

Josh McIntosh, More than a Rhyming Name

By: Carrie Rogers

Josh McIntosh, a new face around Wilkes Community College, is working with Scott Johnson this semester as an intern in Student Activities. He grew up just outside of Washington, D.C. Being from a large area with a diverse population, Josh is admirably open-minded calling himself a radical realist in his views on moral and world issues. He is an interesting person with whom to talk.

Josh is very energetic. In his spare time, which is a precious commodity to him, he enjoys running. His biggest dislikes are dishonesty and the telephone. Unfortunately for him, his job requires frequent use of this Graham Bell creation. He prefers face-to-face conversation and e-mail. His favorite type of food is Indian food. His favorite type of music is Techno and his favorite musical artists are The Indigo Girls and Moby. Josh's favorite movie is "Dead Man Walking" and his favorite actress is Susan Sarandon.

Josh was not a science nut in high school; he actually did not enjoy it much at all. However, he decided to major in Molecular Biology when he got to college, because he found this area of study far more intriguing than in his high school science classes. He went to Elon College near Burlington, NC for his undergraduate work. He chose Elon because of its small size and close-knit atmosphere. During his time there, he was able to develop close friendships with other students and professors alike. Also while there, Josh became very involved with residence life and student activities. When he graduated from Elon, because his heart was with the students in the field of residence life, he chose to pursue his Master's degree in Student Development at Appalachian State University. Much of his work focused on women's and social issues. He studied such subjects as eating disorders and domestic abuse. In his current position in residence life, Josh oversees hundreds of students with very different backgrounds, all of whom contribute to his love for his job and his open-minded attitude towards others. Josh will graduate from ASU this spring. Upon finishing his Master's Degree at ASU, he hopes to move to a less rural university area more in keeping with the environment in which he grew up.



Erin Go Braugh (Ireland Forever)

By: Jordan Welborn



In the year 389 AD, a child was brought into this world by a wealthy family in the heart of Britain. His name was Maewyn Succat, and he was destined to be famous.

At the age of sixteen, this young lad was kidnapped by pirates. Six years of toil and hardship as a slave in the pastures of Ireland would follow. Sick of this abusive

life, Maewyn dreamed of changing the course his life was about to follow. The result? A series of religious visions. Through his faith in these visions, our young friend found the strength and exact route out that enabled him to escape from captivity.

Free from bondage and back home in Britain, Maewyn began to study Christianity in hopes of becoming a clergyman. At the age of 60, he left home as a priest with a new Latin name, Patricius, or Patrick. Because of his experiences there, he made it his goal to spread Christianity throughout Ireland.

Patrick's winning personality and unique charm enabled him to win converts quite easily. He was able to open over 300 churches, as well as baptize more than 120,000 people. Legend has it that he used the shamrock to demonstrate the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). Stemming largely from its illustrative use then, the shamrock is now recognized as the traditional symbol of Ireland.

Later, Patrick became the patron saint of Ireland. Most stories about him are only supported by legend. He is said to have charmed all the snakes out of Ireland, so they were drowned. Yet this makes one wonder why anyone would want all the snakes out of their country. Who would be left to keep the mice population down? What would little children do for pets? The only feasible explanation would be that snakes are a pagan symbol or a sign of evil, so St. Patrick's spread of Christianity was kind of like driving the paganism out of Ireland.

To this day, Irish Catholics around the world celebrate their hero with feast on March 17th. In America, it's more or less an excuse to pinch your friends (if they don't wear green) and have a party. Over 100 cities celebrate with parades, the largest being in New York City.

*May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,
and trouble avoid you wherever you go.*