



THE IRON BLADE

SINCE 1955



60 Seconds
with
Milt
Rowan
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53 Years of Ferrum College News

October 13, 2008

MTV's LaBarbera urges Ferrum students to voice their opinions on November 4

Clara Harlowe
Staff writer

"This election is a milestone. You don't want to vote for whom ever your friends, family and the media tell you to. You want to vote for whomever your "voice" tells you to."

Those were the words of "Real World: Denver" actor Brooke LaBarbera, when she spoke in the Panther's Den on Tues. Sept. 30, at 8 p.m.

LaBarbera, who is with MTV's Rock the Vote campaign, paid a visit to Ferrum to encourage students to vote in the 2008 election. She said she doesn't want students to just be voters.

"I want you to be 'educated' voters," LaBarbera said.

LaBarbera spoke of apathy, meaning laziness, and she explained how apathy is very contagious, especially amongst youth.

"Don't let someone influence you that one vote doesn't matter," LaBarbera said. "That attitude is exactly why we don't have the high numbers of youth voting that we need to make a difference."

LaBarbera expressed her opinion on how it is not only the right

of students to get out there and vote. "It is our duty and privilege," she said.

LaBarbera talked about how people have worked hard and some have died to give us this right to vote. "We had to work our butts off!" said LaBarbera.

LaBarbera described her political background. She grew up in Nashville, Tenn., which she said, "is (in) a very conservative state." Her father was very conservative and her mother was very liberal. She explained how she got to see both sides growing up, and in a way, she felt kind of lucky, even though it got irritating at times.

"Politics in my house was a 'don't ask, don't tell' kind of thing," LaBarbera said.

LaBarbera stressed the importance of how we, the youth, need to do our own research when it comes to politics.

LaBarbera encouraged students to share their thoughts and to let their voices be heard on many important issues.

When the issue of candidates arose, one student said, "I am voting for Obama because I want change." Another student said, "I am voting for McCain because he



Brooke LaBarbera (center) and students talk after the program.

photo by Clara Harlowe

stuck by his people at war when he was a POW, and he will stick by us now."

LaBarbera went on to lead a discussion about the economy.

"There is a lot to be said about that," LaBarbera said. "It is hard to understand and grasp."

The \$700 billion bail-out bill was a huge topic during the discussion about the economy. There were some students that spoke out

that were for the bill and some that were against.

The next issue that was discussed concerned health care. LaBarbera gave some statistics on how 47 million Americans are currently uninsured. She also expressed how the issue of health-

see LABARBERA page 2

Students examine presidential party platforms in SGA-sponsored "Rock the Vote" debate

Dominique Fitzgerald
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association held a student debate call "Rock the Vote" on Wed., Oct. 1, in the Blue Ridge Mountain Room.

The debate focused on the importance of registering to vote and to get involved with the decision on who will be the next president of the United States.

Teams of students arguing for the Democratic and Republican tickets focused on seven important issues facing our country today.

Each team consists of seven or eight members. The Democratic team members were Tiara Gill, Emma Beneke, Khoseraw Habibi,

Frances Rutherford, Jeremiah Cook, Shavon Waller and Michael Gresham.

The Republican team members were Ali Davenport, Travis Smith, Skyler Muckleroy, Jon Lester, Matthew Fitrer, Daniel Popsuy and Beth Simms.

Each team had three minutes to respond to the question that was asked; the opposing team at that time also had three minutes and a 30-second follow-up.

Tim Shipe, president of the SGA and Chaz Pando were the moderators for the debate.

The first issue was healthcare. 47 million Americans do not have healthcare; eight million are children. The Democratic team argued

that Barack Obama and Joe Biden will develop a public benefit program that will help all Americans obtain health care coverage.

The Republican team argued that John McCain and Sarah Palin say that the way to get health care for Americans is to get them healthcare insurance and expand the community health care system. The Republicans also stated that John McCain says that we have the best health care system in the world and that Barack Obama's plan would destroy it.

The teams also debated on the increase in healthcare costs and universal healthcare. There are so many people in the country that would like to have health care but

some cannot afford it.

The second issue was education. Democrats argued that the "No Child Left Behind Act" will help students pay for college and will eliminate private loans.

The Republicans argued, in order to have our young children be well-educated and get a good education, John McCain wants new teachers to graduate in the top 25 percent of their class. McCain says that students that do not graduate in the top 25 should be assisted in finding other jobs.

The third issue was energy. Both teams talked about breaking the dependency on foreign oil and

see SGA page 5

Panel explains why YOU should vote

Lana A. Whited
Iron Blade advisor

"The right to vote wasn't a gift. It came at an enormous price," Dr. Melvin Macklin told students the night before the Oct. 6 voter registration deadline.

Macklin was one of three speakers in a panel focused on why students should not take the right to vote for granted. His fellow panelists were Dr. Michael Trochim, professor of history, and junior Khoseraw Habibi. The panel took place in the Panther's Den.

The program was sponsored by the English 338 (Rhetoric) class as part of its project "Got Vote?" The purpose of the project is to educate Ferrum College students about the 2008 election and to motivate students to vote responsibly. The panel was organized by three students in the class: Ashley Hale, Tristen Ashley, and Habibi.

Macklin, who is in his first year on the Ferrum faculty, based his remarks on the history of black Americans' struggle to get the right to vote. He cited his own work with the Black Panthers signing up new voters and reminded students how hard their predecessors such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., worked to extend the vote to right to all Americans, regardless of race.

Although the Fifteenth Amendment was intended to guarantee voting rights for freed black Americans when it was ratified in 1870, many were victims of intimidation techniques practiced by white supremacist groups or regulations like poll taxes established by governments in Southern states.

The Civil Rights Act and Voter Rights Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 and 1965, finally eliminated the practice of imposing additional qualifications such as literacy tests on black Americans seeking the right to vote.

Macklin told students about the sacrifices of previous generations such as the Civil Rights marchers confronted by state troopers on a

bridge in Selma, Ala., in 1965. On a day that has come to be known as "Bloody Sunday," an unarmed young black man, Jimmie Lee Jackson, was shot in the stomach by a state trooper. Jackson died about a week later, but the state trooper was not indicted until 2007.

Macklin reminded students that the author Maya Angelou has said that rights for minorities particularly come at a price.

Habibi, a native of Kabul, Afghanistan, described his experiences as a United Nations observer during the democratic presidential elections in his country in 2004, held to replace transitional president Hamid Karzai. Although the Taliban was on its way out, it attempted to discourage voters through intimidation tactics, including death threats. Habibi said he wore a bulletproof vest while visiting polling places with the U.N. team.

Born two years after the Soviet invasion of his homeland, Habibi said he grew up in a country caught between two political ideologies: "communism and Islamic jihad." The notion of democracy was "poisonous," he said, and thousands of people were killed for advocating democracy. Habibi said his own parents did not discuss democracy in front of their children for fear that the children would talk about it at school and put themselves at risk.

If anyone had tried to talk to him about democracy during this time, Habibi said he would have asked, "What is this animal? I am not familiar with it."

As he learned more about democracy and especially about free elections in the United States, with their rhetoric representing multiple ideologies, Habibi said, "It was one of my dreams to see all these things happen in my country."

Habibi was particularly struck by hearing some Americans criticize decisions of their president. In Afghanistan, he said, "if you stand against your politician and tell him he's wrong, the next day, you're



(L-R), Dr. Michael Trochim, Khoseraw Habibi, and Dr. Melvin Macklin talked with students about why the right to vote should not be taken for granted. The panel, held on Oct. 6, was sponsored by the Eng. 338/Rhetoric class as part of its "Got Vote?" project.

photo by Lana Whited

not in this world."

Habibi reminded students that billions of people living in countries such as North Korea, Iraq, and China do not have the right to vote in democratic elections.

"This country is blessed with a lot of freedoms," Habibi said. "Taking that for granted makes me angry, to be honest with you. . . . I wish I had this right that you have, in my country."

Trochim, who specializes in American history and is now in his 25th year on the Ferrum faculty, told students they should never think that a few votes don't make a difference. He cited the 1896 presidential election, when William Jennings Bryant examined election returns and determined that he had lost to William McKinley by less than 3,000 votes.

"How do you know that you're not going to be the vote that turns the tide?" Trochim asked. He said that the 2008 election could be a "watershed" event but that this is a term historians usually do not assign for 20 years or more after the fact.

Trochim said he was in Brazil in 1978, when that country was under the control of a military govern-

ment that made voting compulsory. "If you didn't vote, you had to pay a fine," Trochim said.

People from villages spread out along the Amazon river would take sometimes perilous journeys to centralized polling places. One such group was in a bus attempting to board a ferry on a muddy riverbank when the bus slid into the river. The passengers were devoured by piranhas.

By contrast, Trochim said, getting to the polls in the United States is relatively easy.

Trochim returned to Brazil in 1985, when 25 years of military rule had just ended and the country elected a civilian president. Trochim said the atmosphere was electric and everyone was engaged.

"Everybody was running for something," he said. "There was this great sense of freedom, after all those years of not having any."

Trochim, who earned three degrees at the University of Illinois at Chicago, gave an example to show students that participating in the panel was very important to him.

"At this moment, the Chicago White Sox are engaged in a playoff

— see **PANEL** page 5

LABARBERA from page

care has important arguments from both conservatives and liberals.

"I tend to think that America is too wealthy of a country not to have health care for everyone," LaBarbera said. "But I can also see the conservative side on how health care might not be up to par if everyone had it."

One student said, "I think it's just a good idea in general to have free health care for everyone."

A debate arose in the room on

the concept of health care. Some students were for free health care, and some students were against. Many students agree that this was a very intense part of the program.

Students got into a discussion on how we are all family in America and how we should take care of each other. Many students agreed that "family takes care of family."

The last discussion that LaBarbera led was on the topic of immigration. LaBarbera expressed a

view that some people hold, which is that we are all, in a way, immigrants. She pointed out the issue of terrorism. She also pointed out that many Americans feel immigrants are taking jobs.

"I am definitely in the middle on this," one student said. "Let's face it; Americans are lazy. If they don't want to do physical labor, let the immigrants do it."

Another student added, "If they want to come to America, that is

fine, but they need to come legally."

LaBarbera expressed how valuable each one of our views is and ended on this note:

"The conversation tonight has been absolutely fantastic! My hope is that each one of you can voice your opinion. You have shown me tonight that you can do that."

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News

Early 19th century high tea with women's suffrage as topic still relevant in 21st century

Brittni Taylor
Staff Writer

On Monday, September 29, at 4 o'clock, the Virginia Room was the scene of an educational high tea along with finger food, pearls, some in their finest, and others in, well, sneakers and a t-shirt. Professor Sasha Saari led the program with a wonderful introduction, stressing the importance of voter registration.

Dr. Milt Rowan, associate professor of history, discussed the history of voting in the United States, with regard to gender, and women's attempts to gain the right.

In the 19th century, attempts were made to give voting rights to those who didn't have them. After the 15th amendment granted freed slaves the vote, women pushed to gain their voting rights. One of the most famous advocates was Susan B Anthony, who, Rowan said, "talked her way into voting."

The National American Women's Association was formed and lasted 30 years, until women finally won the vote in 1920. The

original strategy was to go state by state until women were given the right to vote. Most of the women involved in the movement were very diverse and middle class reformers. Our high tea was compared to events in the past where women would "work the room" to get politicians on their side, basically being the cordial women they were thought to be.

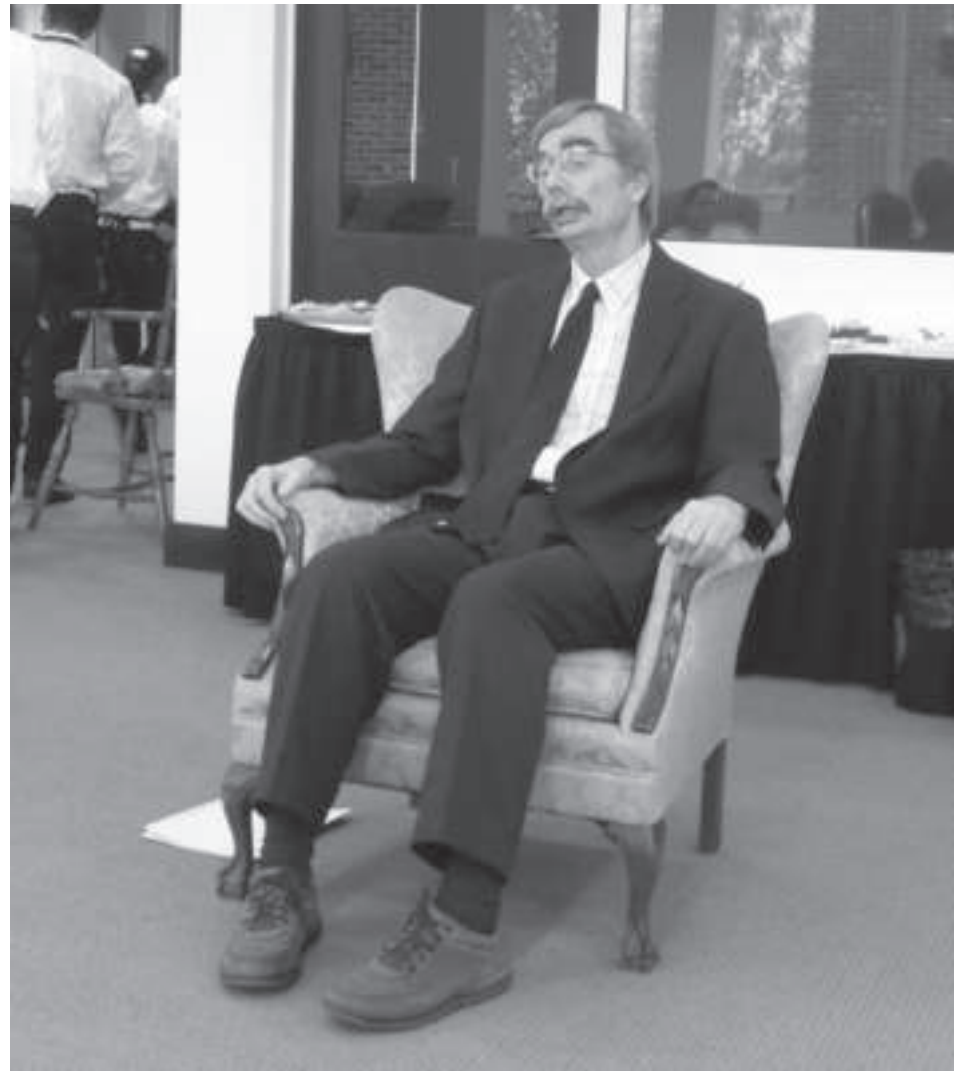
Rowan recommended the book "The Iron Jawed Angels" for those who want to read more about this movement.

I was given the chance to interview Dr. Rowan after his program and get his view on students and their involvement in politics.

Q. Are students politically active?

A. Since we're in election year, it seems so. In the past, they haven't always seemed so, but now it seems so.

see **SUFFRAGE** page 5 —



Professor of History Dr. Milt Rowan explains the significance of the women's suffrage movement.

photo by Brittni Taylor

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The 50th Anniversary crest on page one was designed by Iron Blade alumna Sandy Southard ('04).



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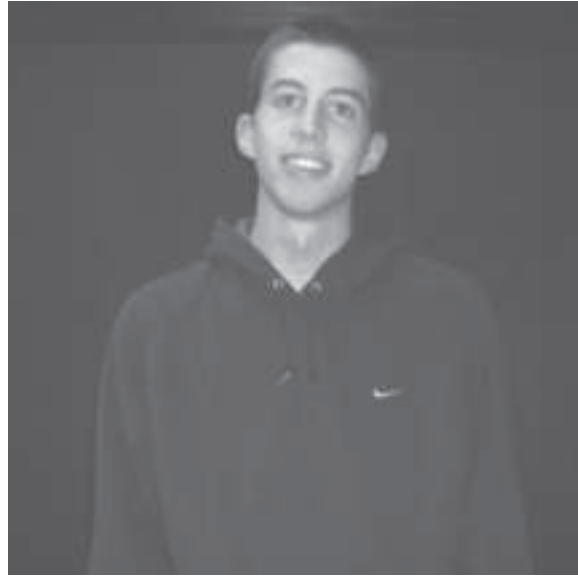
compiled by Ashley Hale

Who are you voting for president and why? If you don't plan to vote, why not?



Anthony T. Adams

Obama, because he wants change. It's time for change.



Arlo Baker

Obama. My family is Democrat. I've been raised Democrat and I believe in what he is doing.



Gary Brandt

Unsure. They both have things that I like and things that I disagree with; so right now it's hard to say. I'm leaning more towards McCain.



Skyler W. Muckelroy

McCain. I'm a conservative. Abortion is murder. Homosexual marriage is wrong. I despise taxes, and I believe in actually executing change, not just talking about change.



Elizabeth Byrd

I am a conservative. Also, I feel that him picking a woman as a running mate is empowering because I am a woman.



Chaz Pando

Obama. I felt that he is the best candidate, and it's time for a change.



Evan Reedy

McCain, because he has an effective tax plan and his stance on business taxes is a favorable one for me since I own a business.



Tyler "Nugget" Ross

Obama, because he is offer in a lot of change, and it has been way too long since we've had change.



Joseph Saunders

Obama. I agree with some of the ideas of change that he wants to bring into existence.

Features

Student Activities Calendar

compiled by Clara Harlowe
Staff Writer

Monday, Oct. 13

SIFE Program Meeting 4:30 p.m.
Beckham Hall- Room 101
AASA Meeting 4:30 p.m.
Grousbeck 101
PALS Tutoring 6 p.m.
Contact PAL coordinator in the
ARC for Location
Monday Night Praise 7 p.m.
Vaughn Chapel
Agriculture Club Meeting 7 p.m.
Garber 123

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Dinner meeting, Blue Ridge
Section of the American 5 p.m.
Panther's Den

Wednesday, Oct. 15

RA All Staff Meeting 10 p.m.
Garber 106

Thursday, Oct. 16

FALL BREAK

Thursday, Oct. 16 Cont'd.

Big Buddy/Little Buddy
Middle School Event 3:30 p.m.
Light House
Russian Club 7 p.m.
Beckham 204
Thursday Bible Study 8:30 p.m.
Roberts Hall Conference Room

Friday, Oct. 17

FALL BREAK

Saturday, Oct. 18

Big Buddy/Little Buddy
Elementary Event 3:30 p.m.
Fitness Center

Sunday, Oct. 19

Praise Band Rehearsals 4 p.m.
Vaughn Chapel

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SGA from page 1

the rising cost of gas, which we can all relate to.

The fourth issue was national security and the safety of the American people. Each team talked about how the Sept. 11 attacks raised the issue of whether America is safe or not.

The fifth issue was human and civil rights. This part of the debate got very hot and heavy. Both teams talked about abortion (pro-choice or pro-life), gay marriage (should it be legal or illegal), racial profiling and poverty-welfare (getting people off of welfare and helping them to find jobs).

The sixth issue was the economy. Both teams expressed their concerns about the \$700 billion bailout that also comes with certain conditions as far as a payback plan and limits on federal

money. Raising and lowering of taxes and helping middle class families were also discussed.

The final issue was America's standing in the world. Both teams argued their opinions about the fight against terrorism, winning the war on Iraq, why we have not locate Bin Laden, and Russia and Georgia issues.

Tim Shipe, SGA president, said the experience "allowed students to see what each candidate has to offer our country. The student debaters worked very effectively to prepare and relay information. The debate did at times get very heated on certain topics, such as foreign policy and human and civil rights. Overall, the debate was an amazing event. "

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60 seconds with Dr. Milt Rowan

Brittni Taylor
Staff Writer



photo by Brittni Taylor

How long have you been on the Ferrum faculty?

This is my 23rd year here at Ferrum.

How does it feel to be a history teacher for so long at Ferrum?

I would say I've enjoyed it. It's challenging sometimes to find ways to interact with students to get them involved. It's fun to see the many different generations of students.

What made you decide to teach history at this school?

I decided to teach history after I fell in love with it as an

undergraduate, then made it a career as a graduate student teaching at Ferrum after applying to many other schools. I like the small atmosphere and the one-on-one relationship with the students.

Is there any advice you would tell history majors?

First, be passionate about the study of the past. Develop analytical and interpretive skills that would allow them to study it well and successfully.

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PANEL from page 2

game," he said. "They must win, in order to make the World Series. And I am here. That tells you how important I think this is."

The panelists' remarks were followed by questions and general discussion of current U.S. affairs, including the oil and banking industry crises, the aftermath of hurricanes in the Gulf Coast, and the Sept. 11 attacks.

SUFFRAGE from page 3

Q. How is the history of the women's suffrage movement relevant to today's students?

A. I think it's an example of how our political process works, where people protest and demand change. Example of what happens when people get politically active.

All three panelists stressed that the current generation of college students will have much work to do and said they hope students will accept the challenge.

"At the end of the day," Macklin said, "the vote is the one way you effect change."

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Q. Are students stronger when it comes to politics?

A. It does seem that they are more active than in the past, from the impression I get from talking to students.

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Movie reviews

Racial bigotry escalates to stalker status in "Lakeview Terrace"

Michael Rich
Staff Writer

When watching "Lakeview Terrace," it's easy to think about a bad experience with a neighbor. I thought of Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall" and its theme that we must always be civil to our neighbors, even if our neighbors are mean. "Lakeview Terrace" takes this experience of a bad neighbor to the extreme.

Lakeview Terrace itself is a suburb located in Southern California. Chris and Lisa Mattson (Patrick Wilson and Kerry Washington) make this their start-

up home, thinking eventually they'll move somewhere else. Their next door neighbor is Abel Turner (Samuel L. Jackson), who doesn't like the idea of an interracial couple living next door to him. Abel makes it perfectly clear to Chris several times that he disapproves of his union with Lisa. After Abel's kids spot the couple frolicking in the pool, Abel decides it's time for some psychological warfare to get them to move. Chris and Lisa feel that they are unable to go to the cops because Able is a cop, and a 28-year veteran of the LAPD.

Director Neil LaBute has spent

most of his career getting inside the mind of the average man. LaBute manages to get inside of Samuel L. Jackson's head pretty darn well. Abel is a man who has some deep-seeded issues that touches the very core of us.

However, this film wasn't written by LaBute. If the movie were written by LaBute, the movie would have gone into unknown territory, touching on subjects that we feel uncomfortable talking about. The uncomfortable topics here happen to be race, race-relations, and interracial marriage. Writers David Loughery and Howard Korder probably had a

script here that really wanted to tackle these issues. I commend them for doing a fine job in actually attempting to tackle the race issue. However, once again the studio interfered, thinking they could market it toward teenagers. That happens to be a mistake, considering this movie is on the verge of saying something interesting, only to turn into a stalker film late into the third act. The ending I could smell a mile away.

Grade: C-

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If you want to write, take photographs, design newspaper pages, sell advertisements, or be a paper boy (or girl), the campus newspaper needs you. The staff meets weekly from 1:25-2:15 in Library Addition 202A. If you can't make the meetings, contact Dr. Lana Whited, advisor, at 4334 or e-mail lwhited@ferrum.edu. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.

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Sports

Panthers tame Cougars

Roger L. Keaton, III
Sports editor

Our Ferrum College Panthers (4-1, 2-0) traveled to Danville, Va., to take on the Averett University Cougars (1-3, 0-1) Saturday, October 4, in a USA South Conference matchup. The Cougars came out with a vicious bite and stunned the Panthers early by way of a Ferrum safety after tackling quarterback Matt Dobson in the end zone and a Dontavious Watson touchdown run.

From then on it would be all Ferrum, as the Panthers rattled off 30 consecutive points to win the battle of ferocious felines 30 - 9. The Cougars' teeth did not seem strong enough to keep hold of the Panthers as they fought back. Ferrum first got on the board when Marcus Mayo completed an 11-yard scoring strike with 25 seconds remaining in the half to tight end Marques Wilson, a man better known for his blocking abilities than receiving prowess. Only a sophomore, Wilson made the first catch of his young career a big one.

A common theory in football is that the first score is the toughest, and Wilson's catch opened the floodgates for Ferrum. Putting another 23 points on the scoreboard, Ferrum secured the victory and allowed its fans (and coaches) to relax somewhat after a stressful first half.

The second half scoring was started off by a 7-yard touchdown run by Mayo. Ferrum was forced to punt the ball away to Averett on its second drive of the second half, but Averett's long drive was stopped in the red zone by a Dennis Hardy interception. Hardy was able to return the ball 66 yards to the Ferrum 28. From there, Mike Vann scored on the second play from

scrimmage off the option pitch from Mayo. While Vann's day was not as productive as last year when he scored five touchdowns against Averett, his play still helped the team conquer another foe.

Freshman Demetrius Brown picked off Averett's quarterback on their next drive but again Ferrum was unable to sustain a drive and was forced to punt. Averett's offensive ineptitude combined with Ferrum's stout defense caused Averett to punt the ball back to Ferrum. Mayo accounted for 50 of the 55 yards gained on Ferrum's final scoring drive that consisted of eight rushing plays.

Averett's ensuing possession ended when defensive tackle John Branch caught a pass that was tipped at the line of scrimmage. His attempts at returning his interception came to a quick halt as he was tackled immediately.

For the game, Mayo led Ferrum with 66 yards on the ground and 25 yards through the air, scoring two rushing touchdowns and passing for one, along with a pair of two-point conversions, one each rushing and passing. Freshman running back Steven Harris had his greatest contribution thus far in the season, rushing for 64 yards. Junior fullback Matt Lucas, usually just a blocker, gained 63 yards for his highest rushing total this season. Outside of his 30-yard romp early in the fourth quarter, Vann was held to nine yards on five carries. Senior running back LeBryan Patterson contributed on the ground with 32 yards and also had a 14-yard catch.

Junior linebacker Maureik Goode led Ferrum defensively with nine tackles. William Kenney, Dennis Hardy, and Zack Brown added 6.5, 5.5, and 4 tackles respectively, one of Brown's



Ferrum quarterback Marcus Mayo rolls out to throw against Averett on October 4.

photo courtesy of Sports Information

tackles being for loss. Freshman linebacker Jamar Mosely also contributed four tackles, half of those being for loss. Sophomore punter T.J. Grzesikowski came into the game fifth in Division III in punting and had moved up to third by the end of the game.

While the offense gets all of the highlights, Ferrum's defense and punting has been leading it this year. During the third quarter, Averett had a drive go all the way to the one-yard line, but Ferrum's defense prevailed as it has all season and foiled Averett's attempt

at retaking the lead. This goal line stand was less a test of talent and more a test of will. Ferrum had the will to succeed and was able to jog off the field with heads high in celebration, after proving that, when backed against a wall, it will not give in. Character and might show in the toughest of times and Ferrum's defense showed it has plenty of both.

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Brown named men's tennis Player of the Week

Gary Holden
Sports Information Director

Ferrum College senior Chris Brown was named Men's Tennis Player of the Week Sept. 29 by the USA South Athletic Conference.

This is Brown's first Player of the Week honor. He earned the honor in the same week that Ferrum football player Jamar Moseley was named Football Defensive Rookie of the Week.

Brown was instrumental in the men's tennis team winning the 2008 Bud Skeens Memorial Tournament Sept. 20 at home. He won the #5 singles title with a pair

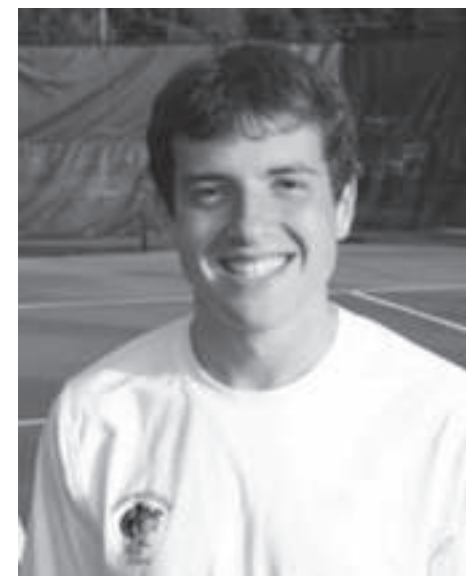
of wins over Lynchburg College's Robert Martin and Randolph College's Allan Marrs, both in straight sets. Brown posted a 7-6 (7-2), 7-5 win over Martin, then blanked Marrs 6-0, 6-0.

Brown and teammate Alex Bradley, a sophomore, paired for an 8-5 win at #3 doubles over Randolph's Marrs and Neo Wang before falling 8-2 to Martin and Brian Nelson from Lynchburg.

Bradley also won individual titles at the Skeens Memorial, as did freshman Romy Fajardo. Bradley won the #6 singles title, while Fajardo earned at the #2 singles spot. The Skeens

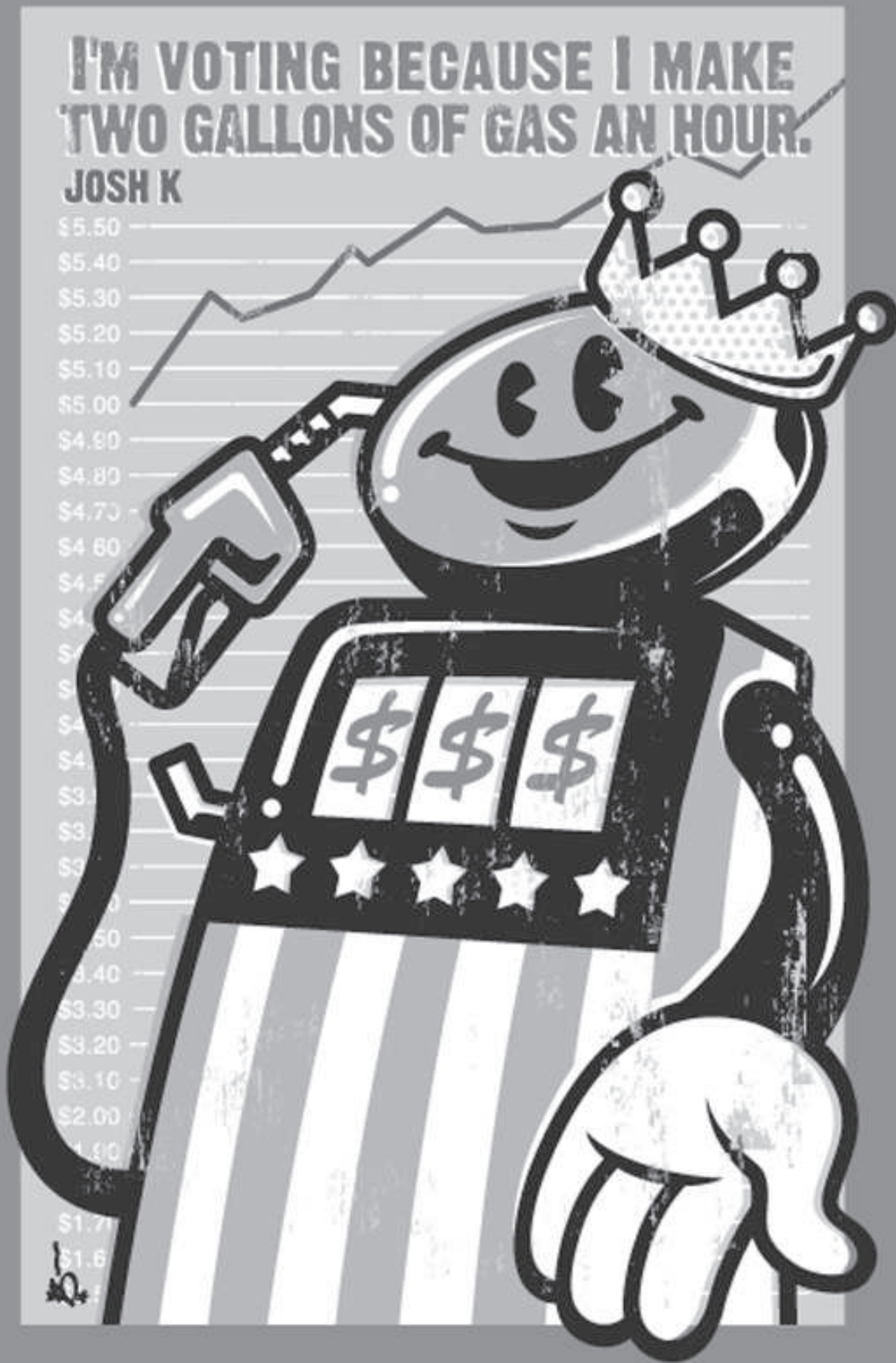
Memorial Tournament is named in honor of long-time Ferrum College Tennis Coach and history professor Earl G. (Bud) Skeens, who died Oct. 31, 2002.

The men's tennis team completed its fall season with the tournament. The Panthers open the spring portion of their season March 13 at home against Huntingdon (Ala.) College. The non-conference match will begin at 3 p.m. in Ferrum and will be played as a doubleheader with the Ferrum women.



Chris Brown

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