

# OPINION

## The Appalachian

Your student newspaper since 1934.

ASU Box 9025  
Boone, N.C. 28608

Founded 1934.

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## Our Perspective ...

### Fall 2003: An ASU semester in review

The temperature is dropping and we're seeing the first signs of another Boone winter as students all over campus are busily finishing term papers and studying for exams.

That's right, another fall semester at Appalachian State is nearing its end.

It's the season of temporary holiday jobs and empty meal cards. Holiday movies fill the box office and power bills are starting to soar.

It seems like only a few short weeks ago we started this academic year and now as we look back a bit of nostalgia sets in.

The semester began with new detours to class, more construction delays and a new guy in charge. Dr. Harvey R. Durham stepped in to fill the shoes of Dr. Francis T. Borowski.

The search for a new chancellor has been a controversy in and of itself, as debates on whether to keep the search closed or not arose.

Appalachian was attacked by the blaster-worm virus early in the semester as well. It plagued on campus computers, and with 5,500 students moving into dorms, most were very frustrated with their inability to access the Internet.

Then, in early September, the budget was released, once again cinching the belt of Appalachian.

And who can forget the discovery of a homosexual porn line number on the back of our AppCards? What we all thought was a harmless help line actually advertised "x-rated action that everyone can afford."

This semester saw the beginning of a new campaign to get liquor in restaurants and clubs in Boone. ABC2004 actively promoted petition

signings and voter registration on campus and throughout the community.

And speaking of liquor, MTV showed the world that the only things to do in Boone were to get drunk and have sex. Regardless of how little football was actually shown, homecoming was a smashing success as Appalachian State beat ETSU 21-7.

At the next home game we all heard the sound of the snapping goal post when Appalachian beat Southern Conference rivals Georgia Southern in Kidd Brewer Stadium for the first time in four years. Students stormed the field following the 28-21 win over the Eagles and marched the posts into Duck Pond.

Less than a month later, Appalachian State had another exciting visitor. A black bear stormed into the George M. Holmes Convocation Center, and gave administrators one more thing to be concerned about; bear proofing. But hey, we made Yahoo.com thanks to 'ol Yogi wandering into town.

Then of course they raised tuition on the students again, but were we really surprised? A few weeks ago we experienced more weather problems, but not the snow and ice most of us expect from Boone winters. Six inches of rain dumped into the valley leaving sink holes, leak damage and flooding in its wake.

Phew. There it is, the semester in a nutshell.

We at *The Appalachian* would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy winter break, and we hope this trip down memory lane will keep the events of the semester fresh in your mind as you travel home.

See you on Jan. 15.



## Talent & skill ignored for publicity & money

When I was a 14 year-old, I played basketball in a league with people the same age as me. Michelle Wie is a golfer and is currently 14 years old. She doesn't play with kids her age. In fact, Wie has recently accepted a sponsor's exemption that will allow her to compete in the Sony Open, a PGA tour event with professional male golfers.

This isn't the first time that a female golfer has joined the ranks of the PGA. Last year, Annika Sorenstam, arguably the best female golfer in the world, accepted a sponsor's exemption to play in the American Colonial, thereby becoming the first female to play in a PGA golfing event in 58 years.

Male golfer Vijay Singh quit the field, refusing to play with a woman and said he hoped Annika "missed the cut because she doesn't belong here."

I hardly agree with Singh, but I think that female golfers playing on the PGA Tour comes down to two issues.

People against Wie, Sorenstam or any other female golfer competing against male golfers say that the ladies have their own league, the LPGA. The LPGA stands for



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the Ladies Professional Golf Association. It's a league for the best female golfers in the world.

The PGA is a men's league, but by definition, it stands for Professional Golf Association. Nowhere in the title or the rulebook does it state that it is just for men. The reason it has been just for men is because of tradition and history.

The second issue, which is probably more of a hot topic right now, is the issue of the sponsor exemption.

A sponsor exemption is basically given to a company that advertises for the golfing event. The exemption lets the company select any golfer in the world to be in the actual event, whether it

be a local golfer, a celebrity, or in the case of the Sony Open, a 14 year-old girl.

My problem with the sponsor's exemption is that whoever receives it doesn't have to qualify for the event.

It isn't fair for every man on the tour to sweat through the qualifying round while a 14 year-old is given a pass.

It's obvious that the only reason why Wie was given an exemption is for the publicity and money she will generate. The ratings for this event will just skyrocket and advertisers will be clamoring for commercial time.

More people will also buy tickets to the event to see the next Tiger Woods in female form.

Based on pure merit alone, Wie has no business playing this event.

Wie has tried to qualify for the Sony Open before, but to no avail. She shot an 84 in 2000 and a 73 last year.

This season, Wie has competed against men twice, in the Nationwide Tour's Boise Open and the Canadian Tour's Bay Mills Open Players Championship. She missed the cut in both events.

In her latest tournament against

other women last month, Wie finished dead last in a field of 69 players.

Her latest performance begs this question: If Wie finishes last among women golfers, how will she ever compete with the men?

Of course with the hype that Wie is generating, there is a legitimate "You go girl!" aura toward Wie and her efforts to play on the PGA Tour.

To that I say this: Yeah, you go girl.

Go back to your private golf course with your daddy and work on not only your game, but on your golfing etiquette since you got in trouble last year for breaking the unwritten golf professionalism code.

Once you are able to actually qualify for a PGA event, then come back for it, qualify for it, and show that you can play with the men because you earned it, not because of some lame sponsor's exemption.

Then, when you've truly earned the opportunity to play, I'll cheer for you.

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The Appalachian, a student-run publication at Appalachian State University, strives to provide fair and accurate news for the campus community, to inform, entertain and create a forum for ideas; to be a watchdog for student, faculty and staff interests; and to remain independent and reserve its First Amendment rights.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Appalachian is published every Tuesday and Thursday of the academic year with the exception of selected holidays and breaks. The opinions expressed in the commentaries appearing in *The Appalachian* are those of the individual columnists and not those of *The Appalachian*. The opinions represented in the unsigned editorial are the majority views of those on the Editorial Board of *The Appalachian*.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Call me crazy, but ...

For some, this time of year could not end soon enough. For others, Christmas is everything "they" say it is. A magical, joyous, time-honored season full of tradition, candy canes, lights, tinsel, presents, a little Mariah Carey "All I Want for Christmas is You," and possibly a little love for icing on the fruitcake.

For those who will not be hunkering under the mistletoe that has most likely been up since last Christmas, you are probably looking for another way to make sure your better half knows you are going to be the only one keeping them warm this winter. Ah, so enters the infamous Christmas gift.

As college students, our budget tightropes between poor and poorer, and Christmas can put our creativity skills to the test when it comes to making our money and our motivations go the distance. When you have a significant other, they are usually the last to suffer, and your parents look at the card you gave them, then at the bracelet you gave your girlfriend and know where your priorities are...but hey, giving a gift at Christmas is like taking your heart and putting it in a box.

When picking out a present for a significant other it isn't just supposed to say, "Hey Merry Christ-

mas!" It's supposed to say, "I know you, I think of you, I love you," while at the same time say, "I am practical, I am resourceful, and I listen." Okay, now it is just a present, but it is also a right-of-passage, because spending the holidays together is a step. Especially if this is "Couple's First Christmas."

So, when finals are over, and you find yourself in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, here are a few ideas to guarantee you more than a kiss under the mistletoe.

1. It is the thought that counts
  2. Don't worry about looking too mushy, mushy equals madness and that usually equals love.
  3. The simplest things can be the biggest surprises.
  4. Make the whole holiday a memory. A gift doesn't just have to be something you can wrap in a box. In fact, think outside the box.
  5. Above all, take a risk. That is the whole point of the holidays. You are allowed take a risk, make a fool out of yourself, and expect the unexpected. Blame it on too much egg nog, too many viewings of "A Christmas Story," the insane decorations at the mall, whatever.
- Maybe I am sounding a little hopeless romantic, but like I said, it's Christmas, I can let myself slide, oh, until New Year's.

Some of these ideas are over the top, some below the belt, some eye level. Take your pick and let your heart do the rest. They are cheap and easy, safest thing to be so.

1. Buy your love tickets to something. It can be something they have been wanting to see for a long time, or something you have never heard of. Remember, random equals romance. You can plan a night of it and it will be something to look forward to.

2. Plan a road trip for a weekend. Make it for somewhere the two of you have always wanted to go. Give them the dates of the excursion in a creative way and don't tell them where you are going.

3. Give them one of those \$2 stockings from Wal-Mart and fill it with things that are "them," and all their favorites. Even down to their shampoo. It's super personal and it can be as expensive or inexpensive as you want it to be.

4. Start them a scrapbook. I know this is a stretch guys, but that is why it is a great idea. Put everything in it that the two of you have done together so far and then a little "To Be Continued..."

5. Think local. Try places like "ArtWare" in Blowing Rock and make them a pottery painting piece of love. They have everything from plates and Christmas ornaments,

to wine glasses, to light switch covers.

6. Girls-magazine clippings and shellac are your friends. Enough said.

7. Movie equals make-out. Gift certificates can be fully utilized here, and you can make a dinner and movie night out of it. The idea of a "real date" will never be over-rated or played out.

8. Make a theme of presents for that person from the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," 12 of this they love, five of that they love, three of whatever, you get the idea.

9. Goodwill anyone? Boone Antique Mall? These places are heaven for anyone with a little sense. A \$5 t-shirt of your loves favorite team or band is classic, especially if a random kid's last name is on the back. Old posters, books and mugs are endless at these places and many more like them. Worn-out waits screams true love.

10. Anything engraved. It is classic, concise, and pretty permanent. Above all, personal is powerful. Give them something that lets them know that you know them. This could send you into the New Year with flushed cheeks and a full heart.

Until next semester, Happy Holidays and Godspeed.

Letters to the Editor are available online at [theapp.appstate.edu](http://theapp.appstate.edu)