

The BEACON

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Wilkes hosts Dean of Law School Initiative candidates

BY NICOLE FRAIL
Beacon Asst. News Editor

Last week, Wilkes University invited two candidates for the Dean of Law School Initiative search to campus to speak with the dean's council, the search committee, the provost, members of the president's cabinet, members of the Board of Trustees and members of the Luzerne County Bar Association. Open forums were also held for interested faculty, staff and students.

"We are considering the possibility of creating a law school, and there's a whole bunch of unanswered questions before we go out and do it," explained Dr. Paul Browne, Dean of the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership and chairperson of the search committee. "The university and the Board of Trustees believe that the only way we can come to a conclusion on that is to have someone who really knows the business come in and lead the final stage of development planning. If then under this person's guidance we're ready to move forward, our expectation would be that this person would become the founding dean of the school."

According to Browne, the search committee is looking for someone who knows how to determine if a law school is a good idea for Wilkes and who also has experience in planning, developing and launching a law school.

On Tuesday, February 12, Wilkes welcomed Terrence L. Blackburn, professor of law at Michigan State University College of Law. Blackburn received his Juris Doctorate (JD) from Columbia University School of Law in 1973 and practiced law for 15 years prior



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

Terrence L. Blackburn, candidate for the Dean of Law School Initiative, speaks to faculty, staff and students in an open forum Tuesday.

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Local entrepreneur set to revitalize WB nightlife

BY ALISON WOODY
Beacon Managing Editor

With the recent closings of both Club Mardi Gras and Slainte's, local college students and young professionals have been struggling to find a new location that will meet their nightlife requirements.

Enter Ron Kamionka, a successful business leader who is known for revitalizing the areas where he chooses to locate his bars. As company president of Kamionka Entertainment Group, he oversees 14 nightclubs currently in central Pennsylvania.

"We are in three different markets right now. However, we thought it was time to expand again," said Kamionka, originally from nearby Mountain-top. "Realistically, we chose Wilkes-Barre as our next location because it is my hometown... I've been successful and I want to come in and help out."

Ironically, Kamionka chose the old location of Club Mardi Gras at 12 South Main Street to "be the catalyst" of a current five building business

plan. The Hardware Bar, which will feature a "Coyote Ugly" type of atmosphere, is set to open Thursday, March 13--just in time for St. Patrick's Day weekend.

The Hardware Bar will be open every Wednesday thru Saturday from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. and will also feature beer pong, flip cup, and pool tables. There will be a large selection of premium beers, which will be available every day for only \$2.

That deal should ring a bell with college students who are always looking to save a few pennies. Kamionka described his target audience as those 21-24 years of age and said that both Wilkes University and King's College offer a "built-in core audience" that he believes to be vital for at least 25% of business.

Mike Canzanella, a senior psychology major, said, "It's not really about the girls dancing on top of the bar for me... I don't care how hot they are or how many of them there are. If the beer is cheap, they have my business."

Kamionka has already booked three live entertainment acts for the first weekend at The

Hardware Bar. Green Eggs will play on Friday, followed by Emily's Toybox on Saturday. However, the most notable act coming to Wilkes-Barre will be Vanilla Ice, who is set to bring a large crowd at the Thursday grand opening.

In addition to The Hardware Bar, Kamionka envisions a "strip mall of bars" for the downtown. He has purchased two more buildings at both 10 and 14 South Main Street and plans to make it into an entertainment complex.

"My products are gauged at people having fun. I want to bring [Wilkes-Barre] to a different level. Nobody does it at the level we do," exclaimed Kamionka.

The second bar, preliminarily named The Main Street Saloon, will open around May or June and third will be in place by the end of 2008. While all three bars will operate separately, Kamionka explained that once inside one of the buildings, patrons will be able to move about freely among all three.

See HARDWARE page 2

HARDWARE from FRONT PAGE

He also has plans for two more nightlife options in downtown Wilkes-Barre; however, they will be located away from this complex.

Todd Vonderheid, President of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, communicated excitement about the addition of The Hardware Bar to "the mix of destination and entertainment based establishments already in the downtown."

"Hardware Bar will be both a draw in its own right, as their business model is unique and tested in several other similar markets, and will be able to capture a good share of the patrons already working, living or playing in the downtown and the region," Vonderheid said.

But the Hardware Bar is likely to face some challenges, as have other new venues in the downtown. Kamionka acknowledged, "When you have a downtown area

such as Wilkes-Barre, the only knowledge [citizens] have is of the past and they get a negative perception. But, we are more of a destination point and we want to make the downtown a viable option."

Vonderheid said, "Businesses, especially restaurants and night clubs close and start all the time. The good ones close and new ones open. If they are good they'll be here for a long time and our knowledge of how the owners of The Hardware Bar operate gives us great confidence that they'll be here for the long run."

He added, "Clearly, downtown Wilkes-Barre is changing for the better. Just come to the corner of South Main and Northampton Streets on a Friday or Saturday evening and you'll see the activity, excitement and opportunities for even more."



Courtesy www.vanillaice.com

(Above) Singer and reality TV star Vanilla Ice will be the opening act at the Wilkes-Barre Hardware Bar on March 13.

(Right) The Hardware Bar will be located where the former Club Mardi Gras was located. Pictured right, from *The Beacon* archives, is the inside of Club Mardi Gras before its opening. Eventually the owner of The Hardware Bar hopes to move in up to four bars into downtown Wilkes-Barre.



The Beacon/Nick Zimijewski

The BEACON

Serving the community through fair and accurate reporting while supporting the views and opinions of our readers.

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Nick Podolak

Email: wilkesbeacon@gmail.com

Managing Editor: Alison Woody

Email: wilkesbeacon@gmail.com

News Editor: Andrew Seaman

Email: news.beacon@gmail.com

Op/Ed Editor: Mark Congdon Jr.

Email: thebeacon.oped@gmail.com

Lifestyles Editor: Christa Sgobba

Email: beacon.lifestyles@gmail.com

A&E Editor: Marissa Phillips

Email: thebeaconae@gmail.com

Sports Editor: Carlton Holmes

Email: beaconsports@gmail.com

Photo Editor: Cara Koster

Advertising Managers: Stephanie Yachim

Dana Zlotucha

Email: thebeacon.ads@gmail.com

Advisor: Dr. Andrea Breemer Frantz

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130 S. River St.
First Floor, Conyngham Hall, Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
(570) 408-5903



Wilkes creative writing graduate to head Council

Burnside to fill newly created position

BY MEGAN KRISANDA

Beacon Staff Writer

The Cultural Council of Luzerne County welcomes a new face to fill a brand new position to its organization. Mike Burnside will serve as the council's very first executive director. Burnside is a native of the area and received his master's degree in creative writing from Wilkes.

Burnside is a published writer, photographer and the managing editor at Wilkes-Barre based Etruscan Press. He is also an active member of the community belonging to a number of regional organizations, including the Luzerne County Historical Society, the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and the Great Valley Technology Alliance.

The need for a full-time, paid executive director was essential said Shelley Pearce, Chairperson of the Cultural Council.

"I, and the board, are all volunteers and it's very difficult to run an operation without paid employees. When we received funding last year from the county, I then went out and got matching funding, corporate funding, and we had enough to hire an executive director," said Pearce.

One of the most important aspects of the executive director position is a sense of advocacy, explained Pearce. "Mike has a lot of published articles under his belt. He has been writing all his life and will be writing to our legislators and newspapers about the importance of the arts and the economic impact of the arts," said Pearce.

Burnside will also be responsible for implementing the "cultural plan" which included a study of the county by the Joint Urban Studies Center. This study gave recommendations as to how to move forward

and elevate the level of arts and culture in the area.

Burnside recognized the need for a high quality, readily-available exhibit space in the valley. "We'd like to find a place where there would be public access to the offices of the council and exhibit space where it can be used for exhibits the council sponsors, but also for organizations like the Wyoming Valley Art League," said Burnside.

The council is a non-profit arts advocacy program which began in 1999 as an extension of the Greater Chamber of Wilkes-Barre Business and Industry.

The organization has existed through corporate donations, fundraising and several foundation grants.

The "Miles of Mules Project" is one of the council's most high profile endeavors. The council worked with three other arts organizations to place 300 life sized mules from the Wilkes-Barre area to New Hope, Pennsylvania.

"This project was probably the most significant... we raised a lot of funds and we put 150 artists to work. And, we benefitted, I believe, 26 non-profit agencies through this fundraiser," said Pearce.

The council's focus this year is the environment. "We want to highlight the environment through the arts," said Pearce.

The council will be providing kayak tours to islands on the Susquehanna River for artists to paint, sketch, and take photographs of the surroundings. There will be artist activities taking place at the river during the festival as well.

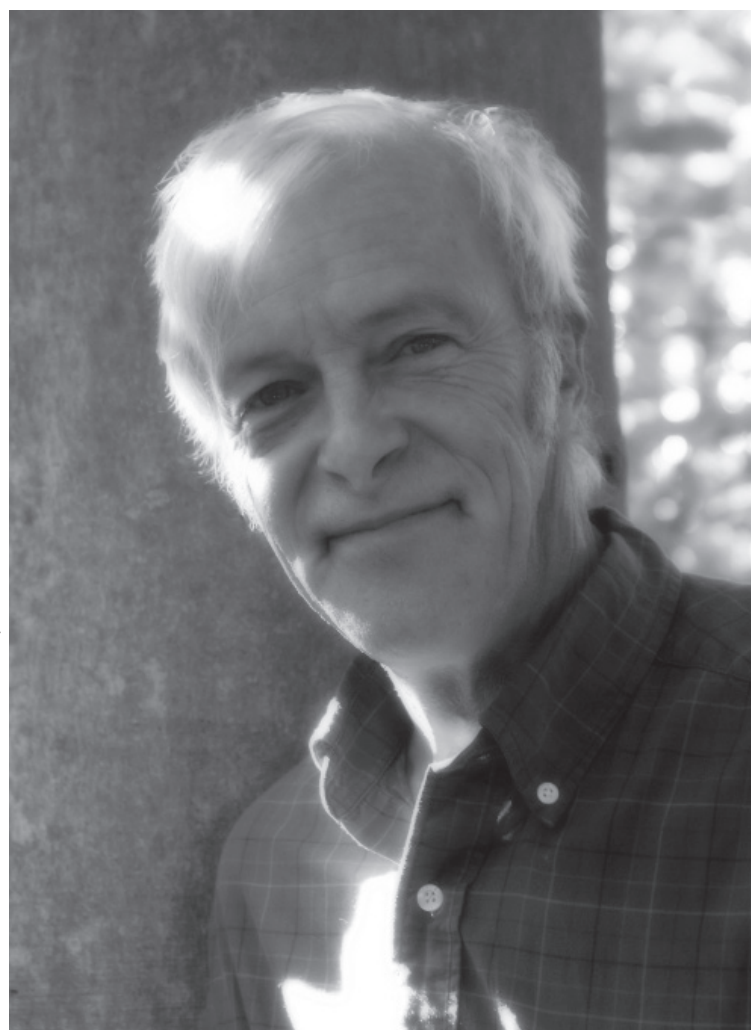
Pearce adds the council will be looking for volunteers during these events and is hoping to add a student committee for the arts council in the future.

"We are collaborating with about eight environmental and wellness groups on the River Fest celebration on the weekend of June 21," said Pearce. The council will also be providing a trip to the Roberson Museum in Binghamton, New York on May 30.

"This trip will tour the exhibition called "Visions of the Susquehanna" which is a national exhibition of 200 years of paintings of the Susquehanna River. There is also a local arts exhibition in Binghamton at the Museum of Contemporary Works of the River, which we will be touring as well," said Pearce.

In the fall, the council will be having a juried exhibition entitled "Inspired by the Susquehanna."

"I believe if we're able to succeed in expanding art opportunities and making them more accessible and visible, it will be like,



Courtesy of Mike Burnside

Wilkes creative writing graduate, Mike Burnside, has been named executive director of the Luzerne County Cultural Council. The executive director position is a newly created position for the council. According to members of the council, Burnside will serve as an advocate for the council.

'If you build it, they will come.' I think the challenges are to facilitate the development of artists and not just visual arts, but all the cultural segments and then making it very visible to the public," said Burnside.

SG Notes February 13, 2008

Treasurer's Report

All College: \$21,250
General: \$10,000
Special Projects: \$3,500
Spirit: \$2,000
Leadership: \$4,550
Conferences: \$9,500
Start-Up: \$1,500
Rollover: \$2,996

Club Reports

The following clubs presented updates on their events.
Programming Board
Anime Club

New Business

Lacrosse Club Donation - S.A.A.C. and the Lacrosse Club asked SG for \$440 to give away free pizzas and t-shirts during athletic events to build team spirit. SG granted the

request.

Step Club - Students who would like to form a new club on campus, the Step Club, presented why they would like to be a club and also showed their skills to SG. *

Off-Campus Council (OCC) Constitution - Due to a misplaced constitution, OCC created a new constitution and gave a copy to the board. *

Commuter Council (CC) - A representative from the commuter council presented a fund request for the organization. The funds would go towards events and activities. SG representatives suggested that CC try to cut back on their request because in the past their events have not been successful at getting people to attend. *

Winter Weekend Budget - Jef Bauman, SG Vice President, presented the budget for Winter Weekend. The event will cost about \$3,000 and the amount is less than previous years.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Float - SG decided to table discussion about placing a float in the Wilkes-Barre St. Patrick's Day Parade. *

Old Business

SAE Mini Baja
Chemistry Club
AFROTC Donation

* = action will be taken at the next SG meeting.



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Loren Prescott speaks to the attendees of an open forum on February 15.

LAW

from FRONT PAGE

teaching. He served seven years as the dean of the law school at Michigan State and was the acting and founding dean of John Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University in New Jersey from 1997 to 1999.

"I think law school education has a lot to offer these days. I am very intrigued by the vision that has evolved [at Wilkes] as to what a law school could be. And much of that dovetails with what I think law schools ought to be

doing, which is more connection with the real world, more training people to be lawyers - to act like lawyers and not think like judges," said Blackburn. "I think there's an opportunity here to rethink legal education."

During the open forum, Blackburn stressed the importance of becoming American Bar Association (ABA) accredited, mentoring, developing a curriculum, and making the law school a real part of Wilkes.

"I think one of the issues will be to make sure that from the beginning the law school is part of the university in much more than a name. It won't happen by accident, because law students tend to be separate students. They think differently, they teach differently and they don't play well with others," said Blackburn. "Some things need to be done separately... [but] it's something you have to work at."

Blackburn noted foreseeable challenges in the project such as finding the space for the building, finding enough students and attracting nontraditional students, but also stated that failure was not an option, especially when it comes to getting the school accreditation.

On Friday, February 15, a second forum was held for candidate Loren Prescott, professor of law at Widener University School of Law. Prescott received his JD from Willamette University College of Law in 1984 and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in public administration at Pennsylvania State University. He practiced law for four years before becoming interested in teaching and

administration and served as vice dean at Widener 1996-2001 and again 2004-2007. He was involved with the redevelopment and re-accreditation of Widener's law school.

"I believe very strongly in the legal profession and legal education as an essential component in the ongoing process of producing the lawyers who are in the position to serve the general public. It's a privilege to be in a situation where you can help people to understand

their legal rights and help them pursue the dreams that you really need a lawyer's help to do. I believe very strongly that legal education can be a significant advantage to the legal profession," said Prescott.

Prescott stressed the importance of paying attention to the needs of law students and referred to a recent report by the Carnegie Foundation (*Education Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law, 2007*) on which Wilkes has based much of its search.

"A brand new law school that is designed with the benefit of studying the Carnegie report and some of the really great work being done at other law schools... can form the creation of a law school that has the potential to serve as an illustration of a new model of

legal education for the twenty-first century," said Prescott.

Building relationships, fundraising, mentoring and benefiting the community are all important factors that Prescott believes plays a role in the foundation of a budding law school. He discussed opening a clinic that provides law students the opportunity to practice law for those members of the community who cannot afford legal representation and also made mention of a curriculum that incorporates emphasis on ethics and writing in every course. Using the existing faculty at Wilkes to start up the potential law school and also creating joint programs with both the business (JDMBA) and pharmacy departments (JDPharmD) are among the many ideas that Prescott presented.

Seeing that the school receives ADA accreditation and is able to be affordable to prospective students are on the top of Prescott's list, as well.

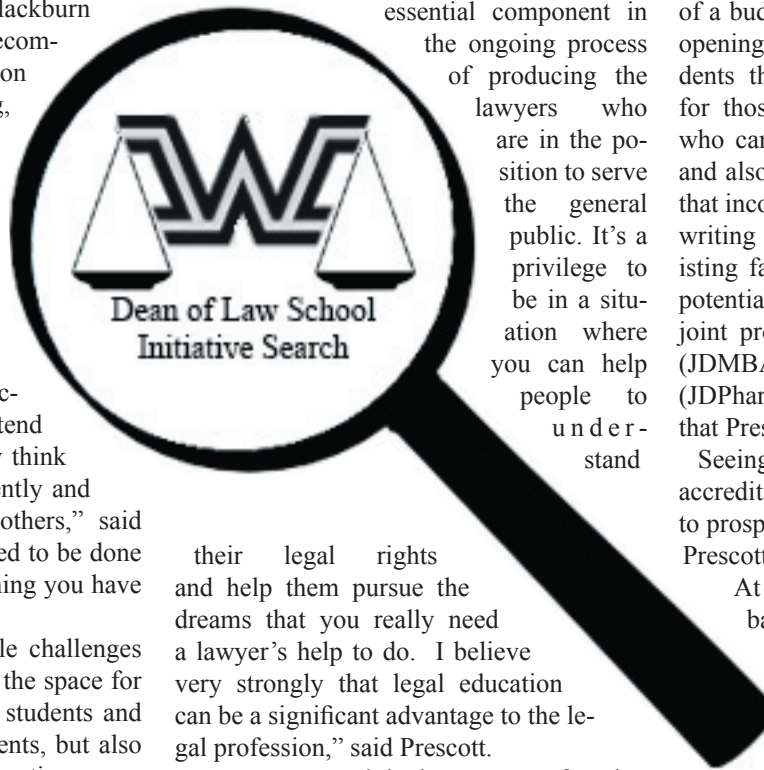
At the end of each forum, a feedback form was filled out by those

in attendance. The forms will aid in the search committee's discussion of each candidate's strengths and weaknesses. Once a decision is made by the committee, the

recommendation will be passed on to the Provost, the President and the Board of Trustees.

A third candidate, Peter Glenn, will be on campus Monday, February 18.

* Michele Flannery contributed to this article.



Snow and ice disrupt classes and transportation



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

A student walks to Conyngham Hall from the Stark Learning Center as sleet and freezing rain hit his umbrella.

Students made a peace sign that was on display outside of Breiseth Hall after the snow and ice fell on Tuesday



The Beacon/Cara Koster

On Tuesday, February 12 up to 6 inches of snow fell on the Wilkes-Barre area. The snow caused many minor accidents and an accident that caused the Pennsylvania Turnpike north and southbound lanes to be closed for over an hour.

As a result of the snow and ice, Wilkes University cancelled classes on Tuesday night and started school at noon on Wednesday.

Students had to maneuver around icy spots and large puddles.

Meteorologists are also saying that there could be another measurable snowfall in the forecast for Friday, February 22.

News Analysis: *Beacon* Election Update

Making sense of the election, candidates and issues

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon News Editor

After Tuesday's primary in Wisconsin, all the presidential candidates will have 14-days to make strategic changes to their campaigns before the next major contests March 4 in Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, and Vermont. Wisconsin offers 40 delegates up for grabs; however the March 4 date will add 265 to the mix.

For the candidates, those 14 days can make or break chances to sit behind the desk at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

However, New York Senator Hillary Clinton is not waiting for the two-week long break to make changes. She recently brought Maggie Williams, her former White House Chief-of-staff, onto her campaign as its manager.

According to many former Clinton advisors, Williams has a reputation for telling the truth, even when no one wants to hear it. Williams officially stepped into her role as campaign manager on February 10. She replaced long-time Clinton campaign companion Patti Solis Doyle.

Many news agencies are characterizing the shake-up in the Clinton campaign as a cry for help, because the changes occurred after Clinton suffered some noteworthy losses in the last key primaries and caucuses.

On the other side of the Democratic ticket, Illinois Senator Barack Obama is holding strong and has now officially taken the delegate lead from Clinton. Obama, who joyfully invokes his populist slogan, "Yes, we can!" at many rallies, has built what pundits are calling a considerable momentum, after sweeping the contests in the states that have followed Super Tuesday.

However, the Illinois Senator has also made some changes--most notably in his stance on the war in Iraq. Originally Obama supported immediate withdrawal from Iraq, but now he is saying that he supports a withdrawal from Iraq that is structured in several phases. This change is most likely do to the reported "successes" that the "surge" in Iraq has had.

Over the next two weeks, the Clinton and Obama camps will fight for some crucial votes. Obama will be able to survive some

losses but it will be hard to tell if Clinton can sacrifice more delegates to Obama without losing her chances at the nomination.

Arizona Senator John McCain is still looking like the favorite to win the Republican nomination. His only remaining challenger is Governor Mike Huckabee, who has fewer delegates than Mitt Romney, the candidate who is not even in the race anymore.

Talk, however, could soon turn to the idea that John McCain may offer the vice presidency nomination to Mike Huckabee or Mitt Romney to balance out his ticket. McCain needs someone who would have the backing of the entire conservative base, something he doesn't currently enjoy. This week's *Newsweek* magazine lead story analyzes the challenge McCain faces with the conservative base in his own party.

Romney could be McCain's favorite as of right now, because just over the week-end Romney endorsed the Arizona Senator. Romney's endorsement is the second largest endorsement McCain has received from a former candidate. The first one was from Rudy Giuliani after his withdrawal from the



race.

As people look forward to the March and April contests, McCain will not have any trouble, but it will undoubtedly still be interesting between Clinton and Obama. That is why Pennsylvania can expect to see more of the candidates sooner than ever. Northeastern Pennsylvania has been extremely important, so going into April do not be surprised if you see Clinton or Obama making a stop in Scranton or Wilkes-Barre.

The chances of some campaign stops are even made better by the fact that Pennsylvania's primary is the only one slated for April.

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The value of having an early voice in politics

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

Thirty-eight states will have their delegates allocated to candidates before any Pennsylvanian has the opportunity to step into a voting booth on April 22. However, unlike previous years, there is a good chance that Pennsylvania's primary will mean more than it has ever meant before.

Nevertheless, though the tight race among Democrats may ensure a lively process late in the game this year, 2008 is arguably an exception to the rule: "the later you weigh in, the less it really matters."

So why should Pennsylvania's primary remain so late in the election season? The state's primary is a relatively

large one and is crucial to many campaigns. As Pennsylvanians, do we move the primary forward or leave it in the middle of April and hope that all elections will be like this one?

Consulting the history books, Pennsylvania's primary has never really meant this much since 1976 when then-presidential candidate Jimmy Carter took home the Democratic nomination after winning the Pennsylvania primary.

In 2000 and 2004, the two more recent races, both nominations were largely locked-up by the time Pennsylvanians had a chance to weigh in. Despite the big delegate pay-off, if the candidates have already proven themselves in states such as New York, California, Texas, Ohio and Florida, the chances are that choices will be all but made before the middle of April, discouraging Pennsylvania voters from engaging fully in the primary process.

So, we are suggesting that Pennsylvania moves its primary up and add itself to the list of states that vote on "Super Tuesday."

It is important to note that we are not calling for a national pri-

mary day. Such a move would undermine the all-important face-to-face that happens if candidates are physically unable to campaign vigorously in each state. The existing staggered approach at least offers a chance for lesser-knowns to shake hands and fight for name recognition alongside the well-heeled and established party names.

In Iowa and New Hampshire we see candidates do what they were born to do: knock on doors, work a crowd of people at a winter carnival, go to the town squares and

But we would like to see Pennsylvanians' votes mean something more than once every generation.

So how is this done, why isn't it done, and to whom do we go for a change? In all reality it is up to the individual states, but there is often a lot of pressure from the national parties that determine when the primary dates will be scheduled.

The national committees see the primary process as a beautiful system of interlocking battles that are spaced perfectly apart towards the beginning of the race. They do not want to see that system disrupted,

happens in late August, Floridians will have no representatives. While this ruling may eventually be overturned (mostly because it cancels out millions of votes), the warning still stands: mess with national scheduling, and pay the price.

The idea of regional primaries has also been floated. Such a move would mean Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts would all have their primaries on one day.

This idea usually fails because it would allow one candidate with

a lot of support in those states to just focus on those four and possibly take home a considerable number of electoral votes. Thus, it would not be fair, particularly

to less populated states, to create regional primaries.

It is relatively easy to change the primary date in a state, as is evident by Florida's action this year, but states must be careful not to create backlash from the national committees. So, the earliest a state could move its primary, without facing national sanction, could be "Super Tuesday."

So our suggestion to the Pennsylvanian Republican and Democratic Committees is to investigate moving Pennsylvania to "Super Tuesday." The move would guarantee that PA voters' choices mean something.

So, we are suggesting that Pennsylvania moves its primary up and add itself to the list of states that vote on "Super Tuesday."

offer good, old fashioned stump speeches, and hammer their signs into people's yards. If there were a national primary day this would not happen. We would see visits from the candidates throughout the country, but they would take place in stadiums and amphitheatres, not in town halls like those we see in Iowa and New Hampshire.

A national primary day would keep Americans from seeing exactly how the candidates interact with the public on a one-on-one basis, and would make it nearly impossible for the candidates with less money to actually press the flesh.

and if a state attempts to do so, it could face sanctions that negate votes.

Florida is a great example of this. Last year Floridians decided that they would prefer to make more of a difference in the election process, so lawmakers scheduled the state's primary for January 29, before "Super Tuesday" on February 5.

When the Democratic National Committee (DNC) received word that Florida was scheduling its primary in the middle of a very important first round of primaries, the DNC stripped Florida of its delegates, which means that when the Democratic convention



Beacon

Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus. Results are based on 16 responses.

The Beacon asked:

What country would you want to study abroad in?

- Rosie O'Donnell & Donald Trump-25%
- Miley Cyrus & R. Kelly-0%
- Britney Spears & Dr. Phil-0%
- Michael Jackson & The Jonas Brothers-0%
- Pamela Anderson & Bill Gates-0%
- Mary-Kate Olsen & a Cheeseburger-25%
- Amy Winehouse & Prince William-13%
- Tom Cruise and Elisabeth Hasselbeck-0%
- Hugh Hefner & Betty White-38%
- Cher & Mitt Romney-0%

Next Week's Question:

What was the worst Best Oscar Picture in the past 10 years

- The Departed
- Crash
- Million Dollar Baby
- Lord of the Rings: Return of the King
- Chicago
- A Beautiful Mind
- Gladiator
- American Beauty
- Shakespeare in Love
- Titanic

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

The Angry Rant: Overrated movie? *Juno*'it!

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Every once in a while, a film comes along that captures the hearts and minds of the country, hitting all the right notes as it rides a steady word-of-mouth campaign before turning itself into a full-on Titan at the box office.

Sometimes, these movies are even able to impress even the most jaded movie critic, whose icy façade is cracked, if only for a moment, to revel in the beauty of a skillfully crafted film. Even rarer still, that movie is able to snag a much deserved Best Picture nomination; the ultimate prize for a movie worth its weight in Oscar gold.

However, *Juno* is not one of those films.

Don't get me wrong, *Juno* is a fine little movie. It's a solid 7 out of 10, a fun little romp that is enough to distract you for about two hours, but a nomination for Best Picture? Not so much. It's like Natalie Portman: Cute and smart, but at the end of the day, just can't compete with the likes of Scarlett Johansson.

Here's the story: Juno (Ellen Page) is pregnant at the hand of her friend Bleeker (Michael Cera), who is okay with Juno giving their baby away to a couple of yuppies (Jason Bateman and Jennifer Garner), while her father (J.K. Simmons) and stepmother (Allison Janney) look on, armed with a steady dose of advice and humorous dialogue. All the while, some other stuff happens that Juno comments on like she just got finished watching a Kevin Smith movie (thank you to the three people who got that joke).

That's it. That's the whole movie, a

dark-horse indie film that becomes overly schmaltzy and gooey by the end, and you realize about a week later that you didn't really enjoy it.

It's the opposite of a dumb comedy that gets better with time (*Dumb and Dumber*, for instance), because for a few days after you've seen it, you start to think about it more, and the flaws start to appear, until you realize that you liked the movie, but didn't love it like you thought you did.

One of the problems with *Juno* is that the dialogue is so painfully crafted that it loses its sense of realism. In the first 20 minutes, the audience is treated with such quotable quotes as: "Your eggo is preggo," "Honest to blog?" and "I am for shiz up the spat." The verbal assault tapers off after a while, but the entire film is so peppered with these confabulatory gems that it never allows the viewers to fully immerse themselves into a scene because it is so over-the-top and manufactured.

I like dialogue to be smart and well-written, but *Juno* surpasses that more than any movie that I've seen in recent memory...and that's not a good thing. Quantity does not equal quality.

Another issue I have is that *Juno* is ostensibly an independent film, almost to the point where it becomes pretentious. It's no secret that indie films are noticeably so, but nearly every aspect of *Juno* is coated in it. From the colored pencil opening credits, to the entire makeup of Juno's bedroom, to the musical and film tastes of Juno and Jason Bateman's character, all the way up to the end of the film when Juno and Bleeker sing, "Anyone Else But You" by The Moldy Peaches, who are, guess what? An indie

band out of New York. Shocking.

So... I liked the movie *Juno*. It's a fun picture that makes you laugh. But that's it. It isn't worth any nominations that are combination of the words "best" and "picture," nor is it worth a place on the Internet Movie Database's Top 250 list, where it currently ranks at #135 (this will change by the time you read this), where it is ranked above such films as *Gone With the Wind*, *Heat*, and *Dog Day Afternoon*. Shameful.

Okay, that's it for *Juno*.

Now onto the picks for the 2008 Oscars! In the interest of space, I'm only going to pick the major categories, because, quite honestly, does anyone really care who wins Best Costume Design in a Foreign Animated Short Film?

Best Picture: *No Country For Old Men*-- A tale of blood, money and fate come together in this film set in 1980 Texas. This film is worth seeing not only because it's great, but because of the great musical score.

Best Director: Julian Schnabel for *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*-- A film about a man who is paralyzed after suffering a stroke. Wait, he is trapped in his own body and unable to move? This sounds just like that time I watched "Grey's Anatomy."

(Side note: I don't care for "Grey's Anatomy". So much so, that I refuse to devote an entire rant to it. It's one of the most derivative shows of the last decade. The main character narrating the show as a hip soundtrack plays in the background while the young doctors get into all sorts of crazy hi-jinks? The show was light-years better when it was called "Scrubs." Get lost, Dr. Grey; your show blows.)

Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis for *There Will Be Blood*-- By far, this is the best single performance I have seen this year, and it easily ranks in the top 10 performances of all-time. Simply put, Daniel Day-Lewis is to acting as Oscar Meyer is to hot dogs.

Best Actress: Julie Christie for *Away From Her*-- Christie's performance as a woman who is suffering from Alzheimer's is both heartbreaking and brave, and it makes you forget that she was in the train wreck known as *Troy*.

Best Supporting Actor: Javier Bardem for *No Country For Old Men*-- His portrayal of the sociopath Anton Chigurh ranks as one of the greatest villains of all-time. Also, didn't everyone have a friend in high school that looked just like Chigurh? You know, the guy who is a little too old to be in high school, but you hung out with him anyway because he had a mustache and could buy you beer, even though he probably killed a guy to get tickets to a Jefferson Airplane concert? Man, that guy was cool.

Best Supporting Actress: Cate Blanchett in *I'm Not There*. In the film, Blanchett is one of six actors portraying Bob Dylan at various points in his career. Noticeably absent is scene where Bob has to avoid running into himself at "The Enchantment Under the Sea" dance after he and Doc Brown went back in time to stop Biff from getting the almanac and becoming a rich tyrant in the future.

That's it for me, I'm going to find myself a hip girl and see if she will carry my child in hopes of hilarity ensuing. My guess is that it ends in tears and pain.

Happy Oscaring.

Make an effort to recycle and it will make a difference

BY MACKENSEY O'HARA

Beacon Staff Writer

Since I arrived at Wilkes as a freshman in August, the university has been increasingly making the effort to "go green" as the rest of the nation has been as well.

Recycling has been something that I did regularly at home. We would collect paper, cardboard, and bottles and would take them all to the center every few weeks. This not only cut down immensely on our garbage amounts but you really do get a sense of accomplishment, a feeling that you are doing something good.

When I first got on our campus and was walking around regularly, I noticed the containers specifically set out for papers, cardboard, and plastic items. These were set up in most all the buildings and outside in pathways where students walked frequently.

As time went on, the bins started showing up in dorms and even more in the buildings. In my dorm alone we have bins on all three floors and they are really convenient.

The problem is not the lack of recycling receptacles around our campus, but rather the lack of caring and interest by some students to make that very small extra effort to put, say, your Gatorade bottle in the plastics bin instead of the garbage can. It doesn't even come down to there not being a bin nearby. Almost always, wherever I see a garbage can, I also see recycling bins right next to it, so it's really convenient.

When I see someone toss their half-eaten piece of pizza in the paper bin or see someone empty their binder of its paper into the garbage, it is aggravating. I'm not

pointing the finger at everyone at Wilkes because there definitely are some who do care and do recycle. It's the fact that a large number really do not care and do not recycle and this is extremely annoying to see when it's something so elementary. The bins are right next to the garbage cans for a reason. The people who put them out there know that students, or anyone for that matter, are going to be a lot less likely to recycle if they have to hold onto the item and actually search for the proper bin.

Recycling is one of the easiest things we can do to help our environment. It is even easier here in our situation because we don't actually have to do most of the process of recycling. We just have to put the stuff in

the bins; we don't have to collect the bins, sort them, or take them anywhere. That's all done for us.

All that it will take to eliminate the bad habits in people and to erase the mindset that every bin is a garbage bin, is for people to care just a little, to pay attention to where they are putting something, and to make that tiny effort needed. It might not seem like a big deal if you recycle one bottle, but think if every single person on the campus recycled one bottle. That's a lot! Also, by leaving legitimate garbage solely for the garbage cans, an enormous amount of extra, unnecessary work is erased for those who do have to take the recycling to a center. Just be aware of what you are throwing away, and where you are throwing it. I promise, it will make a difference and it's not difficult at all.



I'm not giving my rags to the mechanic just yet... ...and I'm not voting for Barack Obama

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO

Beacon Staff Writer

I had a conversation with a friend the other day. He's very religious. OK- he's a religious leader. And I...I am not. Needless to say, we got into an argument that I did not want to be in, nor could I keep up with. So, I used my Andee-like wit to throw a statement at him that not only made me sound like a tortured genius with an I.Q. of 178, but also one that made me sound correct.

"You really are in love with your wit, aren't you?" he said. Then, he proceeded to tell me that despite my ability to articulate such statements, I really had no idea what I was talking about.

He was right.

Most of the time, when I haven't a clue about the subject of my conversation, I just resort to my wit. People usually just think I am correct, and stop arguing with me. It works most of the time.

It also works in churches where ministers stand and offer sermons to strengthen people's faith. Faith in? I'm confused. Somehow, with their words ministers can move people, and make them believe their sermons and teachings are the truth. They inspire people to believe, believe in what, I don't know.

All of these things are good in their own right. It's great that with our words, we can sometimes have that effect on people, but not when it comes to electing the next president of the United States of America.

Barack Obama inspires the nation. That's what I keep hearing anyway. Look at his campaign web site. Every single solitary section begins with something "witty" he has said. Apparently, his ability to inspire is causing some moderate conservatives to lean a little bit to the left, and listen to what he has to say. After all, he can "unify us," and John McCain doesn't want to kick the illegals out, so he's bad. That's the story I'm hearing.

And those conservatives aren't the only ones jumping on the Obama bandwagon. Democrats are starting to doubt Hillary Clinton, who has a definitive plan for action. Barack Obama has a dream. It's everywhere, "The American Dream." My generation wants to have its dream, and far too often, I hear people who have denied "The American Dream" ever existed, and who are now proudly referring themselves as "Obamericans," a name Barack Obama is so proud of, he has used it in political speeches.

Of course, despite the Obama rage, nobody is taking the time to realize that he is very much like me, great with words, all

talk. The man is a young dreamer.

First, (and least important, in my opinion) is the Iraq war. Obama has recently stated that he doesn't have a time frame to withdraw the troops, despite his original plan. I wonder why? Perhaps it's because he's starting to see the reality that getting out of Iraq in the ideal sense is not feasible? Both Clinton and Obama have plans to withdraw troops, and I think America needs to realize it will happen, but it's going to happen in its due time. We don't even know half of the problems in Iraq currently. The media doesn't tell us.

Oh, but let's not forget that Obama was never "for" the war. Right. Because he was on the Senate at the time and everything... Who knows how he would have voted?

Obama has been compared with John F. Kennedy on countless occasions, sometimes by right-wing conservatives. We often forget in America, that JFK, had he finished his term, may not have been remembered quite the way he is today. We remember him because he was young, inspirational, and killed in public. We don't remember him for other actions, however, like, oh I don't know, almost blowing up the world in the Bay of Pigs situation?

Second, and I find this to be most important, is the constant weakening of the middle class. Where did we go? I heard recently that a distant friend is voting for Obama because "the rich, intellectuals" are voting for him. Now, this girl is \$100,000 in debt. She lives off of her more than generous parents. I wonder where she will be when she has to start fending for herself, and when she realizes that her class no longer exists, and that the \$100K she spent for college isn't doing her much good.

A lot of that is the problem; parents with high credit card debt, just burying themselves financially to get their kids through college, all the while giving the kids the misconception that their families/the economy is perfectly fine.

It isn't. The Bush administration has virtually run it into the ground, and it is becoming nearly impossible to find jobs, particularly in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Unless your field is health care, you're going to struggle. Hillary has a plan. She lists strengthening the middle class as one of her top priorities. She has worked actively on researching and improving this very problem. Obama has a dream. He lists his plans for reform, but never tells the American people if they're feasible. He just "talks good."

Hillary also is planning to completely reform our private education system, making it easier for people to go to college. She lists

this as a high priority. Obama just mentions the subject. He's going to give each student a break of about \$4,000. Thanks, Barack. Now I'm only \$76,000 in debt. Thank God my field, unlike most others, doesn't really require an advanced degree.

I'm about \$80,000 in debt, and I come from a poor family. I'm not going on spring break this year. I can't afford it. I don't have a gas credit card, or a "Daddy credit card." I work at a bar, and make tips. I buy clothing *once a year*, if that. My mother had to cash in her retirement policy to give me money to move to NYC (which may last me three months, when I finally move. However, I have to go, because there are no jobs in my field in my area that I could make a living on, without working two extra jobs.) My stepfather was just laid off for a year and a half, lowering our household income to just over \$30,000. When I applied for financial aid, I was denied *once again*, because we're apparently "too rich." If we didn't have relatives die a few years ago and if we hadn't paid off our mortgage ahead of time, we may very well be homeless today. Studies have shown when one family member that majorly contributes to the overall

household income becomes unemployed, families rarely have enough money to sustain themselves for a few months following. Thank God for my dead relatives.

I was once middle class, but my family, despite their college education, and their large vocabularies, their work ethic, and their nice-sized I.Q.s are quickly becoming "the working poor." In a few years, we very well may be, because my mother and stepfather will lose their jobs so someone much younger can take them over for a lower wage; someone who has the energy to wait tables on weekends.

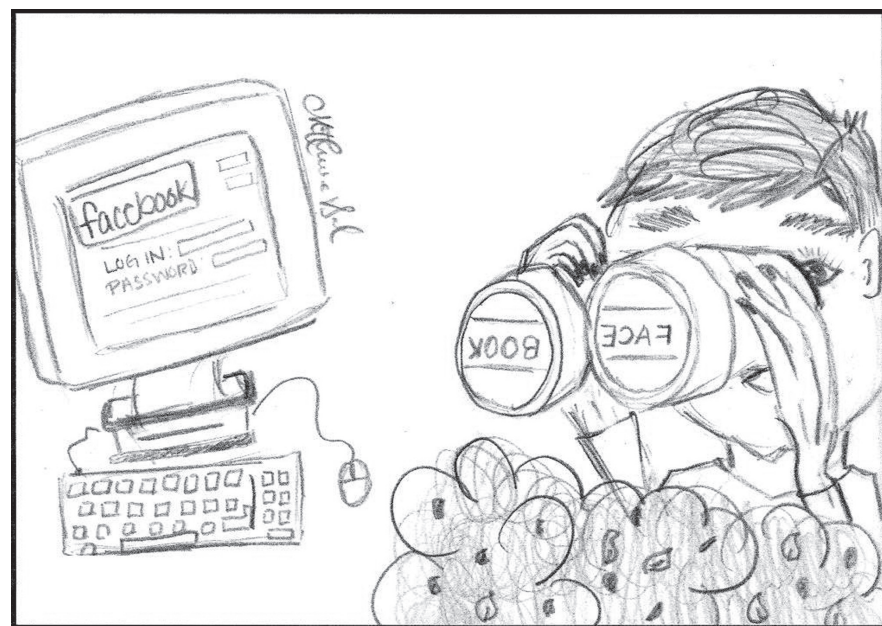
We can always vote for John McCain. He's under pressure about those illegals. I can't wait to see the nation when we kick them out. Then all the McDonald's workers can take the jobs in sweat shops, and those of us who are just getting our BAs can take them over! Nice.

I'm not turning my rags into the mechanic just yet. I may need them to sew myself some clothing when we elect a nice, big, pompous, "great talker" to be the next president of the United States of America. You're all blind. See you at the polls.

Here's to you... Mr. Facebook Stalker!

BY GINO TROIANI

Staff Writer/Photographer



Drawing By: Matt Vital

Here's to you Mr. Facebook stalker! Your lack of confidence prevents you approaching real, live girls, so what's the next best thing? Stalking! Why not? Whether someone changes their relationship status, or adds a new photo, you always know who, what, when, where, and why. Because of this we have cool labels like 'creeper,' and even cooler television shows such as "How to Catch a Predator." One would think that you would try and hide what you're doing, but no. You insist on only placing cute young girls on your top friends for the rest of us to gaze in envy. Keep on, keeping on!

DSS aids students with learning and physical challenges

BY WILFREDO MERCADO

Beacon Correspondent

For those who have ever doubted their ability to perform in everyday life, it would be wise to ask the question that Mathew Gold poses: "What would you do if you knew you cannot fail?" He uses this question as an example of his own inspiration to guide him to where he is today.

Gold is almost like any other college student here on campus. He lives in a dorm that makes him mostly independent from his parents. He attends classes, goes to occasional parties and has an endless number of friends.

But Gold also has several learning disabilities, such as epilepsy, ADD, a mild case of cerebral palsy, stutter/hesitation, Artesia of the right ear canal (equivalent to putting a hand over

your ear), and has also sustained a few concussions along the way.

Despite the challenges, Gold has continuously

conquered year after year of college, he is anticipating his bachelor's degree in history in one more semester. Of course, the aid of the university's Disability Support Services (DSS), has played a leading role in Matt's academic success.

DSS provides programs and accommodations for students with learning disabilities. Sandra Rendina, the coordinator of academic services and DSS, describes the program as an outlet where any student who may have a disability, whether learning or physical, can seek special services. Currently, the DSS department has a total of 40 students utilizing the services. This allows counselors such as Rendina the opportunity to work one on one with the students. Students, like Gold, who attempt to achieve a college degree with a learning disability, find this service extremely useful.

Through the DSS department, students with learning and physical challenges can request accommodations that would benefit them in their academic studies. With proper forms and letters of approval from licensed physicians, the students can have their text books put on tape, have extended time for tests, an in-class note taker or any other special service.

"The instructors are great with the program and they are always willing to work with the students," Rendina said. "There may be a time where a student may need extra time for tutoring, or special arrangements outside of class to take an examination, and the instructors are always there to help."

Other campus services, such as the Writing Center, which is available to anyone, are also a great help for students with disabilities. This particular campus service is extremely useful for a student like Gold who struggles with typing.

Before his visit to the Writing Center, Gold has already been through several steps and preparations for an assignment. Unlike most of the self proclaimed procrastinators of school, Gold does not have the option of putting off his duties.

There is no such thing as starting an assignment the day before it is due, or cramming for an exam. It would be the end of me.

Matthew Gold

senior history major

"There is no such thing as starting an assignment the day before it is due, or cramming for an exam; it would be the end of me," he said.

He explained that when his instructor assigns a research paper, he must start immediately in order to finish and pull together his final paper.

Because Gold suffers from several learning disabilities that interfere with his ability to concentrate and hold a thought long enough to get it down on paper advanced technology has offered important outlets. In this case, "Technology is key," says Gold's mother, Fran Gold. "Matt can type, but it would take him too long. The Dragon Naturally Speaking 9 Preferred (DNS9) program is 98 percent accurate. After you dictate your papers, you go back and edit them."

This means that Gold can speak his thoughts as they come clear in his mind, and they are immediately scripted onto his computer. In addition, he also uses a Palm Trio to help him store important dates, reminders, appointments, etc. As Mrs. Gold explained, "These are good suggestions for others to work 'smarter' not 'harder' provided they can afford it."

The reality is that not everyone can afford

speech command computer programs and mobile organizer devices, but there is still plenty of opportunity for students with disabilities. The disability services do not require extra fees for the student or their parents. In fact, all disability services can be used by any student who may feel he or she requires them.

The DSS are constantly monitoring the progress of their students. Grades are being updated and their performance is constantly being recorded. Should there be a

noticeable decrease in the student's grades, counselors, such as Sandra Rendina, will do her

best to personally work with the student to get them back on track. "The usual academic performance from the students in this program are usually at the average level, if not, above average. We try really hard to make sure that the student does not fall behind for any reason."

Though the DSS does not work directly with the students to prepare them for the workforce, there are other ways that help train them. Sessions such as mock interviews offered through career services can help the students understand what to expect when hunting through the job market. Rendina communicates with the students and works with them to lead them in a professional direction in her own individual meetings.

Rendina also explained that she has noticed a drastic change with the parental involvement with the student's journey through their college career. She feels that the role of the parents has a great influence with the attitude of the student and their decision to make the effort to overcome their disability and get their education.

This observation proves to be true with Gold and the inspiration that his parents have been to him. He explained that there have been many times that he simply did



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

Matt Gold, a senior history major, has overcome many learning disabilities during his college career. His intrinsic motivation, along with assistance from the University's Disability Support Services, helps him during his journey.

not want to keep going, but his parents have never allowed him to be taken over; instead he should always overcome. When Gold needed to undergo a series of surgeries for his hearing, his mother, Fran, was in charge of contacting all of his professors and arranging accommodations for the days that Gold would miss.

"Its better taking the road less traveled than go where the masses go," advises Gold. He speaks directly to those potential students who may feel that their disadvantage may stop them from making the decision to go to college.

With his parents by his side, and DSS to provide further aid, Gold is a prime example of a Wilkes students who can and has found success in higher education, overcoming any potential challenges of a learning disability. He could not be happier with the help that Wilkes has provided to him.

"Wilkes has honed my skills. I am more of a historian than I ever was," said Gold.

If triumphantly completing the last five years of his college career is not enough, Gold plans to continue his education in graduate school, but not before a well-deserved spring break in Punta Cana.

Student of the Week: Angela Wood

BY MATTHEW GOGAS

Beacon Staff Writer

Known as "Alex" to her friends and professors, Angela Wood is just itching to make her mark on the legal world.

But this young woman with seemingly so much clear focus on her post-Wilkes career still remembers her time as a freshman and the anxiety she felt about how her life would turn out. She is living proof of how four years of undergraduate school can shape and hone direction--sometimes in ways the student cannot anticipate.

Wood, a political science major, was originally interested in criminal law, but through her college experiences with professors here, she now feels as though she wants to work in constitutional law. She is currently the secretary for the campaign committee for the Young Democrats of America. Young Democrats of America is one of the top ten largest interest groups that focuses on drawing in young voters. She is also vice chair of development for the college Caucus. This group includes 24 schools that are participating in college voter registration. Wood is also the president of the political science club here at Wilkes.

Because of her leadership in a variety of roles at Wilkes that are designed to educate, particularly would-be voters, *The Beacon* has chosen Wood as its Student of the Week. Recently, *The Beacon* had the opportunity to sit down with Wood to learn more about her hopes for advancing political advancement on campus.

The Beacon: Explain your role in the political science club.

Wood: We took a break for a little while, but now that we have a lot more students that want to take an active part in the club, we are reviving it. The first thing we want to do is take a trip to Harrisburg where I know some state representatives personally and they said that they would help us out and get us an inside look [at government] that normally we wouldn't [see]. We also want to get [Representatives] Carney and Kanjorski here to speak. We would love to have debates, but try and get the campus involved because the upcoming election is historic. We can really change the primary and the political science club wants to take a huge role.

The Beacon: How do you feel about how Wilkes has suited your needs as you have been here?

Wood: Well, I come from New York City so it's a little different than Pennsylvania, but as corny as it sounds, I could not have asked for anything better. My professors have been more than amazing. Dr. Baldino never let me wander off. Dr. Kreider never accepted any of my garbage. I want to thank Dr. Miller for telling me I was wrong, which challenged me to prove that I was right. When somebody challenges you, that's the best thing they can do. I can't forget Dr. Garr, my advisor. I must have forgotten my pin at least a hundred times and he was always so sweet to give it to me. Oh, I did not enjoy passing Dr. Seeley's ECON course, but I learned so much.

The Beacon: Do you like the campus here?

Wood: I love the small campus. Like I said, I couldn't ask for anything more. My professors made my college experience. It's going to be weird not having them around.

The Beacon: So, you graduate this semester?

Wood: Yeah, I'm going to law school next semester. It's crazy. I feel like a freshmen and it's the second week of school.

The Beacon: Do you have anxiety about not being in college anymore?

Wood: I don't think its anxiety. I think it's that I have come to know my professors and appreciate what they have added- the new insights they have given me. It's weird. I have finally really gotten comfortable with all of them.

The Beacon: So you hope to go to law school and practice constitutional law?

Wood: Well, I would like to run for office.

The Beacon: What would you want to be? Senator? Governor?

Wood: I would love to be a Senator. Being a Governor would be awesome! It's getting your hands dirty and being able to change the way people live their lives. A lot of people think that government can't change anything, but from my experience, and I have been with campaigns and interning since I was in the eighth grade, they really do. You may not see it all the time, but when we can help somebody get social security or prevent someone from being convicted for the wrong reason, that is really where government comes in. I may be from New York, but I love it here. I love Pennsylvania and would love to be part of the government here.

The Beacon: If you had your choice of law schools, which one would you attend?

Wood: I think Penn State. I'm trying not to think about where actually I want to go until I get the letters. I am checking the mail everyday and it's un-nerving. I had a dream the other night where law schools said no to me-law schools I didn't even apply to. It's really gotten under my skin, but I would love to go to Penn State.



The Beacon/Cara Koster



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR
BARNES & NOBLE @ WILKES-KING'S
"COLLEGE BOOKSTORE" THIS WEEK!
Barnes & Noble Wilkes-King's College Bookstore



"Live Acoustic Music"
Wednesday night in our café!
"Dealer In Wares"
February 20th @ 6:30-8:30pm



"Live Acoustic music"
"Middleport Wednesday"
Friday, November 22nd
7:30-10:30pm

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Adult learners break 'tunnel vision' of student definition

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA

Beacon Lifestyles Editor

Like many students, John Mazur is looking excitedly to his graduation in May of 2009. But unlike the majority of his fellow graduates, he doesn't have to stress over the subsequent job search.

After he receives his degree, he'll still be retired.

Mazur, 53, is one of the growing number of adults throughout the United States who have opted to go back to school to earn a degree. According to an article published in the Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration in 2003, adult students have increased 170 percent from 1970 to 2000, compared to a rise of only 41 percent for students aged 18 to 24.

While the article states that about 42 percent of students at public and private institutions of higher learning are 25 years old or older, the percent of nontraditional students at Wilkes University reaches nowhere near that figure. During the fall semester, only 160 students out of a total enrollment of approximately 2,400 undergraduates were over 25 years old, coming out to 15 percent of the student population.

"There aren't really any programs designed specifically for part-time adult students. There just doesn't exist any at Wilkes currently," said Kathleen Houlihan, the director of graduate and part-time undergraduate enrollment. "Right now, their only option is to take what is offered to the traditional students and try to make it work."

There are no current programs geared specifically for part-time adult students, but Houlihan says that one is being developed. The Center for Continued Learning is beginning to work with the business de-

partment faculty on a program for an accelerated bachelor's degree in business administration. Other majors, like education, may follow.

While the program remains in its developmental stage, Houlihan says the biggest complaint she hears from adult learners is the lack of flexibility regarding course times.

"At Wilkes, you'll hear students say there aren't times that work for them," she said. "It's not like they wouldn't come here if the programs were available, but a lot of them can't come during the day."

Diana Krogulski, a 55-year-old communications major, started at Wilkes in the fall of 2006 after transferring from Luzerne County Community College. Because she needs to work nearly full-time, her choice of courses is limited to the few classes offered during the evenings.

"It's hard to make your schedule when you have to work so much," she said. "You end up taking classes in the evenings that may not have been your first choice. I can't say I haven't enjoyed the classes, but there may have been ones I wanted to take more."

Besides working outside the school, adult students often have more on their plates than their

20-year-old classmates. Many juggle a full-time job with caring for children and other family obligations.

Krogulski, the mother of four children, took her first college class 30 years ago. After her first son was born, she put her education on hold to raise her family. When her youngest daughter entered high school, she decided to go back to school to earn her degree.

"My daughter kept encouraging me to go back," she said. "When I started these classes in my 40's, I was so intimidated by the students. They were so witty and smart, and I was terrified."

According to Houlihan, many of the adult students she works with are concerned with how they will fit into campus culture. She says many of them worry if they can handle the workload, keep up in class, and learn the technological aspects of college.

"Some of them are hesitant about coming back and being in



The Beacon/Allison Roth

Nontraditional students like John Mazur are making up a growing number of the student enrollment at schools across the nation.

a classroom," she said. "They're afraid to see if they can handle the work itself. There's some hesitancy about whether they can keep up."

According to Houlihan, the majority of

I want to get up and go already. Time's burning away.
I don't have all these years that young people have.

Diana Krogulski
adult learner

adult learners she works with have had some college experience in the past. Popular reasons for returning to school include honing an edge for an increasingly competitive job market or changing careers.

"Some people have been working in a field for a long time, and they just finally say, 'I'm done with it,' or 'I want a change,'" she said. "They want to do something else with their lives, so they go back to school for that reason."

Mazur, who started at Wilkes in the summer of 2007, switched gears completely when he declared his major of international studies. Prior to that, he worked in the electronics field in the Marines, and studied electrical engineering on and off during the 1970s and 1980s.

"I have such an interest in what's going on in the world now," he said. "I hope I can learn to understand it a little better."

While adult learners may worry about fitting in with their twenty-year-old classmates, Houlihan says that they shouldn't cut themselves short regarding what they

can bring to the classroom.

"The benefit for the traditional age students is that they are going to have a different perspective, which is really where learning occurs," she said. "If everyone's coming from the same background, you're not learning anything. But with more diversity, you're going to enhance your learning experience."

Krogulski believes that the faculty, staff, and students have been very respectful and accommodating since she started at Wilkes. Her classmates seek her out as a confidant, tease her during classes, and send her text messages over the breaks.

While she is pleased with her education at Wilkes, Krogulski believes there are some changes that can be made to make the process more conducive to adult learning.

"Maybe they could offer more night classes in our fields," she suggested. "Sometimes you have to wait two years to get that class you need. I want to get up and go already. Time's burning away. I don't have all these years that young people have."

Houlihan believes it is important for Wilkes not to lose sight of the important adult learner demographic. She said that while universities across the nation are seeing a decrease in the number of traditional-age students, the number of older learners is rising rapidly.

But in order to start focusing on that bracket, Houlihan believes that Wilkes has to see more than just the "tunnel vision" of its traditional-aged student enrollment.

"We're starting to break down some of the barriers," she said. "As soon as we get them thinking along that wave, it's going to enrich everyone's experience."

BOOZE TRUTHS

**Alcohol, food, and
non-alcoholic beverages
are all digested
the same way**

TRUE FALSE

Alcohol is not digested like other foods & beverages. It passes directly into the bloodstream through the tissue that lines the stomach and small intestine.

- Provided By Health Services -

<http://www.factsontap.org>

Gettin' the "Led" Out

BY NICK PODOLAK
Beacon Editor-In-Chief

Ever wonder why you never hear of a successful Gun 'N Roses tribute band? It's because very few can duplicate the primal screams of front man Axl Rose that ensured the band so much widespread appeal.

And the same holds true for rock 'n roll god Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin fame...the vocals mean everything.

Perhaps that's what makes Michael Dougherty, lead singer of the premier Zeppelin tribute band in the Valley - Misty Mountain - so special...he's got Plant down to a tee, and he's only 18.

It all started in the backwoods of Lake Lehman, where Dougherty and best friend Justin Mazer formed a rock 'n roll band called Dirty Water. While playing a Zeppelin cover at Bart and Urby's on South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, Dougherty caught the attention of River Street Jazz Cafe general manager Tom Moran who said, "S***, he sounds like that guy from Zeppelin."

"I challenged them," Moran said. "I said, 'If you could learn 35 Led Zeppelin songs and prove to me that you could play 'em, I'll give you a night at the Jazz Cafe.'"

Three weeks later, band members called Moran, recorded 15 songs, and got their show, now playing as Misty Mountain (derived from the song Misty Mountain Hop from "Led Zeppelin IV" or "Zoso.")

However, if Moran was going to successfully market the band (like he had with the likes of Trippin' On Nothing and the Woody Browns Project), some crucial changes had to be made. Drummer Jordan Kravits and bassist Steve Cornia were replaced by well-known Pennsylvania artist George Wesley's son, James, on drums and Ian McDougal on bass, both of whom are in their thirties.

"It's really comin' along. I'm actually gonna try to market it in the summer and see how it does. The reaction you get here is incredible, so why not move it to another town?" said Moran.

If you ever meet Dougherty, who bar backs at the Jazz Cafe, chances are the conversation won't be very engaging. The dirty blond mop head is mopey, shy, and extremely mellow. But once he steps onstage, he undergoes a metamorphosis, suddenly transforming into "Bobby P," rocking in skin tight jeans, brandishing a tambourine, and moving the crowd with his best impersonation of rock's greatest front man, often breaking out into "B-B-B-B-Babys!" and "Oooh-Oooh's," which is no easy task as Dougherty explains.

"I really have to change my whole personality 'cause I'm like kind

of a shy person, and when I'm on stage I can be completely different," Dougherty said. "I can be Robert Plant, I can woo the girls a little bit wearin' the tight pants, so might as well be a little crazy on stage," he said.

Playing Zeppelin favorites such as "Dazed and Confused" and "Rock and Roll," Misty Mountain often delves into lesser known gems as well, like the extraterrestrial "No Quarter." In fact, the last time they played The Jazz Cafe, the quartet broke into an acoustic set with "Goin' to California," "Battle of Evermore," and "Thank You," which was highlighted by McDougal playing the mandolin, which sounds like a high pitched banjo, as heard in Rod Stewart's "Maggie May."

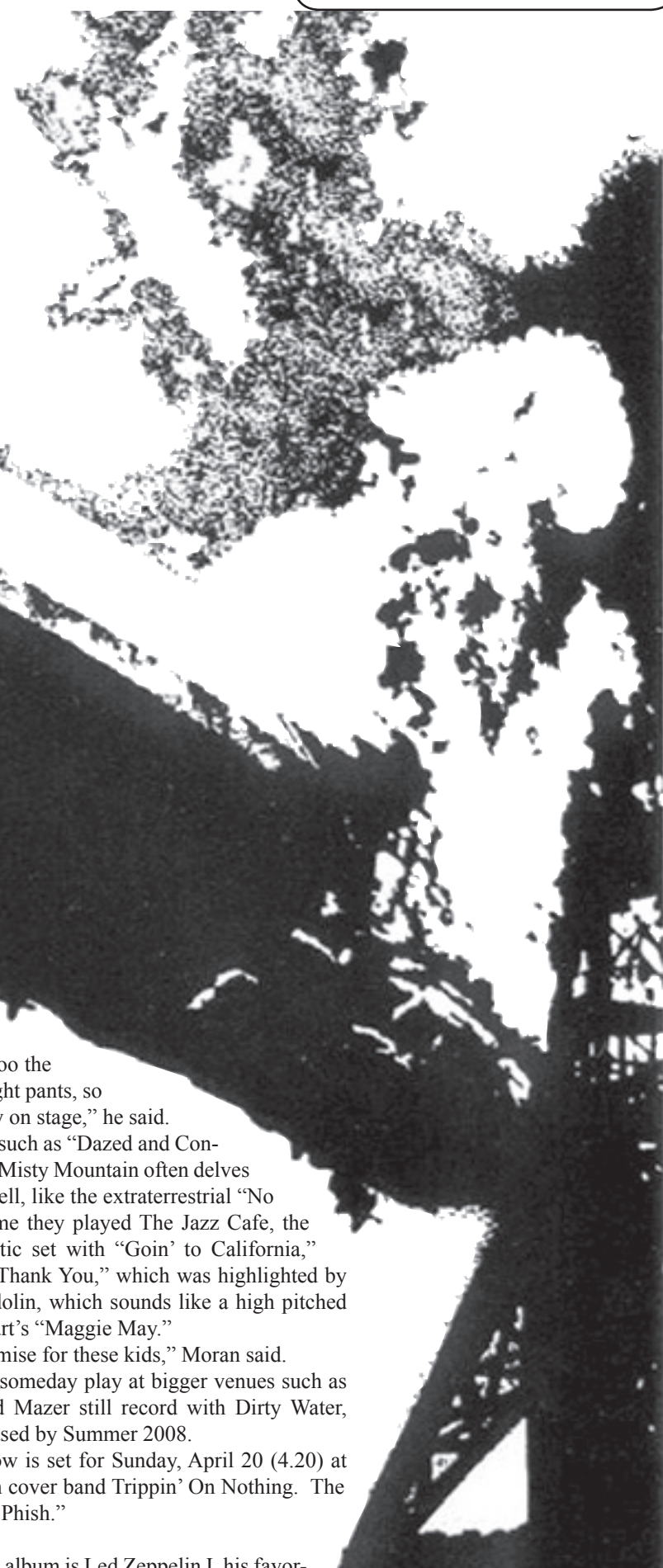
"I think there's a lot of promise for these kids," Moran said.

Though the band hopes to someday play at bigger venues such as Penn's Peak, Dougherty and Mazer still record with Dirty Water, with new material to be released by Summer 2008.

Misty Mountain's next show is set for Sunday, April 20 (4.20) at The Jazz Cafe with the Phish cover band Trippin' On Nothing. The event is being billed as "Led Phish."

Grace Notes:

While Dougherty's favorite album is Led Zeppelin I, his favorite song to perform live is "Immigrant Song" from Led Zeppelin III.



No issue is black and white

Temple and NYU presenters discuss double-edged sword of racial humor

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon A&E Editor

A lot of comedy is hit or miss.

A well-timed joke with good execution can get a crowd of diverse people doubled over with laughter. However, when it comes to racial comedy, it's not always so easy to determine the good jokes from the bad ones. While watching the comedy of well-known comedians such as Carlos Mencia, Dave Chappelle, or Chris Rock, viewers may end up asking questions such as, "Wait! Is it okay if I laugh?" or "Am I supposed to find this funny?"

When it comes to jokes about race, there is a fine line between what is deemed comedic and what is deemed offensive, and it can often be hard to see where a particular comedian is coming from. In the opinion of Jason Sutton, junior English major, people tend to laugh at racial comedy because "racial humor is funny due to its taboo nature. The same way dirty sex jokes are funny. Or the way jokes with curses are funny in elementary school. The humor is based more on the shock value it causes than anything else."

Brandon Ice, who works in Student Affairs in Temple University, and Ty Trisman, an employee at New York University collaborated to create a program designed to inspire conversation about racial comedy and presented it to the Wilkes community on Sunday.

Ice and Trisman have been doing the presentation since 2005 in an attempt to raise consciousness and awareness about the issues surrounding racial humor. They use the medium of comedy because it is something that many students are comfortable with, but, as Ice explained, he also "hopes everything we talk about can

transfer to other issues so that we can provide some scope."

Ice described racial comedy is a double-edged sword. He acknowledged that there is a purpose and intent behind most of the comedy. It can serve to present relevant issues, and to act as a coping mechanism for the presenter as well as the audience. Yet, at the same time, racial humor causes a reinforcement of negative images and stereotypes. Despite the comedian's intentions, the fact that they do not offer a disclaimer at the end, stating that their material was either an exaggeration or a parody may cause the audience members to miss the point.

Because of that double-edged sword, Ice and Trisman do not judge the various comedians at face value. As Ice explained, "We think comedians are modern day philosophers and have always been." When comedians incorporate topics of race in their material, "it supports the idea that these are still issues America faces." Of course, many times a comedian's material can be misunderstood.

Ice referenced Dave Chappelle, whose show has been deemed a "modern minstrel show" by some. Chappelle delivered racial satire, but ultimately chose to step down from his show because he felt like people were laughing at him instead of with him. Issues such as this are of concern to Ice and need to be discussed.

Although Ice and Trisman resist making negative judgments about other comedians, their brand of comedy employs racial humor they actually

deem positive. In their show, they offer clips by Jerry Owen, a white comedian, which is seen less among those who doing racial comedy. Ice explained that the strong point of his comedy and material is that "his methods

develop credibility, and he can make the same jokes anyone else can make." Credibility, is of course key in this aspect of comedy. Senior Computer Science major, Mike Dominic, explained that while he sometimes find humor in racial comedy, he does only "if it's not made in bad taste. It's funny when they're making fun of stereotypes and the absurdity of it. I kind of find that funny, but sometimes people go over the line or don't realize that they are in fact being very racist when they do it."

Ice and Trisman present the comedy and the issues, but ultimately they let the audi-



The Beacon/Jenna Stevens

Brandon Ice and Ty Trisman conducted a presentation on Sunday, discussing racial issues in comedy. The two used comedy clips and discussion to create a dialogue among the students.

ences reach their own conclusions. "We can't tell you if its okay or not because it depends on how you relate to the material," said Ice. With their two-hour presentation they will continue doing what they can to get students to talk more about and consider the various issues surrounding racial comedy. Ice explained his and Ty's main goal, saying "we just want to start dialogue. To get [students] talking with us and give them skills things to start a dialogue with each other."

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, February 19

- Karaoke at the Woodlands at 9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 20

- Wilkes sexual assault program, location TBA, at 9 a.m.

- The Five Percent performing at the Woodlands at 11 p.m.

Thursday, February 21

- Comedy Night at Donahues at 10 p.m.

- Max and Ruby playing at the Kirby Center at 10 a.m.

Friday, February 22

- Winter Weekend

- VPA production "The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd" in the Darte Center at 8 p.m.

- Jim Gaffigan performing at the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.

- Generation Next performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Saturday, February 23- Winter Weekend

- VPA production "The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd" in the Darte Center at 8 p.m.

- Generation Next performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Sunday, February 24- Winter Weekend

- VPA production "The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd" in the Darte Center at 2 p.m.

- DJ Dallas at the Woodlands at 9 p.m.

Monday, February 25

- Christian Fellowship Club "Winter Praise Night" in the SUB ballroom at 5 p.m.

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Kudracross

BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

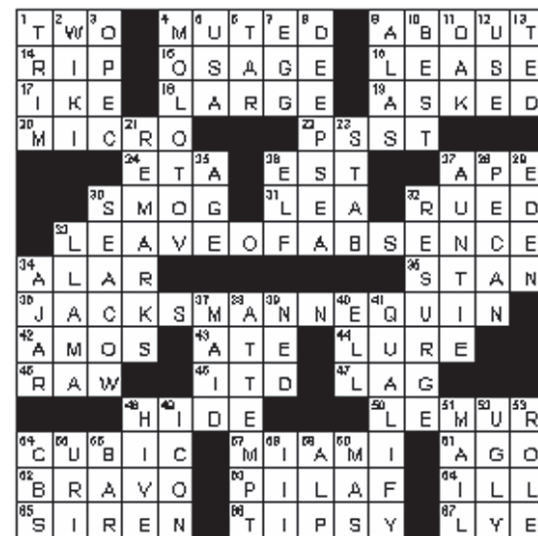
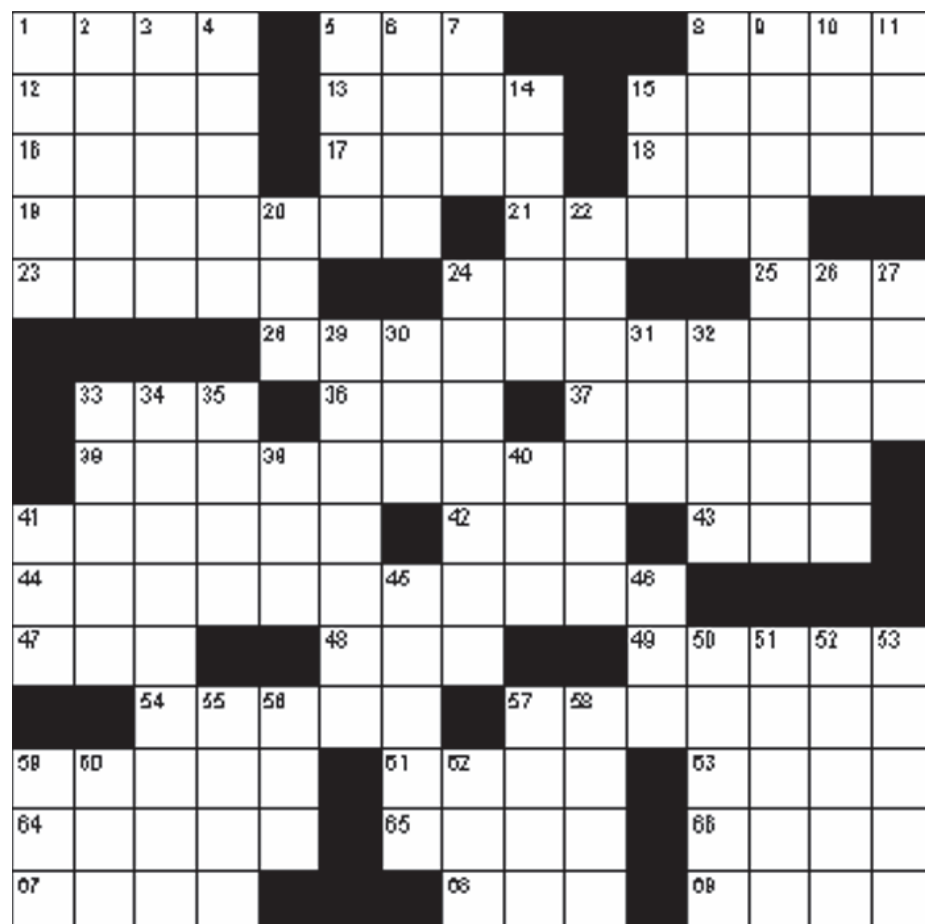
Beacon Staff Writer

ACROSS

- 1 Hairless
- 5 Drivers License and others, for short
- 8 Attention-getter
- 12 Smell
- 13 Breakfast area
- 15 Fruit maturation process
- 16 Take out order
- 17 Dr. Pepper for example
- 18 Vote into office
- 19 Burglar accessory
- 21 Tangle
- 23 Type of tattoo
- 24 Windows graphic file
- 25 Pounds, for short
- 28 Fear of crowds
- 33 Frost covered
- 36 Hasten
- 37 Sickly
- 38 Increase of the earth's temperature
- 41 Stares at
- 42 WSW opposite
- 43 Dedicated verse
- 44 For an instant
- 47 Lid
- 48 Musician ____ Paul
- 49 Main artery
- 54 Wagons pulled by horses
- 57 Assail vigorously
- 59 Above a whisper
- 61 Above
- 63 Proposal
- 64 Tailored
- 65 Greek flat bread
- 66 China sound
- 67 Tailor tools
- 68 Buddy
- 69 "Dark ____ of the Moon"

DOWN

- 1 Mess up
- 2 Admire
- 3 Enter username
- 4 Submerge under water
- 5 Machu Picchu resident
- 6 Open sesame object
- 7 Roman sun god
- 8 A heap of something
- 9 Enchant
- 10 Short amount of time, for short
- 11 Alfred Nobel invention
- 14 Buddhist fate
- 15 Race one's engine
- 20 Sheep sound
- 22 Wardrobe
- 24 Milwaukee baseball team
- 26 Excessive indulgence
- 27 Droop
- 29 Shockingly frightful
- 30 Black gold
- 31 A male
- 32 Dish of many ingredients
- 33 Domed domicile
- 34 Prevent from moving
- 35 Long ago
- 39 "Night at the Museum" actor ____
- 40 Stiller
- 40 Musician ____ DiFranco
- 41 Greenwich Mean Time, for short
- 45 Greek fabulist
- 46 Sweet potato
- 50 Death notices, for short
- 51 Parts of circles
- 52 Current style
- 53 Figure of speech
- 55 Repents
- 56 Tally
- 57 Second letter of the Greek alphabet
- 58 Freud stage
- 59 Poisonous snake
- 60 Aloha gift
- 62 Big shot



Answers 2/12/2008



Wackyuses.com

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

I've finally decided to review a website that can actually be useful -- wackyuses.com. At first glance it is easy to doubt the quality of this website. Users who play the little video on the home page of the site will be greeted by a crazy guy, Joey Green, who has been featured on many well known talk shows. The video also features Wayne Brady, of "Whose Line is it Anyway" fame, with mustard on his chest, a maxi pad on his forehead and his feet in Jell-O; Rosie O'Donnell having her legs shaved with peanut butter; and Barbara Walters with a wet diaper on her head. But anyone who can get Babs to put a wet diaper on her head has got to win at least a little benefit of the doubt.

This website is all about time-honored home remedies. Remove a lipstick stain from clothing by rubbing it with Smirnoff Vodka and throwing it into the wash. I would never think to use Listerine as a deodorant or Miracle Whip to soothe sunburn. Watching Rosie O'Donnell's legs be covered in peanut butter was not only totally gross but totally legitimate. It actually works, as do all of the strange sorts of home remedies on this website.

The scariest thing about this website would have to be all of the uses for Coca-Cola. People drink Coca-Cola everyday, but this website has so many harsh uses for the beverage it makes you wonder what soda does to your body. Coke can be used to remove stains from a toilet bowl, remove rust spots on a car bumper, clean corrosion from car batteries, loosen rusted bolts, clean tarnished pennies, kill slugs and snails, and strip paint off metal furniture. It ought to make the casual observer wonder what the beverage might do to stomach lining.

It's actually surprising to find so many strange tips on the website, but even more so when we learn that its creator, Joey Green, has written at least ten books with these tips in them. He said, "I wanted to know what else I could do with Coca-Cola besides drink it." All of the claims that are made on the website have been personally tested by Green and actually sound like they work. I give this website a NDCA for *Never Drinking Cola Again!*

New music group aims to create artistic community

BY ALISSA LINDNER

Beacon Assistant A&E Editor

Not into traditional concert band or orchestra? For musicians looking for a place to come together and play a variety of music, freshman Cody Null is putting the plan together.

Null, a pre-pharmacy major, came to Wilkes University with approximately three years experience playing guitar. He immediately noticed that Wilkes lacked music ensemble opportunities for those students who were interested in playing but not into the traditional concert band or orchestra.



Photo Courtesy of Cody Null

Null envisions a musical community where Wilkes musicians can come together and play freely.

"We are trying to create a community so musicians know where other musicians are," Null explained.

Stan Bradley, also a freshman pre-pharmacy major, decided to join Null in his efforts to recruit other musicians upon hearing of the idea.

"There is really no musical group I can think of except for orchestra or chorus, but that is not for everyone," Bradley said.

Together Null and Bradley have begun recruiting members through *Today at Wilkes* and so far approximately ten students have expressed interest. With a constitution drafted, the next step will be to go to Student Government (SG) to gain club status at Wilkes.

According to the constitution, the music group, still unnamed, states the purpose "is to create a network of musicians in order to promote a friendly environment for any musician and to encourage the sharing of musical styles and talents with the student body."

Bradley, who plays a variety of instruments varying from the bass to general percussion, explained the group is not limited to any certain type of musical style. "We are hoping to bring together jazz, rock, anything that anyone wants to be a part of," he said.

The group is looking for musicians of all types. Null explained anyone from singers to drummers and guitarists are welcome to join. He wants to create place for musicians who play other than the traditional concert band instruments.



Photo Courtesy of Stan Bradley

Bradley encourages anyone who wants to play for their own enjoyment to join.

Bradley summed the music group up best by explaining, "People getting together and playing what they want to play. They can set their own schedules, not someone unrelated to the group."

Bradley added that those best suited to the group will include, "Anyone who wants to play with other people and not be graded or be required to do anything outside of class for it. People who want to do it for fun and their own enjoyment."

Musicians interested in learning more about the newly created community for musicians at Wilkes, contact Cody Null at cody.null@wilkes.edu.

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Commentary

2008 Major League Baseball preview

Ten teams to watch in the new season

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

It's the best time of year again: the warm air, the green grass, the smell of supple leather and dirt.

It's time for Spring Training.

As we sit on the precipice of the 2008 baseball season, here are 10 teams you can look out for this year.



Boston Red Sox

The Boston Red Sox won their second World Series in four years last season, and are well on their way to making another run. The team is nearly identical to last year's championship team, except for the loss of starting pitcher Curt Schilling, whose shoulder injury might have him sidelined for the entire season.

Even without Schilling, the Sox have one of the best rotations in the American League with ace Josh Beckett, followed by Daisuke Matsuzaka, knuckle-baller Tim Wakefield and young hurlers Jon Lester and Clay Buchholz. The bullpen is still solid, with Jonathan Papelbon anchoring the back end.

With a lineup that consists of a healthy David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez, this team is going to score a lot of runs. J.D. Drew should adjust to the A.L. in his second season, and it will be interesting to see how 2007 Rookie of the Year Dustin Pedroia fares, along with fellow youngster Jacoby Ellsbury, who spent the latter part of last season dazzling opponents. Kevin Youkilis is going to produce and play sterling defense, while Julio Lugo looks to bounce back in 2008. Mike Lowell, fresh off a World Series MVP and a new contract, is going to play a pivotal role in the clubhouse.



New York Mets

After a historic collapse in 2007, the Mets made some big moves in the off season to right the ship. The biggest move in all of baseball was the acquisition of pitcher and two-time Cy Young winner Johan Santana. He instantly makes the Mets better, but a bigger question is whether or not there will be any hangover from last season, in which the team blew a seven game lead with 17 games left to play. The rotation behind Santana includes Pedro Martinez, who bounced back nicely in limited playing time last season, followed by John Maine, Oliver Perez and Orlando Hernandez. It's a solid rotation, but the biggest question is whether or not Pedro can stay healthy for an entire season.

The Mets also have to worry about their

bullpen, especially Billy Wagner, who lost some steam towards the end of last season. The Mets lineup has its question marks: Which Jose Reyes will show up? Can Carlos Delgado bounce back in his final year? Will Moises Alou stay healthy for an entire season?



Detroit Tigers

One of the bigger trades in the off season was between the Tigers and the Florida Marlins, which saw pitcher Dontrelle Willis and third baseman Miguel Cabrera head north to the Motor City. That trade gave the Tigers a solid rotation, and Cabrera is one more big bat in a lineup that already includes Magglio Ordonez, Curtis Granderson, Edgar Renteria, and Gary Sheffield. The Achilles' Heel of the Tigers is the bullpen that includes aging closer Todd Jones, and fireballer Joel Zumaya is on the disabled list until at least the All Star break. In order for the Tigers to succeed, the starting rotation is going to need to carry the team until the bullpen can get on its feet.



New York Yankees

Despite a slow start in 2007, the Yankees challenged the Red Sox for the A.L. East title, but lost to Cleveland in the playoffs.

The 2008 squad returns with most of the same key figures from 2007, including MVP Alex Rodriguez, team captain Derek Jeter and Jorge Posada. After failing to land Johan Santana, the Yankees are going to battle with Andy Pettitte, Chien-Ming Wang, Philip Hughes, Mike Mussina and Ian Kennedy. The bullpen is anchored by Mariano Rivera and Joba Chamberlain, after a lights-out performance in 2007. Early struggles from Mussina, Kennedy or Hughes might see the arrival of Joba to the starting rotation.

The biggest change for the Bronx Bombers wasn't their players, but with their manager. Long-time Yankees manager Joe Torre went west to manage the Los Angeles Dodgers and was replaced by former Yankee and 2006 Manager of the Year (Florida Marlins) Joe Girardi. Will Girardi's presence on the field make a difference in October? Will the team be affected by Andy Pettitte's recent admission to the usage of performance enhancing drugs?



Philadelphia Phillies

After a historic comeback to make the playoffs for the first time since 1993, the Phillies found themselves at

the losing end of a sweep at the hands of the Colorado Rockies in the first round of the playoffs. The Phillies dealt early after the season and acquired closing pitcher Brad Lidge from the Houston Astros. Lidge's arrival moves Brett Myers back to the starting rotation, where he will join the staff ace Cole Hamels, veteran Jamie Moyer, youngster Kyle Kendrick and Adam Eaton, who could find himself riding the pine if he doesn't bounce back after a tumultuous 2007 campaign. The bullpen remains a strong suit for the Phillies, who will see J.C. Romero, Ryan Madson and Tom Gordon bridge the late innings of games.

The lineup is potent as ever, despite the loss of Aaron Rowand. Newly acquired players Geoff Jenkins and Pedro Feliz will provide additional offense for the club, but the real question mark is whether or not the starting rotation will stay healthy.



Seattle Mariners

The trade to acquire ace Erik Bedard from the Baltimore Orioles gave the Mariners a deadly one-two punch at the top of the rotation of Bedard and young Felix Hernandez. A solid rotation and bullpen that is anchored by J.J. Putz, coupled with one of the games better offenses led by Ichiro Suzuki makes the Mariners a heavy favorite in the American League West.



Chicago Cubs

The Cubs made a strong surge after the break last season to win the National League Central division en route to getting swept by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the NLDS. The Cubs made some nice moves over the winter, including signing right fielder Kosuke Fukudome of Japan, whose power from the left side of the plate balances an offense that includes Derrick Lee, Alfonso Soriano and Aramis Ramirez. With a strong rotation of Carlos Zambrano, Ted Lilly and Rich Hill, the Cubs should easily win the N.L. Central for the second straight season.



Arizona Diamondbacks

Despite being outscored by opponents in 2007, the D'Backs edged out the competition to win the N.L. West before losing in the National League Championship Series to the Colorado Rockies. In the off-season, Arizona traded for ace pitcher Dan Haren from the Oakland Athletics, giving the Diamondbacks the best rotation in the National League that includes Haren,

Cy Young winner Brandon Webb and future Hall-of-Famer Randy Johnson. The big question mark here is whether or not Johnson can stay healthy. If so, the D'Backs will easily out pitch their competition. The lineup remains mostly the same with youngsters Stephen Drew and Chris Young at the helm, but still lacks a powerful bat in the middle of the lineup. Much like 2007, the D'Backs are going to outplay their opponents rather than outscore them.



Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

Despite a somewhat comfortable win in the A.L. West in 2006, the Angels saw their hopes evaporate as they were swept by the Boston Red Sox in the first round of the playoffs. This year's squad is mostly the same, with the notable exception: the signing of centerfielder Torii Hunter, who will provide some additional offense behind Vladimir Guerrero.

The Angels have another great pitching staff which includes John Lackey, Jered Weaver and newly acquired Jon Garland. The bullpen is as strong as ever, with closing pitcher Francisco Rodriguez looking to record at least 40 saves for the fourth straight season.



Colorado Rockies

Last season's Cinderella team, the Colorado Rockies, are looking to make it another memorable season as they gear up to defend their National League title.

Despite being swept in the World Series by Boston, the Rockies made an unprecedented run down the stretch last season by winning 14 of their last 15 games, including defeating the San Diego Padres in a thrilling one-game playoff that saw the Rockies score three runs off Padres' closer Trevor Hoffman.

Their offense includes MVP runner-up Matt Holliday, veteran Todd Helton, and budding stars Troy Tulowitzki, Garrett Atkins and Brad Hawpe. Their rotation is filled with mostly unheard-ofs including Jeff Francis, Aaron Cook and Ubaldo Jimenez. The back end of the bullpen is filled with stoppers, including Brian Fuentes and Manny Corpas, whose strong 2007 earned him the closers role in 2008. This team certainly is strong, but was 2007 just a flash in the pan or the start of something special?

Only time will tell.

Just Do It: Men's tennis readies for SC spring training

BY NICK PODOLAK
Beacon Editor and Chief

The serene chirp of the robin red breast will soon be interrupted by loud grunts as the men's tennis team gears up for its "official" 2008 season.

"It's a little bit different than all of the other sports, since we don't technically even have a traditional season," said head coach Chris Leicht, referring to the team's three matches and two tournaments played in the fall. "I like to have a short fall season to get everybody out, get the freshmen integrated with the team, and kind of see where we're at."

This year's squad features a unique mix of under and upper classmen, with three freshmen playing key roles under the leadership of junior Kyle Ungvasky, a first-team All-Conference player who ranks among the elite in the Freedom Conference.

"It's always nice to have new faces," Ungvasky said. "But these guys (the freshmen) could easily play at the DII, DI level. They don't need much guidance. They just have the instincts," he said.

Wes McCollum (Harrisburg, PA/Central Dauphin), Jon Rohrbach (Muncy, PA/Muncy), and Chris Cozzillio (Harrisburg, PA/Trinity) will be the freshmen factoring in for the Blue and Gold...but don't be fooled by their age. Cozzillio and Rohrbach, according to Leicht, are

capable of delivering blistering serves in the 120 miles per hour range. Seniors Tom Miller, Josh Gardner, and freshman Brian Fanelli should also figure into the mix.

"This is probably the deepest team I've had," Leicht said. "We'll be able to compete with anybody."

Currently practicing in the UCOM with the ball machine and playing sets of singles and doubles, the team will head to Hilton Head, South Carolina, for spring break to get some outdoor play against Lynchburg, Va. and Eastern before returning to play its first conference match in late March.

"It's kind of a warm-up for the regular season," Leicht said.

Under Leicht, the team has made the conference play-offs five straight seasons (winning its first ever playoff match in 2004), and went a school record 17-3 in 2005. However, coming off an 8-6 season, the coach has not set any significant goals.

"I'm not a big goal guy," he said. "All of the guys work extremely hard. I think we're going to have a lot of success, but I wouldn't say we have any set goals... just go out and compete."

The Colonels will open up this season on the heels of a successful 2007 campaign, when they went 8-6-0 en route to a berth in the MASCAC Individual Championship.



The Beacon/Gino Troiani
Wilkes senior Josh Gardner takes practice swings at the UCOM on February 15. The Colonels open their season at home on March 17 at 3:30 against Neumann College.


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Wilkes vs. King's

Colonels fighting to ensure spot in the playoffs

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

When the Colonels played King's at home last year on Feb 13, they weren't playing for much.

The Colonels were a young and inexperienced bunch that was 2-10 in the conference. Their road loss to the Monarchs on Jan. 10, 2007 sparked a seven game conference losing streak. And at no point during the season were they contending for the playoffs except for maybe the first couple of games of the conference play. Honestly, they were a hot mess.

With nothing but pride on the line the second time against the Monarchs (a team that was already guaranteed a playoff spot), the Colonels won 66-58 at home in front of an estimated 600 feuding fans. The conference-winning Colonel football jocks that spanked the Monarchs in last year's Mayors Cup, 28-7, got a chance to scream, "Just Like Football." The only thing missing in that basketball game was confetti trickling down from the ceiling.

Even though the Colonels were cleaning out their lockers immediately after the following game against FDU-Florham, they beat the cross-town rivals and ended their season on a high-note.

This season, the Colonels are playing for the best possible seed in the postseason

while playing to secure a shot to even play there.

Had the Colonels won their home game against Arcadia three days ago, fans could've certainly counted them in the playoffs. But their losses to the Knights and Manhattanville last week set the Colonels back in the playoff race and opened the doors for a new team. Arcadia.

"Our guys just didn't show up," said head coach Jerry Rickrode. "They seemed lethargic and they didn't want to be out there. I tell the truth."

Therefore, the Colonels might want to beat King's today at 8 p.m. if they want breathing room in those crowded playoff standings.

The Monarchs have been on fire in February. They have won all five of games this month including a 29-point blowout against the second-seeded Manhattanville Valiants last Saturday. Their average margin of vic-

tory from the past five games stands at 22.2 points per game. It's going to be tough for the Colonels.

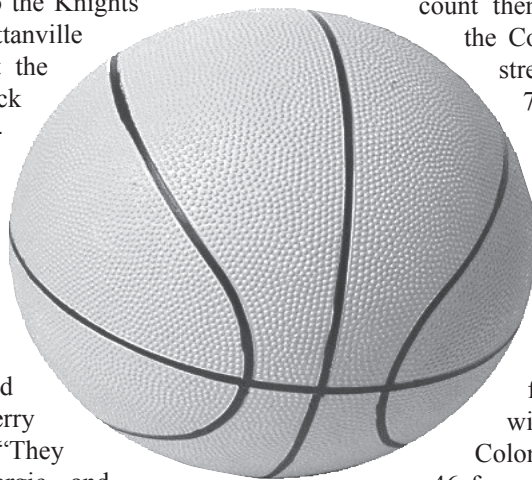
Although the Colonels seemed somber after dropping their last two games, don't count them out. In early January, the Colonels strolled down the street and beat Monarchs 80-70 en route to their first conference win. Sophomore Tom Kresge led the Colonels with 21 points and freshman Chris DeRojas added 16 of his own.

If you take a look at the box score, you would find that both teams ended with similar numbers. The Colonels finished shooting 26-46 from the field while the Monarchs went 22-45. Wilkes cashed in 22 of their 26 free throw attempts and while the Monarchs went 22 for 28 from the stripe. Both teams had 11 assists. The Colonels threw the ball away 10 times to the Monarchs 13. Statistically, the game was pretty much even which means this time, rivals should witness another quality contest especially with a heated playoff race at stake.

"King's and Wilkes is always a big rivalry and it may be one of the best in D3 because

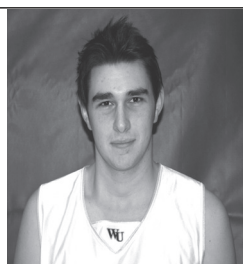
the teams are so close (in location)," said former player and current assistant coach, Tyler Jenkins. "This game is a lot bigger because it's of the playoff situation that goes with it. This game is all about placement and most of all, it's all about pride. You don't want to lose to King's."

Once a year Wilkes gets the chance to beat the Monarchs at home, and if they win this year with what's at stake, it'll be o-so-sweet for the Colonels.

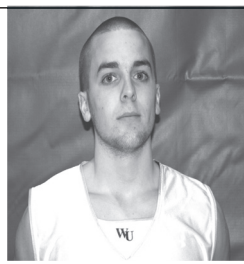


Freedom Conference Standings

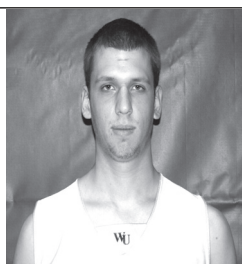
1. DeSales, 9-2
2. Manhattanville, 8-3
3. King's, 7-3
4. Wilkes, 6-4
5. Arcadia, 5-5
6. FDU-Florham, 1-9
7. Del. Val., 0-10



John Defeo
Jr. Center
6-6, 230 lbs.
17 Blocks



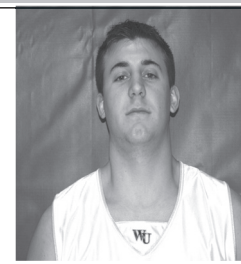
Chris DeRojas
Fr. Guard
PPG. 14.4
55 3-Pointers



Steve Kline
Jr. Forward
PPG. 12.5
14 Blocks

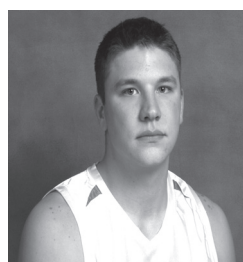


Matt Gould
Sr. Guard
78 Assists
48 Steals

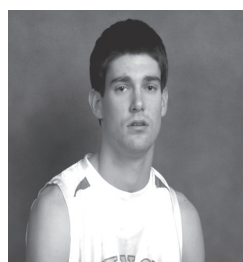


Tom Kresge
Soph. Forward
PPG. 14.0
RPG. 6.2

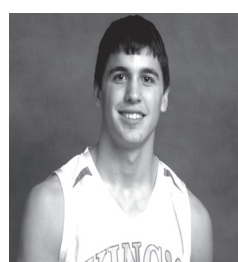
Colonels V. Monarchs



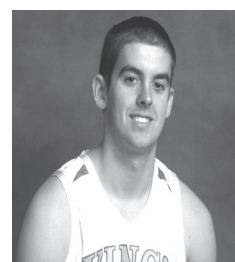
John Soboleski
Sr. Center
6-6, 240 lbs.
171 Rebounds



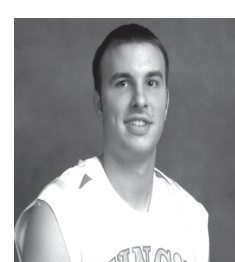
Jamie Cousart
Sr. Guard
PPG. 14.8
96 Assists



Chris Hacker
Fr. Guard
2.4 RPG
34 Assists



Kevin Conroy
Fr. Forward
121 Points
53 Rebounds



Vince Scalzo
Sr. Forward
10.6 PPG
36 3-Pointers

Wilkes University grapplers upend rival King's College

COURTESY OF JOHN SEITZINGER

Sports Information Director

Wilkes University, ranked 23rd nationally, won seven of ten bouts en route to a 26-18 win over local rival and 30th-ranked King's College on Friday night in the Marts Center.

The Colonels conclude their dual match season with a record of 19-7-1, while King's also ended their dual match season and sports an 8-11 mark. Both teams will be idle until next Sunday, February 24, when they compete in the Metropolitan Wrestling Conference Championships that are being hosted by Wilkes.

The match started at 184 pounds and King's Zach Martinez (14-11) got off to a fast start against Devin Sassone-McHugh (9-9). He scored a pair of takedowns and five back points in the opening period on his way to a 9-1 lead. Martinez would continue to add to his lead before pinning Sassone-McHugh with just 1.2 seconds left in the second period to give King's a 6-0 lead.

Wilkes' Zach Pizarro (25-8) was impressive in his match at 197 pounds. Pizarro scored a takedown and two near-fall points in the first period to go on top of Zach Wilkinson (4-3), 4-0. Pizarro would add another takedown and three near-fall points in the second period to forge in front 9-0. After escaping to start the third period for a 10-0 lead, Pizarro snagged a riding point for an 11-0 major decision that pulled the Colonels within 6-4.

At 285 pounds Wilkes' Drew Feldman (15-9) scored the only points of the first period with a takedown to go in front 2-0 over Justin Bender (8-4). Bender would begin period two on bottom and escaped to trim the lead to 2-1. The score would stay that way until the opening seconds of the third when Feldman escaped after taking the down position for a 3-1 lead. That's the way it would end and Wilkes had a 7-6 lead.

Shaun Farnham (31-15) got out of the gate quickly at 125 pounds with a takedown and two near-fall points in the first period of his match against Rich Dorsey (10-11) for a 4-0 lead. Dorsey would get two points of his own with a takedown in the second period to cut the gap to 4-2. Farnham would then escape and earn another takedown for a 7-2 lead. Two more near-fall points gave the Wilkes grappler a 9-2 lead heading into the third period. Farnham chose the top position to start the third period and not only road Dorsey the entire period, but also scored three more near-fall points for a 13-2 major decision that upped the Colonels lead to 11-6.

Defending NCAA Division III champion Dave Morgan (22-1) of King's held a 2-1

lead over Josh Pauling (22-10) after one period. Morgan got a takedown with 12 seconds left in the opening period and Pauling immediately escaped. Morgan would up his advantage to 3-1 with an escape to begin the second period. Pauling selected the bottom position to start the third period and also gained an escape to pull within 3-2. However, Morgan would catch Pauling with less than a minute remaining and scored a fall at 6:35 to give King's a 12-11 lead.

At 141 pounds Wilkes' Brandon Prentice (19-17) scored the only point of the first period when his opponent, Anthony Miele (15-16), was called for a technical violation. Prentice took the down position in the second period and scored a reversal for a 3-0 lead. Miele would then escape to trim the gap to 3-1, but Prentice got another takedown before the end of the period for a 5-1 lead. Miele got an escape with just over a minute left in the final period after opting for the bottom position to make it 5-2. Another takedown by Prentice with 20 seconds left gave him a 7-2 victory and put Wilkes ahead once again, 14-12.

Wilkes' Erik Smith (27-10) and King's Frankie Davis (13-20) were scoreless through the first period of their match at 149 pounds. Smith gained the first advantage with a takedown with just over a minute to go in the second period for a 2-0 lead. Smith increased his lead to 3-0 with an escape point just four seconds into the third period, and neither wrestler was able to score again as Wilkes assumed a 17-12 lead.

At 157 pounds the Colonels' Adam Penberthy (24-16) and the Monarchs' Taylor Green (9-7) wrestled to a 0-0 standoff after one period. Penberthy took the down position to begin the second stanza and needed only four seconds to escape and take a 1-0 lead. Penberthy followed that up with a takedown to increase his lead to 3-0 heading into the final period. Green chose to start the third period in the neutral position, but was unable to get on the scoreboard. Penberthy added a riding time point for a 4-0 win that increased the Wilkes lead to 20-12.

With a chance to ice the team verdict Wilkes sent Frank Heffernan (29-9) to the mat at 165 pounds to take on Ryan Trees (0-13). Heffernan had two takedowns and four near-fall points in the first period alone as he opened up an 8-1 lead heading into the second stanza. Heffernan took the top position to start the second period and picked up two more near-fall points in the first 20 seconds for a 10-1 edge. Heffernan would secure three more near-fall points with 55 seconds to go in the period for a 13-1 lead. He rolled Trees to his back one more time, this time scoring the fall at 4:45 to give Wil-



The Beacon/Gino Troliani

Wilkes University junior Erik Smith grapples with a King's College student during a match on February 15th at the Martz Gymnasium. Smith would go on to win the match by a score of 3-0.

kes an insurmountable 26-12 lead.

In the final match of the night King's Mike Reilly (17-2) jumped out to a 12-0 lead over Travis Davis (2-10) after one period thanks to a takedown and four sets of near-fall points. Reilly took the bottom position in period two and gained a reversal before putting Davis on his back and scoring the pin with one second left to make the final score 26-18.



Wrestling Results from from 02/15

Wilkes 26 King's 18

184 – Zach Martinez pinned Devin Sassone-McHugh

197 – **Zach Pizarro** maj. dec. Zach Wilkinson

285 – **Andrew Feldman** dec. Justin Bender

125 – **Shaun Farnham** maj. dec. Richard Dorsey

133 – Dave Morgan pinned **Josh Pauling**

141 – **Brandon Prentice** dec. Anthony Miele

149 – **Erik Smith** dec. Frankie Davis

157 – **Adam Penberthy** dec. Taylor Green

165 – **Frank Heffernan** pinned Ryan Trees

174 – Mike Reilly pinned **Travis Davis**

Wilkes' wrestlers are in **BOLD**



The Beacon/Allison Roth

Lady Colonels earn first conference win

Bates and O'Hara pour in 16 points each

BY GERARD HETMAN
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Nearing the end of what has been a long and trying season, it would have been easy for the Wilkes women's basketball team to lay down and simply hand over a win to the Lady Knights of Arcadia. Instead, the team pulled together and picked up a victory that they hope will springboard them to better times.

Khadija Bates and Mackensy O'Hara each scored 16 points, Katie Cappelloni grabbed 9 rebounds, and the Lady Colonels held off Arcadia down the stretch to post their first conference win, 68-63, on Saturday afternoon at the Martz Center. The team sees its overall record improve to 2-21, while moving to 1-9 in Freedom Conference play.

"The girls really worked hard for this one," Wilkes head coach Rachel Emmerthal said following the win. "We had a great inside game today and that gave us a dimension we didn't have working in many of our previous games."

The first half of the contest was a back-and-forth affair, with both teams putting together scoring runs at different times in the period. A key shift in momentum came with just under four minutes to play, as the Lady Colonels would embark on an 11-3 scoring run to send Wilkes into halftime with a 32-28 halftime lead.

The lead changes and scoring spurts continued into the second period, with Arcadia eventually taking the lead for the final time, 56-55, with 4:27 remaining in the game. After Nichole Quick scored

the go-ahead goal for Wilkes with 4:01 remaining, O'Hara would score five points down the stretch and Brittany Ely would knock down several free throws to ice the win.

"We had a really good practice on Friday that helped us a lot today," Bates added after the game. "Our team and the coaches have really made an effort to communicate much better recently, and I think it really paid off for us today."

Perhaps the biggest difference for the Lady Colonels was the team's ability to keep coming back and answering each scoring run made by Arcadia with a scoring streak of its own. Numerous games that ended with a loss for the Lady Colonels this season would see the team competitive

early, then give up a big lead change that they would never recover from. In Saturday's game, the Lady Colonels never let the score get out of hand, and at the end of the day they walked away with the victory.

"We finally put together 40 complete minutes," freshman guard Sam Lynam said afterward. "It feels great to win."

Conference Standings

1. DeSales, 10-1
2. FDU-Florham, 6-4
3. Del. Val., 6-4
4. King's, 6-4
5. Arcadia, 4-6
6. Manhattanville, 3-8
7. Wilkes, 1-9

The Lady Colonels will face the Lady Monarchs today at 6 p.m. in the Marts Gymnasium. Wilkes will be looking to avenge its 71-43 loss to King's on Jan. 8. Sophomore Ashley Makarczyk and freshman Brittany Ely led the team with nine points a piece.