



CITIZEN'S VOICE/JACK NELLE

From left are Terry Leonino, Kim Harris, Greg Artzner and Reggie Harris at College Misericordia.

Children learn about struggle for freedom

College Misericordia presented a unique program for children from area schools on the Dallas Campus.

Kim & Reggie Harris and Magpie, a group dedicated to reaching out to children in the spirit of unity presented "Hand in Hand: Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges" before a crowd of more than 700 children in Walsh Auditorium.

Through music, song, storytelling and reenactment, the players told the children about the struggle for all people to be free and equal.

A particular segment of the presentation was a rendition of Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson dialogue concerning Robinson's debut in professional baseball.

Other personalities from history were portrayed by Terry Leonino, Greg Artzner and Kim and Reggie Harris.

Students and teachers alike expressed their enjoyment with the performances.

Shawn Flynn, a fifth grade teacher from Leo Solomon Plains Memorial School said he thought the program was "excellent."

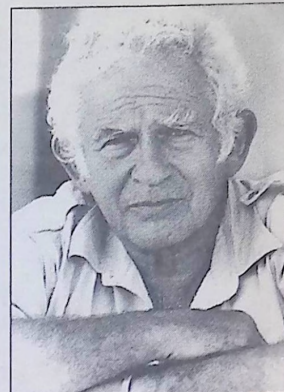
"Judging by the children's enthusiastic response, I'd say they enjoyed the performances. I thought each segment was geared toward the age group, which increased their interest level," he offered.

Third, fourth and fifth grade students from six area schools participated.

Kim & Reggie Harris, along with Magpie, Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner, sing a song of freedom. More than 700 little arms were raised in support of the spirit of the song in Walsh Auditorium as the group sang on stage.

For more information about the Diversity Council contact College Misericordia.

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Norman Mailer will speak at Wilkes



Norman Mailer

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Norman Mailer will be the guest speaker for the Twentieth Annual Event of the Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities at Wilkes University. The event is free and open to the public.

His lecture, Norman Mailer on American Presidents: FDR to WJC, will be held on Sunday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m., at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. It will feature brief readings on five U.S. presidents, and Mailer will take questions from the audience. A book signing will follow, with a limit of one book per person.

Prior to the lecture, the University will formally dedicate The Norman Mailer Room at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. in the Eugene S. Farley Memorial Library, located on the corner of South Franklin and West South Streets. The room features a large chrome-and-glass table that was prominently displayed in Mailer's 1984 film "Tough Guys Don't Dance."

Mailer and wife Norris donated the table to Wilkes in 1999.

"Norman Mailer's deepest urge has been to explore American identity and American society—the twin obsessions of his writer's life. In so doing, he has illuminated our dreams and our nightmares and given us the courage to wrestle with both," said Wilkes University President Dr. Christopher N. Breiseth.

"The sum of his achievements is biography, literary criticism, poetry, history, drama, essays of every kind, political analysis, sports reportage, newspaper and magazine columns, the philosophical dialogue, and of course, the novel is without equal."

The author of more than 40 books over 50 years, Mailer won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1968 for "The Armies of the Night" and was awarded the Pulitzer again in 1980 for "The Executioner's Song." He was also a recipient of the Emerson-Thoreau Medal from the American Academy of

Arts and Letters and an Emmy nomination.

Mailer has directed four feature-length films and provided biographical studies of Marilyn Monroe, Muhammad Ali, and Gary Gilmore, and a study of the Kennedy assassination.

Mailer co-founded *The Village Voice* in 1955, was elected to the 50-member American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1984, was appointed State Author of New York in 1991, and received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Wilkes in 1995.

Born in 1923 in Long Branch, N.J., Mailer grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned an engineering degree from Harvard in 1943 and served as a rifleman in the South Pacific with the 112th Cavalry during World War II.

The Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities was established in 1980 by the judge's former law clerks, friends, and family in recognition of his 10th anniversary as Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The annual event honors Judge Rosenn's many contributions to the field of law and to the United States judiciary system.

For more information, contact Wilkes University's Special Events Coordinator Paula Gentilman at 570-408-4306.

Asthma Athlete Scholarship program seeks nominees

The "Will to Win" Asthma Athlete Scholarship Program for high school scholar-athletes marks its 17th consecutive year in 2001.

Sponsored by Schering/Key, the "Will to Win" program grants \$35,000 in scholarships to 10 high school seniors who have excelled in athletics in spite of the challenge of asthma. The grand prize winner will receive a \$10,000 Gold Award, with four Silver and five Bronze Award winners receiving \$5,000 and \$1,000, respectively.

Scholarship applications may be obtained by calling "The Will to Win" hotline at 1-800-558-7305. The deadline for entries is April 30.

The annual program recognizes the nation's top athletes with asthma and serves to demonstrate to America's five million young people who have asthma that their condition, when properly treated and managed, need not be a limitation to success. The scholarships also underscore Schering/Key's ongoing commitment to the concept of asthma co-management. In keeping with the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health, asthma co-management emphasizes regular exercise, careful monitoring and close coordination between doctor and patient.

Previous scholarship winners testify to the outstanding achievements of athletes who have asthma. Recent winners include numerous state, national, and several world champions in a variety of sports. Noteworthy is the fact that upwards of

10 percent of US athletes participating in recent Olympic games have had to overcome some form of asthma.

"But asthma scholarship winners are more than strong athletes," said Raymond C. Slavin, MD, director of the Allergy and Immunology Division at St. Louis University Medical School. "Winners are typically excellent students and are very active in community affairs."

The scholarship program has gained the support of some of America's most prominent professional and Olympic athletes, all of whom have asthma. Recent "Will to Win" spokespersons include tennis great Mary Joe Fernandez, swimming Olympic gold medalists Amy Van Dyken and Tom Dolan, track stars Dwight Stones and Nary Slaney, and legendary marathoner Alberto Salazar.

"The response to the program has been truly amazing," noted Adrienne Lee, director, respiratory marketing, Key Pharmaceuticals. "Last year, we received close to 4,000 applications." Dr. Slavin added, "The 'Will to Win' Program increases awareness that asthma can be managed with proper care, and parents of children with asthma have become more comfortable allowing their kids to participate in competitive sports."

Based in Kenilworth, NJ, Schering/Key is a marketing unit of Schering-Plough Corporation, a research-based company.

Ben Vigorito graduates from federal crime course

Bill Vigorito, a 1991 Lake Lehman High School graduate, recently graduated from the 11-week Federal Criminal Investigator School at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA.

He is in the Customs Basic Enforcement School, an eight-week course focusing on international drug trafficking, money laundering, trade fraud, smuggling, child pornography, and strategic

and cyber investigations.

As a Special Agent with the Treasury Department, U.S. Customs, Vigorito will be assigned to a drug task force in Brownsville, Texas.

Vigorito is a veteran of the Army and a graduate of Kutztown University. He attended the Pennsylvania State Police Academy. He is the son of Sue Monsees of Kingston, PA and Steve Vigorito of Naples, FL.

ARTS and LEISURE

Early Perouac work gets the digital treatment as e-book.
BOOKS, 6G



MARTHA MADE IT:
Festive Easter baskets can be tailor-made to suit the recipients.
PAGE 4G

Tunkhannock's Dietrich Theater almost ready for a long-awaited grand reopening scheduled April 6



Don't touch that dial! Patrons at the revamped Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock will get their popcorn from a concession stand modeled after an art deco-styled radio.

From dream to reality



Tickets for the opening night — scheduled now for April 6 — are being sold in a gift bag of popcorn and a cup for soda.

By JEFF DEAN
Times Leader Correspondent

TUNKHANNOCK — As a little girl, Shannon Stevens dreamed of eventually being wealthy enough to singlehandedly restore her beloved Dietrich Theater in downtown Tunkhannock.

"I saw 'Star Wars' for the first time in this theater," said the 31-year-old Stevens with a laugh. "After the theater closed (in the 1980s), it was always a fantasy of mine to get rich and famous enough to buy it myself."

Fifteen years later, Stevens, at least in some ways, finally got her wish. Though she never managed to buy the theater herself, she did manage to become an integral member of the group that did.

And if everything proceeds as planned, on April 6 the center will have its first screening with "Traffic," the award-winning movie featuring Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Stevens and the rest of the members of the Wyoming County Cultural Center will unveil a revamped Dietrich Theater, complete with two state-of-the-art screens, a fine-art gallery, a daily schedule of movie showings and plans to bring in film festivals and live cultural events.

"We wanted to make the theater as nice as we possibly could," said Bill Earnshaw, 54, the chairman of the cultural center's building committee, "so it would be a nice place for real people to go to."

Earnshaw, who described himself as "an ex-dairy farmer with time on my hands," said he first became involved with the center in 1998, when cultural center members came to his door asking for a donation. He said he gave money first, then gave his time.

Before he knew it, he found himself elected the chairman of the building com-



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTOS/FRED ADAMS

Originally a single-screen cinema, the Wyoming County Cultural Center has split the interior of the old movie house into two theaters. This is the larger, 250-seat auditorium. The Dietrich Theater, below, for many years a landmark in downtown Tunkhannock, has been renovated and will soon reopen.

mittee — a building with four walls, but no floor, lighting, heat or electricity.

"The first time I saw the place it was absolutely gutted," he said. "It was obvious we were working with a shell. Everything had to be rebuilt."

Earnshaw's first project was to punch a hole in the side of the nearly 70-year-old building, drive a bulldozer through it and fill the gaping hole inside with 1,200 tons of dirt. Masons then laid the floor and raised interior walls. Conceptual input came from Nicholson designer Tom Campbell, who suggested ways to create a contemporary theater look.

"We also contacted the Bradford County Theater Group, who told us to split the old 450-seat theater into two smaller theaters," said Earnshaw. "They thought the original layout was just too large to work

See REALITY, Page 5G



Mailer talk to focus on presidents

By GEORGE SMITH
georges@timesleader.net

The man who has been called a rogue and a genius, the man who has remained the most infamous provocateur on the American literary scene for more than 50 years, is scheduled to appear at Wilkes University.

Norman Kingsley Mailer, author of such books as "The Naked and the Dead" and "Harlot's Ghost," will lecture on American presidents from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton at the university's Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts as part of the Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities.

The free lecture will begin at 7 p.m. on April 1. A book signing will follow.

In its 20th year, the lecture series is named in honor of Rosenn, a federal judge, trustee emeritus at Wilkes and co-founder of the law firm of Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald.

The 78-year-old Mailer, who is among the nation's greatest novelists, essayists and journalists, has enjoyed a herculean literary career, starting with his short story "The Greatest Thing in the World," which was published in The Harvard Advocate in 1941. His most recent work, an anthology titled "The Time of Our Time," was published in 1998. He has written 39 books and is considered an acute observer of American politics.

"Over the years Mailer has covered six sets of political conventions and the ensuing campaigns as a working journalist," said J. Michael Lennon, Ph.D., a professor of English at Wilkes. "He has known most of the presidents and has written about all of them both in non-fiction and fiction."

Lennon has known Mailer for more than 25 years and is one of five of the author's literary executives.

Mailer's exploits are legendary. As a younger man he was a boozier and a brawler, and he staged a wild campaign for political office in the tumultuous '60s. He stabbed his second of six wives only to suffer a stay in Bellevue Hospital as a result, and he fathered eight children.

Through it all, the controversial Mailer remained one of the nation's top authors. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1969 for his book "Armies of the Night." A second Pulitzer was awarded for "The Executioner's Song," published in 1979.

He also received the Emerson-Thoreau Medal from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

"If you look at the last century, Hemingway dominated the first half and Mailer the second. He has been the premier observer of American

For Ashley Judd, only challenge was adding comedy to latest film role

Southern belle strays from dramatic scripts to play a sassy, funny Manhattanite in

Seasons Hotel a good five minutes before its owner. When the actress arrives,

Judd's latest film which opens Friday in area theaters. "But, at the same time, she has an ir-

Like You" producer Lynda Obst, who was unsure of the actress' ability to pull off the role of a sassy TV producer. "I

See MAILER, Page 5G

MAILER

Continued from Page 1G

life. From poems to sports writing, from the moon shot to the feminist movement, there is virtually no genre or subject he has not explored," said Lennon.

Lennon's interest in and friendship with Mailer has been fruitful. He has edited a book of essays on Mailer ("Critical Essays on Norman Mailer"), two books of interviews ("Conversations with Norman Mailer" and "Pontifications: Interviews with Norman Mailer") and edited "Pieces and Pontifications," a book in which Mailer essays are followed by a series of interviews. He also worked on "The Time Of Our Time," a book of 1,304 pages that includes 125 different works.

The different things are as much a part of Mailer's mystique as his writing.

Consider that in 1955, Mailer co-founded The Village Voice.

In 1960, a drunken Mailer stabbed his wife, painter Adele Morales, with a penknife at a rowdy party. No charges were filed, but a stint in a psychiatric hospital followed.

Mailer chose newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin as his running mate in the 1969 New York City mayoral election. The Mailer-Breslin ticket finished fourth in a field of five.

That political failure in '69 may have been the result of Mailer's secessionist platform that would have had New York City become a singular entity, the 51st state.

Mailer was fascinated by Muhammad Ali and boxing. He published "The Fight" in 1975. The account of the famous Ali-Frazier bout in Africa elevated sports writing to new levels.

Mailer met convicted murderer Henry Jack Abbott, who was serving time in an Illinois penitentiary, in 1979 while completing "The Ex-

"He won't tell me what (the next novel) is about, and I just spent a week with him."

J. Michael Lennon
Professor of English at Wilkes University

ecutioner's Song." He was helpful in getting Abbott's writing published and in securing the convict's release from prison.

Shortly after Abbott was granted freedom, and his "In the Belly of the Beast" was published in 1981, Abbott fatally stabbed a New York City waiter.

In 1983 Mailer published the ponderous, 709-page "Ancient Evenings," a fictional account of Egypt in 1300 B.C.

"Harlot's Ghost" followed in 1991. The 1,310-page novel weighs almost four pounds and is concerned with the moral integrity of the CIA. The massive book ends unexpectedly — and surprisingly — with the words "TO BE CONTINUED." Mailer claims a sequel can be expected.

Through the 1990s Mailer published "Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man," "Oswald's Tale: An American Mystery" and "Gospel According To The Son."

"The Time Of Our Time" was his most recent book, but Lennon said Mailer is hard at work on still another.

"He won't tell me what it's about, and I just spent a week with him in Provincetown. It remains a secret," Lennon said.

The sequel to "Harlot's Ghost," perhaps?

"Could be. He promised to write one," Lennon said.

Lennon added that the Norman Mailer Room at the Wilkes University Library will be dedicated at 4:30 p.m., prior to the lecture.

George Smith, a Times Leader staff writer, can be reached at 829-7230.

Gateway Cinema Center

HEART BREAKERS (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20 & 9:35

EXIT WOUNDS (A) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30

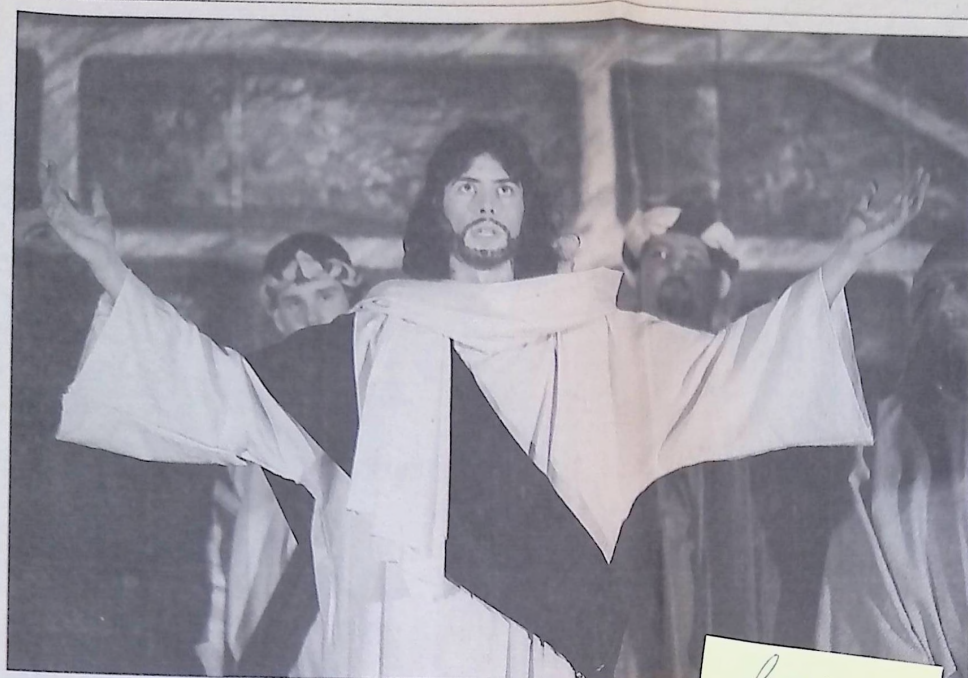
THE MEXICAN (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30

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Local / Nation



Rehearsing 'The Passion'

Saverio Daniel Amendola, 19, of Waverly, portrays Jesus during a dress rehearsal Sunday night of the life of Christ to be presented today and Tuesday at St. Mary's Center. The production includes a 48-member cast, dancers and a donkey. All are welcome.

Mailer recalls years as political reporter

Tells of Clinton, other presidents

By Edward Lewis
TIMES-SHAMROCK NEWS WRITER

Norman Mailer, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, spoke about his career of covering presidential national conventions dating back to 1960 to a standing-room-only crowd on the campus of Wilkes University Sunday night.

Mr. Mailer was a guest for the 20th annual Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities. The author of more than 40 books over 50 years, Mr. Mailer said he was "bored stiff about politics" when an editor from Esquire magazine assigned him to cover the 1960 Democratic National Convention.

"Being a political reporter is indeed a hard day's work," he said. Mr. Mailer explained reporters who write in certain areas such as politics tend to gather together and exchange ideas.

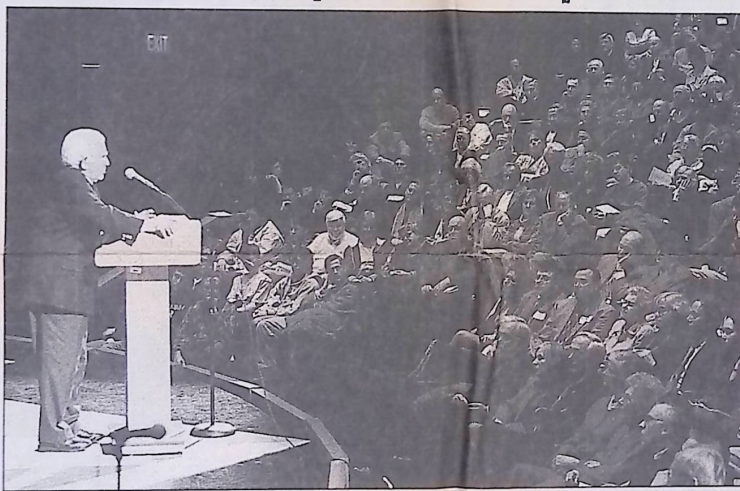
"I learned very quick that certain conclusions were fixed in the minds of the reporters, such as (John) Kennedy was a playboy," Mr. Mailer said. "I told myself, I could do this my way."

He then read excerpts of his writings covering Presidents Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, George Bush and Bill Clinton.

"I was surprised by how depressed the delegates were," Mr. Mailer said about the 1960 Democratic Convention. "The depression of the delegates is understandable. No doubt, he would have been nominated. But, if elected, he would be the youngest president in history. Politicians are like courtroom lawyers — they do not like questions they do not know the answers to."

Mr. Mailer quoted Nixon as saying, "to be successful in politics, you must marry above yourself." He explained how Mr. Nixon worked a crowd at the Miami International Airport in 1972 prior to the Republican National Convention. A group of young supporters calling themselves "Young Voters for the President," was chanting "We want Pat," referring to Mr. Nixon's wife, Pat.

"Hundreds of young faces and



Norman Mailer, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, addresses a standing-room-only crowd on the campus of Wilkes University Sunday night. Mr. Mailer was a guest for the 20th annual Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities.

He had the look of a president, but I didn't realize at the time that Mr. Clinton didn't support an idea. He wanted to be FDR, Kennedy and be immortal, but he won't be now."

Norman Mailer
Reporter, novelist

not one a beauty," Mr. Mailer quoted from his writings. "They were making horns with their fingers, four more years, four more years."

He also talked about his writings about George Bush and how he needed the Gulf War to save his presidency in the early 1990s. He said the media were concentrating on crime, drugs, overcrowding in prisons and the economy.

"The media decided which story would receive providence," Mr. Mailer said. "George Bush knew how to win the election by kissing the electorate in the mouth and kicking the opposition."

"It was no more George Bush's good luck that Saddam Hussein

entered American life," Mailer said. "George Bush spoke of Hussein as a modern day Hitler." M

Mr. Mailer said the Gulf War was a double victory for George Bush because of the low mortality and the expulsion of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Referring to Mr. Clinton, he said, "No matter what is written about Bill Clinton, one cannot go wrong."

Mr. Mailer said Mr. Clinton is his biggest disappointment because he saw, in 1993, a man who was going to be president some day.

"He had the look of a president, but I didn't realize at the time that Mr. Clinton didn't support an idea. He wanted to be FDR, Kennedy and be immortal, but he won't be now," the author said.

Dr. J. Michael Lennon, professor of English at Wilkes University, introduced Mailer prior to his lecture.

"Among our living writers, Mailer is probably the best known," Dr. Lennon said.

Mr. Mailer grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and earned an engineering degree from Harvard in 1943. He served in the Pacific during World War II, which was the premise for his first novel, "The Naked and the Dead," published in 1949. He co-founded The Village Voice in 1955, and had directed four feature-length films and provided biographical studies of Marilyn Monroe, Muhammad Ali and Gary Gilmore.

He also studied the Kennedy assassination by traveling to the former Soviet Union to research Lee Harvey Oswald. "I'm 75-percent sure Oswald did it on his own," Mr. Mailer said. "He saw himself as some type of genius who could take over the world politically."

Gay community marks world's first same-sex marriages

By Anthony Dautsch
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — The Netherlands' gay community rejoiced with tears and whoops of exultation Sunday over the first same-sex marriages recognized under a new law.

Amsterdam's mayor wed four gay couples at the stroke of midnight Saturday. Immediately after the legislation enacted last year went into effect. The couples — three male and one female — nervously held hands and exchanged vows to fulfill the duties of matrimony set out in Dutch law.

"There are two reasons to rejoice: You are celebrating your marriage and you are also celebrating your right to be married," Mayor Job Cohen told the newlyweds in Amsterdam's City Hall.

"I admit that 10 years ago I didn't understand why homosexuals were making such a big deal out of civil marriage. Now I know better," Cohen said.

The crowd of about 150, which included members of parliament and government, whistled and cheered when the couples kissed and embraced. Pink cake and pink champagne were served at a reception, and then the party moved to several of Amsterdam's gay clubs.

"I'm proud to be Dutch," said Dolf Pasker, who married his partner of six years, Gert Kasteel. "This makes it all real." Another of the couples had been living together for 36 years.

The group ceremony was the culmination of a 15-year crusade in the Netherlands. Supporters predicted it would lead to similar legislation in other countries.

Gay couples are now able to apply for court permission to adopt children after living to-

gether for three years. The law also eliminates legal ambiguities on inheritance, pension rights, taxes and divorce.

Activist Henk Krol, editor-in-chief of the country's popular monthly magazine Gay Krant, predicted 10 to 15 percent of all marriages in 2001 — more than 10,000 — will be by gay couples.

Several countries, including Sweden and Denmark, have allowed gays to register as partners and even adopt children, but the Dutch have gone further.

Krol denounced the "register partnerships" as second-class marriage, saying the Dutch bill helps eliminate discrimination.

The law bars the adoption of foreign children by same-sex couples to avoid confrontation with less liberal nations.

The Vatican has vehemently rejected the new law, criticizing its passage last year as a "dangerous" development. In the Netherlands, opposition has been confined to small religious parties, which until a few years ago held crucial positions in ruling coalitions.

Only seven protesters stood outside City Hall as the couples arrived Saturday night. They held a sign that read: "Come, let us return to the Lord."

Krol went outside to tell them he "admired them for sticking to what they believe in."

Gays have enjoyed general acceptance in the Netherlands for years, and public surveys show that more than 75 percent of the population supported the equal rights bill.

Last year, the government legalized brothels and decriminalized euthanasia. The sale of marijuana and hashish are tolerated at coffee houses.

Survey finds students have access to guns

By Andrea Cavanaugh
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Nearly half of the nation's high school students have easy access to guns, and more than one in five high school boys have taken a weapon to school in the last year, according to a survey released Sunday.

Forty-seven percent of high school students said they could obtain a gun if they wanted to, while 22 percent of middle school students said they could get a firearm, according to a nationwide survey conducted last year by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Josephson Institute of Ethics, based in Marina del Rey, Calif.

"The seeds of violence can be found in schools all over America," said Michael Josephson, the institute's president. "Today's teens, especially boys, have a high propensity to use violence when they are angry, they have

easy access to guns, drugs and alcohol, and a disturbing number take weapons to school."

Students who use drugs and alcohol at school are even more likely to obtain and carry weapons, the survey of about 15,800 high school and middle school students revealed. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The study revealed that 19 percent of high school boys and 9 percent of middle school boys admitted to being drunk at school within the last year, compared to 12 percent of high school girls and 5 percent of middle school girls.

The prevalence of weapons in schools and a cavalier attitude toward violence has taken its toll on students' peace of mind, the survey showed. More than one in three high school students surveyed said they don't feel safe.

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CASTLE BINGO

Mailer wins audience's vote with presidential discourse

By JEFF DEAN
Times Leader Correspondent

WILKES-BARRE — As Pulitzer Prize-winning author Norman Mailer stood to speak at Wilkes University's Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts Sunday night, the standing-room-only crowd erupted into thunderous applause that seemed to last forever.

Lifting himself from his chair with two canes, then working his way slowly to the podium, Mailer, 78, waited patiently for the applause to subside. Then, as though shedding years with each word, he began a biting, satirical speech that would touch upon, as he put it, "six or seven presidents, more or less, in a hurry."

Speaking as the guest lecturer in Wilkes University's 21st annual Rosenn Lecture Series, Mailer gave his audience nearly two full hours of pointed political commentary

gleaned from more than 40 years of covering United States presidents from John Kennedy to Bill Clinton.

Mailer's speech was anything but your average political commentary. Credit that, said Mailer, to his 1960 realization that politicians were real people, with real personalities, and that political writing could only be really interesting if it encompassed those personalities.

Mailer recounted the 1960 Democratic Convention, whose delegates were grappling with their sinking feelings that in nominating Kennedy, "politics was about to become America's favorite movie," complete with an attractive war hero and his beautiful wife.

From there, Mailer went on to roast Lyndon B. Johnson as a bellowing, mean, unforgiving, vain and overbearing man, "much like an early Renaissance prince." He then likened Johnson's writing to "a

dream of Heaven in a terminal ward."

To paint his word picture of Richard Nixon, Mailer brought his audience back to the day before Nixon's 1972 Republican nomination, at a rally on the tarmac of the Miami airport. In front of the crowd, Mailer said Nixon was "excruciatingly self-conscious," and exhibited the awkwardness of an adolescent whose mind was constantly fighting "the stubborn refusal of the body to obey it."

Mailer's assessment of Jimmy Carter was more favorable and touched on the main street of Carter's hometown, Plains, Ga., but he lashed out again at the presidency of George Bush Sr., who he said, "studied Reagan with all the intensity of an unwanted child." He also dubbed Bush "the Wimp Who Won the War."

Predictably, Mailer wrapped up his speech with some commentary on Bill Clinton, focusing on Clin-

ton's incredible charisma at the 1996 Democratic Convention. Referring to the paradoxical "power of the incumbent," Mailer described Clinton as "part rogue, part god, full of vice but luminous to a crowd."

"Clinton loved a crowd, and they loved him," Mailer continued. "They hardly cared what he had done. Pow-

er was its own signature."

Among Mailer's most famous works are his World War II novel, "The Naked and the Dead," and his Pulitzer Prize-winning novels, "Armies of the Night" (1968), and "The Executioner's Song" (1980).

Earlier in the day, Wilkes University honored Mailer by dedicating a

room in the E.S. Farley Library to the author's career. The room, according to the dedication speech made by Michael Lennon, Wilkes English professor and Mailer archivist and literary executor, will house signed first editions of all 39 of Mailer's books, as well as archival photos and memorabilia.



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/S. JOHN WILKIN

Celebrated author Norman Mailer lectures Sunday night at Wilkes University after attending the dedication of a room in his name at the university's E.S. Farley Library earlier in the day.

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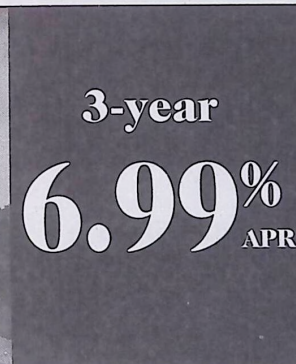
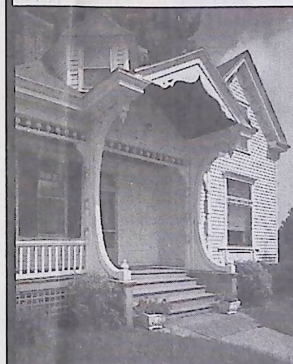
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MONDAY

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THE CITIZENS' VOICE

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST NEWS TEAM



Newsstand 50c • Home delivery 35c



Icon

Novelist,
essayist and
philosopher
Norman Mailer
speaks here.

Page 3



'Frazz'

A new comic
strip character
debuts today.

Page 2



Grief

Israelis,
Palestinians
mourn dead
children.

Page 12

Milosevic in demand

West wants Yugoslavian ex-boss tried at The Hague tribunal. Page 12



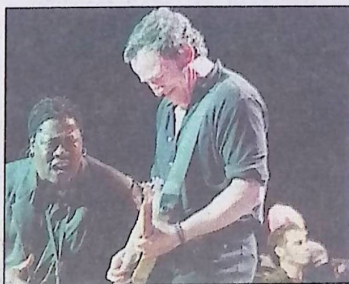
Red light next to pro-Milosevic billboard in Belgrade serves as a metaphor for the Yugoslavian strongman's fall from power and subsequent arrest.

AP FROM STR

Boss doubles up

Bruce Springsteen's latest
project is the double CD, 'Bruce
Springsteen and the E Street
Band: Live in New York City.'

Page 25



Mayday

U.S. Navy spy
plane is forced to
land in China after
collision with
Chinese fighter
plane.

Page 13



Number one: Exxon Mobil heads Fortune 500 list of revenue-producing companies. Page 35





Author Norman Mailer lectures Sunday night at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, Wilkes University.

THOM DYKOSKI/CITIZENS' VOICE

Mailer gives view on presidential politics

During lecture Sunday at Wilkes University

By Edward Lewis
Citizens' Voice Staff Writer

Norman Mailer, a two time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, spoke about his career of covering presidential national conventions dating back to 1960 to a standing-room-only crowd on the campus of Wilkes University Sunday night.

QUICK INFO

Norman Mailer is a two time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist. In a lecture Sunday night, he spoke about his career of covering presidential national conventions, dating back to 1960. Mailer was part of the 20th annual Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities. The series is sponsored by Wilkes University.

vention.

"Being a political reporter is indeed a hard day's work," Mailer said.

Mailer explained reporters who write in certain areas such as politics tend to gather together and exchange ideas.

"I learned very quick that certain conclusions were fixed in the minds of the reporters, such as (John) Kennedy was a play-boy," Mailer said.

"I told myself, I could do this my way," he said.

Mailer read excerpts of his writings covering Presidents Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, George Bush and Bill Clinton.

"I was surprised by how depressed the delegates were," Mailer said about the 1960 Democratic Convention.

"The depression of the delegates is understandable. No doubt, he would have been nominated. But, if elected, he would be the youngest president in history," he continued. "Politicians are like courtroom lawyers — they do not like questions they do not know the answers to."

Mailer quoted Nixon as saying, "to be successful in politics, you must marry above yourself."

Mailer explained how Nixon worked a crowd at the Miami International Airport in 1972 prior to the Republican National Convention. A group of young supporters calling themselves "Young Voters for the President," was chanting "We want Pat," referring to Nixon's wife, Pat.

"Hundreds of young faces and not one a beauty," Mailer quoted from his writings. "They were making horns with their fingers, four more years, four more years."

Mailer also talked about his writings about George Bush and how he needed the Gulf War to save his presidency in the early 1990s. He said the media were concentrating on crime, drugs, overcrowding in prisons and the economy.

"The media decided which story would receive providence," Mailer said. "George Bush knew how to win the election by kissing the electorate in the mouth and kicking the opposition."

"It was no more George Bush's good luck that Saddam Hussein entered American life," Mailer said.

"George Bush spoke of Hussein as a modern day Hitler." Mailer said the Gulf War was a double victory for George Bush because of the low mortality and the expulsion of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Referring to Clinton, Mailer said, "No matter what is written about Bill Clinton, one cannot go wrong."

Mailer said Clinton is his biggest disappointment because he saw, in 1983, a man who was going to be president some day.

"He had the look of a president, but I didn't realize at the time that Clinton didn't support an idea," Mailer said.

"He wanted to be FDR, Kennedy and be immortal, but he won't be now," the author said.

Dr. J. Michael Lennon, professor of English at Wilkes University, introduced Mailer prior to his lecture.

He explained that Mailer's writings are "on the anvil of public inspection."

"Among our living writers, Mailer is probably the best known," Dr. Lennon said. Mailer grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and earned an engineering degree from Harvard in 1943.

He served in the Pacific during World War II.

His war experience was the premise for his first novel, "The Naked and the Dead," published in 1949.

He co-founded The Village Voice in 1955, and had directed four feature-length films and provided biographical studies of Marilyn Monroe, Muhammad Ali and Gary Gilmore.

He also studied the Kennedy assassination by traveling to the former Soviet Union to research Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I'm 75-percent sure Oswald did it on his own," Mailer said. "He saw himself as some type of genius who could take over the world politically."

"But I'm not saying that without full certainty," he said.

Welcome to our Neighborhood

Free

Inside

- Swoyersville shoemaker keeps profession alive
- Bed Bath & Beyond opens at the Arena Hub
- Barb Pitcavage offers plenty of West Side news

Friday, April 6, 2001



Norman, a 2-year-old Kingston cat enjoys napping on his owner's Persian rug.



The old West Side Mall is being razed to make way for a new and improved shopping area.



Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Norman Mailer spoke at Wilkes University last week.



MARK MORAN/CITIZENS' VOICE

Ann Dudick, an employee of Rave's Nursery in Ashley, arranges seed packets. Rave's, as well as other home and garden businesses are getting ready for the influx of customers who will begin their gardening in the next few weeks.

Quick Kicks

The Man of LaMancha

WHAT: Renowned musical featuring Jack Jones as Don Quixote

WHERE: The Scranton Cultural Center

WHEN: April 6-8, Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS: Available at Ticketmaster locations or by calling 693-4100.

Quick Bites



Capellini with sausage and spinach

1 pound sweet Italian sausage, cut into ½-inch-thick slices

8 ounces capellini or vermicelli pasta, broken in half

One 20-ounce bag fresh spinach, coarsely chopped

1 large onion, chopped

Two 14-ounce cans chicken broth

2 large garlic cloves, chopped

¼ cup water

1/3 cup heavy or whipping cream

2 teaspoons olive oil

¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Heat oil in a Dutch oven or stockpot over medium-high heat; add sausage and cook 3 to 4 minutes, turning as it browns. Add onions and garlic and cook 2 to 3 minutes, until lightly browned. Add broth and water to pot; cover and bring to a boil. Add pasta and cook 3 minutes, stirring frequently. Add spinach and pepper and cook, stirring spinach into pasta and sauce, 2 to 3 minutes more, until pasta is al dente and spinach is wilted. Stir in cream. Serve immediately. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 615 cal., 38.5 g total fat (14.5 g saturated fat), 91 mg chol., 1,441 mg sodium, 44 g carbo., 24 g pro., 5 g fiber.

Quick Bytes



Get fitness news online

<http://www.fitscape.com>

Exercise, while an important factor of total body wellness, is only part of the equation. Get the latest news on nutrition and prepare for a physically satisfying summer:

<http://www.epinions.com/rest-Restaurants-All>

The site that has quickly established itself as the leader in online consumer ratings features reviews of restaurants in several major cities.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author speaks at Wilkes University

By Edward Lewis
Citizens' Voice Staff Writer

Norman Mailer, a two time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, spoke about his career of covering presidential national conventions dating back to 1960 to a standing-room-only crowd on the campus of Wilkes University last week.

Mailer was a guest for the 20th annual Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities.

The author of more than 40 books over 50 years, Mailer said he was "bored stiff" about politics "when an editor from *Esquire* magazine assigned him to cover the 1960 Democratic National Convention.

"Being a political reporter is indeed a hard day's work," Mailer said.

Mailer explained reporters who write in certain areas such as politics tend to gather together and exchange ideas.

"I learned very quick that certain conclusions were fixed in the minds of the reporters, such as (John) Kennedy was a play-boy," Mailer said.

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