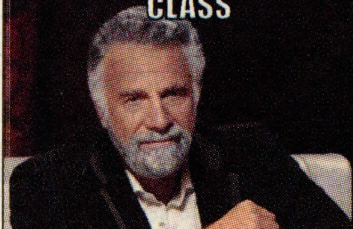




How refreshing:

Concession prices keep theaters afloat, Page 6

I DON'T ALWAYS GO TO CLASS



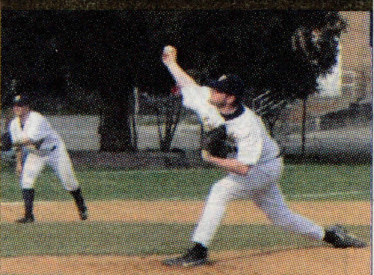
Humor me:

Wilkes memes are all the rage, Page 10



Art club:

Wilkes offers a new campus organization, Page 14



Colonel ball:

Drops tough series to FDU, Page 16



The Beacon/Phat Nguyen

Wilkes is set to have 18 months of continuous construction for the \$35 million science building. The construction has drawn mixed reactions from students and faculty, as some support the building but others feel the liberal arts are being overlooked.

Science building draws mixed reactions

BY PHAT NGUYEN
News Editor

Senior accounting major Weston McCollum believes Wilkes' new science building is "a waste of money."

"They took away the only appealing part of our campus," McCollum said.

Sophomore pre-med major Adam Bailey is happy to see the entire greenway is not taken up but believes the sciences do need a new building.

Bailey said his labs are almost always filled up, and he feels that Stark does not match the quality education being offered.

"Stark is starting to get old and shabby," Bailey said. "I think a state of the art science building is essential."

Students and faculty hold strong opinions regarding the new science building, some of them conflicting.

While some strongly support the advancement of the school's sciences, others see it as a selfish promotion and financial burden.

The \$35 million building, which is set to open in fall of 2013, will undergo 18 months of ongoing construction.

That daily construction, which starts as early as 8 a.m., doesn't seem to have students and faculty concerned about loud noises as much as costs and the loss of the university's greenway, which has been fenced off.

One of the science departments allegedly in need of renovations is the Chemistry Department.

Amy Bradley, chemistry chair,

often deals with leaky sinks that have been reinforced but still require maintenance and cleaning.

"It's a danger," Bradley said. "Students can slip and fall."

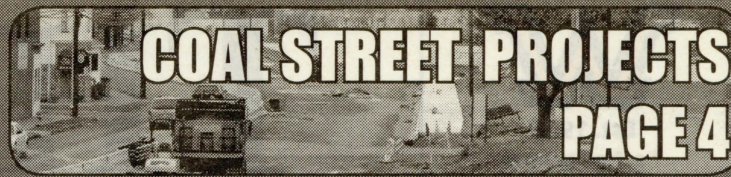
With 98 students enrolled in organic chemistry and 135 students in general chemistry, scheduling is also issue.

The department has to offer nearly 10 labs for organic chemistry which is limited to 16 students per lab because Occupational Safety and Health Administration

SEE BUILDING, PAGE 5

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow

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Church and state reunite for the presidential elections

BY MIKEL HARTSOUGH
Correspondent

"And that is what the perception is by the American Left who hates Christendom...Satan has his sights on the United States of America," Senator Rick Santorum, GOP presidential nominee candidate has brought religion into his campaign.

Interfaith Coordinator Caitlin Czeh believes Santorum's sudden surge is not due to his core religious beliefs, but because of his traditional conservatism. Santorum won Colorado and Minnesota convincingly. His momentum has slowed in the recent months, barely losing to Romney in Michigan and by a larger margin in Arizona.

"Religion definitely plays a major role in how a voter chooses a candidate; different beliefs can turn people off from voting for you. There are candidates who push their religion onto people, these people especially affect a voter's decision," Czeh said.

Michael Tigie of the Catholic Student Union blames Santorum's misuse of religion.

"When a candidate such as Santorum speaks

about his religion, he is only doing so to win his primary. Over 80 percent of Americans identify with a religion, if you present yourself as a strong religious candidate you appeal to a large percentage of Americans. Santorum is Christian, and over 60 percent of Americans identify themselves as Christians," Tigie said.

Although experts such as political science professor Dr. Andrew Miller believe that religion won't play a large part in the election, those in the religious profession don't see faith taking a back seat.

"The candidates are pitting religion against each other when religions not meant to be compared. A voter can look at a candidate and say 'hey that's my belief.' Sometimes people can feel like they're one with that candidate, help them identify with them," Czeh said.

Romney got the support of 90 percent of the Mormon voters in Arizona, which is a state Romney dominated in the polls.

"A person should not be elected because of his faith, nor should he be rejected because of his faith," Romney said in response to the massive support from Mormon voters.

Santorum who has spoken at several religious

establishments in recent months was endorsed by the evangelical Christian leaders he spoke at the Cathedral of Praise in South Carolina during the primary.

After Santorum was endorsed by the evangelical leaders the online donations toward his campaign increased 50 percent, the U.S. census identifies more than 2 million evangelicals in the U.S., but states the religion question is open-ended and not mandatory to answer.

South Carolina Republican voters define themselves as born-again Christians, which is in association with the evangelistic church.

According to the exit polls conducted during the 2008 elections 69 percent of voters said that the religious beliefs of the candidate mattered to them. 11 percent of born-again Christians voted for Romney in the election.

According to a study at Baylor, Professor Wade Rowatt concluded that a higher percentage of people voting in a church instead of a school vote for a conservative candidate or proposition.

The study showed that an Arizona school voted on a funding referendum in 2000 and voters who were polled in schools tended to vote

in favor of increasing the state tax. While voters in churches tended to vote against the increase.

Obama makes several references to his religious background in "The Audacity of Hope."

"I was not raised in a religious household. For my mother, organized religion too often dressed up closed-mindedness in the garb of piety, cruelty and oppression in the cloak of righteousness. However, in her mind, a working knowledge of the world's great religions was a necessary part of any well-rounded education," Obama said.

Greg Emory of Westminster Presbyterian had this to say about religion in politics: "I remember when there was serious discussion over Kennedy and his Catholic background, so looking at the history of religion and presidents, there will always be scrutiny."

"However, I feel the majority of voters won't take it seriously. Candidates like Santorum can gain voters by expressing their religious beliefs, but at the same time they run the risk of alienating themselves to that specific audience."

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Beacon Briefs

BY DEVONI NOVAK
Assistant News Editor

ASME requests funds for annual car show - For this year's car show ASME requested \$5,800 to cover the cost of T-shirts, prizes, entertainment and materials.

Last year, ASME requested \$2,000 which left SG wondering about such a large increase in fund demands. After deliberating whether funding the car show would be an effective use of student activity fees, SG felt that ASME was unprepared and did not fundraise enough in preparation of the event. ASME was granted \$2,000 to pay specifically for a DJ and a dynamometer.

The Big Event of April Fools - Campus

-wide community service project, The Big Event, has 209 students on board so far and is set to take place April 1. A fund request of \$2,600 was granted to the event to pay for water bottles, bags, T-shirts, transportation and breakfast.

Relay for Life fund request - To cover the upfront cost of the Relay for Life event, \$1,500 was requested for T-shirts, food for participants, a survival dinner and decorations.

About 195 people have signed up to relay so far, an increase from last year's 100 participants who registered by this time. Out of the 195 people, 25 teams were created, 21 of them consisting of Wilkes students.

Much less than last year's \$3,000 request, the \$1,500 was granted. The event will take place April 28-29.

Casino Night: prizes, prizes, prizes

- The main focus of Casino Night is the prizes. This year students can try their luck at winning a plethora of awards. The top items include: the MacBook Pro, the iPad, jewelry, a TV, gas and Visa gift cards and a skydiving trip.

Each night free pizza and soda will be available for all participants. The event is projected to cost \$11,500, most of which will pay for prizes. Casino Week is scheduled to take place April. 10-13.

Campus g-mail - IT has decided unani-

mously to make the switch from Wilkes email to g-mail. Use of g-mail will begin in the upcoming fall semester. IT committee has considered holding a luncheon for faculty, staff and students to instruct on how to use g-mail. No final decision has been made yet on the luncheon.

Spring to Hollywood - Spring Fling is set for March 31 at the Woodlands. Hollywood Bash will be a night with dinner, drinks and dancing. Tickets are now on sale for \$5 in the SUB.

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Meet the Staff



Laura Preby
Photo Editor

Hotel Sterling and traffic blocks still standing

Luzerne county unable to reach demolition agreement with city

BY SARAH KENNELLY
Correspondent

One of Luzerne County's most famous and oldest hotels is causing the county some distress.

The Sterling Hotel in Wilkes-Barre was condemned a few months ago, after the September Flood of 2011. The 114-year-old building will likely be demolished in the future.

Luzerne County has been trying to negotiate a demolition agreement with Wilkes-Barre and CityVest, the owner of the Sterling, for months. One reason the agreement has not been reached is the city refuses to waive demolition-permit fees.

Wilkes-Barre Mayor Tom Leighton said the city committed roughly \$250,000 in state gaming funds toward the demolition.

In addition, Wilkes-Barre is also paying \$5,000 a month for traffic barriers constructed around the Sterling due to concerns of building debris falling onto nearby traffic. The traffic barriers have caused irregular traffic patterns on River Street where the Sterling Hotel is located.

"This county must make a decision soon because the building is a fire hazard and continues to attract the homeless," Leighton said.

"It's likely the nonprofit CityVest will file for bankruptcy if the county doesn't take the property off its hands," Leighton said. "The property would then be frozen and continue to deteriorate until the city could obtain funds for demolition."

Leighton also predicts that the county will be tied up in bankruptcy court for years to try to recover some of its investment in the project.

According to a March 2011 report released by CityVest, it would cost about \$1.2 million to demolish the property.

The study also included a roofing company estimate to redo the roof, replacing the wood framing with steel and metal. This estimate, released in 2009, was \$1.4 million.

The CityVest study says it will cost anywhere from \$5 million to \$7.7 million to stabilize and mothball the entire building.

There were some suggestions to save the Sterling Hotel. Wilkes-Barre architect Carl Handman asked Luzerne County officials to consider the cost of structurally securing and mothballing the Hotel Sterling for future preservation.

Handman worked on the Sterling project



The Beacon Archives

The Sterling Hotel was condemned after the September 2011 flood but is still standing today. One reason the agreement has not been reached is that the city refuses to waive demolition permit fees. The 114-year-old building will likely be demolished.

in 2003. He publicly criticized CityVest for failing to listen to his past recommendation to mothball the structure to prevent further deterioration.

"CityVest's study claims that it will cost about \$7 million to mothball the property," Handman said, "but the study lacks detail on how they arrived at that estimate."

There is even a Facebook page group called "Save the Hotel Sterling" with 782 followers.

People who have lived in the area for more than a few decades, such as Wilkes University Dr. Bradford Kinney, say it's a shame that the Hotel Sterling will probably be demolished.

"There were so many things that could have been done to that building," Kinney said, "It could have been a museum, to attract people from other areas, or dorms for Kings and Wilkes students."

Kinney remembered when the Sterling rented out part of the 1898 building to King's College and Wilkes University for dormitory space. By the 1980s, the tower had become a low-cost residential hotel. Around the same time the owners announced a plan to turn the hotel into condominiums for tourists.

Unfortunately, the project was never completed. City health authorities later discovered several building code and health

violations and ordered all residents living in the hotel to leave. Due to ownership issues, unpaid taxes, and a fire in 2000, the building remained abandoned for years.

In late 2005, the nonprofit organization CityVest bought the Hotel Sterling and decided to redevelop the original hotel building into residential and commercial space, with a budget of \$6 million in Luzerne County money. The rooms and hallways in the 17-story Plaza Tower were too narrow and low for redevelopment, so CityVest demolished the building in February 2007.

CityVest's initial loan papers with Luzerne County promised to begin work on the hotel in February, 2007 finish the job a year later, and create jobs for people of low and moderate income.

County Controller Walter L. Griffith Jr. released an audit of the project in June, accusing CityVest and the county community development office of mishandling funds.

"CityVest had failed to complete plans that should have been done years ago, and they never bothered to find a developer," Griffith said. "Now they claim they cannot pay back the \$6 million they borrowed from the county and want to tear down the building and give the land to the county."

Luzerne County council has split views over what should happen to the Hotel Sterling.

Four council members are in favor of finding ways to save the Sterling Hotel. Elaine Maddon Curry, Rick Williams, Harry Haas and Eugene Kelleher have said the county should find out how much it would cost to mothball and stabilize the Sterling, and find out if the county has enough funds to afford it.

The seven other members of the council expressed support for demolition. However, council members said they won't make any decisions unless a cooperative agreement is reached among Luzerne County, Wilkes-Barre and CityVest.

"There is no time frame yet to when or if the demolition will take place because the three groups, Wilkes-Barre, the county, and CityVest, have not reached an agreement," explained Council Vice Chairwoman Linda McClosky Houck. "As for the current condition of the building, with collapsing ceilings and holes in the roof, I believe if it was turn-over to the county it would have to be demolished."

Luzerne County Council hopes to receive some agreement with CityVest and Wilkes-Barre within the next few weeks, though it is not likely.

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Coal Street Project adds two lanes, revamps park

BY AMANDA LEONARD
Correspondent

Every day, people drive on Coal Street to get to popular Wilkes-Barre destinations, to commute or to get to the other side of town. As of late, it has become a congested, dangerous road giving headaches to many.

Coal Street is a vital road that links Wilkes-Barre Boulevard to Business Route 6309. It also leads to Mohegan Sun Arena, the Wyoming Valley Mall and other commercial businesses.

The \$13.7 million Coal Street Project, a plan that will expand the three-lane road to a five-lane highway and revamp a 31-acre park, has been under construction since 2009.

However, the project is not a new idea; it has been talked about since the 1990s.

Butch Frati, Wilkes-Barre director of city operations, said that the idea for the project was developed in the late 1990s by a group who realized that the area needed to expand for businesses to flourish.

"The conceptual idea for the Coal Street Project was put together by the local Metro-

politan Planning Organization," Frati said. "The group identified a need to expand both the areas and roadways leading from the interstate system to urban areas as a way to encourage business investment specifically in the Wilkes-Barre area."

The MPO is a federally mandated and funded transportation policy making group. Along with the Coal Street Project, the MPO is adopting a Long Range Transportation Plan that will serve as a guide when selecting projects for future transportation improvement programs. These two organizations coincide for the Coal Street Project.

Along with the widening of the existing Coal Street from three lanes to five lanes from State Route 309 to Wilkes-Barre Boulevard, residents of Coal Street will also see a revamping of their front yards.

"New curbing and sidewalks on both sides of Coal Street will be implemented, along with 97 new street lights, updated traffic and pedestrian signalizations and new pavement markings," Frati said.

Michael Simonson, assistant Wilkes-Barre director of city operations, works closely with



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

The Coal Street Project adds two lanes, improves curbs and side walks along with 97 new street lights and updates traffic and pedestrian signals to a busy intersection.

Frati and is optimistic about the project.

"It's our hope that this project will inject life into one of the city's most trafficked roadways," he said.

Along with the widening of the road, the 31-acre park, now named the Coal Street Complex, is complete and has office space to rent. It is a two-story structure that houses a 500-seat hockey rink with training facilities and opportunities for the public to skate.

The Coal Street Complex is the former Ice-A-Rama structure. It has been renovated and connected to the new two-story structure. The Coal Street Project also demolished the swimming pool, in preparation for reshaping the park section of Coal Street. More than \$600,000 is earmarked for two lighted basketball courts, tennis courts, a playground and a sports field.

This sports complex will be available for ice hockey leagues, tournaments and camps. The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins also hold practices at this complex, which is closer to their arena than their formerly used ice rink in Pittston, The Ice Box.

The financing of the \$13.7 million project has a breakdown of 80 percent federal funding and 20 percent local funding, Frati said.

"The local match is a combination of three local taxing bodies contributing to a fund that is managed by the Luzerne Count Redevelopment Authority," he said.

On May 18, 2009, the Coal Street Project received \$950,000 in federal funding from Senator Bob Casey and Congressman Paul Kanjorski. This funding will be specifically used to construct new basketball courts, a sports field and other public recreational amenities.

Though Coal Street has already seen its fair share of demolition, renovation and construction, it is not over yet and Coal Street businesses are hurting due to lack of customers and difficulty with entering their business.

Nicole Theodore, owner of Arena Bar and Grill, said that the project has been affecting her business.

"We now need to spend more money in the form of marketing and advertising to compensate for our lack of traffic flow," she said.

Corridors blocked the entrance for Arena Bar and Grill and Walgreens, making it difficult for customers to enter their businesses with ease.

Across the street from Arena Bar and Grill and Walgreens, Sam's Club sees similar problems.

Sharon Holloman, Sam's Club employee, has to redirect her route to work due to the congestion of the road.

"I usually come up Northampton Street instead of Coal Street since it's always so busy," she said.

James Conlon, a Sam's Club supervisor, faces the problem of traffic congestion when cashiers report late to work due to traffic.

"Not only is the construction inconvenient to us, it's also dangerous," he said.

Coal Street is a popular street that many need to travel every day. However, the construction deters some people from going to Coal Street businesses.

"If I ever went ice skating, I'd be stuck there for five days trying to get out of the parking lot," Conlon said.

Though residents, commuters and businesses have shared in the stress of the project, Frati said that the end of construction is in sight.

"The project is scheduled for completion by the end of October 2012," he said. "As the project stands now, it is relatively close to the original schedule, however by the end of 2011 the project was a few weeks behind schedule but with the extraordinary warm winter the contractor was able to make up time."

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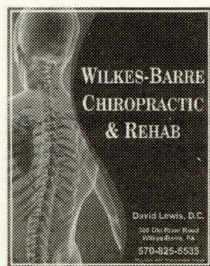
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BUILDING

Continued from front page

mandates space to two students per hood due to space.

Seven labs are open for the general chemistry students, but they are not limited by hood space.

Bradley, one of the two organic chemistry teachers, said there are many fines that the school could face regarding cleanliness if the school does not meet standards set by the OHSA.

OSHA's mission is to assure safe and healthful workplaces by setting and enforcing standards, and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance.

"We're up to code on everything, but it'll certainly be easier with a new, clean lab," Bradley said.

"I think students will benefit, research will benefit and safety will be better."

Bradley went on to note the importance of air suction for the organic chemistry labs.

"Organic students will all encounter dangerous chemicals and gases which need proper air suction for their safety," Bradley said.

"While the students will only be in the organic labs for a fall and spring semester, the chemistry faculty and staff will deal with these chemicals as long as they're at Wilkes."

Since Bradley has come to Wilkes, the school has installed lab hood monitors that indicate safe levels of air flow in laboratory fume hoods.

The monitors are used to measure and report on exhaust flow in many critical or controlled indoor environments, including pharmaceutical and university laboratories.

Each organic hood has been equipped

with an AirGard 405, which each costs \$330.

Bradford Kinney, professor of communication studies, believes the liberal arts should not be overlooked.

"I think the sciences are good, but not on the back of the liberal arts," Kinney said. "Not that we don't need a science building, because we really do. I really believe that."

When Kinney first came to Wilkes, he said he remembered how growing complaints eventually led to Wilkes buying property, tearing down houses and making the greenway, an open green space and social playground.

"It was so nice to see the kids out there throwing the Frisbee and enjoying their time," Kinney said. "Now, there is no greenway."

Kinney is becoming increasingly concerned with what will become of the TV studio.

The science building, which was originally planned to be built near the Henry Student Center, is being built in between the Stark Learning Center and Conyngham Hall.

With the science building wrapping around Stark, there might be issues with construction and a need to move the state-of-the-art TV studio in the basement of Stark.

The fenced-off greenway also bothers junior communications studies major Trevor Kurtz more than just physically.

The greenway, he said, was the student's place to hangout, and he is upset that Wilkes puts a higher priority in the sciences rather than the liberal arts.

"What really bothers me is I love my department," Kurtz said. "The fact of the matter is the school cares more about the sciences more than anything else."

Kurtz believes budget cuts were made by Wilkes to fund the science building by all



The Beacon/Phat Nguyen

Faculty say the chemistry laboratory hoods need to be repaired often. Also, air suction is essential for safety as they work with dangerous gases.

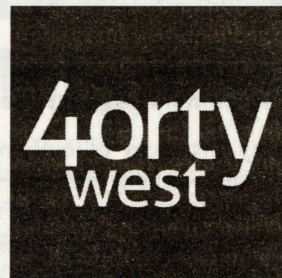
departments and they're ruining his education as the university is offering fewer upper-level classes each semester.

"We could have more things in the comm department, and we could have more classes, but we're funneling millions of dollars into a science building that will only benefit a portion of the school," Kurtz said.

Questions remain on what the school will focus on after construction is completed.

The next Wilkes president, Patrick Leahy, stressed the importance of a liberal arts education in his opening remarks, which may offer hope to non-science majors.

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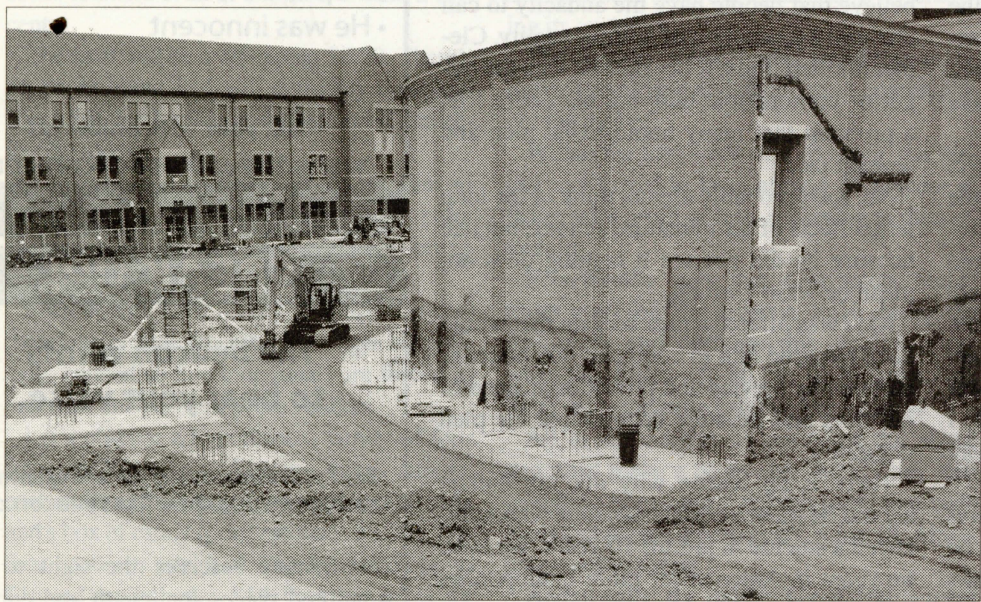
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The Beacon/Austin Loukas

This 18-month construction comes at a heavy price of \$35 million and questions about what will happen to places like the TV studio in the Stark basement. Students are upset about the fenced-off greenway.

MARCH 27, 2012

CONTACT EDITOR: carlyyamrus@thewilkesbeacon.com

Guilty verdict in Tyler Clementi suicide is a wake-up call for bullies

BY CARLY YAMRUS
Opinion Editor

"You do the crime, you do the time."

Former Rutgers student Dharun Ravi is no exception to this rule after being found guilty of bias intimidation - a hate crime, invasion of privacy and 13 other counts in the recent webcam suicide case. Ravi could potentially be imprisoned for up to 10 years and may even be deported to his native India. The trial used Ravi's text messages and "tweets" as evidence, which he tried to delete after hearing his convictions.

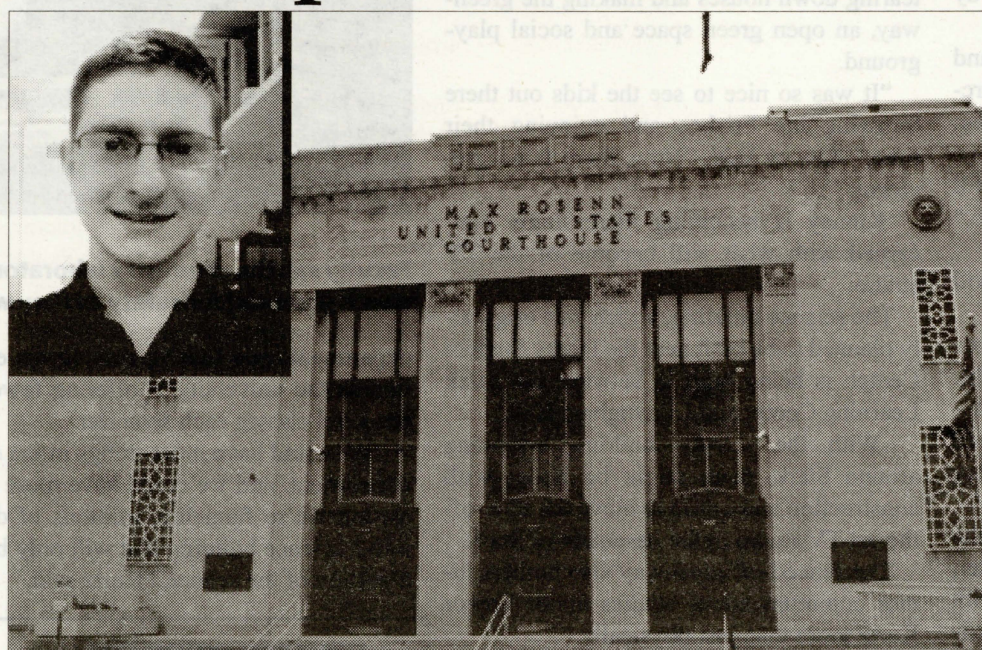
Was the sentence too extreme for this young man's actions? I think not. This particular case was a real eye-opener for today's teenagers who use social media and text messaging as a way of expressing their every thought, opinion, or reaction.

Immature tweets and text messages are one thing, but the real crime in this case was the carefully calculated webcam spying that Ravi broadcast not once, but twice. Ravi undoubtedly had no idea of the effect his so-called "prank" could have had on someone. Only after hearing that his roommate, Tyler Clementi, was contemplating suicide did he make an attempt to apologize and make amends.

Dharun Ravi was 18 years old, a freshman in college, at the time of Clementi's suicide. At the age of 18, we are considered to be adults, and should possess some knowledge on bullying and the effects it has on others.

Cyber bullying has been increasingly detrimental to the reputations and self-esteem of high school and college students. Clementi had asked his roommate for several hours of privacy in their shared room. Ravi responded by broadcasting the encounter to several friends and Twitter followers on multiple occasions. Clearly he did not act foolishly on a whim, as the spying occurred over the course of several days and required the setting up and testing of a webcam.

Ravi committed an adult crime, and should be responsible for accepting the adult repercussions. Whether he was actually homophobic or not, the deeds were done and they are assumed to have been the motive for Clementi's suicide, although it is not confirmed that this was the cause.



Courtesy of Facebook, The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Two years after Tyler Clementi (top left) committed suicide, roommate Dharun Ravi was found guilty. The court used that verdict as a way to crack down on bullying.

Too many instances of bullying go unrecognized and without punishment. Ravi's conviction sends a clear message to teenagers about accepting consequences for their actions or words. This trial lets teenagers know that bullying can have serious effects on the lives of other people as well as the bully himself. Dismissing Ravi of his actions would send the message that bullying is OK, and that it is fine to embarrass others and invade their privacy.

After reading other opinions on the topic, I was actually surprised that several people believed that Clementi did wrong in the situation by bringing a man into their shared dorm room, and that Ravi's actions were pranks. These people must have forgotten what it is like to live in a dorm room in college. That dorm room is essentially your house. As long as the actions are legal, I don't see how having a visitor in the room was in any way wrong.

Many comments suggested that Ravi was only fooling around as college kids often do by playing a prank on his gay roommate. But since when is spying on someone with a webcam and knowingly violating their privacy a prank? Just because a dorm room is not private does not mean the students oc-

cupying it have no privacy. If Ravi was that uncomfortable with his gay roommate, he should have gone to student housing and requested a different room.

I am disgusted by the comments that excused Ravi for doing what he did. I cannot believe that people have the audacity to call this trial a promotion of homosexuality. Clementi killed himself because he was the target of homophobic bullying his entire life, a problem that many homosexual men and women face.

No, Ravi probably did not think of the long term effects of his immature actions, but just because he did not see it coming does not mean he wasn't wrong.

Ravi was offered a plea bargain that would have required him to complete 600 hours of community service and probation instead of jail time and possible deportation. He pled not guilty.

There is no reason why our tax dollars should be spent keeping someone who influenced a suicide in jail for 10 years. We have no room in America for more homophobes or bullies. Send him home.

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BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. These poll results are based on 7 responses.

Last week's question:

How much food do you dispose of on an average day at the Wilkes cafeteria?

- Several platefuls - 29%
- None - 29%
- About a cup - 14%
- A plateful - 14%
- I don't eat at the cafeteria - 14%

This week The Beacon asks:

What do you think Rutgers student Dharun Ravi's verdict should have been in the suicide death of his roommate?

- 10 years in jail and deportation
- Only a few years of jail time
- Probation and community service
- Deportation
- He was innocent

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The Beacon reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for length and content. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Arts and humanities are still important at Wilkes

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

With the groundbreaking of the new four-floor science building the mission is now clear: Wilkes will become the one of the premiere educational institutes in the region for science education.

However, few are aware that at one time, Wilkes was once one of the premiere edu-

cational institutes in the area for music. You heard me right: music. During an interview with associate professor of music Dr. Phil Simon, I was told that at one time, every room on the third floor of the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center had one baby grand piano. Now there is really only one that I can think of on the third floor: the one in associate professor of music Dr. Steven Thomas's office.

Even better, at one time Wilkes had more

than one language major besides Spanish. They included French, German and Russian and even had an art major, not just the current art minor or the integrative media major.

According to the 2011-2012 Fact Book, the School of Pharmacy in total has 408 total enrolled as its primary major that includes the pharmacy practice program and the pre-pharmacy program. The Division of Performing Arts, meanwhile, only has 13 enrolled as its primary major. And look at philosophy: only two majors enrolled and one professor in its entirety.

Now Wilkes is one of the few schools in Pennsylvania that has a fully accredited pharmacy school and is the size that it is, so I have to give it credit for that. But majors such as philosophy, Spanish and theater arts are only in existence because at least one class in one of these areas is required for general education requirements. Every major has to take at least Philosophy 101 or Spanish in order to graduate.

It simply blows my mind that a school that at one time was considered one of the best music schools in the area has now seemed to almost completely ignore the arts and humanities.

I believe Wilkes should place more emphasis

on the arts and humanities, as there is so much that they offer to society in terms of communicating human emotions, beauty and experiences that appeal to everyone.

The arts and humanities give society the opportunity to pause, think and reflect on our experiences and the world around us. According to an essay online through Whitman College (which, by the way is also getting a new science building), the role of the arts in the academy, as in life, is to enable us to see the world and the human condition differently, and seeing the world through a particular work of art, to see a truth we might not have understood before.

The arts and humanities should not just exist at Wilkes for extracurricular activities and general education but should be in place as academic classes, even academic majors for that matter as they compliment everything around us in society.

The arts and humanities should not be viewed as something interesting to look at or something to do in one's down time. They need to be valued as academic majors just as the scientific majors are currently.

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The Beacon/ Austin Loukas

Wilkes was once a premiere educational institute for music. Nowadays, the sciences have dominated the school, leaving the arts and humanities in the dust.

Sit back, relax and stop complaining about concession prices

BY LYNDIE YAMRUS
Assistant Opinion Editor

The next movie I plan to see is "The Hunger Games." I will purchase a small bag of popcorn costing around \$4.50 and probably a small fountain soda at \$4, give or take a few cents.

The total will be a whopping \$8.50. There's no doubt about it, I will definitely complain about this, but I will nonetheless snack and enjoy the movie.

We've all had to deal with the burden of over-priced movie concessions at one point or another. The same burden exists at sporting events, amusement parks and concerts.

Such events have a duty to make a profit; therefore, outside food and beverages are typically banned so that individuals are forced to buy their snacks from event vendors.

Let's observe a hypothetical family of four who, for the sake of keeping things simple, each order a small bag of popcorn, a small soda and a box of candy (price estimate, \$3.50). The four popcorns total \$18. The drinks add up to \$16 and candy boxes, \$14. Dad then takes out his American Express card to pay and \$48 disappears from his bank account.

These prices are indeed outrageous, especially when you could get the same snacks at

the CVS down the street for under \$20.

Michigan resident Joshua Thompson took matters into his own hands after buying a Coke and Nestle Goobers candy for \$8 at an AMC theater, angered by the refreshment prices. In hopes of a statewide decrease in snack prices, the man later sued the theater for over-charging its customers.

The majority of ticket sales actually go to the movie production and distribution companies, not the theatre.

Within the first week of a showing, the theater is allowed to keep around 25 percent of ticket sales profit or less, according to theaterseat.org.

EconWeekly says that distributors sometimes even split the revenue 90:10 during the first week and decrease this amount every week that follows to 80:20, 70:30 and so on. Such splits are called sliding percentages.

All in all, theaters do not come out ahead and must make a profit elsewhere. They turn to selling high-calorie refreshments that taste good and please movie-goers. After all, America excels in eating.

Additionally, the theater keeps 100 percent of snack profits.

All things considered, it's necessary for such high prices to exist, as unfair as it may seem. In reality, if food costs decrease, ticket prices

would skyrocket.

The theater must stay afloat if people want to have the treat of going to the movies. Otherwise, you'd be stuck with watching movies on your couch in DVD format on a much smaller screen.

So look at it this way: a movie theater is essentially a junk food restaurant that happens

to feature a movie. If you're in the snacking mood, suck it up and pay the price. If you're still unable to get past the prices, wait and rent it from Redbox.

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The Beacon / Laura Preby

A \$5 popcorn may seem unfair, but these prices are necessary for the survival of the theater, which does not make enough money from ticket sales alone.

The Senate should increase funding for NASA

BY ANTHONY GORECZNY
Staff Writer

"Space, the Final Frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its continuing mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no one has gone before."

Those are the opening lines from "Star Trek: The Next Generation." Ever since I can remember I have been fascinated with outer space and what we might find out there.

I am intrigued by the idea that we might discover new things none of us have ever imagined in the nearly infinite unknown that is our universe. But there can be no Discovery without exploration, and recent massive cuts to the space program have brought our extraterrestrial exploration to a near stand still.

But it is not just my own infatuation with the skies that drives my opposition to these cuts, nor is it the dreams and determination of all the scientists and astronauts involved with NASA. Among those stars is a shining path

for our future.

As anyone will agree, the space program is a great financial Endeavor. A single space shuttle launch costs nearly half a billion dollars. While many people may see this as an unnecessary expense, that is only because the grandiose nature of these extraordinary undertakings is lost upon them.

The space program did not only expand our knowledge of our solar system and countless stellar phenomena, but also inspired every aspect of humanity.

The most obvious benefits are to all areas of math and science. Every individual field in these two areas of study has what is essentially a symbiotic relationship with the space program.

Clearly, space travel would be inherently impossible without the study of math, physics, chemistry, and medicine. Consequently these disciplines, and many others, would not have made the advancements and achievements we now take for granted.

GPS would be nothing but a dream if not for the satellites place in orbit using technol-

ogy from decades of aerospace research.

That dream was made possible by the hard work and determination of men and women striving to achieve their own dreams. In a recent testimony to the U.S. Senate, well known astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson delivered an inspiring message of hope for the future.

Through the space program, mankind has accomplished things once thought impossible. Cell phones, cordless power tools, modern computers and even Lasik surgery all use innovations attributed to the space program.

The reason for this is, quite simply, these men and women are dreamers. When told something is impossible, they do not simply accept their Challenger's supposition and walk away. They ask "Why can't it be done?"

This spirit of exploration is not unique to the men and women as NASA, but they possess it in great abundance. This is the same spirit that drove Christopher Columbus, and the reason our first space shuttle was named the Columbia.

It is their determination, their belief in the possibility of a world with a brighter future, that invigorates their ambitions and inspires people across the world.

Space travel has had as great an effect on our culture as it has upon our technology. For years authors, poets, musicians and artists have created works exploring the beauty, mystery and enthralling sense of adventure that are inherent in space travel. There are few people who would not instantly recognize Elton John's "Rocket Man" or have never heard of "Star Wars."

Since the dawn of time humanity has been driven forward by our inclination toward exploration. Our oldest stories include lost treasures, like the city of Atlantis, that are just waiting to be discovered.

It is clear why many people refer to the modern era as the space age. So much of what is integral to our society was either taken directly from, or inspired by the advancements and discoveries made by NASA and its compatriots.

The space program brings us stability and purpose. How many kids spread out in an open field to stare up at the stars, or dream of being an astronaut as soon as their heads hit the pillow every night. It doesn't just inspire innovation and art; it unshackles imagination and determination. If we turn our backs on that now, our culture, our technology and even our economy will severely stagnate. In fact, it has already begun.

Once we were entertained by stories of cowboys facing the unknown of the western frontier. Now we enjoy watching people get drunk and insult each other, and girls who are only 16 and already have a child. Every year a

new Apple product is released that is, for all intents and purposes, exactly the same as the previous year's.

I doubt I need to tell you much about the state of the economy.

When President Obama set the bailout in motion, he poured \$750 billion into the very banks that were responsible for state of the economy.

That would be similar to a parent who gives his child \$1,000 in the hope that it will teach him to stop wasting his allowance. To help pay for this, he made massive cuts to NASA, and put on hold all hopes for future exploration of the moon and Mars.

This bailout cost more than NASA has received in funding since its inception. As we have been continually abandoning our navigation of the skies, our hopes for the future have been left among the nebulae and infant suns of outer space.

It is time we reclaim them, and through education and exploration bring all of humanity into a new golden age of prosperity and progress.

Exploration and education provide jobs for millions, and motivate and inspire millions more to see possibilities they had never considered. Take the money back from the banks, which seek only to acquire more money, as that is their sole purpose for existence, and reignite the fires which, in the Cold War, fueled the innovations that drove us to become the most influential nation in world.

We may no longer have USSR breathing down our necks, but we have enemies far greater that we cannot conquer along. War, famine, injustice: all of these enemies may be confronted with knowledge and experience gained through the space program. Perhaps this path will give us all the ability to live long and prosper.

Photo courtesy of sxc.hu/

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WILKES UNIVERSITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

Alzheimer's Disease: a disease that disconnects



The Beacon/Dan Lykens

Left, Dr. Rhonda Soricelli presents on understanding Alzheimer's disease from the arts perspective. Right, a student views the work of artists in the "Memories in the Making," a project that encourages those with Alzheimer's disease and caregivers to express their feelings and emotions about the disease through art.

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

Minerva Gaspar's grandmother has trouble remembering Gaspar. She can't even remember Gaspar's father, her own son, and thinks of herself as a child.

"She needs constant care and (needs) to be watched 24 hours a day," Gaspar, an undeclared freshman, said.

Gaspar said it is stressful for her family to deal with the disease, as there is nothing they can do about it and the medication doesn't seem to help.

Gaspar's grandmother is one of millions worldwide suffering from Alzheimer's disease, a form of memory loss affecting people aged 65 and older.

This month, the Pre-Professional Society is hosting a series of awareness sessions with doctors and other professionals to help educate the public about the disease.

About 5.4 million Americans are diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and there are approximately 15 million unpaid caregivers devoting 17

billion hours of care to those afflicted by the disease.

The Greater Pennsylvania chapter of the Alzheimer's Association said every 68 seconds a person is diagnosed and the disease is the sixth leading cause of death and the only one that can't be cured or slowed significantly.

GPCAA interm Director of Programs and Services Clayton Jacobs said until recently, Alzheimer's had a stigma that made people not want to discuss it. But the growing number of people aging makes the discussion more important.

"Not only is it important for those going through it, we know one in every three families is affected so we all know someone, so (it has) some impact on our lives," Jacobs said. "It's partly our need to understand and to support each other in the community."

The first session, "Diagnosis and Early-Stage Alzheimer's Care," held on March 13, touched on some of the warning signs, early stages of the disease and the disease's impact on families.

The second session, "Understanding Alzheimer's Disease: A View from the Arts,"

was held March 21.

Pre-Professional Society members Brielle Stanton and Nathaniel Lamoreaux, both biology majors, spoke at the session about the emotional and personal side of the disease.

The session included a reception featuring artwork from the art therapy program "Memories in the Making."

"(The program) is about the process of creating and finding different outlets for someone to express themselves even if they're having issues with memory and the ability to communicate," Jacobs said.

Stanton said she was honored with participating in the session, and it has given her a new awareness about the disease. She has come to understand how it affects people and their loved ones.

"With Alzheimer's and the Arts, (it) gives a better representation of how people are actually dealing with Alzheimer's," Stanton said. "You get a different perspective you wouldn't necessarily get through scientific information."

The third session, "Alzheimer's Issues: Panel Presentation and Discussion," a panel

discussion with six experts in Alzheimer's disease from around Northeastern Pennsylvania will take place at 6 p.m. March 27.

The session will discuss available services, care needs and options for those working in the field or dealing the disease personally.

Stanton hopes the presentations makes people more aware of the effects of the disease.

"It's becoming a bigger topic today so it's very important that those who may be affected by it are aware of it because sooner or later each person is going to have some connection to it," Stanton said.

Gaspar said awareness of the disease will help her family members prepare for the disease, particularly her father.

"It'll prepare us for my dad, who (doctors) say is most likely to get it, we're looking at the way he acts as he gets older to see if he has any of the symptoms that she experienced and maybe get him on that medication that prevents it," Gaspar said.

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I can has Wilkes Memes? Students bring the Inte

BY KIRSTIN COOK
Editor-in-Chief

Foul bachelor frog. Good guy Greg. Success kid. Courage wolf. Socially awkward penguin.

Those are just a few of the Internet memes that have gone viral on websites like Memebase, Reddit and 9gag. The trend has even sparked an online database, KnowYourMeme, to document these Internet sensations and explain the humor behind them.

And now, memes have spread to Wilkes. With the Facebook page Wilkes Memes, Wilkes students are putting their spin on Internet humor.

Garrett Schrader, a junior history major, first noticed the Wilkes Memes page a few months ago, but followed memes in high school on web pages like the LOL Cat inspired blog, I Can Has Cheezburger?

Through Internet memes are often known as images, they can also be catchphrases or videos spread across the online community.

Schrader defined memes as inside jokes that everyone is in on. While he said people enjoy the humor behind them, the true purpose of a meme is to describe things that happen in culture.

"People can relate to them real well, that's the definition of a meme," Schrader said. "What a meme really is is it brings people together."

People relate to meme situations, Schrader said, because they've been in those situations before or know someone who has. The more you can relate, the funnier they are, he said.

"What people like about it is it relates to them in a funny way," Schrader said.

Wilkes students may notice some familiar themes on the Wilkes Memes Facebook, like the new science building and the My-Wilkes portal. Schrader said he has seen meme pages for other schools, but now Wilkes students can be in on the joke.

"It's funnier here because we're a part of it," he said.

Schrader said memes have become more popular recently as more people get access to them and they continue to spread. He said one reason memes are becoming more mainstream is that same relatability that defines the trend.

"A lot of people share that same perspective, I think that's why they've grown in popularity," Schrader said.

Darrell Dech, an undeclared freshman, agrees that memes have caught on and they refuse to let go.

"I believe memes have become very popular in the last few months," Dech said. "Two to three months ago, practically nobody knew what a meme was. Now, you ask anyone and most people will be able to tell you one."

Dech is another student who relates to Wilkes Memes. Some of his favorites include a Futurama character mocking the Wilkes mascot pronunciation and the Lord of the Rings character Boromir parodying online class registration.

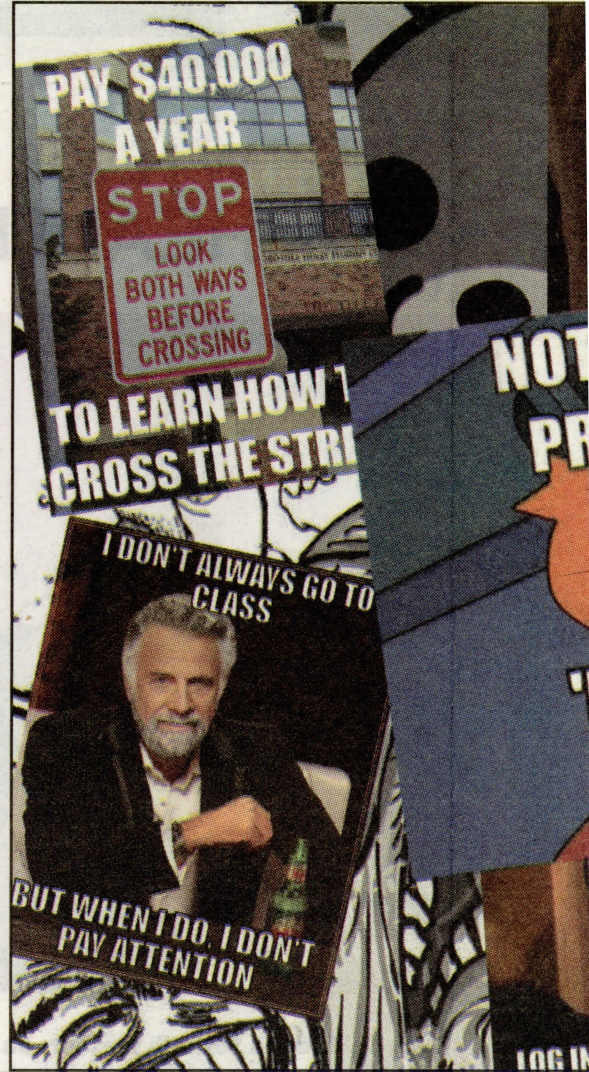
"My favorite Wilkes Memes is probably the 'Not sure if it's pronounced kernel or colonial' with Fry from Futurama," Dech said. "My other favorite is the 'One does not simply log into the portal to register for classes.'"

Dech first found out about memes from the website Iwastesomuchtime.com after friends linked to them on Facebook. He decided to try making his own memes using quickmemes.com.

"Memes are very simple to make," Dech said. "You just need to pick a topic and think of some creative, funny line about that subject."

Schrader also occasionally makes his own memes, such as for the Ultimate Frisbee team. He said he hopes the trend of memes continues, especially the trend of Wilkes memes. He's always checking for updates to the Wilkes Memes pages, since he said those are especially entertaining.

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SG hopes The Big Event volunteers make a small difference

BY ALYSSA STENCAVAGE
Staff Writer

This year students, faculty and staff have given lots of hours toward community service, particularly in September after the flooding from Hurricane Lee. But, Student Government felt this Army of Colonels could do more for the community at large.

The Big Event is a one day mass community service event with ultimate goals of the a group of Colonels will be doing tasks such as small home repairs, putting up fences, cleaning up parks and helping out in general. They will be taking work orders and then pairing up different people for those work orders and sending them out to help the community.

For anyone who wants sustenance before the day's work begins, free breakfast will be served beginning at 9 a.m. Bagels that morning will be donated by the Bake House of Wilkes-Barre.

Those on the Big Event committee have been working with different organizations

to obtain volunteer sites such as the Jewish Community Center, St. Vincent Soup Kitchen, Wilkes-Barre Department of Public Works and the Luzerne County Disaster Relief group working for flood victims.

"Most schools have this event, but because we are a university that is big on community service, we wanted to make sure we are doing something in the way of community service," Student Government President Willie Eggleston said.

There will be short-term and long-term sites, so volunteers who finish up at one site can move on to another. The committee is trying to get the whole campus involved clubs, faculty, alumni, staff and athletic teams.

Event flyers are posted all over campus with a barcode that can be scanned with a smart phone to lead directly to the website for the Big Event. This event has a Facebook page as well to reach out to volunteers.

"Right now we are having a volunteer rush to get everybody registered and pair them up for sites. We have the work, we just need



the volunteers," said freshman class president and pre-pharmacy major Taylor Moyer.

So far there are around 250 volunteers. Everyone will receive T-shirts and bags for their participation. The Big Event takes place April 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. followed by a barbecue at 4 p.m.

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The Beacon/Christine Lee
Freshman integrative media major Monique Woodward helps clean up a home in Duryea during flood relief cleanup in September. Because the of the turnout for flood relief, Student Government and civic engagement have come encouraged more community service through The Big Event.

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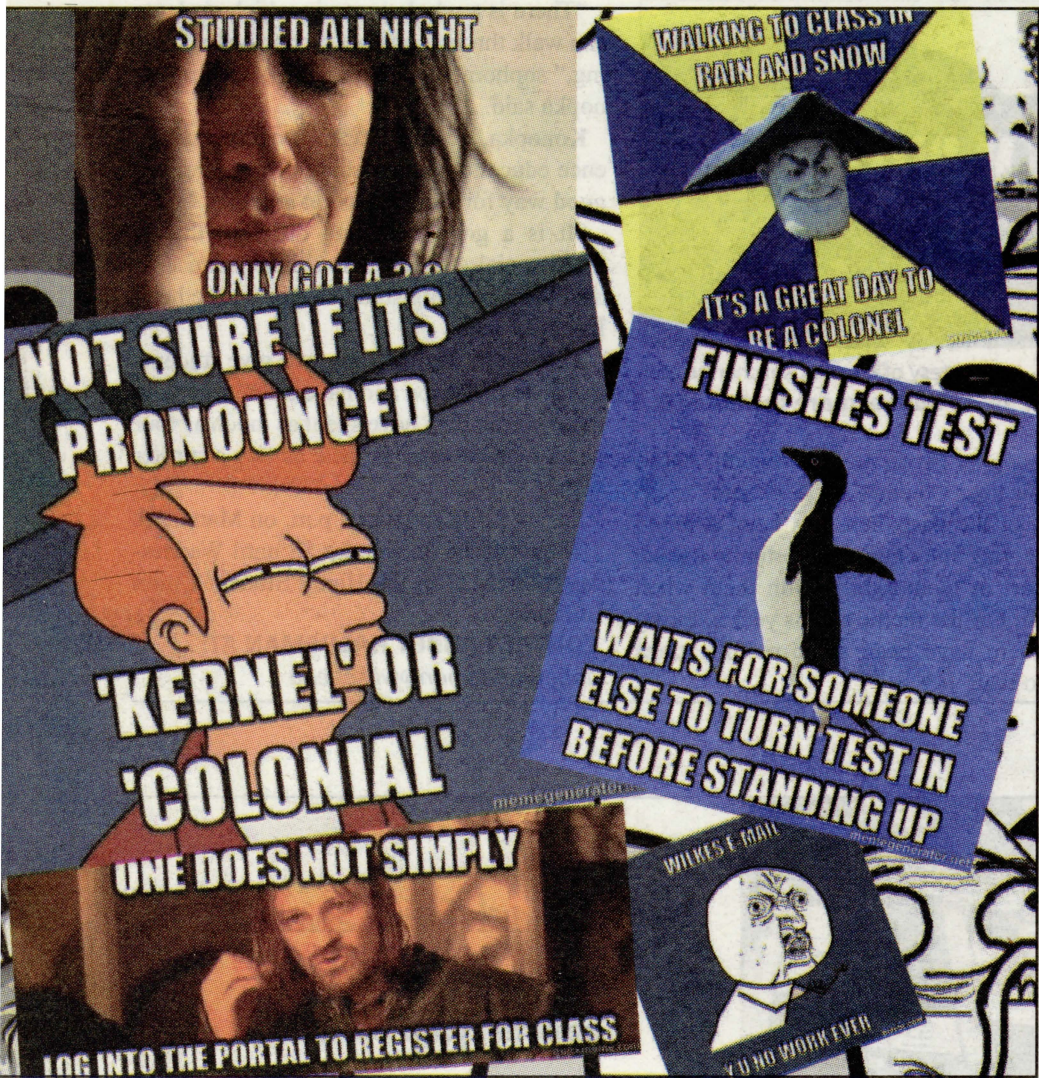
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Internet trend to Wilkes



Internet Memes 101

Here's some of the meme images that make the 'popular entries' thread on Knowyourmeme.com:

LOLcats – One of the more classic memes, LOLcats can be traced back to 20th century photographer Harry Whittier Frees, who would add funny captions onto cat photos. Nowadays, the funny cat pictures are often captioned with the broken English text 'lolspeak'.

Rage comics – Forever Alone, "Me Gusta" Guy and Y U NO Guy are a few of the many characters in the rage comic cast. The characters are all simple, stick-figure drawings made in Microsoft paint, and usually come with their own punch lines relating to real life.

Advice Animals – This range of characters are captioned with text showing funny, common character traits. These include Philosoraptor, Socially Awkward Penguin, Good Guy Greg, Courage Wolf, Foul Bachelor Frog and many more.

I took an arrow to the knee – An example of a pop culture influenced meme, this catchphrase is from the video game "The Elder Scrolls: Skyrim." The original phrase was, "I used to be an adventurer like you, then I took an arrow in the knee." The phrase went viral, allowing anyone to replace 'adventurer' with their own term.

Yo Dawg – This celeb-o-meme features Pimp My Ride host Xzibit, who is known for putting random things like fireplaces into cars. The purposefully misspelled format is, "Yo dawg, I herd you like X, so I put an X in your Y so you can verb while you verb." This meme is often closely tied to the movie "Inception," because of the whole dream within a dream concept.



Unimportant Questions with Important People

JUSTIN ASTRIN, UNIVERSITY TOWERS RESIDENT DIRECTOR AND JAIMIE OSBORN, EVANS HALL RESIDENT DIRECTOR

BY REBECCA BOLUS
Assistant Life Editor

Jaimie Osborn
Residence Life Graduate Assistant and first-year Master of Business Administration student
Hometown: Nazareth, Pa.
Campus Role: Assists with the duties of Residence life, housing and in-housing selection, and the duties of Residence Life, hall safety and roommate conflicts at Evans and Roth

Justin Astrin
Residence Life Graduate Assistant and

second-year Master of Business Administration student
Hometown: Long Island, NY
Campus Role: Oversees the RA staff that resides in University Towers and helps RAs with event planning, any issues that arise, and also serves on the Student Affairs on-call rotation.

What do you like best about working at Wilkes?
Osborn: I definitely like the friendly atmosphere, I feel like it's easy to get to know everyone not only the staff and faculty but also the students on campus.
Astrin: Because it is a smaller, tight-knit community, it's easier to get to know the

residents in your hall especially with a position like ours where we're that much more removed from some of the traditional students, it still gives us the opportunity to interact with them on a regular basis because we live and work in the same place.

ball and go in it and roll down big hills and stuff. I would also buy a house, pay off my student loans, and get Lasik surgery.

If you were to win a million dollars, what would you spend it on?
Osborn: I would pay off my student loans, I'd take a vacation and use whatever money left money down on a house.
Astrin: I would buy a zorb

If you were to put something in a time capsule about yourself what would it be?
Osborn: I would put my Nikes that I just bought because the United States no longer makes them. I would put it in my time capsule so I would have good shoes to run in 20 years down the road. Also I would put Twizzlers in Twizzlers they stop making them.
Astrin: I would put my skydiving



The Beacon/Dan Lykens See Questions, page 12

Spring Fling goes classy with new theme, venue

BY ABBEY HALDEMAN
Staff Writer

Spring has just begun and students begin thinking about saying goodbye to this school year. One way Wilkes University is bringing an end to the school year's to celebrate the student's hard work with Spring Fling.

"Spring Fling is just a dinner-dance at the end of the year that helps you escape the stress of finals, and it is a time for final good-byes," Student Government corresponding secretary and senior business administration major Kevin Hopper said.

For the past several years, the dance has been held at Genetti's Hotel, but this year it will be put on at The Woodlands Resort. Student Government was hoping that a more modern venue this year would help to draw in more students.

"The venue change is going to give it a different feel," Hopper said.



Courtesy of Freestockexchange.com

This year's Spring Fling has a classic Hollywood theme to appeal more to students.

The change of venue is not the only change, either. The event organizers decided to go with a more elegant theme after arranging a venue, figuring out prices and selling it to the Student Government executive board.

"Last year there was a poll taken in which students got to decide which theme they would like best, and Hollywood came in

second so, we (Student Government) chose it for this year's theme," Hopper said.

Also, in the past there has been a photo booth, giving students an opportunity to take some sort of memorabilia with them when they left. For the theme of this year's Spring Fling there have been some modifications made to that.

"There is a whole scene in which students can walk through and get pictures taken during," sophomore class president Amber Konopka said.

Konopka, a middle school math and science education major, said Spring Fling is a good way for students to get together.

"It is a good time and different than a usual social setting, as it a dinner dance. It also helps to bring students closer together," Konopka said.

This year's Spring Fling will give students a chance to escape and have a fun time with those whom they have spent as much as four years with or even as little as two semester with.

Spring Fling starts at 7 p.m. on March 30. Tickets will be on sale for \$5 until Wednesday, March 27 in the Henry Student Union Building.

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QUESTIONS

Continued from Page 11

video in there. I went skydiving twice and it was the coolest thing I've ever done. It was great time.

If there was a movie made about your life, what actor would you want to portray you?

Osborn: I would want Vince Vaughn's personality in Kate Hudson's body.

Astrin: I would want Michael Scott's character from the office. Not Steve Carell as a person, but Michael Scott's actual character.

If you could have any super power what would it be?

Osborne: Definitely teleportation.

Astrin: I would say, just to be able to fly on a whim like Superman.

What is your favorite restaurant?

Osborn: Carmines and the Melting Pot. They're pretty tied for me right now.

Astrin: I've been a recent regular at Frank's Pizza on Main Street. It's awesome.

Where is the most interesting place you've ever been to?

Osborn: Capri, Italy. I studied abroad there for a semester.

Astrin: The Seven Tubs up near Bear Creek. It was interesting because being in a city like Wilkes-Barre and having that only 10 minutes away, it is nice to have a cool get away like right next door. I don't get out much (laughs).

What is your most unique talent?

Osborn: I can French braid my hair upside-down.

Astrin: My ability to draw out what I'm thinking in picture form.

What is your favorite time of year (season)?

Osborn: Summer because it's my birthday season. There's wedding seasons, like I have a birthday season.

Astrin: I would say spring because my birthday is in the spring, and I like the renewal that the season brings.

What would you do if you had a time machine?

Osborn: I would go back to the like the 1920s. I feel like there are a lot of things I could make happen. I could make my name in history, especially as a woman.

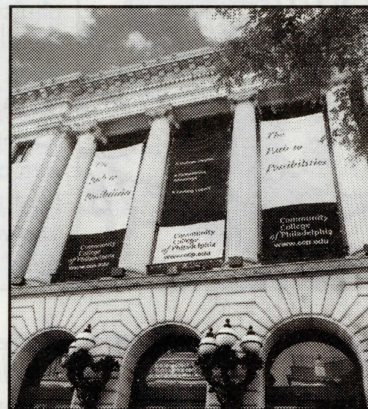
Astrin: I would go back to the 1600' or 1700s because it would be interesting to see how people interacted more with each other then we do today.

What is some advice you have for students living on campus?

Osborn: I would say to definitely get involved on campus. I think the more involved you are, the more fun you'll actually have and get to know different people from different majors, grade levels from freshman to senior.

Astrin: Your campus experience is like a cocoon where you're inside this place where you can grow, mature and and evolve as a person and you eventually graduate and appreciate the experiences that you had, not only you were a student at Wilkes, but the experiences you had living on campus.

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Old is new again: The enduring appeal of vinyl

How a seemingly obsolete recording format is bridging the generational gap

BY BILL THOMAS
 Arts & Entertainment Editor

Spinning. Shining. Black.

Needle strikes vinyl. There's a faint hiss, as though the record player were a hotplate, with music notes sizzling in place of bacon 'n' eggs.

Then, a voice. Sounding as clear and packed with raw feeling as the day the song was recorded, decades ago. The audio is not just crisp, but also warm. Enveloping.

Jay Notartomaso goes back to work, swimming around in waves of sound. He takes a black vinyl record out of its casing, inspects it, puts it in a pile. Does the same with another one. And another. And a couple dozen more. Some go in one pile. Some go in another.

This is a life Notartomaso has lived and loved for more than 25 years. That's how long he's been the owner and operator of Musical Energi on 59 N. Main St. in Wilkes-Barre. His love affair with vinyl, though, can be traced back even farther.

"I got my first record player when I was 4 years old. My dream was to be up to my eyeballs in records, and that's basically what's happened," he said.

No kidding. The shelves of Notartomaso's shop are lined with LPs. Picture-discs and singles by everyone from Billy Idol and Tiffany to Motorhead hang on the walls. There are stacks and there are stacks, and then, just to switch things up, there are more stacks.

"When I went to college, I had student loans, but I would sacrifice food for records," Notartomaso said. "When you buy a record you actually own something, as opposed to a download, which is just a tiny little spot on your hard drive."

That's part of why Notartomaso feels vinyl records have endured while cassette tapes and 8-tracks have gone the way of the dinosaur. But another key to their resilience in the hearts of music aficionados is their resilience to the entropic effects of aging.

"Vinyl is a permanent format. Records wear very, very little, as long as you have a good record player and a good needle," he said.

"Most damage that happens to records is when they're not being played. People don't put them back right or they don't know how to handle them. But if you take care of them they'll last many lifetimes. We have records now from when they first started making re-



The Beacon / Austin Loukas

Above: Trevor Kurtz has parlayed his love of vinyl into a classic rock show on Wilkes' radio station, spinning records from his personal collection on-air. Right: Musical Energi in Wilkes-Barre offers an extensive array of vintage records for music fans.

cords that are in beautiful condition."

Looking back on the more than two decades he's spent preserving the legacy of vinyl in his own small way, Notartomaso has watched trends and cultural shifts breeze in and out the front door of Musical Energi.

It's probably an understatement to say that the enthusiast in him is excited by the revitalized interest in vinyl he's witnessed firsthand from his post behind the counter at his shop.

"It's great for me to see young people, especially, who like records. For me, it's a nostalgia thing. I grew up with records. It's part of my history. But to see young people who like to play records, I feel like there's more to it than that."

One member of the new generation that has embraced vinyl is Wilkes University student and junior communication studies major Trevor Kurtz, who hosts the Vital Vinyl radio show on 90.7 WCLH, every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

For Kurtz, it is indeed more than nostalgia. It's an event.

"I'd rather hold this big ol' thing," Kurtz said, comparing the new Bruce Springsteen LP, "Wrecking Ball," to its shrimpier CD counterpart. "Yesterday, I got this record in the mail. I sat on my couch, reading the lyrics, looking at the artwork. It's an experience. It involves you more in the music."

Kurtz's affection for the format had led him to amass an extensive – and ever-expanding – collection. It's not just his love of classic rock or his preference for the more immersive experience of playing records that ultimately attracts him, however. In Kurtz's view, vinyl is simply a superior format.

"With digital and CDs now, the recording process is different. It has a cold sound to it and it just doesn't sound right," he explained. "With vinyl, it's a much warmer sound, a much nicer sound. The fact of the matter is, with digital recording every record from every band sounds the same. With vinyl, you have different textures with different bands."

It is that sense of auditory excellence that Kurtz believes has not only imbued vinyl with an eternal appeal, but has also given rise to the format's resurgence in the current musical climate. According to The Nielsen Company & Billboard's 2011 Music Industry Report, sales of vinyl LPs increased a whopping 36 percent from 2010 to 2011, marking a Nielsen Sound-Scan sales record.



No other format's growth matched that number. Conversely, CD sales dropped by more than 5 percent.

"There's a generation of people coming up that are like me," Kurtz said. "They're interested in the older technology because the newer technology is too much. For me, it's too much. I don't like downloading. I don't download legally, I don't download illegally. I just don't do it."

"Frankly, the generation before us, I think, was much more concerned with convenience than quality. I think we're starting to see a turnaround in that."

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Stiff upper lip: Student seeks facial hair fame

BY BILL THOMAS

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Arguably, few things say "man" in as manly a manner as a mustache.

Monolithic mountains o' machismo as iconic as Burt Reynolds, Theodore Roosevelt, Wilfred Brimley and John Holmes have all boasted bountiful gardens of bushy bristles upon their upper lips, as if to communicate to the world – and to the ladies in particular – that the potency of their testosterone levels is simply not to be questioned.

These days, it's not always easy finding a chap with enough two-fisted derring-do and shave-resistant stalwartness to rock a robust mustache the likes of which Yosemite Sam would envy.

Wilkes University student Mark Margavage, however, might just be NEPA's great mustachioed hope.

"The looks I get are usually from girls who just can't believe it, or from guys who are jealous and wish they could grow a mustache like this," Margavage said with a chuckle. "I groom it every day and it gets a little bit better every day."

So distinctive are the junior earth and environmental science major's handlebar whiskers that they've begun to get him attention whenever he goes out. It's not uncommon for awestruck passerby to stop Margavage and ask him to pose for a picture.

One such instance recently inspired the Edwardsville native to try and take his mustache national. After a Spencer's Gifts employee spotted Margavage's impressive 'stache, she told him about a contest sponsored by Spencer's, called Mustache March.

The contest encourages mustachioed men – and women! – of all ages to submit a headshot so that Facebook users can vote on just who actually has the best mustache of them all. Now, Margavage is on a campaign to be crowned Mustache Master.

"I have a legit shot at this if the Wilkes students support it. I figured, if they support me it's only right that I give back," Margavage said.

It is with that sentiment in mind that Margavage, if his campaign is successful, plans

to donate the prize to Student Government. That prize? A \$500 gift certificate to Spencer's Gifts.

"I think with that they could throw a pretty kick-ass laser-light black-light party for the students."

Though Margavage is enthusiastic and hopes to solidify the terms of his donation soon, Student Government President William Eggleston pointed out that no definitive plans for any such party have been made.

"We are always interested in fulfilling as many student requests as possible and we would certainly do everything in our power to make the event happen if we received the donation," Eggleston said via email.

"However, students would need to understand that events take a lot of preliminary planning and realistically any sort of black-light party or other event covered by the donation would not take place until the fall semester at the earliest."



Courtesy of Mark Margavage

Margavage hopes this picture will earn him the top spot in the "Mustache March" contest.

As of press time, Margavage has more than 800 votes, putting him in fourth place. And rising.

"The top three mustaches (besides my own) are all fake mustaches," Margavage said, imploring Wilkes students to stand up for the cause of facial hair authenticity.

Margavage's three main competitors currently include "Nanuwins," a woman wearing a fake mustache, "Kristina," an infant whose picture features her clad in a wool cap with a fake beard attached to it, and "Lostboyz70x," a man who isn't wearing even a fake mustache in his photo. Instead, the mustache has been drawn with marker onto the photo itself.

"This is important. Help me beat these phonies."

Voting ends Saturday, March 31. To vote for Margavage, go to facebook.com/spencers and search for "Mark" using the Mustache March app.

Users can vote once a day, though voting is not supported by the mobile app and must be done using either a desktop or laptop computer.

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Courtesy of Sarah Hassinger

Art Club members, from left, include: pre-pharm freshman Katie Burke, business administration freshman Shayne Wharton and pre-pharm freshman Riley Jackson.

Creative juices flow at at new campus art club

BY JANEL NARO

Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

With busy class schedules, social activities, assignments to complete and papers to write, students have a hard time fitting in recreational pastimes such as art or music.

But for those willing to make time for their passion, Wilkes University's new Art Club, formed just last semester, gives students outside of the art department the chance to partake in art projects throughout the year.

"It seems so ridiculous that Wilkes didn't have an art club before," Sarah Hassinger, president and founder of the club, said. "I came from a school in an area, Neshaminy High School, outside of Philadelphia, where art is just such an important thing and everyone does art at least once. I was surprised they didn't have anything here."

Most of all, Hassinger is passionate about providing an opportunity for busy students to express their artistic capabilities.

"It just helps you think differently," Hassinger said. "You need a club for people to be able to go that don't have art classes to just do art."

Hassinger, being a freshman pre-pharm major, cradles a busy academic schedule, but still finds time to start a club and host creative outlets for students.

"I took it lightly at first and I started it, and I did not realize how hard it would be," Hassinger said. "It's hard for one person to do, because we're a new club."

Sara Pisarchick, an integrated media professor at Wilkes, is the faculty adviser for the art

club. Being a new club, it doesn't have any officers other than president. Hassinger hopes to build a committed group of officers for next year and has a pool of 26 members this year to choose from.

Of those 26 members, about 10 different people come to each event. Because of the low turn-outs, events featuring an art project are held at various times instead of having weekly meetings during club hours.

The club's last project involved lighting a candle and dripping the wax on canvas then painting on top of it, then picking the wax off when it dries.

"It doesn't take an artist exactly, someone who's trained, with shadow and shading and everything to do that," Hassinger said. "It's just fun."

Hassinger has creative ideas for future projects, including a group statue made of recyclable materials in honor of Earth Day. Their upcoming event will feature a listening session, creating art inspired by music.

"I'm going to have a really crazy diverse playlist of music playing and we'll paint colors that you associate with each genre of music. So each song will have a different beat, mood and tone and you'll express it using colors and lines," Hassinger said.

Anyone interested in joining the Art Club can email Hassinger at sarah.hassinger@wilkes.edu or check out the Art Club's Facebook group by searching "Wilkes University Art Club."

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From page to screen: 'Hunger Games' film brings book to life

BY ANNIE YOSKOSKI
Staff Writer

When the announcement of the "Hunger Games" movie adaptation was made, I was wary. "Oh, great," I thought, "Another amazing book that the movie will ruin."

Well, I was wrong. "The Hunger Games" is an amazing movie, capturing the essence of the book without sacrificing the art of film.

Reading the book, the characters are well-described. The film adaptation nailed down those descriptions and picked a perfect cast consisting of Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen, Josh Hutcherson as Peeta Mellark, and Liam Hensworth as Gale. Jennifer Lawrence is best known for her Oscar-nominated role in 2010's "Winter's Bone."

The story features a concept disturbing to some people. Two teenagers from each of 12 districts are chosen to compete in a fight to the death on national television. Needless to say, there is a lot of action. The action scenes in the arena, where the games take place, were fast and precise.

Seeing the images on the screen was almost paralyzing in their uncanny likeness to what readers had previously pictured. The violence and brutality of the book is still in the movie, but, due to the PG-13 rating, it is faster and less drawn-out.

What amazed me the most was the actors' ability to keep the different plots and sub-plots of the movie as important as the special effects and theatrics. In addition to the titular games, there is a romance, a look at the home lives of those in the impoverished districts, the decadent reality of the Capitol, and the entire idea of a

dystopian America. The bittersweet romance scenes between Peeta and Katniss in the cave of the arena are just as important as the deaths of the games' contestants.

Due to the craziness of the Capitol as it was depicted on the page, I wasn't sure that everything would turn out well on the big screen. But, once again I was pleasantly surprised as every wonderful, strange hair color and skin tint turned out vivid and striking, leaving the impression that the viewer was supposed to come away with a realization of how extreme this world is. Lenny Kravitz makes a perfect Cinna, and takes the outrageous character to new levels.

Few scenes from the book were left out of the movie. The only thing that readers may miss is the character of Madge, the source of the Mockingjay pin which holds so much symbolic significance in the story. Other than that, every other detail fits neatly into place, interlocking the story and reality in its wonderful film adaptation.

BY BILL THOMAS
Staff Writer

Let's face it. Luzerne County doesn't exactly have the most tantalizing array of options to offer those with a taste for sushi. Super Happy Panda Family King Buffet isn't going to cut it. Fortunately for those looking for higher quality Japanese eats at reasonable prices, a new restaurant has opened up in downtown Wilkes-Barre: Akeno Sushi, located at 72 S. Main St.

In the interest of trying as wide a range of Akeno's offerings as possible — on a collegiate budget, no less — dinner for this outing consisted of "Sushi for 2," a sampler platter boasting an impressive selection of nigiri, as well as a California Roll (crab, cucumber and avocado) and a Spicy Tuna Roll (plenty of

tuna, but surprisingly not a lot of spice).

Before that, though, soup and salad acted as an admirable appetizer. Though the Miso soup lacked the authenticity the rest of the meal would proudly present, it was also far less salty and, thankfully, less gritty than the soup-mix Miso of other budget Asian eateries.

More successful was the ginger dressing that was piled on the otherwise unremarkable salads. Setting itself apart from its competitors, Akeno presented a clearly homemade ginger dressing more robust than the watery sort found elsewhere. Almost like coleslaw more than a salad dressing, with thick chunks of ground ginger — and, in one instance, sesame — clearly visible.

Onto the main event, each piece of nigiri consisted of a single, t h u m b -

Hikers journey through nature, self-discovery in 'End to Ending'

BY KIRSTIN COOK
Editor-in-Chief

It's not about the beginning or the end, it's about the journey.

This is the message the book "End to Ending: an Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker's Story" gives while telling the story of the author's hike along the 2,000 mile path.

Tanner Critz told the story of his six and a half month-long trip from Georgia to Maine. But, this tale is about much more than walking. It's about his self-realization as he transforms into his trail name, Wayah, and the memorable experiences he has making close friends along the way.

Critz, a young college student, starts off his trek alone. But, he's not alone for long, as he meets up with a band of various hikers with distinct personalities.

The new acquaintances join Critz to form their own hiking group, the Vikings. The group builds a sense of camaraderie based on their support and

reliance during the strenuous travel.

You begin to feel like you're one of the Vikings as you follow them along. They create a tradition of sharing potluck camp food over little camp stoves, write inside jokes through the Appalachian Trail shelter journals and build other memories that you can't help but feel a part of.

Despite the Vikings' man-bonding antics, there's a serious, emotional strain underneath the whole story. There's a recurring reflection of personal growth, and the ever-looming threat that someone will cut their journey short.

If you read this book, don't expect a climax or any form of action. There isn't a lot of excitement built into the plot; it's not that type of story. It more describes a setting, and the overall feeling of the journey.

While some might find this format to be boring, I found it peaceful and relaxing. I think anyone who enjoys simply walking in the woods or camping would get that same sense.

At times, I wish the description was enhanced more on the surroundings and the nature they come across. While the development of the setting gave you a picture, it didn't quite satisfy my urge to want to drink the whole journey in with all its details.

Nevertheless, the book was a light read to give outdoors enthusiasts warm feelings in their chest. The emotional and memorable qualities of this book make it hard to believe it's actually just about walking 2,000 miles.

Spoiler alert: He finished the trail.

Hungry for Asian eats? Try Akeno Sushi

length bed of sticky rice topped by a length of fish. The purpose was to highlight the tastes and textures of each individual piece of seafood, the simplicity allowing the inherent flavors of the fish to speak for themselves. Featured fish included tuna, salmon, Spanish mackerel, yellowtail, stray bass, red snapper, fluke and eel. Portions were generous without being indulgent.

The flavors in both the nigiri and the rolls tasted fresh and clean. The rustic, earthy flavors of the mackerel and eel packed the boldest wallop whereas the fluke, yellowtail and snapper offered a more subtle, airy experience.

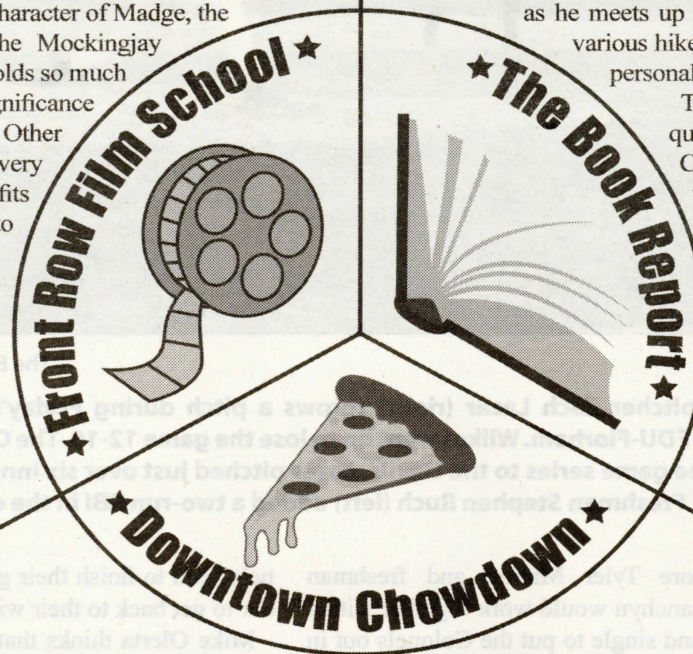
Green tea-flavored mocha ice cream — essentially rice-based ice cream wrapped in a soft dough — capped the feast nicely, offering just the right mixture of chewy, chilly and

subtle sweet to make a dessert ideally matched to the meal preceding it.

For the more adventurous, Akeno offers a variety of rolls both standard and unique, as well as tempura and unagi don (broiled eel over white rice). Most specialty rolls are priced in the \$10 range, which puts Akeno in an admirable position of marrying affordability with delectability.

All told, "Sushi for 2" cost around \$30, which, taking into account beverages, soup and salad, is pretty respectable indeed. Throw in an enthusiastic staff and a tranquil atmosphere, and Akeno Sushi proves itself another exciting addition to Wilkes-Barre's downtown dining scene.

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3.5/5

MARCH 27, 2012

Colonels drop series to FDU-Florham *Devils use multiple late-inning rallies to down Wilkes*

BY JUSTIN FRANIAK
Sports Editor

The Wilkes baseball team suffered three losses this past weekend in MAC conference play.

FDU-Florham used a late inning rally on Friday to take down the Colonels in the first of a three game series.

Junior Zach Lazar gave the Colonels just over six innings, allowing 11 hits and recording three strikeouts.

Senior Matt Ruch gave the Colonels a triple in the first inning to start the Colonels scoring.

Senior Mike Olerta took a pitch to the body, allowing Wilkes to put a run on the board.

The Colonels would hold a 1-0 lead going into the fourth inning until FDU came and tied up the score, eventually taking the lead.

Senior Tay Sidler helped the Colonels take the lead in the sixth inning by getting walked and moved to second after Mike Olerta's sacrifice bunt.

Freshman Stephen Ruch would help Sidler score with a two-run RBI.

FDU would use a triple and a single to bump their lead to 3-2.

Junior Carmen Lopresto would use a deep triple, along with a wild pitch, to help the Colonels take a 4-3 lead in the seventh inning.

Freshman Dan Pisanchyn used his pinch hitting appearance to his full advantage, using a double to give Wilkes an 8-4 lead.

FDU would not stay silent, as they blew the game wide open the next inning.

The Devils used three hits and a multiple run double to take the lead 12-8 in their last appearances at the plate.

The Colonels would only manage to score two additional runs, and fell to the Devils 12-10 in the first meeting of these teams this past weekend.

The Colonels schedule continued to be grueling as they traveled to FDU-Florham on Saturday after losing a close nine-inning affair the day before.

The Colonels jumped out to a 3-2 lead in the first of the afternoon doubleheader.



The Beacon/Laura Preby

Junior pitcher Zach Lazar (right) throws a pitch during Friday's baseball game against FDU-Florham. Wilkes went on to lose the game 12-10. The Colonels dropped the three game series to the Devils. Lazar pitched just over six innings in his Friday outing. Freshman Stephen Ruch (left) added a two-run RBI in the contest.

Sophomore Tyler Marino and freshman Dan Pysanchyn would work together with a double and single to put the Colonels out in front.

The Devils would come back to tie the game 3-3 and send the contest into extra innings.

In the bottom of the eighth the Devils would use a RBI single to grab the win from the Colonels, 4-3.

Wilkes would have no luck in the second contest of the day either.

The Devils continued their streak by scoring 12 runs through six innings jumping out to a 12-3 lead.

Wilkes would put up nine runs, including Pisanchyn and Stephen Ruch who would reach base and score. Sophomore A.J. Mihaly blasted a three-run home run to keep Wilkes in striking distance.

The rally was not enough as the Devils scored six runs in the next two innings, and Wilkes fell for the third time 18-9.

Senior Pitcher Mark Siebel said the Colo-

nels need to finish their games strong in order to get back to their winning ways.

Mike Olerta thinks that the next time the Colonels see the Devils, the outcome will be different.

"It was a tough series, we battled hard the first two games," Olerta said. "I definitely feel that if we get another shot at them in the playoffs things will go differently."

Mark Siebel believes that finishing games is the key to winning.

"When we are winning we need to keep playing hard," Siebel said. "We need to work on having games where we hit, pitch and field well, not just one of the three."

The Colonels currently sit with a record of 5-10.

Wilkes will be in action again against the University of Scranton on Wed. March 28 at Artillery Park.

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MELANIE NOLT
PAGE 20

The Broad Street Breakdown

BY BRYAN WISLOSKY
Columnist

This Sunday, April 1, 2012, we finally get the mega-event we've been waiting for since last April.

Live on pay-per-view, in Miami, Florida, in the legendary Orange Bowl, is the historic Wrestlemania 28.

This year is possibly the most star-studded line up in the nearly three decade history of the event, headlined of course by the clash of the titans of the wrestling world, when John Cena goes one-on-one with the Great One, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. This match was made on the Monday Night Raw after last year's Wrestlemania, so needless to say, it has some hype.

Also on the card is the End of an Era match, where The Game, HHH, takes on the Deadman, the Undertaker, inside "Hell in a Cell," with special guest referee Shawn Michaels, the Heartbreak Kid.

The Apocalyptic Warrior is undefeated at the Show of Shows and can make it an unthinkable 20-0 with a victory over the Cerebral Assassin. The only thing is, HHH nearly ended "The Streak" at last year's Wrestlemania, and Taker didn't even leave the ring under his own power.

Then there is the bout for the WWE Championship between current champion CM Punk and Chris Jericho. This match will determine who truly is "The Best in the World."

Also, we have the World Heavyweight Championship match between Daniel Bryan and Sheamus.

The Celtic Warrior earned this title shot against D-Bry by winning the 2012 Royal Rumble match.

As we move down the card, there is the 12-man tag match where Raw General Manager, Johnny "Ace" Laurinaitis, will put a team together against Smackdown GM, Teddy Long, where the winner will gain control over both shows.

Team Johnny consists of team captain David Otunga, Dolph Ziggler, Jack Swagger, Mark Henry, Christian and a wrestler to be named later.

SEE WWE, PAGE 19

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

3/20 Penn College L 6-7
3/23 FDU-Florham L 10-12
3/24 FDU-Florham L 3-4,
L 9-18

Softball

3/21 Alvernia L 8-9, L 2-10

W-Tennis

3/22 Haverford W 8-1

Lacrosse

3/22 Albright W 20-13
3/24 Cedar Crest W 16-4

WEEK AHEAD

Baseball

3/28 Scranton
3/29 Keuka

Softball

3/29 Lebanon Valley
3/31 Manhattanville

W-Tennis

3/31 Eastern

M-Tennis

3/31 Eastern
4/1 Marywood

Lacrosse

3/31 Rosemont

HOME	GUEST
00:00	00:00
QUARTER	3
BONUS	POSS
FOULS	SHOT CLOCK
01	10
FOULS	05

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Joseph Pugliese

COLUMNIST



East- Miami Marlins-97 wins, Philadelphia Phillies-94 wins- Wild Card #1

The NL East is one of the most competitive divisions in baseball.

Last year, the Phillies won the division with a MLB best 102 wins and a monstrous pitching rotation.

The Marlins have a new look, with a new stadium and new players. They brought in All-Stars Jose Reyes, Heath Bell and Mark Buehrle.

The Braves also have a good team with deep pitching staff and an interesting mix of veterans and young players, even after their record collapse last season.

This year, I think the Marlins will come through.

The Phillies still have the best rotation in the division. But they might have the worst offense. Ryan Howard could miss most of the season with an Achilles injury, and Chase Utley is now in question.

I still pick the Phillies to get a wild card slot.

Central- Cincinnati Reds-94 wins, Brewers-92 wins- Wild Card #2

Last year when Adam Wainwright went down with an injury. I counted the Cardinals out. They ended up winning the World Series. This year they have no Pujols, and Chris Carpenter is looking like he is not healthy.

It's hard to count the defending champs out.

The Brewers lost Prince Fielder and a lot of protection and power in the lineup. But they did add Aramis Ramirez and already have a top of the line young pitching rotation that is probably in the top three in the NL.

I pick them to win the Wild Card and play the Phillies in the play-in game.

The Reds are my dark horse this year.

Last year, the Reds were at the bottom of the league in pitching with a lot of injuries and inconsistencies.

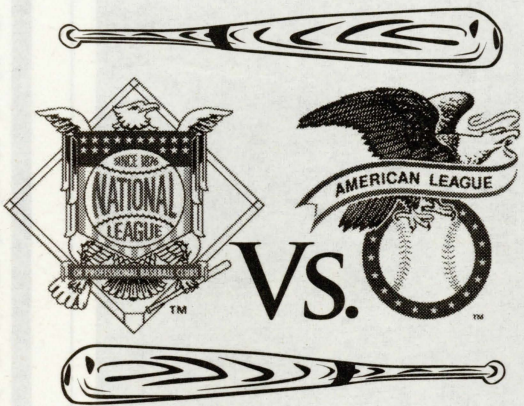
NL West- Arizona Diamondbacks-95 wins

Last year was no fluke for the Dbacks. They won the west by eight games over the defending champion Giants.

I love the Giants pitching rotation, but their hitting is just not good enough to compete with the best. The return of Posey will help, and Lincecum will have a much better year than last.

I like the Dbacks with their young talent, Ian Kennedy, who has come into his own, and a great manager in Kirk Gibson. I see them winning by a game or two.

Face Off



The Debate:

Who will make the play-offs this upcoming MLB season?

The Buzz:

Can the Phillies keep up their streak? Will the Yankees improve on their pitching?

The Options:

Prince Fielder is on a new team, along with Albert Pujols. It's yet to be seen if they can propel their teams to the World Series.

The Results:

Joe says the Phillies get knocked off and Justin says that the Tigers will reach the World Series.

To read and join the full debate visit:

www.thewilkesbeacon.com

Justin Franiak

SPORTS EDITOR



East-New York Yankees 103 wins, Red Sox 97 wins-Wild Card #1, Rays-95 wins-Wild Card #2

The American League East might be the best division in the history of sports this year. The Yankees have added a ton of pitching both young and old, addressing their major need last year.

The Rays are a young team that just won't die. Mix the cut-throat "us against the world mentality," a great coach in Joe Maddon and a young pitching rotation, and they are a dangerous team.

The Red Sox have all the talent they need, and new manager Bobby Valentine is bringing a fresh new mentality.

The Blue Jays are worth mentioning, since they lead the league in home runs and have great young pitching coming up this year.

Central- Detroit Tigers 100 wins

The Central is a mess this year, and the only constant is the Tigers. They added Prince Fielder to the monster Miguel Cabrera for the best 3-4 combo in the bigs. Mix that with Justin Verlander, Doug Fister and a great bullpen, this is a runaway year for the Tigers. The only question is Cabrera's move to third.

The White Sox and Twins have disappeared and the Indians cannot stay healthy, so look for the Royals to finish second with an 85-win season but not come within 12 of the Tigers.

West- LA Angels 96 wins

The West is interesting.

Take out the two bottom feeders in Oakland and Seattle, and you have a slugfest that spans 162 games for the division title.

The Angels have vastly improved with Pujols and CJ Wilson coming over.

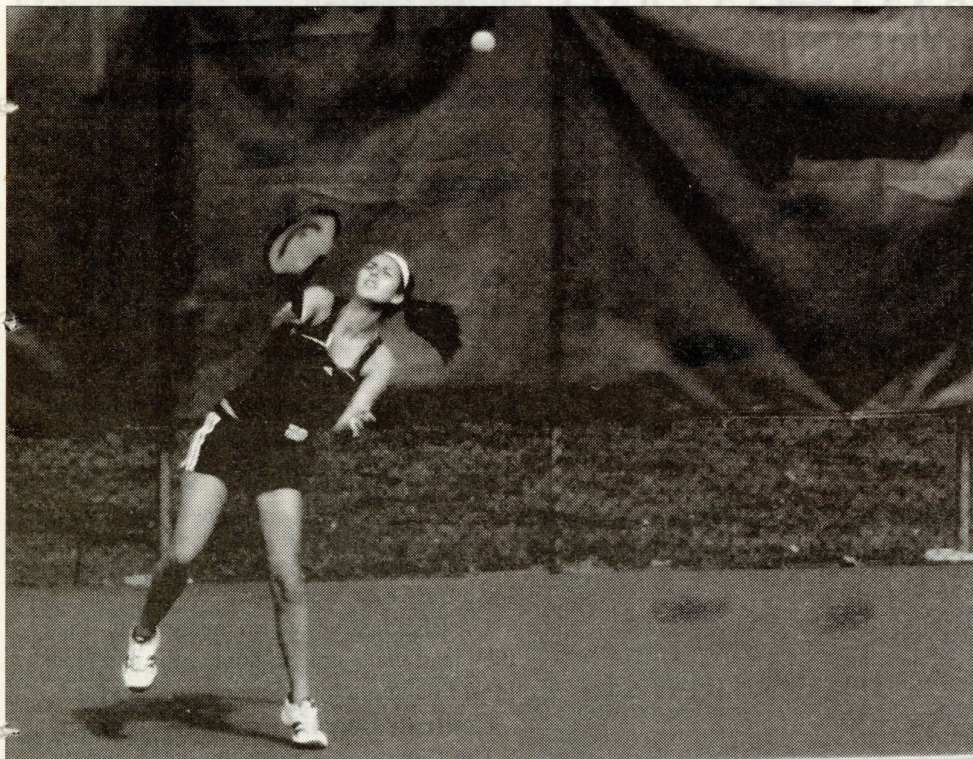
The Angels rotation rivals the Phillies and is extremely deep.

The Angels had 86 wins last year before adding Pujols, a 15-plus game winner in Wilson and healthy Morales. Look for them to get 96 wins.

Texas has a great lineup but their pitching is a question mark. We don't know how Yu Darvish will do and their team lost their ace. I foresee them having 90 wins, but no play-offs because of the strength of the Angels and the East division.

My ALCS pick is going to be the Tigers. I believe the Tigers have a fantastic pitching staff, and I am huge on Doug Fister. I think the Yankees will face them in the championships series, but Prince Fielder will claim his throne in the World Series.

Wilkes downs BU Huskies



The Beacon/Laura Preby

Amanda Rossi warms up before she and her teammates defeated Division II foe Bloomsburg University. Wilkes claimed victories in four out of six singles matchups. The team of Junior Alexis Donner and Sophomore Ally Kristofco clinched the victory for the Colonels in their doubles matchup. Wilkes beat the Huskies 5-4 and will be in action again March 31 against Eastern.

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For more information, contact Kirstin Cook, editor-in-chief, at kirstin.cook@wilkes.edu, 570-408-5903 OR Dr. Loran Lewis, adviser, loran.lewis@wilkes.edu, 570-408-4165

The BEACON

News of Today Reported By the Journalists of Tomorrow

WWE

Continued from Page 16

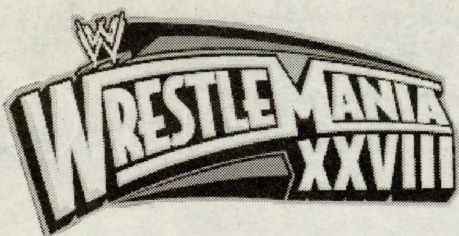
Team Long has team captain Santino Marella, Kofi Kingston, R-Truth, Zack Ryder, The Great Khali, and another mystery participant.

It should be noted that by the time this article comes out, the final two wrestlers for the match will most likely be revealed, but for now my predictions are Miz for Laurinaitis, and Brodus Clay for Long.

Next, we have Randy Orton taking on Kane. The Viper and the Devil's Favorite Demon should put on a good show for the crowd.

Then there is the match for the Intercontinental Title where Big Show hopes to end his string of Wrestlemania woes against current champion Cody Rhodes.

The final match currently on the card is the Divas tag match, featuring Maxim bombshell Kelly Kelly teaming up with the host of Extra, Maria Menounos, to take on the dastardly Eve Torres and Divas Champion Beth Phoenix.



This match is really only on the card as filler.

As far as winners go, my predictions are Kelly Kelly and Maria Menounos, Cody Rhodes retains the Intercontinental Title, Randy Orton, Laurinaitis will take control of both shows, Sheamus becomes the new World Heavyweight Champion, CM Punk retains his WWE Championship, Undertaker goes to 20-0, and as much as I am a part of Team Bring It, I have to say that the Cenation leader will take the victory in The Rock's hometown. John Cena is just too big a star, and Rocky just isn't around enough that a win will do the company any good. Either way, Wrestlemania has a sick lineup and could possibly be the greatest show of the year in the world of sports entertainment.

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Wrestlers attend benefit

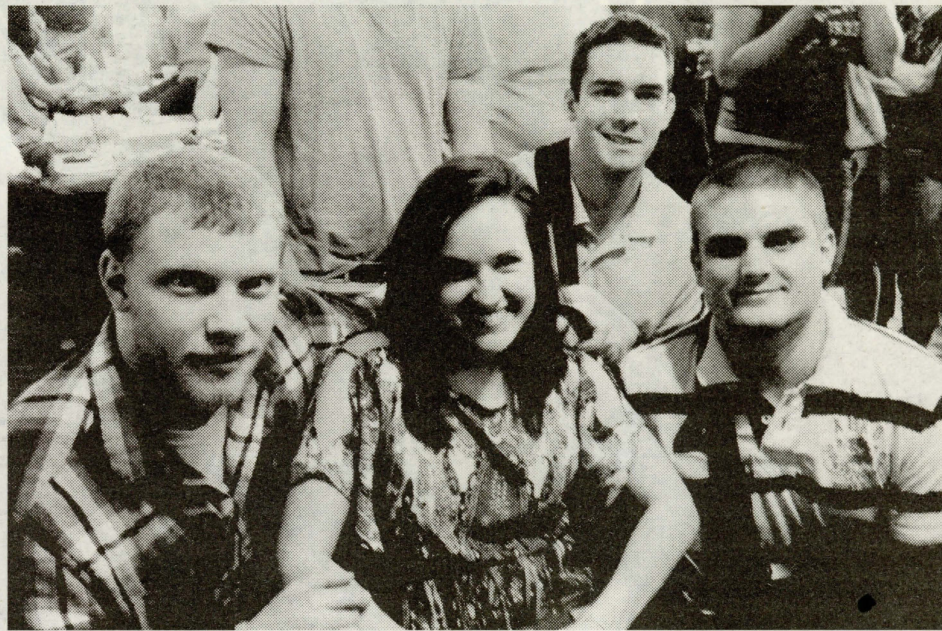


Photo courtesy of Dave Oberrender

Wilkes wrestlers Dave Oberrender (left), Ben Marich (middle), and Eric Bach (right) pose with Natalie Smirne. They recently attended a benefit for Smirne held at Kildare's Irish Pub in Scranton. The benefit was held to raise money to renovate Smirne's home to accommodate her and her new wheelchair. For information or to donate contact Oberrender at david.oberrender@wilkes.edu.

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Getting to know...

Melanie Nolt

Junior, Tennis

BY JUSTIN FRANIAK
Sports Editor

Meet Melanie Nolt, a junior women's tennis player. The former Wilkes athlete of the year is currently leading the Colonels to an undefeated mark. Nolt's flashy shoes and aggressive play make her standout on the court.

Year: Junior

Major: Accounting Business Administration

Hometown: Manheim, Pa.

When was the first time you started playing tennis?

I started playing seriously in 7th grade, I left behind eight years of soccer to pick up a racquet. My dad wanted me to play softball but I only wanted to bat which is exactly what tennis is.

When did you realize you wanted to continue playing tennis in college?

I loved playing and didn't want to stop if I could continue, so I guess my senior year.

How did you do in tennis in high school?

Led the team to four straight section titles, the last time they won the section was when my mom was on the high school team. My freshmen year the team was runner-ups at states, it was huge for us.

You guys have won nine straight, how do you plan on keeping this streak going? Any secret to it?

We're going to keep working hard and coming prepared for every match. The secret is our team motto "get some."

Do you like playing singles or dou-

bles better?

I would say Katie and I like doubles because of the greater opportunity to peg people, but I also like singles because you're the only one in control.

Whose your biggest rival in tennis?

Bloomsburg who is D2 (Division II) and we sought revenge to defeat them 5-4 this season.

Apparently you had an interesting summer job? What was it?

Hahaha I worked in a hot dog factory nine hours a day where I saw 1000s of weiners. And yes, I still eat them.

You wear some crazy shoes while playing, any reason why? What's your favorite pair?

I've always liked the neon colors with my high black socks. I'm going to have to go with my most recent Babolat pair, they're black with hot pink and green.

Favorite food?

Beef pot pie.

Favorite athlete?

Shaq because of Aaron Carter's song.

Favorite saying?

"You control what you can control" by Andre Agassi.

Best Wilkes memory?

Every night I spend with my friends, it's always a good story the next day.

When you were little, what did you want to grow up and be?

FBI agent, I had tons of spy gear.

Guilty Pleasures?

Eating SpaghettiO's from the can.

Ideal Date?

Unexpected, and the guy makes all of the plans.

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