

LOCAL BRIEFS ^{TL}₃₋₈₋₀₁

Mailer to present talk on presidents

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Norman Mailer will be the guest speaker for 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 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 1, in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts at West River and South River streets. It will feature brief readings on five U.S. presidents and Mailer will field questions from the audience.

A book signing will follow, with a limit of one book per person.

Before 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 (at South Franklin and West South streets).

Located on the first floor, 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 donated the table to Wilkes in 1999.

For more information, call 408-4306.

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist CV 3-11-01 Norman Mailer will speak at Wilkes

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.

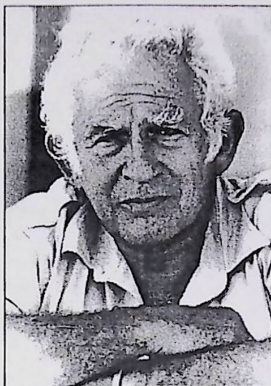
Prior to the lecture, the University will formally dedicate The Norman Mailer Room at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. in the Eugene S. Farley Memorial Library, located on the corner of South Franklin and West South Streets. The room features a large chrome-and-glass table that was prominently 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 illumined 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 1990 for "The Executioner's Song." He was also a recipient of the Emerson-Thoreau Medal from the American Academy of



Norman Mailer

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.

Mailer to speak at Rosenn Lecture Series

W-B
TL 3-15-01

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It will feature brief readings on five U.S. presidents, and Mailer will open the discussion to questions from the audience. A book signing will follow, with a limit of one book per person.

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Mailer talk to focus on presidents

By GEORGE SMITH
george@leader.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 as American president from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton at the university's Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts as part of the Max Rosen Lecture Series in Law and Humanities.

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

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

The 58-year-old Mailer, who is among the nation's greatest novelists, essayists and journalists, has enjoyed a brilliant literary career, starting with his short story "The Greasy 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 1988. 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 executors.

Mailer's exploits are legendary. As a younger man he was a boozier and a traveler, and he staged a wild campaign for political office in the tumultuous '68. 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

MAILER

Continued from Page 10

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.

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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.

See MAILER, Page 5C

◆ IF YOU GO

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Mailer talk to focus on presidents

Times-Leader
3/25/01

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georges@leader.net

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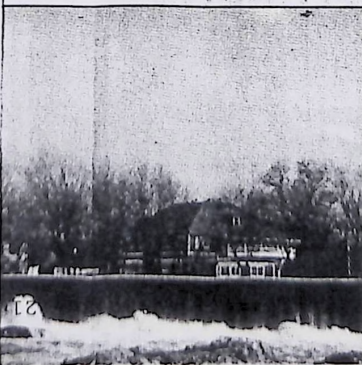
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Mailer's exploits are legendary. As a younger man he was a boozier

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Beat writer Jack Kerouac, who died in 1969, is still a popular choice among readers. As proof of his increasing popularity, Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, offers students the opportunity to take a course entirely devoted to Kerouac's works.



tain places at certain times.

And, as you'd expect, his ordeal became fodder for his new novel, "Dreamcatcher," the first full-length work since the accident.

If you followed the news, you know every wrinkle of the weird saga: top horror novelist, out for a walk, is hit by a driver with a long record of offenses; a grand jury indictment ends in suspension of the driver's license but no jail time; the driver is found dead from an overdose of a painkiller; the writer, meanwhile, undergoes six surgeries and learns to walk all over again.

"The region below my right knee had been reduced to 'so many marbles in a sock,'" King wrote in a piece in last June's New Yorker. Almost 30 stitches in his scalp, four broken ribs, a split knee, "a serious derailment" of the hip, a spine chipped in eight places. One of his lungs collapsed as he was loaded into a helicopter.

All you or I might have to show from such an experience might be some reluctant character-building; for King, it's raw material. In fact, he has so much pain to explore that he has to spread it over several characters. Knees and hips are bustin' out all over in "Dreamcatcher."

But the pain is only one thread in this tapestry. Once again, King seems to have brought up a monster so familiar you feel it was always there. Lights in the sky ... classic Area 51 aliens ... and a strange invasive growth that spreads, even as the aliens drone, "There is no infection here."

Four friends on their annual hunting trip are trapped in the tract of Maine woods where the aliens crash-land. Like many friends in King's universe, the four share an eerie boyhood bond.

King slices and dices the past and

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'Grump' talks to k

By AMANDA ROGERS
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Having a baby is a wonderful thing. You get to pick out those neat clothes and toys, and cruise the neighborhood with a stroller; you get to cuddle your child and experience the joy of seeing him or her smile and gurgle a first word or two.

But as any mom knows, having a child can also be a draining experience. Janet S. Wong explores how "tired and frumpy, grouchy chumpy" new

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See MAILER, Page 5G

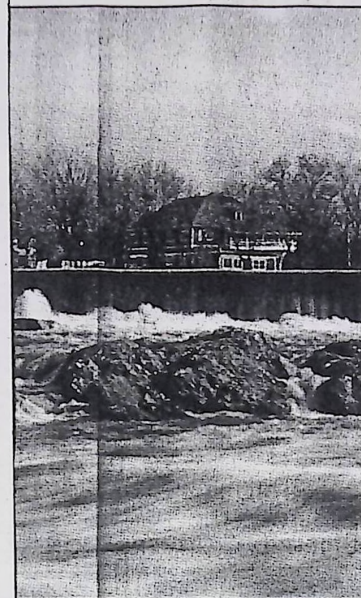
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As the first of LiveREADS e-books, "Orpheus Emerged" similarly points toward future greatness while suffering some shortcomings. For those who are more print-friendly than computer-compatible, it's a fairly confusing process to download the Adobe Acrobat eBook Reader, needed to open the eBook. The download takes about 20 minutes over a 56K Internet connection. (Computer-phobic Kerouac fans need not despair: "Orpheus Emerged" will appear in paper form sometime next year.)

Once you get everything working, it's a bit disappointing to see that the e-book looks like a book. Sure, it's more colorful and flashy than previous incarnations of e-books. But for a reader, it's not really all that different from reading a regular old book.

By AMANDA ROGERS
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Having a baby is a wonderful thing. You get to pick out those neat clothes and toys, and cruise the neighborhood with a stroller; you get to cuddle your child and experience the joy of seeing him or her smile and gurgle a first word or two.

But as any mom knows, having a child can also be a draining experience.

Janet S. Wong explores how "tired and frumpy, grouchy chumpy" new moms can get in her new children's book, "Grump." She has one child, Andrew, 7, but remembers what it was like to be an exhausted new mom.

"I had never imagined that being a full-time mother would be so much

◆ BEST SELL

Hardcover Fiction

1. **First to Die**, by James Patterson (Little, Brown)
2. **A Painted House**, by John Grisham (Doubleday)
3. **Scarlet Feather**, by Maeve Binchy (Dutton)
4. **The Bonesetter's Daughter**, by Amy Tan (Putnam)
5. **A Day Late and a Dollar Short**, by Terry McMillan (Viking)

Nonfiction

1. **Who Moved My Cheese?**, by Spencer Johnson (Putnam)
2. **The Prayer of Jabez**, by Bruce H. Wilkinson (Multnomah)
3. **The Wisdom of Menopause**, by Christiane Northrup (Bantam)
4. **Body for Life: 12 Weeks to Mental and Physical Strength**, by Bill Phillips and Michael D'Orso (HarperCollins)
5. **Secrets of the Baby Whis-**

Early Kerouac work gets the



MAILER

Continued from Page 1G

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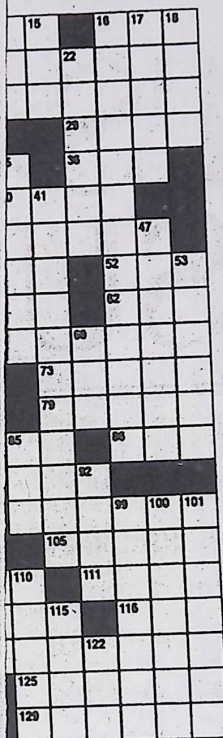
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George Smith, a Times Leader staff writer, can be reached at 829-7230.

No. 0318



110 —computer (modern business)
112 Link, in a way
115 Check
118 Robert Morse play
119 Atmospheric prefix
120 Have a late bite
121 Make like
122 Alley

3/25/01

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19) heart will soar when a message of love rings through phone. The afternoon for a visit from a friend or a talk with someone employ. Children are given the heavens today; they bring smiles and warmth.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) children and friends receive patience that you don't like giving; take time. Reports from a family are colored by emotion; check everything out before taking action.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Experiment with different ways of handling your load; it'll wake up your cells and stimulate ideas. Fine detail in financial deals, so take time to read the fine print before signing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Sticking to your routine is pleasant. Cordial relationship with your neighbors on small problems. Love friendship will mix in the evening. Create a sense of equilibrium.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Ring rumors, and keep in the face of change. You stand to see while others learn. Impressive new work are worth learning.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) superb listening skills from point A to point B. Public relations is to assume that the customer or your mom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Diplomacy is called sure to express your opinion for the caring others. Develop a home improvement to explain deep feelings. Silence will help you hear the voices of the world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Though you have opportunities to expand

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Gateway Cinema Center

HEART BREAKERS (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20 & 9:35
EXIT WOUNDS (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30
THE MEXICAN (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30
CHOCOLAT (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 6:45 & 9:30
SEE SPOT RUN! 1:00, 3:10 & 7:10
MY BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU (PG-13) 3:00, 5:10 & 7:10
15 MINUTES (R) 9:10
HANNIBAL (R) 12:40 & 9:10

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
LIBERT & HUPPIN AND THE MOVIES

"THE FUNNIEST COMEDY OF THE YEAR!"

Nell Husen, NY 1 & CENTERSEAT

heart

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 Rosen 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).

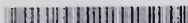
Earlier in the day, Wilkes University honored Mailer by dedicating a

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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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



THOM O'KONSKI/TIMES-SHAMROCK PHOTOGRAPHER

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.

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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.

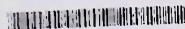
He also studied the Kennedy assassination by traveling to the former Soviet Union to research Lee Harvey Oswald. "I'm 75-percent sure Oswald did it on his own," Mr. Mailer said. "He saw himself as some type of genius who could take over the world politically."

Also appeared in:

- * Pottsville Republican & Evening Herald (Pottsville, Pa)
 - * New Era (Lancaster, Pa)
 - * Scranton Times
 - * Indiana Gazette (Indiana, Pa)
 - * Valley News Dispatch (Tarentum, Pa)
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Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Norman Mailer told the crowd Sunday at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre former President Bill Clinton was a disappointment. (AP photo)

Novelist talks politics

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP) — Norman Mailer, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, told a crowd on the campus of Wilkes University Sunday night that he was bored stiff by politics when an editor from Esquire assigned him to cover the 1960 Democratic National Convention.

"I was surprised by how depressed the delegates were," Mailer said of the convention that nominated John F. Kennedy.

Mailer, giving the 20th annual Max Rosenn Lecture in Law

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

Mailer called Clinton a disappointment, because he saw Clinton in 1983 and imagined him in the Oval Office.

"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."

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