

NEWSMAKERS

Top 10 Newsmakers of 2003-2004

1 The search for a chancellor July 2003 - February 2004

The search for Appalachian State University's 6th chancellor began last summer when Francis T. Borkowski announced his retirement. Within a month, a chancellor search committee, comprised of trustees, faculty, students, staff, alumni and community representatives was selected and the search was on. Early in the search process, questions arose about the closed nature of the com-

mittee. After continuous request from the Student Government Association and Faculty Senate, the search committee voted to open its closed doors and make the search public after selecting four or five semi-finalists. On Jan. 16 a series of open forums allowed students, faculty and staff to meet with six semi-finalists visiting campus. After a week of chancellor forums, the committee

narrowed down their list of names and passed their finalists on to University of North Carolina System president Molly C. Broad. On Friday, Feb. 13, current interim provost Ken Peacock was named as Appalachian's new chancellor. Peacock will take office on July 1 with an annual salary of \$210,000.



Tuition, Fee increases land on students

December 2003 - March 2004

2

After another year with a sizeable cut to the University of North Carolina System's budget, individual campuses were forced to ask the students for more money. The majority of institutions, including Appalachian State, were asked to raise tuition by \$300 for each of the next two years. "The state's funding has decreased and we're trying to find ways to make up for it," Gregory M. Lovins told *The Appalachian* last December. The Appalachian Board of Trustees approved the tuition hike via a teleconference after its December meeting was postponed due to the weather. The UNC-system Board of Governors were scheduled to vote on the increases on Feb. 13, however the vote was pushed back to March 19. The students received a powerful voice of support when North Carolina Governor Mike Easley said in a letter to BOG chairperson Brad Wilson: "Many families have been hit hard by our national recession ... and argue that increases of this size should not be considered at this time. I agree." Student Government Association led a student protest at the March 19 vote, however it had little effect on the BOG. The increase was passed. However it was reduced to \$225.



3 Lack of signatures curtails ABC 2004

September - December 2003



Boone Restaurants fought and lost a battle to reverse Boone's ban on liquor by the drink last semester. Allow Boone a Choice 2004 began a 90-day campaign on Sept. 24 to receive signatures from 35 percent of Boone's registered voters. Petition locations were set up in several location including

Coffey's, Macado's and several of the local hotels. The mixed beverage debate met mixed opinions. Many people thought liquor by the drink would hurt smaller businesses by bringing more large chains. Despite the publicity, ABC 2004 ended in December when too few signatures were received.



4 Heavy rain showers cause campus flooding

November 20, 2003

Appalachian State University's Parking and Traffic Department were left up a creek Wednesday, Dec. 19, when constant rains dumped about 2 feet of water into the first level of parking deck. The unexpected rain started the night before and lasted the entire night. By 10 a.m. the deck was flooded and parking and traffic was doing its best to inform vehicle owners.

"We woke a lot of people up this morning and surprised them," ASU traffic officer Curtis Moore told *The Appalachian*. The surprise flooding was caused after the parking deck drains were clogged with leaves and other debris. The heavy rain also led to several sink holes around Boone, including the one that nearly swallowed ASU student Billy Morris' car at his Coffey Street Apartment.



5 ASU rugby players snag wanted fugitive

January 22, 2004

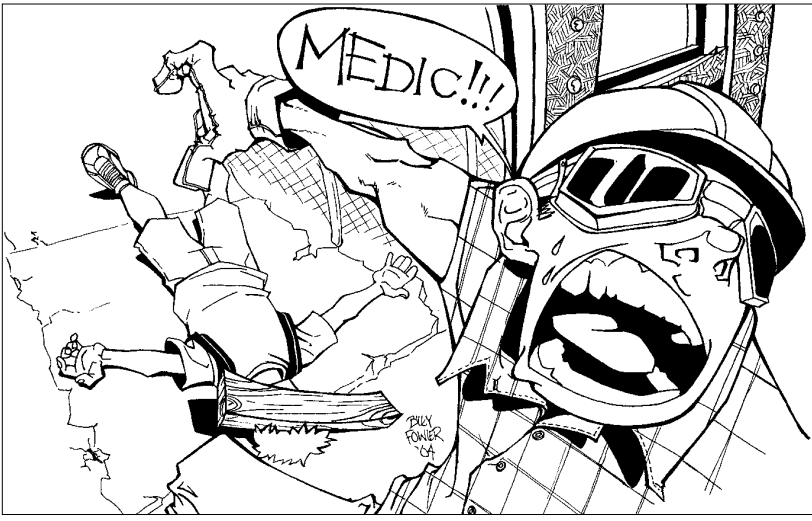
The bad guy does not always get away, at least not when Appalachian State rugby players are involved. Darren Betbeder, Tom Coyne and Anthony Keary were honored by the U.S. Marshals Service after capturing Top-15 fugitive Larry Ray Hanna. The three chased down Hanna after he tried to break into Keary's sister's apartment and detained him until the police could arrive.



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6 Campus construction causes first student injury

April 6, 2004



Junior chemistry major Joseph P. Carlin was the first student to be injured by campus construction this year on March 30. Carlin was struck on the head by a 2x4 board while walking next to the construction site of the Library & Information Commons. "I was walking next to

the fence on my way to class, and the next thing I knew, I got hit in the head with something," Carlin told *The Appalachian*. Carlin received e-mail from several concerned administrators on campus. Director of Design and Construction Dr. Clyde D. Robbins told *The Ap-*

palachian each project on campus has a safety representatives present at all times to ensure safe working conditions for workers and people walking on campus. After Carlin's accident, a walk way was built next to the fence where he was struck to prevent similar incidents in the future.



7 Football player charged for steroids

February 24, 2004

Michael V. Porter, a member of the Appalachian State University football team, was arrested and charged Feb. 16 with alleged possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver anabolic steroids and conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substance Act. All four were class H felony charges. Porter was released on a \$6,000 bond and March 24, his case was continued until June. Porter, a starting offensive tackle for the Mountaineers last season, was suspended indefinitely from the football program Feb. 18, in accordance with the student-athlete discipline policy. "Our policy states that for any student-athlete charged with a felony, they are suspended until the outcome of those charges," Director of Athletics Roachel Laney said. "I am disappointed and disheartened any time a student-athlete makes choices that leads to a suspension."



8 Candle ban lifted

September 18, 2003

A university policy prohibiting the possession or use of candles in residence halls changed last semester in favor of students last semester.

The change came after the Student Association passed a resolution last spring calling for exceptions for students who wish to use candles for religious purposes. "[The administration] looked at the [legislation] and agreed," Vice Chancellor for Student Development Gregory S. Blimling told *The Appalachian*. The change now allows students to possess candles in residence halls but not light



them without permission. Students can obtain permission to light candles under supervision from Housing and Residence Life. Kristen H. Butler, of the Pagan Student Association, told *The Appalachian* she felt super-

vision was unnecessary. "I think students would be uncomfortable with an RA standing there ... watching them pray," she said. "I cannot envision a scenario in which we would allow [a lighting] without supervision," Blimling said.

9 AppCard misdirects long distance callers

September 30, 2003



Appalachian State entered the process of designing a new AppCard stock to replace all existing cards which direct the caller to a pornographic phone line. The phone line, which advertises "x-rated action everyone can afford," was actually a customer service line for students who chose to use the MCI long-distance plan included

with the card. The number on the card, as well as the information, was developed in 1996, Systems Accountant for Business Affairs Denise N. Foutz told *The Appalachian*. "We've been in contact with MCI ... they terminated their holding of that number, so they no longer own



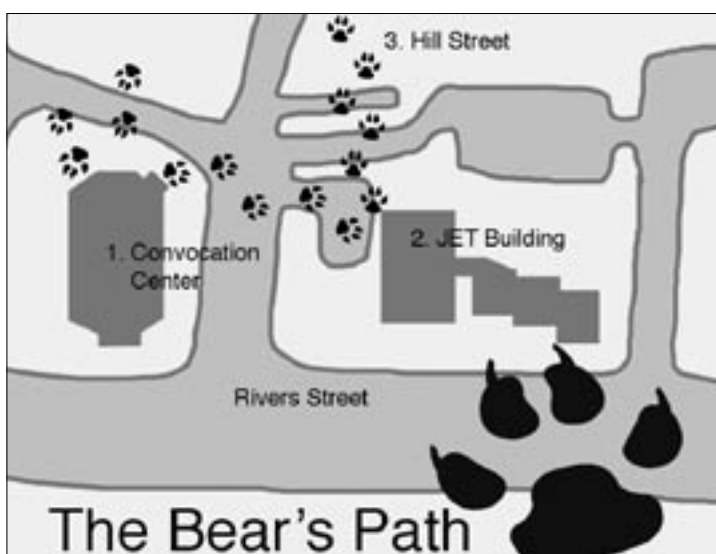
that number," she said. "It's like when you cancel your phone at home, if you don't carry that number with you, it goes back into the pool and the next person who comes up gets it."

10 Black Bear eludes arrest in Convocation Center B&E

November 6, 2003

Appalachian State University made national news when an unexpected visitor stopped by George M. Holmes Convocation Center. A black bear wandered onto campus and into the Holmes Center Nov. 3, 2003. Appalachian student Chuck T. Sailors got the surprise of a lifetime when he discovered the animal. "I've never seen a bear in the wild, much less at work," Sailors said. The bear eluded University

Police, who were called to the scene of the break-in, and ran toward Hill Street, where it was last seen. While most agreed it was unusual for a bear to come that close into the community, efforts were still made to keep any such event from reoccurring. "I want to make sure we're safe and bear-proof," Holmes Center Director Eddie Crawford said.



Honorable Mention

MTV films Homecoming special at ASU

October 2003

Campus Climate Survey: I, II & III

Spring 2004

For complete coverage of our Top 10 Newsmakers of 2003-2004, please see our archives online at:

<http://theapp.appstate.edu>