

Inside SPORTS

Mountaineers fall two wins short of dancing

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Women's basketball outclasses NBA, men
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Peacock finds Quality in Inn

JUSTIN BOULMAY
Senior Staff Writer

In an effort to help alleviate student housing, Appalachian State University is in the process of buying the Quality Inn Appalachian Conference Center, university officials said.

The hotel is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 105 and Blowing Rock Road.

Appalachian has already received approval from the Appalachian Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Board of Governors (BOG). North Carolina inspectors have also looked at the facility.

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock was not available for comment before press time, but Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Jane P. Helm said the owners of the hotel contacted the university a few months ago about possibly purchasing the hotel.

"The primary use of it now would be to accommodate students who would be in

the residence halls that we're planning to renovate," Helm said. White Residence Hall is currently under renovations, and Lovill Residence Hall will be renovated after that project is finished.

Helm added Appalachian is still a long way from making the purchase.

"We're way out there on this one," Helm said.

Quality Inn owner Ashok Patel was not available for comment. However, a March 4 press release from Patel states the hotel will close March 1, 2006 if the sale goes through. If Appalachian does not buy the hotel, Quality Inn will remain as it is now.

"As far as customers who have reservations or functions booked at our hotel between now and March 1, 2006, we shall honor all commitments and meet or exceed their expectations," Patel said in the press release.

Helm said the funding for

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Photos by Trey Allman | The Appalachian

SGA candidates prosper, falter during debate Tuesday

JUSTIN BOULMAY
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The three Student Government Association presidential candidates focused on who they were Tuesday night during a debate in Plemmons Student Union.

Each ticket - John B. Artman and Jason S. Radford, Chelsea M. Hunt and Benjamin "Rico" Diaz and P. Jud Watkins and Christopher R. Pereira - stressed different personal characteristics for a little over two hours.

Watkins and Pereira focused on their previous SGA and campus experience.

Watkins served as a SGA senator and director of external affairs and Pereira served as a senator and chair of the Rules Committee.

Hunt, who has served as a resident assistant and a peer leader, said her networking skills made her a good candidate for the presidential slot.

She also said the main reason she was running is because several people asked her to run.

Artman said he was an open candidate whom he hopes students can come to when they need to talk.

He stressed that his best quality was listening, and he wants to listen to student input.

Each ticket delivered an opening and closing statement and took questions from a panel of students and members of the audience.

When asked what they thought of the current SGA leadership, each candidate had different answers.

"I think that our current leadership is awesome," Hunt said, but added that other things could be done, such as focusing on the student meal plan.

Artman said he wants to create a SGA web log to keep students informed.

When one panelist asked how each ticket would work with Greek organizations, Diaz said, "Well, I don't even know what the Greek Council is."

Another panelist asked how the tickets would work to improve the Women's Center.

Watkins said he and Pereira would work with the center's leadership regarding women's issues.

"I think that Chris and I can't tackle this task by ourselves," he said.

Artman said SGA should work with other groups during Safety Walks, and try to make rape kits more accessible.

On the question of bringing in more diverse members to SGA, Pereira said

the recruitment of diverse students should start when students first come to Appalachian State University.

"I believe that this cooperation has to start during admissions," Pereira said.

The Appalachian Editor-in-Chief David M. Forbes, a panelist, asked Watkins why he was dismissed from SGA last fall.

"Nick and I have very different personalities, very different work-styles," Watkins said.

Watkins said current SGA Vice-President Nick V. Albu asked him to resign via e-mail, something he refused to do.

He was then relieved of his position.

Another panelist, current SGA President Miriam N. Makhayoun, asked how the talents of each candidate would complement their running mate.

"I feel that one of my best qualities is to listen and my power of observation," Artman said. "Seriously, this is what I want, for people to come talk to me."

He paused, and then jokingly added, "I'm not desperate though."

To the same question, Hunt said, "Rico and I feel that SGA is too uptight and we want to loosen it up a bit."



Photos by Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian



Above: Candidate Benjamin "Rico" Diaz listens to counterparts P. Jud Watkins and Chris R. Pereira speak during Tuesday's debate.

Left: Sherah Fannin, an Appalachian Heights senator, tries to hold back a chuckle during the SGA candidate debate. All three tickets said things that left audience members laughing.

SGA approves Judicial Board chair after controversy

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The Student Government Association unanimously selected former Director of Student Affairs Matthew D. Whisenant as chair of the Judicial Board late Tuesday night when the SGA Senate met after the 2005-06 presidential and vice presidential debates.

The appointment came two weeks after senators unanimously voted not to approve another nominee, junior criminal justice major Jamie V. Roseborough.

The Senate planned to approve or disapprove the chair and all other members of the new Judicial Board at the March 1 meeting.

The Judicial Board, according to the new elections by-laws, will hear any violations to the by-laws and issue sanctions if deemed necessary.

Roseborough, SGA Vice-President Nick V. Albu's nominee for Judicial Board chair, was supposed to be voted on at the Feb. 22 meeting, but he was absent.

At the March 1 meeting, Roseborough was again absent from the meeting.

Albu motioned to delay the vote and continue the meeting, but several senators refuted the move. Off-campus Senator John C. McDonald then motioned to vote on the chair appointment that night.

Albu, as chair of the Senate, turned the mo-

tion down. McDonald then made a motion to override the chair, which requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

The Senate voted unanimously to override Albu's decision to postpone the vote on Roseborough.

They then voted unanimously not to appoint Roseborough as elections chair.

"The main reason we overrode Nick was because [Roseborough] didn't show up," McDonald said. "The election by-laws say the judicial committee chair must be confirmed 'prior to or concurrent with judicial board' ... so, technically, we had to vote on it that night regardless of what Nick wanted."

McDonald also said Rose-

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Atlanta courthouse shooting victims include former student

David G. Wilhelm, U.S. customs agent, shot in home

HEATHER SANDERS
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A former Appalachian State University student was a victim of the Atlanta courthouse shootings that occurred March 12.

A U.S. customs agent living in Atlanta, 40-year-old David G. Wilhelm was found shot to death in his home.

Wilhelm was in the process of remodeling his bathroom when courthouse shooting suspect Brian Nichols allegedly shot him and took his pistol, badge, money and truck, authorities told The Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Nichols will be charged with Wilhelm's death as

well as the deaths of Fulton County Superior Court Judge Rowland Barnes, court reporter Julie Ann Brandau and sheriff's deputy Sgt. Hoyt Teasley.

He overpowered deputy Cynthia Ann Hall, stealing her pistol in the progress, while she was taking him from a detention area to Barnes' courtroom.

Nichols, 33, was captured just before noon Saturday after an extensive manhunt.

Wilhelm's truck was found at the scene of Nichols' surrender in Duluth, Ga.

Wilhelm's badge and gun were also found inside the truck.

Wilhelm attended Appalachian State from fall

semester 1982 to spring semester 1984, Appalachian Registrar employee Melissa Hicks said.

Wilhelm then transferred to University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he received a degree in criminal justice.

Wilhelm's law enforcement career began in June 1987 as a U.S. Customs agent, where he served for 16 years. He also spent two years in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Wilhelm moved to Atlanta with his wife, Candee, last November when he was made second in command of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Atlanta office.