

The BEACON

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Volume 63 Issue 18



Women in popular culture



The Beacon/Laura Preby
Nona Poehler, sophomore integrative media major, designed the logo for the women and gender studies conference.

BY KIRSTIN COOK
News Editor

The upcoming Woman's and Gender Studies Conference is tackling several contemporary women issues involving women in the media. The conference, which is themed "Women in Popular Culture," will be a two day event on April 7 and 8.

The conference, hosted by the Women's and Gender Studies department, will include speaker presentations, film screenings, discussions and activities that deal with issues showcased by women throughout media. Some of the issues addressed will be eating disorders and increases in cosmetic surgery.

Ebonie Cunningham Stringer, assistant professor and director of sociology and anthropology, aided in the coordination of the event. She said this event will effectively portray important subjects of images in media.

"We want to bring women issues and gender issues front and center, so it's a great platform to do that,"

SEE CONFERENCE, Page 5



The Beacon/Jonathon Bowman

MSC Fashion Show displays campus culture and style

Konstantina Papathomas, a senior pre-med major, participated in this year's MSC Spring 2011 Fashion Show. The event took place on April 2 and focused on raising awareness toward several social issues. Some styles showcased were evening wear, military, urban and preppy. At the show, MSC auctioned off accessories to help raise money for the American Cancer Society. To see more photos and read about the fashion show, see page 11 in Lifestyles.

Listenbee to deliver 64th commencement address

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
Editor-in-Chief

Experience, inspiration and leadership are just a few of the numerous qualities the 64th annual Spring Commencement speaker possesses.

Attorney Robert Listenbee was selected by a committee and approved by the Board of Trustees

on April 1, 2011, to speak at this year's spring graduation ceremony. Listenbee will also be receiving an honorary degree in doctor of laws. Since 1987, he has been a trial lawyer at the Defender Association of Philadelphia and since 1997, he has been the chief of the juvenile unit.

The speaker selection committee specifically wanted to bring in someone who had been part of the

effort reform juvenile justice in the state because it is an important system, said Loren "Chip" Prescott, vice president for finance and general counsel.

"I just happened to know Bob Listenbee and know of his work," said Prescott. "He is a very highly respected and talented lawyer and a genuine expert on juvenile justice."

Dr. Paul Adams, vice president

of student affairs, said that the selection committee also looks for speakers that will give "inspiring and worthwhile" speeches, while also presenting an interesting and thought-provoking message to graduates.

"(Listenbee has) some very unique insight on this whole judicial challenge of Luzerne County," said Adams. "That's what the Hon-

orary Degree Committee wanted to do ... to make a statement about what's going on here and recognize someone who is making a difference to make our community better and who has been a leading thinker in juvenile justice ... and acts daily to improve lives and we think Mr. Listenbee does that."

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Our next president

There are certain qualities our next university president must possess.

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Multicultural Awards

Nominations being accepted for awards honoring members of the Wilkes community who promote diversity.

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Arts & Entertainment Pages 13-15

Kirby Center holds festival

"I Love You, Phillip Morris" will be the first of many films to be aired during Kirby's annual film festival.

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Taking care of business

Mark Siebel has been dominate this season as the closer for the the Colonels racking up five saves so far.

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PA Newspaper
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APRIL 5, 2011

CONTACT US: wilkesbeacon.news@gmail.com

Students gain first-hand experience in politics

BY DEVONI NOVAK
Staff Writer

Students to protest state education budget cuts

Political science students who receive the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency Grant will accompany Dr. Thomas Baldino, political science professor, to Harrisburg to protest cuts being made to educational aid.

The event, titled Lobby Day, is a yearly event coordinated by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, an organization that represents the interest of private colleges and universities in Pennsylvania to state and local governments and to the general public.

Every year during the time of the budget proposals, which is usually late March or early April, AICUP invites its member schools to send a faculty representative and a group of students to Harrisburg. The purpose of Lobby Day is for those who are affected by the budget to meet with Congress members who represent their local area and the area of the university they attend.

Sarah Seman, a sophomore political science and international studies major and member of the Student Aid Advisory Council for SAAPA (Student Aid Alliance) shared her expectations of the protest.

"I hope that with this trip and through

POLLING IN PA

Students can spark their political interests by discussing polls and predictions at "Polling Pennsylvania" on 7-Wednesday, April 6 at 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Henry Student Center ballroom. The political science department and the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter is coordinating a panel to discuss polls that predict the outcomes of political elections.

groups like SAAPA our congressmen in Harrisburg rethink their stance on cutting funding to so many that rely on it," said Seman. SAAPA is a lobbyist group that supports state funding to private schools and their students.

Baldino said about eight students have shown interest in attending so far.

"I try to find students who are constituents of the members that we visit," Baldino said. "One of the reasons that we do this is because members are far more sympathetic to an immediate constituent."

Baldino and the Wilkes students on the trip will have a 10-15 minute group discussion with as many of these members as possible. During the meetings, students will be able to discuss their concerns with the budget and their perspectives on why funding should either remain consistent or increase.

"I also went on the Lobby Day trip with Dr. Baldino last year. I was pleasantly surprised at how receptive our representatives were to listening to us as we all spoke our peace on funding," Seman said. "They listened to our concerns about the budget and how it might possibly affect our continued stay at school."

AICUP provides each group with a packet that presents information to the legislature as to why the private school sector should continue to receive as much money as they have in previous years, or if possible, why funding should be increased.

Baldino, who has been taking students on this trip for 20 years, usually schedules other educational activities after the meetings are over. However, with educational budget cuts being a major issue this year, Baldino may put other plans on hold in order to meet with the maximum number of Congress members possible.

"This year, it is even more vital that we make ourselves known, as the Pell Grants as

well as the school's funding, are facing serious cuts in the budget under Gov. Corbett," Seman said.

DC visit aimed to witness Supreme Court hearing

Last week Wilkes students traveled to Washington, D.C., in hopes of witnessing the Supreme Court in action. Although the students were not able to get in during oral argument, they still felt the trip was worthwhile.

During the early hours of Monday morning, the group of nine selected upperclassmen political science students waited outside of the Supreme Court building eager to see the court. Between 50 and 100 seats are reserved for the general public and only the first in line receive tickets to gain access. Unfortunately the crowd was too great, and tickets were not granted to the Wilkes group. Junior political science major Molly McDonough explained why it was so difficult to see the Supreme Court.

"Since the Supreme Court only sees about 60 to 80 cases a session and there's between 50 and 100 seats for the general public, that means that less than 8,000 citizens get to see the Supreme court a year if they want to," McDonough said.

Despite the initial let down, the students

were able to do a variety of other activities. They met with Wilkes graduate Laurence Socci who runs his own lobbyist firm in D.C. They also met with staff members of Lou Barletta and Sen. Robert Casey and toured the Capitol and Supreme Court buildings.

Randy Keiser, criminology and political science major and president of Pre-Law Society, initiated the idea for the trip to see the Supreme Court hearing.

"There were other things we ended up doing that were just as exciting," Keiser said. "We saw the Senate hearing on the Armed Services Committee where they were discussing the latest actions in Libya, so that was interesting."

Political science professor Dr. Kyle Kreider said this was the first time the department has ever organized a trip to see the Supreme Court. He hopes to try the trip again another year. However, Kreider still felt the trip was a success.

"I think the experience was good, it think they loved it, I mean they were disappointed that they were not able to experience oral argument but I think they got a flavor for why it's difficult to get into the Supreme Court," Kreider said.

CONTACT DEVONI NOVAK AT:
devoni.novak@wilkes.edu



The Beacon/Kirstin Cook

On their recent trip, the students toured the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The BEACON

130 S. River St.
First Floor, Conyngham Hall
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

PHONE: (570) 408-5903
E-MAIL: wilkesbeacon@gmail.com

Editorial Staff 2010-11

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Meet the Staff



Devoni Novak
Staff Writer

Wilkes faculty members weigh in on Rate My Professors

BY KIRSTIN COOK

News Editor

"The grunge Santa."

"Jerry Garcia from the Grateful Dead on crack."

"The wolf."

"Very easygoing hippy who doesn't give a (expletive)."

These are just some of the comments on RateMyProfessors.com to describe sociology professor Dr. Michael Garr. Garr is one of 283 Wilkes instructors that have a profile on the website.

RateMyProfessors.com describes itself as "the Internet's largest listing of collegiate professor ratings, with more than 11 million student-generated ratings of over 1 million professors." The site provides a place for students to anonymously rate and comment on their professors.

Garr heard about the site from students when it first came out in 1999 and chose to read them for amusement.

"I don't mind either the good comments or the bad comments, as long as the bad comments are done in sense of humor," Garr said. "I can deal with that."

Garr has an overall quality rating of 3.5 out of 5 based on 29 ratings, slightly over the Wilkes average of 3.24 with which he was satisfied.

"I was kind of shocked that it was that high," he said.

As for the Santa Claus comments, Garr cannot say they are inaccurate.

"The sociologist in me has to say that if that's how I'm being perceived, then that's an accurate perception," he said.

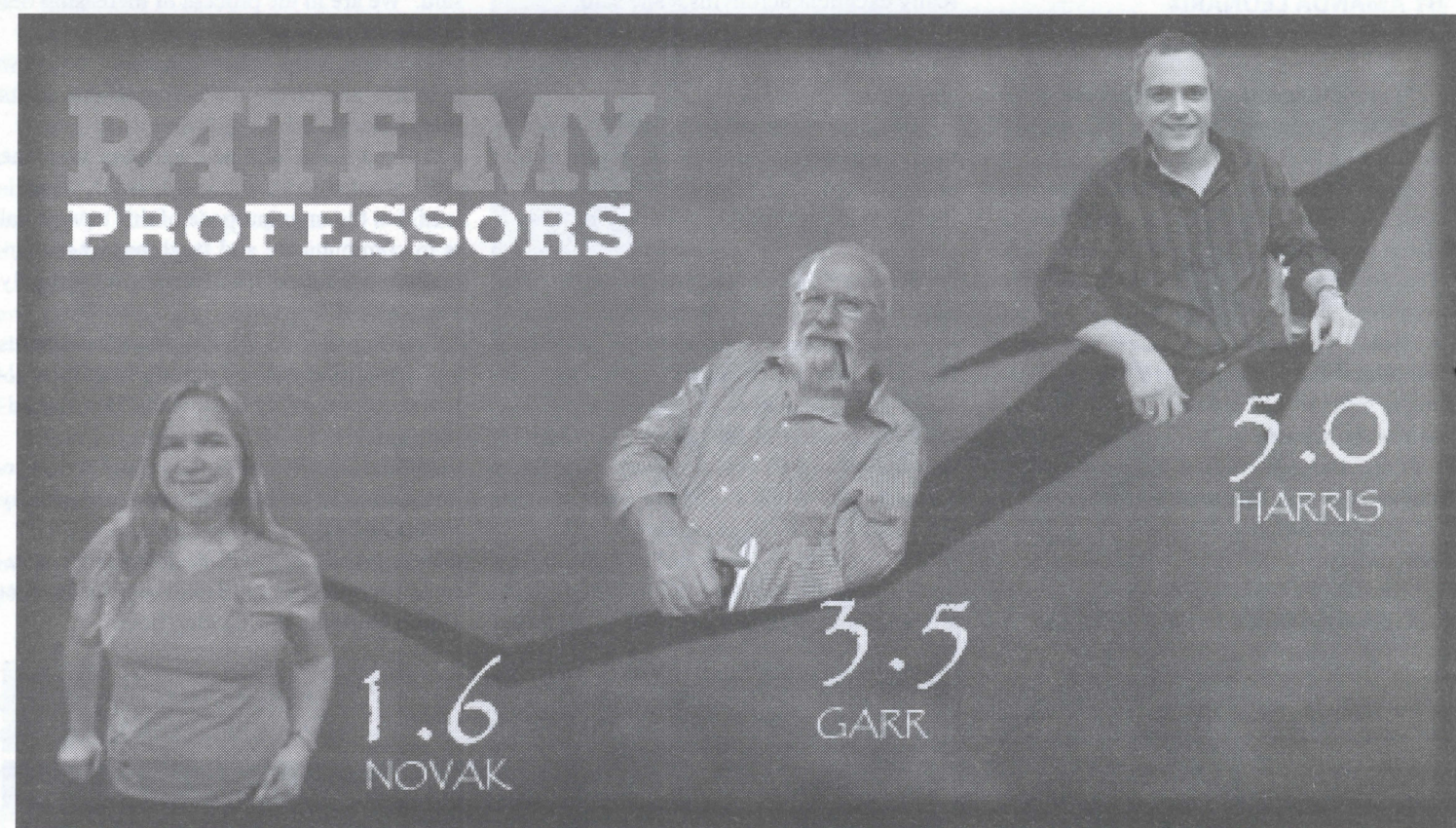
Garr has used Rate My Professors as a tool in the classroom to understand student perceptions of him. For example, many students referred to him as being laid-back but a difficult tester, which led him to give disclaimers to students that he may appear to be laid-back in lectures, but the tests are serious.

Garr did not just check out his profile – he was curious to see the ratings of other professors at Wilkes, as well.

"It's like Facebook stalking," he said. "You're Rate My Professor stalking, so you want to see how other people at Wilkes are doing."

While most of the comments about Garr were relatively civil, Cynthia Novak, an adjunct math and computer science professor, did not get this same courtesy on her profile. Novak received a 1.6 overall rating and many negative remarks on her teaching abilities.

"I wasn't terribly fond of all the negativ-



Photographs: The Beacon/Laura Preby; Graphics: The Beacon/Michael Klimek

ity, although I'll try not to let it affect me," Novak said.

Novak attributes much of the rude feedback to the subject, because she said most students have strong feelings about math. She feels many of these ratings stem from a frustration with the subject and poor performance.

"Students have a right to their opinion and their feelings ... everybody has their right to vent," she said.

Also, she explained that as an adjunct professor, she may have to teach a new course without much advance notice, so often times she does not have much time to prepare. While she realizes there are things she can improve in her teaching, she said many of the comments toward her character are invalid.

"I don't think I'm a bad person," she said. "I'm certainly not unintelligent, so some of those comments are kind of uncalled for."

Novak realizes that the comments posted are from a small percentage of students that had bad experiences with the class. The remarks represent 29 students out of hundreds over several years, and Novak said they contrast with the results of student evaluations.

"It's a small percentage of students that have that negativity, and generally something like that – you're going to get the ones that feel very strongly one way or the other," Novak said.

On the other hand, Mark Harris, assistant

professor of Spanish, attracted all positive remarks. His Rate My Professors rating is the only one with a perfect rating in all areas, based on seven student responses.

"I'm pretty proud of that, and I think I could attribute that to the fact that ... the bottom line is I'm there for the sake of the students, and I am interested in sharing what I know with students," Harris said.

Harris has been tracking his profile since around 2004, and he has applied the comments made to his teaching just as he does for the student evaluations developed by Wilkes. He said that the site serves a similar purpose as the student evaluations done by the school, but is just a modernized version more geared toward students involved in technology.

"I do periodically check the comments because I think it's a good anonymous way for students to comment on the quality of their education and I think it's a useful tool for me as a teacher," he said.

Harris observed that his profile has not received as much activity as it has in the past.

"What I have noticed about that site is there seems to be a little less interest nowadays than there had been a few years ago, so I don't know if it has gone down in popularity or not," he said.

He thinks that students should use the site more as a resource in their education.

"I really wish that more students would take advantage of something like that," Harris said.

Jessica George, a sophomore Spanish major, uses the site a little differently. She goes on the site to find out about her professors to prepare herself for the class.

"Sometimes afterwards, once I see what professors I'm going to have, I look on Rate My Professor and see what students have said before about the professor, and I kind of prepare myself," she said.

George also uses the site to reaffirm her experience in the class with past students, such as if she is having difficulty with something. She said that many of her friends use the site mostly to decide on scheduling classes.

"It seems like most of the kids I know, they use it to choose what courses they're going to take, depending on whether or not the professor is good or not," George said.

While she thinks it is a good tool, she said students need to remember that every situation is different and to use good judgment when reading comments.

"You kind of have to gauge it ... you kind of have to go by what the majority says."

CONTACT KIRSTIN COOK AT:
kirstin.cook@wilkes.edu

Grzech's lively acronym chosen for WebCT's replacement

BY AMANDA LEONARD
Assistant News Editor

"Learning is virtually everywhere," Wilkes' new online learning platform, will soon go "LIVE."

After Wilkes announced that a new system, Desire2Learn, would replace the outdated online learning platform WebCT, the ITS department needed a fun, catchy acronym for the new platform. Michael Grzech, a senior engineering management major submitted the acronym, LIVE, for "learning is virtually everywhere," and was chosen as the winner.

Gloria Barlow, chief of information technology services, said that there were around 43 submissions from students, mostly undergraduate.

"It really was a hard decision to make and we narrowed it down to about the top five

really excellent acronyms," she said.

For his submission, Grzech won an iPod touch engraved with "LIVE! Wilkes University 2011."

Barlow amongst other faculty involved in the project was looking for an acronym that encapsulated the university's goals of continued learning and the lifelong process it creates.

"We wanted some snappy phrase that was exciting and cutting-edge for this 2.0 learning management system and also something that was easy for people to remember," she said. "LIVE had all of those elements."

The web address for the platform is live.wilkes.edu and all courses, grades and other features that WebCT did not offer will be fully available by next semester.

"LIVE sends so many different meanings such as the university's commitment to its students and learning without walls," she

said. "We are in the process of increasing our online community."

Grzech is very optimistic about the new platform and chose the acronym due to its relevance.

"I liked that D2L had 'learn' in its name and I wanted to keep it in," he said. "I realized that the main purpose of this new portal is to communicate and teach anywhere virtually, so I found that learning is virtually everywhere."

Grzech has used WebCT for other classes and found that online learning platforms allow more flexibility in students' busy schedules.

"I don't have to be at the school for a certain time now and I can do the work on my time," he said.

In late April, ITS will be doing demonstrations for students and faculty in the Student Union Building during club hours.

"We want to have the site up and running for the sessions and we are hoping that students come out to ask any questions or concerns that they might have," Barlow said.

As of right now, there is a website one can visit that will provide information about LIVE. The web address is <http://web.wilkes.edu/elearning/d2l/> and it gives transitional information about WebCT to D2L. Students can submit questions they have and they will be forwarded to a staff member who can answer it directly. There will also be training videos available for those who are interested.

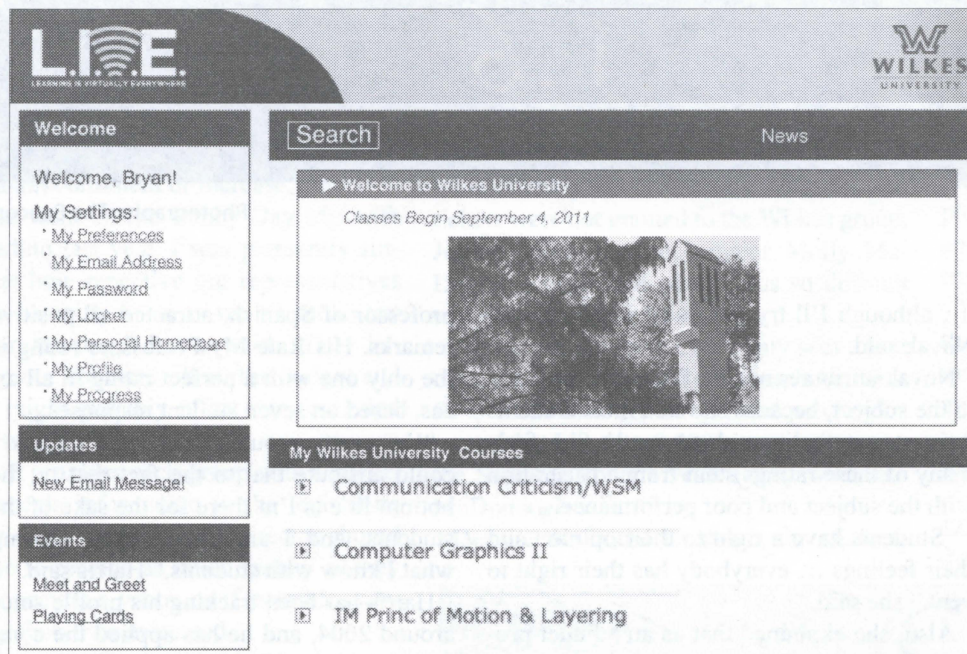
"We're really excited about this," said Barlow. "I think the students and faculty will be very happy with it."

CONTACT AMANDA LEONARD AT:
amanda.leonard1@wilkes.edu

At right is an artist's rendering of what Wilkes' new online learning platform, LIVE, will look like. LIVE, short for "Learning is Virtually Everywhere," was the name chosen for the new Desire2Learn platform, which is replacing WebCT. The image was derived from the Wilkes' Desire2Learn transitional website.

Settings - This section would allow users to change their account preferences.

Events - This would display events going on at Wilkes.



News - News updates would be displayed on the home page of the site.

Courses - Current courses that students are enrolled in would be accessible on the home page.

Graphic: The Beacon/Bryan Calabro

COMMENCEMENT

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Prescott recommended Listenbee, whom he met through his wife, to the committee. His wife, Nancy Prescott, is a juvenile defense lawyer and one of the statewide leaders in juvenile criminal defense reform. Nancy and Listenbee met through the Juvenile Defense Attorneys of Pennsylvania (JDAP), of which Listenbee is the chair.

"Bob Listenbee has been a leader in the juvenile criminal defense movement, and



LISTENBEE

more specifically and more recently, the reform movement," Prescott said. "In part because of his role as the chief of the juvenile unit in the Philadelphia Public Defender's Office."

Because of the corruption in Luzerne County and the indictments of two judges, Mark Ciavarella and Michael Conahan, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed a task force to investigate the current juvenile code and the standards being used to evaluate juvenile cases.

"That task force produced a significant number of recommendations, and now one of the projects that JDAP has taken on under the leadership of Bob Listenbee is the drafting of new rules that would serve as guidelines for the implementation of those recommendations (by the task force)," said Prescott.

Listenbee, a 1972 Harvard University graduate, has a prestigious background in his work in academic, as well as in his professional law career. He serves on a number of boards including the Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee.

"He's done all sorts of other extraordinary things in his life that are unrelated to his practice of law and you know a lot of people, you can't say that about," said Prescott. "You see a guy like Bob Listenbee who has found a way to really take significant pieces of his life and dedicate them to others."

Adams said that in addition to his academic and professional careers, Listenbee taught chemistry, physics and math in Kenya

for 3 years and created his own exchange program for Kenyan students.

Prescott said that when Listenbee received the news about speaking at Wilkes University's commencement, he was honored and humbled by the invitation.

"(Listenbee) told us there were a lot of things he has dreamed about, but he never imagined that he would be invited to be a commencement speaker or be honored with an honorary degree," Prescott said.

Adams said he would hope Wilkes students react warmly to the announcement of Listenbee's speech and appreciate the message he brings to campus.

CONTACT JACQUELINE LUKAS AT:
jacqueline.lukas@wilkes.edu

CONFERENCE

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Stringer said.

She said that culture consumes media images, and young people are especially venerable to the messages and images displayed.

The conference will also examine cross-sections involving what these images mean to women in different minorities and different sexualities.

Stringer felt that this event is a good chance to bring together not only scholars at Wilkes, but scholars all over the country and representatives from University of Scranton and Keystone College.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together to collaborate on this effort," Stringer said.

The purpose of the event is not only to bring light to these issues, but to showcase what the Women's and Gender Studies program is all about. Stringer said it will clear up some myths that people have about the discipline.

Stringer said that this year's conference will examine issues that have not really

been developed in past conferences.

"We're branching out into new areas that we haven't necessary emphasized before," she said.

Nona Poehler, a sophomore integrative media major, was recruited to create the logo for the conference.

"I'm always jumping at the opportunity to do logos, graphics and illustrations, so I volunteered," Poehler said. "I'm glad to say I'm involved, I think it's good that it's a woman that made the logo."

Naomi Baker, assistant professor of visual and performing arts, will have her acting II class perform selected scenes and monologues from "Reasons to be Pretty" by Neil LaBute.

"I find it incredibly relevant to gender and women's studies, it is about our view of beauty and our need to be pretty," Baker said.

There are six students who will be performing in the presentation, and each of them will play the same part in different scenes.

CONTACT KIRSTIN COOKAT:

kirstin.cook@wilkes.edu

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday:

Miller Room

9:00-11:00: UN and Reproductive Rights of Women Film Screening by Dean Winkler
11:00-12:10: Sex and Age Differences in Adolescents' Susceptibility to Positive Peer Influence
12:10-1:00: Water in Africa by Dr. Godlove Fonjweng and Dr. Jim Merryman
1:00-2:15: Gender and Popular Culture Discussion/Presentation by Dr. Chad Stanley;
The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo Presentation by Sean LaFleur
2:15-3:45: Women's and Gender Studies Round Table Discussion with minors

Ballroom

1:00-2:15: Poster Presentation by the Women's Studies 101 Students
2:15-3:45: "Reasons to be Pretty": A Dramatic Presentation by Dr. Naomi Baker

Student Lounge

12:15-1:00: Banned Book Reading/Book Fair by Students

Hiscox Room

11:00-12:00: Literature and Gender Presentation/Discussion by Dr. Chad Stanley

Friday:

Miller Room

9:30-10:45: Countering Pornographic Images Presentation
11:00-12:15: The Victimization of Girls and Women
12:15-1:00: Anti-Trafficking Presentation by Sabrina Hannon
1:00-2:15: Girls and Women in the Media Presentation; Where Do We Fit In? Exploring Black Women in Popular Culture

Student Lounge

9:30-10:45: Poetry Slam by Wilkes Students and Alumni
1:00-2:15: Out of Silence Film Screening and Director's Session

Savitz Lounge

11:00-12:00: Women's Health Project by Katelyn Aldinger
12:15-1:00: Women in International Business and Politics by Dr. Andrew

Ballroom

2:30-3:45: Woman and popular culture conference panel and reception



Poster was reproduced as part of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's 2006 Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest.



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CONTACT US: wilkesbeacon.oped@gmail.com

Which qualities should we look for in our next president?

Leadership qualities are crucial to the president of a university

BY THE BEACON
Editorial Board

After the spring 2012 semester, Dr. Tim Gilmour, who has been the president of Wilkes University since June 2001, will retire from his position. Dr. Gilmour is the university's fifth president and has reached many remarkable achievements in his time at Wilkes. Now that Gilmour is leaving, the Wilkes community must begin the search for its next president.

In the decade Gilmour has been president of Wilkes, he has displayed valuable qualities that will be difficult to match. *The Beacon* recognizes there are certain qualities a university president must have. *The Beacon* suggests we look for these qualities in Gilmour's successor.

Perhaps the most important quality a university president must have is the most obvious quality, leadership. Leadership often

goes hand in hand with communication, as a successful leader must not only deliver information to the community effectively, but must also receive and consider information from others.

An effective leader exerts a tone of confidence and understanding while speaking to others. Feeling comfort in speaking before large groups is a must.

As the spokesperson of the university, he or she will undoubtedly deal with the media, which requires first-rate communication skills. Keeping faculty, staff and students aware of changes to the university is vital to communication.

Listening skills are also valuable, as a leader can only lead if he or she is considerate of the community's desires and concerns.

Another important quality a university president must have is the ability to maintain order and tranquility in a time of crisis. If an

incident was to occur on or around campus, the president would be the first person to which the Wilkes community would turn. It is not only important that the president take action to resolve the dilemma or prevent future incidents, but that he or she assures all members of the community maximum safety and comfort regarding the matter.

Representing the entire university, the president would need to maintain a good image in his or her public and private life. If something was to happen that would harm the president's reputation, the entire university could, then, be perceived in a negative light.

Representing the university, skills in planning and organization are also necessary. He or she will be able to create both short-term and long-term plans and stick to those plans, altering them as necessary, all the while keeping the community informed on the progress that has been made.

Having keen eyes and keen ears when walking around campus are also essential, as the president can learn a great deal about the community's morale by remaining observant at all times.

Also, people are more likely to express their desires for change when performing nonacademic activities, such as pacing through the Fenner Quad with friends or colleagues.

If the president is skilled in observation, he or she will also be able to ensure the university's academic and business policies are being followed.

Because funding is undoubtedly an important piece of any university, ensuring the university's funds are kept in check and are being devoted to valuable resources is vital to the university.

Because funds are always going into and coming out of the university, the president should always be aware of how funds are being used and how funds can be used to better the community.

Most of all, since Wilkes is an institution dedicated to learning, the ideal president would do everything in his or her power to promote learning in a healthy environment. The main reason university presidents tend



The Beacon/Thomas Reilly
The statue of John Wilkes standing in the Fenner Quadrangle is an embodiment of the qualities we need to look for in our university's next president. Wilkes was an excellent public speaker and a revered politician in his time.

BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. This poll is based on 12 responses.

Last week's question:

If Westboro Baptist Church parishioners held a protest in Wilkes-Barre, would you protest their appearance?

- Yes 83%
- No 17%

This week's question:

Is it important that the university president keep in contact with the Wilkes community?

- Yes
- No

Cast your vote online at:
www.wilkesbeacon.com

SPEAK UP!

The Beacon wants to hear your voice.

Send your name, major, year and opinion to:
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The Beacon reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for space and content. Anonymous letters will not be published.



SEE PRESIDENT, Page 8

Religion isn't something that should be forced onto others

BY CATHRYN FREAR
Assistant Opinion Editor

In our society, there are certain factors considered most important. One of these factors is one's religion. While some consider it a taboo or outright rude topic to bring up, others choose to speak freely about what they believe. For those who choose to discuss it, it's often a subject of much debate.

Those with religious beliefs, when they oppose each other, can clash.

Religion has caused many battles and wars throughout history; however, there is one thing generally considered worse than an opposing religion: no religion at all.

Atheists are often the butt of many jokes, as if they have no sense at all. After all, as compared to the abilities of a mortal being, most deities are basically magicians and how could someone not believe in magic?

Don't get me wrong, I like watching a volunteer from the audience get cut in half as much as the next gal, but I don't think anyone should be forced to allow a stranger to saw through him or her.

Yes, everyone has the right to be an innocent bystander when it comes to magic. Unless this magic involves religion.

It seems many religious people feel the need to push their religion on those around them. Frankly, it's insulting to the atheists.

I'm not an atheist, but I'm also not going to say which religion I do practice.

Continuing, forcing your religion on someone isn't going to make them convert, in case you didn't know or realize this. Situations do exist where it is okay to tell someone about your religion, of course.

If they ask or if it's just natural in conversation, go for it. But holding a discussion with someone and bombarding that person with information are not one and the same.

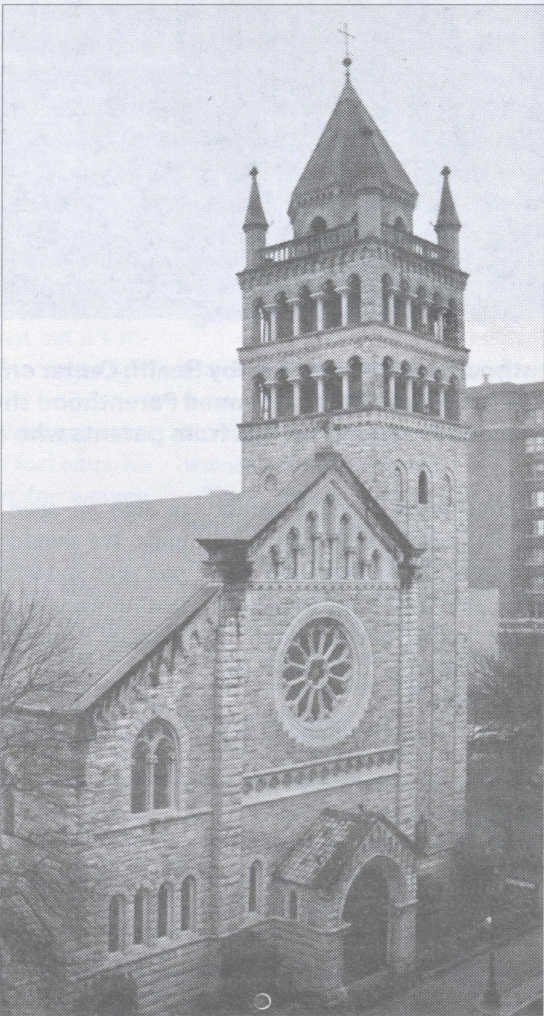
If someone doesn't want to discuss something as sensitive as religion, you really should just let it go.

Chances are in the United States, whoever you are talking to has heard of your religion, at least. Unless you are a part of some hipster, super-underground tray table-worshipping religion or something. Then, sure. You're probably giving them something new.

As far as being a Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Pagan, Wiccan, etc. goes, people probably know. Maybe just not in detail, but it's not like they're ignoring your religion, it's they just don't care. Forcing them to

listen to what you have to say is not going to convince them.

Another issue I've encountered in religious discussion is it seems those with religion at times tend to take pity on people

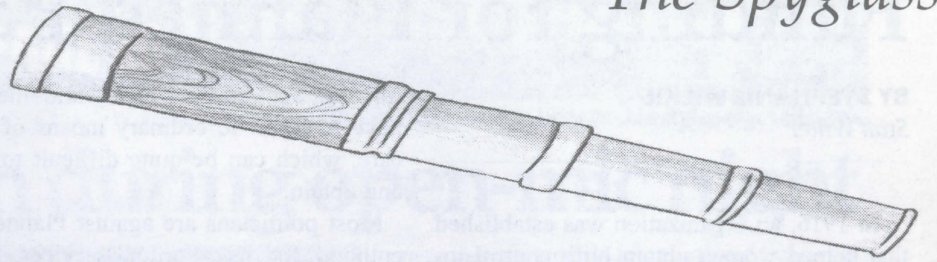


The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkes-Barre, pictured above, is one of the many churches in the area. There is nothing wrong with practicing religion, yet people should not try to force their religions onto others.

SEE RELIGION, Page 8

The Spyglass



The brand new Nintendo 3DS? More like Nintendo 3D-Yes.

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO
Opinion Editor

Over the past few years, 3D technology has become much more prominent in the entertainment industry. Years ago, 3D movies would only be released a few times a year, but now it seems as if there is always at least one 3D movie being shown in a theater at any given time.

People are even able to enjoy 3D movies in the comfort of their own homes with 3D televisions. The only thing we have not seen until now is a 3D video gaming system, and thanks to Nintendo, 3D video gaming has become reality.

Since the 1970s, Nintendo has remained one of the most influential players in the video game industry. Nintendo launched the Nintendo Entertainment System in 1984, and since then, the company has been involved in many "console wars," the most prominent being those against Microsoft and Sony.

According to GamePro.com, Nintendo has been involved in four out of five of the biggest console wars in the history of video gaming.

The No. 1 console war, according to GamePro.com, is the Super Nintendo Entertainment System versus Sega Genesis war, which Nintendo won by a large margin.

In 1996, Nintendo released the Nintendo 64, which did not sell nearly as many units as Sony's PlayStation. According to *BusinessWeek*, as of April 2005, Sony has shipped out 102.49 million PlayStations to stores worldwide, while Nintendo only shipped 32.93 million Nintendo 64 units as of January 2011.

Nintendo's Wii, an innovative gaming system released in 2006, helped Nintendo fight back against its major competitors.

According to Nintendo's official website, Nintendo has sold 84.64 million Wii consoles as of January 2011.

Nintendo's competitors did not score as

well this time around, reaching only a little more than half of Nintendo's sales.

The Nintendo 3DS' predecessor, the Nintendo DS, outsold the Game Boy Advance and PlayStation Portable by a significant amount.

According to Nintendo's official website, 144.59 million Nintendo DS units have been sold to stores worldwide as of January 2011. According to Nintendo and Sony, The Game Boy Advance and PlayStation Portable consoles have sold 81.51 million units and 51.6 million units, respectively.

Being the first company to offer a 3D gaming console, Nintendo plans to jump even further ahead in the console wars. The Nintendo 3DS, now available in stores worldwide for \$249.99, features 3D graphics with no need for those bulky, uncomfortable glasses required for 3D movie and television viewing.

The Nintendo 3DS has a built-in 3D depth slider, so if you are not in the mood for too much 3D, or wish to downgrade to 2D, you can move the slider down.

The device also has two outer cameras the system uses to project 3D images. Backwards compatibility is also a plus for those who wish to play Nintendo DS games.

Unlike the Nintendo DS, the stylus for the 3DS is adjustable for those who prefer a more versatile stylus.

Another upgrade from the Nintendo DS is the 3DS' analog control pad, which is similar to the control stick on PlayStation controllers.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the console is its StreetPass feature. Users can exchange data such as Mii characters, high scores and custom characters with any other Nintendo 3DS user.

Many games are already available for the Nintendo 3DS, such as "The Sims 3," "Super Monkey Ball 3D" and "Madden NFL Football." "Resident Evil: The Mercenaries 3D" is currently in production.

Having only been in stores for a week, the Nintendo 3DS has been selling quite well.

SEE NINTENDO, Page 8

Funding for Planned Parenthood should not be cut

BY STEPHANIE WILKIE
Staff Writer

In 1916, an organization was established that helped women obtain birth control information, contraceptives and information pertaining to legal forms of abortion.

The organization, now known as Planned Parenthood, had a rough start, being raided by cops and having its founder, Margaret Sanger, arrested for delivering such obscene information.

After a controversial court case, the American Medical Association eventually recognized birth control as an essential part of medicine and sex education.

By the 1960s, Planned Parenthood became a powerful voice for women's rights and increased access to birth control, family planning programs and helped develop what we now know as "the pill."

Planned Parenthood now offers free exams, contraceptives, tubal sterilizations, vasectomies, emergency contraception, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections (including HIV), breast exams and abortion procedures.

According to PlannedParenthood.org, 1.25 million men and women visit Planned Parenthood each month, most of whom are teenagers and college students.

But the 2011 federal budget will remove all federal funding for Planned Parenthood which puts young men and women out of reach of such accessible services. The country is at an economic crisis, so eliminating Planned Parenthood seemed to be the way out. If the organization does in fact get its

funding cut, many women and men will have to resort to ordinary means of health care, which can be quite difficult to afford and obtain.

Most politicians are against Planned Parenthood for its abortion services, but in truth, there is a law preventing Planned Parenthood from using federal funding for abortions.

Local Planned Parenthoods can only refer women to abortion services made possible by larger health organizations.

According to DailyOrange.com, only 7 percent of Planned Parenthood's services are for abortions. Since the United States is a pro-choice country, that number seems surprisingly low to me.

According to The Guttmacher Institute, approximately 17 percent of teens get abortions each year. It seems as if half of the abortions teenagers are getting are being done by Planned Parenthood, which is a great thing.

Planned Parenthood is helping teen moms complete their lives without a child to complicate plans for the future. Teenagers cannot afford children and are definitely not mature enough to raise a child.

If anyone has seen the show "Teen Mom" (yes, I despise reality television), I am sure you would agree with me on that. The teen moms on this show cannot afford cribs, but can get pedicures and cannot attend college due to their child, but they can party almost every night.

"Teen Mom" is a prime example of what Planned Parenthood is accomplishing and how the organization is saving our country from increasing the number of irresponsible parents.



The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

Planned Parenthood, located in the Kirby Health Center on N. Franklin Street, offers walk-in services to all. Funding for Planned Parenthood should not be cut, because Planned Parenthood is saving the U.S. from parents who are not prepared to care for children.

There are numerous ways to help Planned Parenthood. Get out, make a sign, and hold it up high in support of the organization that helps many people plan their lives with children, avoid having children and get rid of or prevent diseases. Monetary donations are accepted at any location.

You can also visit PlannedParenthood.org

to sign an open letter to Washington officials. We should all do our best to help support men and women from avoiding diseases and unwanted pregnancies by supporting Planned Parenthood.

CONTACT STEPHANIE WILKIE AT:
stephaine.wilkie@wilkes.edu

PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 6

to be former professors is they understand the importance of learning.

A president can be the most qualified man or woman in the U.S. for the job, yet if he or she does not have a passion for the wonders of learning, the person's skills would not be used effectively and the university would ultimately suffer.

Following in the footsteps of President Gilmour, the university's next president must embody many important qualities to be an effective leader.

The Beacon feels that in searching for the university's next president, the Wilkes community would benefit greatly by seeking out these qualities.

RELIGION

Continued from Page 7

without one. This is really just ridiculous, folks. People without religion aren't necessarily sad or recluses.

Some people are just brought up without religion or decide at some point they don't believe in the religion in which they were brought up.

These people can be completely normal, sane, moral people. Let them be. Maybe they're comfortably numb.

In sum, my advice on talking about religion is to yes, discuss it, debate it, but don't force it. Didn't your religion teach you any manners?

CONTACT CATHRYN FREAR AT:
cathryn.frear@wilkes.edu

NINTENDO

Continued from Page 7

According to Nintendo, on the first day the system was released, the system's sales were the highest of any Nintendo handheld gaming system in the company's history, which is a record for the video gaming industry.

The Nintendo 3DS is already being praised by reviewers.

TechRadar.com, a website dedicated to video game reviews, awarded the console four and one-half stars. TechRadar.com's only major complaint was that the device's camera is not much more than a gimmick.

TechRadar.com praised the device's graphics, extended battery life and superior performance.

Although 3DS sales in Japan have not been up to par with Nintendo's expectations, sales in the U.K. have been much higher than expected.

U.S. sales figures will not be calculated until mid-April.

I myself have not yet had the opportunity to try the Nintendo 3DS.

As a self-proclaimed video game aficionado, I am anxious to see how the device performs.

While some feel Nintendo has been losing the battle against Microsoft and Sony, with the release of the 3DS, Nintendo has proven once again that the company will always be a force to be reckoned with in the video gaming industry.

CONTACT ANTHONY TRUPPO AT:
anthony.truppo@wilkes.edu

APRIL 5, 2011

CONTACT US: wilkesbeacon.lifestyles@gmail.com

Women share stories of triumph during open-mic night

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

On March 30 the Women's and Gender Studies Department hosted "That Takes Ovaries!," an open-mic night in the first floor salon of Kirby Hall. The event was organized in celebration of Women's History Month and inspired by a book of the same name by Rivka Solomon.

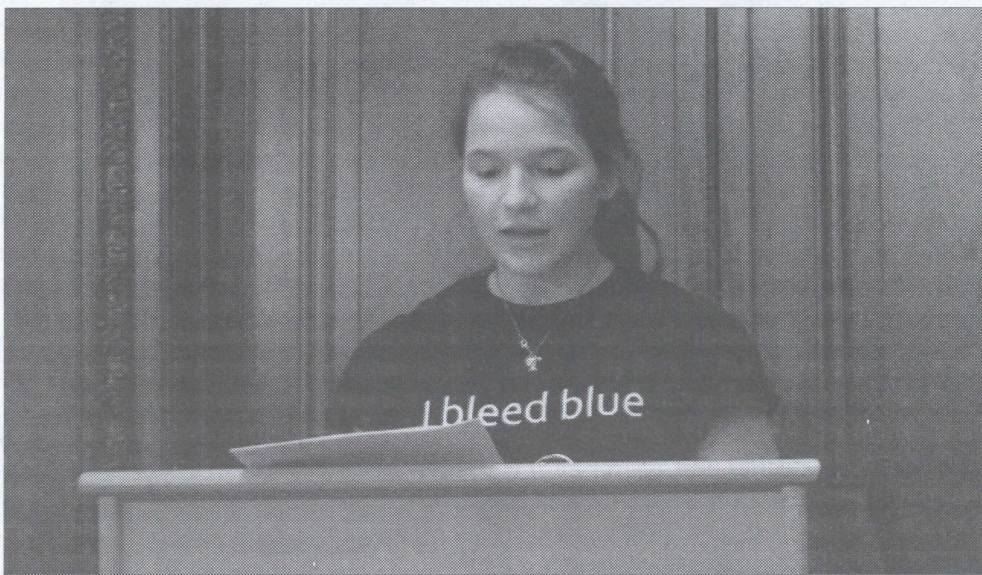
Amanda Kaster, a senior English and history major with a women's studies minor, said the event was organized to celebrate Women's History Month by doing a female empowerment session.

"When you hear people talk sometimes they say, 'Oh, grow some balls.' We wanted to take that to a different level and say 'That takes ovaries,'" Kaster said. "And leaving (people) with a reminder that Women's History Month is important because it's not only about remembering the past but it's remembering the present too and women right now."

The event is part of a national program designed to not only help women feel empowered but to encourage support for women who are in need.

Donations from the program were donated to the Victims' Resource Center and Equality Now, an international organization that advocates for women's rights around the world.

"One of the things that helps to give us the courage to make it through (tough times), to persevere, to stay strong, is to know that someone else survived and sometimes they survived things that are more difficult than what our current situation is, so that helps women to push through some of the daily challenges that are gendered in their lives



The Beacon/Christine Lee

Sophomore nursing major Taylor Holecsek reads a poem by Sandra Cisneros of a "gutsy, bold and courageous" woman, at the That Takes Ovaries! open-mic reading.

that they face every day," said assistant professor of criminology and sociology Dr. Ebonie Cunningham Stringer, who also directs the women's studies program.

The event was designed to show the "gutsy, bold and courageous acts" of women and girls. Students in the audience were encouraged to share their own stories of bold and courageous acts they have performed.

They were then invited to share original poetry or their own stories and others' stories of overcoming adversity.

"You recognize that are so many different new obstacles between women and yet it unites all of us together," Kaster said.

Stringer also said that it is equally as important that men understand what women have to contend with and better understand

in order to support women.

"(Men) need to know what women are contending with and I think that it helps to give them a greater respect for that and also hopefully will inspire them to support women's issues and to stand side-by-side with women who are fighting for equality," Stringer said.

Kaster said sharing personal stories covers a wider demographic and covers more people, being equally as inspiring. The kinds of stories told at the reading included one about a woman's experience being a volunteer firefighter in her hometown, one about a girl's fight to bring her same-sex partner to prom and one about a black woman who was beaten horribly during the Civil Rights Movement.

Stringer and Kaster agreed women contin-

ue to be isolated and marginalized by several factors, including class and education, race and religious beliefs.

They believe through events like "That Takes Ovaries!," one can hear about different kinds of women that don't receive the spotlight treatment.

"Through events like this you focus on women that aren't directly in the media, who aren't seen (as often)," Kaster said. "You get shot on cover and see these women who are doing amazing work in their communities and who are fighting for the rights of young women and girls and that just bring them to light instead of just the mainstream (woman)."

The event also hopes to emphasize the importance of the women's and gender studies program and to spread the word about the program on campus.

Next week they will be hosting the Women's and Gender Studies Conference for two days, which Stringer hopes will be inspirational on a whole different level.

"Hopefully, people will make connections not only to their personal experiences but they'll connect this to their field and it'll change how they do accounting, or English, or criminology, whatever it is."

Kaster said that the department really relies on student contributions in terms of ideas. She says that if students have ideas for events, to let her or Stringer know because the department is ultimately their department.

"(There's) something for everybody," Stringer said.

CONTACT CHRISTINE LEE AT:
christine.lee@wilkes.edu

Organizers expect improved turnout at this year's Relay for Life

Annual walk-a thon to spread cancer awareness set for April 9 and 10 this year

BY HOLLY BOYER
Staff Writer

The turnout at Wilkes' 2011 Relay for Life is slated to be significantly higher than the showing last year, event coordinators say.

The annual anti-cancer fundraising event is scheduled for April 9 and 10. Other Relays for Life are held nationwide at various points throughout the year. The chapter in charge of organizing Wilkes' relay promoted the event on campus with flyers and hand-

outs, radio, and at local health centers to help spread the word.

"It (has) a lot better turnout than last year. A whole entire team signed up; We got some interest, handed out forms, and got people to register," said senior psychology and pre-med major Lisa Bova, this year's Wilkes University Relay for Life co-chair.

Bova is co-chair along with senior nursing major Mary Kate Brady. They've both been working with Relay for Life since their freshman year. They run the entire relay at Wilkes and

watch over the entire process of the event.

The registration process is simple for students. Interested students can go to Relay for Life's website, and either create a new team or join an existing group. After that, the only thing left is to show up with your team ready for the relay. There is no payment involved for students to register for the relay. However, each team is urged to raise as much money as it can to go toward the American Cancer Society and every little bit counts.

"It's good to participate because one third of people will be diagnosed with cancer, and that is a very frightening statistic," said sophomore pharmacy major Bethany Sharpless, who is this year's Relay for Life team development and online chair.

The co-chairs have decided to help in another way by going green for sign ups. All

SEE RELAY FOR LIFE, PAGE 11

New jewelry store brings affordable fashion to downtown W-B

Relocated Outrageous jewelry store already a hit with some Wilkes students

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

While out on a trip to Barnes and Noble in Public Square with a friend, freshman pharmacy major Stephanie Horger stumbled upon Outrageous, which is new to downtown Wilkes-Barre.

"(My friend and I) thought it looked really neat from the outside so we just went in," Horger said.

Horger then told her roommate and fellow freshman pharmacy major Elizabeth Walters about it and took her to visit the new Mid-Town Village store.

Walters and Horger were immediately attracted to the store because it was selling what they both like.

"It was just a cool store because we both like jewelry and accessories," Walters said. "We like the window displays."

Outrageous, which opened earlier in March, is owned by adjunct Misericordia University business faculty member Paul Nardone and managed by his sister Maria Yurchision.

Because they also operate another Outrageous store in downtown Scranton, it seemed reasonable to them to move the store from the back mountains of Dallas to downtown Wilkes-Barre, primarily to pick up some of the synergy of the downtown.

"There's other businesses, there's people moving about, there's people who work in the city, people who live in the city, people who come (to the city) for entertainment and all kinds of other things and we wanted to be able to pick up some of that traffic," Nardone said.



The Beacon/Allison Roth

Manager Maria Yurchision and owner Paul Nardone (not pictured) of Outrageous give a 10 percent discount to students with their student IDs.

The boutique jewelry shop, which was originally started in the Back Mountain in 2002 in a small space as a side activity for Nardone and Yurchision, has been evolving its product design over nine years to evolve into what the Outrageous brand is today.

"Outrageous, the brand, is all about affordable style, kind of unique things you won't find everywhere else that doesn't break the bank," Nardone said. "So we give you that boutique shopping experience but we don't gouge you with the prices, we keep it reasonable."

Lines currently sold by Outrageous include fashion and sterling silver jewelry, accessories which include scarves, headbands, purses and bags.

Outrageous also sells its own gift line that

is designed to sell "unique, kitschy, and fun," items that one would not find in a normal gift shop.

Nardone and Yurchision are especially pleased to have moved within walking distance of Wilkes University, which has already become more well-known on campus.

"It's reasonably priced and the items that they have are really nice," Walters said.

Borger agreed and says that it has a great appeal to a wide range of people with varying interests.

"It fits a lot of peoples' personalities, so anyone can shop there," Borger said.

Outrageous' affordable prices and style are how the store has appealed to students. Nardone says that the prices are affordable enough that students can come by and easily

purchase something of their choosing.

"Our product line is really suitable for students; you can come here on a student budget and buy something for yourself, buy a gift for a friend, and what we carry is demographically (appropriate)," Nardone said.

The store offers a 10 percent student discount at both their stores with a student's ID present.

This is one way that students have been drawn to stores like this one in the downtown area and because of the variety of accessories on sale, students like Walters and Horger would definitely recommend it.

"The stuff is really cute," Horger said. "There's a lot of color (so) you can find any color to match any outfit; it's the best store around here to accessorize."

Nardone and Yurchision say they are happy to be in Wilkes-Barre and love their new location and space. They say they have gotten a very nice reception from members of the local community.

"The customers are thrilled to have us around, out on their lunch hour shopping," Yurchision said.

The store will also be participating in the Wilkes-Barre's Third Fridays Art Walk celebration, which is a city-wide event that emphasizes the arts and culture in the city.

Nardone says participating in Third Fridays it would allow Outrageous to connect with all the businesses in the downtown area and become more integrated into the downtown Wilkes-Barre scene.

CONTACT CHRISTINE LEE AT:
christine.lee@wilkes.edu

MSC Fashion Show delights with new causes and model confidence

BY KATHERINE DOTSON
Correspondent

This year, in addition to the Multicultural Student Coalition's usual goals of promoting diversity, positive self-image, creative expression and modern fashion during their annual spring fashion show, it was also dedicated to raising awareness for various causes that affect society.

The show, held Saturday, April 2, was free for students and raised money by collecting donations of merchandise, like jewelry and accessories, and coupons from apparel stores in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area to sell or to raffle off at a charge of one dollar per chance. MSC intends to put these benefits toward the Relay for Life event.

Social awareness was incorporated into the show with a segment called "Fashion

for a Cause," which, as senior business administration and marketing major and show coordinator Matthew Vital said is, "comprised of outfits that center upon the colors of the ribbons associated with each illness or social problem."

Models wore monochrome ensembles of such colors as peach (for uterine cancer), red (for AIDS/HIV, substance abuse, and drunk driving), yellow (for cancer of the bladder or bone, and sarcoma), teal (for ovarian cancer and sexual assault), blue (for colon cancer and child abuse), purple (for pancreatic cancer, Alzheimer's, and domestic violence), black (for mourning and melanoma), and pink (for breast cancer) to stress the existence of various social dilemmas and the need to continue the fight against them.

MSC connected itself to this topic and a

fashion show was chosen rather than another means of fund-raising because of their overall theme of diversity.

"It used to be a multicultural fashion show, to show off different ethnicities, but then we realized that 'diversity' could be expressed in different ways," said junior international studies, criminology, and political science major Shadae Gates who is president of MSC.

It was this expression of diversity that led the MSC to consider exploring other social problems that affect individuals as a theme for the show. Traces of the original multicultural theme were present in the show's featuring of male and female models of different ethnicities. Other forms of diversity were also apparent in the show. For instance, Rifkin Cafe employee Sandy Anthony, who helped recruit some of this year's models as a volunteer, that there was far more variation in clothing this year.

The show featured 13 different collections—consisting of clothing donated by Ga Bree's Boutique, Bratty Natty's Boutique, and Rampel Royal Blue Stylish Boutique—that included a wide range of styles. Hippy/boho, preppy, urban, business casual, evening wear, and military-inspired clothing all made an appearance.

This year's show featured several new changes, such as the addition of a raffle, a new name, and a more space-efficient layout. Also for the first time, the event opened and closed with dance routines performed by several models in the show.

Gates said she was happy that the turnout was an improvement over last year's show and is hopeful that based on the improved

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MSC FASHION SHOW

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and is hopeful that based on the improved turnout; the MSC will raise the same amount of funds it hoped to raise. The models themselves were enthusiastic both during and after the show. Young men and women on the runway exuded an energetic attitude that showed that they were clearly enjoying entertaining their peers.

Many of the girls, including the show's youngest model Carla, showed confidence on stage, proving that the show fulfilled

its goal of promoting a positive self-image. Older models also expressing how enjoyable the experience was for them and how wonderful it made them feel to present themselves on a runway. Some participated last year, and many now wish to participate again.

With such an abundance of enthusiasm and new ideas and more time to polish what has already been a success, next year can hardly be a disappointment. For additional runway photos, check out *The Beacon's* website.

CONTACT KATHERINE DOTSON AT:
katherine.dotson@wilkes.edu

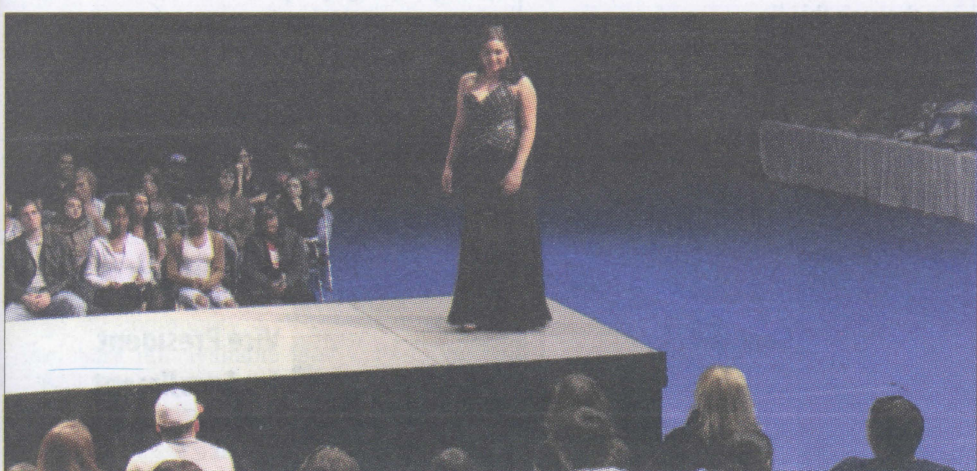


Highlights from the show

Photos: The Beacon/ Jonathan Bowman



Senior Lorelay Mercedes models a dress representing colon cancer and child abuse as problems in society. This year the organizers of the show decided to represent different societal causes to represent different aspects of 'diversity,' with a different color representing a different issue to combat.



Model participants in the MSC Fashion show pose as a group on the runway of the Marts Gym. Participants signed up to participate in this year's show and modeled various colored outfits representing various social issues that need to be addressed.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Continued from Page 9

For this year, all registration is to be done online to save on paper.

The event will entail lots of excitement and entertainment. There will be a cook-out, the opening ceremony, a DJ, a wiffle ball tournament, and many other outdoor activities.

There will also be fundraisers and events from many of the teams involved.

Later in the afternoon, the survivor lap and care giver lap will start. Once it gets dark, a luminary ceremony will take place.

Also this year, the organizers decided to have the night time events take place inside

the Marts Gym, starting at 9 p.m.

There will be where entertaining events such as a talent show, the Mr. Wilkes pageant, and the spirit competition take place.

"Each year keeps getting better and better but this year is going to top it off because we will (expect to) have the biggest turnout," Bova said.

The spirit competition is one of the main events, in which team members dress up and decorate their designated area according to their theme.

This year's theme is reality TV and game shows with group ideas such as "Wild and Crazy Kids," "Legends of the Hidden Temple," "Fear Factor" and "Survivor."

"It is a fun event. You won't be bored, fun-

draising is not difficult and you are helping to fundraise for the largest non-government cancer research in the states," Sharpless said.

As of last week, the event has about 20 teams registered involving about 162 participants.

Last year there were 18 teams by the day of the relay, and with it being a few weeks until the relay, they are ahead of schedule. They have even raised over \$9,000 so far.

"Last year was the highest attendance that Wilkes University had for their relay, and we have already exceeded (that record) for this year," Sharpless said.

Sharpless added that his is a great event to get involved in because it helps raise

money for a good cause while still have a fun filled time.

She also says the proceeds help to fight cancer, and it is another great opportunity to bond with friends or even make new ones around the community.

"It is very exciting to see that students are passionate about serving the community and the grater community. This even is a demonstration of that," Sharpless said.

Students can still register for Wilkes Relay for Life by logging onto: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=30910&pg=entry.

CONTACT HOLLY BOYER AT:
holly.boyer@wilkes.edu

Gay-Straight Alliance: a growing, supportive club

BY EMMA ZIMMERMAN
Staff Writer

The Gay Straight Alliance on Wilkes Campus is rebuilding as a club that was once active and had died down. Originally referred to as the Free Spirit Club, Advisor Helen Davis took over three years ago.

"The presence on campus is stronger," she said. "We're happy with where we are."

This semester, the club has grown to having over 50 students on their mailing list with 15 to 20 showing up during club meetings. Wilkes performed a climate survey that asked questions connected to diversity.

"Students express a level of concern about their support," Davis said. "There needs to be other institutionalized support so they know they're not alone."

The GSA hopes to raise awareness through social activities they'll be doing on campus.

"It's important to know we exist," Davis said. "We need to be taken seriously."

The club is sponsoring a screening of the documentary Out in the Silence this Friday, April 8. The documentary is about the LGBT community in Oiltown, Pennsylvania, and the director will be there to answer questions after the film.

"It's going to be a big thing," Club President Alyssa Bortz said. "We're very excited about that," Davis said. The National Day of Silence is being observed on April 15, and



Photo: The Beacon/Allison Roth

The Gay-Straight Alliance is a recently-reformed campus club that provides a supportive and caring environment for all sexual orientations.

the club hopes to raise awareness on bullying the day before by showing short films and clips from the Get Better Campaign.

The initiative of The National Day of Silence is for those participating to be silent that day in order to stop bullying due to sexual orientation, among other things.

"The club serves an essential function," Davis said. "There are needs that need to be met and we're working to meet them. We want to make sure the students are successful and happy."

While raising awareness is an important purpose for the club, they wish to offer a supportive community where students can come and be themselves without worry.

"It gives you a sense of somewhere to belong," Bortz said. "Part of the trouble (for students) is the feeling of not fitting in with anyone."

During the meetings, club members work on organizing their events and discussing social issues, but also it's about networking with others who share common interests and experiences.

"We share our stories and our troubles," Bortz said. "You know you're not the only one going through this."

Having the diverse group discuss issues and tell their stories from meeting to meeting, Davis says it really helps. "It's certainly impacted me personally," she said. "I've

seen positive outcomes from our interactions. It's helped the comfort level on campus. It's a beginning."

Last semester, the GSA held a candle vigil in honor of the recent suicides caused by bullying in schools. Davis said that it helped straight students to become more involved with the club.

"Our straight allies are important to use," she said. "They want to support the group and community just as much."

The GSA hopes to expand and become as active as it has been in the past. Bortz is working on getting two speakers to visit the campus next semester.

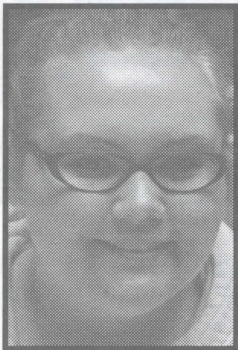
"I would love to have more people come," she said. "Of course we're trying to be proactive, but mostly it's about having a place to come and hang out and be yourself. We encourage people to come out and anything you can get out of the club is what counts."

The club hopes to continue raising awareness on campus. "Even if you don't want to be involved with GSA or it's not relevant to your life, the main point is to be respectful of others," Bortz said. "Stop perpetuating stereotypes or using derogatory words. (These are) simple things people can do to make the environment at Wilkes better."

CONTACT EMMA ZIMMERMAN AT:
emma.zimmerman@wilkes.edu

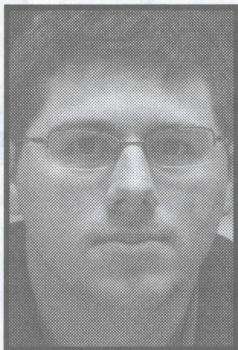
STREET BEAT

What is your favorite 90s song?



Amber Konopka
Freshman
middle school
education
major

"Amber," by 311.



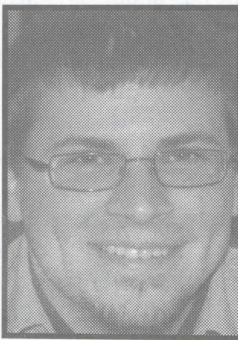
Joe Pugliese
Sophomore
political
science major

"Dammit," by Blink 182.



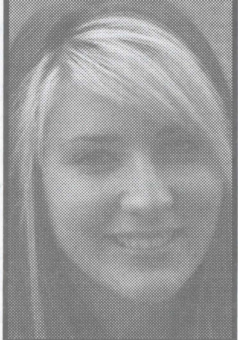
Melanie Mickelson
Vice President
for Enrollment

"One Headlight," by The Wallflowers.



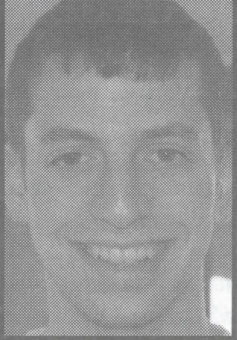
Tony Palermo
Public Safety
Officer

"Smells Like Teen Spirit," by Nirvana.



Tori Sallo
Freshman
pharmacy
major

"Sweetness," by Jimmy Eat World.



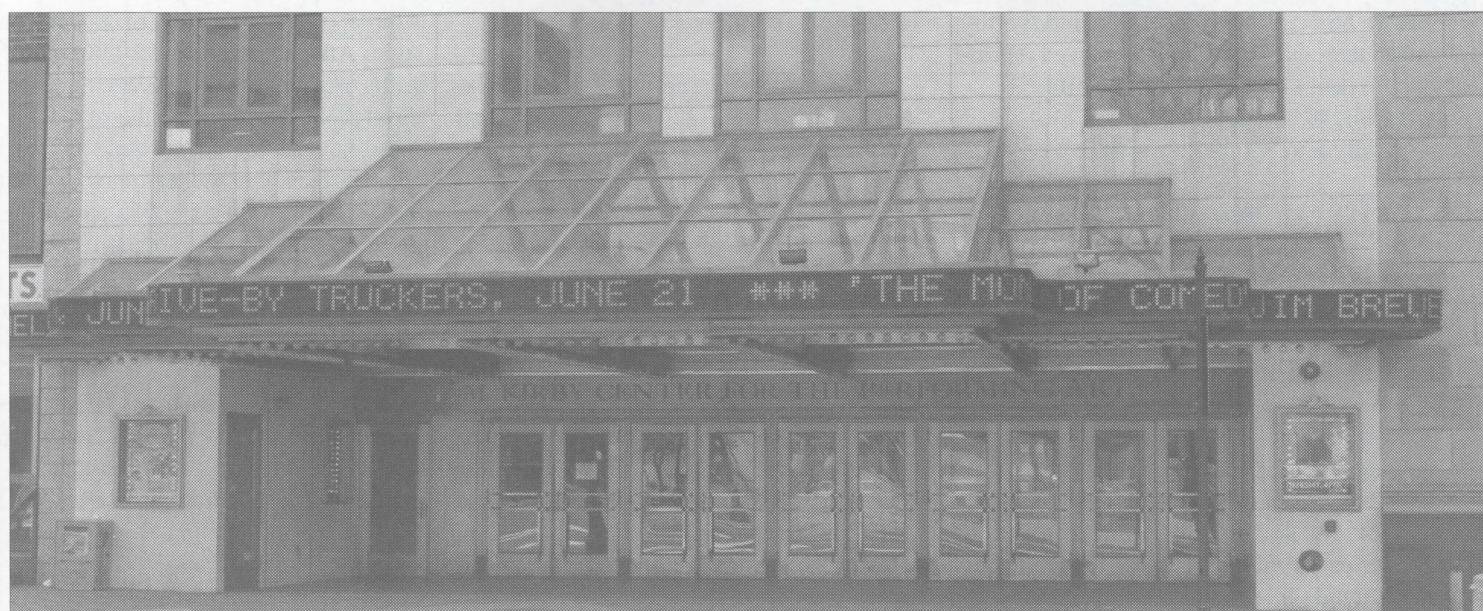
Trevor Hirsh
Senior business
major

"Stuck in a Moment," by U2.

Photos: The Beacon/Allison Roth

APRIL 5, 2011

CONTACT US: wilkesbeacon.ae@gmail.com



The Beacon/Jonathan Bowman

Kirby Center begins film festival this week

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

Movie buffs and cinema lovers will be able to experience a film-tastic event beginning this week. The F.M. Kirby Center for Performing Arts will be presenting a special showing of independent and foreign films during the annual W. Curtis Montz Film Series.

The series, which starts April 6, will provide the community a chance to see films that were not available to see upon their initial release. The series will run every Wednesday until August, with screenings at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$4 to the matinee, \$6 for the night screening, and \$3 for full-time students.

The Kirby Center is just one of the many theater venues that take part in showing the film series.

Named after one of the original programmers of the theater, each year, the event presents the most interesting films of the year in remembrance of recently retired Montz.

Frances Egler, director of programming of the Kirby Center, has seen a lot of the films in the series and stated that the Kirby Center is the "only consistent screener of films that (show films) weekly" within the area.

"The Kirby Center does this pretty much once or twice a year when our schedule permits us," Egler said. "(The process) deals with keeping on top of reviews of foreign films and movie distributors in other cities so that we know what is likely to be suc-

Movie Premiere Date	Description
April 6 I Love You, Phillip Morris (R) Running Time: 1 hour 40 minutes Directed by Glenn Ficarra & John Requa	This film stars beloved funnyman Jim Carrey alongside Ewan McGregor as troublemaking companions. Carrey plays Steven Russell, a quiet and small-town businessman who one day decides to reevaluate his life and turn into a criminal with the love of his life (McGregor).
April 13 The Way Back (PG-13) Running Time: 2 hours 12 minutes Directed by Peter Weir	This film is set during World War II and based on a true story. Jim Sturgess, Colin Farrell and Ed Harris star as a band of prisoners risking their lives to escape death.
April 20 Biutiful (R) Running Time: 2 hours 27 minutes Directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (Mexico) In Spanish with English subtitles	A story of a struggling man who copes with all the emotions that goes into dealing with raising a family in a corrupt underworld of modern Barcelona.
April 27 The Illusionist (PG-13) Running Time: 80 minutes Directed by Sylvain Chomet (France) In French with English subtitles	One of Edward Norton's best films, this film centers on a magician during the turn-of-the-century who uses his 'powers' to claim the women he loves who is of a different class.
May 11 Mao's Last Dancer (PG) Running Time: 2 hours 7 minutes Directed by Bruce Beresford (Australia) In English and Mandarin with subtitles	Based on the true story of Li Cunxin, this film tells his journey from low class to global and infamous ballet dancer.

Courtesy of the Kirby Center/Frances Egler

Pictured above is the breakdown for the first five movies to be premiered at the Kirby Center.

cessful and appealing to the audiences here."

Brian McCann, a Wilkes-Barre native, considers himself a movie fanatic and said how he was excited for an event like this.

"These type of movies are so interesting and they never seem to make the cut with the theaters around here" McCann said.

The Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock will

also take part with the festival but will follow a different schedule of the film series presenting three or four films a day over the course of a two-week period.

For more information, visit kirbycenter.org

CONTACT MOLLY KURLANDSKI AT:
molly.kurlandski@wilkes.edu

Student Activities

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

All students are invited to attend an interesting display of competition. The event will start at 7 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom.

Sponsored by the Student Alumni Association Game Show Night, the event serves to bring back Wilkes graduates to compete against one another for the chance to test their wits.

The theater department will be presenting "A Midsummer's Night Dream" at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 7 at 8 p.m. The story centers on life and love, courtesy of infamous writer William Shakespeare.

General admission is \$15, admission for students and seniors is \$5 and free for faculty and students who present their Wilkes ID at the door. The show will be presented in the Darte Center on the main stage.

Other show dates are 8 p.m. April 8 and at 2 p.m. April 10..

For more information, contact the Darte Center Box Office at 570-408-4540.

The Sordoni Art Gallery will be presenting its latest exhibition, "Elise Wagner-A Decade in Painting." Wagner's reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. this Friday, April 8 with a meet and greet with Wagner herself.

Much of Wagner's art revolves around discovering the relationship between different sciences including art, astronomy and meteorology.

The exhibit, which began on March 28, will run until May 22. Students and members of the community are welcome to stop by and check out the exhibit during the gallery's daily hours.

Newly released film

"Source Code" stars Jake Gyllenhaal in this intense action thriller, where he is sent by the government repeatedly back into a bombing to prevent it from happening. Rated PG-13

Movie tickets, selling for \$3, will be available this week on the first floor of the Henry Student Center.

CONTACT MOLLY KURLANDSKI AT:
molly.kurlandski@wilkes.edu

Music Review: The best recently released music

Beacon staff and Wilkes students speak out about their favorites

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

Britney Spears: Bold and we love it

With the release of Britney Spear's latest album, "Femme Fatale," it's hard to remember that she ever really disappeared from the music scene at all.

The album, which consists of party jams, "Hold it Against Me" and "'Til the World Ends," has topped the charts and it's plain to see that she will not be going away anytime soon.

With collaborations from Dr. Luke and Max Martin (old producers on past Britney records), Spears fans should be content with most likely one of the most impressive albums of Spears since "In the Zone."

Every song on the album has a catchy album reminding us what Spears is known for; a good tune with a dance-worthy chorus. Who cares if she can't dance like she used to, I'll attempt to do it for her. It doesn't really

matter because she produces danceworthy music that will most likely be played repeatedly in dance clubs across the world.

Rating: 4/5 stars
- Molly Kurlandski, A&E Editor

Adele's "21," best album in a while

Adele came out of nowhere, but her album is fantastic. Her voice has a combination of rawness and powerhouse-type vixen that honestly makes for one of the best albums of the year.

"Rolling in the Deep" is a deep and beat-tapping ballad that makes your heart race with excitement, while "Set Fire to the Rain" is soothing and mesmerizing in harmony and lyrics. All of the tracks on the album are meaningful. She is not a poser and her album is a true tribute to what music should be about, being unique and singing from where it counts; the soul.

Rating: 5/5 stars
- Maggie Wesolowski, senior business major

Reunited and it feels so good

The Strokes' released their new album "Angles" on March 22, after leaving their fans on a five-year dry spell. More experimental and upbeat than their previous albums, the album is a short, easy listen. The opening song, "Machu Picchu" has an up tempo, poppy sound with lyrics that lead singer Julian Casablancas belts out.

Their first released single of their album, "Under Cover of Darkness," is another catchy, highly energetic tune that has Casablancas' layered vocals and other band members' undulating guitars. The rest of the album consists of heavy melodic songs that carry The Strokes' collective sound.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars
- Amanda Leonard, Asst. News Editor

Nicole Atkins: Up and comer with flair

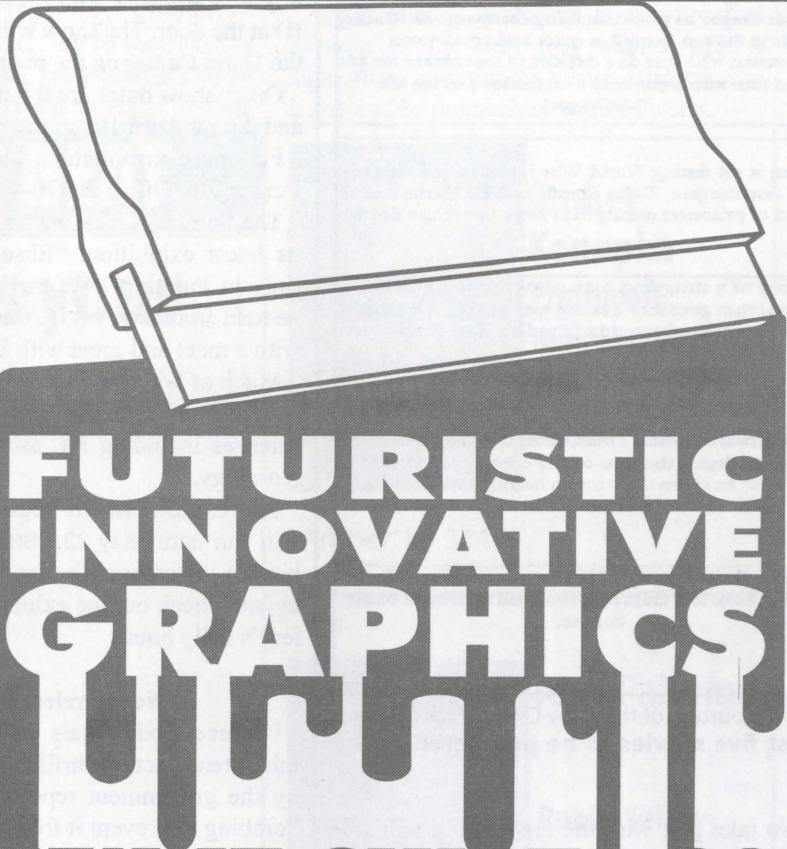
Those who appreciated the '60s noir pop of Nicole Atkins' self-titled debut will thoroughly enjoy Atkins' latest release, "Mondo

Amore," a continuation of Atkins' unique style. Atkins' penchant for '60s pop fused with psychedelic elements is apparent throughout the 10-track album.

Unlike her debut album, Atkins adds country elements to her tunes, specifically in "My Baby Don't Lie," in which she employs a near-perfect Southern drawl. The epic, orchestral ballads that made her self-titled debut a success are further explored, most prominently in the album's closer, "The Tower." While "Mondo Amore" has something for everyone, my only complaint is the album's length, which barely scrapes the 40-minute mark. Otherwise, I highly recommend this album to anyone interested in talented up-and-coming artists.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars
- Anthony Truppo, Opinion Editor

CONTACT MOLLY KURLANDSKI AT:
molly.kurlandski@wilkes.edu



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TV must-sees for this week

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

of entertainment and a decent memory of what life was like without "Jersey Shore."

"Teen Mom 2" – MTV – Wednesday at 9 p.m.

The girls discuss and reflect on the season and their struggles with motherhood at a young age.

"40 Greatest One-Hit Wonders of the '90s" – VH1 – Wednesday at 9 p.m.

How could you say no to this? This is most likely the decade of all four classes. Tune in to see if "99 Red Balloons" makes the cut.

"Britney Spears Special-Femme Fatale" – VH1 – Thursday 8 p.m.

VH1 is airing a special presentation of Spears as she shoots her music video for the second song off her recently released album "Femme Fatale."

"Raiders of the Lost Ark" – USA – Friday 8 p.m.

For all those students who want to stay in and watch a movie on television, this film is full of action, comedy and Harrison Ford in his prime.

CONTACT MOLLY KURLANDSKI AT:
molly.kurlandski@wilkes.edu

"Dancing with the Stars" – ABC – Tonight at 9 p.m.

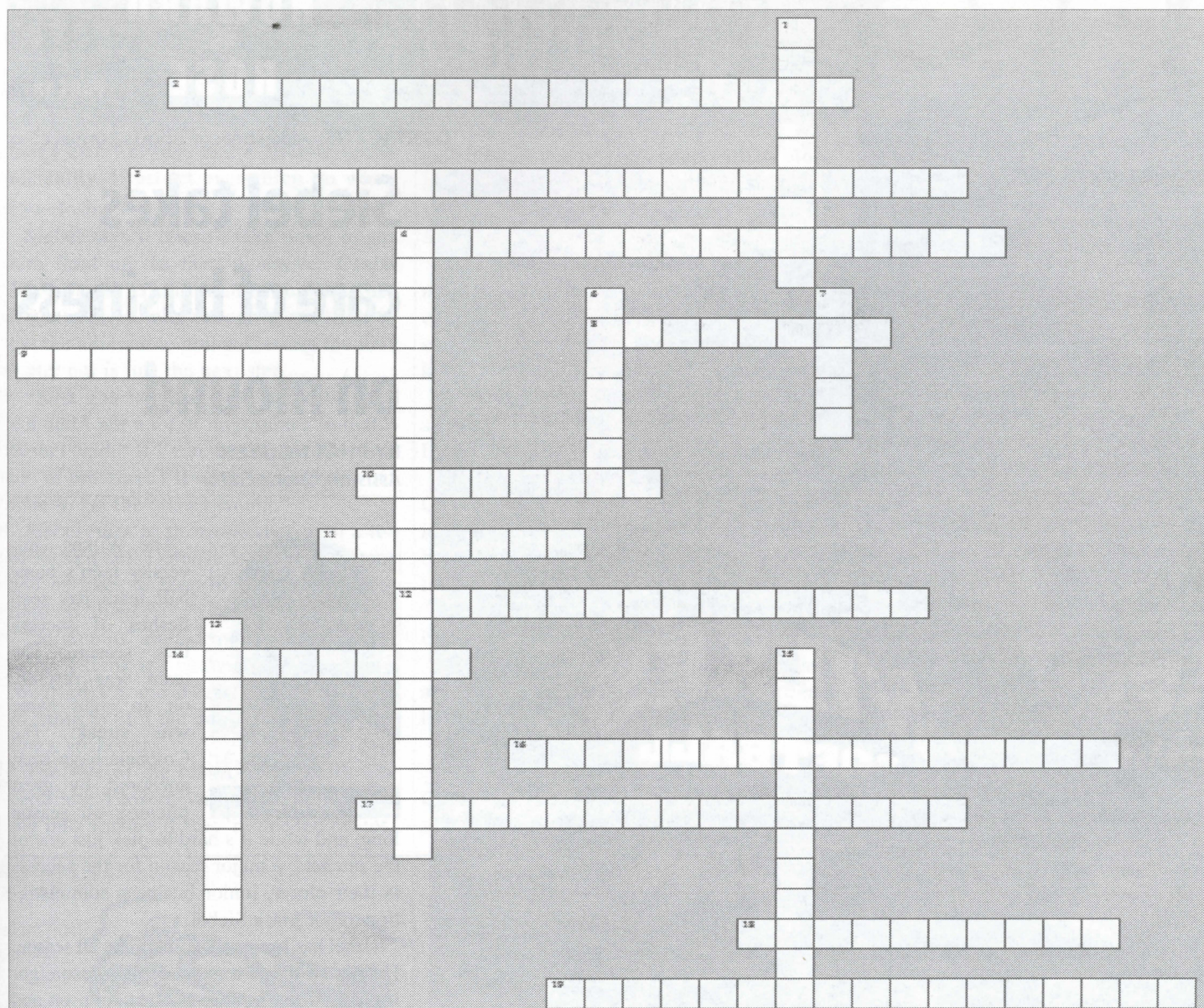
Besides the fantastic dancing, Selena Gomez and the Scene perform. Celebrities compete in this likeable and equally entertaining competition that pits reality stars versus older stars versus stars we thought were dead. Many of the contenders have already started out very strong, a surprise of the season with Chris Jericho, Lil Romeo and Kirstie Alley earning the top grades.

"Body of Proof" – ABC – Tonight at 10 p.m.

Dana Delaney stars in this interesting new crime show. After leaving "Desperate Housewives" to have her own show, Delaney is wickedly smart. Delaney stars as an investigator who solves crime in a unique way that takes her one step ahead of her superiors.

"The Real World" – MTV – Tonight at 9 p.m.

One of the first reality shows in its 10 millionth season, but yet it still offers some sort



ZerCross "Famous Literature"

BY ASHLEY ZERFOSS
Correspondent

Across

2. Geoffrey Chaucer
3. Oscar Wilde
4. Nathaniel Hawthorne
5. Thomas Paine
8. Plato
9. Sun Tzu
10. J.M. Barrie
11. Voltaire
12. Robert Louis Stevenson
14. Edgar Allen Poe
16. Emily Brontë
17. Arthur Miller
18. Sophocles
19. Jane Austen

Down

1. Upton Sinclair
4. Mark Twain
6. Bram Stoker
7. Elie Weisel
13. Homer
15. Mary Shelley

CONTACT ASHLEY ZERFOSS AT:
ashley.zerfoss@wilkes.edu

Ramirez Review: 'Paul' is 'Pineapple Express' in 3D view

BY JORDAN RAMIREZ
Correspondent

I have seen nearly every film Seth Rogen has starred in and have developed a checklist of cliché moments that seem to always occur. Funny? Check. Stupid? Bold check. Drug use? Check.

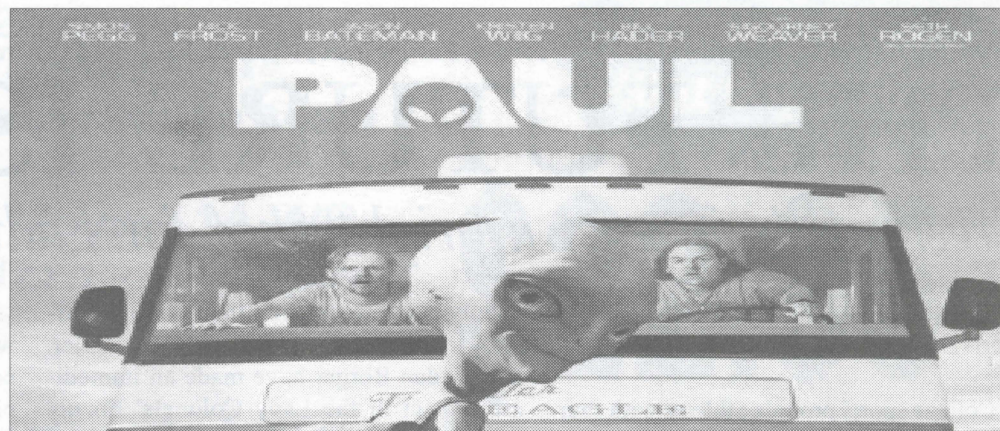
Well, if you think "Paul" is going to be revolutionary, you are most definitely incorrect because it contains all of these things. Seth Rogen stars as a CGI alien named Paul who comes into contact with two new comic book-loving nerds played by Simon Pegg and Nick Frost (screenwriters).

Now, I get the idea to make a sort of clever spin-off of "E.T." and every other alien movie, but for me it simply did not come together that well. Granted, this film is sure to find some laughs, but it doesn't do anything particularly great.

"Paul" is basically a shadow of the typical Seth Rogen character with the only exception being that he's an alien. His voice can be picked out instantly and basically everything he does is reminiscent of the pot-smoking Dale Denton from "Pineapple Express" including his trademark act. There really is not much to say about the plot other than what has already been mentioned, aside from an unnecessary side plot which circles around an attempt to devalue the purpose of religion.

I have to give credit to the three comedians for their overall screen presence. Pegg and Frost have worked together for years on various films and their British comedy is still guaranteed to incite laughter.

The reason that this movie is not completely devoid of watchable content is that Rogen's comedic style complements the two Englishmen quite well and it is the sole reason I didn't end up falling asleep in the theater.



Seth Rogen voices title character in "Paul."

Courtesy of Facebook

It is particularly frustrating because of the various attempts this film makes at being clever. I know Greg Mottola ("Superbad") has the ability to make an insanely funny movie, but after seeing "Paul" it became clear to me that an ingenious film is unlikely to be spawned from him. Visually, the main

character, Paul, looks pretty convincing, but the supplementary shots are nothing to write home about.

CONTACT JORDAN RAMIREZ AT:
jordan.ram

APRIL 5, 2011

CONTACT US: wilkesbeacon.sports@gmail.com



The Beacon/Melissa Polchinski

Alysha Bixler and Kait Brown, along with Jordan Borger (not pictured), have made an immediate impact while only freshmen.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Freshmen's impact a bright spot for Lady Colonels softball

BY CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS
Sports Editor

College sports provide athletes with four years of eligibility, allowing them to play for the full length of their college careers. While eligible from their freshman year, a majority of athletes don't make a strong impact on their teams until they are upper-classmen and have time to learn the game and schemes of the higher level. However, for three freshmen on the Wilkes softball team, no time was wasted before their presence was felt.

Only a few weeks into their college softball careers, Kait Brown, Alysha Bixler, and Jordan Borger have made an immediate impact in the Lady Colonels' lineup. As the 1-2-3 hitters in Wilkes' lineup, the trio has led the team in batting thus far, hitting .406, .379, and .417 respectively. They have also combined for three homeruns and 17 RBIs.

While the actual season is only a few weeks old to this point, the Lady Colonels have been hard at work throughout the winter, fine tuning their skills in preparation for the real games.

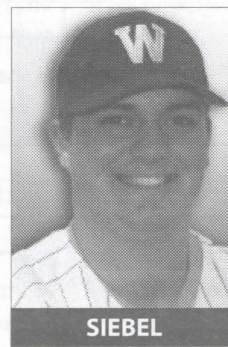
"A lot of it goes to working hard in the winter," said Bixler, who has provided support for Wilkes in both the outfield and as a pitcher. "We would practice a lot all throughout winter. We also had 7 a.m. practice five days a week. All during this time we were always hitting."

With the recent string of bad weather, the biggest challenge for the Lady Colonels has been just getting out on the field. They have had several matchups within the past two weeks postponed to later in the season, creating a logjam of games later on. It would

SEE SOFTBALL, Page 19

Siebel takes care of business on mound

BY PHAT NGUYEN
Assistant Sports Editor



SIEBEL

The Wilkes University men's baseball team has seen flashes of success this season. The team was recently on an eight game win streak. The Colonels have been anchored by great pitching all season

long, and while it's hard to pick just one of the pitchers, a major reason for the success is their closer, junior business administration major Mark Siebel.

Siebel has been a dynamic force all season. He started the first game of the season, going six strong innings against Johnson and Wales, but since then he has been converted to the closer.

"Coming into the season I was getting ready to become a starter," said Siebel. "I didn't know exactly how the coaching staff was going to use me, but I was throwing a lot of pitches on the side. Now as the closer, my arm is able to bounce back very well. It's easy for me to go whenever."

Senior captain Al Clocker has been impressed with his workload this off-season.

"Mark has been throwing extremely well. He worked hard in the off season and the results have been impressive," Clocker said. "He is also versatile as he has pitched back-to-back days out of the bullpen and started a game."

The position of closer comes with the mindset to finish out games when the moments matter the most. Often, closers will enter high-pressure situations where their job and execution needs to be on key. The transition for Siebel though, has been almost flawless – going a perfect 5-5 in save attempts.

"When I was starting, I wanted to pace myself to go 6-7 innings," Siebel said. "Now that I'm closing, I want to throw as hard as I

SEE CLOSER, Page 17

CLOSER

Continued from Page 16

can and try to make the best decisions that I can. I always had a pitch-by-pitch mentality. I just let everything go when I'm closing."

Siebel says it doesn't take much to get him fired up. In fact, whenever Coach Jerry Bavitz calls his number to warm up, it has always been enough motivation to get the adrenaline going. Getting the first batter out is just the next step.

"First guy is always the hardest to get out and I put a lot of importance in that," Siebel said. "If I can do that it relieves a ton of pressure. I'll settle in and know its time to get the other two out."

Siebel likes to throw pitches with a lot of movement. Defense is very important and he likes to keep his infield and outfield involved.

"Strikeouts are boring to me," Siebel said. "I think it's better if more guys are involved. For me at least, I think its more exciting to turn the double play then getting a strikeout."

The role of the closer comes with uncertainty. Closers will never know going into a game if they're needed or not,

which is why the focus should always be ready to go at any time, sometimes back-to-back days on short rest or sometimes not at all.

In the final two games, his number was called twice and he responded with by closing out the games – going both the sixth and seventh innings – retiring every batter he faced.

"I came in with the mindset to keep winning streak going especially with conference wins on the line," Siebel said. "The offense stepped it up and I just wanted to keep it where it was and end the game."

You might ask how he can recover on such little rest, and the answer is simple. He utilizes a lot of ice – and chocolate milk.

For the rest of the season, whenever the Colonels get stuck in a sticky situation, look for their closer Mark Siebel. He has been dominant in his save chances and will look to anchor a very strong Wilkes squad. Clocker has full confidence in handing the ball over to Mark to finish up games.

"He's the anchor of the bullpen and we are very confident he will get the job done late in the game," Clocker said.

CONTACT PHAT NGUYEN AT:
phat.nguyen@wilkes.edu



Photo courtesy of Steve Finkernagel
Mark Siebel has been dominate as the Colonels closer this season. He has converted all five of his save opportunities while posting a 3.00 ERA.

Colonels lose in 12th inning

COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

King's Tim Zacone crossed the plate for the game-winning run in the bottom of the 12th inning as Wilkes University fell to rival King's College 4-3 in the third game a Freedom Conference baseball series on Wednesday afternoon.

The loss ended the Colonels eight-game winning streak and prevented a second straight conference sweep and a 6-0 Freedom record to open the season.

The Colonels trailed 3-2 heading into the eighth, but took advantage of two errors by King's and knotted the game at three-apiece, eventually sending it into extra innings.

Joey Troxell picked up the win for the Monarchs, giving up just one hit over the final 4.2 innings, striking out six and walking three.

Matt Ruch went 3-for-4 to pace the Colonels while Tay Sidler and Eric Bidwell each collected two hits.

Angelo Trento took the loss in relief for the Colonels, giving up one hit and the unearned run in 1.1 innings, fanning two and walking two.



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SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASEBALL

3/29 vs. King's (DH) 7-6 W, 9-3 W
3/30 @ King's 3-4 L (12 innings)
4/3 @ Marywood - Postponed

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

3/21 vs. Del. Val. (DH) 8-7 W, 7-14 L
3/28 @ Eastern (DH) 5-7 L, 6-5 W
4/3 vs. Lycoming DH - Cancelled

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

3/31 vs. Cedar Crest 18-8 W
4/2 @ Alvernia 3-16

WOMEN'S TENNIS

3/30 @ PSU Berks - Postponed
4/2 @ King's 9-0 W

MEN'S TENNIS

3/30 vs. PSU Berks - Postponed
4/2 @ King's 8-1 W

WEEK AHEAD

MEN'S BASEBALL

4/5 vs. Baptist Bible 3:30 p.m.
4/8 @ FDU-Florham 3:30 p.m.
4/9 vs. FDU-Florham (DH) 1:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

4/5 @ Scranton (DH) 4:00 p.m.
4/6 vs. Baptist Bible (DH) 6:00 p.m.
4/7 @ William Paterson (DH) 1:00 p.m.
4/9 vs. DeSales (DH) 1:00 p.m.
4/10 vs. Marywood (DH) 1:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

4/6 vs. Widener 4:00 p.m.
4/8 vs. Lebanon Valley 5:00 p.m.
4/9 @ Eastern 1:30 p.m.
4/11 vs. Rosemont 4:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

4/9 @ FDU-Florham 11 a.m.

MEN'S TENNIS

4/6 vs. Moravian 3:30 p.m.
4/9 @ FDU-Florham 11 a.m.



FACE OFF



Who is the NBA MVP?

A Magic season



Sports Editor
CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS

With the regular season in the NBA wrapping up on April 13, we can start debating all of the postseason topics. Sixth man, coach of the year, and comeback player of the year are all awards that will begin to be handed out to deserving individuals from this season, with the granddaddy of them all, league MVP, coming last.

The last two seasons have featured LeBron James taking home the honor as part of the Cleveland Cavaliers, a team where he truly was the most valuable. Just look at how the Cavs fared this season without the king. However, this season as part of the "Big Three" on the Miami Heat, despite his stellar numbers, it's very hard to say they would be hurting without him.

At this point in the season, it seems the media has already dubbed Chicago Bulls' guard Derrick Rose this year's Most Valuable Player, with still about 10 games left to play. Rose has led his team to a current first place standing and has had a career year so far, making it hard to argue his case. However, there is one very big man in Orlando who has gone quietly under the radar and is more deserving of the award.

Magic center Dwight Howard has taken this team on his back for a majority of the season. This season, Howard has career highs in points per game with 23.1 and rebounds per game with 14.2. With a weak supporting cast, Howard has had to take control of games, something that is difficult for centers to do, being that they don't bring the ball up and are forced to relay on their teammates to get them the ball. He has done the job so far, as the Magic are currently in fourth place and 19 games over .500. The east may be weak this year compared to the west, but to be in the top half of the playoff teams is still an impressive feat.

The key to my argument here is the fact that the award is named Most Valuable Player, not Most Talented Player or best player. While some players may have slightly more impressive statistics than Howard, Howard is in my mind no question the most valuable to his team. Outside of Howard, the Magic roster is made up of a lot of players that are on the wrong end of their peak and are role players at best. Without Howard, the Magic are not anywhere close to a playoff team. He makes the players around him better by drawing double teams on the inside and allowing them to get open shots. Howard is the cornerstone of the team and easily deserves this postseason honor.

Far and away the best at a position that is so scarce in the NBA today, Howard is a player that could help almost every team become a playoff team instantly. The center position is so thin in the current league and to have a player so talented and dominant at the position easily is enough to make him the MVP.

The Rose of the league



Assistant Sports Editor
PHAT NGUYEN

This NBA season has been quite a remarkable one so far. It features much more drama and villains across the league given the league's off-season expectations for perennial powerhouse teams to dominate, but in reality two teams have taken the lead from early season favorites. I don't know if anyone expected the San Antonio Spurs and Chicago Bulls to have the best records in their respective conferences, especially against the perennial powerhouse teams currently out there like the Lakers and Celtics.

Honestly, I used to believe the MVP trophy belongs to the entire San Antonio Spurs basketball team who plays true team basketball and has led the league with the best record for nearly the entire season. Recently they have hit somewhat of a slump, losing six games in a row, but that can be

attributed to injuries to key players like Tony Parker, Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili.

But in the Eastern conference you would probably expect the Miami Heat or Boston Celtics to easily be the runaway best team with their all-star studded lineups, but the Chicago "Baby" Bulls are not only one of the youngest teams out there, they're one of the best with special thanks to Derrick Rose.

I've done some research and I will throw out the names LeBron James, Dwight Howard and Kobe Bryant for MVP candidates, but my pick has to be Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose.

He is having a career season in all of his major statistical categories including adding a three point shot to his repertoire. In his first two seasons in the NBA, Rose has always been criticized for his lack of range shooting the ball making only 32 three pointers. This year, he has already made 119. Rose is averaging 25 points, eight assists and four rebounds per game, which are all good for career bests, all while shooting

career highs in three point and free throw percentage. The only statistic that he has not increased significantly is his field goal percentage, which is not the best indicator of skill.

It's also interesting to note that Rose is loyal and gladly playing for his hometown. Remember, the media votes for the MVP award, and the members who vote clearly have been eating that up and have been delighted by Rose's focus and determination for the game. You could argue that LeBron James has maybe the best numbers statistically for all MVP front runners, but I think most people will factor in that he has two all stars in Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade. Russel Westbrook is having a great year too, but he has Kevin Durant.

Derrick Rose has led the Bulls to the best record in the East with a young team that plays hard defense and has missed big men to injury with Joakim Noah missing 32 games and Carlos Boozer missing 19 on the season. He's doing it mainly on his own too, which is why I have him as my favorite for this year's MVP.

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 16

seem with such a chaotic schedule, it would be hard, especially for freshman that are still learning, to stay sharp. This trio has had no issues so far with that.

Even for these three, coming in they did not expect to play the roles that they have now so early on. As with most freshmen, you expect to have some growing pains while you develop into your role. They have been the exception to this point.

"I didn't really see that (I would start off this way), but I'm not going to complain," Bixler said. "I'm glad that I can do my part."

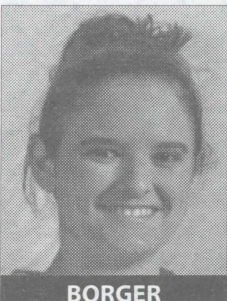
"At first I expected to be nervous," said Brown, second baseman for the Lady Colonels. "But so far the transition hasn't been as difficult as I thought it would be."

Coming into a team being the newcomer can be an intimidating experience. Everyone else knows each other from previous seasons and already has their roles established, while a freshman is still searching for theirs. For these three,



Photo courtesy of Steve Finkernagel

The freshman trio lead the Lady Colonels' lineup, not only in order, but in batting average. The three have hit very strongly, all averaging at least .370 for the season.



BORGER

coming in together and having similar responsibilities and roles has certainly made the transition easier.

"We're all pretty close," Bixler said. "We're always joking

around with each other, being the first three in the lineup, saying 'you gotta do your job so I can do mine.'"

"We're always picking each other up, too," Brown added. "We always stay positive and help one another out."

Seeing two other freshman succeeding so well at the plate has not only helped the transition for these players, but has provided some motivation to see them-

selves perform at a high level as well. In a sport where you rely heavily on what others around you do, these freshman have used this to inspire their own production.

"I think it challenges you because you look at them and think they're a freshman, too, so if they're doing good, I have to do good as well," Bixler said. "In a way it pushes you to do better yourself."

As freshman, these three still have a lot of softball left in their careers, but are looking forward to the season at hand first.

"I just want to keep doing what we're doing," Brown said. "This season, we just need to come together as a team and make the playoffs."

"Making the playoffs is definitely my first goal," Bixler said. "We're continuing to improve from where we were in the beginning of the season and look to just keep getting better."

CONTACT CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS AT:
christopher.hopkins@wilkes.edu

Tennis sweeps Monarchs

COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Melanie Nolt took wins in both singles and doubles top spots as Wilkes University easily handled King's College 9-0 in the Lady Colonels Freedom Conference women's tennis opener on Saturday afternoon in Kirby Park.

Nolt blanked King's Diana Darby at No. 1 singles, 6-0, 6-0, and teamed with Ally Kristofco at the first doubles spot to defeat Darby and Lauren Breen 8-2.

Kristofco also beat Breen 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2 singles, while Victoria Bybel, Alexis Donner, Rebekah Shanaman and Amanda Holyk each had singles victories.

Rounding out doubles action, Donner and Lynn defeated Rachel Hoffnagle and Maria Cometa 8-2 in the second spot while Bybel and Michelle Knight beat Jen Bader and Liz Demko 8-1 at three.

Wes McCollum had wins at the No. 1 singles and doubles spots as Wilkes University cruised past rival King's College 8-1 in the Colonels Freedom Conference men's tennis opener on Saturday afternoon in Kirby Park.

McCollum blanked King's Tim Carroll in singles, 6-0, 6-0, and paired with Evan Katz for an 8-4 win over Carroll and Tony Bevevino in doubles action.

Katz picked up a singles victory at No. 2, beating Bevevino 6-2, 6-0.

Along with McCollum and Katz, Clarke Freeman, Dakkota Deem and Alex Makos each won their singles matches. On the doubles side, Freeman and Makos paired at No. 2 for an 8-1 win and Deem teamed with Brandon Helfrich for an 8-2 victory at three.

Singles

Nolt def. Diana Darby 6-0, 6-0
Kristofco def. Lauren Breen 6-1, 6-0
Bybel def. Rachel Hoffnagle 6-3, 6-2
Donner def. Maria Cometa 6-0, 6-0
Shanaman def. Jen Bader 6-1, 6-1
Holyk def. Nicole Molino 6-2, 6-1

Doubles

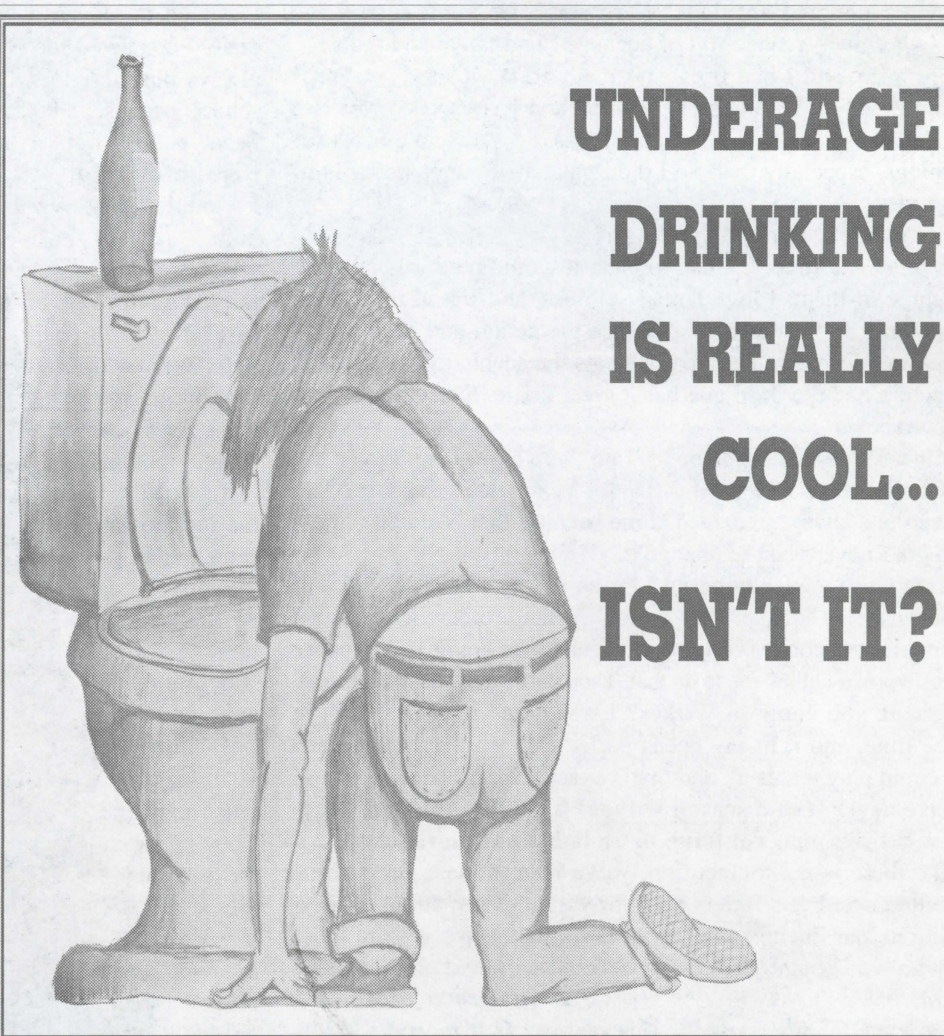
Nolt/Kristofco def. Darby/Breen 8-2
Donner/Lynn def. Hoffnagle/Cometa 8-2
Bybel/Knight def. Bader/Liz Demko 8-1

Singles

McCollum def. Tim Carroll 6-0, 6-0
Katz def. Tony Bevevino 6-2, 6-0
Freeman def. Mike Steinberger 6-2, 6-0
Deem def. Nick Conte 6-2, 6-4
Makos def. Jake Rohring 6-1, 6-3
Chris Dimino def. Bao Nguyen 7-5, 6-4

Doubles

McCollum/Katz def. Carroll/Bevevino 8-4
Freeman/Makos def. Steinberger/Romano 8-1
Deem/Helfrich def. Rohring/Dimino 8-2



Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

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Poster by: Matt Scicchitano, 12th Grade, Mount Carmel Jr./Sr. High School, Mount Carmel Area School District, Northumberland County

Getting to know...

MICHELLE KNIGHT

Women's Tennis

Meet Michelle Knight, senior captain of the women's tennis team. In her four years at Wilkes, the women's tennis team has claimed three conference championships, earned a berth in the NCAA playoffs every year, and has sported a record of 55-8. With her last year coming to a close – but two years of schooling left – Knight has decided to take her talents to another court this upcoming fall.

**To read the entire interview, logon to www.wilkesbeacon.com*

Age: 21

Major: P2 (Pharmacy)

Hometown: That's a good one, I've moved around a lot. Right now it's Roaming Shores, Ohio. But I was born in Euclid Ohio, I lived in Willoughby, Ohio for a couple of years, I went to kindergarten in Mentor, Ohio, then we moved to Jefferson, Ohio, and I was there from third to eighth grade. Then I went to High School in Washington, Pa. And When I came to Wilkes my family moved to Madison, Ohio, and finally to Roaming Shores, Ohio

You went to high school at Trinity, what is something that stands out about your high school? That we had the worst mascot ever, the Hillers. No one knew what it was. Anytime we needed a mascot, we would take pictures with the cadet statue outside of our school. But no one knew what a Hiller was.

So did you have a logo, or mascot? Nope. There used to be contests to see who could come up with a Hiller, but no one ever came up with anything.

Talk about the famous hot spot in Washington, Shorty's. They have world renowned hot dogs. Were you a frequent customer? No, and I was always made fun of because I had never been there. I went there once, and I had fries, and that's it. But everyone at that school knows about, but everyone is local and has been going there their whole life, so I had no idea what it was. So I was an outcast for a lot of things, especially that. So I didn't actually end up going until my senior year.

Favorite movie? "Lord Of the Rings."

Which one? All three. If I had to pick, it would be third one but I love all three of them. I love fantasy movies, and I read the books, and those three are just awesome. I love the action and each movie has something different. The first one sets the scene, the second has a lot of action and the third one has a great finale. Everything about them is awesome.

Favorite restaurant? Applebee's. I go there a lot; I can't even tell you how many times I've been there this year. I love the queso and chips. Everyone always gets mad at me because that is always where I want to go, I never want to change it.

Best date you've ever gone on? Probably my first date with my boyfriend now. He took me for a ride on his crotch rocket, and I thought it was the coolest thing ever. And I was being bad because my parents wouldn't allow me to do that. They know now, but they hate it.

What made you come to Wilkes? I was going to high school in Pa., at the time, and it fit my needs perfectly, I wanted a pharmacy school I could play tennis at, and that's exactly what Wilkes was.

You have never seen a season without a conference championship, how do you girls continue to be lights out on the court? It seems like there is no competition. We've always been very strong in our conference. I feel like every year we've gotten stronger players coming in, our lineup has never gotten weaker. We've kept those players who win instantly. We're very consistent, and obviously we work hard.

What are the team's goals for this season? Is it to make it further in the NCAA's? This season, we definitely want to try and make

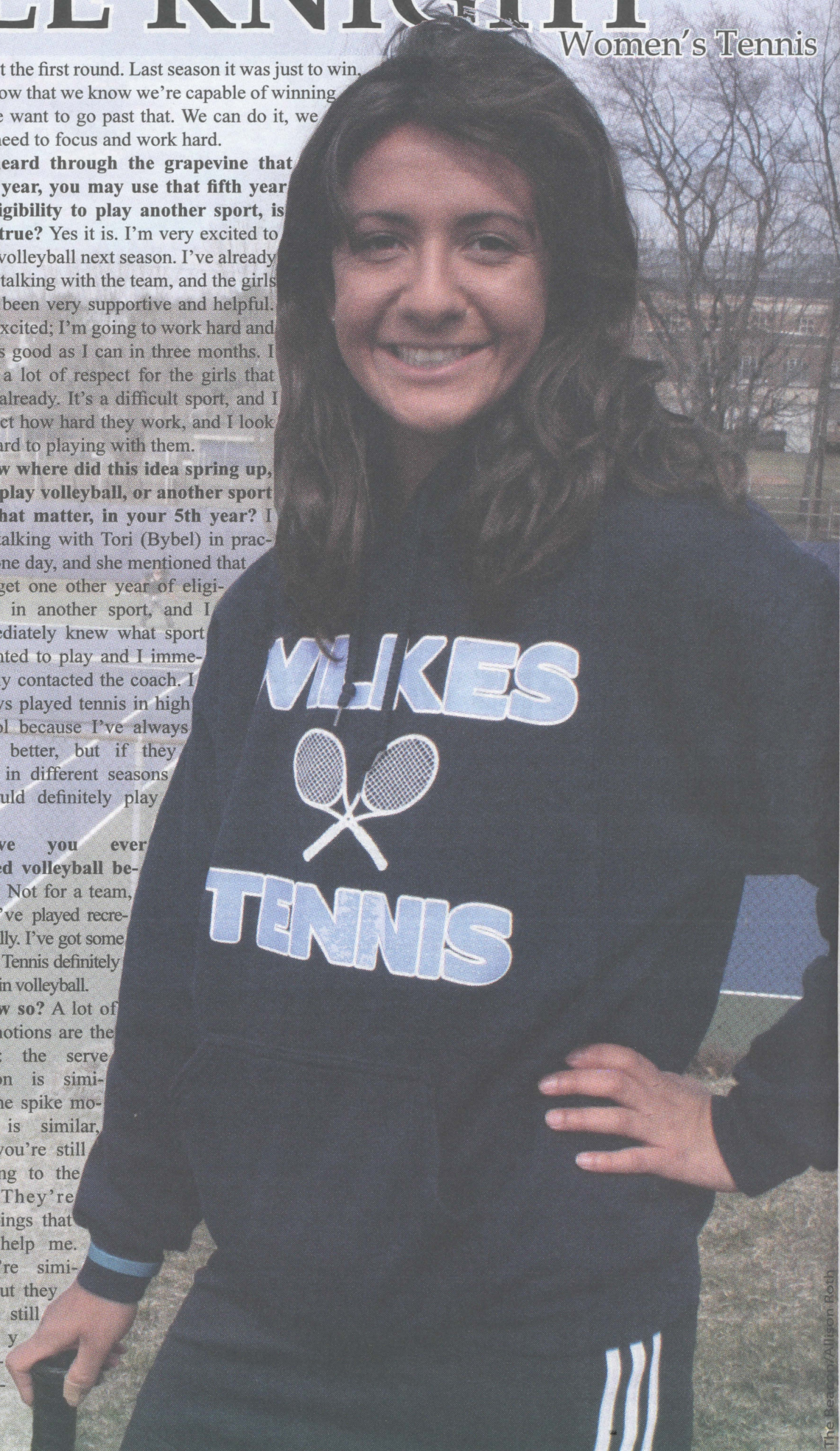
it past the first round. Last season it was just to win, but now that we know we're capable of winning it, we want to go past that. We can do it, we just need to focus and work hard.

I heard through the grapevine that next year, you may use that fifth year of eligibility to play another sport, is that true? Yes it is. I'm very excited to play volleyball next season. I've already been talking with the team, and the girls have been very supportive and helpful. I'm excited; I'm going to work hard and get as good as I can in three months. I have a lot of respect for the girls that play already. It's a difficult sport, and I respect how hard they work, and I look forward to playing with them.

Now where did this idea spring up, why play volleyball, or another sport for that matter, in your 5th year? I was talking with Tori (Bybel) in practice one day, and she mentioned that you get one other year of eligibility in another sport, and I immediately knew what sport I wanted to play and I immediately contacted the coach. I always played tennis in high school because I've always been better, but if they were in different seasons I would definitely play both.

Have you ever played volleyball before? Not for a team, but I've played recreationally. I've got some skills. Tennis definitely helps in volleyball.

How so? A lot of the motions are the same: the serve motion is similar, the spike motion is similar, and you're still moving to the ball. They're all things that will help me. They're similar, but they are still very different.



The Beacon/Allison Roth