

LOCAL



Steve Corbett

Only the arena
defeat rous
the fraud pol

Competent super
of the voting ma
warehouse emp
is virtually non-existent."

This is some quote from Le
County District Attorney Petr
Olszewski Jr.'s report into all
vote tampering on the arena

But it's not news.
I've known for some time v
Olszewski reported Friday, ar
not the smartest guy in hard-
country.

A few years ago I was hang
out in the voter machine war
after a close election. Some pr
were demanding a recount. O
were screaming about vote ta
pering. Like now, some people
sniffed the fragrance of fraud
air.

The voting machine wareh
employee guarding the machi
was listening to country musi
talking about his sore thumb

Turns out that he had hit h
thumb nailing campaign post
a tree for one of the candidate
was neck and neck with ano
candidate.

Nobody asked him to take a
detector test.

Nobody spent weeks chas
down unsubstantiated defama
spread by polished cheerleade
from the losing camp.

Nobody called the attorney
general or the FBI.

Nobody cared that the same
incompetence and gross negli
that's now front page news mi
have been casting its spell.

Wasn't the electoral proces
voting integrity as important t
as it supposedly is now?

Of course not.
The arena makes all the
difference.

Without it, we'd remain the
old crooked county that we've
always been.

And few people would care.
If nothing else, the contro
highlights our grand traditio

Olszewski's words could h
been written in 1895.

They clearly show that we
everything arena Yes propo
wanted us to believe we were i
first place.

Currently, people who wan
arena/convention center built
equate Luzerne County electo
politics with the rampant
corruption found in Third Wor
countries.

Why do they believe that?
Because they lost.

Had they won their ballot
referendum, do you
honestly think they'd b
crusading to overhaul an
antiquated and corrupt system
has worked well enough to mal

After 120 years, a soldier is honored

Descendants gather to
remember a man who helped
save the nation but, until
recently, lay forgotten.

By WILLIAM SPECHT
Times Leader Staff Writer

HANOVER TWP. — More than 120 years after his death and 85 years after his body was moved to an unmarked grave, Civil War soldier John Reilly was honored with the dedication of a veteran's marker for his grave.

"So few people are honored for the things they have done," said Joe Walsh, 55, a Wilkes-Barre native and retired lieutenant from the Morris County, N.J. sheriff's office. "He deserves the recognition. His military records read like a movie."

Walsh and about 14 other descendants of the Union Army corporal attended the noon graveside ceremony Saturday at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Walsh, whose great-grandmother on his father's side was Reilly's sister, took interest in Reilly while researching his

family genealogy. He learned last year that Reilly was buried at the cemetery and applied for the special county marker in December.

According to Walsh, Reilly, of the Wilkes-Barre area, joined the army early in 1861 and was captured that April by Confederate soldiers. He was released under the condition he not fight anymore but disregarded the promise and returned to battle. He was captured again in 1864. Reilly was sent to Andersonville Prison in Georgia and was not released until the end of the war in 1865.

Jean Wasnick, 70, Reilly's great-granddaughter, said she learned about Reilly through her grandmother.

"I think he had an illustrious life for the time that he lived in," said Wasnick. "I'm glad we're honoring him."

Reilly returned to the Wilkes-Barre area after his release and became a successful saloon and grocery store owner. He married and had three children.

Ironically, after surviving the war, he was shot to death during an altercation in 1874, at age 33, Wasnick said.

Reilly was buried in the Darling Street



TIMES LEADER/LEWIS GEYER

Descendants of Civil War soldier John Reilly join in prayer as his memorial marker is blessed Saturday at St. Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

Cemetery, in Wilkes-Barre. But in 1910, the remains of all people buried there were transferred to St. Mary's and placed

in a common plot, Walsh said.

There Reilly remained in an unmarked grave — until Saturday, Walsh said.

Be alert for change, Mailer counsels grads

One of America's pre-eminent
writers is honored at the Wilkes
University commencement.

By JOHN-ERIK KOSLOSKY
Times Leader Correspondent

EDWARDSVILLE — More than 400 Wilkes University graduates were treated Saturday to blue skies, warm temperatures and a principal address by one of the nation's most distinguished writers.

The Wilkes University 48th spring commencement was held outdoors at Ralston Field in Edwarsville for the second consecutive year.

Author Norman Mailer broke away from what he said was the traditional, positive commencement address and cautioned the graduates about the world they were entering.

"You are going out into an extraordinary world," said Mailer. "Into a world where all the signposts have become weather vanes. People don't know which roads they can take."

Wilkes University President Christopher T. Breiseth presented Mailer with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, describing him as a man who "illuminated our dreams and nightmares and has given us the courage to wrestle both."

Writer and historian Geoffrey Champion Ward also was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree. Ward was the principal writer for the Public Broadcasting System series "The Civil War" and "Baseball."

List of graduates — Page 10A

Also addressing graduates Saturday were President of the Wilkes University Board of Trustees Eugene Roth, Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Robert Bohlander and Stefan N. Clausen, the member of the Class of 1995 elected to speak.

Bohlander described life as a mixture of good fortune and misfortune.

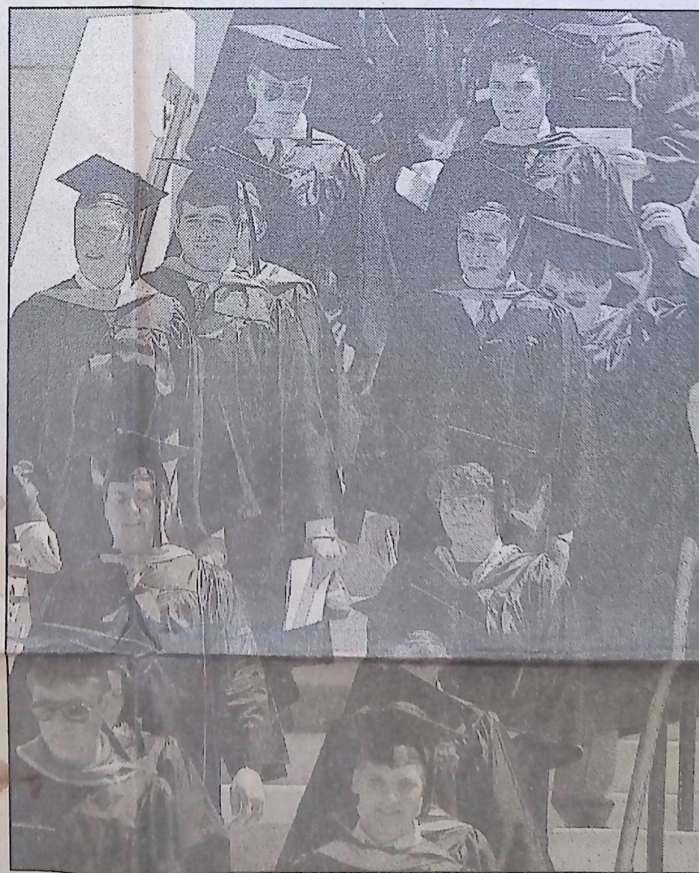
"Life is like a box of chocolates," said Bohlander, quoting the motion picture character Forrest Gump.

Clausen addressed his fellow graduates with no less humor, reciting lines from the Dr. Seuss book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go." He said although graduates will take different paths in their lives, they all will strive for one goal.

"Our goal is to enter the world and forge it into our own," Clausen said.

Christie Lynn Meyers and Daniel Chown Williams received the Mabel Scott Wandell and Sterling Leroy Wandell Awards, presented to both the male and female graduate with the highest academic average.

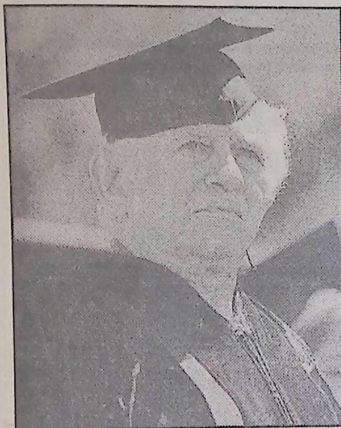
Meyers is one of 18 students in the university's 63-year history to graduate with a perfect 4.00 cumulative grade point average. Williams graduated with a 3.97 grade point average. Both received bachelor of science degrees in biology.



TIMES LEADER/LEWIS GEYER

Wilkes University graduates file down the stairs leading to Ralston Field at the beginning of the 48th annual spring commencement Saturday afternoon. More than 400 degrees were awarded at the ceremony.

wait was the principal writer for the Public Broadcasting System series "The Civil War" and "Baseball."



TIMES LEADER/LEWIS GEYER

Author Norman Mailer told Wilkes University graduates that it is up to the country's youth to meet the challenge of an uncertain future.

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Activism dormant, not dead, says author

By ANTHONY COLAROSSO

Times Leader Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE — After telling Wilkes University graduates they are entering a post-Cold War world filled with uncertainty, author Norman Mailer said it is up to the country's youth to deal with that challenge.

Whether they accept the challenge is up to them, Mailer said in an interview after his speech.

The two-time Pulitzer Prize winner refused to make a blanket statement about the ambitions of Generation X.

But he acknowledged that the generation of young people now entering the work force is generally perceived as apathetic. And the type of social activism Mailer witnessed and wrote about during the 1960s is non-existent, he said.

But that does not mean it won't return, he said.

"When the Cold War ended, it was as

if the century ended," Mailer said. "Life is so confusing — it's very hard to be active."

A renewed activism would not require a series of turbulent events, such as those that occurred 30 years ago, he said.

If President Clinton, for instance, sought re-election in 1996 and based his campaign on bringing whites and blacks together, it could prompt an activist movement, Mailer said.

"It would take lighting a fire under President Clinton," Mailer said. "(The administration) is just not passionate enough. And Clinton is not ready to die for a political idea."

Mailer explained he meant the word "die" in terms of Clinton sacrificing his political career.

Earlier Saturday, Mailer spoke to more than 400 graduate and undergraduate students at Wilkes' 48th an-

nual spring commencement Saturday in Ralston Field.

Saturday was Mailer's second visit to Wilkes. In 1992, he gave a public reading of one of his works at the campus.

J. Michael Lennon, the school's vice president of academic affairs, is Mailer's friend and one of five literary executors of his works.

Mailer recently published Oswald's Tale: An American Mystery. The book contains the first detailed accounts of Lee Harvey Oswald in Russia, based on KGB sources.

His speech to students Saturday dealt with the dramatic change the Cold War's end has meant for the United States and its citizens.

"You are going out into a world where all the signposts have become weather vanes and people are no longer certain of which route they can take," Mailer told the graduates.

crusading to overhaul antiquated and corrupt has worked well enough hundreds of men and descendants very well. No, they would not. They'd be calling a

opponents sore losers demanding that they for the bulldozers.

State representatives Yes Chairman Kevin leader of this pack.

Congenial as he is his career to the same Democratic hustlers controlled voting in the since the first ballot.

These are the very Democrats who hire workers now being s bungling, inept and a

If Blaum was so concerned the integrity of the vote he'd have made sure constituents were protected time ago.

The state representatives have been a better watchdog.

The same goes for other pro-arena lawmakers — state Rep Mundy, Sen. Charlie county Commissioner Sen. Ray Musto, etc. sworn to make sure the rights of all citizens are

This fiasco didn't happen overnight.

It took generations high level of political we have attained.

If things are as bad county as people want — and I believe they are powerful truly have been

Surprise, surprise. These issues never important to the hots as they won.

But they're important. Good clean voting here.

Good clean voting is the issue here.

So, if we're not corrupt.

When it comes to as bad as the other.

Steve Corbett's column Tuesday, Thursday

Solemn remembrance

Area veterans on Saturday night pay tribute to soldiers killed in Vietnam during the annual candlelight service at the Luzerne County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the South Lawn of the Luzerne County Courthouse. Pictured saluting, from left, are Carl Daubert and John R. Horridge of the Veterans of the Vietnam War Post 2, and Nino Sartini and Thomas Wayslow, members of the Luzerne County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee.



TIMES LEADER/BOB ESPOSITO