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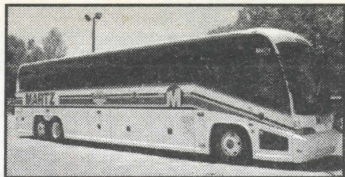
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The BEACON



FEBRUARY 24, 2009

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

Volume 61 Issue 15

Economy causes hiring freeze and deficit

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Beacon Editor-In-Chief

The economy continues to adversely impact Wilkes University into the new year. University officials acknowledge that they expect a \$2.5 million deficit for the 2009 fiscal year, which means a leaner budget for the 2009 -- 2010 academic year.

Petra Carver, vice president for finance, said that the deficit is due to several factors; including a decrease in enrollment and the number of students housing on campus.

"We have curtailed any expenses that are not essential. We have put off hiring where it's not essential or [we can] hold off for a period of time, and we have asked every vice president and the provost to go into their departments and curtail anything that is not absolutely necessary." She added, "We also will look at some of the capital expenses that have not been committed to hold those back. Those were the steps we are hoping that we can curtail that deficit as much as possible." Budget managers have been asked to cut current operating costs by up to 11%.



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

With a \$2.5 million deficit for the 2009 fiscal year, the large-scale renovations for the Stark Learning Center to become the SHE building are slowly moving.

Carver said that the hiring freeze impacts non-essential positions and does not apply to teaching positions.

Dr. Tim Gilmour, president of Wilkes

University, said that Wilkes administrators have not planned to lay off any existing employees, but the future is still uncertain.

See **ECONOMY** page 3

Rendell to implement electronic gambling

BY GINO TROIANI
Beacon Op-Ed Editor

Governor Ed Rendell (D-Pa.) has devised a plan to help generate \$550 million annually to help over 175,000 college students pay for tuition. His idea is to generate revenue through the legalization of video poker machines in restaurants, bars and private clubs.

If approved, students whose families earn below \$100,000 a year and attend one of the 14 state universities or community col-

leges would be eligible for up to \$7,600 for tuition, books, fees and room and board. Video poker machines have already been legalized in nine other states, most recently in Ohio.

"In the plan, everyone pays something, but what they can afford," State Education Secretary Gerald H. Zahorchak said at a news conference on February 3. "We will eliminate the gap between what families can afford to pay and what they are forced to pay, often by borrowing tens of thousands of dollars."

It took lawmakers about 18 months into Rendell's first term to legalize slot machine gambling for school property-tax cuts.

The proposal has many tavern and club owners excited because it presents an opportunity to re-ignite an industry that has been hindered by recent indoor smoking bans and tough drunk driving laws. "If the casinos have it, why can't we?" said Urby Urbanas, co-owner of Bart and Urby's Downtown Bar Bistro in Wilkes-Barre. "It

See **RENDELL** page 5

County's teen suicide rates rise

BY AMY FUSCO
Beacon News Editor

According a recent Citizens' Voice article "County's teen suicide rate raises alarms," suicide rates among teenagers in Luzerne County are among the highest in Pennsylvania. While statistics on the county's 2008 suicides are still incomplete, school officials have plans to raise awareness and increase prevention. College students are in the age group where suicide attempts are of particular concern.

Mark Allen, dean of student affairs, believes suicide is a very serious issue that is not easily talked about. At Wilkes for over 20 years, Allen has dealt with numerous cases of depression and suicide attempts within the student population.

"It's something that we probably could do more in terms of sharing information about particular behaviors to look at," stated Allen, "Even at that note, in some cases, successful suicides can occur without any of the real common warning signs." For privacy reasons, Allen was unable to attach any hard number to suicide attempts on campus.

Student affairs officials have specific protocol to follow when the warning signs of suicide among students become apparent. If a student is suspected of harboring suicidal thoughts, counseling is a must.

Susan Biskup, campus counselor, believes

See **SUICIDE** page 2



ON THE WEB

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Established 1936

PA Newspaper
Association Member





SUICIDE

from FRONT PAGE

it is highly important to give more attention to the young people in the community in terms of the increase of depression and suicidal attempts.

"We need to do more work on prevention which would include education, preferably continuing education of parents, teachers, clergy, physicians, etc.," Biskup said. "We can speculate about variables that may affect a high of suicidality such as demographics, economics, sociopolitical equality and/or family structures," she added. She explained that students who are at higher risk are those who face problems that are out of their control such as divorce, alcoholism, and domestic violence, physical or sexual abuse.

Due to the suicide attempt numbers in Luzerne County, the county has become a pilot for an adolescent suicide prevention program. According to the Citizen's Voice, the state Department of Public Welfare announced that a \$1.5 million federal grant was awarded to Pennsylvania, \$500,000 per year for three years.

With the grant money, laptop kiosks will be purchased and placed in doctors' offices. Seven primary care practitioners will ask all patients in the age range of 14-24 years old to take a voluntary questionnaire on the laptops. It is an 83 question survey that can determine if a person is at high risk of suicidal thoughts or attempts based on the answers they give. The primary goal of this program is to help the young people quickly if necessary.

"I believe this could be a very

According to Citizen's Voice, a recent study by the state Department of Health uncovered several suicide and self-injury trends of Luzerne County residents, ages 14 to 24, including:

- Non-fatal self-injury rates are lower than the state average, but "completed" suicide rates are significantly higher.
- Adolescents' choice of hanging/firearm death (considered "highly lethal means") is twice the state average.
- The county leads the state in suicide deaths of males ages 20 to 24- mainly because they tend to choose highly lethal means.
- Since 2002, more than \$240,000 was spent in Luzerne County hospitals and emergency rooms to treat self-inflicted gunshot wounds. Ultimately, all died from the injuries.
- The county leads Pennsylvania in most expensive hospitalizations for adolescent self-injury cases.
- Within the next months, MHMR will use about \$71,000 of the initial grant money to begin a primary care-centered suicide prevention program.



helpful tool as long as it is handled in a confidential manner," said Biskup, "Many teens are going to their primary doctor for mental health symptoms and one in five teens who commit suicide have been to their doctor the day before." If it were up to her, every doctor's office would have a licensed mental health professional

located on site for referrals and crisis intervention.

"This would remove the possibility that teens, and others, would receive prescriptions for mental health issues without following through with counseling for their issues," Biskup explained, "When we prescribe without counseling, it is like putting a bandaid on a

wound without treating the infection."

Allen explained that if a Resident Assistant notices a resident who is depressed, it would come to the attention of student affairs. RA's or any other Wilkes community member can contact the office for advice and student affairs would contact the counseling

center located in the first floor of Passan Hall.

"If a parent, family member, friend or anyone involved in the teen's life notices that the teen is depressed or withdrawn, it is very important to pay careful attention to behaviors while keeping the lines of communication as open as possible," Biskup said.

The BEACON

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Meet the staff...



Mike Cignoli
Staff Writer

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

NEWS

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ECONOMY from FRONT PAGE

We have not, in any of our plans to this date, included any idea of layoffs. If everything stays the way it is, and enrollments, while they might go down slightly, stay in the same range, I think we can weather," said Gilmour.

But Carver added that the school must be prepared to layoff staff if the situation becomes worse.

"Well we have to be prepared, of course. We hope that if we take all the measures we can take that we won't have to go to that step. Is there any guarantee? No, because we just don't know under the current economic circumstances what that will mean for fall enrollment," said Carver.

She added, "And should that happen, then we will have to take appropriate measures, but so far we are able to manage without that. We will do whatever we can to avoid that, but I can't guarantee that we won't get there...It really depends on how our fall revenue comes in, because our next big step is fall of '09."

Wilkes administrators hope to woo prospective students during this recession by keeping its tuition increase lower than most other regional schools – at 3.5 percent.

"We really try to manage with as little an increase as we can, because we know how tough it is on students," said Carver.

Carver noted that the smaller increase makes next year's budget much harder to plan for, but she said she is obligated to have a balanced budget when she presents to the Board of Trustees.

Luckily, for Wilkes, graduate program enrollment performed better than expected meaning there was a surplus of \$1 million to cover the shortfall in expected undergraduate enrollment. This money allowed Wilkes to close a gap in next year's budget.

Carver also explained that the balanced budget means no pay raises for faculty and staff – including cost of living.

Several other projects will be impacted by the leaner budget as well.

Gilmour said that plans for the Science, Health and Engineering building are looking more like a large scale renovation, instead of a renovation, demolition and addition due to a slow down of the capital campaign.

Carver added, "[The capital campaign is] not really on hold. We are out fundraising, but we try to be conscious of our donors' financial situations."

Both Gilmour and Carver said the school cannot push off the renovation for much longer, as Stark Learning Center faces numerous problems because of age and outdated science facilities.

Gilmour added that the Wilkes community should not let fear of an economic disaster stop them from being productive and creative.

"People are afraid. And fear is probably the least productive reaction that you can have. Even I, as president, have some fears of this thing coming, but that's not the reaction that gets you to productive and creative action," said Gilmour. "What we really need everyone to do is to understand we may have to change the underlying funding structure of this institution, but we won't do that in a way that...we sacrifice our progress to our mission..."

Carver explained the current deficit as something the school can manage, "There is a difference between budget statements and cash, because not all transactions on the budget statement are cash transactions. So there is a difference there." She added, "If

However, Wilkes does have a "plan B." Both Carver and Gilmour explained that there are backup plans in place in case the economy grows worse or fall enrollment is less than expected.

This is the first of a two-part series on the budget crunch at Wilkes University. In The Beacon's next issue we will examine campus reactions to the economic savings strategies.

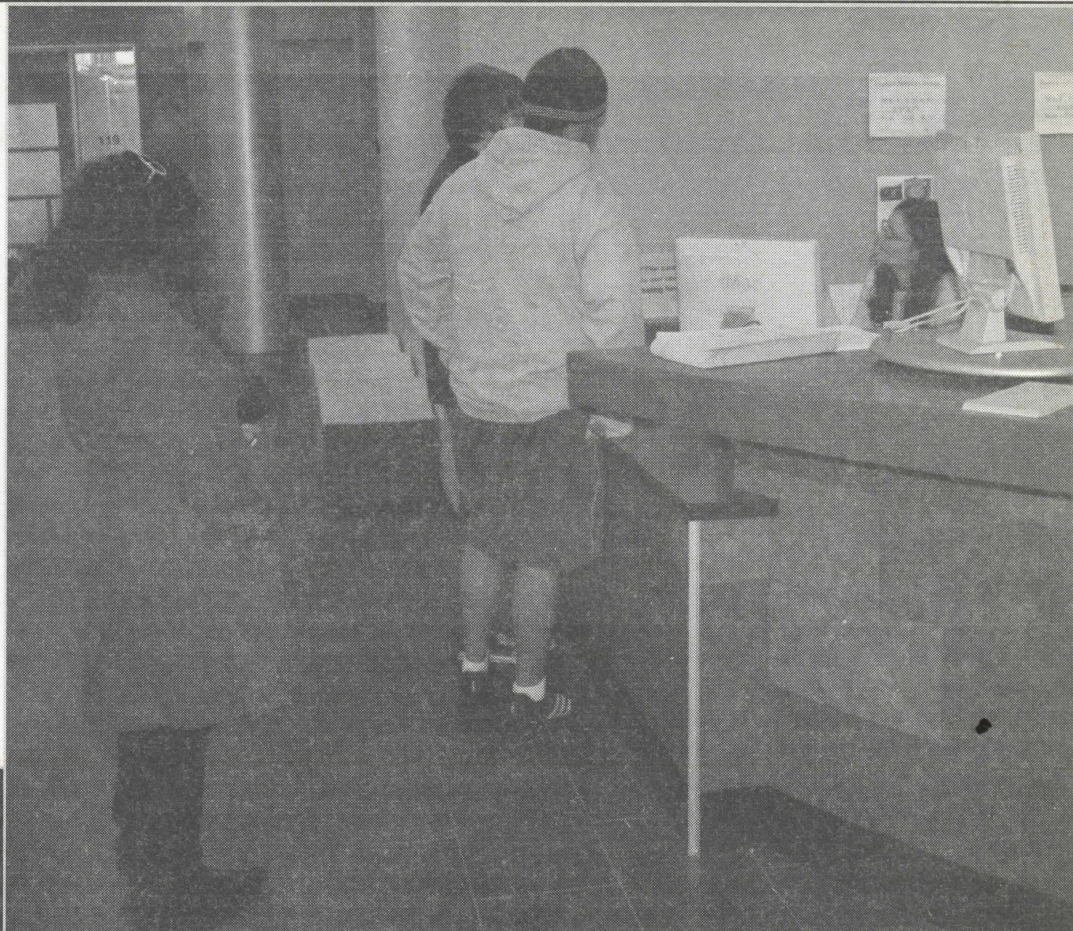
To read the letter President Gilmour sent to faculty and staff, please visit:

www.wilkesbeacon.com

Due to the economic deficit, Wilkes has been forced to make tuition increases and also, a hiring freeze. The University has to make due with as little as possible during the economic difficulties. Projects like the SHE building will be affected because of a general decline of the capital campaign.

we have deficits, what it does, it will affect cash. At some point in time we would run out of cash if our deficits would continue to grow and get bigger. Since this year, we had several surplus years in previous years,

this year we hope we can maintain it to a manageable level. Cash-wise we will be ok. It will affect our balance sheet...if we have a deficit it will take away from the net worth and make us worth less.



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick



Noon leaving Wilkes to assume position at TCMC

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

Beacon Asst. News Editor

After four years at Wilkes as the university's controller, Ann Noon announced last week that she will resign to begin a new chapter in her career with the Scranton-based Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC.)

Noon will finish the spring semester as controller at Wilkes, and take on the same role for TCMC, the region's new medical college which is slated to open later this year with its first class of approximately 60 medical students.

Noon described the job at TCMC as an opportunity to develop and work with different people that could expand on her higher education.

At Wilkes, Noon's duties include financial reporting for the university such as payroll, purchasing, general financial reporting and grants. As the controller at TCMC, the job duties will be slightly different but the functionality of the position will be basically the same.

"I will absolutely miss Wilkes University. I love what I do. I've never had a problem getting up and driving to work in the morning," said Noon.

Others will miss Noon around the office,

as well. The director of the procurement office, Justin Kraynack, worked closely with Noon for about three years.

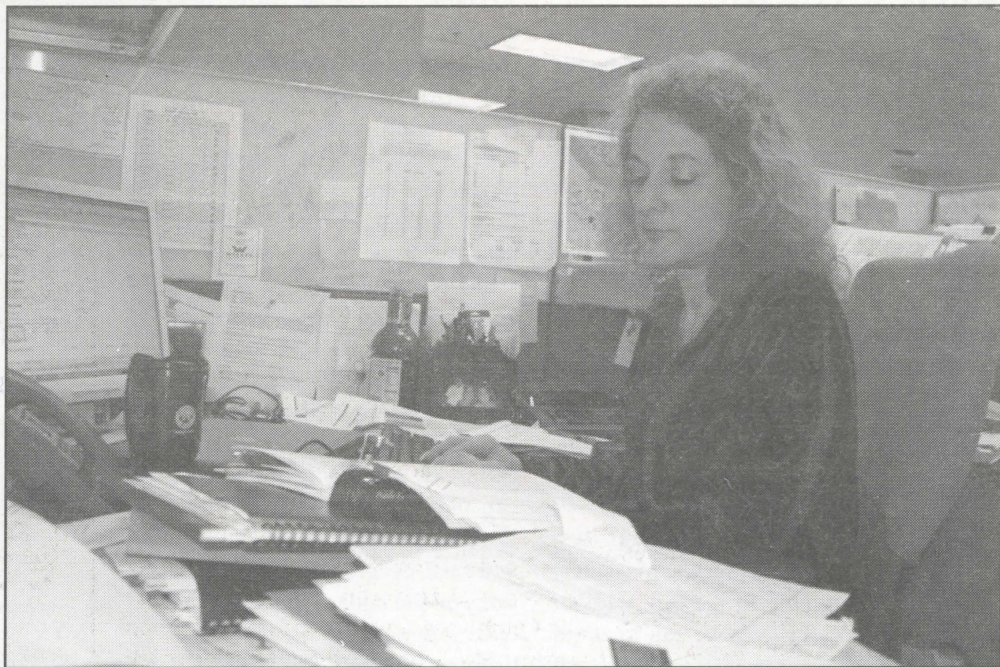
"She is great... probably one of the most professional controllers I've worked for. She has a great sense of humor but is also extremely professional," said Kraynack. "We will really miss her. She has been a great mentor to me."

Noon lives in Moscow so her daily commute to work will be cut when she begins at TCMC, but that is not the reason that she took the job.

"This is a unique opportunity that doesn't come along very often. This is a new organization that is a large employer but an economic benefit [to the region] as well," said Noon.

TCMC is a non-profit organization and it is also projected to create about 1,000 new jobs, and add about \$70 million to the local economy once opened.

As far as Noon knows, the college has hired about 100 new employees in the past year to 18 months.



The Beacon/ Lauren Biernacki

After three years at Wilkes University, Ann Noon will leave her job as the controller at the end of the semester to take a similar position at The Commonwealth Medical College.

The college is independent and not affiliated with any other colleges in the area. The mission of the school is to increase the number of physicians working in Northeastern

Pennsylvania based on a study done in 2006 showing that the need for a medical school in the area was apparent.

SG Notes February 18, 2009

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

Beacon Asst. News Editor

Treasurer's Report

- All College: \$17,711.75
- General: \$10,324.74
- Special Projects: \$3,864.06
- Spirit: \$4,000.00
- Leadership: \$8,652.56
- Conferences: \$19,530.09
- Start Up: \$2,100.00

Club Reports

The following clubs presented updates on their events.

- Programming Board
- MSC

New Business

- BA 343 Donation Request (Week 1 of 1) A motion was passed to allocate \$1,397.00
- Choral Club Fund Request (Week 2 of 2) A motion was passed to allocate \$2,073.00 to the Choral Club for a performance on March 22, 2009 at 3p.m. at St. Matthew's Church in Scranton
- Zebra Communication Fund Request (Week 1 of 1) \$535 was allocated to Zebra Communications for the Wyoming Valley Children's Association basketball tournament and to have a team from SG in the tourna-

ment

- Adventures in Science Fund Request (Week 1 of 1) A motion was passed to allocate \$2,000 to Adventures in Science which benefits children from area schools

- Ultimate Frisbee Fund Request (Week 1 of 2) asking for \$1,480 for tournaments
- Chemistry Club Fund Request (Week 1 of 2) Chemistry Club is asking for \$2,000 for an airfare to Salt Lake City, Utah
- Cannabis Defense Movement Club Recognition (Week 1 of 2)

- Winter Weekend Budget Approval (Week 1 of 1) \$2,400 allocated

Events

- RA Appreciation Week February 23-27, 2009
- IRHC Mardis Gras Celebration Tuesday February 24 7-9p.m. first floor lounge

*At 8:30 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the SG meeting. The motion was approved.

SG Meetings are open to all students. They are held every Wednesday in the Miller Conference Room on the second floor of HSC.



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NEWS

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RENDELL

from FRONT PAGE

would just be nice to see them spread it out a little more." Urbanas also added that if the legislation passed, he would consider obtaining a few machines.

Under the proposal, the state Department of Revenue would regulate the industry. The Rendell administration has estimated that approximately \$550 million could be raised annually for tuition assistance. This estimate is based on the state's assumption that around 8,800 establishments would seek licenses, with an average of four machines per establishment. Pennsylvania State Police officials estimate there are roughly 17,000 video-poker machines currently operating illegally. In 2008, state police seized 537 illegal machines.

If approved, establishments would have to purchase machines that comply with state standards, and would be linked to a central computer system, much like the slot machines already used in Pennsylvania casinos.

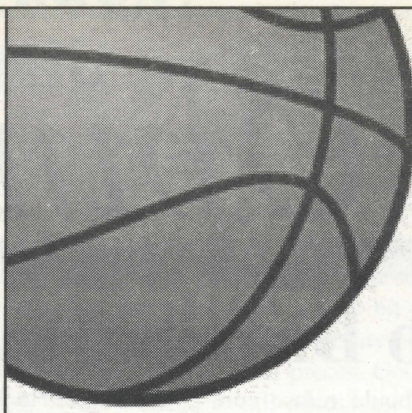
Despite possible gain, many politicians have openly voiced their concerns. Paul Clymer (R., Bucks) said, "That is not good public policy... in fact it's awful that we

would even consider doing this...The video poker machines are the most addictive of all gambling instruments." He added that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in designing programs to hook the player.

Clymer also criticized gambling as an "...unstable form of money," due to rising competition between states. "When you go into this whole issue of gambling, you better know what direction you are going to go, and what the unintended consequences are."

The plan has also left many of the state's newly formed casinos with a feeling of unease. Robert Soper President and C.E.O of Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs voiced his own concerns. "When you introduce more supply into a market, it's going to impact the industry. I certainly think the purpose and the goal is worthy, paying for tuition and improving our secondary education system. However] it doesn't make much sense to raise money in that manner...My question would be, if you're going to raise money through gaming, why wouldn't you do it in an environment that is highly regulated?"

The electronic gambling machine bill is expected to be voted on in the near future.



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Spotting a fake
Page 8.
\$\$\$

Opinion

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

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An open letter to Bishop Martino

BY THE BEACON
Editorial Board

Your Excellency,

The Wilkes community has always been blessed when it comes to religious freedom. Our campus is comprised of Muslims, Catholics, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Protestants, agnostics, and other religious and philosophical perspectives represented by our diverse body of students, faculty and staff. So this letter comes to you not from a student group at an institution exclusively supported by the Catholic church, but rather an independent perspective. It's our hope that our voice may add another dimension to the conversation and another perspective for you to consider.

Over the past several months we have seen many news reports, read your pastoral letters and discussed your actions. First, please understand that our goal with this letter is not to criticize your ideology. You espouse long-held traditional Catholic doctrine, and one with which a specific element within the faith agree. After all, that is what religious freedom is all about. However, as students at a private, independent institution, we see it is our responsibility to protest your methods, particularly when they alienate members of our community.

We first started to pay attention to your actions when you said that some politicians may be refused communion if they support a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. We recognize that abortion goes against the teachings of the Catholic church, but so do many things that your parishioners do, and refusing them communion is, in many ways, akin to closing your doors to those seeking a relationship with God and the Church.

Following your line of argument,

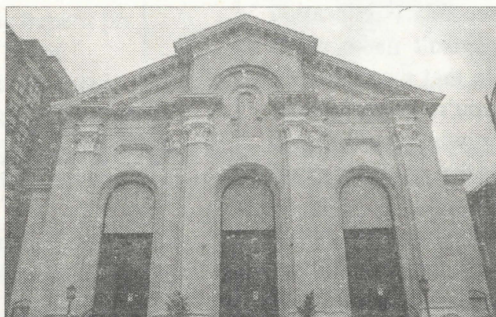
your priests should refuse communion to anyone who strayed from the path. Surely there are enough rumors swirling around your churches to provide the celebrant with enough fodder to deny communion many people: the single mother, the homosexual, the divorcee, someone who terminated a pregnancy in their youth - just to name a few.

Recently, your representatives reported to the media that you would close St. Peter's Cathedral if Scranton's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade were to feature any pro-choice politicians, and the parade's organizers acquiesced.

The reason listed in the letter was to simply avoid controversy; however, we do not understand why you would punish your parishioners for someone else's actions. Technically, elected officials represent all of the people, but this doesn't mean that local Catholics necessarily supported them in the voting booths. Nevertheless, they are our government officials and the ultimatum you put forward effectively drives a wedge between community members. St. Patrick's Day is a holy day and a day to celebrate in the Catholic Church. Do you really want to be the person to turn away hundreds of people at the door?

Another recent controversy involved Misericordia University when its officials invited Keith Boykin to speak at the school. Boykin is an acclaimed speaker who is also gay and addresses a variety of diversity issues. Your objection is that homosexuality is inconsistent with the teachings of the church and therefore it was unseemly for Misericordia to entertain such a person on campus. Why would you concern yourself with this? If the students who attend the speaker are truly faithful

and devoted to the teachings of the Catholic Church, then you need not fear them falling prey to anything the church deems immoral or unholy. Again, your objection and threats are designed to isolate rather than unify. Gone are the days in our culture where pater-



The Beacon/Gino Troiani
St. Mary's located on South Washington St. Wilkes-Barre may face possible consolidation in the future.

nalistic threats can actually work, especially with youth. America's youth wants to openly discuss and values diverse perspectives. Stern warnings will likely drive the future leadership of your church away from it.

And then there is the closure of the dozens of churches around the area. In this case you take off your Miter and put on your accounting visor. As you know, the numbers don't look good. The annual appeal is down and so is attendance. We believe that both are only going to continue to drop thanks to a growing sense of alienation among local Catholics, and especially among young Catholics.

You can't honestly believe that by shutting down all of these churches you are actually going to help the diocese. There must have been another option on the table. Perhaps you can turn total financial control over to the leadership at every church and tell them that within a year and a half, if their financial situation does not improve, they will be forced to close. This

approach could work because it takes responsibility off of your office, cuts cost, saves a few churches, and does not encourage your flock to look elsewhere for spiritual homes. However, this would require you to relinquish some power to the people of the Catholic Church and let's face it, you don't have the best track record when it comes to that.

You have been fighting the formation of a Catholic teacher's union for years and the only thing that boils down to is the fact that you refuse to turn over the slightest bit of power to your parishioners. Be warned: a dictatorial and absolute central government will only lead to disaster in the end. Eventually you will not be able

to control every aspect of the church and things will start to slip through the cracks.

We don't tell you this because we want you to fail. In fact, the opposite is true. We want you to thrive. The Scranton Diocese has always been an important part of our community, and to see it evaporate would be disheartening, to say the least. Such an erasure would change the local culture fundamentally.

True conversation happens when both listening and talking are balanced. We urge a frank conversation with your parishioners. Go to church, sit in the back and just talk to them, walk among them, and listen to their concerns. This is a trying time for the entire world and your people need their faith, they need a leader - not a pastoral letter or a recorded message.

Sincerely,
The editorial staff of *The Beacon*.

Talking Points



#1

Martino's actions have caused Catholics to rally against him.



#2

Losing the Catholic Church would change the local culture fundamentally.



#3

Martino should recognize a separation between church and state.

The Angry Rant: Cash, Credit or Baby?

BY TIM SEIGFRIED
Wilkes Alumna

A few weeks ago, Nadya Suleman, an unemployed, single mother of six, gave birth to octuplets after receiving in vitro fertilization treatments.

Since we've heard this all before, I'll get right to the details: three of her other six kids are disabled, there is no father, and Suleman set up a website so that people could donate money to help her pay for her brood, despite the fact that she is receiving food stamps and other monies for her first six.

Even more recently, it was reported that a 13-year-old boy from the UK fathered a child with a 15-year-old girl. As it turns out, two other teenage boys have also come forward, claiming that they are the father. Even more disturbing is the recent report that the family of the mother may have chosen the 13-year-old as the patsy father to cash in on the media deals that are sure to roll their way.

So, we have a mother who shouldn't have had any kids giving birth to eight more through the use of shady medical practices, and a 15-year-old girl

who appears to be prostituting herself to a payday.

I think we can all agree to say that they both had this coming.

These kids should be taken away from the respective mothers immediately. Why? Because the "parents" in both cases are nothing but opportunists. The octo-mom hired a publicist to handle media inquiries, and reportedly wanted \$1.2 million dollars to appear on Oprah. For what? You gave birth. Big deal. Can I get paid for dropping a deuce? No. Then why should you get paid for giving birth, in this case an act of sheer stupidity?

The "parents" in both of these cases have pea-sized brains and are using their children for profit, and guess what, you stupid media types are letting them. And when little Johnny and Suzie turn 14, they can have kids too, because they are going to get loads of money for doing nothing of value to the society or to their own life. I don't understand the desire to throw money at these people for having kids. That only perpetuates the notion that babies = \$\$\$\$\$\$, except that all those babies are going to be neglected because mommy is too busy getting a facial because she has to appear on *The Today Show* and talk about how lucky she is.

And what about the British 15-year-old? She is being rewarded for bad behavior, essentially. Apparently, she nailed this 13-year-old, and now other kids are coming forward to say that they, too, may be the father. It sounds like this girl wanted to get knocked up, and then blame it all on her little patsy 13-year old "lover," so that they could reap the benefits of a culture that actually rewards this sort of behavior. George Washington would be spinning in his grave right now if he wasn't too busy partying with Ghandi and Mussolini. (Wrap your mind around that one.)

We need to slap these people (metaphorically speaking, of course), and if we, as a culture, continue to throw money at these idiots, then this is going to keep happening, and the cycle is going to perpetuate itself again and again and again. Seriously, what is stopping a teenager from making such choices? They see that there is money to be made, so why not? Except that they are stupid, and they don't understand the concept of "media saturation." So it's just one more child that the parents don't care for because they are selfish people.

And really, what is our obsession with babies that don't belong to us?

"Ugggh Brangelina had another baby! Oh my God! What? That's crazy!" Here's a thought: Care about your own baby. That way, when they don't turn out to be a drug bag or a criminal, we can take solace in the fact that it just takes a little bit of effort to raise a kid. Also, children are not accessories or conversation pieces. Good for you, you adopted a kid! Awesome. Why don't you take that energy that you are wasting telling us that and go play catch with them. Or help them with their homework. Or, here's a thought, just tell them that you love them.

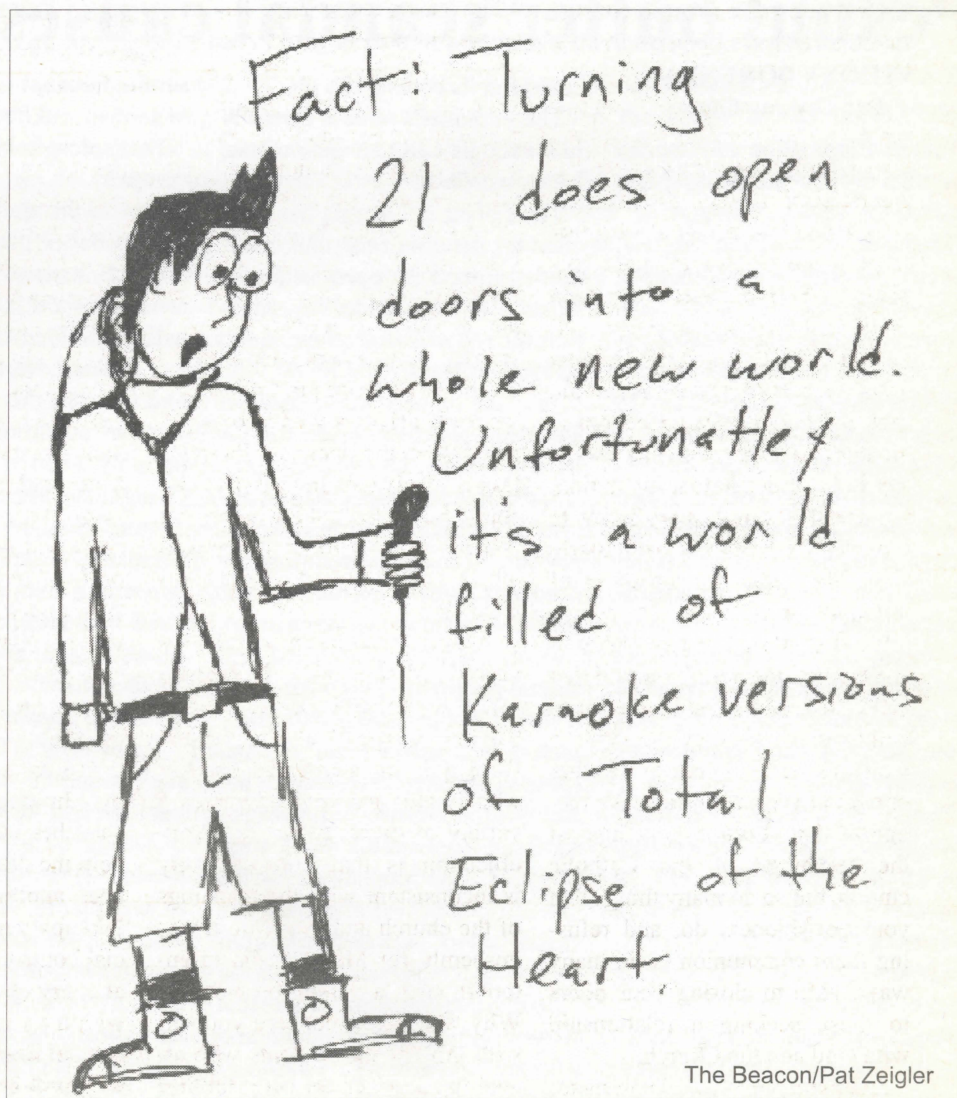
I know I rail about this a ton, but it needs to be said because it keeps on happening. In 20 years, when we are overrun with stupid people, I'm going to point the finger at every one of you parents who are more concerned with your Blackberry than your kid's piano recital. Guess what? I'm well adjusted, I'm content, and most importantly, I'm not a complete eff up! Why? Because my parents cared. They cared about me and my siblings. And I'll care about my kids, and they will care about theirs, and so on.

The point is, we are living in a society now

where everyone wants to get paid, not for excelling, but for being astoundingly mediocre. The octo-mom is going to get paid for having more kids, and now, this 15-year old is getting media attention for being nothing more than a petty expletive (rhyme!). There is no motivation to do the right and smart thing anymore. "We want to pay \$2 million for your story!" You know what the rest of us, sane people want? We want to pay \$2 million to have all you idiots sterilized.

America, England, and whoever else wants to pay these people - Don't, please don't. Childbirth is a beautiful thing, and it should be treated with respect and reverence, because there is nothing like cradling in your arms the child that you and your loved one created for no other reason than love. Not love of money, or love of fame, but love, which is something that is escaping us anymore. It's all about money, and it's all about our 15 minutes. Well, here's your 15 minutes, idiots. Congratulations, you have both proven to be liars and thieves. And those little bundles of joy? Don't be surprised when they end up in jail or worse because their parents were too stupid.

But that's just me.



The Beacon/Pat Zeigler

How to spot a fake: Know your money

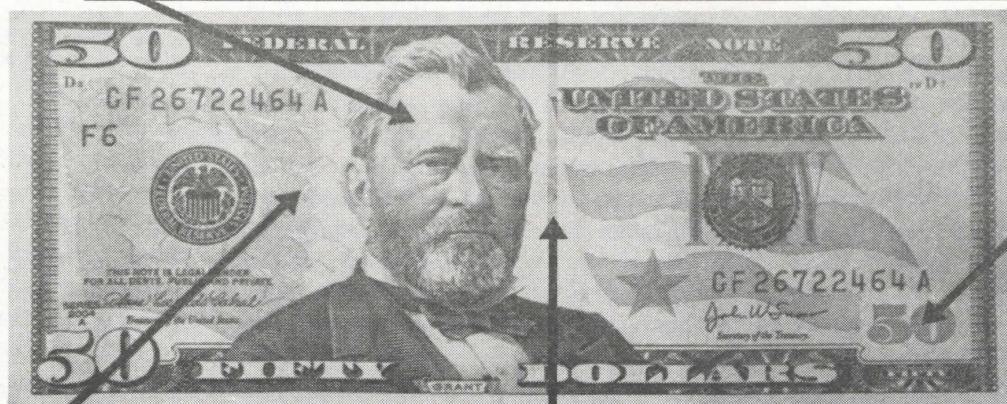
BY GINO TROIANI
Beacon Opinion Editor

BLURRING

Bills are specifically designed so that computers will have trouble photocopying them. If done, the intricate details will appear smudged or blurred. It is most easy to spot this error within the president's face.

I'm sure at one point during our lives; most of us have dreamed what it would be like to print up some cold hard cash. Extra dough for gas, clothes, or even a new car. The scam of counterfeiting dates back as long as currency has existed, and despite technological advances, has reinvented itself while showing no signs of slowing down.

To protect you, and preserve the purchasing power of the American dollar, I am going to examine a few key security features which have created headaches for counterfeiters around the world.



FEEL/COLORED STRANDS

Currency paper is composed of 25 percent linen and 75 percent cotton, which gives a distinct feel. You should also notice that the ink is raised, so that it pops out. Red and blue synthetic fibers of various lengths are distributed evenly throughout the paper.

SECURITY STRIP

Look for an embedded plastic security strip. All bills post 1990 (except \$1, and \$2) will have one. You can see it easily if held up to a light. The strips are placed in different places on each bill.

COLOR SHIFTING INK

This feature was added to the \$50 and \$100 bills in 1996, the \$20 bill in 1998, and the \$10 in 1999; \$5 and lower bills do not have it. Head on, the ink will appear a metallic or gold, but when tilted to the right or left, will change to a dark green.

The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Beacon Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus.

The Beacon asked:

Has the media been insensitive towards issues dealing with sexuality?

- Yes - 33%
- No - 67%
- Undecided - 0%

Next Week's question:

Do you agree with Bishop Martino's recent decisions?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

Visit www.wilkesbeacon.com to cast your vote. Results will be published online at wilkesbeacon.com

Peanut butter scandal causes sticky mess

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA
Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

Peanut Corporation of America has officially become the last place I go to stop my hunger pangs.

The company, based in Virginia, has been blamed for the salmonella outbreak that has caused the largest peanut butter recall in history. The outbreak has been blamed for at least eight deaths as well as 575 illnesses in 43 different states.

FDA official Michael Rogers was quoted in an article on cnn.com acknowledging that the products were shipped after tests revealed that traces of salmonella were entrenched inside. "In some instances, peanut products were shipped by (the company) prior to having assurance that the products were negative for salmonella," said Rogers.

Peanuts go through two sets of tests before they are thrown onto the trucks to be shipped out. In this case, the first test came back indicating traces of the disease in the peanuts. This is a fair warning sign to throw the peanuts out.

But no. Instead, in a sly move by the company, peanuts were shipped out before the second test

could run its course.

The salmonella issue is certainly bad enough. But, it gets worse. Much worse.

Their plant in Georgia has been cited for the use of harmful insecticides around the open air foods. It has also been under investigation for reports of roaches, mold, and rodent feces.

To make matters worse, their in Texas has also been under fire for its conditions. The plant, which has remained uninspected and uninsured for four years, has also reportedly been discovered to house dead rats, rodent excrement, and bird feathers in the working area.

Come again? Dead rodents! And animal poop?

Now I'm not saying that every factory is a pristine, marble tiled, spotless architectural beauty, but the alleged health and working conditions violations by Peanut Corp. of America just cross the line. Yes, a certain amount of "external factors" are allowed in all foods, but this is just too much.

Imagine going to make that wonderful peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and in your tasty scoop of peanut butter you find a

scrumptious rat tail. Probably full of protein and fiber!

That's despicable, and so is this company.

How in the world can a national peanut butter plant that ships its product nationwide, knowingly send out food laced with salmonella to fellow Americans? How can it duck required inspections and force workers to work in the sorts of conditions that have reportedly been uncovered at the Georgia and Texas plants?

Americans, be outraged. This company is knowingly putting Americans lives at risk to make a quick buck. It's hard to look at this situation and give the company another chance. Why? Because it's already had a second chance.

That's right. The latest bombshell wasn't the first rodeo the corporation had with the FDA. Back in 2001, FDA inspectors found that products were potentially exposed to insecticides, one of several violations uncovered during the last visit federal officials made before the current food-poisoning scare, according to a report obtained by *The Associated Press*.

Seriously? This happened be-

fore? And they got away with it?

Perhaps there's a little justice in last week's report that the corporation filed for federal bankruptcy, but even that doesn't begin to address the fact that the greed-inspired actions of a few caused death and widespread fear across the nation.

Those who participated in the shipment of the tainted products should be charged with murder in the third degree. Yes, I'm sure they did not mean to cause death to anyone, but the fact of the matter is that's exactly what they did. They shipped out the peanuts, knowing well the potential ramifications. In this case, American trust was violated and people died. The perpetrators should go to jail.

You don't get three strikes in this business. In the area of health and welfare, it's a one and done deal, which is exactly why this company should be imploded. There is not one way to look at this situation and find a light at the end of the tunnel, unless that light is from a freight train about to barrel you over.

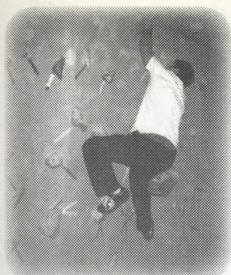
Harsh? I know. Deserved? No doubt about it.

Speak Up! It's Your Right!

The Beacon wants your opinion. Contact us at WilkesBeacon.OpEd@gmail.com with your Name, Major, Year, and Opinion!

The Beacon reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for space and content.





Rock Climbing
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Lifestyles

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

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Public safety, admissions anticipate Winter Weekend revels

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA
Beacon Lifestyles Editor

For Wilkes students, Winter Weekend is traditionally a three-day blur of themed team games, innuendo-laced t-shirts, scavenger hunts, and concerts. And when the school-sponsored events wind down for the night, that's when the parties start.

But for staff at Wilkes University, Winter Weekend isn't all fun and games. Throughout the weekend, different departments take various precautions to keep the campus running smoothly.

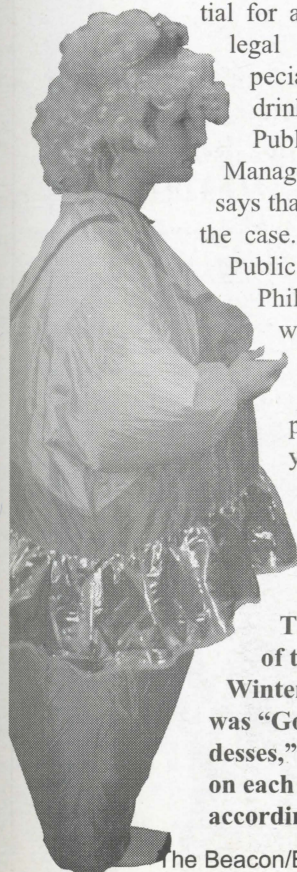
Winter Weekend is a Wilkes tradition, an annual event that works off a different theme each year and provides stressed students with a whimsical way to blow off the steam of their hectic schedules. But like any event of this kind, Winter Weekend isn't immune to getting out of hand.

In order to guard against dangerous escalation, Public Safety officials schedule more officers on duty for the weekend. The admissions department also changes its schedule to accommodate Winter Weekend.

While Winter Weekend brings the potential for a sharp rise in legal offenses, especially underage drinking citations, Public Safety Manager Jerry Rebo says that is not always the case. According to Public Safety officer Philip Miller, there were no major offenses this year, but reports were not yet available at time of publication.

"There were some

The theme of this year's Winter Weekend was "Gods and Goddesses," and students on each team dressed accordingly.



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

events that occurred, but nothing outside a normal Wilkes weekend," said Miller.

As of Sunday, February 22, the Wilkes-Barre Police Department only had one press release of an arrest related to Winter Weekend. On February 20, a 19-year-old male student who does not attend Wilkes was arrested and charged with underage drinking and public drunkenness after police responded to a complaint that he was unconscious in a stranger's apartment.

The number of student offenses varies each year. According to Rebo, last year's Winter Weekend "wasn't too bad," and student offenses were only "x amount over a normal weekend." However, for Winter Weekend two years ago, Rebo says the incidences were much higher.

Rebo reports that one to two additional Public Safety officers were scheduled each night this past weekend. Mainly, these officers were scheduled to patrol the scheduled events in the gym or the Henry Student Center Grand Ballroom, in addition to campus-wide patrol.

"It's a different duty kind of night because of the large amount of students around campus," said Rebo.

After the official events end for the night, the unofficial Winter Weekend parties begin in full swing. According to Rebo, the rowdiest parties usually occur in off campus apartments, where Public Safety officers could find up to 40 students in one apartment.

Along with noisy house parties, Winter Weekend revelers in the past have also caused public disturbances as well.

"It was a combination of everything," said Rebo. "You have a large group out in the middle of the street, and they cause traffic violations, the neighbors can't sleep, that kind of thing—also disorderly conduct, public drunkenness."

Rebo believes that students can still enjoy Winter Weekend by treading responsibly, and avoiding situations that could put themselves and others in legal trouble or physical danger.

"There's no reason for students not to have a party, but they need to do it responsibly," he said. "If you're old enough to drink, you can have a small amount of people at your apartment, not 50, 60 people where the



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

During the official school-sponsored Winter Weekend events, students formed teams and competed in a variety of games. Public Safety remains on alert the entire weekend for the after-hours parties that pop up when the scheduled events die down.

neighbors are calling on you and so forth."

However, during Winter Weekend, parties often do get out of hand, and the noticeable results of those bashes aren't always pretty the next morning.

For that reason, the admissions department scales back its campus tour schedules for prospective students. Since most of their tour guides are also involved in Winter Weekend, it would also be difficult to staff enough for the normal load.

On a typical Saturday, the department usually coordinates campus tours for eight to 16 families, in addition to tours for sports recruits or performing arts students. This past Saturday, the admissions office scheduled no general tours, but hosted a small number of football recruits and performing arts auditions.

"Winter Weekend tends to be very celebratory," said Melanie Mickelson, the director of admissions. "Even with how responsive our maintenance folks are, there still is a lot of unpredictability regarding what kind of mess there may be in a given dorm, and I don't feel very comfortable with that."

Prospective student tours always show Evans Hall and Chesapeake Delaware, but some students may ask to see others as well. Even if the dorms are clean, the walk around campus may lead to some unsavory sights in off-campus housing following a night of

heavy Winter Weekend partying.

"Given the nature of our campus, you could be just as close to an apartment as a dorm. So if folks walk around our campus, you never quite know exactly what they might see," said Mickelson. "...Inevitably, questions will come up if there are significant amount of empty cases piled in front of an apartment building that clearly is a college apartment building."

According to Mickelson, parents will often ask the question "Is this kind of thing normal?" While partying questions are raised in tours all of the time, Mickelson believes that the sights of remnants from Winter Weekend parties the night before could skew the perception of Wilkes.

Winter Weekend is not a weekly occurrence, and its events and parties are not indicative of the typical Wilkes' experience. However, if prospective students visited the campus only during Winter Weekend, they could come out with an entirely different opinion of the school.

"I just don't want our campus to be misrepresented..." said Mickelson. "And I am mostly concerned about that with parents, because I don't think we are a party school. But we all know what goes on at Winter Weekend, and I don't want them to see something that misrepresents what the average atmosphere's like."

Web site provides options for off-campus housing

BY RUTH WHISPELL
Beacon Correspondent

Having trouble finding an apartment off campus? Your problems just got easier with the help of a new off campus student housing Web site.

The site, www.wilkesoffcampus.com, was the brainchild of Justin Balint, President of the Off Campus Student Council for the 2008-2009 academic year. Eventually, he hopes to expand the site to include more features such as a newsletter, as well an up-to-date listing of apartments with persons to contact if students are interested.

"I've always felt the Off Campus Council should have been providing students with necessary contacts to find off campus housing; they're supposed to. I've been talking to landlords and seeing where there are available apartments for students around the Wilkes campus area," said Balint.

Balint worked to get everything in order and create the Web site with the help of Associate Dean of Students Barbara King. There won't be many listings this school year because it's so far into the spring semester, but Balint plans to build the content

over time.

"Because the off-campus community is such a large part of the university, I really want to keep communication open with the local landlords that provide affordable off-campus housing for students," said Balint.

Additionally, Balint hopes that students will be able to post their own ads on the site. He points out that there are many ads around campus on various bulletin boards looking for roommates. He hopes the site can eventually serve that function as well.

He also plans that landlords will be able to take advantage of the site.

"...It'd be great to eventually be able to have the landlords update their own apartments and hold accounts on the site. This year the site will be small, but I'm hoping next year to expand the site with more landlords," Balint says.

Elizabeth Roveda, assistant director of Residence Life, said that a site like this can help the off-campus housing process. She said the residence life office used to hand out sheets of paper with listings of apartments, but the site helps the campus's initiative to "go green."

"I think it's a great idea. It gives students

a tool to use instead of searching for information on a bulletin board," said Roudea.

Junior communications major Allison Ducker is a student who currently lives on campus in University Towers. "I think it's a great idea for transfer students and new incoming students looking to get out on their own," she said.

Ducker also said she's looking for an apartment with parking nearby.

"Right now, when I go grocery shopping I have to put money in the meters in front of University Towers, and then go up ten floors and unpack everything, only to go back out to my car and park it in the lot across from the Martz building. I don't like walking the three blocks when it's dark out, so I really try not to move my car at all," said Ducker.

Wilkes University does not endorse or

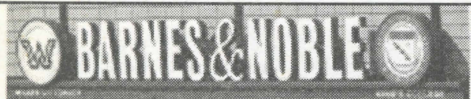


The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Students looking for off-campus apartment options for next semester will be able to utilize the new housing web site.

support any of these local businesses or landlords, and the site is meant to be a student resource provider and made by off campus students. The university has no ties to any service being provided.

The site was launched February 18 and should be in working order by Sunday, February 22. Students interested in learning more about off-campus housing and apartments should e-mail Justin Balint at Justin.Balint@wilkes.edu.



Barnes & Noble Wilkes-King's Bookstore

7 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 ~ 570.208.4700 ~ wilkes.bncollege.com

Live "Free" Music Every Wednesday Night and most Friday's
25% discount on anything you purchase from the café during the performances!



- **Open Mic Night for Poetry & Acoustic Music**
Tuesday, February 24th from 7:00pm – 8:30pm



- **Live Music with "Sparrowsong"**
Friday, February 27th live at 7:30pm

- **Saturday morning story time at 11:00am**

This week all about **"Extinct & Endangered Animals"** during story time.



- **Health & Fitness Book Club** every first Monday of each month @ 6:30pm. This Monday's Book of the month is **"The Best Life Diet"**

A first-time climber's experience with Wilkes-Barre Rocks

BY GINO TROIANI
Beacon Op-Ed Editor

For locals who are tired of winter and aching for a little activity, there may be a solution in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

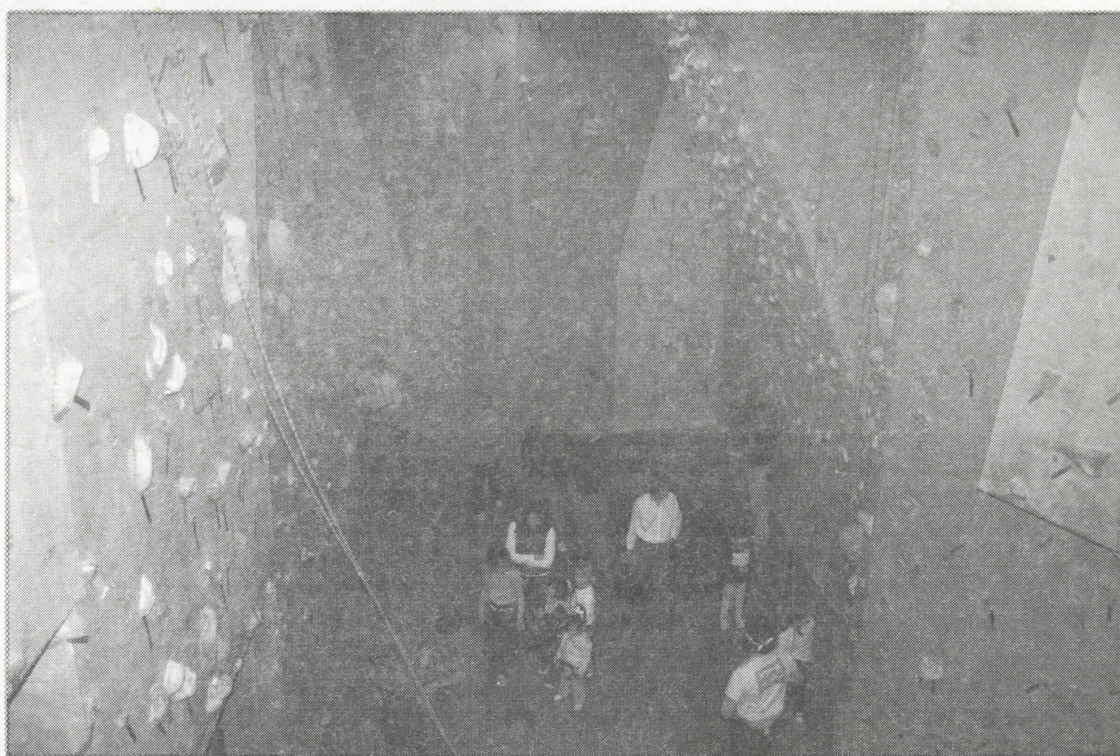
Wilkes-Barre Rocks, located at 102-104 South Main Street, in Wilkes-Barre, was established by extreme sports veteran, Mike Miscavage in 2001. Miscavage said he, "started selling rock gear thirty years ago," at Top of the Slope, a specialty extreme sports shop his father established, and that he "...just wanted to open a rock climbing gym."

My friend and I entered the building, and made our way up the long windy staircase. I have to admit I was a little nervous and unsure what to expect. I had never been rock climbing, and was a little worried about how I would handle the heights.

It cost me \$13 for shoes and an entrance pass. However, for those who want to top rope, there is a certification requirement, which can be obtained after a \$20 certi-

cation. Wilkes-Barre Rocks offers two types of climbing: top roping, where a climber is strapped into a harness and can climb as high as he or she wishes; and bouldering, which is like a free climb without safety equipment.

Suited up in special climbing shoes, which had a rough grip, and fit so snugly my toes curled, my friend and I approached the climbing area and gazed at the tall room full of imitation rocks. The walls were about thirty feet high, and the floor was made of a blue spongy mat-like material. I also noticed that there were multicolored strips of tape which marked the route of various courses, and that there were a few



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Wilkes-Barre Rocks, an indoor rock-climbing facility on South Main Street, offers an interesting and cheap way for students to keep in shape. A day rock climbing costs \$13 for shoes and a pass.



at an angle to resemble cave-like structures.

We started at the right side of the gym, and slowly climbed our way around. At first, keeping my balance and solving the problem of what grip I was going to use next was somewhat difficult,

Wilkes-Barre rocks offers a variety of courses depending on experience level. The walls are around 30 feet high.

The Beacon/Gino Troiani

but after a few tries, it became fairly easy. I felt like I was 11 years old again climbing trees in my backyard.

It wasn't long before I realized that I was having an amazing time. The actual climbing was a lot easier than I thought it would be, and my slight fear of heights had completely disappeared.

Around the gym, I noticed a yellow safety line painted on the wall roughly eight feet high, which marked the, "do not cross line," for anyone bouldering.

From climbing, both of my hands were a little torn up, and weakened from continuously supporting my body weight. My toes hurt especially because they were confined to the narrow tips of the climbing shoes, but

it was a good feeling.

"It takes about a month to get over the hump...just as if you were working out at a gym," said Miscavage.

Kenny Stucker, a sophomore at Wilkes, often goes rock climbing as a form of exercise.

"I like it because it's a challenge... I started a year ago because I had a friend that went and loved it...It's just a fun way to be active," said Stucker.

Experiencing Wilkes-Barre Rocks is a definite must. If you're looking for a unique workout, it is a great alternative to hitting the gym, and a lot more fun. I will definitely be back soon.

Student
of the
Week

Andrew Julian

Senior
Biology major

Student Government works throughout the year to sponsor events like concerts and lectures around campus for the Wilkes community. But one weekend a year, Wilkes turns from interesting lectures and concerts to fun and games. The man in charge of the arguably the largest weekend at Wilkes is senior biology major Andrew Julian.

Julian, a self-described "apathetic student" his first two years at Wilkes, decided to do something about his apathy and run for Student Government. Rising to his current position of vice president, Julian has assumed the responsibility for planning and running Wilkes University's Winter Weekend.

During his tenure, Julian took it upon himself to change Winter Weekend a little

to accommodate for what he saw as cultural changes happening on campus. Shortening the games to two days instead of three, and turning the outdoor games to more "Double Dare-esque," Julian hoped to put on a fun and surprising Winter Weekend.

His leadership of Wilkes's biggest weekends of the academic year makes Julian *The Beacon's* Student of the Week.

The Beacon: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

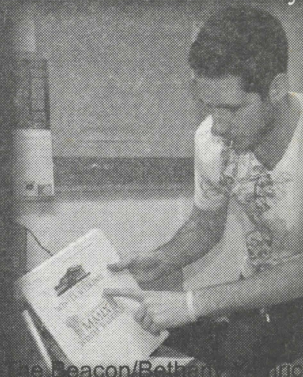
Julian: Since I'm a biology major, I see myself teaching, hopefully somewhere if not on the west coast, then more west. Colorado would be great!

The Beacon: Describe yourself in three words.

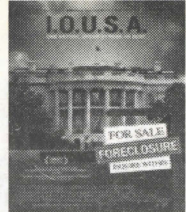
Julian: I would say passionate, determined, spontaneous.

The Beacon: Finish this sentence: "My friends would be surprised to know..."

Julian: that a lifetime goal of mine is to visit every continent.



The Beacon/Bethany



COMING TO
WILKES TODAY!

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A & E
FEBRUARY 24, 2009

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Poetry in Transit seeks original work, poems in Spanish

BY YOHANNA DE LOS SANTOS M.
Assistant A&E Editor

Anyone who has lived in Luzerne County through a season of winter can likely identify with Emily Dickinson's sentiments:

There's a certain slant of light,
On winter afternoons
That oppresses, like the weight
Of cathedral tunes

Heavenly hurt, it gives us;
We can find no scar,
But internal difference,
Where the meanings, are

"There's a Certain Slant of Light"—
Excerpt from Emily Dickinson's

But before a couple of years ago, it was unlikely public transit riders would have a poem like this in front of them to reference and discuss on the commute to work.

Since 2007, the Poetry in Transit project has encouraged just such conversations on city buses. In lieu of garish advertisements, the Luzerne County Transit Authority has opted to post bits of poetry and accompanying graphic art as a means of both encouraging literary appreciation and inspiring community conversation.

This year Poetry in Transit's founder and coordinator, Dr. Mischelle Anthony, Wilkes University Associate Professor of English, has added a new feature to the already popular civic effort. The program will incorporate the Spanish language into its poetry so that Spanish-speaking community members can feel included in the wider "conversation."

Anthony said, "This year is our third year of the program. Every year it's been funded through local agencies. The first time it was funded exclusively through Wilkes University and also Lamar Advertising. They give us the advertising space for free."

The second year the program was completely funded by Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA). However, Anthony said, "This year we are applying to a cou-

ple of area grants. It will be grant funded instead of local business funded. But the most exciting part about Poetry in Transit 2009 is that there is going to be English and Spanish poems in the buses."

While the first year used famous poetry from artists such as Dickinson and Robert Frost, the project has sought to expand to include local artists' work. The call to participate in the program has gone out to students at LCCC, King's College, and Wilkes University. Also, staff and faculty are more than welcome to submit their artwork, Anthony noted. The Hispanic community has also been informed through the Spanish radio show at the University of Scranton.

"What we are doing is asking students in ESL classes, Hispanic outreach programs as well as students who live in the college campus to offer poems...We will collect them and send the best ones to Poetry in Transit," said Anne Massey, Associate Professor of Spanish at King's College.

"In the past we've only done a very limited invitation because it was a very small program, but is getting larger every year, so...the board is going to look at all the poems...This year is going to be more official," said Anthony. In the past two years, it was only Anthony looking at the poems. In 2008, 18 poems were illustrated and displayed on various buses; this year Anthony expects to have 38, some of them in both Spanish and English.

"We are requesting, because of the

theme, that the poems be in Spanish and English combined, or have a definite theme that is Latino or Hispanic related. That is kind of our request for our contest," said Massey.

Sophomore accounting major, Lorelay Corona said, "I believe that it is a good idea to also have Spanish poems because that is a way of showing pieces of the Hispanic culture to the community."

While local colleges have been encouraged to participate, there is no sense of overt competition associated with the call. "...I'm more about connections for this project," said Anthony. "Anne Massey's class at King's College is going to provide Spanish language poetry and also the call for poems has gone out to everyone," said Anthony.

For future years the program may incorporate other languages. However, "Spanish makes the most sense now because we have many Spanish speakers around. I ride the number six bus all the time from Luzerne. I see people in there who speak Spanish or are bilingual," said Anthony.

The deadline to submit the work is April 15, 2009. Everyone is more than welcome to submit their poems. "We are looking for

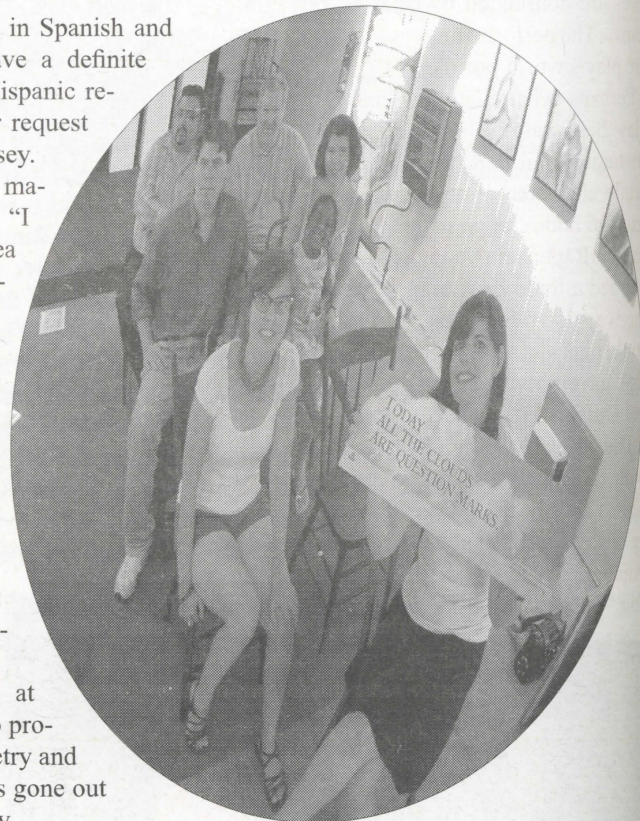


Photo Courtesy Mark Golaszewski
Poetry in Transit Board Members from LCCC, King's, Paper Kite Press, and Wilkes gather to celebrate the success of the program in its second year.

poems that are not directly political, not religious, and non-violent...Original work," said Anthony.

Rejection

Rejection is a
difficult pill to swallow.
Accept this haiku.

Photo Courtesy/ Mark Golaszewski

The poetry that is accepted by the Poetry in Transit program is then illustrated, much like the one above, and put onto banners which are placed inside of the Luzerne County buses. The poems displayed will hopefully spark the interest of bus riders in the art of poetry.

Theater Review: Le Revue Fairytale

BY ASHLEY FILIPEK
Beacon Correspondent

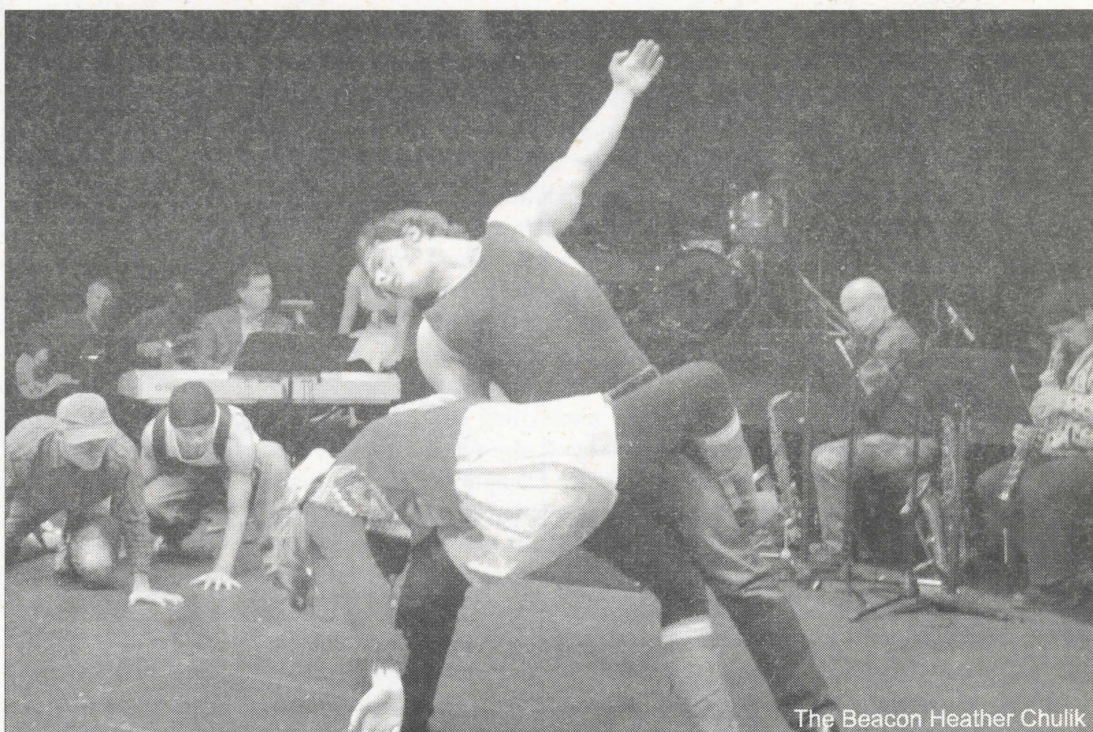
This weekend wrapped up the Wilkes University theater department's spring musical *Le Revue Fairytale*. The musical turns classical fairy tale characters into modern day theatre performers, whose lives are dominated by relationship problems. The performances at Wilkes marked the play's world premiere.

Perhaps what distinguished the quirky play best was the director's attention to costume detail that helped traditional fairytale characters morph into modern-day, adult versions of themselves. For example, Rapunzel (Casey Lynch) of course donned a traditional long braid falling all the way down her back, but her black lipstick, pink and orange highlights, and high tops gave Rapunzel an edge as she belted out Duffy's "Mercy."

The Prince (Daniel Pascoe), in accord with the cliché versions of the character, kept a sword at his hip at all times, but he also wore jeans and a tank top, ala James Dean. His rendition of "Hey Bulldog," helped transform the Prince into a

heartthrob rocker. Cinderella (Jennifer Smeraldo) danced around in her "glass" pumps, and Snow White (Greta Kleckner) tightened a blue corset around her waist. Pinocchio (Casey Thomas) wore a fedora and a long wooden nose. The Wolf (Tim King) stomped around in Timberlands, as he danced with the character who seemed to intimidate all; Malificent (Ashley Firestein), clad in her all black costume. Little Red (Tara Contrera) under the Wolf's close watch, looked adorable and innocent in her red hoodie, pig tails and striped stretch pants. Throw in the "Three Little Pigs" (Louis Gestral, John Layton, and Pat Nardone) and the "Three Blue Fairies" (Brie Friedman, Alyssa Glueck and Danielle Banas) and the audience was treated to a crazy, but cohesive ensemble.

Stage Director (Andrew Margallis) attempted to control the



The Beacon Heather Chulik

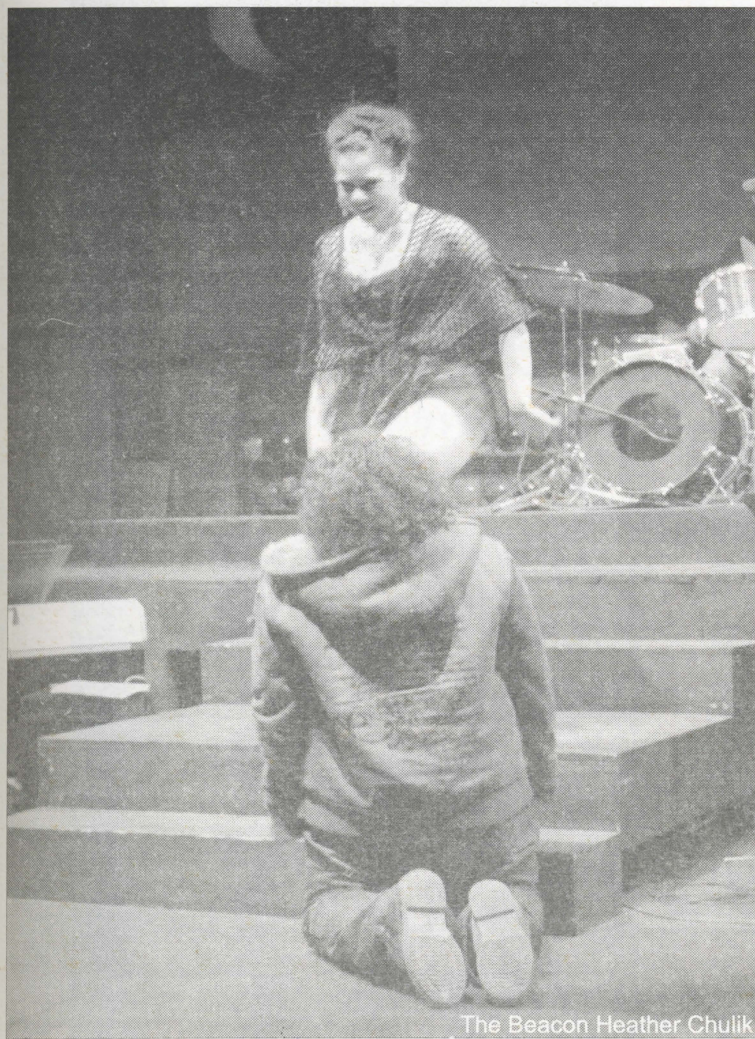
The cast comes together when the Prince (Daniel Pascoe) and Little Red Riding Hood (Tara Contrera) dance and sing their way into the audience's hearts.

chaos, while his writer (Jess Lech) tried to finish up the screenplay in the midst of all the madness.

Interestingly, the stage wasn't home to just the actors, but the audience as well. I was seated in the front row (right next to a Blue Fairy) and the actors danced just inches in front of me. The play took modern day music and incorporated the lyrics into the play's plotline. Some of the innovative numbers were Vampire Weekend's "Oxford Coma", "Grace" by U2 and "What I Can Do For You" by Sheryl Crow. Each character sorted through his or her own problems (with the help of song ... of course) and by the end of the play, they found themselves happily connected with the ones they

loved.

I truly enjoyed the play. It purposefully incorporated the audience and the acting and costuming were excellent. There was a great deal that modern audiences could appreciate, especially in terms of the musical score, so it's likely that this world premiere will see more stage time around the country. I congratulate the theater department on a great choice that utilized the talents of the student cast well.



The Beacon Heather Chulik

Malificent (Ashley Firestein) uses her seductive lure to tame the Big Bad Wolf played by Tim King.

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I.O.U.S.A. documentary to be screened Tuesday in DDD

BY MATTHEW GOGAS
Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Among the serious problems currently facing the United States, the failing economy is perhaps the most threatening. Americans face job loss, fallout from spending more than they are making, ill-advised home mortgages defaulting, and a rollercoaster stock market's record losses nearly every week as the recession continues.

To highlight and analyze the nation's economic problems, Wilkes University will host the area's only screening of acclaimed documentary filmmaker Patrick Creadon's I.O.U.S.A. One Nation. Under Stress. In Debt. The screening will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 24, in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. Following the film, audience members will be encouraged to stay and discuss the economic challenges with a panel of university faculty members including Dr. Thomas Baldino, professor of political science and Interim Dean of Humanities; Dr. Robert Seeley,

associate professor of economics; and Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall, professor of communication studies and expert in political rhetoric.

The film identifies a growing national debt and illustrates the impact that it has on the country as a whole with the documentation of the Fiscal Wake-Up Tour along with interviews from experts on government spending. The Fiscal Wake-Up Tour features the director of the Concord Coalition, a political advocacy group aimed at eliminating deficit spending, Robert Bixby. It also features David Walker, former US Comptroller General whose job is the regulation of government spending. In the film, the two travel the country advising communities of the threat they face with the increasing national debt. Patrick Creadon, director of the Sundance Film Festival winner Wordplay, co-wrote and directed the film by following the tour across the United States.

Baldino, one of the panelists, is looking forward to the film. "Patrick Creadon has a reputation for making entertaining, but balanced documentaries, as opposed

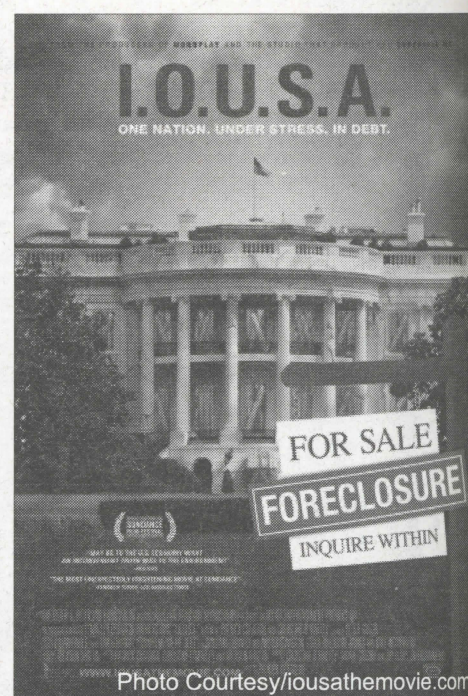
to Micheal Moore who makes entertaining documentaries, but not necessarily balanced ones." He also added, "The film is going to ask some really tough questions. The most important one being, can we continue to mortgage our future to pay for our current lifestyle?"

In an interview with the Huffington Post, Creadon stated that he found the film challenging to make. "Making this film was difficult on every level. I'm not complaining, mind you. I consider making I.O.U.S.A. one of the best experiences of my life. But simply trying to get our heads around this topic -- the sheer enormity of it all -- was daunting and stressful and scary."

The independently produced film was purchased by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation in July 2008 after it screened at the Sundance Film Festival. The foundation aims to bolster awareness of key economic challenges that America faces as well as trying to bring about action towards them.

Seeley, also a panelist, is looking forward to the film from an economist's and teacher's standpoint. "I think that this film will bring the issue of our national debt to the attention

of our young people, especially students. They are the ones that are in serious trouble. They are going to face these problems long after I am gone. I just hope more than six or seven students show up."



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Thriving Ivory

Where: Tinks

When: Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00

David Archuleta

Where: Crocodile Rock

Allentown

When: Mar. 1, 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20-23.00

Defending the Cavemen

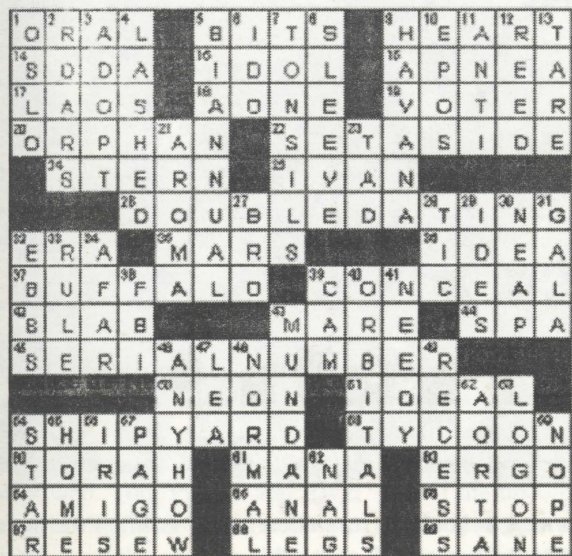
Where: Scranton Cultural

Center

When: Mar. 5, 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$38.00

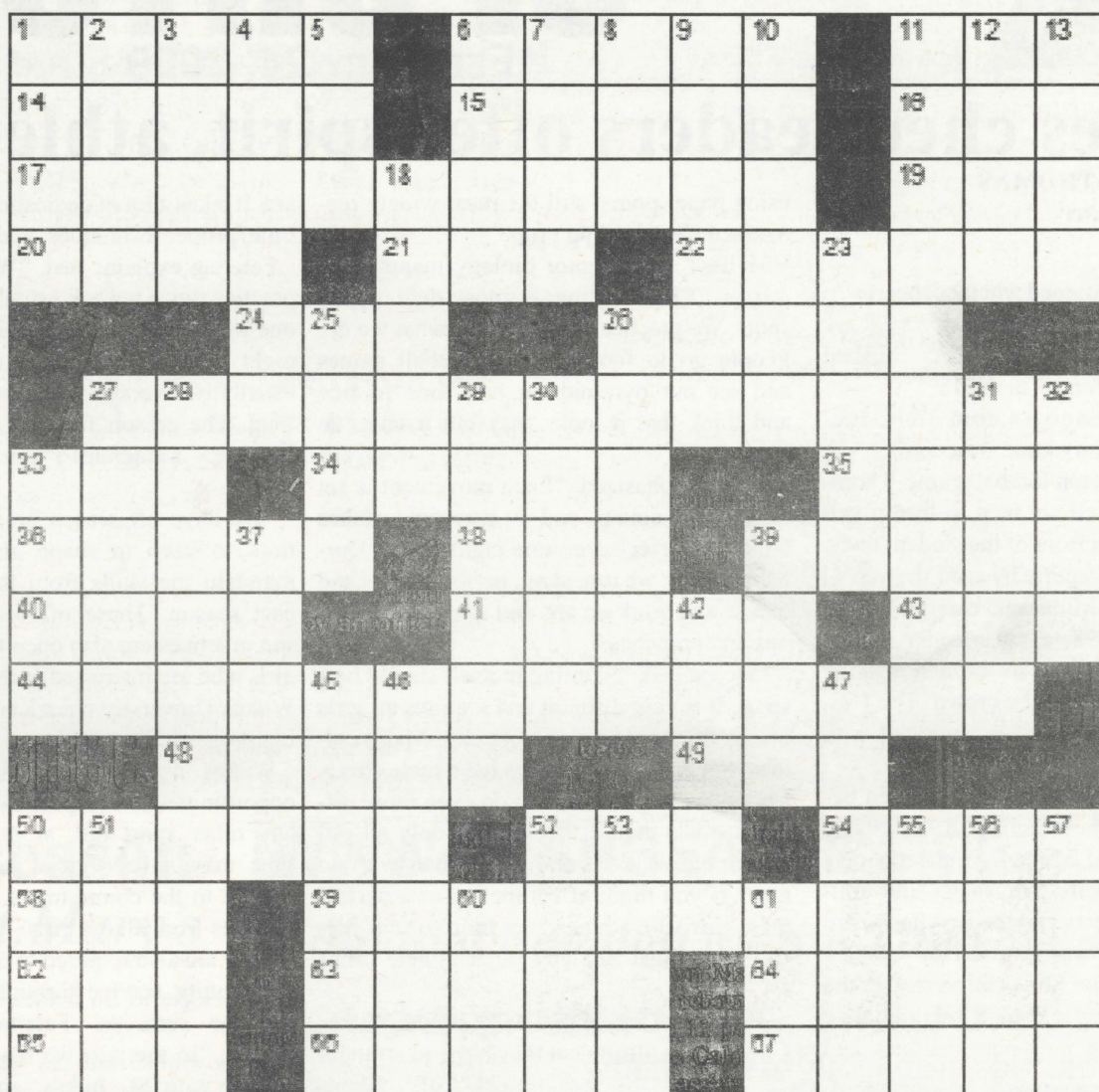
February 17 Crossword Answers



Crossword

BY DEVIN J. KING

Beacon Staff



Across

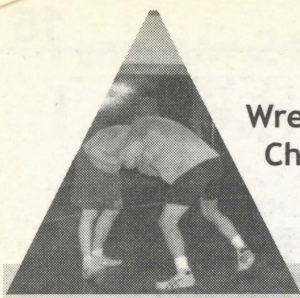
- 1 Envelope payment
6 Washing about
11 Three blood types
14 Two Killer Whales
15 Price of an item
16 Holder of human's ashes
17 Chemical compound, "NO"
19 Lentils and spice sauce
20 Neither good or bad
21 Every; all
22 Having three arms
24 Jedi Master
26 Clay target used for shooting
27 For two or more functions
33 "Take on Me"
34 Produce in larynx
35 Morsels left after a meal
36 Delicious
38 Bought out by Amer. Airlines
39 Alt. spelling for "styes"
40 To place or position on
41 First symptoms of sickness
43 Native American from Utah
44 Psychedelic fungi
48 Former NY governor
49 What Lil Wayne excels at
50 Gold medals awarded for these

- 52 Alien's choice of transportation
54 Old Norse poems
58 Read-Only Memory
59 Detailed plans for journeys
62 Basque separatist organization
63 To fill with joy
64 Simmer food in water
65 Hard to achieve in Winter
66 Council of a church
67 To place into the sky

Down

- 1 Jeb and George to George Sr.
2 Three musical performers
3 5th in New Testament
4 Brownish-red
5 Pound per square inch
6 U.S. cosmetics seller
7 Covered with wax
8 Famous, quick boxer
9 Popular newspaper puzzle
10 One who "heeds"
11 Plays performed here
12 Spoiled, pampered child
13 Exclusively
18 Largest city of Egypt
23 Bus station

- 25 A group of quail
26 Annoying pool act
27 West African country
28 Lived in East Germany
29 To represent dramatically
30 What mowers are used on
31 Nullifies in printed manner
32 Spanish slang for "homey"
33 Nucleus and electrons
37 Proceeds with difficulty
39 Greek covered walkway
42 Make a mistake
45 Metropolitan areas
46 For the greatest part
47 Unit of gene activity
50 Found on a guitar neck
51 Ninth letter of Greek alphabet
52 Place inside of
53 Illustrious act
55 Spanish for "days"
56 Floor of a ship
57 Covered with ash
60 Lead singer of "Jethro Tull"
61 Xanax-taking, car-driving pet



Wrestlers at the Metro Championship pg. 17

SPORTS

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

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16

Wilkes cheerleaders offer spirit, athleticism to games

BY MELANIE THOMAS

Beacon Staff Writer

Many have questioned whether cheerleading is really a sport and have tried to prove this since the first pep club was established at Princeton University in the 1870s.

http://www.geocities.com/aicmzine/cheerleading_history.htm, "According to legend, at a Princeton football game, Thomas Peebler gathered six men to lead a yell on the sidelines in front of the student body. In 1884, Peebler reportedly took the yell to the University of Minnesota campus and on November 2, 1898, a cheerleader named Johnny Campbell got so excited that he jumped out in front of the crowd. The University of Minnesota is also credited with the first school "fight song."

The web site also said that, "Women became active in cheerleading in the 1920s. The University of Minnesota cheerleaders began to incorporate gymnastics and tumbling into their cheers and the first flash-card cheering section was directed by Lindley Bothwell at Oregon State University. In the 1930s, universities and high schools alike began performing pom-pom routines and

using paper poms, still the most widely recognized cheerleading prop."

Melissa Jones senior biology major comments, "Cheerleading is most definitely a sport. We practice very hard for what we do. People go to football or basketball games and see our pyramids or half time routine and think that it looks easy but it takes so much."

Jones emphasized, "Each movement is set to specific counts and it sometimes takes hours to perfect even one eight count. During practice, we run, stunt, perfect cheers and dance, and work on abs and arms with push-ups and crunches."

Jones added, "Stunting in itself should be a sport. It is very difficult and requires all girls on the bottom to be quite strong. Many college and high school teams have male cheerleaders so they are able to do even more difficult stunts than if they had an only all girl squad, but we do it all by ourselves with no men! If you think of competing as a performance, we are athletes that train for our performances just like any other athlete trains for theirs."

There are 15 girls that make up the Wilkes Cheerleading team and they have an arrangement of talents including dance, stunting, and gymnastics.

Tanya Feiertag senior sociology major and Wilkes University cheerleader thinks that, "Cheerleading should be considered a sport on campus because it requires a great amount of physical and athletic ability. The routines and stunts that we perform require a tremendous amount of strength and physical endurance. People do not take into consideration how much an athlete cheerleaders really

are. It takes a lot of dedication to the squad, time, proper techniques, and strength."

Feiertag explains that, "We practice twice a week usually one week night and a Sunday night practice. Practices are usually on average 2-3 hours long. The reason for this is because academics come first."

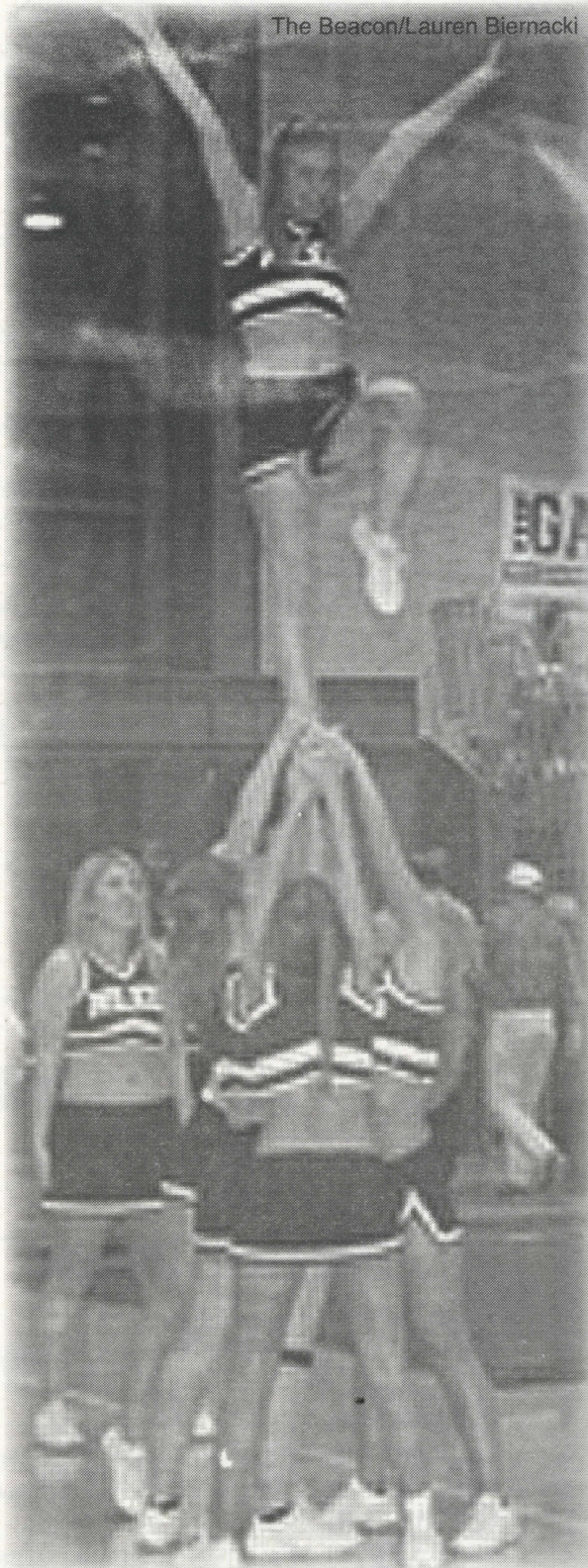
"We have off season practices to keep in shape and maintain the skills from the past season. These off season practices are also open to girls who are interested in the Wilkes University cheerleading program," she said.

Wilkes cheerleaders have opportunities to compete like any other sport but, at this time they have decided not to, due to the commitment it requires from all the girls.

They are also required to do community service throughout the semester. Feiertag recalls, "In the past we have helped with St. Jude's, and other organizations."

"Cheerleading is fun and it keeps you in shape. I like the sense of accomplishment when we complete difficult dances or new stunts," said Feiertag.

Jones acknowledged that, "All in all, we are a close knit group of girls who love what we do. We are all committed and dedicated to making our team the best it can be and that makes me proud to be a part of such a wonderful group of girls. Cheerleading has been a wonderful experience for me over the past four years and I'm truly going to miss the girls, coaches, and happiness that was brought into my life."



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki

The Wilkes cheerleaders support a teammate during a basketball game this season, showing the trust cheerleading requires.

Showing school spirit, a cheerleader is lifted during a cheer at a basketball game this season.

Wilkes Wrestling - Metropolitan Conference Championship (update as of press time)

125 pounds - Shaun Farnham ranked nationally at 10th, is in the finals against Elizabethtown's Tyler Erdman. Farnham pinned his first two opponents of the day.

133 pounds - Josh Pauling is in the finals against York's Kyle Flickinger. Pauling won his first match of the tournament by an 11-7 decision and then won a 6-4 decision in the semis.

141 pounds - Anthony Dattolo is in the finals against Greg Martino of New York University. Dattolo Pinned his first opponent of the day in 1:30 before winning 15-3 in the semifinals.

149 pounds - Erik Smith is in the finals against Tyler Branham from The College of New Jersey. Smith won his first two matches by decision, 3-0 and 6-2.

Visit gowilkesu.com for complete results of the Metro Conference Championship.

184 pounds - Buddy Gouger is in the finals against Scott Kelley from TCNJ. Gouger won his first two matches by decision.

197 pounds - Zach Pizzaro is in the finals against TCNJ's Ed Broderick. After having a bye, Pizzaro won his first match of the day by decision.

285 pounds - Andrew Feldman is in the finals match against Deron Sharp from Elizabethtown. Feldman pinned his first to opponents of the day in the first period.

Baseball opens 2009 season Team goes 1-2 in series at St. Mary's

BY ALISSA LINDNER
Beacon Sports Editor

The Colonels baseball team began their 2009 season on February 21 against St. Mary's in Maryland. The team split its first two games, winning the first 2-1 before dropping a 3-0 decision. Sunday's matchup was won by St. Mary's, 8-3.

Starting pitcher Tom Buckler performed well in the season opener, pitching four scoreless innings. Ryan Fetterman threw the final three innings of the first game and gave up just one run.

The Colonels combined for six hits in the game with right fielder Al Clocker leading the way with two hits and Andrew Garofoli, Randy Dengler, Matt Ruch and Eric Wetzel all posting one a piece. Clocker and Mike McAndrew posted runs for Wilkes.

In their second game, the Colonels did not fare as well. Tom Plessel and Ruch posted the only hits for Wilkes, who were held scoreless in the second game. St.

Mary's two runs were scored off of errors by the Colonels.

On Sunday, February 22, the Colonels suffered their second loss of the season and final game in Maryland. St. Mary's handed Wilkes an 8-3 loss.

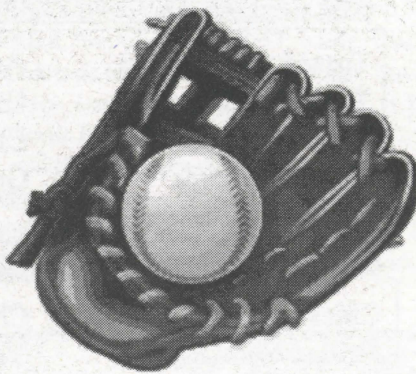
Garofoli lead the way with two hits and Trevin Jaggars, Geoff Miller, Dengler, and Wetzel all posted one hit a piece.

Jaggars, a first baseman for the Colonels, believes the three game series in Maryland showed the team where they stand early in the season.

"We came out strong [on Saturday]. The pitching and defense were good. The batting could have used im-

provement," Jaggars said.

The Colonels will take on Neumann on March 1 before heading out on their Spring Break trip to South Carolina from March 3-8. Of the upcoming trip Jaggars said, "We are a young and strong team. We will be prepared for South Carolina."



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RINKSIDE REPORT

Penguins happy to have Goligoski back

BY MICHAEL CIGNOLI

Beacon Staff Writer

The Pittsburgh Penguins' blueline took a major hit before the start of the season when defensemen Ryan Whitney and Sergei Gonchar were lost to long term injuries.

But in the world of professional sports, injuries often create opportunities for other players to step up and showcase their abilities.

Such was the case for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins defenseman Alex Goligoski.

After a successful rookie season, which concluded with setting an American Hockey League record for points in a single play-off year by a defenseman, Goligoski started the season in the National Hockey League. He appeared in 44 games for the Pittsburgh Penguins, scoring six goals and posting a total of 20 points.

But after Whitney returned from his injury, Goligoski found himself the victim of a numbers game. He was often a healthy scratch, or playing wing on the fourth line. When Gonchar was set to return to Pittsburgh's line-up earlier this month, the club

would have had eight healthy defensemen.

"I was getting pretty comfortable up there, with the speed of the game and everything like that," Goligoski said. "The last few weeks there were tough, playing forward, or not playing. So it was just go to practice, try to work hard every night, and see what happens."

What wound up happening wasn't the ideal situation.

NHL teams are limited to 23-man rosters. Because of Goligoski's contract, he didn't have to clear waivers in order to be sent down to the AHL. That essentially made Goligoski the odd man out, and he was assigned to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton on February 7.

While being demoted to the AHL despite being the highest scoring rookie defenseman in the NHL might be a disappointment to most, Goligoski didn't appear to be phased.

"You just have to have the right attitude," he said. "I know these guys are playing well. It's fun to come to a winning team and be a part of this now."

Goligoski arrived halfway through Wilkes-Barre/Scranton's franchise record-tying nine game win streak. The Penguins had won four consecutive games before Goligoski's season debut, and won five more before finally dropping a 4-1 decision to the Hamilton Bulldogs on Saturday.

So far, the defenseman affectionately known as "Goose" has a goal and three assists in six games this season. He's been paired with Deryk Engelland, who he skated with during the majority of last season.

Goligoski has also reclaimed a spot quarterbacking Wilkes-Barre/Scranton's power play, much like he did during the team's run to the Calder Cup Finals last Spring.

"It's a huge addition for our power play and for our (defensive) corps," goaltender John Curry said. "He's a great player. He did well up there, probably deserves to be up there. Whether it's temporary or not, he'll be here and he'll help the team."

As center Jeff Taffe explained, Goligoski's contributions to the team are immense.

"We could talk for hours if you want to talk about that," said Taffe. "His vision, his



The Beacon/Michael Cignoli

Even though he hasn't played an NHL game since February 3, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton's Alex Goligoski remains the NHL's highest scoring rookie defenseman.

puck movement - He doesn't belong here. There's only so much I can say before they get mad at me from up top. So I think I'll leave it at that."

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Hot-shooting lifts Lebanon Valley over Colonels

Courtesy of Sports Information Director,
Craig Merriman

Tom Kresge tied a career-high with 28 points, 17 of which came in the second half but it wasn't enough as Lebanon Valley used a 17-8 run late in the second half to take a 76-70 win over Wilkes University.

The Colonels were without leading scorer Chris DeRojas, who was out due to illness, finished the regular season with a 14-10 overall mark as well as 10-6 Freedom Conference record. Their league record gives them a berth into the Freedom Conference Championship as the No. 4 seed and will host Delaware Valley on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Marts Center. The winner of that matchup will travel to Center Valley to take on No. 1 seed DeSales.

Wilkes split with the Aggies earlier in the season, winning 91-81 in overtime on the road, while Delaware Valley took an 81-75 win in the Marts Center.

The Dutchmen shot nearly 52 percent from the field and had four players score in double-figures. The Colonels dominated the inside, scoring 48 of their points in the paint, hitting 46.3 percent from the field for the game. Anthony Gabriel was the only other Wilkes player to score in double-figures with 11. Kresge was dominate under the basket as he recorded the game's only double-double with 12 rebounds.

Despite using their inside presence, the Colonels only went to the line 10 times, making six, while Lebanon Valley hit 13-of-24 from the charity stripe.

The Colonels led by as many as six several times in the first half but could never pull away from Lebanon Valley. Gabriel hit a jumper with 1:13 to go in the first half to give Wilkes a 31-25 advantage, but the Dutchmen closed out the half on a 5-0 run to go into the locker down one (31-30).

Both teams exchanged points in the second half. With 9:01 to go, Steve Kline who finished with nine points, tied the game at 50 with a layup, but Lebanon Valley would go on a 16-6 run to lead by 10 (66-56) with 4:44 to go. The Colonels never recovered as the Dutchmen led by as many as 12 on two different occasions.

The Colonels will be competing in the Freedom Conference Championships for the 14th time in the last 15 seasons. Last year they fell to DeSales 69-53 in the first round.

(At Right) The Colonels took on Misericordia on Tuesday February 17 prior to their final game against Lebanon Valley. The team defeated the Cougars 62-57 while visiting Misericordia. The Colonels saw four players score double digits with Tom Kresge contributed for 18 points, Chris DeRojas for 14 and Paul Huch and Anthony Gabriel both contributed for 12. A Wilkes players goes up for a shot during the game against the Cougars. The win at Misericordia was the fourth straight victory for the Colonels before losing the Lebanon Valley in their final game of the season.



The Beacon/Brianna Edgar

WILKES COLONELS

Men's Basketball
W 62-57 @ Misericordia
L 76-70 @ Lebanon Valley

Women's Basketball
W 49-43 @ Misericordia

Women's basketball tops Misericordia in overtime

Overcomes poor shooting, turnovers in OT win

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

The Lady Colonels' basketball team traveled to Misericordia and defeated their conference rival 49-43 in overtime last Tuesday, February 17. The hard-fought win snapped Wilkes' five game losing skid heading into the contest, improving their record to 11-13 overall (6-10 in the conference). The loss dropped Misericordia to 12-12 overall on the season, with a 7-8 conference mark.

Wilkes led 14-7 with ten minutes remaining in the first half in what would be its largest lead of the game; Misericordia tied things up at 14 apiece with a quick run shortly afterwards. The two teams exchanged baskets the rest of the way until the Cougars closed out the half with a 7-0 run to take a 24-17 lead. Both teams had trouble shooting in the first half, with Wilkes narrowly edging Misericordia 33.3 percent to 30.8 percent in field goal percentage.

The Lady Colonels jumped out of the gate in the second half with a 13-2 run, taking a 30-26 lead with roughly fifteen minutes remaining in the game.

"We were just really focused and wanted to win the game because it was a conference game," said senior forward/guard Chelsey Gosse. "Our goal after halftime was to come out and go really hard and take the lead back."

The two teams would go scoreless for a seven minute stretch following Wilkes' comeback until Misericordia's Lacey DeGraw hit a free throw. Wilkes took a 37-33 lead with less than three minutes remaining before the Cougars' Jesse Robinson converted a fast break layup to tie things up at 37 apiece. Wilkes shot poorly in the second half (35 percent) but converted several blocks and steals into points to keep up with Misericordia, who recorded a staggering 14

steals in a game in which Wilkes committed 28 turnovers.

The Lady Colonels outscored Misericordia 12-6 in overtime despite making only two shots from the field, hitting eight free throws en route to the win. Freshman guard Samantha Simcox and Gosse led Wilkes in scoring with 16 and 14 points, respectively, while freshmen center Lindsey Gosse led the team with 15 rebounds. Jesse Robinson and Lacey DeGraw both scored 14 points for the Cougars.

"We were confident; every time we've gone into overtime we've wanted to grab the win and come out on top," said Gosse. "We knew before we stepped out onto the court for overtime that we wanted to take this one."

Wilkes University's women's basketball team lost their regular season game to Lebanon Valley last Friday, 71-51. The Lady Colonels ended their season with a record of 11-14, their highest win total in several seasons.



Lindsey Gosse (52) and Khadija Bates (34) try for a rebound in their overtime win against Misericordia.

What to see and do this week...

24

IRHC Mardi Gras Celebration from 7-9 P.M. in the first floor lounge at the SUB.

25

Attend "Personal Development & Leadership for Managers", a lecture/seminar class at 9 A.M. at UCOM 231.

26

Soulja Boy at the Scranton Cultural Center at 8 P.M.

27

Enjoy the beginning of your Spring Break, and be safe!

28

Attend Aida at the F.M. Kirby Center at 7:30 P.M. Tickets range from \$25-57.50.