

The BEACON

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

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Student shaken after Terrace Street shooting

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon Managing Editor

Melisa Bracone had just fallen asleep before being awakened by the startling 'pop' of a gunshot and cries of 'bloody murder' in the street below. Crouching down beside the window for ten minutes to observe the situation, she called 911.

"I was scared," the junior English major said. "My heart was beating so fast I did not know what to do."

According to a Wilkes-Barre police report, on September 13 at approximately 4 a.m., a victim stated that two men, whom he asked to leave his premises, returned for a cell phone. When the victim opened his door, one of the men greeted him with a black revolver and yelled, "This is the way you want to play," before pulling the trigger twice, but the gun did not fire. The suspect then pointed the barrel towards the victim's dog and killed it with one shot before screeching off in a black four-door sedan with tinted windows. The victim's sister described the suspect as "a dark skinned black male, 5'8" with cornrows and a thin build; 19 years of age."

"These people that shot that dog the other day, they were people that they knew," said Manager of Public Safety Gerald Rebo. "Basically, where Wilkes students are living is generally a good area, but like any other area you could have one or two persons in there who have guns."

The shooting, which occurred at 22 Terrace Street, was just one of such incidents to occur over the past few months involving illegal use of firearms. This summer, a person was fatally wounded after sustaining gunshot wounds outside of the White House Café on Hazle Street. On September 3, a shooting on Madison Street left an 18-year old critically injured. And just last week, a man was reportedly walking at East Northhampton and South Hancock streets in broad daylight with what appeared to be a supposed rifle; however, no charges were expected to be filed after police learned he was simply hunting squirrels with a pellet gun.

But Wilkes-Barre Police Chief Gerald Dessoye does not necessarily see the illegal use of firearms as a major issue in the city.

See **TERRACE** page 5



The Beacon/ Jenna Stephens

Workers at the APlus convenience store on Academy Street work from behind bullet proof glass to ensure their safety.

Jersey natives bring Cooltura to downtown

BY NICOLE FRAIL &

Beacon Asst. News Editor

PAT ZEIGLER

Beacon Correspondent

Two sisters recently relocated from New Jersey plan to open the door of their brand new business to the public this week.

Cooltura, which is a play on the Spanish word for "culture," is located on the second block of South Main Street near Flaming Star Tattoo, Café Metropolis, Top of the Slope, Inc., and the Wilkes-Barre Rock Climbing Gym.

Though the large sign above the main entrance reads "Cooltura: Accesorios, Musica, Phone Cards," the Trelles sisters insist that the new store is not exclusively Spanish-based.

"It's open for everyone no matter who you are," said Cooltura's owner, Nancy Trelles.

Along with the merchandise noted on the sign out front, Main Street's newest addition will offer a wide variety of items.

Walking into the store can easily be compared to entering six different stores in the Wyoming Valley Mall simultaneously. A majority of the space displays CDs and DVDs by Spanish artists, but the assortment of merchandise doesn't stop there. Hair

accessories, purses, and jewelry cover an entire wall while key chains, bumper stickers, stuffed animals, greeting cards, and other trinkets also fill the shelves. There's even a gothic inspired collection towards the back of the store that consists of clothing and other accessories.

Andréa Trelles will be helping her older sister get the business up and running and is excited about the opening this week. Because the store is "not for one specific type of person," they hope to draw attention to a diverse crowd of both college students and Wilkes-Barre residents.

See **COOLTURA** page 3

First Lady of Wilkes brings Midwest green thumb to campus

BY LINDSEY WHITE
Beacon Correspondent

Mrs. Patty Gilmour, wife of Wilkes University president, Dr. Joseph Gilmour, is no shrinking violet.

An avid reader, landscaper, and lover of the outdoors, Mrs. Gilmour is far from the typical first lady. After living in Kansas City for thirty years, she relocated to Wilkes-Barre with her husband when he was hired as the university president.

"It was a lot more of a transition than I thought it would be. I had just entered a new marriage... and assumed a new public role. I went from

working by myself all of the time to living in a fishbowl," she said.

She found that at times it was often difficult to take on the role that the typical first lady assumes. She acknowledged, "As the president's wife, I had this preconceived notion that I should be the entertainer that is always perfectly dressed. I enjoy entertaining, although it is not my principle focus, but I do not like dressing up. I realized that in order to be happy I had to be true to myself." As a result, she chose to devote her time and energy to something that she was truly passionate about, landscaping. That

passion has translated to her influence across the campus.

Gilmour grew up in a rural area where she developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors. Her love for nature and preserving the environment is reflected throughout the Wilkes university campus. She has been integral to the landscaping around the Darte Center and has also consulted on the greenway expansion project that was

I went from working by myself all of the time to living in a fishbowl.

-Patty Gilmour

started in the fall of 2006.

As a volunteer, Gilmour is not paid for her work in the landscaping area. "I am not rewarded for doing this, other than emotionally. I absolutely love to do it and I feel that it is my way to make a difference," she explained.

One of the biggest tasks she has undertaken at the university is the greenway expansion project. Although she was not part of the Master Plan development, Gilmour was asked to offer her input as to what should be included in the greenway design. She chose a variety of native plants to create a habitat for birds and butterflies, as well as something

that the community could enjoy.

Gilmour also plans to have the Pergola, the structure made of columns donated by the Karambelas family located near Evans Hall, covered with different vines. The Pergola will be used as an outdoors theatre or gathering place for individuals.

Gilmour explained that the last part of the expansion project will consist of a labyrinth, a place designed for spiritual reflection and meditation. The concept is based on balancing two sides of the brain and will incorporate grass and stone. Gilmour noted that she hopes it will be completed by the end of the school year.

In addition to the landscaping she does for the university, Gilmour and her husband have participated in Wilkes community life on variety of levels. For example, after former Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered his speech to the Wilkes community last year, he and the Gilmours had dinner together. Gilmour said that Powell later wrote to them about how much fun he had. She added, "I think he even enjoyed the fact that I had the nerve to eat his desert." Along with this, the Gilmours host a holiday party each year for the faculty and staff, as well as a Wilkes Family Picnic over the summer.

Interacting with the student body at the university is one thing Gilmour said she would like to become more comfortable with. Activities such as "a picnic to welcome the incoming freshmen, an environmental committee, movie nights, and chat sessions at her home" are some of the activities she would like to pursue with students as she becomes more comfortable at the university.

Monica Turner, a sophomore communication studies major at

Wilkes is one student who has become close with the president's wife. "To me Wilkes-Barre is a big city because I'm from a very rural area. I feel like she understands how I feel when others don't because she is also from the country. She's definitely someone I can bond with on that level."

Executive members also believe that she has become an important part of the Wilkes community. Both Michael Frantz, Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing Communications, and Paul Adams, Vice President of Student Affairs, believe that Mrs. Gilmour has become a goodwill ambas-

sador for the university. Frantz stated, she is a "vibrant, energetic, and a gifted individual who has the university's best interests at heart."

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The BEACON

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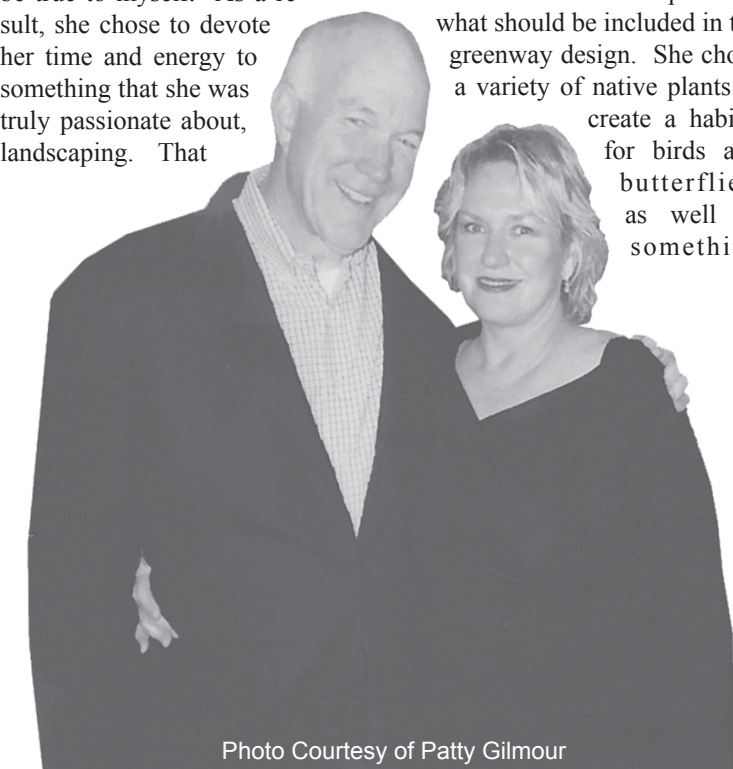


Photo Courtesy of Patty Gilmour

(LEFT) Patty Gilmour stands with her husband Dr. Tim Gilmour, President of Wilkes University.

Chamber urges patience while search to fill storefronts continues

BY JAMIE GWYNN
Beacon Staff Writer

Representatives of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber recently denied rumors it will need to cut jobs because of the drain on funds from ten empty storefronts surrounding Movies 14 on East Northampton and Main Street.

In response to whether the rumors were accurate, Lawrence Newman, Vice President of Economic and Community Development for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber, emphatically stated, "No, absolutely not."

He added that there is a misconception among the community that the ten remaining storefronts suffer from a lack of interest from businesses.

"The foundations that we are building today have to be foundations that last for us to build long-term success for downtown, and you don't do that by just sort of running out and grabbing the first places that [are interested]," Newman said. "We have to systematically get the right mix of business into the right places of downtown."

But the original plan, which was announced in 1996, only included a movie theatre. Due to various obstacles, the plan started to fizzle. This is when the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber decided to step in.

In 2003 Mayor Leighton approached the Chamber about salvaging the original plan. When Newman sat down with officials from RC Theatres and discussed what the city could do in order to complete the

project, the only solution was to revise the original plan to include other ideas which would become part of a larger revitalization plan for Wilkes-Barre.

One of the ideas, named "The Northamp-

mark two months ago.

"In that first year of operations we've had over 540,000 people go to that movie theatre; that's over 10,000 people a week," said Newman. He added, "Those are real

empty storefronts, it's about finding the right tenants.

"We are just as eager as everyone else and want nothing more than to see downtown filled with a variety of new businesses; however, we need to take it one step at a time and focus on bringing the right tenants to this project." Lamb added, "We want this to be a premier destination in downtown Wilkes-Barre and this is one part of the process."

President Gilmour, Chair of the Chamber of Business and Industry board, expressed the same concern. "I do believe that we want to be very careful in terms of who we ultimately have as tenants in the Northampton Project because you certainly don't have want to have a tenant who doesn't represent the kind of quality and perspective that you want [for downtown Wilkes-Barre]. What you want is the highest quality," he said.

And in order to have the highest quality, patience is the key. But how long can a city, which has endured much criticism for its lack of excitement, be patient?

"This is not a sprint; it's a marathon. This is not something that can be won overnight," said Newman. "Realistically, we don't expect to have full occupancy in these storefronts until 2009."

Gilmour has higher expectations for the project.

"I think it's going to come within the next year and if we're lucky, maybe the next six months." But Gilmour added, "Patience is the [key]."



Courtesy Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry
Over 10,000 people visit the RC Theatre 14 every week. Movies 14 is one of the downtown area's greatest success stories, according to the W-B Chamber.

ton & Main Theatre/Mixed Use Project," includes twelve storefronts, two of which are currently leased to Quizno's and Jannuzzi's Pizza.

Newman detailed how credited tenants want to see at least a years worth of full operations before reaching a long-term commitment. The theatre passed the one year

numbers that demonstrate real demand that we are now out and able to talk to the kinds of tenants we want in that project and want in downtown."

Gabrielle Lamb, Economic Development Specialist for the Chamber, explained that although the Chamber gets numerous requests from businesses to lease out the

COOLTURA from FRONT PAGE

After being in business for 36 years, Mike Miscavage, owner of Top of the Slope, Inc. and the Wilkes-Barre Rock Climbing Gym, recognizes potential when he sees it. According to Miscavage, Wilkes and King's students don't frequently venture far enough from their respective college campuses to discover what the second block of Main Street has to offer. "People don't even know that [Top of the Slope is] here."

Though he advertises in the colleges' bulletins and even offers a ten percent discount to all college students with valid school identi-

fication, Miscavage, along with other business owners in the area, still struggles to bring students in.

While the Trelleses and Miscavage await Cooltura's opening to see if it turns a profit, Wilkes students are also looking forward to

it, it could be something really great. It'll be good to have another [store that sells music] in Wilkes-Barre, especially so close to

a venue like Café Metropolis," said Wilkes freshman Matt Duffy.

Though there is no grand opening planned for Cooltura, Nancy and Andréa Trelles do intend to rip down the brown paper from their front windows this week. If everything goes well, they also plan to expand their selection of merchandise and provide jobs to those who

may be interested in helping them run their new family business.



The Beacon/Cara Koster

"If [Cooltura] will get kids to walk over here, it'd be great," he said.

finding out what the new store has to offer. "I think it's awesome. If kids actually use

BEACON NEWS BRIEFS

Local

(Wilkes University) According to an incident report from Public Safety, dated September 21, early Friday morning public safety officers were called to the second floor of University Towers for a noise complaint. When the officers arrived they found two students and another man fighting in the hallway. The Wilkes-Barre Police and a resident assistant were called after the public safety officers made several attempts to break up the fight with no success. The police cleared the scene, and one person suffered an abrasion to his head but refused treatment. The Wilkes-Barre Police did not file charges.

(Wilkes University) Dr. Anthony Liuzzo, prepared his yearly Holiday Retail Forecast on September 13, 2007. This year Liuzzo predicts that technological goodies will be the popular item found under most trees this year. Liuzzo, who directs the MBA program at Wilkes University, has been featured in *USA Today* and the *New York Times* for his annual forecast.

(Northeast Pennsylvania) The federal prosecutor for northeastern Pennsylvania announced his resignation effective October 12. U.S. Attorney Thomas A. Marino, said he will be moving into the private sector after his departure.

Marino also noted that his resignation is not related to an ongoing investigation regarding local businessperson, Louis DeNaples. Marino and DeNaples are said to be acquaintances and DeNaples used Marino as a reference on an application for a slot machine casino currently under construction.

National

(Washington, DC) As the February 1, 2008 expiration date draws near on the "Protect America Act," President Bush is pushing to make the law permanent. J. Michael McConnell, the United States director of national intelligence, said in a testimony before Congress that the law is not only necessary but does and will continue to save countless American lives.

(Albany, NY) On Friday, September 21, the governor of New York announced that

illegal aliens would soon be able to obtain a drivers license in his state. The new guidelines overturn a 2002 decision put in place after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. New York Governor, Eliot Spitzer, says that the new guidelines will decrease insurance cost and promote public safety.

(New Orleans, LA) Episcopal bishops are meeting in New Orleans with the goal of forming a response to an ultimatum set by Anglican leaders.

The ultimatum requires the Episcopal bishops to pledge that they will never again consecrate another homosexual bishop or hold same-sex prayer services. The Archbishop of Canterbury says the goal is to compromise.

International

(New Delhi, India) A TV news channel has been taken off the air for a month af-

ter the Indian government decided that the channel aired a misleading program. The program in question showed a sting operation where a teacher was accused of persuading her students into prostitution.

(Tehran, Iran) One day before flying to the United States, the Iranian president said that economic sanctions imposed by the United States will not stop them from advancing technologically. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said this at a parade featuring fighter jets and radar-avoiding missiles on Saturday, September 22. Ahmadinejad will speak in front of the United Nations in New York.

(Yangon, Myanmar) About 500 monks were permitted past police barricades to hold anti-government protests. The monks marched past the gate of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest for being an "opposition leader." San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for the past 11 years greeted the monks at her gate.

Photo Courtesy of Marketing Comm



Dr. Anthony Liuzzo

Campus building with historic treasures saved from demolition for now

BY AMY FUSCO

Beacon Correspondent

Ever noticed a quaint house to the north of the Arnaud C. Marts Center, Wilkes University's gym? The little brick house at 256 South Franklin Street occupies the property with a spacious yard filled with a variety of plants and a pathway leading to the white front door. Very few students are aware of the Miner-Moat House, though it houses some important historical artifacts.

Built in the 1950's, the Miner-Moat house was donated in 1999 to Wilkes University as a gift from Mr. Harry Moat and Mrs. Stella Miner-Moat.

Paul Kaspriskie, Project Manager, explained, "It was previously the Human Resource office, which worked at the time, but no longer is useful as an office because the use is limited," such as handicap accessibility. The Human Resources offices were relocated to the University Center on Main (UCOM) last year. Currently, the house is temporarily occupied by Petra Carver, Vice President for Finance and Support Operations.

Last year, Wilkes officials acknowledged that the plan was to tear the building down for other necessary uses of the property, such as expansion or a parking lot. Carver commented, "We [Wilkes University] have a master

plan, a work in progress," but this plan was put on hold in order to preserve the Miner-Moat house for the time being.

Additionally, Carver stated, "The location of the building is very convenient, since it is right on campus." She believes Wilkes University put the Miner-Moat House to good use by allowing her to temporarily live there and she hopes in the future, the house could be occupied by other professors.

The Miner-Moat House is also significant as the home to a very old, historic mantelpiece. According to the plaque installed next to the mantel, it is 'elaborately and beautifully decorated with urns in central and corner panels, and festoons of roses in connecting panels.' The history of the mantelpiece dates back to the time period of 1786-1788 when Colonel Timothy Pickering owned it. In the past, the mantel was in Pickering's house located at 130 South Main Street.

Upon leaving Wilkes-Barre to reside in Philadelphia when he became Postmaster General in President George Washington's cabinet, Pickering sold his house to General William Ross in 1796, leaving the mantel behind with it. Throughout the years, other people have lived in the house, such as

Judge William Sterling Ross (1802-1868), and Mrs. Charles Abbot Miner. After the death of Mrs. Miner in 1931, the house on 130 South Main Street was torn down. Fortunately, the mantelpiece was removed before the demolition. About thirty years later, in 1960, the mantelpiece was installed in the Miner-Moat house.

Along with the distinction of its historic mantelpiece, one of the rarest trees in Pennsylvania has grown on the property. A white chestnut tree is located on the left side, near the fence closest to the road. Unfortunately, the tree is slowly deteriorating, but Wilkes has agreed to keep it preserved until the end of its life.

According to Kaspriskie, the Miner-Moat house is well built and requires little maintenance and "as long as [tearing the building down] does not bother anyone," Wilkes University will demolish it only if it is necessary. Fur-

thermore, if there was a need to tear it down, Wilkes will certainly remove the historical mantelpiece before doing so.

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TERRACE from FRONT PAGE

"It's not a significant amount of numbers only because we don't have a real lot of shootings compared to areas like Philadelphia or New York," Dessoye said. "Yes, we occasionally see someone carrying a firearm who has a concealed weapon involved in illegal activity and we notify the Sherriff's Department to pull the concealed weapon permit."

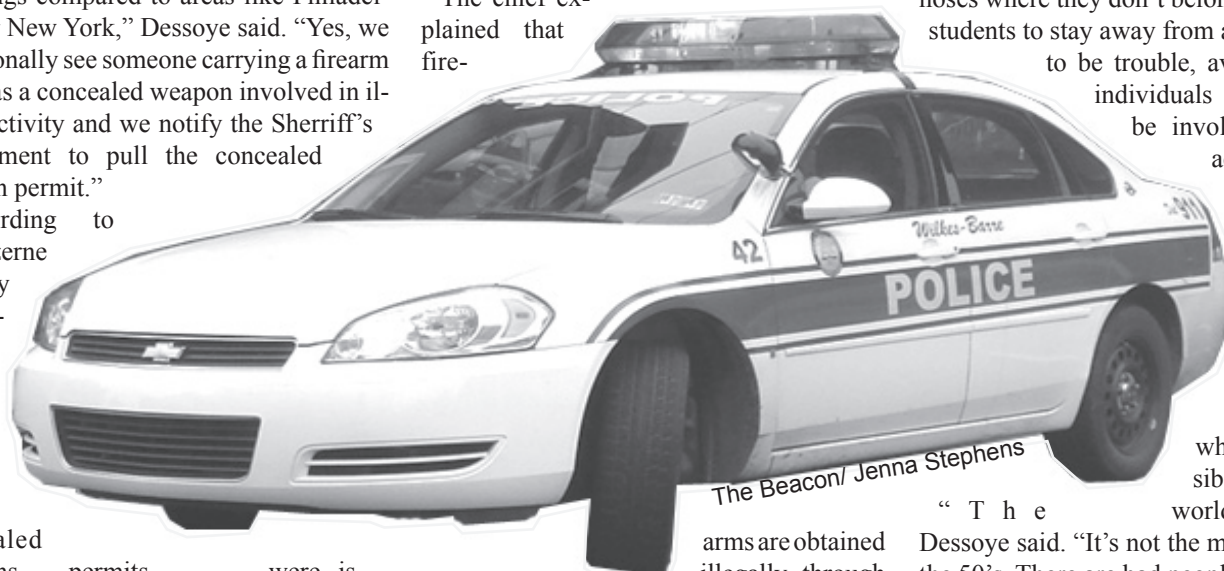
According to the Luzerne County Sheriff's Department,

2,974 concealed weapons permits were issued by the end of 2006, though Dessoye noted that while it occasionally does happen, having someone illegally use a weapon with a license to carry a firearm is a rarity.

"Most people who have a concealed weapons permit are legitimate, law abiding

individuals who can stand up to the criteria that the Sherriff's Department sets to issue that permit," Dessoye said. "Our problem with firearms are illegal firearms illegally carried."

The chief explained that fire-



burglary, what he referred to as a "straw purchase," in which a legitimate person will buy a gun legitimately and trade it to somebody who wants drugs.

"That's pretty much old school," Dessoye

said. "Quite honestly, that's been going on forever."

Dessoye and Rebo both cautioned students living in the city to keep their wits about themselves, and not to stick their noses where they don't belong. They urged students to stay away from areas that seem

to be trouble, avoid groups or individuals who seem to be involved in illegal activity, check under (and inside) their cars before entering, and travel in groups, especially females, whenever possible.

"The world has changed," Dessoye said. "It's not the mom and pop of the 50's. There are bad people out there and they travel in all geographic areas and demographics."

So does Bracone still feel safe after her traumatic experience?

"Sometimes. When I'm on campus I feel safe. This kind of stuff shouldn't hap-

pen. Everyone is so worried about underage drinking and, there's people carrying around guns and shooting dogs at four o'clock in the morning, and everyone in the school is worried about people drinking underage. They're not even sending anyone down here," she said.

Beacon Correction

On page 3 of the September 18 issue of *The Beacon*, the story "New faces in President's cabinet offer individual expertise to team" mistakenly lists Petra Carver as a native of Essen, Germany. Carver is a native of Worms, Germany

The Beacon strives for accuracy and good sourcing in all of its stories and regrets the errors in the past issue. Editors are grateful for readers who take the time to point out inaccuracies.

Andrea Breemer Frantz,
Faculty Advisor
Andee Scarantino,
Editor-in-Chief

SG Notes September 19, 2007

Treasurer's Report

All College: \$23,620.72
General: \$5,672.59
Special Projects: \$3,500
Spirit: \$2,000
Leadership: \$5,000
Conferences: \$12,500
Start-Up: \$1,500



Club Reports

Programing Board - Remarked that there was a comedian on Monday, September 17. Just over 100 people attended.

New Business

Personal Finance Club - The Personal Finance Club was granted club status
Medieval Renaissance Club - The Medieval Renaissance Club came to SG seeking club status (this is a two week process)
SPAN - The Student Peace Action Network (SPAN) came to SG seeking club status (this is a two week process)
Frisbee Club - SG heard revisions to the Frisbee Club's constitution
Mascot Allocation - SG allocated money for a new mascot costume to be worn at various events.
Fall Elections - Justin Balint, Student Government parliamentraian, gave an update on SG elections. He commented that all is going well, and there was a slight problem with the e-mail voting system, which was fixed quickly.
Homecoming - The budget for homecoming was dicussed. Tickets sale are estimated to bring in about \$2,700 bringing the cost of homecoming down to \$12,293.26.

Events

Party on the Square - September 20, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Homecoming - October 4 - 7, 2007

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Jena 6 case shows that roots of racism run deep

BY THE BEACON
 EDITORIAL BOARD

Jena, Louisiana: Thousands of people on September 20 poured into the streets to participate in one of the largest civil rights marches since the 1960s, according to the Associated Press.

Jesse Jackson was there. Al Sharpton was there. College students were there, and about 20,000 others were there, protesting for civil rights and equality, as six residents of this small southern town, often referred to as "The Jena 6," face criminal charges. One of the accused, Mychal Bell, remains in jail awaiting an appeal by prosecutors.

The events that led to Bell's original conviction and charges filed against five others, trace back to 2006.

Nearly a year ago a black student at the primarily white Jena High School asked a member of administration if he could sit under a tree. The tree was known as "The White Tree," and all of the students who sat under it during recesses were exactly that: white.

An administrator told the young man that there wasn't a problem with his sitting under the tree, but it is telling that the black student felt compelled to ask permission at all.

A few black students, reassured that sitting under the tree was acceptable, decided to do so. Much to their surprise, the next day three nooses were found hanging from the tree. The white students responsible were expelled, but quickly allowed to re-enter the school, after the superintendent dismissed the act as a "prank."

Following the noose incident, racial tensions among the students continued to escalate. A few days after the noose incident, a black student was assaulted by a few white students. Fights began to break out, climaxing with an attack on a white student, Justin Barker, allegedly by the accused six. Barker was knocked unconscious and treated at a local hos-

pital for cuts and abrasions. However, he was released the same day and attended a school function that very night.

The accused six students, all black, were arrested. Five were charged with attempted second-degree murder. The sixth was charged as a juvenile, as he was only 14 at the time of the attack.

Bell, who was 16 at the time of the attack, was first to be tried in court and was tried as an adult.



Courtesy of: weblogs.elearning.ubc.ca

His charges were reduced to aggravated second-degree battery, but he was still found guilty by an all-white jury and judge. Despite the reduction in charges, Bell still faced 15-22 years in prison. On September 13, however, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals overturned his conviction noting that the young man should not have been tried as an adult. Bell

remains in jail, is currently awaiting an appeal, and has been denied bail.

The other five defendants are currently free on bail.

Perhaps the most important issue with this case is the fact that the court that convicted Bell was all white in a county with history of racial disharmony. Who says justice is blind?

How are these charges warranted? Some of the explanations given for Bell's conviction were that his "shoes were a deadly weapon."

Conveniently, school officials overlooked the warning signals, such as subtle statements as the nooses hanging from the tree and later, at the height of the tension, people setting the school on fire on November 30.

According to CNN, the school handbook states that a fight in school yields a three-day suspension. Apparently, the injuries that Barker

has as a result of this fight were so severe, that during the school function he attended that night, administrators determined that the Jena 6 wanted to kill him.

There is no other way to explain the lack of justice in this case other than racism. This incident happened well over a year ago, and until the trials approached, the voices of the people were quiet

from Jena, Louisiana. Clearly, any publicity always held the potential for public relations backlash for the community. It made sense from the Jena Chamber of Commerce point of view to keep this under wraps as long as it could. But cases like Bell's are tough to keep quiet for long.

To "make it go away," after Bell's charges had been modified, the school had "The White Tree" cut down. Unfortunately, the roots of the tree of racial inequality grow deep, as evidenced by the fact that the first young black student even felt he needed to ask permission to sit there to begin with. The nooses remain a symbol of racial threat, despite the many years since KKK-initiated public lynchings of the south.

While it should not be surprising, given the division evidenced in Jena, we are shocked that there are some who side with the District Attorney in this case. While there are many groups supporting the Jena 6, as well as nationwide petitions, there are Facebook groups that actually state they support the convictions of the young men.

When will justice be served on this case? When is America going to cut out its racist roots that through places like Jena?

Apparently, we have already started to speak, once again, like we did in the 1960s and 1970s, as people marched through the streets for justice in the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

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. Results are based on 104 responses.

The Beacon asked:

Following graduation, how much debt will you be in for your college education?

- \$10,000-\$20,000- **19%**
- \$20,001-\$40,000- **15%**
- \$40,001-\$60,000- **13%**
- \$60,001-\$80,000- **11%**
- Nothing-I didn't take out loans - **11%**
- More than \$100,000- **11%**
- \$80,001-\$90,000- **6%**
- \$90,001-\$100,000- **6%**
- I don't know-my parents took out loans- **4%**
- Less than \$10,000- **4%**

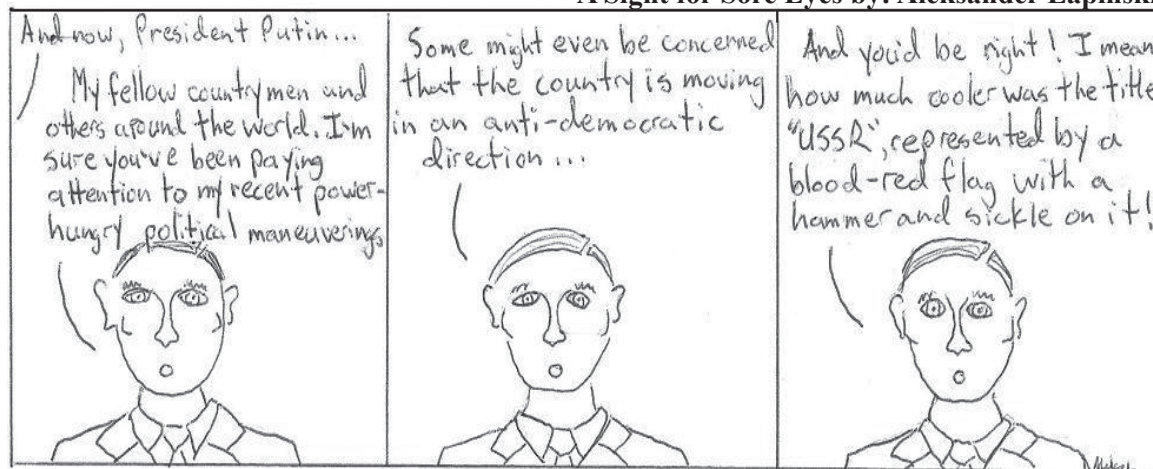
Next Week's Question:

Who do you think will win the baseball World Series?

- Boston Red Sox
- NY Yankees
- NY Mets
- Philadelphia Phillies
- Cleveland Indians
- San Diego Padres
- Milwaukee Brewers
- Chicago Cubs
- Arizona Diamondbacks
- LA Angels of Anaheim

Visit www.wilkesbeacon.com to cast your vote. Results will be published in next week's issue of *The Beacon*.

A Sight for Sore Eyes by: Aleksander Lapinski



Blindly addressing medical problems can lead to other issues

BY MARK CONGDON JR.

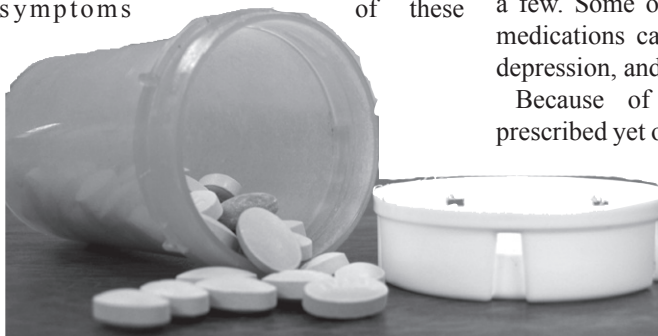
Beacon Opinion Editor

When you recall the fifth grade, what memories surface?

The early stages of puberty and hormone-driven emotional highs and lows? An undying love for the Backstreet Boys, 'NSYNC, Spice Girls or any other pop culture group you're now too embarrassed to admit publicly? Trying nearly anything to fit in at school? All of the above?

For some, fifth grade is a very forgettable year. For me, fifth grade was a life changing experience that I will never forget.

When I was in fifth grade I was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, ADHD, and an anxiety disorder. Though I outgrew the symptoms of these



The Beacon/ Cara Koster

disorders, and learned to deal with them in a more effective way, I was heavily medicated from 5th grade until the end of my sophomore year in college, a total of nine years.

In an article published September 7 by the Medscape Medical News, the misuse of prescription drugs by young adults is on the rise, according to a new national survey. I learned the hard way that prescription drugs are also just a temporary fix, and can cause long-term health effects. Over-zealous prescriptions and a general attitude among the public that drugs can solve all issues is becoming problematic to the least powerful voices in our society: children.

During the nine year period in which I attempted to deal with the diagnoses with drugs, doctors put me on many prescription medications including Risperdal, Clonazepam, and Adderall XR to name a few. Some of the side-effects that these medications caused included weight gain, depression, and diabetes.

Because of the side-effects, doctors prescribed yet other medications to counter-balance them, like Metformin to help with the diabetes and Effexor XR to help with the depression. This resulted in very high prescription drug bills totaling almost

\$1,800 a month, and thank God we had insurance to pay for them.

Because I didn't like the way these drugs made me feel, and the doctors weren't doing anything to help me get off of them, I gradually decreased my dosage, and ultimately stopped cold-turkey. Despite the fact that doctors and pharmacist argue that doing this isn't the best course, something I believe is true for many, stopping these harmful drugs actually benefited me in ways I never imagined.

While the first two weeks after stopping by meds were hell, I told myself that the end result would be worth it. Since I stopped the medications, I have been healthier physically and mentally. I no longer feel like a zombie, and can be myself. My confidence and vitality has gone up, and I have gone from the unhealthy weight of 286 lbs. to my now a very appropriate and healthy size of 170 lbs.

Stopping these medications increased my energy level, and I had an easier time exercising. It was at this point that I learned how to deal with my emotions when I was upset. I no longer binged on food, but exercised instead when I was down. This approach did more than build my muscles. It helped with my mood tremendously. I went from a pant size 42 to a 32 pant size.

I no longer have to take Metformin for my diabetes because it is controlled by

my exercising and eating healthier, and no longer need my Effexor, because I no longer suffer from depression.

The fact of the matter is that although the doctors wanted to help me by giving me those medications, they actually caused much harm to my physical and mental well-being. I wish the doctors had offered me other options and alternatives to help with these disorders other than prescriptions, but the tendency to prescribe away the problem is far easier than the answers I finally came to on my own.

I have chosen what I believe to be the healthier route and rely on natural remedies, exercise, talk out my problems or I learn to figure things out on my own. This has worked much better for me. Perhaps more importantly, I took control of my own health and began to assume the responsibility for research and decision-making. This is tough for a 5th grader, but when a young person is diagnosed with things like depression, ADHD, or other common ailments, parents need to take responsibility for asking tough questions and investigating all options. Side-effects can cause long-term harm. Check out webmd.com or other solid resources online and educate yourself!

The Angry Rant: Underage Drinking

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

In the past few weeks, there has been lots of talk surrounding the issue that is underage drinking, mostly coming on the heels of recent alcohol related busts that have involved students.

First, the fact that there is even debate about this is laughable to me. Underage drinking is illegal, and it's not exactly an elaborate secret that the Masons or the Illuminati have been keeping from everyone. It's beaten into our heads from an early age that drinking is a no-no until you're 21, and a lot of us probably signed a piece of paper in high school that said we wouldn't drink on prom night.

In other words, everyone knows that drinking at a young age is going to come with consequences.

Despite that, there are still the drinking parties in high school at a friend's house when his parents are gone, or the friend who had a flask on him when you are at the

movies, or even the parents who let your close friends have a few beers at their house because it was under their supervision and that no one would be driving.

Whatever the case may be, college is a completely different ballgame, seeing as how most students are 18 and therefore considered adults, along with the fact that there are no parents and the students no longer have a safety net.

That said, I think it's high time that college students start accepting responsibility for their actions, and for the blame to stop being placed on the laws and those who enforce the laws, whether it's the University or the police.

One complaint that I've heard from a number of students is that Wilkes has always had a policy regarding underage drinking; however, this year authorities are more stringent about its enforcement, and as a result, there are more busts on campus.

My question is: what's there to complain about? It's been known that Wilkes has a policy in place, but it somehow turns into

a problem when they enforce it? That's like saying: "I'll willingly break the law, but it's not my fault when I get caught."

Along with that, there has been the argument that the legal drinking age should be lowered to 18. After all, you can join the military or get married without parental consent at that age.

Honestly, that is the most overused excuse when it comes to the legal drinking age. Keep in mind that neither military service nor marriage are *required* by law. No one is forcing you to join the military or get married, just like no one forces you to go to a drinking party where you could get caught.

If you want to have a few beers with your friends, fine. I'm not condemning that. However, you have to realize the danger that is inherent when it comes to alcohol.

At the end of the day, college students need to start accepting responsibility for themselves. You're adults, and you need to realize that no one is going to be holding your hand anymore.

What do you think?



The Beacon wants your voice to be heard. Your Voices is the opportunity for students to voice their concerns. If you want your voice to be heard, please contact *The Beacon* with the following information:

- 1 Contact information including your email address and a phone number where you can be reached
- 2 Your name, major, and year
- 3 Your opinion

thebeacon.oped@gmail.com

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

Predictions for 2008 all hinge on troops coming home

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon News Editor

We are about 13 months away from the 2008 presidential election and I think we know more about the candidates than we could ever want. And we still have a year to go...

Last February, I wrote an editorial projecting Hillary Clinton as the winner and I stand by that decision. However I think there are some factors that have come into play that I did not take into account before.

First of all, when I look at the Republican pool of nominees, I just shake my head. Rudy Giuliani's 9/11 shtick is just old already, "9/11 this, 9/11 that." The man has nothing else to talk about. Then we have Mitt Romney, the Mormon. I truly believe that the Republican party would implode if it nominated a Catholic, let alone a Mormon. Fred Thompson is also in there, but he missed his bandwagon by a few months, and as for

John McCain... we can leave it at that.

This election, I am sorry to say, is not about the Republican candidates. It is about the Democrats. This administration has obliterated any chance the Republican candidates had; they really should just give up now and save themselves the embarrassment.

The only true candidates for 2008 are: Hillary, Obama, and I will also throw in Edwards.

Obama is an interesting character; I cannot really even explain him. I think he would make a great president but I think too many people are saying that he is not ready, and that he will have

another shot in four or eight years. Then we have Edwards the Democrat's "secret weapon." I say that because he is going to be the last nail in the coffin for the Republican Party. Hillary or Obama on a ticket as president with Edwards as vice president is an election clincher. You have a non-traditional candidate paired with the most stereotypical candidate ever, and that is magic.

Then there is Hillary. She played this election smarter than anyone else, she distanced herself from Bill the past few years while she has been in the Senate, and she went into this campaign with the attitude that "I am the candidate. If you don't come with me now, you are going to be left behind." People believed her and still do. Another thing that amplifies her sustainability as the leading candidate is the fact that her one backer has been accused of fraud, among other things and she hasn't experienced too much backlash from that.

But there is one thing the Democrats have to do before they can consider the election won (and as a result I would tell the Republicans to hold onto their towels a little longer). The Dems need to show some sign of progress that they are going to be bringing home troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

I consider this the "great race," because we have the Bush administration saying that it will be bringing home some of the troops, while the Democratic majority is just sitting there saying they want to bring the troops home. It is simple. The person who brings the troops home first wins. How hard is that to understand? The Democrats were handed Congress for a reason and everyone knows what that reason was: to bring home the troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. So far the Democrats have done nothing, and yes, before you say anything... I know they have taken votes and pulled an "all nighter," but those have been meaningless. They need to take action or the Republicans could very easily turn this situation around by bringing some troops home first.

As the election stands now though, I see Hillary being called "Madame President" in 2009, but the Democrats really need to bring some of the troops home before they become the objects of the country's anger. Because if the Republicans beat them to it, I may have to write another editorial evaluating the election again, and no body wants that.

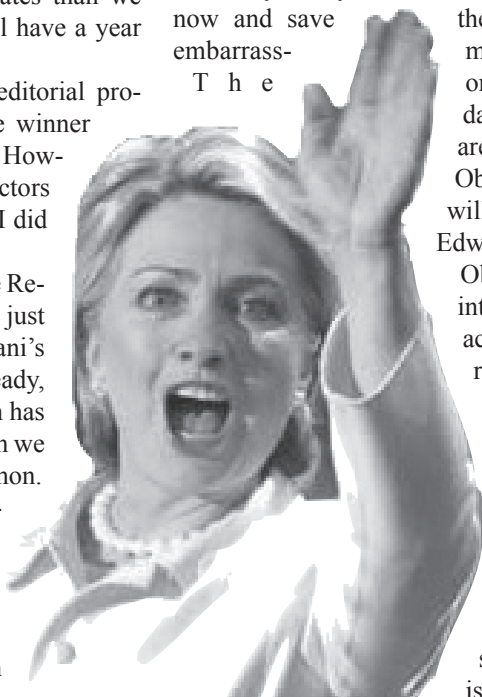


Photo Courtesy www.jeremyinc.com

The Baghdad question becomes 'what now'?

BY JUSTIN RICHARDS

Beacon Correspondent

As a senior, I have now viewed over three years of political twists and turns through the lens of a political science student intent on studying the history and layout of the contemporary American political landscape. In those three years, I've witnessed the first Presidential election of my adult life, partisan scandals, and controversy erupting over everything from weapons of mass destruction to immigration reform.

However, in the glow of the ever-shifting political spotlight, one issue has remained constant and ever-present: the war in Iraq. While I'm confident we all have strong opinions on the war, it is evident that the nature of these opinions stems from the answers to two fundamental questions. First, was it right to go to war in Iraq? Second, what do we do next? Like some people, I find that my position on the Iraq War has shifted over the past several years in response to my personal answers to these questions.

Still reeling from the devastation of the attacks on September 11, 2001, I was a firm supporter of President Bush's initial

decision to go to war with. We practically mopped the floor with the Iraqi army in the Gulf War, and after all, Saddam was still a bad guy, right? His government had provided aid to the terrorists in Afghanistan and was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. Or so we were told.

I find myself now wondering whether or not our current war with Iraq was justified.

'Mission Accomplished' banner was proudly displayed on the USS Abraham Lincoln, yet we've witnessed a summer troop surge and day after day we still hear nothing but reports detailing sectarian violence in the ethnically divided country. As such, it is difficult to imagine a timely and happy ending for the American mission in Iraq.

Recently, President Bush's September

low the comparison to Vietnam through to its logical conclusion, history shows that abandoning the Iraqi people could have disastrous consequences. Instead of reading about the fall of Saigon, we might be reading about the fall of Baghdad.

If we, as a nation, are truly committed to the goal of ensuring the vitality of a democratic government in Iraq, we must stay the course and maintain some sort of presence there, rather than completely abandoning the Iraqi people.

So I am truly torn. I am distressed over the prospect of seeing more American lives lost, yet the rising threat of Iran and radical Islam in the Middle

My realist education in foreign policy leaves me contemplating the balance of power in the Middle East following a dramatic American withdrawal from the war-torn state.

I am truly torn because yes, I think it is terrific that the people of Iraq now have what at least appears to be a functioning democratic government, yet following the revelation that there were no WMDs in Iraq, the question persists: did we have the 'right' to dislodge Saddam from power in his own sovereign state?

Whether you believe we did or did not have a justification for going to war in Iraq, we must all now deal with our current dilemma: what do we do now? More than four years have now passed since a triumphant

backing of a proposal for a limited troop withdrawal has given cause for celebration to anti-war elements in America. I see this as a good thing, but I have my own reasons for not supporting an abrupt and total withdrawal of American troops from Iraq. My realist education in foreign policy leaves me contemplating the balance of power in the Middle East following a dramatic American withdrawal from the war-torn state. Many have characterized the war in Iraq as our generation's Vietnam, and advocate a complete American withdrawal. Yet if we fol-

East in general seems to dictate a need for a strong counterweight aside from Israel in the region. I do believe that American soldiers should be headed back home to their loved ones, but I also believe in the need for a stable Iraqi government in the power vacuum which we created in dethroning Saddam Hussein. With the Iraq War maintaining its prominence as a front-running issue in the 2008 Presidential election campaign, I suppose only time will tell us how we answer the question: what now?

Long-distance bonds face social, practical challenges

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA

Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

Last year at this time, Russell Dehaut was just a 30-second walk down the block from seeing his girlfriend. Now, the pair is separated, each located at different schools, and face an hour long drive to see each other.

Dehaut, a freshman electrical engineering major, is one of many college students involved in a long distance relationship. According to the Center for the Study of Long Distance Relationships, 20 to 40 percent of college students currently report being part of a long distance relationship.

Leah Peters, a graduate intern at the campus counseling center, counsels a growing number of Wilkes students involved in long distance relationships. Although it is a common issue in college, this type of relationship can affect each person differently.

"They can serve as a source of support for some, and a source of stress for others," she said. "But most people fall somewhere in the middle."

Long distance relationships can become overwhelming when they take up all the students' free time, or if they are constantly preoccupied by them. Focusing all of their attention on a relationship miles and miles away can force students to miss out on defining experiences of college life.

"While you want to make your relationship a priority, you have to open yourself up to social and academic activities on campus," Peters said.

Dehaut admits that leaving the campus on weekends to visit his girlfriend, Jessica Drago, at Bloomsburg University, makes it difficult for him to foster friendships at his school.

"It does affect your social life," said Dehaut. "I'm shooting for visiting once a week. But I want her to spend as much time at school as she can so she can make friends, too."

Dehaut and Drago were dating for three years before they had to decide on their college choices. Drago was set on the education program at Bloomsburg, so Dehaut limited his choices to schools within a two hour radius of Wilkes-Barre. That way, they could visit each other more frequently.

Although Dehaut is only a month into the

long distance aspect of his relationship, he believes his relationship can survive the test of the miles.

"From what I've heard, the biggest reason long distance relationships don't work is because people cheat on each other," he said. "I'm not going to cheat on her, and I know she's not going to cheat on me."

Krystal Bible, a senior psychology major, has been involved in a long distance relationship since February 2006. She started dating Jonathan Bible when he was stationed in Virginia with the United States Coast Guard. They were married in December 2006.

Like Dehaut, Bible believes that one of the reasons her relationship survived was trust.

"Trust is key," she said. "I know my husband would never do anything to hurt me."

Bible also agrees that her long distance relationship has affected her social life at Wilkes.

"It changed who my friends were," she said. "They understood when he's here, I have to spend my time with him, because I don't get to see him that often."

She said being part of a long distance relationship makes her more conscious about how she spends nights with her friends.

"I'm not saying I feel like I'm 40," she said, "but I do need to consider what he's going to think. It is a marriage."

For Dehaut, the hardest part of maintaining a long distance relationship has been not being included in his girlfriend's new experiences. Before college, Dehaut and his girlfriend spent time together every day. They went to the same high school, had the same classes, and saw each other after school. Now, they are each developing a new circle of friends unknown to the other.

He tries to close the gap by staying involved in the everyday aspects of his girlfriend's life. He e-mails and calls every chance he gets, and continues to act as her wake up call even though he is miles away.

"I've always been her alarm clock," he said. "It gives us a chance to talk a little before we go to our classes."

Peters, who is working toward her master's degree in counseling, believes that communication between the two partners is vital to sustaining a long distance relation-

ship. How much or how little they contact each other depends on each unique relationship, but it should be an amount that is agreed on by both parties.

For Bible, communication ranked high on the list of reasons why her relationship thrived.

"Talk about everything," she said. "Let them know why you're stressed."

That's a lesson Dehaut learned in the first few weeks of his long distance relationship. Before they both left for college, getting into little disagreements was no big deal—it was easily fixed by a short visit or some flowers.

"When you're really close to someone, you get into petty fights," he said. "Now you have to be careful with what you say, because she's an hour away."

Strengthening the line of communication is only one benefit long distance relationships can bring to college students. The sacrifices and difficulties test the bond, and, if it survives, the couple becomes that much closer.

"It makes you know if that truly is the person you want to be with," said Bible.



Courtesy of Krystal Bible

Krystal and Jonathan Bible were married in December 2006. They have maintained their relationship through telephone calls and emails since February 2006 due to Jonathan's deployment with the United States Coast Guard.



The Beacon/Cara Koster

Blogging: everyone's doin' it!

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO

Beacon Editor-In-Chief

In the past, the best way for non-journalists to get the word out about issues that were important to them was through a letter to the editor in a traditional newspaper or magazine. But letters to the editor are nearly always edited for length and sometimes content.

These days, though, writers are gravitating to a less mediated means of connecting with others on pet issues and even personal experiences. They are blogging.

First off, a "blog" is a fusion of the words "web log," and can be used as either a noun (which names the actual site or column) or verb (to blog is to write and publish online). Blogging is quickly becoming a vibrant and growing part of media and culture.

While not a particularly new thing, blogging is now part of all aspects of the media. For example, editors at newspapers often use blogs as an informal way to communicate about issues, and add a personal note to the paper. *The New York Times* supports several blogs. A few are opinion. Many are not, but it seems blogs are a bit easier to work through than fiddling through a 20-inch broadsheet.

Often, editors also blog to offer a touch of humanity to the voices that speak the stories on each of their pages.

Take Michael Lello, editor of *The Weekender*, for example. According to Lello, *The Weekender* is launching its new website, and blogging will be a key feature.

"We plan to launch the blogs when we launch the new

website... Each member of our editorial staff and our marketing associate will have a blog. It'll be up to each individual how often they'd like to update their blogs... I think it's also an important tool for us to interact with our readers on a more personal basis -- many blogs are written in the first person. Also, as a weekly paper, a lot of things happen between each issue," explained Lello.

Lello acknowledged that blog readership has increased over the years not only because of the personal voice the blog gives to the writer, but because they contain information that you can't get in a traditional print format. Also, Lello said that blogs allow for newspapers to publish breaking news a bit faster than on their actual print website.

However, he added that this can be dangerous. According to Lello, some publications will print information in blogs that cannot be verified, and then use the fact that it was printed in the *blog*, and not the paper, as a way to avoid liability. Lello strongly disagrees with this approach taken by some publications.

Traditional publications aside, blogs have also emerged as a means of furthering personal growth. Take Donna Talarico, for example.

A freelance writer and 2007 Wilkes graduate, Talarico is an avid blogger. She has worked in various areas of the media, from Froggy 101 to a correspondent for the *Times Leader* and *The Weekender*, Talarico knows what's up and has personal blogs she updates regularly.

"First, as someone who is trying to make a career out of

writing, blogging keeps me, well, writing. Even though it is casual and off the top of my head usually, blogging allows me to keep in the writing habit. Also, I guess it is a nice escape from the more structured writing of journalism and the material for my creative writing class," said Talarico. "Second, I have more casual acquaintances than close friends, so blogging is kind of a way to share myself with more people, keeping them up to speed on my happenings and opinions."

Talarico also says she blogs for PR reasons. She keeps links for two of her books--an Amazon associate account, and a Google AdSense account--in her blog. Talarico acknowledges that she uses her blog to promote, sell, and keep readers up to date on them.

There are many options for up and coming bloggers to get their material out there onto the web. Talarico particularly enjoys Blogger.com, which is owned by Google. In addition, there are other blog development sites like Livejournal, Xanga, and even MySpace.

Each blog has a different feel and "scene" to it, if you will. Often, more artistic blogs will be displayed in the Xanga realm, whereas Blogger will give you more real faces and personal accounts. There are also sites like Deadjournal.com, but those sites require an invitation from an existing member, or a payment of a small fee.

Talarico recommends blogging as a great tool for networking and displaying your writing and ideas.

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Student of the week: Courtney Zawatski

BY CHRISTINE ZAVASKAS

Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

Courtney Zawatski, a junior nursing major and Air Force Reserve Officers Training (AFROTC) cadet, had the unique opportunity to spend one month this summer shadowing nurses at the military hospital on Laflin Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She also spent one day working in the burn unit of Fort Sam Houston, an army base.

Zawatski, along with just five other nursing majors from around the country, was able to experience the life of a military nurse firsthand during the month of June. Zawatski recently sat down with *The Beacon* to discuss the many ways in which she learned and served during her time in Texas, and it is because of this that she has been named “Student of the Week.” Courtney Zawatski, a junior nursing major and Air Force Reserve Officers Training (AFROTC) cadet, had the unique opportunity to spend one month this summer shadowing nurses at the military hospital on Laflin Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She also spent one day working in the burn unit of Fort Sam Houston, an army base.

Zawatski, along with just five other nursing majors from around the country, was able to experience the life of a military nurse firsthand during the month of June. Zawatski recently sat down with *The Beacon* to discuss the many ways in which she learned and served during her time in Texas, and it is because of this that she has been named “Student of the Week.”

The Beacon: What was a typical day like on the air force base?

Zawatski: Basically I spent most of my days in the hospital. It was kind of laid back. It was a really nice environment and everybody was really helpful. They were willing to teach us. We got to do a lot of things in the military hospital that I can’t do when I’m on clinical here, like I got to start I.V.s and stuff like that. Sometimes, we’d get up at 4:45 a.m. and then we wouldn’t be done until like, 2 or 3 p.m. Then the rest of the day was ours. We’d have the weekend. That’s when we went and did stuff.

The Beacon: What was the best part of this experience?

Zawatski: I’d have to say the burn unit and we got to go see the flight school for flight nurses. They took us through the whole thing. That’s what I want to do, so for me that was one of the best parts.

The Beacon: What was the hardest part of the experience?

Zawatski: Probably the burn unit. The patient I helped take care of was nineteen years old and he had come straight from Iraq. They’re burned so badly. That was kind of hard to be able to see that. But at the same time, you knew you were helping them. That’s why it was one of the best parts, but it was one of the hardest parts, too.

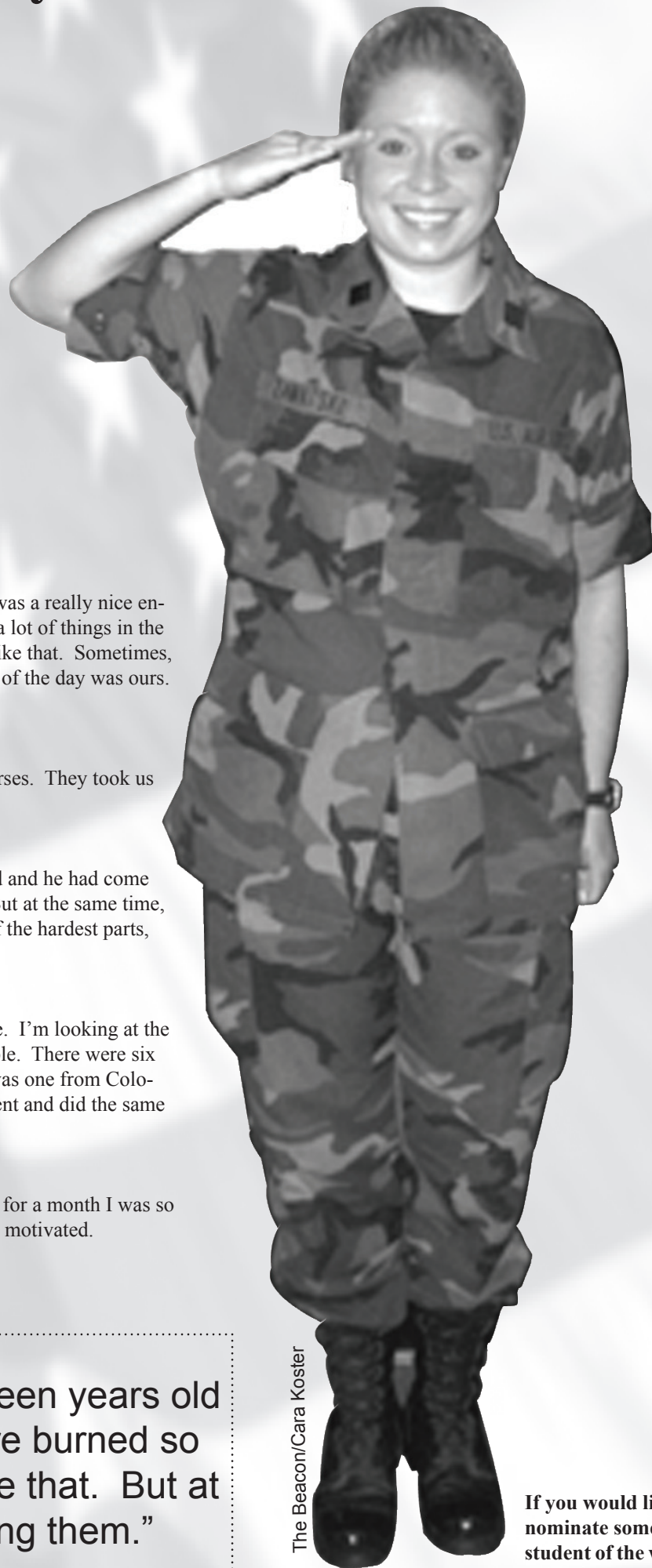
The Beacon: What did you learn from being at the base?

Zawatski: I guess basically that there are so many different ways that you can help people. I’m looking at the nursing career in general. There’s so much you can do to help others. Also, I met new people. There were six nursing majors all together that went down from different states all over the place. There was one from Colorado, one from Virginia, one from Illinois. They were from all over the place and we all went and did the same thing. It was really nice to meet them.

The Beacon: How did this experience affect your future plans?

Zawatski: I’m so motivated and pumped to just go and do it now, because after doing this for a month I was so excited and so happy that this is what I’m going to be doing after I graduate. So I left really motivated.

“The patient I helped take care of was nineteen years old and he had come straight from Iraq. They’re burned so badly. That was kind of hard to be able to see that. But at the same time, you knew you were helping them.”



The Beacon/Cara Koster

If you would like to nominate someone for student of the week, please e-mail beacon.lifestyles@gmail.com.

A Beginner's Guide to Zines

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon A&E Editor

September will soon draw to a close, and in addition to all of the horror, pumpkins, and candy corn we can anticipate with the new month, there's also the arrival of the Philly 'Zine Fest.

Readers open to something a little different will be able to find table after table lined with a wide variety of 'zines to peruse, compare and purchase October 7 at The Rotunda in Philadelphia. But, exactly what is a 'zine? If you can't answer that question, you're not alone. While the definition varies according to the source, generally a 'zine is an independently produced publication. While not a requirement, they're usually created and sold inexpensively, have a small circulation, and readers would be hard-pressed to find one sitting on a rack next to *Glamour* or *Newsweek*.

The question then might be, since 'zines are more difficult to seek out, why not just settle for the books and magazines you can easily pick up at a chain bookstore? The quick answer is the variety. Readers who think there is already a wide array of magazines readily available can delight in the fact that the sheer volume and variety of 'zines extends even further. For every topic or you can't find on the local newsstands, chances are you can find at least one 'zine on the subject. There are 'zines ranging from the common (fashion, food, politics), to the controversial (anarchy, sexuality issues, activism), and the bizarre (spoon hatred, zombie punks, tampons). For those who have yet to pick one up, here's a list that just begins to scratch the surface of what's available out there.

Cometbus

Cometbus is indisputably one of the best 'zines produced. From the 1980s issues, up to the most recent issue this year, the zine created by Aaron Cometbus continues to be an essential read. The 'zine has multiple things to offer: comical reviews, off-the-wall vignettes, and highly personal letters to the author, but the strongest parts are the personal stories offered by the author and his friends. Most of the stories are written from the viewpoint of an inconsistent, self-effacing cynic, yet *Cometbus* is uncommonly perceptive, and offers brutally honest insight. While the subjects of the stories really run the gamut (from masquerading as a college student and being mistaken for a convict, to first loves and losing friends) the author pulls off an impressive feat, and somehow manages to make them relatable to any reader. Pick up any issue, and it's certain to be a quality read. Better yet, pick up a *Cometbus Omnibus*, which is a collection of the best issues, as decided by Aaron Cometbus himself.

Reglar Wiglar

A fun alternative to mainstream music magazines, *Reglar Wiglar* offers loads of interviews, reviews, comic strips, and entertaining randomness in between. The great part about the music reviews is that they go on for pages, but the format periodically changes. In one issue they start off with standard reviews, then switch things up with one-word reviews, haiku reviews (damage has been done/with crunchy, distorted chords/control is not lost), fake celebrity reviews, and a guest reviewer. As for the randomness in between, one issue features an interview of the publisher, by the publisher, and two pages of screenshots of fruitless google searches (for example, "Friends of Snuffalaffagus").

The Inner Swine

The defining points of this 'zine are its wit, self-deprecation, and hilarity. *The Inner Swine* is written primarily by Jeff Somers, and he offers fiction, scathing social commentary, personal accounts, and brutal self-analysis. The visuals in the book basically consist of internet rip-offs and shoddy MS paint projects, but it purposely contrasts with the high quality of the

writing, which just makes it all even funnier. The author is unashamedly silly, but offers impressively delivered, intelligent humor.

Croq

Croq is a craft 'zine for people who don't have endless amounts of money for supplies, and haven't been blessed with the impeccable skills of Martha Stewart. It also tries to bridge the gap between male and female oriented craft magazines (a solid effort, though doesn't entirely pull it off). Each issue offers a wide variety of content. They've offered "How Tos" on cooking, clothes altering, self-publishing, weaving and soap-making, to name a few. They also include beneficial articles on topics like preventing crafter's block, finding inexpensive materials, converting a hobby into a business, and protecting creative works. It extends beyond hobby craft magazines, and approaches crafting as more of a lifestyle, which is puts a whole new spin on things.

Brains

Unlike the other 'zines on the list, *Brains* consists of one fiction story, continued through each issue. The subject matter may not have universal appeal, but out of the many fiction 'zines out there, it's one of the more entertaining, and it's a quick read. The story is well developed, and mixes humor, horror, subculture references, and irony. Think, a zombie attack happening at a rock venue, and the chaos that would ensue after hoards of spike clad, mohawked teens tear through the town in a search for, well...brains. It's worth mentioning that the illustrations included are a definite plus.

Stolen Sharpie Revolution

This is a 'zine about 'zines. It may sound a bit redundant but it's an indispensable tool for anyone looking to create their own 'zine, or anyone who just wants to better understand 'zine creation, distribution, and what it is that sets them apart from mainstream publications. It serves as a "how to," a fact sheet, and it basically functions as the yellow pages of the 'zine community. It offers websites and addresses of where to get 'zines and related materials all around the globe.

Local Zines

Most people likes to read about what they know, or things that directly relate to them. Readers may not have come across them, but there are numerous 'zines that are created and distributed right in Wilkes-Barre and the surrounding towns. In Scranton there's *The Antenna*, which highlights the local art scene and features poetry and personal stories. There's also *Catalyst*, which has a few issues that can be found downtown. It's a more politically motivated 'zine, which promotes local activism. Stop into Gallery of Sound or Café Metropolis and more likely than not they'll have one or two stacks of zines made in the area.

Readers who have interest in seeing what other titles are out there, or picking some up, some of the more extensive 'zine selections can be found at www.microcosmpublishing.com, www.eyecandyzine.com, and www.valiantdeath.com.



'Grapes of Wrath' to recreate struggles of Depression era

BY SHANNON CURTIN

Beacon Staff Writer

The first theatrical performance of the school year probably won't leave viewers warm and fuzzy--maybe dry and thirsty, but definitely not warm and fuzzy.

The Wilkes University department of visual and performance arts is kicking off the 2007-2008 year with the stage adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*.

The Grapes of Wrath chronicles the plight of thousands of midwestern farmers in the 1930s when a severe drought caused huge agricultural failures throughout the Great Plains. Add to that the immense economic disaster of the Great Depression, which made it impossible for farmers to invest in industrial equipment or pay their mortgages. The result of such converging calamities led to the agricultural population of midwestern America being forced to leave the land. In hopes of finding employment in California, thousands of farmers packed up their families and moved.

Unfortunately the farming lands of California didn't prove to be an improvement for many families. The mass exodus of the dust bowl region caused California to quickly become overcrowded. There wasn't enough food or jobs to go around and the newcomers were often treated with hostility from the locals. *The Grapes of Wrath* chronicles one family's story as its members attempt to survive in the devastating conditions.

The upcoming Wilkes production of *The Grapes of Wrath* will focus on the desperate conditions of the time period, not only

in the content of the play, but in the setting and props used as well. The play is intended for a full size stage, but the Wilkes performance will be held in the Black Box Theatre in the Dorothy Dickinson Darte Center, a much smaller venue.

Not only does this limit the size of the performance area but it also decreases the space available for backdrops and large props; thus, there won't be many. Director and Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department, Joseph Dawson said that the minimalist approach will "create an atmosphere where the audience fills in the environmental details." Dawson hopes that the "original concept" of the production will generate a "positive response" from the campus community.

Junior Greta Kleckner is also hoping for a good turnout. She'll be playing the role of Ma Joad, the matriarch and glue of the Joad family, "I hope to bring out Ma's character traits. She is so passionate about family and so full of love. My biggest challenge will be truly capturing her nature and bringing that to the stage."

Kleckner encourages the campus community to show their support via attendance. "The VPA department at Wilkes works extremely hard to be true to art, and the university as a whole should recognize, appreciate, and enjoy all of the blood, sweat, tears, and laughter that the department puts not only into this production, but every production. It is impossible to have theatre without an audience!"

Of course, just because the space and setting is minimal, don't expect the cast to be tiny. In fact Dawson noted that *The Grapes*

of Wrath, the only drama of this season, includes "plenty of opportunities for about twenty cast members to play sixty one roles."

Additionally audience members can expect to be treated to what Kleckner described as the both the best

and worst part of the production, the challenge of "learning the dialect." Indeed, the trials and tribulations of a midwestern American family could not be complete without the signature accent of the Dust Bowl area.

The show will open on Thursday, September 27 at 8:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theater

Photo Courtesy of Marketing Communications



Grapes of Wrath is the tale of midwestern farmers through the agricultural failures and the Great Depression of the 1930s.

in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center. Alternate dates are September 28, 29, October 5, and 6 at 8:00 p.m. with afternoon shows on September 30 and October 7 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are free for students, faculty, and staff with ID, non-Wilkes students and senior citizens are \$7, and general admission is \$15.



The Beacon/James Rosato

Wilkes students rehearse for *Grapes of Wrath*. The show opens on September 27 at 8:00PM. It will be performed in the Darte Black Box Theater.

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FIG

Comedian reflects on own brand of low-budget humor

BY ALISSA LINDNER
Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Last week, comedian Michelle Buteau tried to lighten the mood on campus with her own brand of 'low-budget' laughs.

Buteau began performing in the comedy circuit six years ago, and has been featured on Comedy Central's "Last Comic Standing," VH1's "Best Week Ever" and is currently featured in the October 2007 issue of *Glamour* magazine. She recently spent time in London and is presently performing on the national college circuit.

Following her performance, Buteau sat down for a few questions with *The Beacon*.

The Beacon: How did you get started in comedy?

Buteau: I was like the funny friend, like the funny co-worker. I used to write really funny e-mails, people started to forward them to other people. I just basically started because people told me I should. They said, 'You're really funny, you should do comedy.'

I used to go to comedy clubs. I noticed there was no women at shows and I was like, 'Where are all the women?' So I tried

it and I just haven't stopped.

The Beacon: What inspires your comedy?

Buteau: People usually. It's all about interacting with the audience.

The Beacon: How would you describe your comedy?

Buteau: I would describe my comedy as funny, but if I had to, I'd say ethnic, single girl, city humor. It's like *Sex in the City* but low-budget and ethnic.

The Beacon: Where is your favorite place to perform?

Buteau: I think...Wilkes University.

The Beacon: What kind of crowd do you prefer to perform in front of?

Buteau: I just like people, usually ones that are alive. I have done shows where there is like over 500 people and it feels like there is 10. So if you have like 20 people it can feel like 100. I have done shows in hospitals, London, Dublin and Jamaica, people who barely speak English, but funny is funny, ya know? It think it's like music, it's a trend

The Beacon: In your performance you mentioned attending college. Where and what did you study?

Buteau: I went to Florida International University. I studied TV production and I minored in business advertising. I used to be an editor and I can make really cute flyers. That's what a degree gets you.

The Beacon: Have you ever performed in front of a crowd you knew would be very hostile?

Buteau: You never know because comedy is so hit or miss, you know what I mean? People can not like you for any reason. It could be because they don't like your shoes, your look, that you're a female, that you're not a female anything. I try and change people's minds.

The Beacon: What do you do to prepare for a comedy performance?

Buteau: How do I prepare? I don't really. I just do it. The more shows the better.



Beacon/Cara James Rosato

Buteau describes her comedy as "ethnic, single girl, city humor."

Buteau's untitled CD will be available on October 1. The CD can be found on CD-Baby.com, her MySpace page and her webpage.

Buteau often performs with fellow comedian Eric Andre, also known as the Caveman in the Geico commercials. The Programming Board has booked Andre at Wilkes for October 22 at 9:00 p.m. in the old bookstore on the first floor of the Henry Student Center.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, September 25

Open Mic Night at Mainstreet Barnes and Noble at 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 26

- So You Think You Can Dance tour at the Wachovia Arena at 8 p.m.
- Film: Evening at the Kirby Center at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Go Go Gadget performing at The Woodlands at 11 p.m.

Thursday, September 27

- Marc Ford Band performing at the Jazz Cafe
- "The Grapes of Wrath" theater production in the Black Box Theater at 8 pm
- Go Go Gadget performing at Slainte
- Dance Gavin Dance, To Outlive the Beginning, Auxilia and Mayella performing at Café Metropolis at 7 p.m.

Friday, September 28

- Billy Hector performing at the Jazz Café
- The Northeaster PA Philharmonic performing at the Kirby Center 8 p.m.
- "The Grapes of Wrath" theater production in the Black Box Theater at 8 pm
- Lipservice performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.
- The Number Twelve Looks Like You, See You Next Thursday, At the Throne of Judgement and I Hate Sally performing at Backstage at 8 p.m.

Saturday, September 29

- "The Grapes of Wrath" theater production in the Black Box Theater at 8 pm
- Mayella, Trophy of Your Anatomy, Aesthetic, Murf and the Maggots and Monumental Slaughter performing at Backstage at 7 p.m.
- Lip Service performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Sunday, September 30

- "The Art of Shredding" guitar clinic with Bill Hoffman at Backstage at 3 p.m.
- Trophy Scars, The Finals and TBA performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- Goodbye Soundscape, Dino-sores and 7 Story Farewell performing at Café Metropolis at 7 p.m.

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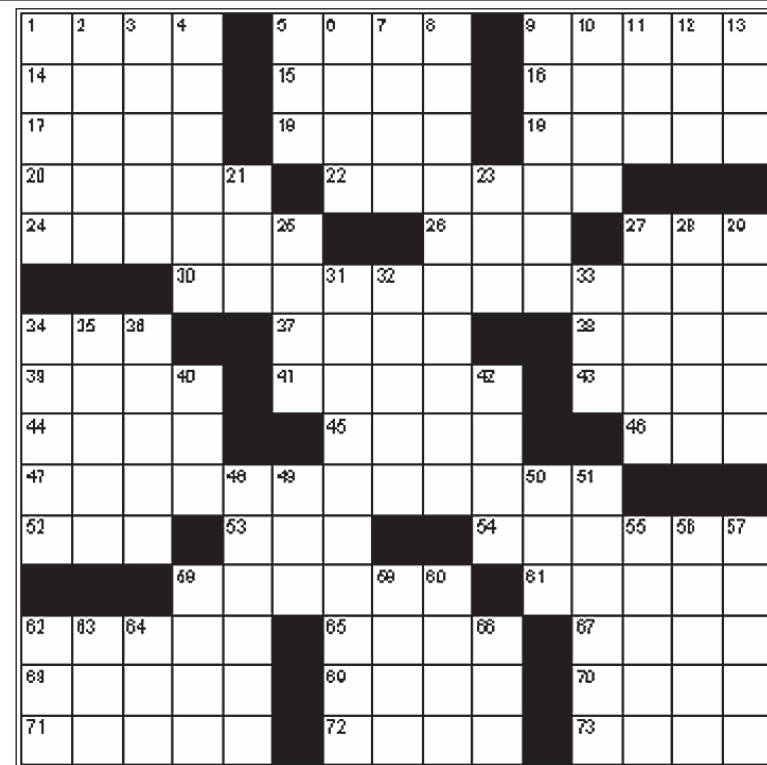
BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK
Beacon Staff Writer

ACROSS

- 1 Burial chamber
- 5 Random folder abbr.
- 9 “Why, because I _____”.
- 14 Port in NW Pennsylvania
- 15 Reflected sound
- 16 Keep away from
- 17 Pinta companion
- 18 Sticky wet viscous substance
- 19 Located
- 20 Civil war side
- 22 Pugsley to Fester (Adams Family)
- 24 Follows
- 26 Chew and swallow
- 27 “Tin _____,” starring Kevin Costner
- 30 Without belongings
- 34 “_____ Antonio, TX”
- 37 Slang OK
- 38 Concept
- 39 Eaten when proven wrong
- 41 Adds to the pot
- 43 First king of Israel
- 44 Away from shore
- 45 Castle defense
- 46 Tach readout
- 47 Resilient
- 52 Discontinue
- 53 Tenth anniversary symbol
- 54 Explanation
- 58 Takes away by force
- 61 Armistice
- 62 Boise location
- 65 Basketball goal
- 67 Android officer on the Enterprise
- 68 1984, for example
- 69 Not active

DOWN

- 70 “Happily _____ after”
- 71 Done to show reverence
- 72 Allen Ginsberg, for example
- 73 New Jersey basketball team
- 1 Edgy
- 2 “Men in Black” cat
- 3 CPA’s sign
- 4 What bullies do
- 5 “Sleepless in Seattle” actress _____
Ryan
- 6 Church symbol
- 7 Monopoly piece
- 8 Poisonous Pennsylvania snake
- 9 Eyeglasses type
- 10 Acknowledge boldly
- 11 “All _____ Need is Love”
- 12 “_____ City,” starring Bruce Wil-
lis
- 13 Abnormal
- 21 possessive pronoun
- 23 Bonnet, for example
- 25 Bean type
- 27 Fragrant conifer
- 28 Exhaust
- 29 Sacred song
- 31 Handwriting
- 32 What you do to plates
- 33 Fleur-de-_____
- 34 Music exercise
- 35 Maliciously start a fire
- 36 Forever
- 40 Tail motion
- 42 Cooking activity
- 48 Walk casually
- 49 Neckwear
- 50 Fishing devise
- 51 Eden, for example
- 55 Charming
- 56 Eight singers



- 57 Approaches
- 58 Child sound on a swing
- 59 Type of list
- 60 Part of a shoe
- 62 Squid defense
- 63 Wear
- 64 Madison or Lexington (abbr.)
- 66 Garfield to Jon Arbuckle

Answers 9/18



DontDateHimGirl.com

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO
Beacon Editor-in-chief

Well, this week’s site got off to an odd start. As soon as I tried to log in (after the confirmation e-mail went to *The Beacon*’s spam folder,) my Trend Micro Internet Security gave me the ever so pleasant pop-up, “You have attempted to open a dangerous Web site.” Great. What was even better was that I got the pop-up approximately 60 times throughout my browsing of the site. This didn’t bode well in terms of my final verdict. It also listed the site as “Spyware,” and it made me regret I used my PC to view it.

Moving on, DontDateHimGirl.com claims it is a “social networking site where women from around the world can share their dating experiences with each other.” That is listed under the “About Us” section of the site, but it took me about three full minutes to get that info into this paragraph, as I was interrupted six times; three times for a Wal-Mart ad with annoying music, and three additional times for an E-Harmony ad. Wow. E-Harmony. That is only furthering

the advancement of blue-collar couples and poverty across the nation. (I may review it in upcoming weeks.) I’m so glad I know the demographic that utilizes this site.

While I browsed through the tabs, with the Spyware warnings, EHarmony ads, and various other distractions worked their way in front of my mouse, I discovered that there was really nothing to this site.

They have a section called “He said, she said” which is apparently a forum where people can have it out, so to speak. It only had two little blurbs from an alleged ex couple, and a way to vote for whom the user thinks is “right.”

Now, here’s another thing: their search engine. I tried typing in names, and apparently, real people and real names came up. Check this one out. I won’t list the full name because I understand the meaning of libel.

Billy

He threw his wife and kids out to the curb and lied

compulsively about why. Well he got caught! He’s a homewrecker,COMPULSIVE liar, thief (stole my narcotic prescriptions) and an adulterer! He abandoned his family and left us homeless to have an affair and not feel guilty about it. His beautiful 5 yr old daughter and 3yr old son....kicked them to the curb...left us with NOTHING~ Beware, he is a good liar...COMPULSIVE liar!

(Reviewer’s Note: I left all spelling in tact.)

OK, I can see girls who have not yet turned into women finding this a great novelty, but that’s <i>libel</i> any way you look at it. I hate to abandon the feminist that I deny I am, but men, you should go to the site, look yourself up, and sue them for defamation of character.

Make sure you have great anti-virus protection, and a tolerance for E-Harmony ads.

This site is terrible. I give this site an “L” for *LAWSUIT*.

Aces High

Lady Colonels looks to mimic last year's performance v. Kings

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

It was September 12, 2006, and Katie Buckley was on the road for the Lady Colonels as the sixth and final player for the team to step onto the court in single match play. As they do before every game in an attempt to inspire their daughter, Buckley's parents said, "Go get 'em." For an amateur tennis player, Buckley needed every ounce of encouragement she could get.

Once she stepped on the court, that dreadful feeling of nervousness took over.

It was just the second conference match in her freshman campaign and Katie Buckley was next up to play in one of the biggest matches of the season for the Lady Colonels tennis team.

Standing on the other side of the net ready to squash the little freshman was King's College four-year veteran Jaclyn Dunn. Prior to facing Buckley, Dunn had already cooked three of her first four opponents and was hungry to eat another, especially a newcomer to the Lady Colonels roster.

Buckley, timid as she is before every match, would strike first, and as a result, the butterflies in her stomach eventually flew away. It wasn't easy, but the first set would go in favor of Buckley by a score of 6-4. At this point, Buckley was in the driver's seat and all she needed was to win one more set to pull away from King's soil with an upset under her belt.

The next set wasn't even close. In only her fourth match as a Lady Colonel, Buckley spanked Dunn in the second set 6-2 and that was all she wrote.

"It (winning) was a good feeling because I know it's a rivalry," said Buckley. "The whole team was happy since we won and I

felt really good that I could contribute with a win and keep going from there."

Buckley wrapped up last year with an impressive record of 10-3.

Last season, it took the Lady Colonels two hours and 35 minutes to complete a nine match sweep over King's. Wilkes defeated the Lady Monarchs in all six singles games and won all three matches in the doubles competitions. That win put the Lady Colonels at 4-0 and King's dropped to 1-3.

Fast forward a year and two weeks from the day the Lady Colonels faced King's College last season. They meet again tomorrow at Ralston Field.

After being crowned MAC Freedom Conference champions last season with an 18-2 record, the Lady Colonels are currently 4-1 overall, most recently beating DeSales University on September 20. Wilkes has a 1-0 conference record start under the leadership of back-to-back Freedom Conference Coach of the Year Chris Leicht. If you were to ask the humble coach about his outstanding awards, he'll tell you, "No comment; it's about the girls."

Last season, Leicht led the Lady Colonels to a record breaking season in the win category with 18 and took the team to their first NCAA D3 national tournament bid before falling in the opening round to Hunter College (NY) in Amherst, MA.

Five team competitions have been played and the Lady Colonels have fallen short only once to Bloomsburg University, a Division II program that was nationally ranked last year. The Lady Colonels went on the road to face Bloomsburg on Sept. 13, Leicht's alma mater, and lost four of the six single matches

and two in the doubles competition leaving the final score at 6-3. Buckley and freshman Victoria Bybel won singles matches for the Lady Colonels.

"We've beaten Division II schools before, but we know Bloomsburg is the top one in this whole region," said Leicht. "We knew that would be a step up in competition. But it definitely helps with (other) competition to know that we could compete with that team."

The following game for the Lady Colonels would prove Leicht right when it comes to playing higher divisions to gain the upper hand against competition around Division III.

The Lady Colonels matched-up against FDU-Florham Park on the road on Sept. 15 in Madison, NJ. This would be the first conference game of the season and the Lady Colonels went to town on the Lady Devils. None of the matches were forced into a third set. The Lady Colonels shut-out FDU in seven of the 12 sets to move to a record of 3-1.

"It's nice to win 9-0 when everybody contributes to the team win," said Leicht. "It definitely gives us confidence. We're strong but it's still nice to get those kind of wins where not only the teams wins but when every individual part wins."

After clipping the Lady Monarchs last season in all nine games, the Lady Colonels will look to repeat that effort.

But even though a whole season of tennis with the Lady Colonels is in the bag for Buckley, she still can't shake the butterflies.

"I still feel the pressure, but it goes away once I start playing. Once I feel the person out and how they play, then I feel better about myself," said Buckley.

Maybe the butterflies in her belly will prove to be positive once again for Buckley and the Lady Colonels as they go for their third consecutive victory against the Lady Monarchs at home tomorrow at 3:30pm.



The Beacon/James Rosato

The Lady Colonels are currently 5-1 after beating Lebanon Valley 7-2 on Thursday in Annville, PA.

Soccer from PAGE 20

Sumoski went on to make a goalie change after 24 minutes into the game substituting Berkey for senior goalie Liz Pauly. Pauly caught four saves in 66:38 of play to hold Stevens scoreless for the remainder of the contest.

After 35 minutes into the first half, senior Bethany Head scored the first goal of the game for the Lady Colonels off a pass from Georgina Robinson. Robinson followed with a goal of her own at the 67:04 mark to close the Lady Colonels losing gap to just one goal.

"We played our hearts out in that game," said Robinson. "We lost 3-2 but they scored all their goals in the beginning and they were all on free kicks for them. We played very well that game but the score

doesn't say much about it."

The Lady Colonels played brilliant soccer after they weathered Clark's storm, but needed to hold her to one less goal to potentially force an overtime game; maybe even another win.

"I'm not remotely concerned with the loss, because we're playing against regionally and nationally ranked teams that are getting us ready for conference play."

"One positive way of looking at it is that we had a lot of good soccer that game," said Sumoski. "We had 60 to 70 minutes of really good soccer that I was very pleased with

how we played."

"I'm not remotely concerned with the loss, because we're playing against regionally and nationally ranked teams that are getting us ready for conference play," added Sumoski.

In the first round of the 2005 national playoffs, the Lady Colonels played on the road against Stevens and lost 5-0 after beating Drew University (NJ) 1-0 in the MAC

Freedom Conference Championship. Last year Wilkes played Stevens for a second time and lost at home 1-0.

Robinson, senior forward from Kreamer, PA, tops the Lady Colonels in scoring with two goals on the season after improving multiple aspects of her game during the off-season. Julissa Reed, Melissa Polchinski and Bethany Head combine for the rest of the team's goals with one apiece.

The Lady Colonels take on Eastern University (PA) at home Wednesday at 4pm.

Conference play begins for the Lady Colonels Saturday October 6 at home against FDU-Florham (NJ) at 4 pm.

Men's Soccer

from PAGE 20

One of the major problems for the Colonels has been consistent aggression in the first half on shot attempts. Prior to their game on Saturday against Elizabethtown College (PA), the Colonels racked up 39 goal attempts in the first half compared to 58 in the second. Team co-captain Andy Curry leads the team this season in goals with three.

The Colonels squared off against Elizabethtown at home. Both teams showed their stingy side on defense in a game with only one goal scored. Luckily for the Colonels, it belonged to them. The sophomore from Mountaintop (PA), Arthur Jankowski would boot one in from 35 yards out after a whole 77 minutes was played. The Colonels had enough of being shut-out and dished out one of their own moving them to a record of 4-4. Senior goalkeeper TJ Baloga had four saves on the day as Elizabethtown dropped to 5-2.

The Colonels take on Baptist Bible at home on Thursday at 4 p.m. as they continue their quest to make a dream out of a young team.

"Our goal is definitely the Freedom Con-

ference playoffs and to capture that", said Wingert. "I don't think we're a nationally ranked caliber team but all you got to do is win your conference to make the NCAA (tournament). No soccer team at Wilkes has been able to do that in the past. It may be a young team but we would certainly have reached our identity as a NCAA team."

Who's Next?

** 9/ 27 vs. Baptist Bible*

**10/1 @ Lycoming*

**10/3 @ Rowan*

**10/6 vs. FDU*

**10/10 vs. DeSales*

**10/13 @ DelVal*

**10/16 vs. King's*

**10/22 vs. Scranton*



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Wilkes senior Jimmy Thomas slides for the ball against Elizabethtown on Saturday, September 22. Wilkes defeated Elizabethtown 1-0.


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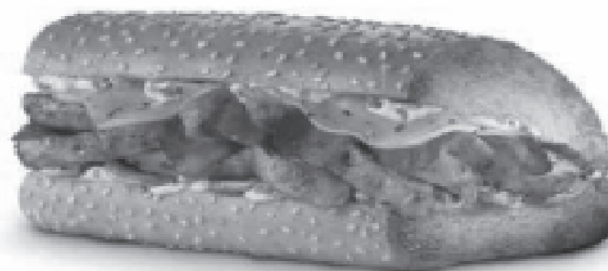
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| Commentary |

National League MVP to be decided in final week of season

National League East Rivals among the players in the hunt

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

This season, the National League MVP race might literally come down to the wire. With less than a week left to play in the regular season, there are four legitimate candidates, all of whom are on teams that have a shot at the playoffs.

The New York Mets' stranglehold on the NL East has loosened, allowing the resilient Philadelphia Phillies to sneak in, while they simultaneously keep pace in the Wild Card race. They trail the San Diego Padres, who have a tough remaining schedule, including games with the Colorado Rockies, as well as the Milwaukee Brewers, who are vying with the Chicago Cubs for the NL Central crown.

Among the MVP contenders is Jimmy Rollins, the veteran shortstop on the Philadelphia Phillies, whose leadership on the team outweighs his statistics.

During spring training, Rollins made a bold statement and said that the Phillies were the team to beat in the NL East, a statement that didn't go unnoticed in New York when fans showered Rollins with boos and catcalls when the Phillies made their first trip north for the season.

Despite their 4-11 start, Rollins stood by his statement, and similarly showed it on the field, helping the Phillies regain their footing after a horrible start. It also didn't hurt that he was putting up the best numbers of his career, either.

Rollins, who has never been known for his power, had a breakout season last year in which he hit 25 homeruns, 11 more than his previous career high. This season is proving not to be a fluke, as he has 29 homers and 90 RBI, while having 202 hits and scoring 132 runs, all career highs.

In spite of those numbers, Rollins has done more for the team than hit. In a season that saw the Phillies lose last years MVP Ryan Howard, All-Star second baseman Chase Utley and speedy Shane Victorino for long

MVP, as he is leading the Mets in batting average (.320), and has been steady throughout the season, when teammates like Jose Reyes and Carlos Delgado have gone through slumps.



Photo courtesy reid.mlblogs.com

Jimmy Rollins looks to win his first MVP award.

stretches of time, Rollins has proved to be the constant, playing in every game this season and being the unspoken leader of the club.

In addition to his offense, Rollins is also having a great defensive season, and is a very likely candidate to win his first Gold Glove award.

Rollins isn't alone in his division, however, as rival New York Mets third baseman David Wright is making his own strong case for the coveted title.

Wright, in his third full season is proving to be a leader both on and off the field for the New York Mets, as he is one of the best young players in the game.

He recently hit a milestone in his young career by having both 30 homeruns and 30 steals in one season, joining the ranks of Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, and Alex Rodriguez.

Wright is certainly making his case for

To be sure, Wright is a huge part of the Mets' success this season, and will certainly be in the MVP talks in the future.

Joining the ranks of the MLB youth movement is Prince Fielder, the 23-year old power hitting first baseman for the Milwaukee Brewers. Fielder, in his second full season, is following in the footsteps of his father, Cecil, a tremendous power hitter in his own right.

Prince Fielder is leading the NL in homeruns with in impressive 47, is leading the Brewers in RBI (112), and he is quickly turning into one of the best power threats in the National League, which no doubt has helped Milwaukee sit atop the NL Central for

most of the season.

Typically, there is one player each season that sneaks in the back door when no one is looking and very quietly turns into one of the best players in the league.

This season, that player is Matt Holliday, the left fielder for the Colorado Rockies. Holliday, who has always been a good player, has gone unnoticed while playing in Colorado, but is having a season that could very well put his team in the playoffs.

Despite the Rockies having more than a four game deficit in the NL West, Holliday is leading the charge toward the postseason by leading his team in average (.337), home runs (36), and leading the league in RBIs (131).

Four candidates, four teams with a shot at the post-season, and only one MVP award up for grabs.

It's going to be a wild week.

STATISTICS

Thru 9/22

Jimmy Rollins, SS
Philadelphia Phillies

Average: .294

HR: 29

RBI: 90

David Wright, 3B
New York Mets

Average: .320

HR: 30

RBI: 104

Matt Holliday, LF
Colorado Rockies

Average: .337

HR: 36

RBI: 131

Prince Fielder, 1B
Milwaukee Brewers

Average: .288

HR: 47

RBI: 112

AL Batting Title Race:

1. C. Jones(ATL), .341
2. M. Holliday(COL), .337
3. C. Utley(PHI), .335
4. Edgar Renteria(ATL), .333
5. H. Ramirez(FLA), .333
6. D. Young(WAS), .323
7. M. Cabrera(FLA), .323
8. Albert Pujols(STL), .322
9. D. Wright(NYM), .320
10. D. Lee(CHC), .317



Athlete of the Week:

Sean Vona

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Staff Writer

When a team graduates a great deal of talent and leadership, many younger players are often looked upon to step up their roles to help bridge the gap. For the Wilkes university men's soccer program, sophomore midfielder and pre pharmacy major Sean Vona has exemplified that philosophy as a young but promising Wilkes squad continues to establish its identity in the early part of this season.

Anative of Vestal, NY, Vona is part of a young, talented group of midfielders that looks to control possession of the ball and set up the Colonels offense for multiple scoring opportunities. While he has already tallied one goal on the season, Vona is quick to put his role in perspective and credit his teammates with stepping up their games to contribute to the Colonels recent three-game win streak. "As a center midfielder, my main objective is to get the ball and help get our offense in gear to score. We have multiple playmakers on this team, and when we are all clicking our potential is tremendous."

Head Coach Phil Wingert, who has just three seniors and no juniors on his roster for this season, has looked for Vona and his younger teammates to shoulder a heavier amount of responsibility than would normally be asked of a first or second-year player. "Sean has done a great job for us, both on the field and in the classroom." Wingert said recently. "He's grown tremen-

dously in his role with the team from his freshman year to this season., and we look to he and our other younger players to continue to play a large role in leading us in the right direction."

While the colonels started the year with 3 straight losses, they subsequently turned things around with a three-game win streak

that has given them tremendous momentum. "The first goal we scored against Misericordia, in the first game of that streak, has really propelled us" Vona said of the team's recent successes. "That game gave us tre-



Photo courtesy prosportsofficialteamsites.com

mendous confidence that we get quality opportunities to score more goals than we had been getting." With several more quality opponents on the upcoming schedule, Vona and the colonels will be looking to keep things rolling into the MAC freedom conference portion of the schedule.

Congratulations to Sean Vona on being named this week's athlete of the week!



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Wilkes sophomore, Sean Vona, has emerged as a leader on the men's soccer team. Vona, a midfielder, was pivotal in helping the Colonels turn their season around with a three game winning streak. Congratulations on being named Athlete of the Week!

WEEKLY RECAPS

Men's Soccer

Dickinson College remained unbeaten and posted its sixth straight shutout win with a 5-0 victory over Wilkes University in a non-conference match on Wednesday afternoon. The victory improved the Red Devils to 7-0, while the Colonels saw their three-match winning streak come to an end and fell to 3-4.

Women's Volleyball

The Wilkes University volleyball team copped their first Freedom Conference win of the season by scoring a 30-10, 30-11, 30-16 win at Manhattanville College on Tuesday night. The Lady Colonels improved to 6-7 overall and evened their conference mark at 1-1. Manhattanville fell to 1-7 overall and 0-1 in conference play.

Women's Soccer

Stevens Institute of Technology raced out to a 3-0 lead less than 20 minutes into the match and then withstood a Wilkes University rally to earn a 3-2 non-conference women's soccer win on Tuesday night. The Ducks ran their overall record to 5-1-1 with the win, while the Lady Colonels saw their overall mark fall to 3-4.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

16

Number of aces by the Wilkes University volleyball team in a 3 set win over Manhattanville on Tuesday, September 18.

1

Number of goals that Wilkes Sophomore Arthur Jankowski scored en route to a 1-0 victory over Elizabethtown on September 22.

2

Number of goals scored by Wilkes junior Devon McKay to lead the field hockey team to a 4-0 win over Marywood on September 20.

5

Number of goals scored by the Wilkes field hockey team in a 5-2 victory over Cabrini College on September 22.

Beacon Soccer Special

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

Young Colonels soccer team surges with senior leadership

In the midst of 23 soccer players kicking balls around during last Friday's practice just over the Market Street bridge at Ralston Field is a hardworking veteran that has quickly claimed his part of the spotlight.

Jimmy Thomas, senior from Myerstown (PA), stood in one of the two lines during a soccer drill in which the objective was to sneak a goal in past the team's goalie T.J. Baloga. Thomas waited patiently in line to get his turn from the right side as the scorching post-noon sun beat down onto the red hairs of his flamboyant goatee. He watched as a few of his teammates missed. Then it was Thomas's turn to kick.

Thomas passed the ball to his partner in the drill. His teammate returned it to him placing a soft pass to allow Thomas to kick

one past the goalie. He made contact and Baloga couldn't stop the ball from reaching the net. The drill came to an end and one of the players screamed in response to the goal as he ran back to the huddle "All right J-Bomb", short for Jimmy Thomas.

If you ever wondered if an athlete's practice effort is demonstrated on the field during a game, it is, especially for "J-Bomb."

On September 8, the Colonels hopped on the bus to go on the road to face Misericordia University in front of an estimated 200 fans for their fourth game of the season. The first three opponents of the season were Montclair State University (NJ), William Paterson University (NJ) and Muhlenberg College (PA), and each team shut the Colonels out combining for a

total of seven goals. After leaving all three games without putting goals on the board, senior Andy Curry managed to score the first goal of the season before halftime against Misericordia but the Colonels still trailed 2-1 leaving sour thoughts in their minds.

"I was frustrated," said Thomas. "I was scared, man."

Nine minutes after returning to the field for the second half sophomore Bret Osswald scored for the Colonels to tie the game at two goals apiece. A tie in this game wouldn't help the Colonels in the win department after losing the first three games. They were in desperate need of another goal to give them their first win of the season and that opened the floor for someone to steal the spotlight for the Colonels. The goal would

come at the 77:00 mark similar to the one scored by Thomas in practice. But this time, it was from the left side.

"I looked up. Greg Miller gave me an amazing ball off a corner kick, after he had an amazing cross," said Thomas. "The ball came right across the net right to my head and I literally had to take two steps (to score the goal)."

That game-winning goal gave the Colonels their first win this season and would drive the team to a three-game win streak after beating Widener (PA) and Moravian (PA).

"For the first time, everything we worked on in practice came to motion and it just clicked," said Thomas.

The leadership of this year's young Colonels soccer team is in

the hands of head coach Wingert, now in his 26th year. In the past 17 of those years, Wingert has taken 11 different Wilkes teams to the postseason. He has a 237-201-36 career record which leads the history of the Wilkes soccer program and looks to continue, developing on this year's unique bunch of Colonels.

"This team is so young that it's just trying to find it's identity," said Wingert. "The seniors have been a good group, but it's a small group so it's almost impossible to compare this team with other ones just because it is such a young team. It's talented, but it's young."

See Young on PAGE 17

Women's soccer makes positive out of Stevens loss

She is a 5'11 junior from George Bush's old stomping grounds, and unfortunately for the Lady Colonels soccer team in the first 20 minutes of the game, the adage that 'everything from Texas is big' held true and they couldn't stop her from scoring goals.

On September 18 the Lady Colonels traveled to Hoboken, NJ, to face Audra Clark and the Stevens Institute of Technology, the team with the longest winning-streak at home in the country.

Clark, a native of Dallas/Texas, has been blessed with a mountainous figure that stands out like a colossal obstruction on the soccer field. The Lady Colonels felt every inch of this beast's head. The reasons that the panel of judges from the Skyline Conference chose Clark to be part of the first all-conference team during her freshman and sophomore year, showed in just 02:18 of the game when she scored the first goal of the game off an assist by teammate Sara Roeder.

Only a dozen minutes later, the

enormous woman bolted down field as teammate Salme Cook dropped off a pass to her. Clark picked up the pass off her head for another goal to put the game at 2-0 in only 14:17 of the first half.

For the Lady Colonels, who only scored one goal in each of their three wins before playing Stevens, down by two in the first 15 minutes, it began to look as if like the fat lady was getting ready to sing early in this one. But not before Clark blasted in one more.

Before smokers could even put down their cigarettes, Clark would score again four minutes later from her second goal leaving her with three goals in the first 18:57 of the game. At this point, head coach John Sumoski could attribute Clark's goals to a couple key things.

"It kind of felt like marking tightly in the box is one of our downfalls so we can't give up too many corners," said Sumoski. "Our keepers need to improve at getting off their line punching and catching balls."

The 5'2 junior goalkeeper from Johnstown/PA, Jessica Berkey, tried to protect the net to limit Stevens's chances at beating the Lady Colonels for a third consecutive time but to no avail.

After Clark's final of her three-goal stretch, the Lady Colonels would go on to shut out the 15th ranked team in the nation for the rest of the game before dropping to a 3-4 record. Stevens improved to a record of 5-1-1.

"Two years ago when we got beat up there pretty good 5-0 the same thing happened. We just got shelled early," said Sumoski.

"The difference between this team and that team is, this team is capable of fighting back a little better and that's what we did."

See Soccer on
PAGE 16



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Wilkes sophomore Ashley Deemie goes for the ball during the 2-0 loss to NYU on Sunday. The Lady Colonels saw their record fall to 3-5.