



In A&E: Toccatatones record album, prepare for concert



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

Campus Chronicle

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HIGH POINT, N.C.

Column One News

Women's golf team excels

The women's golf team shot a final-round 305 to capture the biggest win in the program's short history last month at the Northern Illinois Springlake Invitational at the par-72, 5,850-yard Springlake Golf Resort in Sebring, Fla.

The Panthers (311-305-616) bested Creighton by seven shots and Mercer by nine strokes. Other teams finishing behind HPU included Illinois, Bowling Green, St. John's, Appalachian State, Gonzaga and Old Dominion.

The following week, the team finished fifth out of 14 teams at the 54-hole Shamrock Invitational at Tega Cay Golf Club in Tega Cay, S.C.

Alum Martin wins Fulbright Scholarship

Alumnus Justin Martin, class of 2002, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and will study in Jordan during the 2005-06 academic year.

Martin's political commentary appeared in the Chronicle and his poetry in Apogee.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers opportunities for recent graduates, postgraduate candidates, and developing professionals and artists to conduct career-launching study and research abroad.

Following graduation from HPU, Martin earned his master's degree in journalism from the University of Florida. He plans to pursue his doctorate in communications at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he has received an all-inclusive fellowship.

Smith Library to extend hours during exams

In order to make studying convenient for students, Smith Library will offer the following extended hours during exam week.

Friday, April 29 (Reading Day) - 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Saturday, April 30 - 8 a.m. to midnight

Sunday, May 1 - 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Monday, May 2nd through Wed.

May 4 - 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Good luck on your exams!

compiled by Andrea Griffith

Bryden assumes Hitchcock's post as director of Smith Library

By Kathleen McLean
Staff Writer

On March 31, David Bryden, head of reference services, took on the responsibilities of Judith Hitchcock, former director of library services.

Hitchcock's contract was not going to be renewed for the next school year. Dr. E. Vance Davis, vice president of academic affairs, declined to comment on the situation. And although she appreciates students' concern for her, Hitchcock cannot make a statement, either. She no longer works at the library.

Hitchcock first came to High Point University in 1984 from Alabama to be a reference librarian. She served in that position for three and a half years and was promoted to director in 1988 when her predecessor left. "There was no active interlibrary loan program. There were only print indexes to aid in

research, and it was a relatively small library," said Hitchcock.

Hitchcock, with the library staff, led the way in improvements. In the early 1990s, the system became fully automated

and integrated to include online catalogues and databases accessible to students and faculty. "I feel like I turned it around with the help of my staff," said Hitchcock. Electronic books also became available, and the library's volume increased from under 100,000 to over 300,000. Smith Library was also the first building on campus to have e-mail.

Elizabeth Vidrine, media resources librarian, said that Hitchcock fought to

improve the library. "A lot of people might think that being library director would be an easy job, but it's not because of the balance you have to keep between departments, people and staff," said Vidrine. She also mentioned that Hitchcock worked to get professional development funds that allow staff members to receive training and attend conferences.

Many members of the library staff agreed that Hitchcock was a good boss and person. La-Nita Williams, circulation services, stated that Hitchcock was responsible for the computers, electronic resources and leisure collection. "If it was good for the library, she worked to get it," said Williams. Julia Kendall, evening circulation supervisor, added that although she had little contact with Hitchcock, Hitchcock always treated her with respect. "She was very sensitive to the needs of the staff," said Kendall. "And there were a few times when she recognized the night

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Graduation information revealed

By Andrea Griffith
Editor in Chief

Before the excitement of graduation begins, students should first be aware of all the details surrounding it.

Those details include securing tickets to two commencement events. The commencement luncheon, to be held in the Millis Center on May 6 at 11:30 a.m., will feature President Nido Qubein as a speaker. Each graduate is permitted three tickets for this event—one for the student and two for guests. Seating is limited and will be provided on a first-come basis. Tickets can be picked up during normal office hours from April 25-May 3 at the Office of Student Life, the Evening Degree Program Center and the North Building on the Madison Park Campus.

Faculty and staff who wish to attend the luncheon should also secure tickets in advance.

Due to space limitations, faculty and staff will not be granted tickets for guests.

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Down with the old, up with the new



PHOTO BY BETH ANTHONY

The field house was demolished on April 6 in order to make room for the Jerry and Kitty Steele Sports Center. The new 24,000-square-foot facility will include training and weight rooms, locker rooms, an indoor practice area for golf, an academic services room, offices for athletics administrators and coaches and a conference room. Construction on the facility, which will be named for two former HPU coaches, is expected to be completed by the fall of 2006.

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Baseball team has sights on playoff spot

Staff Editorial

Superb job, Dr. Wray!

Godfather. That's what we called him at the Chronicle office.

Dr. Morris Wray always sensed what we needed before we did. Renovated office? He waved his wand and the hideously mismatched orange carpet and walls and the ramshackle furniture were transformed into a cool workplace. Newspaper racks? They simply materialized. Good will? It was always there in abundance. A spirit of reconciliation? In our clashes with the administration, he treated us with respect.

But the Wray touch radiated far beyond Slane Center. The truth is that he played godfather to every student here during his 13 years as vice president for internal affairs. He worked his magic behind the scenes, in a gentlemanly style, never calling attention to himself, always deflecting praise in the direction of others.

Here's a partial list of his achievements. He brought better food to the caf and Blimpie's to the Point. He conceived the Indigo Room and Java City. He improved the student handbook, orchestrated the Cultural Enrichment Series, lured such luminaries to campus as Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts, Sister Helen Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking" and the Oxford debating team. Almost singlehandedly, he created a full-fledged Orientation program. He established the relationship between HPU and the Woodrow Wilson Fellows program so that cutting-edge reporters like NPR's Deborah Amos and Newsweek's Eleanor Clift spend five days

See *Advocate*, page 5

OAC's kayaking expedition leads to sun, waves and wild horses

By Wayne Watterson
Staff Writer

On an Easter weekend hampered with a forecast of heavy rain and thunderstorms, I asked myself if I should peel myself away from March Madness and go camping with the OAC or stay at good ol' HPU and watch the highly anticipated Sweet 16. A monster of a decision to say the least, but in a game-time call, it was off to Beaufort, S.C.

In a way this trip was like a good 8-9 seed match-up; it could go either way. If the forecast was accurate, the campers could be tent-bound all weekend seeking refuge from thunderstorms, but, on the other hand, with a little help from nature, it could be a great weekend of kayaking and enjoying the outdoors.

The first day in Beaufort we drove down to the Inter Coastal Waterway, located in the heart of the Croatan National Forest. It was a sunny 65 degree day with not a cloud in sight, and I have to say putting on sun-screen never felt so great.

After brief kayaking instruction, we were in the water, paddling upstream against the wind. After 30 minutes of kayaking through the waterway, trip coordinator Kelly Norton spotted some dolphins. Our group of twelve, which had been stretched out by about the distance of a football field, paddled together to observe the dolphins, as they dove and rose and seemed to enjoy the sunshine. I have seen dolphins before in aquariums, but it was most fascinating to see them in nature.

Later in the afternoon, we stopped on Carrot Island to eat and rest, and then we split up to explore. Carrington Dahmer, whom we were forced to call Crocodile Dundee because of his yellow bandana and cowboy hat, led three of us to a spot where he had found a massive gathering of thousands of soft-shell crabs.

After hanging out with the crabs for a little while and getting some funny video, we continued around the back end of the island. We walked a little way, and at the other end of the island, we saw what appeared to be a group of wild horses.

As we got closer, we realized it was indeed a gathering of at least 20 of them.

I assumed that the island horses would flee as soon as they saw people, but, sure enough, they didn't. Heidi Waibel, Gena Smith, Carrington and I made our way to the bank, getting as close as possible without spooking the horses. They didn't seem to mind us being there at all and even began to interact with us as they watched us closely, some coming within feet of where we knelt. The horses appeared tame. I felt inclined to try and ride one, but my better judgment kicked in, and so I just watched and enjoyed the

moment because you couldn't help but feel a connection to nature. I believe Heidi said it best: "I don't care what happens for the rest of the weekend; this made it worth coming."

Kayaking back to the van with the wind and water direction in our favor made it much easier and more enjoyable, and we made it back in half the time. At the campsite, we built a fire and roasted marshmallows. I was so caught up in the jokes and fun times around the fire, the events of the world of sports had slipped my mind entirely.

Thank God for cell phones.

Several people complained about having trouble sleeping the first night under the stars, but after a day filled with the great exercise of the kayak, we were soon out like lights.

Sunday morning came, and with the sun beaming through the trees, the notion of bad weather seemed a thing of the past. Some of us got together for an Easter Service at the campsite, and then we took our last paddle on the calm, brackish waters of the White Oak River.

See *Kayaking*, page 5



CARRINGTON DAHMER

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY WATTERSON

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Letters policy...

The Campus Chronicle urges readers to submit letters to the editor.

The salutation should read: To the Editor. Letters should be typed and should not exceed 300 words. They must be signed and include the author's phone and address for purposes of verification. No letter will be published without confirmation of the author's identity. Please do not send anonymous letters or form letters.

The staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and grammar, in addition to the right to reject a letter based on the judgement of the editors and adviser.

Mail your letter to: The Editor, Campus Chronicle, Box 3111, High Point University, High Point, NC 27262. Email your letter to news@highpoint.edu.

End-of-the-semester blues emerge in April

By Rebecca Fleming
Staff Writer

With final exams looming before me, I am reminded that Commencement is just around the corner. Last year, that told me I'd finished my first year of college. This year, it tells me I'll soon be saying goodbye to some really great people and even better friends. I'm not looking forward to that. The end of the semester also serves to remind me that when I come back to good ol' HPU in the fall, things will be very different – and I don't mean finding freshmen in my friends' seats.

Fall 2005 will mark the beginning of President Qubein's first full academic year here. That holds a lot of promise. We've all seen the changes taking place on campus since January. Just think what it will look like when August arrives. I can't wait to see what else he does. So I have reasons to look forward to next semester.

But, I still have a case of end-of-the-semester blues. This year has been great for me. I met a lot of people, made a lot of friends, had a lot of fun and did a lot of work. The flip side is half of my new friends are seniors who graduate May 7. I get lonesome thinking about it. Sure, I'll have my non-senior friends, but there's something sad about saying goodbye to people who've walked, talked and studied with you for a year.

And yet, I keep remembering the

changes awaiting me. Not only is the campus going to be undergoing changes, but I will be, too. In the fall, I'm going to be coming back to a campus I belong to. I'm more involved today than I was this time last year. In the fall, I'll get to keep expanding my circle of activity; I'll meet more people, make more friends and do more things. I'll also have a lot more classes – but I'm actually looking forward to that; all I have left are major classes. A lot of my graduating friends I met in my major classes. History and English majors rock!

As I begin to plot my Finals Week study-strategy, I brace myself for the goodbyes that will come. I remind myself when those last few papers are due and pray that May 7 is sunny so I can attend Graduation. I recognize that I cannot keep the semester from ending, even as I admit to myself that I wouldn't want it to keep going indefinitely.

I want to take this chance to offer a huge "Goodbye!" to all graduating seniors. You've worked long and hard, and you deserve your degrees. Kudos to you. We'll miss you, but I promise not to snarl at innocent freshmen that sit in your seat. They can't help it; they weren't here to know. But remember: You're the ones who are losing the most. We, the "un-seniors," get to witness and experience the changes that President Qubein will bring about.

Congratulations, Class of 2005!

Veteran editors offer parting thoughts

Final words from the old guard

Graduation opens up a world of opportunities

This part of my journey is almost at an end. High Point has been good to me; I've learned a great deal both about the



Drew

McIntyre

Opinion Editor

world around me and about myself. I hope that, in some small way, I have been able to add a little bit to a university that has given so much to me already. I left politics for the last issue; my life and my time here have been defined by much more, and thus I want my last column to reflect that.

How does one sum up four years of a college experience? I doubt it can adequately be done on so few pages. Yours and mine are probably different; I do hope that all of you reading this have had as much fun here as I have. While at HPU, I've seen a president, twice, shaken

hands with congressmen, explored Highland castles (and malts), given more campus tours than I can remember, won some great poker games, and—most importantly—been blessed with the friendship of more people than I deserve.

But college, like everything, is not all smiles and laughter.

I've also squandered opportunities, missed classes, procrastinated, lost friends and disappointed or angered more than a few people who deserved better from me.

The good news is that God grants us second chances. We have run this race to the finish only to begin a new one. Each mistake we have made here is only a mistake if we do not learn from it. And that is what college is about: learning to live to the best of our ability. Your coursework merely ensures you have the proper base of knowledge to pursue your vocational goals; the college experience itself teaches us to be more fully human.

High Point, I believe, does a better

See *Drew*, page 11

'We are the future': the challenge of tomorrow

By **Katie Estler**

Assistant Editor

"We are the future"—an idea that has been pushed on us since we are little, and it was only recently I realized how true that phrase was. Now you may just think I am getting nostalgic in my senior year, and you are probably right, but I want you to think for a moment how scary that phrase is.

That's right: The guys hammering down beer bong, the girls dressed like 'naughty school girls' headed up to the frat houses and the kids that came to class once or twice drunk for kicks are about to become the driving force in America. That's right: In only a few years the doctors, elementary school teachers, politicians, lawyers and business leaders of our country will have been the kids that sat next to you in a general education class trying to 'b.s.' the quiz on the book they forgot to read.

I have seen soon-to-be teachers 'b.s.-ing' a paper and tilting dangerously close to that fine line of plagiarism and

also skipping classes for the worst reasons. Seen the future religious leaders so dead drunk they could not stand or walk five steps. I've seen the next age of actors at their most basic and sometimes painful level of performance. My name should also fall into several future politicians' hush money lists because the stories I could leak to the press could make George "W" look like a bookworm in his college years. I've seen the next masterminds of the business world argue over whose turn was next with the video game controller.

I will try hard to bite my lip against laughing, as I watch my college friends try and persuade their children against underage drinking, sleeping over at boyfriends' or girlfriends' places and in general dumb stunts. As my own kids roll their eyes, because I never was their age and never knew what it meant to be young, I'll laugh to myself because I know I will be able to put their childish antics to shame with the amount of fun

See *Katie*, page 11

Chron improvements come courtesy of superior staff

In many ways, this issue of the Campus Chronicle marks the end of an era. Many of our senior staffers have been a part of the newspaper since they arrived on campus, and the publication has been



Andrea

Griffith

Editor in Chief

vastly improved by their dedication. When I returned to school in August to work on this year's first issue, I outlined a list of improvements our staff wanted to work toward. I purposely published the list knowing that the more public our goals were, the more committed we would be. Looking back, I think we've made great strides.

We called for fewer errors, more liberal opinion, more features, more attention to campus and student issues, more focus on international students, an improved Greek and organizational news page and more art. We've seen improvement on all counts.

No issue of this year's Chronicle has been perfect, but we've been pretty error-free for the most part. The contributions of columnists including Lauren Croughan, Justin Spinks, Megan Powers and Derek Shealey have helped balance our opinion section by countering arguments of veteran conservative columnists including Drew McIntyre, Jonathan Miller and Joel Stubblefield.

A healthy supply of feature stories,

which helped readers become acquainted with alumni, professors, students and staff, contrasted with some serious news stories that addressed campus issues.

Indeed, the events of the year led to some tough assignments for our staff—but from campus crime to delays in the rebirth of the campus radio station to mourning the loss of a beloved food service employee, our unrelenting news reporters had it covered.

Our coverage of international students improved with stories written by Ada Hernandez and Miki Ikeda. Our Greek page featured many news stories—not just briefs—that highlighted the work of campus groups. Our photography significantly improved in the hands of Beth Anthony and our editors who gained a better understanding of photo placement and sizing.

But it's certainly been a labor of love. We've had our share of complications—mostly those inevitable and pesky technological ones.

As I reflect on my Chronicle contributions, I hope that HPU will continue to embrace this vital part of campus life. Nurture it, so it can continue to flourish. As this university continues to change, I know that the Chronicle will also, and I see great changes in its future—a more frequent publication schedule, capabilities to view our writers' stories online and a bigger staff. I look forward to witnessing this transformation, even if it is from afar.

But the Chronicle wouldn't be in that position for growth without our entire staff and the active readers who provide us feedback. So as my time as editor expires, I say thank you. It's been an honor.

Straight talk from President Qubein

Exciting changes on the horizon for 2005

My dearest students:

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is in sight. It's been an exciting semester ... and more is yet to come. With the many physical changes happening on campus, the announcement of speakers for the upcoming Commencement events and preparation for major construction, we are entering a time of great transition and great anticipation. Let's collectively celebrate the fact that we're part of a dynamic family here at HPU, and recommit ourselves to excellence as we spend the summer as ambassadors of High Point University.

When you return to campus this fall, several new buildings will be under construction, including:

- Jerry & Kitty Steele Athletic Complex
- Business Building
- Communication/Education Building
- Wellness Center
- Renovations to Cooke Hall
- Fountains
- And more ...

There will be completed improvements, as well, including a totally wireless library and interactive security poles. For those planning ahead to next year's coursework, I will teach a special seminar on Life Skills that will help students prepare for a wonderful future even beyond college.

Friends, we are in the midst of great momentum which has not gone unnoticed by the world. Last month, the Michigan Daily—the newspaper of the University of Michigan—responded to

the announcement that their commencement speaker is John Seely Brown, (alumnus and former Xerox scientist) saying, "Some schools with less prominent reputations boast speakers who are household names, including High Point University in North Carolina (former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani) ..." The world is watching us, and we must show them what we're made of.

In closing, it has become more and more evident to me that students are the pulse of this university. Over the past weeks, I have been contacted by several parents of potential new students, expressing the same sentiment: "We toured your campus recently, and were overwhelmed at the enthusiasm, hospitality and friendliness of your students." Personally, I have had the great honor to hear some of you speak to potential new students and their parents, and nearly burst with pride at the mature and professional way in which you handle yourselves. You make the difference. I am so very proud of each one of you.

While I wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable summer, I do so with some sadness that the energy you bring to campus will be gone for a season. But August will be here before we know it, bringing our upperclassmen back to campus, along with a brand new freshmen class.

To our graduating seniors, we will miss you, and send you into the world with our prayers for a life filled with both success and significance.

Sincerely,
President Qubein

Conservatives not tolerated by the radical left on university campuses

By Jonathan Miller
Staff Writer

"Conservatives need not apply" should brand signs hanging from the halls of academia. Study after study shows that few conservatives teach at colleges and universities today. The most recent performed by Smith College, George Mason University and the University of Toronto states that only 15 percent of college professors label themselves conservative, while 72 percent say they are liberal (1,643 full-time faculty at 183 four-year institutions were surveyed). A similar study performed by three students here at High Point University, myself included, found strikingly comparable results.

How does this affect the classroom and the overall learning environment? At Bowling Green University in Ohio, a Spanish professor dedicates 10 minutes of every class to a "political parenthesis" or a tirade against anything Republican or conservative. On the day Pat Buchanan was scheduled to speak at Western Michigan University, a woman's studies professor stole posters advertising the event and then pushed a student when the student asked for the posters back. The professor even encouraged students to swipe the posters; and the hostile environment she created resulted in a student throw-

ing salad dressing in Buchanan's face. Lastly, I need to only say the name, Ward Churchill. If his tirade did not prove that college campuses overwhelmingly lean hard Left, then nothing will. How does a Ward Churchill get hired at the University of Colorado and become chair of a department if colleges are not teeming with liberals?

One might maintain that these are merely isolated incidents occurring under very extreme circumstances and do not represent typical professors. Yes, Ward Churchill is an extreme case, but not rare by any means. Just read the book, "Welcome to the Ivory Tower of Babel" by Mike Adams, a professor at UNC-Wilmington who documents the antics of his "progressive" colleagues. Even High Point University is not immune to such extreme Leftist behavior. My friends and I have witnessed professors step on their liberal soapboxes wasting crucial class-time. Some have even been threatening toward students wearing military t-shirts. I have even

tested a professor on grading technique. I wrote a paper from a conservative viewpoint and received a "C," and then wrote a paper from a liberal viewpoint and received an "A." No college is free from liberal bias.

I see no end in sight to liberals dominating campus faculty. Thomas Reeves of the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute has said that "conservatives are discriminated against routinely and deliberately" in faculty hiring.

Again, our campus is no exception. As long as college curricula continue requiring "multicultural studies," which is a politically

correct for indoctrination, conservatives will be brushed aside because how many conservatives are "race theorists"?

Maybe the tolerant Left would allow for affirmative action hiring of conservatives, since diversity is their mantra? Sorry, the re-education camp refuses to be an equal opportunity employer. Only those open-minded enough to believe in homosexual marriage, abortion and global warming need apply.

"Thomas Reeves of the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute said that 'conservatives are discriminated against routinely' in faculty hiring. Again, our campus is no exception."

News of graduation roadblock stuns senior

By Erin Sullivan
Staff Writer

I was thinking, "I have a little over a month left 'til I graduate. I'm ready to coast." As senioritis kicked in, I embraced it with open arms. I had worked my butt off for almost four years and I was ready to reap the benefits.

"Erin, your advisor wants to see you," said one of my psychology professors, pulling me out of my trance.

An hour later, as I sat down in the mahogany chair in my advisor's office, a train hit me. "Bad news," she began. My heart stopped. "You're two hours short of graduating." Breath ceased inside my chest.

"Umm," I began, intelligently. "Umm," and the intelligence continued.

I felt like she punched me in the gut. Actually, I would have preferred that. She went on to tell me that a mistake had been made and I needed to take another class to be able to graduate in May. I felt like I just entered hell. Actually, with the mention of taking yet another class, I felt like I was in hell and then asked to wear a sweater, as if it wasn't hot enough.

"Luckily," my advisor said with a sympathetic smile and matching eyes, "the night classes for the last session just began."

Oh, yes, I thought, lucky me. I've taken a night class and I wasn't a huge fan. Cramming a semester's worth of work into half of a semester three nights a week made me have a new respect for evening degree students.

"Or you can take a directed study," she said. Anything but actually going to class was appealing. I wouldn't have to go to class, but I would still need to read

the book and take the tests.

"Anything to get me across the stage in May," I said, with a reluctant smile. I thought of my family, which has already purchased plane tickets and made hotel reservations for the ceremonial event. Somehow I don't think they'd be too thrilled to spend all that money and then find me sitting next to them instead of with the other graduates on May 7.

I thought this would be my biggest hurdle before graduating. But as it turns out, leaving is the hurdle. I found myself wallowing in my problems when I was interrupted by my roommate.

"All we have in the pantry is maple syrup and trash bags. Which one do you want for dinner?"

These are the things I'm going to miss. All of the relationships I've created in the past four years won't be the same after May 7. It's nice to think that they will, but they won't. I won't see these people every day, plan spring break trips with them or skip class with them just because it's raining outside. Next year I won't be able to discuss weekend plans with them or share stories about what people did, or can't remember doing, the night before.

I almost wish my advisor had told me, "You're two years short of spending time with your friends. You can't graduate until those years are completed." I think I would have been OK with that.

I always thought that the hardest part about college was the classes. In a sense, that's partly true. But really, it's everything else. College is about all of the ties you make. Two hours short of graduating? No big deal.

Democrats also value morality

By Megan Powers
Staff Writer

In recent years, the dividing line between political parties has grown wider and wider, and the image of both parties has changed dramatically. Many have claimed the Republican Party to be the moral right, with Democrats targeted as immoral, irreligious liberals. However - I am a Democrat because of my morals not due to a lack thereof.

The Democratic Party seeks to give equal opportunity to everyone. Democrats do not give the unbalanced advantage to big business as the Republicans do, and they do not reward the wealthy at the expense of the poor. They want to keep as many jobs here as possible, allowing for more Americans to get work and stay off of welfare. They seek to limit spending and control the deficit, rather than increase it. Overall, they work for the benefit of a majority rather than a minority.

Socially, they uphold the rights of the individual. While views such as supporting a woman's right to choose may seem immoral to some, that view is not saying that all Democrats agree with abortion, but rather that they agree that a woman should be able to make her own choice. I think abortion is wrong, and those who make that decision will have to deal with the consequences for the rest of their lives, but it is not my decision to make for anyone but myself. As far as civil unions are concerned, I feel that a committed monogamous couple should be allowed the same Constitutional rights regardless of

Schiavo an unnecessary loss of life

By Joel Stubblefield
Staff Writer

Through the entire Terri Schiavo situation, many of us often found ourselves struggling to form an opinion. I usually have no problem forming an opinion on practically anything, but this situation proved especially difficult for everyone. There are, however, some certainties about this confusing fiasco.

First of all, the United States Congress had no business in this. I agree the situation was devastating for the family members and that the courts were of no help. However, Congress has a duty to the nation to make laws and debate national issues. As caustic as it may sound, Terri Schiavo should have never become a national issue. It's extremely disheartening that Congress can assemble from all over the nation in a matter of a single day to discuss the Schiavo situation. In reality, truly meaningful legislation hasn't passed the halls of Congress in the past decade, and yet most members of Congress are content to travel throughout the nation on fundraising trips or other excursions for the benefit of their constituents. Certainly Congresspeople should be accessible in their districts, and fundraising is an important reality in elections today. National policy, however, is far more important and yet appears to be anything but a top priority.

As for the two factions: it was tough to decide whose side to take. On the one side were the mother and father, pleading for the life of their daughter. There are countless examples of people throughout the nation that are sustained by feeding tubes and respirators. Skeptics immediately question the quality of life for such people, but family members are usually quick to defend their decision for life. On the other side was Michael Schiavo, whose morals are suspect. He claims that Terri's wish was for the tube to be pulled, that she confided her final wishes in him and desired death over life as a vegetable. The problem, however, was that Michael had a serious conflict of interest, with another woman and his children by her waiting for him. Yet, despite the pleas of Terri's parents, the Schindlers, Michael refused.

Further contributing to his suspect status, Michael refused to let the Schindlers visit their daughter in her dying moments. Despite their efforts through the court system, they were unable to secure power of attorney from Michael and were forced to stand idly by as their daughter starved to death. Now in the wake of her death, Michael has announced that the Schindlers will not be allowed to attend Terri's funeral, saying through his brother that they wouldn't come "in peace" and that he did not want a media circus surrounding the services.

Clearly the decision is a tough one - respecting the supposed wishes of a patient or acknowledging the conflict of interest and answering the pleas of that patient's parents. As the president said regarding the situation, perhaps we would have done better to err on the side of life.

See Democrats, page 12

Crossfire: Do the media have a liberal bias?

Iraq war coverage sparks heated debate

Biased reporting in Iraq neglects positive news

By Sam Shepherd
Staff Writer

A letter to the editor in the News & Record headlined "Media should report good and bad in Iraq" caught my attention a few weeks ago. This was the first time I had heard the public speak out for our troops directly to the media. Little information has been published about the good that our troops and our government have provided to Iraq. A friend of mine, Staff Sergeant Aaron Whitty served in Iraq for over a year before being injured. He wrote to me, "Only about 20 percent of their [media] stories are right." He later wrote, "I see the news and wonder where these media people get the stories they tell the American people... It makes me mad."

In addition, Sergeant First Class Ray Reynolds, a member of the Iowa Army National Guard who recently returned from Iraq, wrote, "Don't believe for one second that these people do not want us there. I have met many people from Iraq; they want us here. They say that they will never see true freedom we talk about, but they hope their children will. We are doing a good job in Iraq."

Bad news from Iraq usually ends up on the front page, while any good news that is reported is on the back pages. At times both the good and bad news have been skewed by reports as our soldiers have documented above. Furthermore, some information about the good that has been done in Iraq has not been presented

to the public. Here are some examples: School attendance is 80 percent higher from the levels before the war, and girls are now allowed to attend schools, most of them for the first time. Over 1,500 schools have been renovated and rid of the weapons once stored in the classrooms. Saddam Hussein is no longer propagandized in the textbooks and curriculum.

In addition, 4.5 million people now have clean drinking water for the first time in their lives. In one year, 400,000

"...Aaron Whitty served in Iraq for over a year before being injured. He wrote to me, 'Only about 20 percent of their [media] stories are right.'"

kids received updated immunizations. A report provided by SFC Reynolds, indicated 100 percent of the Iraqi hospitals are open and fully staffed,

compared to only 35 percent before the war. In the schools, students are being taught sanitation skills to prevent the spread of germs and bacteria. Yet most of the stories covered by CBS, NBC and other news outlets only point out the political arguments, the accusations of bullying and the Abu Ghraib prison torture scandal.

I wish to end with a quote that an Islamic friend provided me; he is half Iraqi. In the Koran (9:11) it is written, "The wrath of the Eagle would be felt throughout the lands of Allah and lo, while some of the people trembled in despair still more rejoiced; for the wrath of the Eagle cleansed the lands of Allah; and there was peace." Many Middle Easterners have associated that eagle with America and our bald eagle as the symbol of our freedom.

Sam Walton's empire: exploiting the masses, both at home and abroad

By Trevor McDonald
Staff Writer

As I listen to the latest news stories on some random Clear Channel-supported radio program, I realize that many of us are concerned only with the sins of a few individuals. I suppose it makes it easier to give evil a face if we're confronted with a picture of the latest burglary or murder. We're so afraid of what one guy might do to us that we're completely blind to the sins of corporations that exploit us daily. One of the greatest offenders is Wal-Mart.

Plenty of Americans shop and work at Wal-Mart. How many of them are unaware that they are contributing to the downfall of our economy?

Perhaps "downfall" is too strong of a word. But Wal-Mart's low prices must come from somewhere. In fact, most of the goods that one finds in Wal-Mart have been imported from China. Workers in China can be exploited easier for much lower prices than in America, where there are little nagging things like minimum wage and child labor laws. Then Wal-Mart

abuses the free trade agreement with China to bring these goods en masse to stores in America. With the refusal to pump money back into local economies, Wal-Mart has given China a great many of our assets. It is predicted that China will have the most powerful economy in the world within the next 20 years, due in no small part to Wal-Mart's actions.

Wal-Mart workers are exploited as well, though not to the degree of the Chinese. They work long hours for low wages. Worse than that, Wal-Mart makes it practically impossible to gain benefits and raises. To earn benefits, you must work a full 40-hour week, but managers will allow you to work only 39 hours per week. Moreover, Wal-Mart has fired people just months short of retirement.

Why don't these exploited employees find new jobs? There simply aren't any. When Wal-Mart finds a suitable spot to open up business, it will expend any resources necessary to crush all local competition. Now they've got an army of people with no jobs that will work for minimum wage for as many hours as they can get. Wal-Mart creates dependence for

Mass media a pawn to Bush and the right-wing

By Justin Spinks
Staff Writer

To my surprise I have heard several voices claiming the media have a liberal bias. This opinion, increasing in popularity, probably originated from popular TV news anchors such as Dan Rather, Peter Jennings and Tom Brokaw who have dominated broadcast news for over 20 years and are liberal. However, with heated issues such as the war and elections in Iraq, not to mention the CBS-Dan Rather snafu about President Bush's time in the National Guard, the alleged liberal bias in the media has become a hotter issue.

It all takes me by surprise because I have never found the media to be dominantly liberal. Rather when I think of biased news, Fox News Channel comes immediately to mind. Most Fox anchors would proudly admit that the majority of their stories do include their own opinions, and they are usually conservative ones. This has simply become an accepted fact. So the rest of the American media is liberal? I find this not to be accurate at all.

Consider the initial coverage of the war in Iraq. Who could give me an example of liberal media during that period in history? If by liberal, I mean people who either did not support the war or the way the Bush administration was handling the war, then I seriously doubt you could find any. The major networks, ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox, all acted like cheerleaders for Bush's war. Well-known newscaster Connie Chung on Oct. 7, 2002 scolded Democratic Representative Mike Thompson for criticizing President Bush's claim that Iraq was

an immediate threat to the United States. So our newscasters were insinuating that to disagree with the president would make a person a Saddam Hussein supporter or a terrorist. Where is the liberal bias in this? Voices in the media have since become more critical during the war's controversial outcome; however, as a rule the liberal voice is largely underplayed in the media. Take Seymour Hersh's article in the New Yorker on the possible American invasion of Iran. How many of you had even heard of that story prior to my March piece in the Chronicle? Not many, I'll bet, because the major networks underrepresented dissenting voices concerning how this administration handled the situation in Iraq.

Take Deborah Amos and Rick Davis, the Woodrow Wilson Fellows who recently visited the university. They were correspondents in the Middle East for many years, and they believe that the elections held in Iraq were a great step forward. As Amos said, "I was truly moved." But both, especially Davis, have criticized how the president has handled post-war Iraq and what he plans to do in the future.

So the question comes down to this: Is any attempt to criticize the commander-in-chief objectively as a journalist viewed simply as liberal bias? I'll let you answer that question for yourself, but before you do, bear this thought in mind: Perhaps Americans, and not just news people, should learn to think more critically and not be ruled by personal biases.

Kayaking, continued from page 2

As the trip neared its end, a bald eagle soared over us, carrying a branch for its nest - a perfect conclusion.

With a little help from nature, this turned out to be an amazing weekend. The Outdoor Activity Club will most likely be doing this trip again in the fall, and for \$20, you can experience the great outdoors. I would recommend this trip to anyone.

Advocate, continued from page 2

on campus every year. Perhaps, more importantly, it was Wray who, year after year, ceaselessly campaigned for the new communications major. In addition, he was deeply dedicated to the welfare of international students.

Few people know, however, that he sometimes made loans (read: gave money) to students who could not have returned to school without his generosity.

This summer, Wray, 63, will enter semi-retirement. In typically selfless fashion, he is returning to his native Virginia to care for his elderly parents in Emporia and perhaps to do part-time work for a lucky college in the Old Dominion.

We will deeply miss this kind, caring, unfailingly optimistic man. No one here has ever done so much good for so many students.

Business professor seeks thrills by riding motorcycles, skydiving

By **Brandon Wright**
Staff Writer

Financial management professor James Dunham has not allowed success to slow him down or keep him from doing what he loves. He is a man of great character, integrity and dedication. But first he had to find his way.

At first glance, Dunham may look like just another older man teaching at HPU. But when you talk to him, you find out that this assumption is incorrect. Mr. Dunham is an oddity among older men. He is a thrill-seeker.

At age 17, Dunham was a high school dropout living in his hometown of Galetton, Pa. He lacked direction, but he found it in the United States Army. "The Army made a man out of me," Dunham said. If it hadn't been for the Army, he doesn't know what would have become of him.

Dunham achieved the rank of captain, earned a Bronze Star and became a qualified parachutist and helicopter pilot. "They taught me how to jump out of airplanes," he said lightly. But obviously, this is not all that they taught him. He also spent one year in the fierce combat of Vietnam and some enlisted time in Germany. Dunham said that the Army built his sense of responsibility. The fact that he had other people's lives in his hands forced him to mature. The Army gave him leadership skills he could not have attained anywhere else.

After the Army, Dunham allowed the lessons he'd learned to carry over to his professional life. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati at age 32 and hit the ground running. His first job was as an accountant for a steel company. It

would pale in comparison to his other career choices.

Dunham rapidly advanced in the business world and went on to work under the title of corporate cash manager for both Hammermill Paper Company and In-



DUNHAM JOINED THE HPU FACULTY IN 1985.

PHOTO BY BETH ANTHONY

ternational Paper. "I was responsible for the investing and handling of three billion dollars each year," he said. He had this job from 1980 to 1991, until he pursued his true passion, teaching.

"You guys are my fix," Dunham said, as he spoke about his students. That's why he comes to class every day. "I don't have to work. I'm retired," he stated. Dunham is truly passionate about his teaching and, above all, his students.

Dunham started teaching here in 1985 as an adjunct professor. He was not able to be a full-time teacher because of his business schedule. Once he was able

to teach full-time, he was able to use his experience as a business leader and U.S. Army captain to mold himself into a great teacher.

But his most impressive characteristic may be his dedication. "My life is wrapped up in teaching. It's what I like and so I do it," he said. He is a dedicated husband and father of two: Laura, 33 and John, 36. He is also grandfather to one child, and another is on the way.

Many teachers suffer from stress on the job. Dunham escapes this by using his spare time to seek freedom riding a motorcycle. "Every job has stress. Stress doesn't overcome me," he explained. He does a lot to get his other fix, being challenged by dangerous situations, for instance, as a skydiver. He also goes to the mountains nearly every weekend to relax.

Dunham does not find it hard to get through his days of teaching because his students seem to give him the energy he needs to get through the day.

"You kids are a lot more important to me than any of you would ever think," he said. He loves to watch those whom he seems superior to go on to be smarter than he is. That is what he worked to do in business, and the same can be said for his teaching career. He may not realize, though, how much his students truly enjoy watching him, "at work," in class.

Dunham said that the one lesson he'd like his students to leave with is that, "everyone is important and everyone matters, from top to bottom." He'd also like them to pursue as ethically and morally correct a life as possible.

Shoeboxes collected for troops in Iraq

By **Mo Kamara**
Staff Writer

Neither Kim Soban, director of counseling, nor Robin Lindsay, director of student health, has a relative fighting in Iraq, but they believe that the soldiers in Iraq are there for a mission and this community needs to support them.

They recently acted on that belief by initiating a campaign to show troops that HPU cares. They collected shoeboxes filled with toiletries, cards, snacks and a variety of other items. Kim said, "Shoeboxes were from students, faculty, staff, alumni and family members." She also said, "The university family is very giving." One hundred and thirty shoeboxes were collected, and Student Life paid for postage.

The shoeboxes were mailed to SPC Michael R. Barnhart who is stationed in Iraq. In his thank-you e-mail, he wrote that he distributed the boxes to his fellow soldiers. Barnhart also wrote that "personally, I think the thought and act of you all doing this is priceless." Some students received personal letters from the soldiers who received shoeboxes. They greatly appreciated the efforts, thoughts and prayers that the university community extended to them.

The original idea for the shoeboxes for troops can be credited to Robin Lindsay. After watching "60 Minutes," she learned that the support of our troops abroad was decreasing due to the Tsunami disaster. She mentioned that "as a community, this is the best time for us to show our troops that we love and care for them." Kim Soban agreed to work with Robin after a staff/faculty meeting.

The two women are pleased with their work and promised that programs like this will be seen frequently on campus.

Graduation, continued from front page

Graduates who are unable to pick up tickets in the manner listed above should call 841-9130 to arrange special delivery.

Graduates should attend commencement rehearsal, which will be held May 6 at 2 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium.

Baccalaureate, featuring guest speaker Dr. Robert A. Schuller Jr. of Crystal Cathedral Ministries, will be held May 6 at 6 p.m. in Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church.

This service is not open to the public. Tickets are not required. Attendees will be seated on a first-come basis.

Graduates should arrive for Baccalaureate at 5:15 p.m. dressed in full academic regalia. Guests should note that flash photography and video cameras are not permitted inside the church during the service.

The graduation ceremony, which will feature guest speaker Rudy Giuliani, former mayor of New York, will begin at 9 a.m. on the Roberts Hall Lawn.

Tickets will only be needed if the ceremony is moved to the Millis Center due to inclement weather.

Decisions regarding the rain plan will be made by noon on May 6 and will be announced at

www.highpoint.edu/commencement. In the case of bad weather, students will be permitted a maximum of two guests who must have a rain-only ticket for entry.

Like the luncheon tickets, these tickets can be picked up during normal office hours from April 25-May 3 at the Office of Student Life, the Evening Degree Program Center and the North Building on the Madison Park Campus.

Chris Dudley, director of community relations, said that this year's rain plan would have involved the same

ticket policy even if Giuliani hadn't accepted the university's invitation to speak.

In the past, two ceremonies have been held in Millis Center when it rained, but Dudley said that this scenario left many feeling cheated.

According to Dudley, university officials decided to pursue Giuliani and Schuller as speakers because they felt the graduates deserved to be rewarded for

four years of work.

"Hopefully, graduation will be a day you'll never forget," he said.



DR. ROBERT A. SCHULLER JR. WILL SPEAK AT BACCALAUREATE ON MAY 6

Dudley said that the Greensboro Coliseum and Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum were also considered for rain venues, but using these facilities would require changes in the ceremony's scheduled date and time.

"There wasn't an ideal situation at any of these spots," Dudley said. "Knowing everything that we know, having it here is the best scenario."

Rain or shine, the ceremony will be broadcast live via closed-circuit television at the Hayworth Fine Arts Center, Hayworth Chapel and Memorial Auditorium. Tickets will not be required at these locations, which collectively seat about 1500 people.

The graduation breakfast will be held at 6:30 a.m. in the Panther Commons on May 7. Graduates should line up for the ceremony on the International Promenade at 8:15 a.m.

Guests are encouraged to take a shuttle to the ceremony. A shuttle will continuously run from Oak Hollow Mall to Roberts Hall beginning at 6:30 a.m.

More information concerning commencement can be found at www.highpoint.edu/commencement.

Furniture capital of High Point sounds off on competition as Vegas holds inaugural market

By Melissa Caudill
Staff Writer

"Furniture capital of the world" is synonymous with High Point. Every student, who enters HPU is bombarded with that phrase. Those who have never heard of High Point before coming here know within their first few weeks of that fact.

Twice a year, the city of High Point has around 80,000 visitors – buyers, exhibitors, manufacturers, retailers and members of the press. Students compete each October and April for jobs at Market. The hours are long, but the pay is good – and sometimes it is not even taxed.

Some carry heavy boxes of furniture, lighting, rugs and accessories up flights of stairs and unpack boxes for showrooms to be set up. Others stand on a street corner for 10 hours passing out magazines or flyers. And some stand in the street directing traffic and monitoring parking. Whatever the job, students are assured of one thing – money!

With 11 million square feet of showroom space, High Point has the largest wholesale home furnishings show in the world. Now, there's a new market in town. On July 25 -29, Las Vegas will host its first market at the World Market Center. Five million square feet of showroom space is available this July in permanent and temporary locations. On April 1, expansion plans were announced with total showroom space to reach 12 million square feet by 2015. The new Las Vegas Market will rival High Point's already established market.

"The Las Vegas market is definitely being watched by people in High Point. It has gotten some people concerned," said Denise Becker of the News & Record. The effect Las Vegas will have is impossible to predict. The ripples could take five, 10, even 20 years to be felt by High Point.

With all the attention and antici-

tion, the inaugural market in Vegas will probably have more attendance than what you'd expect from a trade show. "People are going to be curious," said Becker. "Our original projections were approximately 35,000 attendees representing all buying channels," said Dana Pretner, director of marketing and public relations for the World Market Center. "This attendance figure is expected to increase significantly now that we have expanded the scope of our show."

The newly released plans have eight phases over a 57 acre sight in the heart of Las Vegas. "Our growth plans are a result of buyers' and exhibitors' avalanche of support for the Las Vegas Market. The industry strongly believes in our long term vision of a world-class market in the world-class city of Las Vegas, bringing together all facets of the home furnishings industry," said Co-Managing Partner Jack Kashani.

"We continue to be approached by multiple segments of the industry and are continuing our efforts to address the needs and wants of the industry. Based on extensive input from the industry, we are certain a diversified mix of products located within a convenient, integrated campus represents the way of the future."

Las Vegas has some obvious advantages over High Point. Vegas offers more hotel rooms and a better rate than High Point's sky-high market rates. There is also an abundance of free parking along the Vegas strip, a perk which High Point lacks. Transportation to and around the market in Vegas will be simple - monorail (under construction), taxis, rental cars and a free shuttle service provided by the

WMC. And Vegas is known as the "Convention Capital of the World" with an international reputation for entertainment. The nightlife Vegas is famous for includes many casinos, restaurants and bars that stay open all night. "Those strengths mirror High Point's perceived weaknesses," said Becker.

So what chance does High Point stand against the Sin City? For starters, its name. Over nearly 80 years, High Point has established itself as the Furniture Capital of the World, a title which won't be easy to shake. "If you're going to be anyone in the market, you have to go to High Point. Las Vegas isn't going to shake that in one year," said Becker.

Despite the size of the WMC, it currently doesn't reach the 11 million square

feet capacity of showroom space here. The first Vegas market will be one-fifth the size of High Point. And the many furniture companies invested in High Point won't be able to just pick up and leave. Furniture companies own showrooms in High Point, but at the WMC only leasing options are available. "It is not easy for someone like Natuzzi to just pick up and go to Vegas. They have an investment here," said Becker.

To some, the busy nightlife of Vegas could be seen as a distraction to the buyers and manufacturers, who are there to work, not play. HPU senior Alexis Winning said, "Once the buyers at the Vegas Market go out and lose all their money in the casinos instead of purchasing furniture, they'll come back to High Point."

Another challenge the Vegas market faces is the heat. Vegas in July can be stifling. WMC plans to offer misting hoses and hassle-free shuttles to alleviate the discomfort of market-goers.

The furniture world's ties to High

"The furniture world's ties to High Point are not as strong as they once were because many companies moved their production from the Triad area to overseas locations."

Point are not as strong as they once were because many companies moved their production from the Triad area to overseas locations. Nevertheless, it won't be easy to shake the title of Furniture Capital of the World from High Point. The new expansion plans for Las Vegas create more reason for High Point to improve and update its market.

Pretner said, "All of the national and regional markets have their unique characteristics and features, and as long as they deliver a unique purpose to the buyer, such markets can co-exist. High Point has been an important national market for the last 100 years, and there is a significant amount of showroom buildings and ownership in High Point. Our aim in Las Vegas is not to duplicate or replicate what already exists. Rather, we are focused on seizing the opportunity with respect to building a world-class, comprehensive, state of the art complex for the 21st century. One campus. One management. All segments. In the world's most dynamic trade show city."

Students to teach in China

By Miki Ikeda
Staff Writer

An organization called Camp China came to school and called for students who want to teach English in China. The candidates had to be Christian and had to have at least one year in college. They would spend a week in California to get training, then leave America for China. Khou Xiong, a freshman, and Paul Hannam, a sophomore, have been accepted by the program and are going to China to teach English.

Khou is Hmong born in Laos. He came to the U.S. when he was three in 1989. While his ancestors were Chinese, he's never been to China. His relatives are not the only reason he has an interest in China. He loves kids and teaching. "I want to influence people, make a difference in people's life, so that will be a great opportunity," he said. He hopes that his Chinese students will learn not only English, but also how American culture is different from other cultures.

Paul Hannam is from Jamaica and has been in the U.S. for seven years. He is the one who introduced this matter to Khou. He has traveled many places around the world but not to China. He loves kung fu movies that spark his interest in China. Like Khou, Paul loves to teach. He said, "I want to be a doctor in the future, but if the occasion arises, I won't miss the occasion to be a teacher." From his experiences in foreign countries, he knows that is very important and interesting to get to know about other cultures and their languages. Of course, he wants his Chinese students to learn new things while they're studying English.

Both Khou and Paul are excited about going to China, but it will cost them \$3500 each. They're trying to call people for donations and also selling egg rolls and beautiful Japanese Origami works made by Japanese students to help pay their expenses.

NBC News producer speaks about challenges of broadcast media

By Nick Hammer
& Alexis Winning
Staff Writers

Murray Schweitzer, a producer for NBC News in Washington D.C., stressed the importance of storytelling in broadcasting during a speech in Norton Hall March 28.

Schweitzer has done media work since 1968, including the last 23 years with NBC. He said, "I have never seen my business in so much trouble," citing such scandals as CBS's use of false documents in a report about President Bush's National Guard experience and New York Times reporter Jayson Blair's fabricated stories about soldier Jessica Lynch.

Schweitzer called for TV news pros to reinvent their product, scrapping predictable formats and giving viewers a menu of stories to watch at any time of day. He may not be happy with his industry, but he does enjoy his job as a consumer investigative producer. He said, "The role people like me play is to make important stories interesting." So many things are required to get a story

on the air. After Schweitzer showed a recent news story he produced about Blockbuster's 'No Late Fee' policy, he said, "I counted 13 elements that it took

just to get that thing up there." Among other things, he wrote the copy that was heard, the tag that was seen, transposed the words when somebody was talking unclearly and ordered the Blockbuster commercials that were used as part of the report--all for a story that lasted two minutes and forty-five seconds.

Schweitzer's lecture was filled with insight on how to break into television, the most crucial skills to have and how storytelling is the quintessential element in all journalism. He also included five

broadcast segments that he produced to illustrate his work. Being an off-air reporter was hard to explain to some of his family. He related a story about how

his grandmother always asked him about why she never saw him on the broadcasts. "I'm the behind the scenes guy," Schweitzer told her.

"You cannot be on TV if you can't write," Schweitzer emphasized, calling writing the most important skill in broadcasting, on or off camera.

Schweitzer is most proud of creating "Does it Really Do That?", a segment that appears three times a year investigating products advertised on

infomercials. After presenting a hilarious segment about the Perfect Pancake Maker, a contraption that claims to make the perfect pancake every time, Schweitzer laughed and said, "On my tombstone it will read I was the creator of 'Does it Really Do That?'"



MURRAY SCHWEITZER

Two students disprove stereotypes about home state

By Erin Sullivan
Staff Writer

While they recognize that their home state isn't extremely progressive, two Panther women feel the need to dispel the myth that people from West Virginia are less intelligent than those from other states.

"Because I am from a small town in West Virginia, to many I meet I am assumed to be dumb, toothless, shoeless and incestuous," said Andrea Griffith, a senior English major from Lewisburg.

Griffith pointed out that she is just as intelligent and ambitious as people from other states.

"I want to do a lot of different things," she said, citing magazine and newspaper work, speech-writing for politicians and becoming a non-profit director.

Griffith holds a GPA of 3.86 and has served as editor of various campus publications, including the Campus Chronicle. During her junior year, she held five jobs at once, ranging from giving campus tours to serving as a public relations specialist for the school.

When asked about her workhorse attitude, she recalled helping her parents run their bed and breakfast when she was a child.

"Among other tasks, I would take down reservations on the phone," she said. "When the guests arrived, they couldn't believe they were speaking to a seven-year-old at the time."

Fewer than two million people live across 24,000 square miles in the Mountain State. Griffith finds this fact comforting since it allows a commonality for its inhabitants, whether it is knowledge

of a town or a shared acquaintance, like a family member, friend or neighbor.

"We all stereotype," she said. "But stereotypes that surround a place like West Virginia are accepted in society. West Virginia jokes are among the last accepted forms of discrimination."

Kristen Kelps, a senior biology and math major and fellow West Virginian, shares a similar frame of mind. Kelps wants a Ph.D. in pharmacology, combining the skills and knowledge she had acquired by being a double degree student. She noted that she could have graduated in three years had she only studied under one major.

Kelps was valedictorian of her high school in Ravenswood. "I always did well in high school," she said. "But, I just thought, 'Well, it's just a small school.'"

After attending classes at High Point, she found that she was just as intelligent as her fellow classmates. She found the fact that she attended a small high school to be to her benefit, since the majority of High Point's classes contain under 30 students.

Kelps is a Presidential Scholar, with

her entire tuition covered. She holds a GPA of 3.97, landing her a spot in the top 10 percent of her class.

Along with winning the chemistry Cardinal Award, she was accepted to two competitive internship programs during the past summer, ultimately choosing a program at the University of Georgia. She was one of 15 people chosen out of 200 for the Fungal Genomics and Computational Biology

internship program.

With everything she has accomplished, she still feels hindered by the West Virginia stereotypes. She recalled freshman

year, when along with all of the tribulations of being a freshman, she also worried about what others thought about her background.

"When I'd meet someone new, the worst two questions to get were 'What year are you?' and 'Where are you from?'" she said.

She said she would always receive a joke about being a freshman and then another joke about being inbred.

"There are definitely times when I

think, 'God, it would be so much easier not to tell people I'm from West Virginia,'" she said. However, she has never lied about it.

According to High Point University's web site, West Virginia residents have one of the highest graduation rates at High Point University. In May, Griffith and Kelps will add to that number, helping to prove the West Virginia stereotypes wrong.

"I don't think it's where you're from that determines how successful you're going to be," said Kelps. "It's the opportunities you decide to take."



GRIFFITH AND KELPS

PHOTO BY ERIN SULLIVAN

Library, continued from front page

staff and our contributions to the library in appreciation of our efforts."

Hitchcock stated that she will miss working with "such fine people," but will also miss the students. "To me, an institution is made up of both students and faculty," said Hitchcock. "That's our whole reason for being there and that's what I loved the most. And I liked working with the students because working with people that age keeps you young."

Students express similar sentiments. Juniors Rebecca Fleming and Daniel Holland, who also work in circulation, remember Hitchcock as a good boss and nice person. "She always seemed to be happy," said Holland. "It was rare to see her without a smile on her face."

Bryden will also miss working with Hitchcock, but is eager to start changing and improving the library. Bryden will be taking on dual responsibilities as he will continue his work as head of reference services. "It would be disappointing if I couldn't work with students," said Bryden. In addition to teaching classes on research and citation and working in reference, he will be in charge of coordinating and organizing staff, purchasing electronic sources and printed materials and giving guidance to the goals of the library.

Bryden came with his family to High Point in 1958 when his father came to teach at the college. Bryden was hired in 1990, but previously held positions in business. "Working in retail was a real help in library work," said Bryden. "If you don't treat the customers right, they don't come back, and here the students are the patrons. They are the ones who are footing the bills."

Williams stated that Bryden will make a good director. "He'll look to the needs of the students and he's already asking for suggestions," said Williams. Sheri Teleha, serials and cataloging librarian, added, "He'll be a good director and he'll bring in a new perspective."

Bryden is considering extending library hours to fit the needs of the students since many study during late evening and early morning hours. "There are not a lot of places to study on campus that are quiet, and I would like to get more students to walk through our doors," said Bryden. Plans are being made to make the library wireless, and Bryden hopes to expand the journals and electronic resources to suit the needs of the various departments on campus. He also hopes that students will offer suggestions as to how the library can be improved.

Inside the life of a homeless woman

By Gena Smith
Staff Writer

Four pairs of gloves and two toboggans. Those were her Christmas presents last year from well-wishers driving along Main Street.

Not far from the old Gulf gas station, about 100 feet behind a furniture show room and within 50 feet of a residential area, lies a little wooded area near Business 85, and the campsite where Patricia Lester, 51, lives.

Her tanned and aged face, long, uncut brown and grey hair and her dirty fingernails tell the story of street life. Among her friends the word "homeless" doesn't really exist; and she wished it didn't exist in the public's vocabulary, either.

"The worst thing that can happen is to let someone know I'm homeless, because immediately their attitude changes," said Lester. "You can't get over, under, around or through to anyone that you are just another person in need of assistance."

Since 1994, Lester has lived on and off at this well-established campsite. Everything there was found from a dumpster. Lester has a shower - an upside-down bucket with a pulley system and a white tarp stretched across a triangle of trees for privacy. "Taking a shower is like killing a chicken; first you

have to catch the chicken," said Lester.

Once a man asked her if he could use the shower. She told him he could if he fetched the water, which you have to find jugs to carry it in, built the fire, which you have to find firewood and matches for, found a towel and a wash cloth, which are not always available as you dig through a dumpster. She told him that by the time he gathered everything needed, a year would have passed by.

To the left, there is a camping tent that houses jugs of water, all of which

"Homelessness is no fun. The worst thing about it if you do it well, is it's far too easy to stay homeless. It has a certain amount of security because you have nothing to tie you to society's standard...It can be addictive."

Lester has retrieved herself. In the center of the grounds, there lies a small table with oil, an old bathroom cabinet mirror and other collected items from

the trash.

The kitchen is to the right of the shower, and a line of about five pans hangs on a bar between two tree posts. There's a pile of trash on the ground of the kitchen. There's a pile of aluminum cans - mostly beer - near the center; there's a pile of healthy green and red peppers on a small tarp across from the water jug tent. And there are clothes hanging from every line of rope there is, almost like a fence, to the left of her room.

Lester said drinking problems caused her homelessness, her divorce and her loss

ing custody of her children as well as an affluent lifestyle.

"Homelessness," she said, "is no fun. The worst thing about it if you do it well, is it's far too easy to stay homeless. It has a certain amount of security because you have nothing to tie you to society's standard. There are no bills to pay. It can be addictive."

People offer to help Lester every once in a while. But "their idea of helping is to go to Bojangles and buy you a dinner. They think one roll of toilet paper lasts you six months."

She doesn't like the conventional shelters in High Point and Greensboro because they have too many restrictions. There is a shelter she knows of in Georgia that takes people in without any drug or alcohol screening and gives them food stamps. If the people do not get up on their own two feet after that, they can never return to the shelter.

"I've heard horror stories about the shelters here. People have to sleep with their clothes tucked under their head," she said. "It's enough to make anyone who is trying to come off alcohol go right back to it."

A person can't just go through the shelter and its alcohol program and suddenly be cured. "He has to learn to function in society again," she said.

Lester wouldn't wish homelessness on anyone. "It's very, very lonely. I had pneumonia last week and I could have died; and no one would have cared...It's not safe. I sleep with a reef hook, with a pitch fork, with knives - and I don't sleep well."

A look back at High Point through the years

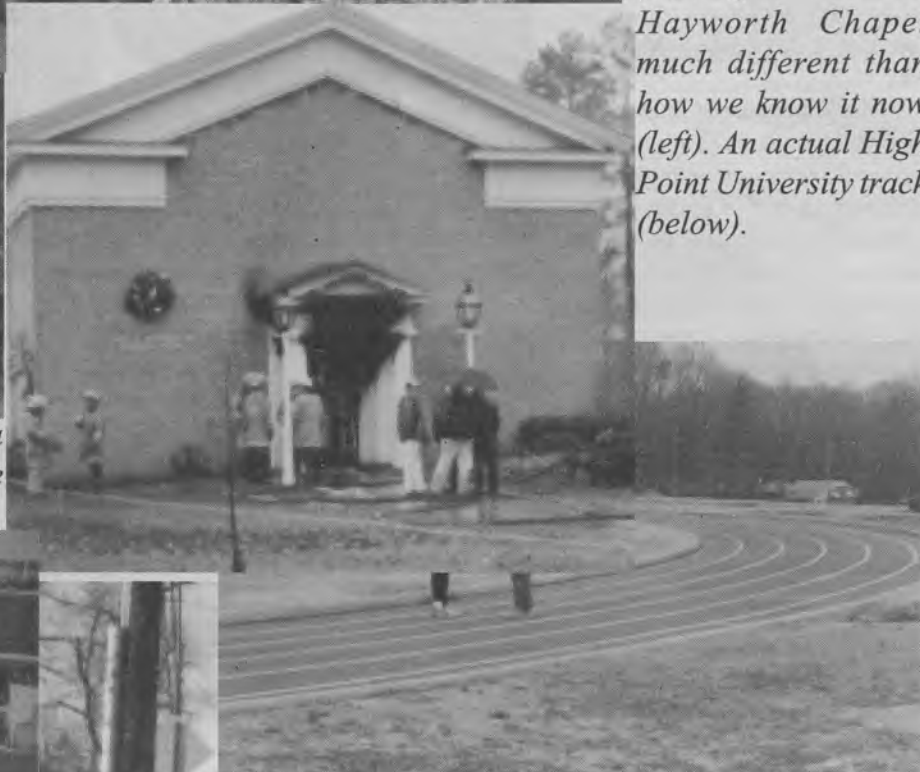
No mistake, that is a real High Point College football player. (left) Who would have guessed there was once a women's field hockey team (below)?



Gart Evans during the mustache years (above). The Hayworth Chapel much different than how we know it now (left). An actual High Point University track (below).



Now only the seniors remember a time when Theta Chis lived in a house and not in an apartment complex (above). A blast from the '80s KD style (below).



Ever notice how much the Greenward resembles a street, back when it was (above)? A more '70s stylin' Haworth Science (left). Dr. James Stitt circa 1980 (right).



The fashions may have changed but at least the atmosphere at school dances hasn't changed with the times (top). Our school Panther before his much deserved makeover (right). Back when the '90s grunge ruled (far right).



compiled by Katie Estler

Toccatones record first CD, tour East Coast

Two remaining original members to graduate May 7

By Amanda Roberts
A&E Editor

Four years ago, the Tocatones burst onto the High Point University scene. The time: the talent show. The prize: first place, \$150. Of the original five members, two remain, Mike Maykish and Josh McAfee; this year, they're graduating.

Maykish, McAfee, Chris Holmes, Adam Canavazzi and Baron Heinemann brought the Tocatones to life, a dream uniting the five guys. The style of music and a desire to perform led these guys to form an a cappella group. "It's hard to say how it began, but it did begin," Maykish said.

The Tocatones found their inspiration in Todd Owen Carter, former director of the music department. It had been his dream to start an a cappella group on campus. He contracted cancer and died in 2001, before Maykish and McAfee entered as freshmen. "We used his initials and found a music term to fit," McAfee said.

"At the beginning, we only knew one song," Maykish said. "The talent show was the first place we sang before an audience. We won, and we thought it was pretty cool."

That victory led to appearances at Orientation and Presidential Scholarship weekend and in the chapel. Last spring, they held their first concert. The fall semester, they performed with an Appala-

Troy and Joe Zito.

The boys practice about two times a week, no more than three hours a week. Recruitment occurs most often by Maykish or one of the other members,

New Jersey, concluding their trip with recording the first two thirds of their album. "Our first stop was supposed to be Bob Haviland's house," Maykish said. "However, Bob didn't know how to get to his house. We spent three to four hours trying to find it."

"I tell the guys, 'Don't think about it, just sing,' when we perform," Maykish stated.

The Tocatones have bonded as friends as well as singers. Over spring break, they performed with Chapel Choir at Carnegie Hall, having fun by dancing during their routine, most notably, "The Robot."

"The Tocatones is a good outlet for being able to get away and have Tocatones time. I've been here since spring 2003, and the practices have gotten more organized, and we have received more notice," Duncan said.

"I love the Tocatones

because the ladies love the Tocatones," Haviland said jokingly.

The group will release its CD on April 30. Many styles of music, from traditional doo-wop to classic rock, choral music to a Mozart fugue, appear on the album. Their spring concert is April 30, in the Hayworth Fine Arts Center at 8 p.m.



TOCCATONES PERFORM FOR AN ADORING CROWD

PHOTO BY BETH ANTHONY

chian State a capella group, "What's Yer Pleasure?" and this spring, in addition to their concert, they will be releasing their first CD.

This year's Tocatones lineup includes Nick Adams, Adam Duncan, Bob Haviland, Gabe Herlinger, Daniel Horney, Dane Jackson, Maykish, McAfee, Adam

pulling other guys they knew could sing and would be dedicated. "We've had auditions in the last two years, with about four guys showing up at each. Some of them are now members, which speaks highly of the quality of the performers we have," Maykish said.

Last fall, the Tocatones toured

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April 15 & 16 7:30

April 17 2:00

Students \$5

Adults \$10

Children and Senior Citizens Discount

&
'2'

(a drama about the Nuremberg Trials)

April 22 & 23 7:30

Black Box Theatre

Free to All, but pick up tickets before show



ACTORS ADAM TROY, JOEL HODGE AND JOE ZITO PERFORM A SCENE FROM THE DRAMATIC, THOUGH OFTEN HUMOROUS "2"

Beck scores another alternative rock hit

Thrice, A Static Lullaby good rock albums; Smith switches over to music (again)

By Lauren Croughan
Staff Writer

Blige.

Final Grade- B

A Static Lullaby- Faso Latido

Beck- Guero

Well, the Loser is at it again. Classic Beck sassiness, mixed with a bit of a Spanish flavor, makes this album incredibly interesting to listen to. The alternative rocker has some alternative lyrics and some definitely alternative summer beats. Ingenious and genuine, Beck is one of the foremost artists of our time. Savor him.

Final Grade- A

Will Smith- Lost and Found

With his continually switching career, Will Smith moves back into the music scene with his new album featuring a

contagiously danceable song called "Switch."

The album is surprisingly clean in content, compared with some other artists, and he delivers a commend-

able performance in his own way. I had the feeling going into listening to the album that it was just a marketing tool, but it actually was worth the time. The album features Snoopy Dogg and Mary J.



Rock, in its ever-changing form, has found another great band to discover. A Static Lullaby, a new band who rose from the

underground of St. Louis, Missouri, has many a good quality in its music. It is energetic without being deafening, but the singer's vocal chords have to be strained.

The powerful lyrics and guitar definitely could raise your spirits.

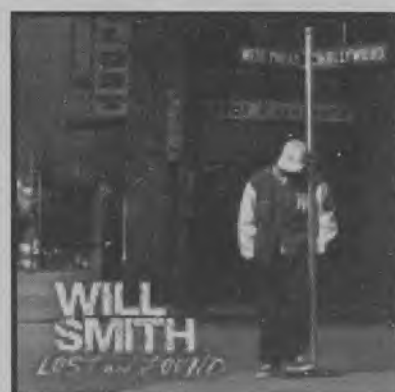
Final Grade- B+

Thrice- The Artist in the Ambulance

Now this is rock that sings from the heart. This popular band's new album is full of well-written, from-the-inner-sanctum lyrics and guitar from the soul. The album reminds me of most rock bands in the mainstream section, but there is

something about Thrice that stands out to me; and I am not sure what that thing is. Thrice makes great music, and *The Artist in the Ambulance* is further evidence.

Final Grade- B+



Graduating Greeks leave behind a legacy

By Sylvia Harwood
Greek Editor

On May 7, all seniors will be closing the chapter in their life known as the college years. For Greek seniors, this end can mean so much more. As soon as they receive their diplomas, they are no longer active chapter members. They are alumni which means they no longer attend meetings, pay dues or attend mandatory philanthropy events.

To those who have spent four years doing so, these duties will not be missed. But it is not only these things that the seniors no longer participate in. Themed mixers, formals and date parties, random sisterhood and brotherhood events, specific tables at lunch, the "rock," fraternity apartments and Millis dorm, houses on O.A. Kirkman, car washes, nights at Tri-angle, Ham's, Chumley's and Cleary's,

rush parties, millions of photo ops, beach trips and spring breaks, Greek Week, Derby Day, the list of things which will now become memories goes on and on.

Throughout their college careers, these students have given all of their hard work to make their chapters the best of the best.

The dedication and commitment go beyond the simple duties of being a brother or sister; the feeling is a deep connection that derives from knowing that they were part of something special and exclusive. These seniors hold the knowledge and experience of Greek life, and even though they will soon move on into the real world, their influence on each chapter and on the High Point campus will forever remain.

From all of the underclassmen Greeks, we wish you the best, and assure you that you will all be missed.

Katie, continued from page 3

and number of bad decisions I made in college.

Does this mean impending doom for our future as we know it? With that melodramatic question aside, college is one of our last chances to be a kids. College is a world of its own where we have the freedom to do what we want but not have to suffer the consequences we would in the real world—one last hurrah, you might say. We can go out and get hammered one night and still manage to make it to our test the next day. We can indulge in as much bad behavior as we want and still barely pass classes.

College is the time to make the

memories that years from now you will tell to friends and won't be able to believe yourself what you were willing to do in college for a good time and a laugh. And though I will miss it here, it is a good thing college is only four years long because I don't think many people could live their life at the pace of life we live here. College is the chance to live your days with disregard to how it will affect you the next day, but it also gives you the chance to figure out how you can manage that next day.

College is chance to live and have fun like you never will again in life. I've had my fun and am ready to go on and grow up, but I will always have some

Drew, continued from page 3

job of this than most universities. Why? Because HPU is a community. I'll grant that it is a community not without its squabbles and inconveniences, but these are far outweighed by the caliber of individuals that attend class, work and teach here. If my word isn't good enough, the example set by our new president should be enough to assure anyone that HPU prepares us to achieve whatever goal we have the courage to pursue.

I would not trade my experience at HPU for anything. If you are willing to get out of your dorm room and diligently seek opportunities for growth—both social and intellectual—you will never be idle for lack of something edifying to do. I refuse to believe anyone that says HPU is a boring campus. If you're bored here, then it only means you are unwilling to step out of your own small box; you are blind by choice. HPU is not a place to be if you want to get lost in the crowd and spend all of your time killing brain cells in new and innovative ways. Such people deserve to stagnate.

Now is a time of great excitement concern for many seniors. I don't know where I am going to be this time next year. Many friends have not had all of the opportunities they wished for come their way. But life has a way of opening and closing the right doors. Sometimes Providence has to take the wheel if we are not driving in the right direction; this is especially true in an age when most people do not know what they are here to do.

George Washington Carver once wrote, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it with-

out leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." For most of the big questions and aches that we have in this life, especially at this stage, the answer usually has something to do with knowing what we are here to do and how to make that happen. It is easy in college to just try to make it from one weekend to the next, having a good time. Many of our greatest thinkers remind us, however, that life is not about being happy; happiness is a fleeting emotion, and living for nothing else puts you on a roller coaster, constantly seeking new thrills but never getting anywhere. Life is, instead, about finding what you love and pursuing it with passion.

This is not the end, but it is an end. Surely whatever we lose in leaving this place we will gain back, and then some, in the next stage of our lives. These four years have been faster than any others, and this year has definitely been the fastest.

To everyone that has ever extended a hand in friendship, shared a laugh or a dram or taught me, I sincerely thank you. Each of you has added to my life in some way.

Seniors, we can no longer pretend to be carefree. Let us run our races with purpose and passion, and hopefully our paths will cross again. I leave here excited about what is to come for all of us, but sad about leaving what has been home for the last four years.

For those of you not graduating, I say that HPU is already a great place, and it is about to be taken to the next level. I suggest you get on board, and I promise that it will be one hell of a ride.

College Republicans

Thanks again to everyone who came out to Support the Troops Day and Conservative Coming Out Day! We certainly appreciate all the support and we hope you enjoyed both events!

The College Republicans enjoyed a very fine semester and year. We helped deliver President Bush for the state of North Carolina, aiding in his overall re-election; we assisted with Richard Burr's successful U.S. Senate campaign and we hosted two fine speakers, Daniel Flynn, conservative author, and Reginald Jones, a black conservative who addressed the campus during Black History Month. We also held a wonderful Women's History Bowl competition to celebrate Women's History Month.

We look to continue our successes during the next academic year being led by newly elected Chairman Wayne Rampone. Jonathan Miller, the current chairman, stepped down after two years at the helm. We wish him the best of luck as he travels to Scotland to study abroad at the University of St. Andrews.

The College Republicans would also like to extend a sincere thanks and best wishes to six fine seniors and one solid advisor. Jason Walters, Drew McIntyre, Denise Sealy, Chris Michener, Joel Stubblefield and Audrey Cecil were dedicated CRs who definitely impacted the organization for the better. Good luck to you all!

Finally, we would like to thank our advisor, Dr. Larry Simpson, for being such a terrific advisor. He graciously accepted our offer, and we are eternally grateful for his kind deed. We certainly needed a professor as solid as Dr. Simpson to take the role.

Farewell to all the graduating seniors, no matter if you're Democrat, Republican and any other political persuasion. The best of luck with whatever path you may choose. To everyone else, enjoy your summer and please join the College Republicans in the fall!

Alpha Phi Omega

On March 18th, the brothers of the Mu Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega welcomed in excess of 100 of their fellow brothers from Section 79 to their conference for the weekend, held at High Point University. That night, fellowship and preparation took place in the Pauline Fine Arts Center for the following day. On Saturday March 19th, approximately 100 brothers in Alpha Phi Omega walked the Greenway to Kirkman Park Elementary school at 9 am. For the next 3 hours, the brothers divided up and took on several tasks; picking up trash, planting and gardening at the front of the school, but most importantly miraculously placing, nailing and hammering together a 96 foot long bench. This bench is currently still at the elementary school and is to be hailed the Western Hemispheres longest bench. The Mu Xi Chapter would like to thank the sections in attendance for their hard work and dedication, the task could not of been completed without them. Also, the chapter would like to give their great appreciation for the Student Government Association, High Point University faculty and staff, Kirkman Park Elementary and all those who provided support for their conference.

Kappa Delta

As the year draws to an end, the sisters of Kappa Delta would like to thank everyone who has helped us out and supported us throughout our fundraisers and philanthropy events. Our Shamrock 5k fun run was successful once again, once the rain cleared and the blue sky arrived. We will be proud to present generous checks to both Prevent Child Abuse America and the Hallelujah House. Many thanks go to Connie Wicks for all of her time and energy.

The 50th anniversary of Gamma Gamma chapter was an amazing event filled with many years of sisterhood and memories. It was exciting to meet both the first initiates and our national president. The last few weeks of this semester will be spent mixing with a few of the fraternities and trying to spend as much time as possible with our KD seniors. Girls, you will all be missed greatly, but we know you all will be successful in every aspect of life! Good luck on finals, everyone, and have a great summer!

Alpha Gamma Delta

Being that this is the Gamma Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta's 50th year here at High Point University, the sisters of AGD have celebrated throughout this year with many sisterhood activities, philanthropic events and campus-related activities. We recently had an advisor appreciation dinner at Liberty Steakhouse and Brewery that we won from participating at coach's night. Alpha Gam supported Juvenile Diabetes by walking and donating funds at Paramount Carowinds in Charlotte on Saturday, April 9. Immediately following the walk, we headed to sunny South Carolina for a sisterhood retreat for the remainder of the weekend. Earth day is on April 22, and we are planting a tree in the chapel garden as well as enjoying the wonderful day by taking the cafeteria outside on the greensward. Come by and see it!

Roseball this year is going to be extra special for our retuning alumae for our 50th anniversary at String and Splinter. All the sisters of Gamma Eta are looking forward to reminiscing with them when they return. Congrats to our graduating seniors, Nicole Armer, Beth Baker, Maureen Delauter, Connie Gyftakis, Jenna Hill and Mandy Kuhn.

We will miss you!! Congratulations to Nicole Armer and Hillary Cole for nominations into Order of Omega. Also to Hillary for the seat of executive vice president of Student Government Association 2005-2006! Alana Esposito, Caitlin Stroczkowski and Laura Wolf are preparing to study abroad in Oxford. Have fun, girls! Hope everyone has a safe and happy summer! Love, the Alpha Gams!

Phi Mu

The sisters of Phi Mu are proud to announce our new additions: Ashley Stanfield and Mo Kamara.

Best wishes to our graduates: Katie Estler, Trish Mitchell, Kelly Brown, Kelly Rushin, Emily Stillwell, Virginia Provencher, Clark Henderson, Megan Brown, Kristen Via, Amanda Troy, Heidi Bitler and Lindsey Blanco. They leave the chapter in good hands.

Thanks to all who supported our volleyball tournament, we had a great turnout. The proceeds went to Children's Miracle Network.

Baseball team contends for Big South playoff spot

By Wayne Watterson
Staff Writer

With a little over a month remaining in the '05 baseball season, it is a shootout to the finish for playoff position, and for the first time in years, High Point is a major contender in the conference. As of April 8, the Panthers were 15-18 overall, and 4-5 in the Big South. Considering the ACC giants High Point played and nearly toppled earlier in the year, being on the door-step of a winning record is not a bad location.

Conference play opened up this season with a series against the three-time defending champion Coastal Carolina. Hurler Eammon Portice was sharp in game one and held the Chanticleers to a single run in eight innings. High Point was unable to capitalize, took a 1-0 loss and went on to drop the next two against Coastal Carolina.

The Panthers would win six of their next eight games. On March 22, following the Coastal series, an invigorated High Point team handed Elon an 18-0 loss. Bubba O'Donnell pocketed the shutout and got great run support from third-baseman Seby Renta who went 4 for 5 and freshman Bobby Brown who drove in 5 runs.

High Point went on to take one of three from Liberty in a home series and then come from behind to beat a tough Wofford team. Brett Lazar got things going with a two run single in the eighth inning.

Most recently High Point played a three game series against UNCA. After winning the first two games, High Point found itself down 2-1 in the ninth inning,

when Randy Schwartz stepped up to the plate. "Big Canada" delivered a solo shot over the right field wall to tie the game and start the Panther uprising. Schwartz said after the game, "When I stepped up to the plate, I knew I needed to do something big, and I knew I

could. When my home-run started a ninth inning rally that resulted in a win, it was more than a home-run; it was a feeling of accomplishment. It was one of the best feelings in the world, but again it's confidence and situation; you never doubt your abilities." High Point would go on to complete the series sweep of the Bulldogs.

Any way you slice it, the Panthers have come a long way from last year's

11-win season. When asked what positives will come out of the year, Coach Sal Bando Jr. said, "The most obvious positive from this year is the improvement in

wins and losses. The improvement made is in large part due to our pitching staff. At this time we have three freshmen in our four-man rotation. While that may be scary from time to time, it also makes the

future look very bright. Other positives are the emergence of freshmen Brett Lazar, Randy Schwartz and Bobby Brown, and the improvement guys like Chris Ramirez, Josh Cotton and Matt Kniginzky have made from last year to this year."

Enough can't be said about how instrumental the seniors have been this season. Josh Cotton is in 4th place in the Big South with 7

homeruns, and

Chris Ramirez has 41 hits on the year, only 5 shy of being the Big South leader. Chris said about winning the hits title: "Leading the conference in hits is defi-

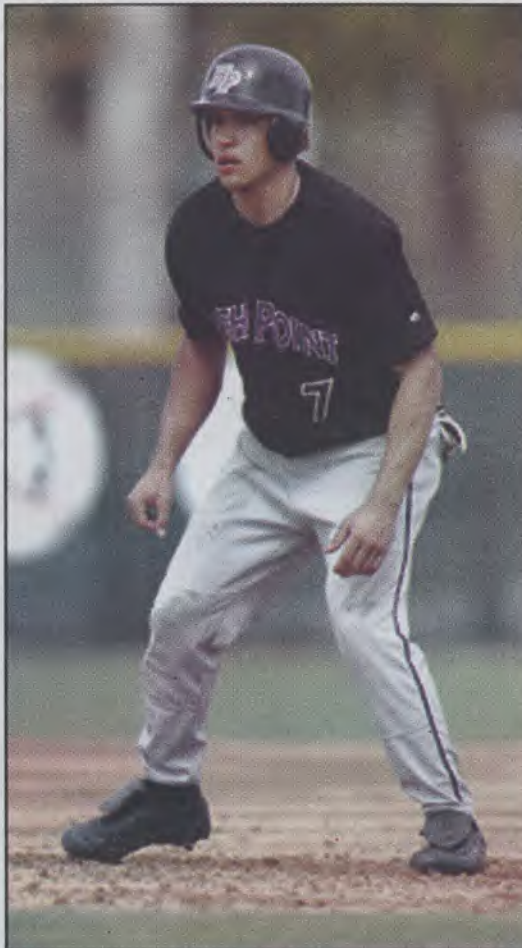


PHOTO COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION DEPT.
CHRIS RAMIREZ IS SECOND PLACE IN BIG SOUTH FOR NUMBER OF HITS

Fan makes early Fall Classic predictions

By Justin Cobb
Staff Writer

The last time an out meant anything, Doug Mientkiewicz was leaping into the air and the Boston Red Sox were world champions. A lot has happened since that time, not that long ago, last October.

Since then, players have been dodging questions on steroid use. Mark McGwire was dragged out of retirement to face high and tight questions from United States Senators; Washington is back, it seems, not just in the standings but also in the game itself. Sammy Sosa, the other guy from '98, long-time loser with the Cubs, gets a fresh start in Baltimore. He bolsters the always potent Oriole lineup, featuring Miguel Tejada and alleged Steroid Man number three, Rafael Palmeiro. Unfortunately, Baltimore figures to be on the wrong end of many 11-8 scores as its pitching remains an abysmal trial by fire misadventure like something out of a Stephen King horror novel.

Barry Bonds, the biggest and most tarnished name in the game, is seriously contemplating not even taking a swing this year, due to surgery and media scrutiny so intense that the reclusive Bonds may well leave the country and hide out, maybe even go to Japan to try and set home run records on two continents, the biggest star of America's Pastime being driven from the Land of the Free because the owners and player reps wouldn't buckle down on the steroid issue.

When an institution turns its back on a problem, is it fair to punish those who take advantage of the situation?

Jose Canseco thinks so. So do many high-powered movers and shakers of the American Political Machine.

But, enough of this foul exploration of the devious nature of professional athletes. The Boston Red Sox are the defending champions for the first time since Babe Ruth was a regular pitcher and the home-run record for all of baseball was less than the average team total from one year ago. With the curse out of the way, the new hurdle for the Red Sox is figuring out who can pitch. Pedro Martinez and Derek Lowe, two longtime and popular Bostonians are gone, Martinez to the Mets and Lowe to the Dodgers.

Are the Mets a serious contender? It's hard to take them seriously. They've tried the money game and lost; they've tried pitching and defense and lost; now they're throwing around Yankee-style money in a last-ditch effort to compete with the team from the Bronx. The rotation is vintage 2000 with Pedro and Tom Glavine anchoring a competent and veteran staff. As long as Kris Benson's wife doesn't sleep with the team, as she has threatened in the past, it's hard to see any serious clubhouse problems, but it's hard to bet against the Atlanta Braves who have won the division for more than a decade consecutively. The Braves once again have a stacked rotation featuring former starter, then closer, now starter again John Smoltz and the man from Oakland Tim Hudson. The latter may not be all he's advertised to be (he's never been a big-game pitcher in the playoffs), but then again when have the Braves ever done anything in the playoffs? Their fix is the regular season, and they're very good at what they do--win

95 games and then fold like hockey in October.

You can't look toward October without factoring in the New York Yankees and their Third-World GNP payroll. After failing to win the World Series yet again, the Bombers imploded the pitching staff, dumping Javier Vazquez on the Diamondbacks for the ultra-dominant Randy Johnson.

Carl Pavano joins the staff from Florida and first baseman Tino Martinez brings his Yankee uniform out of mothballs as he tries to resurrect his career; and what better time for it than Easter season? The big question mark, however, is Jason Giambi, whose 2004 season is the definition of just what steroids can do. In Giambi's case, the nightmare will be setting foot on the road as his tumultuous stint in the Bronx enters its next and possibly final chapter.

When the smoke clears, the gig is done and playoff insanity returns with autumn, who will be left standing?

Look for the Yankees, Red Sox, Twins (with Cy Young winner Johan Santana baffling opponents all year) and Rangers in the American League. In the senior circuit the Braves, Cubs (the return of "No-MAH" to the big time), Dodgers and Reds. The Reds are simply an impulse selection; in the World Series how about the Yankees and the Cubs, with the team from Chicago taking it in six.

If the Red Sox can do it, why not the Cubs? They certainly have all the pieces, a potent lineup and dangerous pitching. It's a risky pick, but there's no use in going conservative now, right?

nitely something I'd like to do but it's hard to anticipate doing it because you can't control exactly how many hits you get. One day you could hit four line drives and go 0-4 by hitting it right at someone." "Remi's" hitting has improved substantially from last year's .280 average, and a complement to his hitting is Chris's ability to get the extra base. Ramirez leads the conference with 14 steals.

It doesn't get any bigger than when the Big South tournament arrives May 25-27 in Conway, S.C. The double-elimination showdown has been dominated by Coastal Carolina which has taken the title the last three seasons. This year, however, the Panthers have proven they have the talent to knock off any team on any given night. A major weapon on the mound is freshman Eammon Portice, arguably the best pitcher in the Big South. Portice is 5-1 on the season, and is 2nd in the conference with 57 strikeouts. It has been years since High Point has had a true ace to bring out in the big game, and Eammon always puts his team in a position to win. Randy Schwartz said about the young man: "Portice is one of the most dominating pitchers I've played behind, and it's a different feeling when you are in the lineup while he is on the mound. As a teammate he's encouraging, more by actions than words; he leads by example. He treats every game with the same intent and the same intensity. The whole team feeds off his energy and fierce competitiveness on the mound; you feel it and you can't help but be involved."

Regardless of the outcome of the tournament, without question 2005 has been instrumental in the rebuilding process. This Panther unit is stacked with talented freshmen who will continue to improve and take this program a long way in the years ahead.

Democrats, continued from page 4

the sexual orientation of that couple—again, it is not moral support, but rather a belief in one's rights, liberties and freedoms.

Democrats believe in protecting our most important resource—the environment. I would like for my children to still have forests and clean waters, and without environmental policies that protect these resources, that won't be a possibility. If that is considered immoral...then I don't know what moral source you are relying on.

This is a country built on freedom and independence from strict, controlling rule, and it is also a country often considered a melting pot because of its immigrant composition. With the variety of cultures, religions and beliefs represented among the population, I can't support a party that wishes to make everyone the same. The Democratic Party allows for differences and encourages freedom rather than attempting to contain it.

I don't expect everyone to agree with me, because without differences and dissent, we would never make progress. The political party system allows for a forum for these differences and encourages intellectual and political discourse. I, however, know that I will always remain on the same side of the fence.