate. Above her lives a human bi-racial couple. Brian is a white, overweight, wannabe comedian engaged to a misunderstood Japanese therapist named Christmas Eve.

Rod and Ricky are bickering puppet roommates, representing a spoof of Bert and Ernie, two popular Sesame Street characters. Across the hall lives Trekkie Monster, a blue fuzzy Internet porn-addicted recluse.

The self-discovery journey down Avenue Q commences with Princeton's ballad, "What Do You Do with a B.A. in English?" Kate Monster reveals to him her own purpose of opening a school just for Monsters, yet finds it racist when Princeton assumes that all Monsters are related. Trekkie Monster becomes inspired by Kate Monster's purpose and becomes the benefactor of the "Monster-ssori" school. Together the community performs "Everyone's A Little Bit Racist" in celebration of their diversity.

Rod, a repressed, homosexual, Republican investment banker is secretly in love with his roommate. A kindhearted slacker, Ricky ineffectively tries to "out" Rod along with the rest of the community by singing "If You Were Gay (that'd be okay)." Deeply hurt, Rod kicks Ricky out of the apartment, thus leaving him homeless.

Coleman, who is played by a woman, gains satisfaction from seeing Ricky and others in turmoil. Her performance of "Schadenfreude" is an enlightening song about finding pleasure in other's pain, a concept he often falls victim to.

The message in Avenue Q remains consistent. If we could learn to just laugh at ourselves and accept one another for our differences, it would be possible for everyone to get along peacefully. Entertainment Weekly named Avenue Q "The Best Show of 2003". The show is located at the John Golden Theatre, 252 West 45th St., NYC. Tickets may be purchased from Telecharge @ 212.239.6200.

PIONEER Sports

Avoid costly car repairs: Get a second, third opinion

If you've ever had that nasty feeling of being ripped-off by a car mechanic, you're not alone. It happens to all of us, even "the car guys and girls," and it is not always done on purpose.

Last summer my car started to have a steering problem — not the sort of thing you want to ignore. So I had it checked out to see what was wrong, and most importantly, to find out how many weekends of just pizza

and a beer this would mean.

After I explained the problem to my brother's friend — they work together at a high-end wheel and tire shop — he told me my power steering pump had failed.

Another mechanic-friend told me it was the rack, and yet another mechanic said the problem had to be in the lines going from the pump to the rack.

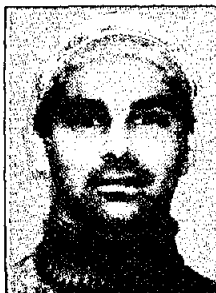
So there I was — in a two-hour period, I got three different answers to the same problem from experienced professionals. If I had replaced everything they told me to, I would have spent about \$1,500 and stopped talking to them shortly after.

Upset by this ridiculous situation, I went to see a local dealer service guy who have always been helpful. They told me to check something completely different, the steering column and in the end they were right. A \$1,500 repair bill became a \$3.49 receipt for a can of WD40. Two drops of penetrating oil on the right spot fixed the problem, and it never came back.

The point of this long story is this: the next time your car needs something repaired or replaced, don't just accept the first explanation you get and simply pay the bill. In fact, don't let anyone touch your car until they've told you what is wrong, even if you don't know the difference between a hydromatic valve and a stereoscopic spring — neither of which exist, by the way.

If the problem is significant — like a brake job or a smoking engine — try to take the car somewhere else and get a second opinion. If the opinion is different from the first, take it to a third mechanic. And don't just trust your family's mechanic simply because everyone's been going to him for 20 years. They too can make an unintentional but costly mistake.

CAR TALK



By Diego Perri

Women's basketball wins first tournament in four years

By Melissa Leibe
Staff Writer

A big win over previously undefeated Rowan University should help keep the Pioneer girls basketball team on their toes.

"We're different this year from last; last year we wanted to win; we just couldn't do it. This year we're working hard again and winning," said junior Lauren Armbruster, a guard on the team.

In fact, the Pioneers won their first tournament in four years over winter break. The squad played in the John Jay Invitational and defeated Lincoln University, Pa., before defeating the host college in the finals.

The Pioneers who are now 5-2 within their conference, have a good shot of getting into the New Jersey Athletic Conference tournament. Last year they came so close to reaching their goal of a .500 season; they know they can do it this year, said Co-Captain Barrie Quick.

She said the team's new players "have

been key this season."

Twin freshmen guards, Luci and Lori Custis, have been standouts. Luci has a great dribble and is tough to defend. Her sister who has been out for eight games with an injury, is also considered an excellent player. Freshman Melissa Moore, a forward, is also a great defensive player, says coach Erin Monahan.

Next season the team will lose Kat McPhail, who recently tied a career high with nine rebounds in the game against Rutgers University.

"Defensively, she has really stepped it up over the past few years," said Monahan.

Next, the team is facing off against The College of New Jersey on Feb. 7. TCNJ has beaten the Pioneers twice and the WPU girls are looking to win this time around.

"You can't overlook anyone in the conference," said Armbruster.

The Pioneers who thrive on the backing of the William Paterson student body look forward to the support.



Photo courtesy of WPU's Athletic Department Web site

Sophomore Allison Mopsick shouts out directions during a Jan. 14 game against Rutgers-Camden.

Pioneer men's basketball roundup

January 10

William Paterson 72, New Paltz 44

WPU senior forward Rory Caswell (Toms River) recorded his first career double-double, 14 points and 13 rebounds in the win against New Paltz. Senior guard Brandon Constantine (Teaneck) helped Caswell by scoring a game-high 17 points to go with his five rebounds and three assists. For New Paltz, senior guard Matt Daudier (South Floral Park, NY) led his team with eight points.

January 12

Rowan 68, WPU 54

Rowan's Evan Johnson (Trenton) scored 15 points. The Pioneers were lead by the duo of Constantine and Khayri Battle (Newark) who combined for 37 points. Constantine chipped in 19 and Battle had 18.

January 14

WPU 68, Rutgers-Camden 58

Pioneers beat Rutgers-Camden. Once again Constantine and Battle proved to be the Pioneers main source of offense by combining for 27 points. Caswell, with a strong presence in the paint, pulled down 10 rebounds. Camden native Rashee Fleming chipped in eight points for the

Pioneers. Gene Mergenthal of Rutgers-Camden led all scorers with 23 points.

January 17

WPU 68, Ramapo 66

Senior guard Battle gave the Pioneers the win over Ramapo by scoring with 1.2 seconds left to play. Battle contributed a career-high 27 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Fleming scored eight points for the Pioneers in 10 minutes of play. Charles Ransom (Jersey City) led Ramapo with 18 points while senior forward Jared Milligan (Ringwood) contributed 17 points.

January 19

WPU 58, Mount Saint Mary 50

The Pioneer's come-from-behind win in the final minutes of the sealed their victory in the Frank Lospitalier Tournament.

January 21

Montclair State 57, WPU 48

The Pioneers lost to their rivals in a disappointing game that saw WPU's team miss its first 14 shots of the second half and went a stretch of 11:13 over both halves without scoring.

January 25

Manhattanville 64, WPU 48

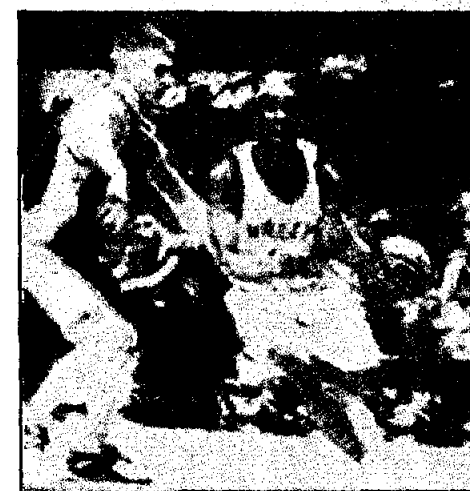


Photo courtesy of WPU's Athletic Department Web site

Senior guard Brandon Constantine.

Manhattanville handed the Pioneers their worst defeat of the season. Sophomore Mike Benziger (Sonoma, CA) scored a game-high 21 points as Manhattanville outscored William Paterson, 40-23, in the second half as the team rolled to victory in the championship of the Manhattanville College Castle Classic.

Compiled by Lauren Armbruster from information supplied by the WPU athletics Web site.

Sports commentary Bye, bye Boonie?

By John Bertollo
Staff Writer

The Yankees were thrown another curve ball just three weeks shy of the start of spring training in Tampa.

With pitchers and catchers scheduled to report on Feb. 16 the Yankees find themselves trying to replace one of their play-off heroes (albeit, in a failed attempt to win the World Series). Aaron Boone, the current third baseman for the Yanks, injured his knee in a pick-up basketball

game last month.

While the extent of his injury is not yet known, people are speculating that he sustained a torn anterior cruciate ligament. If true, Boone will miss the entire 2004 season. It should also be mentioned that Boone violated his contract with the Yankees by playing basketball and could lose his one year \$5.75 million contract.

The Yankees's options are slim. Enrique Wilson, the Yanks backup infielder, has been mentioned for a possible full-time role. Recently acquired infielder/outfielder Miguel Cairo is also an option. Yanks Triple-A third baseman, Drew Henson, has also been mentioned, however if they were to rely on him, the Yanks season would

begin to deteriorate even before playing their first game. Henson isn't ready for the major leagues.

If I were Brian Cashman, the Yanks general manager, I would look for a trade, possibly bringing Troy Glaus over from Anaheim or look to resign former Yankee Ron Coomer who is still a free agent.

It didn't take long for Boone to go from a zero to a hero and back to a zero; he may as well have cost himself a prime role in the Yankees 2004 season.

If his career is over as a Yankee thanks for the home run off of Jeff Wakefield during the playoffs against the Boston Red Sox, but Boonie, your services are no longer needed.