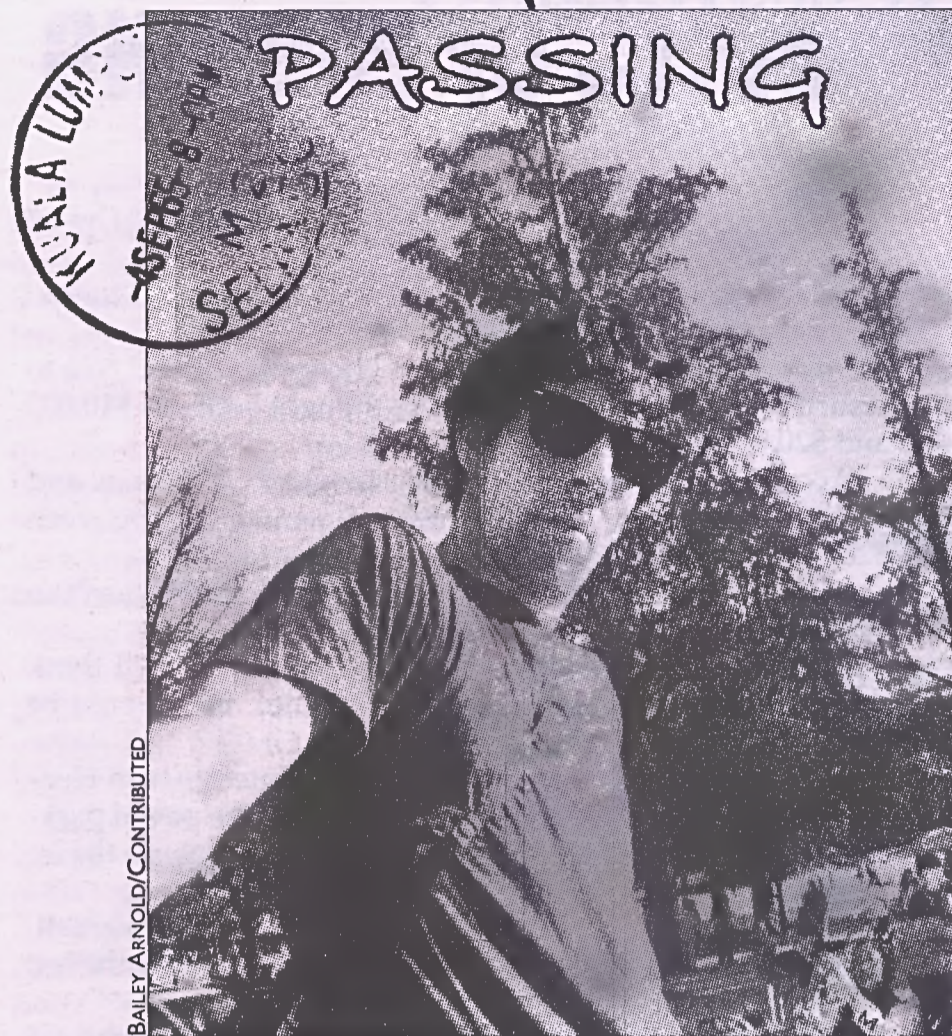


A PILGRIM IN

PASSING



BAILEY ARNOLD/CONTRIBUTED

"The Battle at Croke Park"

Armed with little more than a backpack, camera, computer and bandanna, Maxwell George, former layout editor for *The Guilfordian*, is spending the spring semester traveling by train throughout Europe. Under the title "A Pilgrim in Passing," he hopes to find some sense of the sacred in each stop

along the way. Look here each week for a new anecdote from the road. To see Max's intended itinerary and photos from the trip, and to share your own feedback on the journey, check out Guilfordian.com. For more frequent dispatches and a more direct connection to Max, hit up his blog at mbgineurope.tumblr.com.

I'm not new to rivalry. Born in Boston, my hate for the New York Yankees is hereditary. Raised in Charlotte, I couldn't wear a blue shirt without assuming basketball allegiance to either Duke (dark) or Carolina (light).

At Guilford I've experienced our version of the classic cross-town football feud with the annually lackluster "Soup Bowl" against Greensboro College. And with the emerging Guilford-Elon contention for D3 club rugby dominance I guess I've even helped birth a rivalry.

Perhaps more importantly, last year I cast my very first presidential ballot in one of the most historic additions to American bipartisanship. The nature of rivalry is as natural to me as a burger and fries.

In Europe in late February I've landed myself in prime position for the annual Six Nations Rugby Tournament, in which all-star sides from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, and Italy compete for Northern Hemisphere domination in the sport. Saturday was the ultimate contest as Ireland hosted England at Dublin's famous Croke Park.

Every year is important in this historic rivalry, but 2009 has afforded Ireland's first solid chance at completing the rare Grand Slam - by beating every team in the tournament - since their last in 1961. Pregame tensions reached the boiling point over the last two weeks of preparation and the late disclosure of a key line-up change for England at flyhalf (like the quarterback in rugby, see David McKindley-Ward) had Irish fans salivating over the

prospect of a home field blow out.

Thrown off by the awkward early evening game time (17:30?), I was lucky to find an open seat three minutes after kickoff in front of the big-screen projection in a pub called The Glimmerman. The place was packed with pint-drinking Irish supporters and one brave lady cheering for England (much to the chagrin of her green-clad husband). I proudly donned my green Irish wool scarf for the occasion and impressed the few who would listen with my knowledge of Ireland's backline.

From the first whistle Ireland dominated the game, keeping possession in English territory for most of the first half. But missed penalties by Ronan O'Gara's (have a guess at whose side he plays for) uncharacteristically unsure right foot kept England within reach.

With each passing minute play got rougher and with each big hit a player or two could be seen taking his time to collect the pieces of himself now strewn about the pitch (field). Brian O'Driscoll, Ireland's captain and star center, took a couple of gruesome blows to the head that left him reeling for minutes, to which The Glimmerman erupted with a chorus of inaudible shouts followed by the "Oh come off it lads, that was clean" from the English woman then followed by a wave of obscenities in response and the heavy sigh of the green-clad husband.

But the man-of-the-match, O'Driscoll, refused to take a sub each time and would eventually score the only Irish try (think touchdown) and the game's deciding points on an

audacious drop-goal (three points, kind of like a field goal but in open play) in the second half. England ended up with a couple of yellow cards (they deserved one more) that proved costly and their kick-and-chase try in the 79th minute of play was not enough to top Ireland at home, the final score 14-13.

The bloody contest Saturday at Croke Park evoked the passion and pride resulting from a thousand years of rivalry between the two nations. On the same ground where swords were once drawn, wars won and lost, the Irish rugby team, with the audible support of an entire nation, prevailed after 80 minutes of fight; another battle between Ireland and England to go down in history, the rivalry even further cemented. The parties in Dublin that night, starting in the pubs and ending in the streets, were in celebration of much more than a single rugby match.

I thought I knew rivalry before that game, but compared to this even the oldest of American feuds falls embarrassingly short. I hate the Yankees, but I don't think they ever oppressed my Red Sox for hundreds of years, millions of people weren't killed in the name of the Tarheels, and even the mightiest of Soup Bowl's can't really compare with the Irish War of Independence.

In Dublin they know rivalry, and it's ok to tear up in the pub after your country takes home a one-point win to stay undefeated in the Six Nations Tournament.

Here fries are called 'chips' and they're served with fish, enjoy your burger.

Forevergreen's film screening raises awareness of mountain top removal

By Paula Wilder
STAFF WRITER

The camera's eye pans the tree-lined mountains that tower above cloud-filled valleys. Dawn breaks through the darkness.

This scene began the screening of the documentary "Mountain Top Removal" produced and directed by Michael O'Connell.

Forevergreen sponsored the film in order to raise awareness of the devastation in Southern Appalachian due to dragline mining of coal.

Dragline mining starts at the top of the mountain by clear-cutting trees. Explosives blast away the topsoil. Artificial lakes are created in the valleys below to contain the by-product called "coal slurry" that is released from dynamiting mountain peaks and separating the coal from the core.

Forevergreen hopes to raise awareness and enact change in the Guilford community about issues such as dragline mining and other environmental concerns.

"The way we have the club set up is to have themes for each semester in order to educate and to bring people together," said first-year Daryn Lane. "This semester's theme is environmental justice."

Lane knows O'Connell and invited him to share "Mountaintop Removal" because it is an important issue that fits well with the club's focus.

O'Connell was asked by an attendee if he experienced any resistance during filming. O'Connell said, "Some of the younger people

were nervous about me coming in. I didn't know anyone and I just showed up at one of their meetings."

"It was a little nerve-racking at first," O'Connell said. "But the people are angry because this is happening in their backyard and it is pretty emotional."

Just on the other side of the beautiful mountain that opened the film, lie other mountains laid waste by dragline mining. Mountains that used to stretch toward the skies now lie shorn of their trees and their soil. Gray plateaus replace the towering peaks.

One of the main focuses of the film centers on Marsh Fork Elementary School, which sits 400 yards from a 2.8 billion gallon capacity coal sludge dam and 225 feet from a coal processing facility.

A spokesperson of Massey Energy, the company that owns the mine in Marsh Fork, describes slurry as "nothing more than dirt and rock." He stated that since the coal slurry is indigenous to the mountains, it is completely harmless.

In contrast, a scientist from Duke University states that in their natural form, rocks contain levels of arsenic, lead, and mercury that are harmless, but because the rock has been disturbed and ground into smaller particles, toxic levels of the poisons have been found in the slurry.

The film focuses on the story of Ed Wiley, who walked from Charleston, W.Va., to Washington, D.C., to raise money for a new school in Marsh Fork that would be built at a safer distance from the lake and processing

facility.

People in the town experience constant headaches, kidney failure, numbness in arms and legs. Many pregnancies have ended with stillbirths, wells produce gray water that stains whatever it touches, and all around the town creeks flow with black water from coal slurry.

President of Forevergreen Alyzza Callahan said, "The fact that water is such a huge resource is often overlooked."

"Without proper care it will be the next endangered species" said Callahan. "In the corporate interest the water is being polluted for pure capitalistic gain."

Other problems related to streams and rivers exist due to the changes in the landscape. Under natural conditions, the streams and rivers would be able to dispel heavy rainfalls and melting snow, but with tree and soil removal, flooding occurs more often.

One woman in the film said that her land flooded seven times since the mountain near her home was draglined and that five acres had completely washed away.

She said, "(Coal companies) are hacking away at the foundation of your life. You fight against it, but they think it's OK for me as a hillbilly to live in the middle of this."

Professor of Environmental Studies and Geology Angie Moore attended the event and said, "I don't think people who make money are evil, but the problem here (in the film) is that the companies are making the money and someone else is paying the price."

"As consumers, if we don't know where our energy is coming from, then we are just as responsible," said Moore.

O'Connell admitted that when he began his research, he did not even know that power plants still used coal. What he found was that coal-fired power plants produce 40 percent of the nation's electricity. 30 percent of that coal comes from surface-mined coal.

O'Connell hopes to promote the "Pennies of Promise" campaign that Wiley began with his walk to Washington, D.C., in order to raise money for the new school in Marsh Fork. On June 19-20, Grammy-award winner and West Virginia native, Kathy Mattea will host and perform at a fundraiser called "Mountain Aid" at Shakori Hills in Chatham County, N.C. All proceeds and donations will go towards the eight million dollars Marsh Fork needs to relocate their school.

O'Connell said that, according to Duke Energy, North Carolina is the number two consumer in the nation of mountain top removal coal. Besides raising awareness and educating the Guilford community about dragline mining, Forevergreen hosted the film with the hope that students, faculty, and staff will feel inspired to help enact change participating in the "Pennies of Promise" campaign. Visit penniesofpromise.org to find out how you can help.

You can learn more about mountain top removal at hawriverfilms.com.

Forevergreen invites you to join them each Monday on the second floor of Founders Hall at 8 p.m.