Fire destroys apartment

Cooking mishap causes almost $100,000 in damages

By Justin Spinks
Staff Writer

Early Sunday morning on Sept. 25, a fire demolished an apartment in Univer-
sity Village on the corner of North Col-
lege Drive and Centennial Street. Fortu-
nately no one was hurt.

At 4:20 a.m. junior Maria Rojas called campus security and reported that her apartment, 156-A University Village, was on fire right after her roommate Nachole Guess had phoned the fire de-
partment. Within three minutes, three campus security officers were on the scene, and within seven minutes, two fire trucks arrived, extinguishing the fire. However, they were too late to save the apartment.

Vice President for Administration Don Scarborough said the estimated amount of damage was $93,200. He added that the apartment is already in the process of reconstruction.

According to the incident report filed, by the campus security officers, sophomore Lina Toomer, the third resident of the apartment, was cooking chicken patties in a skillet on the stove when she fell asleep and the pan caught fire.

Guess, a senior, was asleep when she heard a faint beeping sound she first thought was her cell phone, but after wak-
ing up, she realized that it was actually a smoke detector. “I could barely hear it,” said Guess, but luckily it was loud enough.

Guess ran out of her room and saw that the kitchen was filled with smoke. She then woke up Rojas and told her that the kitchen was on fire.

Rojas and Rojas left the building but then realized their roommate was still in her bed asleep. Rojas ran back into the apartment into Toomer’s room and woke her up.

“When I went back in, the stove was on fire,” Rojas said.

When Toomer woke up and saw the fire, she threw a pot of water on it to put it out, but the attempt failed. “When she threw water on it, it spread,” said Rojas.

Rojas and Toomer left the apartment together, and they called the authorities.

The first truck to arrive couldn’t pass down the narrow driveway to the university apartments because two ve-
hicles were illegally parked in the fire lane, according to Rami Triplett, director of residential life, who was also on the scene.

Rojas was able to find the students owning the cars, though, and they moved their vehicles fairly quickly.

See Fire, continued on page 7

Ambassador preaches on consistency

By Christopher Petree
Staff Writer

“Understanding the 20th century helps to understand the 21st,” former Ambassador Thomas D. Boyatt told stu-
dents, faculty and visitors who assembled Oct. 11 to hear the Capus M. Wynnich lecture titled “100 Year War of the 20th Century” at the Hayworth Fine Arts Cen-
ter.

Setting the tone for this century, Boyatt explained that the United States’ success in the 20th century came from con-
sistent policy and winning the peace in Europe and Japan. Looking at the events of September 11, Boyatt emphasized the need for the same policies to be applied to current and future circumstances and the importance of not letting the United States fall into “a somewhat isolationist state where we saw with (President) Clinton.”

Boyatt presented the 20th century as a time of constant war, which pitted “East against West” and democracy against autocratic regimes. Looking at events such as World War II, Boyatt emphasized the importance of the United States staying true to its values and ideals.

See Boyatt, continued on page 8
who voted approved the draft; 63 percent
of the voting population in Iraq cast a
vote last week, failing in only two provinces.
Seventy-eight percent of the 9.8 million
described by the White House. Some are pro-war, some are against
fighting in the Iraqi conflict. One of my best friends is
a soldier who regrets fighting. It requires a
mental transformation to see them as friends, siblings, or boyfriends and girlfriends fighting in
Iraq; they worry about them, but often try not to think about the danger they're fac-
ing. Some are pro-war, some are against war, but all support the troops. They hate
to see others protesting the war because
they're doing a service, fighting in the stead
of others, preserving a way of life.
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of others, preserving a way of life.
The way of life in Argentina seems simpler

By Gea Smith

Staff Writer

You wake up as the sun rises and the roosters crow. The smell of fresh bread excites your stomach as you open the door to the streets of Campus Gallo, Argentina. Although this would be a good time to take a deep breath and sigh, if you did so, the dust in the air would nearly close your eyes and make it difficult for you to continue walking. You have the energy for right now.

You greet your mom with two kisses on the cheek and tell her you’re not going to school today. Everything here is relaxed, even the concept of education. She doesn’t yell at you for not going; she never went to school and she is no longer enrolled on the poverty line than those who were educated.

Your younger brother is wearing the shirt you wore yesterday, so you find one of his t-shirts. There are no possessive pronouns in this town. Since you aren’t going to school, your mom tells you to buy some bread for breakfast. This morning, you don’t feel like walking farther than two feet, so you ask your neighbor if you can borrow his bike. Of course, you can.

Your siblings head off to school, then you prepare to leave your house. You help your mom clean the house and cook for lunch. Off to the bread store again for lunch rolls. Everything here is made fresh.

Everyone returns from school, business closes down for a few hours and lunch is served. While the kids run around in the streets playing soccer, the men sit in a circle and sip their famous Argentine tea, mate, from a thick silver straw in a small silver-colored wooden mug. It looks like an Indian peace offering as each man takes a sip and passes it to his neighbor. Your mom and her friends are there to refill the cup.

It’s nap time. The whole town is quiet, and every bed is occupied. This is normal village life. You surf the internet with friends at the cafe, the one place you’ll normally occupy the front and center where the statue of some war hero stands. The noise is not a social disturbance; it is a way of life.

Late afternoon approaches and you head to the center of town. Bicycles line the plaza as if the roads were made from them. Here you find your grandpa and your girlfriend, not together, of course. The old man sat on the benches in the back, left corner, while the teenagers normally occupy the front and center where the statue of some war hero stands. The plaza is never empty. A whole lot of other people take places here: people who like whom; mom, I want some ice cream; back when we were younger... The old lady never thought her children would have to take a romantic stroll through the dimly lit, dusty roads around the plaza.

This is your life’s routine. If it satisfies you, you will wake up tomorrow and do the same thing.

As night approaches, the plaza fills up with teenagers as the adults and children trickle out. You and your girlfriend take a romantic stroll through the dimly lit, dusty roads around the plaza.

This is your life’s routine. If it satisfies you, you will wake up tomorrow and do the same thing.

But if you rebel, if you want more or find no nourishment in this lifestyle, you will seek a way out. Rich in social gatherings but poor in economic stand-
Congressmen who don’t argue?
High Point student surprised, pleased when politicians discussed hot button issues

By Patrick Donovan
Staff Writer

Thanks to assistant professor of Political Science James Corey, I had the opportunity in September to spend about 45 minutes with United States Senator Kay Hagan (D-Va.) and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), who were visiting the campus as part of the Sterns Center-sponsored Congress on Capitol Hill. During the meeting, I was able to speak with them about various current events as well as garnering advice for students interested in the public service field.

Throughout the course of my conversation with Specter and Hagan, I began to see politicians in a different light. I began to see, as opposed to the bickering and partisanship so commonly displayed from politicians, two gentlemen who didn’t think too much in terms of public image or party politics but rather saw things from a viewpoint of what they believed was beneficial for America and Americans. In my opinion, Senator Specter and Representative Kan Hagan (D-Va.) are the most personable, knowledgeable and personable congressmen I have ever interacted with.

One would think of the typical Puerto Rican as having caramel-colored skin, brown eyes and dark hair. I, however, don’t have white skin (which isn’t bad), naturally blonde hair and blue/green eyes. This is just one of the stereotypes I, as well as many other Hispanics, face everyday.

Not many people would think that my ancestors are from Spain (and, no, Spain is not in an island in the Caribbean; it’s a nation in Europe). In fact, very many people are in touch with their family history. They might have head bits and pieces from their relatives, but not much. This is mainly because some people just choose not to talk about their ancestors and people, knowledge about them. People in Spain are, well, somewhat...what. In Spain, you have to be very careful about talking about your family. If you say something about your family, you might be sería de la luna (insane in the Spanish sense).

Another stereotype is that most Hispanics are from Mexico. Not all Hispanics are Mexicans. They can be Puerto Rican, Panamanian, Cuban, Peruvian, Argentine, Bolivian, Salvadorian, Nicaraguan and, yes, even Mexican. It irritates me so much to hear people say degrading things, such as “You dirty Mexican!” or “Hey, Mexican, come over here! It’s your turn to be cleansed!” It’s OK that you wear the same t-shirts as we do. It’s OK that you drive the same cars as we do. It’s OK that you eat the same foods as we do. It’s OK that you have the same battles and see the same results. It’s OK that you wear the same t-shirts as we do. It’s OK that you drive the same cars as we do. It’s OK that you eat the same foods as we do. It’s OK that you have the same battles and see the same results.

To each of you, let us think of the future. What will America look like when our children are older? What will it be like to raise your children in the present? What will you want your children to think about America? How will you want your children to feel about America? How will you want your children to see America? How will you want your children to be seen by America?

Congressman Icon, Rosa Parks, dies at 92

By Allyson Bond
Staff Writer

Racism remains a problem
Cheap shots on national tv

Those who adamantly believe that racism no longer exists must be incredibly naïve or do not belong to a minority group.

On Sept. 28, Bill Bennett, the Republican host of Bill Bennett’s Morning in America, stated, “I do know that it’s true that we don’t allow the use of the N word anymore. If you could—if that were your sole purpose, you could abash every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down.” Bennett and a caller were discussing the notion of abortion and the lost revenue of potential citizens who were aborted. The caller stated how the money from those aborted persons could have funded Social Security and thus fix the Social Security problem in America. Bennett went on to refer to a book called “Freakonomics,” co-written by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen Dubner. Bennett argues from their perspective that the decline in crime rates in the United States is because abortion rates are up.

Given the context of the conversation, black Americans should have never been mentioned in connection with crime in the first place. Bennett used that opportunity to personally attack African-Americans for their supposed support for past legislation mentioning on the theory that crime in America was down because abortions were up.

Bennett, by the way, is the former U.S. secretary of education as well as a man who has been accused of being a compulsive gambler. His books include advice on mortality.

In the wake of his racist comments, he has received a lot of flack. He has called CNN that abortion be a get rid of an entire group of people in order to lower crime is “morally reprehensible.” But when has he stated that he does not believe that crime is a problem because of black Americans? I have yet to find an instance where he has recanted that statement. Perhaps in the heat of the moment, Bill Bennett exposed his true feelings about black people?

In 2005 and African-Americans are part of the fabric of this nation and will continue to be forever. Here is a new flash to Bill Bennett: crime in America is not uniquely an African-American problem. Whether or not he was trying to make a point about abortion, he did not need to do it at the expense of an entire race of people. That was simply a racist cheap shot.
Memories live on in wristband messages

By Rachel Johnson
Staff Writer

Everywhere you look you see those colorful rubber wristbands inscribed with sayings for a variety of charities. The Lance Armstrong Foundation started this trend with its now-famous yellow "Livestrong" bands. Now it seems nearly every charitable organization has its own version—down the Breast Cancer Foundation to the Brain Injury Awareness Association to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Budweiser has even created a camouflage-colored band in support of our military.

As the trend has spread, so has the variety of available color choices, and on several occasions, have been people who were wearing bands simply because they liked the color and were unaware of the cause they were supporting—because they liked the color and were wearing bands simply to "look cool." In the past few months, I have alternated between bands as a form of research, brain injury awareness and our troops, along with a few other worthy causes. However, every time I wear them, I am reminded of the importance of the small blue band I wear daily with the simple, yet poignant phrase "Life is a Sport." Created by the late Ricky Hendrick, these bands were meant to go to support the Hendrick Marrow Foundation, an organization started by Rick Hendrick shortly after he was diagnosed with leukemia in 1996. On Oct. 24, 2004, however, everything changed when his younger Hendrick, along with 9 other members of the NASCAR community, were killed when their plane crashed on the way to Martinsville, Va. I met Ricky by chance one afternoon online in March of 2002, and it wasn't long before we were talking nearly every day. It didn't take long for me to discover that in spite of his family's wealth, Ricky Hendrick was one of the most genuine people I've ever known. As Lynn Carlson, Ricky's sister, put it in his eulogy: "A friend of Ricky's was always black, and friends become in other sports and in the military to honor fallen comrades. Drivers, crew members, family members of the new-"life friends and fans alike joined in a small effort to show their support for the victims. The phrase "Life is a Sport" took on new meaning for so many as they tried to make sense of such a tragedy. For many, this wristband offers the opportunity to remember not only the loved ones caused by the deceased's absence, but also the joy brought by their presence. For those of us lucky enough to have as part of our experience, we know that our lives have been made richer by these special team members.

As Lance Armstrong once said, these bands offer an opportunity for people to display their hearts not only on their sleeves, but on their wrists as well. These 10 people will not only live on "always in our hearts" as another symbol created by EMMs in memorial, but in our minds as well, and these bands provide an opportunity to express that love for them on a daily basis.

PHONES, continued from page 1

had previously been working with eight and nine page stories. The festival has now been changed and grown, and so have the numbers of students involved. Last year, there were 260 student participants—mostly high school students—with more HPU students involved than ever before. Senior Alli Wassell participated in the Phoenix Festival during the last decades can be directly attributed to John Moehlmann's energy, efficiency and generous spirit. In North Carolina and served as a superb advertisement for this university.

Moehlmann admits he will miss being in charge of the festival "in a way," but says the changes taking place on campus prompted his decision. "In the face of one day leaving anyway, the changes made it more right to stop now." With campus renovations and the loss of Slane meeting spaces, it is time for the Phoenix to undergo its own time of innovation—only, rising out of construction dust rather than ashes.

Moehlmann's contributions will be missed when the 53 Phoenix Festival takes place this November, but he wishes the campus the chance to sit back and actually watch what occurs.

Straight Talk from Dr. Nido Qubein

HPU keeps breaking records and setting more goals

Dear Students:

Results ruled. If you've been in my office lately, you may have seen a chat hanging over the back of a chair with those words emblazoned across the front. Indeed, it is my conviction that RESULTS RULE! It's not enough to be busy; we must focus on the things that bring forth results. Be productive every day!! Set objectives and achieve them. Never give up.

If you've been reading the local newspaper or watch- ing our own university website, you know that the past few months have been overwhelmingly productive in prop- erizing this university toward greatness. Some very significant events have taken place that emphasize our desire to achieve results.

For instance, I was humbled at the generosity of our staff and faculty when they cumulatively pledged almost $80,000 to the United Way of Greater High Point. This was a 110% increase in giving over the past year, and indicates an overwhelming dedication to helping those less fortunate in our city.

Our friends and partners have also stepped up and cumulatively donated $1 million to High Point University since the beginning of January. Perhaps the most encouraging and humbling experience of the past month was receiving unanimous approval from our Board of Trustees for a very aggressive master plan to invest $100 million over the next five years to transform High Point University into a major research university and propel us toward greatness. These commitments are tangible proof of an internal drive among faculty, staff, don- nors, friends and students to provide a quality of education and experience that is second to none, more, more.

Friends, this is a history-making time for us. Every department on campus is focused on results, and when the story is told, this is a chapter in the history which will determine how we are viewed by the world. We are aiming for signific- ance, and we WILL reach our goal. You, students, are the ones building and sustain- ing, our striving, our believing.

Remember, results rule.

President Nido Q. Qubein

OPINION

Amanda Roberts

It's the weekend and you have time to waste...what to do? Take a nap, hang out with friends, go shopping - so many choices, so many mistakes to be made all the time. I've found that the reason I have a favorite activity is because it's near. Nearby, the Piedmont Environmental Center out by Penny Road has some amazing hiking trails.

An hour away is Pilot Mountain for more of a challenge. If you like the outdoors, but not that much, a perfect driving activity is to go to the Blue Ridge Parkway. There are stereotypes floating around regarding nearly every group or type.

Amanda Roberts

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President Nido Q. Qubein"
China trip teaches valuable lessons

By Rebecca Fleming

While most students were looking around the house or working summer jobs, two High Point University students were halfway across the world on a mission. They were among 1,000 American students that junior Paul Hannam spent much of their summer in Beijing, China, working with the Chinese to help children and American culture. They were part of a larger group of students from across the nation who gathered in Los Angeles last week in June for training.

The week of training in LA served as an icebreaker, allowing the students to get to know one another and learn how to work together. The students were divided into teams and participated in dailydevotions and activities to encourage teambuilding. By July 1, when they boarded the planes for China, they had not only formed lasting bonds that would not only help them adjust to their China-routine, but also help them keep in touch with each other.

China was overwhelming at first. Hannam said he could feel the presence of the billion people populating China and Moore just “didn’t know what to expect.” The first week in China was filled with observing Chinese culture and getting used to the new surroundings. Homesickness arrived during the second week, but it dissipated when the teaching part of their mission stepped up the pace.

The Chinese schoolchildren were divided into groups by age; Moore and Hannam worked with 9-12 year olds. As teachers, they were responsible for writing lesson plans and coming up with activities that would keep the children’s attention and teach them something.

The tutors present at a nationwide conference on a program she helped start

By Amanda Roberts

Two years ago, senior Emily Miles said she could have imagined herself surrounded by 100 people and speaking Chinese.

Of course, at that time, there existed no program to aid international students in grasping English. At the prodding of Dr. Carole Head and Barbara Mascali, Miles and junior Karen Dingle began tutoring English as a Second Language. After one year, ESL was the most highly requested service provided in the Academic Services Center. And because of ESL, the director, Craig Curti, will make a presentation at the national College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) conference in Long Beach, Calif.

Miles entered High Point University in the fall of 2003 with the goal of becoming an English teacher; however, she would find her passions shifting from the teachings of literature to students having difficulty with the language. While he had been tutoring with much trepidation.

“My first experience left me tears,” she said. “I didn’t think that I would be able to do it.”

This experience proved not to be the norm. While her first student had the barest knowledge of English, many of her other students would be more proficient. Nevertheless, she was surprised to discover how quickly their command of the language grew.

“Even though they went to China to teach - which, ironically, turned out to be harder than adjusting to a new world - both Moore and Hannam came home having learned more than they taught. Being isolated from the world's people for a third-channel experiences, they realized that only humanity - relationships - matters. It was a completely different way of life from anything they had ever known. The tutors take a group out to the mall or the movies and they're only allowed to speak English the entire trip. "It's so easy for them to isolate themselves when there are over 20 Japanese students at High Point. Many Americans make fun of them or are simply too wrapped up in their own group of friends to include them. The Excursions program forces them to speak English, and it helps them as well," Miles stated.

Earlier this year, the ASC won a grant for the Excursions program, to help fund the trips. Last spring, the students went to Miles' family farm in Virginia over the Easter holiday. They experienced a hayride and how the farm works - a completely different way of life from the one they see living in High Point.

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The history of Kernersville unfolds within the book. Sink said, “It’s very easy to read... and it will help people to know more about Kernersville.”

While she was writing the book, Sink said, she was surprised to discover that “George Washington ate breakfast there.” She also talked about a strange grave on Main Street called Kerens’ Folly that was of the home of the “first little theater in the United States... If not the world.” Sink said, to know more about the strange house, Sink said, “You have to read the book.”

It’s on sale for $19.95 at the book-store, and you can also get a copy on www.amazon.com.

Sink has published widely in many places. Her works include “The Grit Behind the Miracle,” a true story centering on the 1944 polo epidemic in North Carolina. He is a following publisher for her historical work about Katharine Smith Reynolds, the wife of George Washington and of the tobacco king R.J. Reynolds. She has also finished several more books on North Carolina history and culture.
Nickelback mediocre; t.A.T.u produce ‘another pop hit’

By Lauren Croughun
Staff Writer

Rock

Franz Ferdinand—You Could Have It So Much Better

Scotland has struck again with the second release from favorites Franz Ferdinand. "Do You Want To" is slowly rising up the charts. This album has their trademark sound in new conventions music, while the lyrics are still incredibly deep, socially aware and reminiscent of the lost genre of fun political rock. With the obvious influence of The Beatles, they just keep getting better and better with each new release.

Overall Grade—B+

Hard Rock

Nickelback

All the Right Reasons

An old addition to Canada’s résumé of famous bands now earns its title; or so we hoped. I want you, this gets interesting. With abundant criminal references, and an odd scattering of love songs, this album must be rushed. I cannot even describe the mediocrity that is this creation. If you like "Photograph," get the single. I hope to get to you before you died, because I wish I had a hockey mask to hide myself behind.

Overall Grade—C

R&B/Hip-Hop

Twista—The Day After

Last but not least, we have America represented by Twista on this review, and that is not a disadvantage. The guest list on this album includes Snoop Dogg and Lil’ Kim, Puff Daddy and Jay-Z. This was a little hard for my tastes, but if you like overwhelming bass, this is for you. Full of hard rhythm and hard language, it really is not surprising coming from this Chicago native. With rhymes not even a poet could spin, he is quite talented at what he does.

Overall Grade—B

Punk music is all about the attitude, controversy

Reaching its pinnacle in the 1980s, the core groups inspired the formation of other groups.

By Patrick Donovan
Staff Writer

Punk music is all about attitude, controversial and moving. Morrissey curiously led me to see that this group, who supposedly broke up in 2004, has a new album. The teenage girls, now legal, got famous for all the wrong reasons with their previous hit, "All the Things She Said" and their provocative gestures in videos. Now with "All about Us," they have performed another pop hit. They have the rhythm of European gothic metal, using the likeliness of their voices to try once again to break into the American music scene. However, you just have to kind of like the music scene.

When it comes to naming the founding band that paved the way for the punk rock genre, there really is no clear-cut factual answer, but a matter of opinion. The Ramones, made famous by their three-chord riffs and monotone vocals, have what would be chronologically the first punk CD. But The Sex Pistols were the band that brought punk to an immediate where it was easily accessible to those that wanted it, without denying their intentions of being anti-establishment or truly breaking the punk ethos and being mainstream. The Clash took the Sex Pistols’ influence and ran with it, topping the charts while, at the same time, both bands influenced the New York Dolls. In my opinion, it was the Sex Pistols that created the Punk Rock genre and subculture, while The Clash refined the Sex Pistols’ influence and the Ramones introduced it to the States and Americanized it.

With an album that was more noise than talent, The Sex Pistols’ “Nevermind The Bollocks...” was a brash, nihilistic, in-your-face sonic assault dedicated to criticizing nearly everything in the British political system. It was the seminal guidebook for what it meant to be punk, producing three top ten singles in the British lists and reaching No. 1 on the U.K. charts. The Sex Pistols fostered the mindset and attitude of the punk subculture. During their limited tenure as a group, the Pistols were surrounded with controversy. Violent concerts, drug abuse and negative publicity caused the Pistols to switch labels three times over a four-year career and ended a North American tour only 14 days in. The culmination was the murder of Nancy Spungen, allegedly by Pistols’ bassist Sid Vicious, that sealed the band’s fate and later served as the basis for the movie "Sid and Nancy.” However, is was the group’s attitude that truly defined them. It was their intention to do things their way, as they saw fit, regardless of the rules. It was this tenet that became the foundation of what punk rock was to become.

In New York, another branch of the punk idealism infuriated the underground music scene. At Times Square, a group of leather-clad, monotone misfits, The Clash, were leading the way with their self-titled debut album. More tongue in cheek and silly than the Sex Pistols, they were the rabble-rousers’ day off so to speak, capturing the attitude of punk and ran with it.

The Clash was the band that made punk music soar. With "London Burning," the Clash was the sound and attitude of punk and ran with it. While not as brash as their forefathers, The Clash crafted a sound that was more idealistic than the Sex Pistols’ blasing destruction. If the Pistols were change, The Clash was evolution, incorporating various genres of music into a sound that had, since its inception, been seen as “three chords and an attitude.”

While the Ramones carried well into the ‘80s and The Sex Pistols collapsed under the weight of their own revolution, the Clash was the sound that made punk music soar. With "London Burning," the Clash’s most critically acclaimed album, they set the stage to peak the true era of Punk Rock, the 1980s.

Recommended Listening: The Sex Pistols “Nevermind The Bollocks...” The Ramones “It’s Alive,” The Clash “London Burning”

Our music modern day has changed since the days of punk, as the genre has evolved over the years. The modern punk scene now encompasses a wide range of subgenres, from emo to post-punk to实验 to grindcore.

Tower Players Present: Peter Pan

By Patrick Donovan
Staff Writer

The mid-'80s to early '80s are what could be called the “Golden Age” of punk music. It was the time of its birth, not to mention its strongest expressions. It was when CBGB’s, a little bar in New York City, was something much more than a fashion show. It was an institution for a genre of music that was firmly planting roots in the underground American music scene.

Tower Players Present: Peter Pan

Thurs., Nov 10 @ 10am
Fri., Nov 11 @ 7:30pm
Sat., Nov 12 @ 2pm and 7:30pm
Sun., Nov 13 @ 2pm

Tickets: $10 for adults, $7 for seniors, and $5 for students with ID

For more information, call the Box Office at 841-4673, or go to the ticket window in the Hayworth Fine Arts Center.

IDS Credit will be given
New NHL lacks much of what made it enticing

By Kevin Scala
Sports Editor

It’s been almost a year and a half since we last saw the NHL. For those of you who have forgotten, that stands for National Hockey League. Hockey is that sport played on ice with pucks and sticks that’s entertaining. At least it was.

I was one of many that eagerly awaited the return of the NHL, as if we were reuniting with an old friend. The only problem was that it seemed that that old friend had latched onto some sort of bizarre cult. The outer package looked the same, everything appeared to be normal, but once I looked closer, it was obvious that something was terribly, terribly wrong.

Hockey has long been hailed as a physical game. That was the best part of it. Players settled their differences the old fashioned way, by dropping the gloves and squaring off right there on the ice. It started as a regional sport, in the north where temperatures dipped below freezing in the fall and spring. As the NHL continues to play, it’s on its own to clean up and recover, “Look at that, the Hurricanes lost to the Predators 5-4. Maybe I should start checking out games?” is killed the game that so many of us have grown to love.

Why are the faster, more finesse-oriented players the only ones that are con- sidered skillful? Why isn’t being able to over-power your opponent by just going through him equally impressive? The NHL would never institute a policy of giving running backs flags so that a skilled player like Priest Holmes doesn’t accidently get killed by a tackle playing a hard, skilled man such as Ray Lewis. But this is exactly what the NHL is doing. Players like Keith Primeau, Keith Tkachuk and John LeClair, who made their careers out of being a power forward, are now virtually useless.

I’m all for goal scoring, but why make it easier to score goals? Is defensive hockey, a hard-hitting game where last man back policing his five-man box, is a game that the fans can’t relate to? Is that what some of us have grown to love.

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