

THE HILLTOP

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THIS WEEK

Opinions

Take a look at this issue's **BABBLE** column as Mike Wachtendorf takes Spike Lee, also DeAnn DeBrand shares her experiences in Germany.

Sports

The Lions beat the Spirit Express in a great basketball game. Also this issue, you get a full update on all the sports, including intramurals, the upcoming schedules for men's and ladies' basketball from **THE SPORTS EDITOR'S DESK**, and a look at the last football game.

News

Medea was cancelled, but the show must go on in "It Don't Mean a Thing..." Also, find out what has been going on in our student government in the **SGA**.

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Features

Kelly finds out what make the bad boys of the recent Toad concert tick in her personal interview with the **GIN BLOSSOMS**. Don't miss the **LET'S WORK AND RECREATE** article on Aunt War.

Toad pleases; Blossoms cause rush

by Kelly McElveen
assistant editor

Despite some initial problems with the opening act, Toad the Wet Sprocket entertained over 1,000 people Nov. 14 in a concert at Moore Auditorium.

People rushed the stage during the last song of the opening act at the suggestion of the Gin Blossoms's lead singer Robin Wilson. Wilson pointed out that there was not enough security to hold the crowd back if they chose to leave their seats and fill the orchestra pit.

As a result of their actions, the Gin Blossoms were not paid by Mars Hill and Toad the Wet Sprocket were to conduct a band meeting to decide if the band would remain on their tour, according to Jay Hirst, director of student activities.

Hirst said part of the problem was they were

caught up in the energy of the young crowd predominantly made up of 16-18 year olds.

"This is a really young band, and they didn't know how to handle the crowd," Hirst said. "They just kind of forgot where they were, and you've always got to remember what you are doing."

"It could have presented a dangerous situation, but security did a good job handling it," he said.

When Toad the Wet Sprocket began playing, lead singer Glen Phillips reinforced the need for everyone to have a good time in a safe manner, and the concert proceeded without any more mishaps as Toad thrilled the crowd with their hit song "All I Want" and new release "Walk on the Ocean."

Toad was just another band from southern California until they hit it big with

"All I Want, and since then, their fame has begun to skyrocket.

"It is mostly annoying," Phillips said of his fame. "When we're on the radio, I turn it off. People think they know you personally."

This is part of the attitude that Hirst describes as laid back.

"Toad was the nicest group of guys I've ever dealt with. They don't have the big head, and they are not into their fame. That's the kind of people you want to play," Hirst said.

The band started while the four members were in high school. They lifted their unusual name from a Monty Python skit, and Phillips says that the most often asked question is about the name.

"We thought we would only use it for one show," Phillips said. "We never

thought anyone would ever hear of us."

"My advice to beginning bands is to play the music you like, not what people think is cool. It's most important to please yourself," he said.

Toad has been on the road for over year and will wind up the second leg of their tour in December only to begin a European sweep in February. From there, Toad will probably go onto Japan and Australia, according to Phillips.

Once the tour is over, Toad will practice their music and begin work on another record. "Being on the road is not conducive to creativity. It's also hard to practice when you see the same people all the time," Phillips said.

"Once we're off the road, we can have a band again and a life."

MHC student knows meaning of dedication to a cause as director of AIDS Coalition

by Andrea Deaton
staff writer

Nathan Shook, a freshman at Mars Hill College, already knows exactly what he wants to do with his life: educate others about AIDS.

Shook, at the young age of 18, is the director of the North Carolina AIDS Awareness Coalition, a non-profit organization whose main goal is to promote AIDS awareness through programs and seminars in schools and businesses across the state.

While a sophomore at Owen High School in Swannanoa, NC, Shook became interested in the AIDS virus because of Ryan White, the young hemophiliac who was one of the first cases known and publicized.

Shook sympathized with the suffering of Ryan White caused by people who were so ignorant about AIDS. Shook then used this topic for an English paper. Little did he know to what lengths this would take him.

While Shook was still in high school, this research paper blossomed into educating students through programs not only at Owen High, but also in middle schools and high schools in western North Carolina.

Shook now estimates he conducts about four to five programs a week along with other representatives from Buncombe County.

"I am busy, but if I were just sitting in my room with nothing to keep me busy, I would constantly think about all the people who need to hear about this. If there is one person who has not heard, that's one too many," said Shook.

He does this work in addition to his academic load of 16 credit hours and Bonner Scholar requirements of 40 hours per month of volunteer work which includes umpiring Little League, tutoring and student assisting at Burnsville Elementary School and working at the Health Adventure at Pack Place in Asheville.

Shook is a very motivated and independent individual who comes from a conservative home. His mother has become accustomed to the activities of her son and is very supportive.

All of Shook's work has not always been easy. "At times it can become discouraging because I tell people how AIDS is spread, but they still continue to have unsafe sex," he said.

Shook also must withstand stereotyping and discrimination because so

many people believe that AIDS is a gay disease.

"It is not a gay disease. So many people are dying. Each person must take care of himself and not worry about if the person next to him is a homosexual or has AIDS," said Shook.

The North Carolina AIDS Awareness Coalition takes ten of the best and finest educators from mostly NC health organizations to represent each county in the state by conducting AIDS awareness programs. They also take an in-state and out-of-state tour each year.

The expected result of this education is to reduce the spread of the virus in North Carolina. Currently 46,000 people have tested HIV positive within the state. The rate is anticipated to triple within 2 years. However, if it the number does not triple, the Coalition will have succeeded with their purpose.

Future goals for Shook are to complete his educational training at Mars Hill to receive a Bachelor of Social Work, and then he would like to attend graduate school in a larger metropolitan area so he will be able to reach out to more people.

