

*The Times Leader*  
T 4-18-95  
P.3A

# Mailer to address Wilkes graduates

■ *Noted Pulitzer prize-winning author also will receive honorary degree at May 27 event.*

WILKES-BARRE — Norman Mailer, an award-winning author, will return to Wilkes University next month to deliver the keynote address at the May 27 commencement.



Norman Mailer

Mailer, 72, also will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at the event, which is scheduled to take place at Ralston Field in Edwardsville.

Joining Mailer at the commencement will be Geoffrey C. Ward, the principal writer of the PBS series, "Baseball." Ward also will receive an honorary degree and will offer remarks.

Mailer spoke at Wilkes in 1992. Then, as is the case now, Wilkes professor J. Michael Lennon, a long-time friend and Mailer scholar, was involved in arranging Mailer's appearance.

Lennon is one of five literary executors of Mailer's works, which means Lennon helps answer questions and make decisions about Mailer's works and will continue to do so after the author dies.

Mailer earned two Pulitzer Prizes: one in 1968 for "The Armies of the Night," a personal narrative of the 1967 peace march on the Pentagon; and one in 1979 for "The Executioner's Song," about convicted murderer Gary Gilmore. Mailer also won a National Book Award for "The Armies of the Night."

His most recent book, "Harlot's Ghost," published in 1991, is a 1,310-page piece on the CIA. The book ends with the words, "To Be Continued."

Mailer also has completed a book on the artist Pablo Picasso's early years.

Mailer graduated from Harvard in 1943 with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946 and used that experience in his first novel, "The Naked and the Dead," published in 1948.

Mailer has not limited himself to writing. In 1969, Mailer and newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin ran as team in the New York City mayoral election. The pair finished next to last.

On April 27, Mailer is scheduled to appear on the Good Morning America show.

# Celebrity auction raises \$4,438 to battle AIDS

■ *The money will fund a program to make students and the public more aware of the deadly disease.*

By **JERRY LYNOTT**

Times Leader Staff Writer

**WILKES-BARRE** — Money talked and footballs, books, photographs, T-shirts, and anything else that could be autographed walked at the celebrity item auction Sunday at Wilkes University Arnaud C. Marts Sports and Conference Center.

A Star Trek Generation poster signed by Whoopi Goldberg went for \$35.

A Gladys Knight — minus the Pips — package including a compact disc, photograph and T-shirt sold for \$22.50.

An autographed photograph of President Bill Clinton brought in \$65.

All totaled, nearly 220 items raised \$4,438 for a program to make students and the public more aware of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The school's Student AIDS Awareness Committee is a week-long program in the fall, said Wilkes spokeswoman Christine Liberaski.

"Every single piece was donated," said Liberaski. "The cooperation from the celebrities was incredible."

A Hootie and the Blowfish compact disc signed on the cover by band members had C.J. Copley's name written all over it, too. The Wilkes sophomore paid \$65 for it.

"I came in, and I knew I was going to get it when I got here," Copley said. The Clarks Summit student said he saw the rock group play in Scranton a few weeks ago.

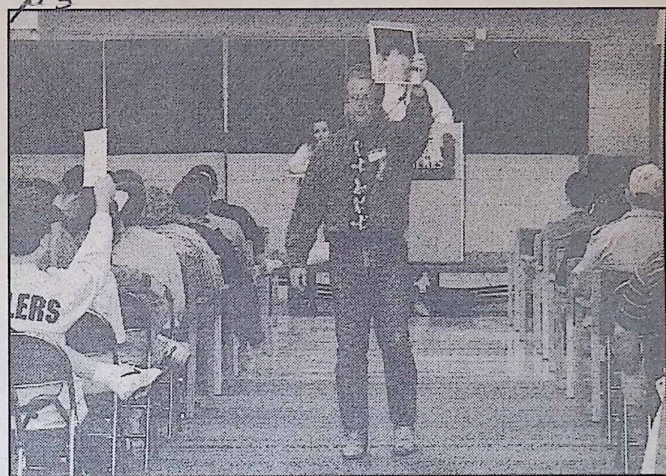
A signed Bruce Willis photograph will go on his wall, he added.

But the glossy of sound-barrier breaking pilot Chuck Yeager is going to Copley's father who is also a pilot.

"Father's Day is coming up," Copley said. "I'm going to wrap it up to give this to him for Father's Day."

The almost 4-pound hard-cover copy of Norman Mailer's "Harlot's Ghost" lightened Judd Winick's wallet by \$115. It was the highest bid of the evening. "Mailer, he's an American icon," said Winick.

Both he and Mailer have something in common beside their celebrity status. They are scheduled to speak at the school — Mailer at this year's commencement and Winick at Sunday night's AIDS Awareness address.



TIMES LEADER/CARA MENICHELLI

**The celebrity auction at Wilkes University drew more than 60 people. Master of ceremonies 'DJ PYT' of Hot 97 Radio, presents an item up for auction, an autographed photograph of Don Ho.**

Winick, a cast member of the MTV's "Real World," said he visits about 40 to 50 colleges and universities a year to speak about AIDS, safe sex practices and living with people with diverse backgrounds like the characters on the "Real World." One of the characters from the show recently died from AIDS.

"I do it because I can," said Winick, 25, an actor and cartoonist.

"You're not going to get a couple of hundred kids to come out and listen to a talk about AIDS by a doctor," he said. "I feel it's my responsibility to do this."

Joe Antonishak, a student from Wilkes-Barre, also felt a need to help out. He bought a T-shirt and photo of country music singer Faith Hill for \$37.50.

"I go here, so I figured I'd help the cause," Antonishak said.