

Ralston bridge tagged with graffiti

BY CATHRYN FREAR
Assistant News Editor

The railroad bridge near Ralston Field, which displays the Wilkes University logo has been tagged with graffiti of a stick man walking a dog.

The bridge displays the words "Wilkes University" in gold letters with a blue background.

Though the University's name is displayed across the entirety of the side of the bridge, it is not actually Wilkes' property.

"We lease that space to have our name on that overpass [from the railroad]," said Vicki Mayk, associate director of public relations.

These situations are generally dealt with as swiftly as they are brought to the University's atten-



The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

The bridge near Ralston Field now displays "Wilkes University" as well as stick-figure graffiti.

tion, according to Thomas Messinger, executive director of facilities.

"When we become aware of

graffiti on campus, we try to get it taken care of as quickly as possible.

SEE RALSTON, Page 4

Pharmacy hooding to take place in separate, personal ceremony

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
News Editor

This May, graduation will not include the hooding of pharmacy students during the ceremony. According to Dr. Bernard Graham, dean of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy and Nursing, the department will hold a more personal hooding ceremony the night before graduation.

Since the program began about 10 years ago, pharmacy students have always been hooded on stage during the commencement ceremony.

Graham said this change will

make the hooding ceremony more intimate for the students because they will be able to have their family and friends watch them receive their hoods in a more closed setting.

"We'd like to make it a little bit more personal and a little bit more involved with the students," said Graham. "By having a personal ceremony... the students will be hooded on stage and we can now involve the student adviser in the hooding process and we can talk a little bit about each student as they come up." Graham said the pharmacy program will graduate around 70 students this May.

By removing the hooding ceremony, Graham estimates that it will save about twenty minutes from the Wilkes's three-hour graduation ceremony.

During the commencement ceremony each year, the graduates are called upon in the following order: pharmacy students, graduate students, undergraduate students. The order is determined by the American Council on Education (ACE). Wilkes University currently follows the protocol of ACE's guidelines on commencement.

Being that the graduation ceremony can go on for about three

SEE PHARMACY, Page 3

Wilkes sets course for next five years

Students, faculty, staff and administrators plan Vision 2015

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Online Editor

Wilkes' Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) has been meeting throughout the 2009 - 2010 school year to chart the University's course for the next five years.

The finished plan of action, which will be Vision 2015, will build upon Vision 2010, which charted the course of the university over the last few years.

"We've developed a goal for 2015 and the Strategic Planning

Committee develops a strategic plan to reach that goal in 2015," said Alyssa Fusaro, a sophomore communication studies major and member of the SPC.

"The committee itself is made up of different representatives across the university," said Erin Hardiman, a Wilkes organizational leadership graduate student and member of the SPC. "We have the president of the university; we have vice presidents, deans,

SEE VISION, Page 2

ASB Stick 'Em Up Fundraiser



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Last Thursday, Alternative Spring Break held a fundraiser by having students and faculty "stuck-up." Being taped above is Frank Kopyta, a senior elementary education major.

Opinion Pages 6-8

1st Amendment: End of Era

Wilkes University breaks decades of tradition to censor The Beacon over childish and petty online comments. **PAGE 6**

Life Pages 9-12

Clothesline Project

Psychology students, along with the Victim's Resource Center, use t-shirts to raise awareness of violence in the community. **PAGE 10**

Arts & Entertainment Pages 13-15

The Buried Life Speaks Out

The guys from "The Buried Life," a television show on MTV, shared with us their new show and the meaning behind it. **PAGE 13**

Sports Pages 16-20

Coaches' Up's and Down's

Part Two of the coaching feature series focuses on the positives and negatives of coaching in the collegiate ranks. **PAGE 16**



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Beacon Briefs

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

News Editor

STUDY ABROAD IN SPAIN – This study abroad experience includes one month in Spain, and four days in Paris, France. In addition, the price of \$3,995 includes international airfare, six transferrable credits, most meals, lodging and health insurance. For more information contact Dr. Paola Bianco at paola.bianco@wilkes.edu or 408-4519.

PEACE CORPS VISIT – On Thursday, February 25 there will be a presentation by a former Peace Corps member to talk about his/her experience. The meeting will be held in Breiseth Hall, Room 211 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

WINTER WORSHIP NIGHT – Christian Fellowship Club will be hosting Winter Worship Night on Thursday, February 25

from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the first floor lounge of the Henry Student Center. There will be free food and free concerts featuring student performers.

GLOBAL COFFEE HOUR – Every Wednesday, there will be a global coffee hour from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the Savitz Multicultural Lounge on the second floor of the Henry Student Center.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS – Students may sign up for basketball by February 24 or volleyball by March 3. Basketball games start on March 3 and are played at UCOM on Monday through Thursday at 8 p.m., 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. Volleyball games start on March 15 and are played on Monday through Thursday. Times and location of volleyball games are yet to be determined. For more information, contact neal.biscaldi@wilkes.edu.

CHINESE SPRING FESTIVAL – The

Chinese Student Union is hosting a Chinese Spring Festival on Saturday, February 27 at 6 p.m. in the ballroom in the Henry Student Center. The event includes an introduction to Chinese food, customs, beliefs and history. There will also be an explanation about the World Expo in Shanghai. Free music, food and prizes will be offered to guests.

MOCK GRAD SCHOOL TESTS – Career Services is hosting Princeton Review mock grad school tests. Students interested in signing up can contact Career Services at careers@wilkes.edu with a name, major, cell number and test type. The tests will be held on Saturday, February 27 at 9 a.m. For more information, go to www.princetonreview.com and look at 'Free Events.'

MANUSCRIPT DEADLINE – The deadline to hand in work for the Manuscript has been extended to February 26 at 5 p.m. Students can submit poetry, prose and art to

magazine@wilkes.edu.

GO BALDACIOUS – The Community Service Office invites the Wilkes community to show support for people suffering from leukemia, lymphoma and other blood cancers who lose their hair during treatment. The Community Services Office asks that students, faculty and staff shave their heads, color their hair or get creative with their face and hair. Set a fundraising goal and ask friends and family for support. Participation in this event will raise money and awareness for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The event will be held on Saturday, February 27, from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Shavertown/Kingston Township Municipal building at 180 East Center Street. For transportation to the event, contact Megan Boone at megan.boone@wilkes.edu or 408-5905. For more information go to www.totallybaldacious.org

VISION

Continued from FRONT PAGE

administrators, faculty members, staff members, as well as student representation."

"I think we're making truly marvelous progress," said Dr. Joseph 'Tim' Gilmour, Wilkes' president. "The strategic planning committee, which I chair, has really been working together as a team and has defined a planning framework for Wilkes."

Gilmour says the broad framework includes an overall goal, identification of needs, how those needs will be met, what the costs are and what must be done to meet those needs.

"The group has really defined this framework," said Gilmour.

"We gather our information and make those goals based on more than just the brains in the room," said Hardiman. "We branch out and try to encompass everybody that it will affect."

Hardiman said the SPC was broken down into smaller subcommittees to address the needs of specific demographics, such as faculty and staff, stakeholders, alumni and graduate study, undergraduates, and strategic partners and donor information.

Fusaro said SPC members are also able to lend their voices into the process, too.

"One of the things is transfer students. This university, as a whole, really needs to hop up its transferability," said Fusaro. "One of the things I would like to see is have an online transfer - something that you can either plug in or look at the way your credits from another university would transfer over."

Fusaro added that there are a lot of little things that can also help, such as more online options for adult learners.

Part of the process was also looking back at the previous strategic plan to see what can be incorporated into Vision 2015.

"There are a number of initiatives that are a part of Vision 2010 that will continue in one form or another into 2015," said Jack

Chielli, executive assistant to the president and executive director of marketing communications and government relations.

Chielli says valuing Wilkes' people was a large part of the 2010 initiative.

"We won't lose sight of that in 2015," said Chielli. "[Vision] 2015 will no doubt continue to build on the work that was done in 2010."

As for progress, Hardiman says the committee is closing in on their goals.

"This process started in the beginning of August by just coming together and gathering information. Since then, we've met and gone on two-day retreats every month. At this point we're a little past the middle," said Hardiman.

Gilmour said that framework should be developed by the end of the academic year and then approved by the board at the beginning of summer break. The framework will then be provided to different parts of the campus for feedback.

"We hope that process will be a real dialogue," said Gilmour. "We may actually

change the framework some, but this will set the broad framework for where we're going for the next five years."

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Beacon Corrections

In Issue 12, *The Beacon* incorrectly identified the hospital in the photograph on page 1 as Geisinger Wyoming Valley in Kingston. The photograph was taken at General Hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

In Issue 13, *The Beacon* misspelled lacrosse coach Kammie Towey's name. The correct spelling is Towey, not Towie.

Also, due to printing errors, page 18 of Issue 11 was reprinted as page 18 of Issue 13. The correct page can be viewed online at WilkesBeacon.com.

The Beacon regrets these errors.

Nicole Frail, Editor-in-Chief
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Meet the Staff



Kirstin Cook
Assistant A&E Editor

Wilkes and Tobyhanna set to strengthen existing relationship

Wilkes delegates to visit depot on February 25 to discuss future of partnership

BY DAN KAUTZ

Assistant Sports Editor

On Thursday, February 25, approximately ten delegates from Wilkes University will travel to Tobyhanna Army Depot in order to further a longstanding relationship that exists between the two organizations.

According to Dr. Rodney Ridley, the director of Wilkes's engineering department, the meeting will serve as an opportunity to "align the various points of interaction" between the university and Tobyhanna, enhancing their collaborations on a number of different activities.

"The [Tobyhanna] leadership and I thought that it would better serve us both to put a framework around all of that activity and be able to harness the power of the collective," said Ridley. "This includes things such as resource sharing, becoming more efficient [...] as a collective, as opposed to a bunch of different people doing different things."

Because of their relatively close proximity to one another, Tobyhanna and Wilkes have been able to work in conjunction on numerous activities in the past. The depot, which employs roughly 6,000 people, is in constant demand for further education and training for their engineers and technical staff—services Wilkes is able to provide.

"Tobyhanna's mission parallels our mission in so many ways," said Ridley. "Their mission is to align with ours in that they're doing specific things with military equipment and applications that we teach our engineers. There's a lot of overlap in the kinds of labs we have and the labs they have, the kind of things their engineers need to know and that we teach."

"It's clear to us here at Wilkes and those at Tobyhanna that we are good at training," he continued. "For them to carry out their mission, they need to have a highly educated technical workforce. We're good at training a technical workforce. The partnership makes sense."

The first half of the delegates' visit will be spent hosting a conference for Tobyhanna's employees seeking undergraduate, graduate or continuing education. Ridley pointed to several of Wilkes's course offerings, such as the Professional Engineering (PE) exam preparation courses, that Tobyhanna staff

and managers have taken advantage of in the past.

Vicki Mayk, the associate director of marketing communications, agreed with the assessment, stating the importance of gaining a "foothold in the world of business."

"These relationships help Wilkes to tap into expertise outside the university, as well as establish opportunities for support of our programs," said Mayk.

The benefits Wilkes receives from the partnership are numerous and varied. First, it is often loaned technology and equipment from Tobyhanna that is instrumental in classroom demonstrations and laboratories. They can also count Tobyhanna as one of their "industrial partners," an important piece of language that allows them to be accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), which mandates having such partners.



As a member of Wilkes's Industrial Advisory Board, Tobyhanna provides outcome assessment of graduates to determine whether or not their education was satisfactory for the field in which they're entering. Lastly, Tobyhanna offers many paid internships and full-time job opportunities for Wilkes engineering students and participates in the Wilkes Engineering and Physics division "Adopt-A-Lab" program.

The program offers participating companies the opportunity to access the knowledge and resources of the engineering department students, while also providing the

school with expertise on a variety of subjects. Ridley estimates that as many as

50-60 of Tobyhanna's 300 engineers are products of Wilkes's engineering department.

"[The "Adopt-A-Lab" companies'] expertise, leadership and knowledge will be used to shape purchasing and curriculum decisions to keep Wilkes ahead of industry trends in electrical and mechanical engineering," said Ridley.

The second half of the visit will pertain to the business side of matters, such as how to handle technical equipment sharing and communications between both organizations, as well as process feedback on the quality of Wilkes's training.

Ridley plans on using Tobyhanna's review as a type of focus group response.

"We're going up there and finding out what they like, what they don't like, what

can we do better, what are they looking for, what can we do to adjust ourselves to serve that market, and so on," he said. "It's a big client so you want to do some customer service."

A plan was originally in place for Wilkes Alumni Relations to host a special recognition luncheon for the Wilkes alumni working at Tobyhanna, though it had to be rescheduled due to a conflicting event. The luncheon is but a part of a much larger effort designed by Alumni Relations to honor the relationship between the university and Tobyhanna. Ultimately, the department hopes to hold a special ceremony during Homecoming to acknowledge the number of alumni working at Tobyhanna.

"These alumni provide proof that a Wilkes engineering degree is an asset in this highly competitive field," said Sandra Carroll, the executive director of Alumni Relations.

"Our longer term goal is to bring to the surface the importance of building the network of engineering graduates so that we may collaborate with them in our goal to provide a special event for Engineering graduates (and students) in the context of Homecoming 2010," she continued. "This year's Homecoming will incorporate such events and programs for science, health and engineering as we look ahead to what the next generation of Wilkes students will have as a resource as Stark is transformed [into the SHE facility]."

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PHARMACY

Continued from FRONT PAGE

hours, Dr. Paul Adams, vice president of student affairs, said that there have been many ideas to keep people at the ceremony, but nothing is concrete.

Because the ceremony lasts approximately three hours, members of the audience sometimes leave during the ceremony, once they've seen their family member or friend receive his or her diploma. In addition, sometimes graduate and pharmacy students leave the ceremony once they've received their diploma.

According to Adams, there have been ideas of reversing the degrees, making it more conspicuous if people leave and having the diplomas in possession of the school

until after the ceremony. Adams said that the issue of graduate and pharmacy students leaving the commencement ceremony before the undergraduate students receive their degrees has been discussed with faculty and administration.

"In the end, we've just kind of decided that somebody gets disadvantaged in all of those alternatives," said Adams.

Adding one or more of these alternatives would create a different ceremony and significantly affect the planning and behind the scenes work of the commencement committee. Most of this organizational work is extensive and done during the spring semester.

Prior to the actual ceremony, Ms. Susan Hritzak, registrar, is responsible for gathering the information on any student that plans on graduating. Hritzak contacts stu-

dents who plan on graduating and requests that they sign up for the graduation audit course (GRD000). Students who register for are sent reminders paperwork that is due before graduation.

In the spring, Hritzak has about 350 students of which she has to keep track. In the fall, she has fewer undergraduates, which makes her workload easier.

Hritzak begins this process one semester before the student will graduate. For example, if a student is graduating this May, the process was started in the fall of 2009.

Hritzak, who has been organizing the ceremony for about 27 years, does the "behind-the-scenes" work. She and her co-workers order the cap and gowns and diplomas. The diplomas are then arranged in a specific order by honors, school, and program.

"We want everyone to have their diploma

that day," said Hritzak. "But if you don't do your part, we can't do ours."

She urges students who are close to graduating to read their email and make sure that they have their paperwork in order.

Hritzak said that many students choose not to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Adams expanded on that by saying that many more students graduate than the students that walk across the stage because of Wilkes's widespread graduate program.

"We have 50 additional locations that we teach master's classes at all over the state of Pennsylvania," said Adams.

The commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 22, at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre.

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RALSTON

Continued from FRONT PAGE

sible,” Messenger said. He went on to say that, depending on the severity of the situation, the graffiti would either be cleaned off or painted over.

In this situation, the University is going to first make an attempt to clean the bridge.

“We’ll start by seeing if our people can clean it, and if not, we’ll hire a professional cleaning firm,” said Messenger.

However, if that doesn’t work out, the University then plans on trying to find out who originally painted the bridge so that they might be able to fix it. At this point, Messenger is not sure who that is, if the company still exists, or if they can still do the job.

“If we can’t find them, we’ll just find someone else to redo [the paint job],” said Messenger.

As far as defacement goes, Messenger and Mayk both said that it isn’t a big problem at Wilkes.

“I don’t want to say that we don’t see it [defacement] because we do, but it’s not a situation that we feel we have a large problem with,” said Messenger.

The worst problem that Messenger has

seen thus far at Wilkes was a few small tags around campus, but he says that it’s nothing compared to larger schools.

“I don’t see it as much as in the bigger urban areas and it just doesn’t seem to be an overriding problem here. However, if a person were caught, there would of course be consequences,” said Messenger. He went on to say that the severity of the consequences would depend on the situation. That is, whether the University would deal with it on its own or if the Wilkes-Barre Police Department would be brought in.

For this instance, the University is not going to investigate. It isn’t because no one at Wilkes cares; it’s simply not their job.

“Because we lease that, it would be [the railroad’s] responsibility to seek an investigation and prosecute someone for the graffiti,” said Mayk. “If it had occurred on school property, it would depend on the degree of defacement as to whether the University would investigate and actively pursue whoever had done it, but it’s just not up to us.”

If you see graffiti or other forms of defacement on campus or on campus property, Messenger asks that you call Public Safety at 408-2349.

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Karen Boback spoke to students



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

On Thursday, February 18, State Representative Karen Boback spoke to students with a speech called “Things I wish I knew Before College.” The program was hosted by the Wilkes University chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success as well as the Wilkes Leadership Institute.



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Student Government Notes - February 17, 2010

**BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
& EMMA ZIMMERMAN**

Correspondents

Treasurer's Report:

All College: \$29,700
Conferences: \$16,260
General: \$14,060
Leadership: \$5,325
Special Projects: \$2,250
Spirit: \$480.60
Start-up: \$2,100

Club Reports:

Programming Board (PB): Concert tickets for Third Eye Blind will go on sale at Monday. Time is to be announced. Tickets are \$15 for students and you can buy up to two for this price with your Wilkes ID. For alumni, tickets are \$20 and for outside guests, \$25. Also, PB is planning Pizza Wars.

Wilkes University History Club: On April 22, the WUHC, in cooperation with the Pittston Historical Society, will be holding History Day on the first floor of the SUB. They have started fund raising for their trip

to Gettysburg. Projects from the trip will be displayed in the Osterhaut Library on the weekends.

New Business:

A new class representative was approved for the junior class: Jonathan Wilbourne.

Robotics Club Constitution Passing (Week 2 of 2): Changes in the constitution were requested the previous week. The club reported that 17 people attended the first meeting and 25 more who could not attend expressed interest in the club. The club made the constitutional changes and was approved by the board, unanimously, 40-0-0.

Nursing Student Organization Fund Request (Week 1 of 1): The Nursing Student Organization (NSO) requested \$2820 for a conference in Orlando, Florida. It is the NSO's first year with a full enrollment, and therefore first year they would be able to attend the conference. The hotel and airfare was paid for by NSO with money they had raised by fund raising such as bake sales and magnet sales. Six delegates will be attending the conference. Representatives from NSO reasoned that the conference will give

them new fund raising ideas, study habits they could use when taking their nursing exams and would publicize Wilkes's nursing program. Other nursing students present at the meeting claimed that other students were not informed of this conference and it wasn't open to them. A motion was made to dismiss the request and it was dismissed with a vote of 19-18-0. This vote was vetoed and a motion was made to donate \$720 dollars to NSO to get them in the door of the conference. This was also dismissed with a vote of 12-27-0. At the end of the discussion, no money was given to NSO for the trip.

The use of the veto for the NSO fund request was controversial, but the executive board felt it needed to be used since the vote was close.

Adventures in Science Fund Request (Week 1 of 1): Adventures in Science (AIS) is an organization that teaches fifth grade students about science through labs performed on the campus. There are 250 volunteers, which includes Wilkes students, science professors and outside volunteers. AIS provides each volunteer with a shirt and

each student attending a canvas bag. AIS provides Wilkes with publicity due to word of mouth and press coverage. SG would be allowed to include their logo on the canvas bags if a donation was made. AIS is to be held on April 23. A motion was made to donate \$2500 and it was passed 39-0-1.

Winter Weekend Budget Allocation Fund Request (Week 1 of 1): Shirts will be needed for all those participating and food and drinks provided. A motion was made to donate \$2300 and was passed 36-0-4.

*** At 7:45 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the SG meeting. The Motion was approved.**

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

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Freedom of the press: The end of an era at Wilkes?

The Beacon calls on Wilkes to go back to mission, vision and values

BY THE BEACON

Editorial Board

The Beacon has operated without infringement from the Wilkes administration since President Christopher Breiseth took office decades ago, and possibly even before that. However, it appears that the era of a free press at Wilkes University is coming to an end.

A recent article involving the women's lacrosse team sparked anger on *The Beacon's* Web site, WilkesBeacon.com. The comments that were left on the Web site about the article became childish, petty and hurtful. Yet, *The Beacon* left the comments up as we had for every other controversial issue that we have ever covered.

Much to our dismay, certain members of the Wilkes administration ordered us to remove all comments from the February 16 issue, and prohibit readers from commenting until further notice.

The staff of *The Beacon* had no other choice but to comply with the demands. Wilkes, as a private institution, is not required to extend First Amendment rights to its campus community, and especially not its student media, even though we have enjoyed that privilege for many years.

The reasons the administration gave for the censorship were plentiful. The first was safety, which is and should be a primary concern for Wilkes. However, there were no threats of violence in any of the comments, and our publication is not responsible for

what others do on social networking sites or through electronic media. There will be hard feelings whether our Web site allows comments or not.

The second worry was liability, which is an absurd concern. Wilkes, and our Web site's provider the College Media Network, are immune to legal action thanks to Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, and its challenge in front of the Supreme Court in *Reno v. ACLU*.

The 1996 CDA attempted to censor the internet, and included Section 230, which says, "No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider."

The Supreme Court case found most of the 1996 CDA, except Section 230, to be unconstitutional. Section 230 still stands as law today and has been tested, at length, through various legal trials.

Even though our staff, Wilkes and our Web site's provider are immune to legal action from these comments, a person is always legally liable for his or her actions. While a person may think he or she can prowl the internet under the cover of darkness, he or she always leaves an electronic trail.

The comments left on the lacrosse article and others throughout our Web site's long history have shown that Wilkes is not immune to the lack of civility in modern society. The comments left are not often credible. However, we cannot be expected to

police the comments and deem one person's words more valuable than the next, no matter how unbalanced the comment is. Those words are a person's thoughts, thoughts that Wilkes University should value. Wilkes has always supported, and should continue to support, the power of independent thinking.

While we vehemently oppose the administration's decision in this case to silence those controversial voices, the staff of *The Beacon* has and will always support an open dialogue with its readers, whether in our paper or online.

As journalists, the staff of *The Beacon* have been taught to love the First Amendment through our education at Wilkes. We question that education when the institution is willing to throw away the First Amendment along with the reputation as a progressive private institution that was built by generations of students, staff, faculty and alumni. The staff hopes that we can start rebuilding that reputation by putting the comments back online.

We challenge Wilkes and the administrators who censored us to live up to Wilkes University's mission for academic excellence, its vision of ethics and civic responsibility and its value of community engagement.

The staff of *The Beacon* knows that our opposition to this censorship may bring repercussions, but we will not sit back quietly while the legacy of our 75-year-old campus newspaper is tarnished so severely. We do

BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. The poll was based on 28 responses.

Last week's question:

Do you think the current generation of college students overuses the words "like" and "um"?

- Yes 96%
- No 4%

This week, *The Beacon* asks:

Do you agree with the Wilkes administration decision to censor comments on *The Beacon* website?

- Yes
- No

Cast your vote online at:
www.wilkesbeacon.com

not only owe it to current students, staff, faculty and alumni, but also to those who came before us.

The Beacon staff continues to be committed to our mission as journalists, which is to shed light on both the good and bad in the Wilkes community while allowing our readers to participate in an open discussion about the events that impact their lives.

College-town excuse a poor excuse for recurring irresponsibility

BY THE BEACON

Editorial Board

When local college students exhibit irresponsible behavior, our community is too often comforted with that same old phrase: "You just have to expect this in a college town." But, they shouldn't have to expect it.

The Sunday morning edition of *The Citizens' Voice* brought news that a Wilkes University student was charged with "desecration of a venerated object, open lewdness and underage drinking." According to the paper, the student was caught urinating on

the front steps of Good Shepherd Church on Main St. in Wilkes-Barre. A King's College student was also caught urinating on the city's manger display just weeks before.

Examples of the lack of civility go much deeper than just the drunken acts on the streets of Wilkes-Barre.

The women's lacrosse article in last week's issue accrued more than 60 comments before *The Beacon* was ordered to take them down. The majority of the comments on the article were uneducated, ill formed and revealed that the authors of those comments are not the professionals that Wilkes University should be producing or employing.

When we resort to name-calling, we prove that we don't have the intelligence to form a solid, competent argument. Furthermore, the comments on the lacrosse article were riddled with spelling and grammatical errors, and there was no regard for information that was obviously shared in confidence.

Wilkes and the other educational institutions in Northeastern Pennsylvania need to do more to educate all members of their campus communities not only to have the knowledge to excel in a subject area, but also to become responsible, respectful and ethical civic leaders who will transform our local and regional communities as leaders

rather than followers.

There will always be students and employees that will be reckless no matter what kind of rearing they have, but the problem is too wide spread to be ignored.

We cannot tell the schools what plan of action they should take. Maybe a specific class or the incorporation of principles into the existing curriculum will work. However, one thing is for sure. The reputation of the college students in the Wilkes-Barre community is not positive, and it is a reputation that is deserved in many ways.

Global education necessary for success in today's work environment

BY DR. GODLOVE FONJWENG

Global Education/Diversity Affairs Director

Globalization, the increasing interconnect- edness and interdependence of our global community, is a fact. For Wilkes students to participate and compete successfully in a global work place requires a first rate global education. But how is best to do it?

According to Pennsylvania's 2005-2008 International Education Report, our state's students are not yet equipped with 21st Century skills, in part because their teachers are not well trained as international educa- tors. The report concluded that, "Education should reflect the complexities of the global age by providing the necessary skills and knowledge for students to become produc- tive members of society."

This begs the question, what are the char- acteristics of a global student? Renowned institutions, such as Hobart and William Smith Colleges, have defined a primary cur- ricular goal as imbuing their graduates with "A critical knowledge of the multiplicity of world cultures, as expressed for example, in their languages, histories, literatures, phi- losophies, religious and cultural traditions, social and economic structures, and modes of artistic expression."

Similarly, Wilkes University's mission statement includes a commitment to edu- cate our students for lifelong learning and success in a constantly evolving and mul- ticultural world. With this charge, the Core Review Committee (CRC) is working to arrive at a campus consensus as to what constitutes a "global student" in an effort to make good the promise of Wilkes' mis- sion statement. A component of a global education is study abroad, providing Wil- kes students with affordable opportunities for study at reputable overseas universities, and in the process, gaining an invaluable global perspective.

In *The Beacon* issue of 2/16/10, reporter Jacqueline Lukas announced the develop- ment of a partnership between Wilkes Uni- versity and Campion College in Australia. In addition to facilitating student study abroad, the partnership also aims to assist Wilkes faculty who are interested in leading study abroad trips by providing them with the resources of Campion College, thus enabling faculty to dwell more on the aca- demic component of the trips, and less on travel itineraries and logistics.

Collaboration with overseas institutions

provides opportunities for student scholar- ships, faculty research support, and expo- sure to alternative methods of academic inquiry. Furthermore, faculty members who have international experiences are the best spokespeople for study abroad as they draw on their past experiences when mak- ing a case for study abroad. Well-traveled faculty are able to articulate the benefits of a study abroad experience and address pa- rental concerns which are most often linked to the safety and security of their children living far from home. Additionally, parents frequently express concerns as to the aca- demic value of study abroad which some- times carries additional expense.

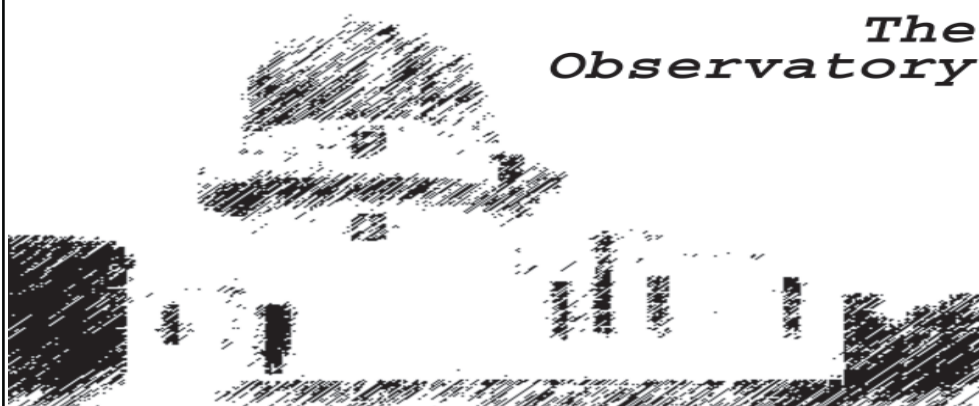
The cultural difference between the Unit- ed States and the study abroad destination, whether large or small, nuanced or dramatic contribute to a multifaceted learning envi- ronment for students' intellectual and per- sonal development, increased confidence and self-reliance.

This coming summer, about five Wilkes students will travel to Campion College in Sydney, Australia to study the history and politics of Australia since colonization in 1788. This program has an Outback ser- vice-learning component that will allow participants to work among Aboriginal communities. Similar to their experiences with Aboriginal communities, Wilkes stu- dents can also experience dramatic cultural contrasts and gain fresh global perspectives by studying in parts of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Middle East.

While cultural sensitivity is a desired outcome of such experiences, valuing the learning that takes place outside the class- room will provide our students with the opportunity to better understand the com- plexities of the human condition. Exposure to contexts of extended family systems and oral tradition will enhance our students' un- derstanding of how other cultures transmit, share and validate knowledge.

For Wilkes to become a leader in global education and to graduate "global stu- dents," we as a learning community must come together and work toward aligning our curriculum with our mission to prepare our students for "lifelong learning and suc- cess in a constantly evolving and multicul- tural world." That is the challenge to all of us, students, faculty, staff, administrators, and parents.

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*The
Observatory*

It is raining dogs and cats out there...literally!

BY MATTHEW GOGAS

Opinion Editor

I must preface what I am about to say with this: I am not a mean person. I do have a heart and love animals. In fact, I am the proud legal guardian of a rescue dog. With that being said, I see a serious problem with the United States when it comes to pet own- ership.

Frankly, there are too many dogs, cats, and owners of dogs and cats in this country. We all need to seriously consider how many of these pets there actually are in the United States and whether or not we can all take the responsibility of owning them.

The 2009-2010 National Pet Owners Sur- vey conducted by the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association estimates that 77.5 million people own dogs in the United States. Approximately 93.6 million people own cats. In relation to the amount of pet owners, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2010 population to be 308 million. If you do the math, almost half of the country own dogs or cats. These numbers are stag- gering, especially in 2010. In the middle of economic downturn and unemployment, why are people are consciously and deliber- ately taking on yet another mouth to feed?

The survey also averages that dog owners spend \$225 on veterinary visits, \$203 for cat owners. That does not even tackle food, toys, beds, and grooming. Not to mention, what happens if the animal breaks a leg, has a disease, or a debilitating condition? What if the animal has an accident on the carpet? How many times will you need to have your carpet cleaned? My point being, it is expen- sive to own dogs and cats.

In relation, too many owners are treating their dogs and cats like people. A 2009 As- sociated Press/Petside.com poll shows that 50 percent of pet owners consider their pet as much a part of the family as any person in the household. It is understandable that

people consider their pet a part of the fam- ily, but when they start feeding the animal human food (43 percent) and giving them human names (49 percent), a problem aris- es. While an animal should receive proper care, they should not receive the same care as a person. Animals are not people, they are animals. It is expensive enough to raise a child, do not treat your pet like one be- cause then the whole family suffers.

If you are thinking about breeding, forget it. Among the many resources that the Soci- ety for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) provides, local shelters provide three main purposes: prevention of cruelty, shelter for abused or neglected animals, and population control, which is why they spay or neuter every animal they receive. The only problem now is that there are too many animals and not enough funding.

Most shelters can receive their funding from city, county or state contracts. It all depends on the shelter. They also receive funding from donors. With state and federal budget cuts across the country and jobless donors, most shelters are losing money.

My advice is to think twice before you breed animals that you cannot really pro- vide the care for because animal shelters are stretched as far as they can go right now and cannot afford to take them off your hands.

Basically, there are too many dogs and cats in this country and not enough people to care for them. If you already have one, get it spayed or neutered. And if you are thinking about owning a pet like a cat or a dog, think long and hard on whether or not you can afford it and give the animal the at- tention it deserves. People come first; you should not be putting yourself in the poor house because of a pet, which should not have to suffer because of irresponsibility either.

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Adventure games:

An underappreciated gaming experience

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO
Assistant Opinion Editor

“Grim Fandango” is the best video game ever. Unfortunately, in an industry dominated by RPGs and first-person shooters, adventure games such as “Grim Fandango” have not received the exposure they rightfully deserve. In the video gaming community, the adventure genre is rarely recognized, despite the uniqueness of the genre. Although they are technically video games, adventure games are similar to movies. Like all great movies, adventure games tend to contain compelling stories, intricate plot twists, and complex characters that de-



The Beacon/Tom Reilly
Freshman environmental engineering major Tim Fisher enjoying a video game in his spare time. Certain video games are not only a source of fun and entertainment, but can also teach important life skills and sharpen critical thinking ability.

velop as the story progresses. In adventure games, however, you are not only watching the story play out, but you are actually interacting with the story. In some games, you can even alter the entire direction of the story based on a single decision. Unlike RPGs and first-person shooters where the game progresses as you follow a set path to a certain point, adventure games progress quite differently. In adventure games, you must converse with other characters, combine objects, and solve puzzles in order to progress. You can also fully interact with the environment. If there is a picture on a wall that you do not quite understand, you can make the character look at the picture and provide a description from his or her point of view. If you have ever wanted to talk to a fire hy-

drant or pick up a motorcycle and stuff it in your pocket, adventure games can give you those opportunities and more.

An advantage of playing adventure games is that you will undoubtedly learn new life skills. Adventure games are puzzle-based; therefore, they require you to pay strict attention to detail while thinking both logically and outside of the box.

Conversation is also an important part of adventure games. Choosing the correct dialogue option at the right time can make or break relationships with other characters, just as in real life. You will also learn valuable methods of improvisation for use in sticky situations. The next time you are locked in a closet and the key just happens to be in the other side of the door and all you have is a pen and a greeting card, you will know exactly what to do.

Despite having much lower sales rates, several adventure games have won a substantial amount of awards. Arguably the greatest story ever told, “The Longest Journey,” released in 2000, has won over a dozen awards, the most notable being a Game of the Year award by GameSpot, one of the top 200 most-viewed websites on the Internet. Even though “The Longest Journey” is one of the most criti-

cally-acclaimed video games of our time, the game has only sold approximately 350,000 copies in total. Sales obviously have no correlation with quality, as “Game Party,” widely regarded as the worst game of the past decade, had sold more than three million units as of February 2009.

Whether you are an avid or casual gamer, adventure games provide an experience that other games cannot. If you are looking for an introduction to the genre, pick up a copy of “Grim Fandango,” “The Longest Journey,” or “The Monkey Island series.” You will spend much less money while having fun and being entertained in a new way. You may even learn something!

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Driving is a privilege and should be treated as such

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
News Editor

Although American citizens have many rights, driving is not one of them. It is a privilege; just like when your parents would let you have ice cream after you cleaned your plate at dinner time.

Privileges are special rights given to drivers only when they have proven to be competent on the road after being tested. Isn’t this right?

We’ve all experienced different bad-driving scenarios:

Someone cuts you off and then makes a one-fingered hand gesture, as if it was your fault.

There are four cars at a stop-sign intersection and everyone sits there for about 30 seconds, as if they were unsure of where to go next.

Cars are weaving in and out of traffic on the highway without a care in the world for the safety and security of other drivers and their passengers.

But I digress...

The real issue at hand is that people are careless, rude and unsafe while driving. But anyone can change their habits by following the rules and remembering to be safe while on the road.

Teen drivers are often named as “bad drivers” and “careless,” but it is not only teens. Drivers who are careless on the road can be anyone: from a 16-year-old boy, to an elderly woman.

It’s worth something to remember the process of obtaining a driver’s license. First, you must study a manual.

When you were 16, do you remember that booklet you received from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)? Well that booklet, the Pennsylvania Driver’s Manual, was actually important.

There were valuable facts and pieces of information in the manual that can be referenced. Listed in the manual are rules and

regulations about what to do on the road and how to act while driving.

Maybe, when you were learning to drive, you were able to just skate by because you got easy questions on your learner’s permit test. Or you heard through the grapevine what to do. The people who chose not to study the manual are the people that are now wreaking havoc on our roads.

But for others who actually wanted to learn the rules of the road, we read the manual and became educated about our state’s driving laws.

The next step in the process was taking a test to receive your learner’s permit. In Pennsylvania, the test encompassed questions from the manual and if you passed, you were able to obtain a learner’s permit. For six months, teen drivers would drive with a parent or guardian and in this time, the rules of the road

would be taught. Sounds simple, right?

Well, as you may have guessed, people have different views about what is right and wrong while on the road. They make the manual so that everyone can follow the same uniform style of driving. If two people disagree, this might cause conflict every time a permit holder gets in the car with their parent/guardian.

So after a driver fights with his or her parent or guardian during the six month period of driving, it’s time to go for your driver’s license test. In Pennsylvania, this test encompasses trying your driver’s skills with a test administrator.

Many people pass this test, obtain their license and continue to be good drivers. Other people may pass this test and let their good habits slip away causing them to become reckless, hasty and inconsiderate drivers.

I encourage everyone to look over the driver’s manual each year to remind themselves of the importance of following the rules provided by your state’s DMV and I also encourage people to practice safe rules of the road while driving.

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The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Driving in Public Square is a privilege, as with all roads. All drivers should respect their driving privileges by occasionally revisiting the Pennsylvania Driver’s Manual.

College Days

Craig Merriman uses his time at Texas A&M Kingsville to grow up

BY LEEANN SEARFOSS

Life Editor

Craig Merriman, sports information director for Wilkes University athletics, liked to achieve in college. Not overachieve, not underachieve. Just achieve.

According to Merriman, he did just what was necessary to get by during his five years at Texas A&M Kingsville, a satellite school of Texas A&M located near his hometown.

"I was one of those guys who made sure they knew it for the test. I took a geology course. I didn't care about geology. Did I learn it? No. I learned it enough to get passed," said Merriman.

Coming from a nearby high school, Merriman stuck to his close group of friends and integrated into playing baseball for the Javelinas.

"I played one year of baseball. It was hard, because I knew I needed an education and with 12-hour bus rides for a three game series, I was missing a lot of school," said Merriman.

Merriman stopped playing baseball after his freshman year and took up track instead. Dropping all athletics his junior year, Merriman focused on his studies...slightly.

"I hated to study--hated it. I had an interesting college life. [Because] I played baseball, I had to maintain a 2.0 GPA. I was

down to a 2.01," stated Merriman.

His hatred of studying and low ACT score coming into Texas A&M Kingsville caused Merriman to take remedial courses, called 099 classes, during his first year of school.

"I only scored a 17 on my ACT. I was immediately put into 099 classes, where you have to take them [first] to finally get into English 101. Reading, math, and writing took up almost a whole year. Not only was I taking regular classes I was taking these 099 classes, embarrassingly enough," said Merriman.

Despite not feeling compelled to study, Merriman found keys to success in getting through school. His foolproof plan for passing classes included picking classes early in the day and participating in class on a regular basis.

"I looked at it like high school. I took my classes at 8 and was done by 11--like a half a day. Then I could spend the day doing whatever I wanted," said Merriman.

Adapting socially, as well as academically, seemed to come easily for Merriman.

"I spent a lot of time with high school friends and made some college friends. I didn't have this group of big buddies that we'd hang out with," said Merriman.

While he had friends to keep him company, Merriman admits not being able to "buy a date" while in school.

Along with learning mini-lessons about his schooling, Merriman's parents took it upon themselves to help teach him about being responsible by making him get a job at school. Merriman funded his education on his own by working in the sports information office for the school.

"When your parents tell you to do stuff, you don't want to. I thought at the time 'that's pretty crappy,' but I'm glad they did. It taught me responsibility, taught me to budget, taught me a lot of things.," said Merriman.

Merriman is glad he listened to his parents. He believes having to work to put himself through school made him more responsible and grown-up.

"You had to grow up," said Merriman.

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Photo courtesy of Craig Merriman

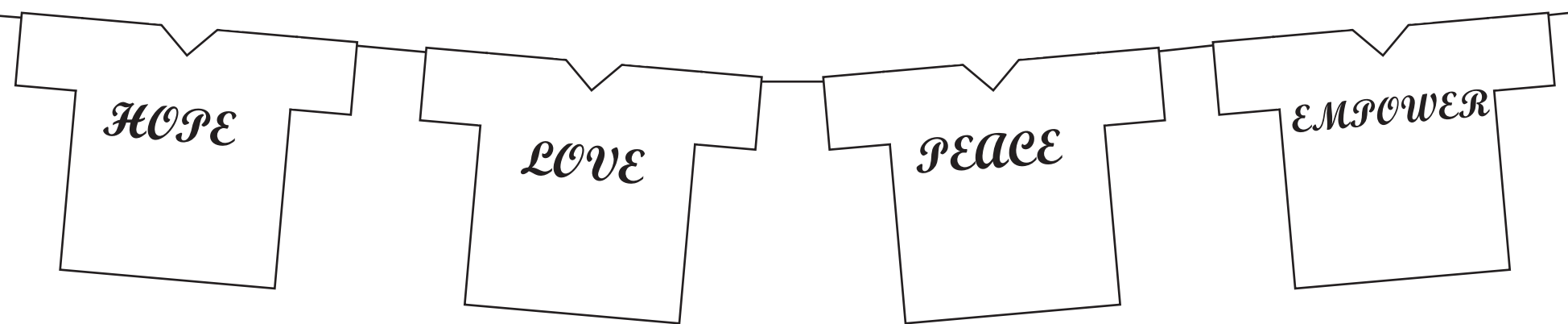
Craig Merriman, now sports information director for Wilkes Athletics, spent his time in college studying little and learning lots.

In his own words, Merriman makes the grade:

“

I put off taking an algebra course in college. I finally took it--failed it miserably. I took it again the next semester. There was a comprehensive final. I made a C on one test. Knew nothing about algebra. Luckily I had a Grad Assistant as a teacher. Foreign. Very hard to understand. It didn't matter to me, I still didn't get it either way. I handed in my test, and he says, 'Mr. Merriman, how are you doing in my class?' I said, 'Honestly, I can barely pass a regular class, much less a comprehensive final.' He said he understood and asked, 'What was your grade going into this class?' I thought, 'That's a weird question to ask me' and said 'a C'. No way I had a C. Low and behold, I get my report card in the mail and I got a C and passed.

”



Psychology students help air emotional laundry

Clothesline Project in Student Union Building builds awareness of violence

BY RUTH WHISPELL

Assistant Life Editor

"Don't air your dirty laundry in public," is an adage that generally means to keep certain actions, thoughts and beliefs in one's life private. The Clothesline Project goes against this saying, and has some people airing out their dirty laundry on the second floor of the Student Center.

A pamphlet for the Victims Resource Center (VRC) described The Clothesline Project as, "Victims and their family members creating an artistic expression of their victimization to display on a clothesline in celebration of their transformation from victim to survivor."

The t-shirts, created by members of the VRC, are displayed in six different colors, all of which symbolize what type of violence that person experienced. According to another pamphlet for the VRC, a white t-shirt signifies women who've died because of violence; yellow or beige represents battered or assaulted women; a red, pink or an orange t-shirt stands for survivors of rape and sexual assault; blue and green indicates survivors of incest and sexual abuse; purple or lavender represents women who were attacked based on their sexual orientation; and black is a sign for women who were attacked for political reasons.

The t-shirts are no longer hanging from the second floor of the Student Center, but according to Megan Boone, coordinator of community service at Wilkes, the Clothesline Project will be displayed again closer to April 21, which is the date set for the Victims Right's Rally.

Boone explained that the Clothesline Project was displayed during the Vagina Monologues, which took place this past weekend. "It's important to highlight the valiancy of women. I felt the Clothesline Project would

help celebrate womanhood, and it tied in nicely with the Vagina Monologues," said Boone.

One of the students involved directly with the VRC and who also helped put The Clothesline Project together is Amber Kozo, a junior psychology major at Wilkes.

"The Clothesline Project is basically designed as an outlet for woman to express what has happened to them," said Kozo.

Kozo joined Scholars in Service to PA [SISPA], through the Community Service Office at Wilkes. SISPA offers scholarships for students willing to do community service. After applying and being accepted to SISPA, Kozo was assigned to the VRC, where she helps raise awareness of abuse and violence through various projects planned throughout the semester.

Through the Clothesline Project, Kozo hopes to bring awareness of abuse and violence to the Wilkes Community. "We're on a college campus and no one wants to talk about it, but I'm sure there are assaults on campus. People need to know that they're not alone," said Kozo.

She hopes people who have experienced violence or those who are experiencing violence will feel comfort in the fact that they aren't alone. Kozo never actually met the 'survivors' who've made the shirts, but she believed that they find solace in showing other victims that they too can be survivors.

The Clothesline Project isn't the only project Kozo is working on this semester; she is currently planning a Root Beer Social set for April 16. The social will feature free root beer and free food.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the VRC will be holding a Mock Rape Trial. The trial is set for April 14 and will feature an actual judge and court who will all be volunteering their time to portray

a realistic sexual assault trial. This mock trial will happen at the Luzerne County Courthouse. The Victims Rights Rally is scheduled for April 21. The rally is actually a march designed to bring about awareness of violence to the community. Boone explained that marching in the rally along with Wilkes will be King's College, Misericordia University, Luzerne County Community College and Penn State University. The march will also include high schools such as GAR High School and Wyoming Seminary Upper School.

The Victims Rights Rally will begin at both King and Wilkes. The two schools, along with the others, will meet on the square then take Market Street across to Millennium Circle at the River Commons.

At Millennium Circle there will be refreshments, a candle light vigil, and about five speakers. Boone explained that the focus of this year's rally is crimes on college campuses.

For more information about The Clothesline Project or any other events involving the VRC contact Megan Boone at megan.boone@wilkes.edu or Amber Kozo at amber.kozo@wilkes.edu. For more information on the VRC, go to www.vrcnepa.org.

CONTACT RUTH WHISPELL AT

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Last week's winners of 2 Movie Tickets to Movies 14:

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****Drop forms off at The Beacon office in Conyngham Hall or at the desk in the Student Union by Friday, February 26, by noon.****

One form per person. The winner will be announced in next week's issue.

NAME: _____

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EMAIL: _____

MYSTERY WORDS: _____

Wilkes University's Health & Wellness Corner

Students inquire about antibiotics and eating disorders

The Health & Wellness Corner is a weekly feature in The Beacon. Students who ask questions remain anonymous. All questions will be answered by Health Services staff.

Q: I went to my doctors for a cold that I had for three days and wanted her to put me on antibiotics for my cold and congestion and was told that it would not help me because it was probably a viral infection. I was told to take over the counter (OTC) cough medicine and Motrin. Wouldn't an antibiotic make my symptoms go away quicker?

A: Antibiotics do not fight infections caused by viruses, like colds, flu, most sore throats and bronchitis and some ear infections. Rest, fluids, and OTC products may be the best treatment. If antibiotics are used too often for things they can't treat, like

colds and flu, they can stop working effectively against bacteria when you really need them. Antibiotic resistance (when antibiotics no longer can cure bacterial infections) has been a real health concern and is considered one of the world's most pressing public health problems. Do not demand antibiotics when your healthcare provider says they are not need. Do not take an antibiotic for viral infections like cold or flu. Do not take antibiotics prescribed for someone else. Taking the wrong medicine may delay correct treatment and allow bacteria to multiply.

Q: How do I know if my friend has an eating disorder?

A: That is a very good question but one that is not easily answered. As a result, this will be the first of a three part series on eating disorders.

Our relationship with food is complex and

strange as it sounds, it is not about the food, but rather how we can use food to deal with deeper issues. Food is meant to enjoy and to nourish our bodies. Additionally, it is often a part of our traditions, celebrations, and socialization. Still, our culture puts an unhealthy emphasis on appearance and body image. As a result, women, and less often men, desire to be thinner or more muscular than what is natural for us. This can lead to a change in eating behaviors that may develop into an eating disorder.

The most common eating disorders are anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and eating disorders that are not otherwise specified. Anorexia nervosa is a serious psychological and physiological disorder. Anorexia nervosa can occur at any age or within any socioeconomic class. However, the most common age of onset is between 11-18 with more frequent diagnosis occurring in upper middle class.

Symptoms of anorexia include: restric-

tion of calories to the point of emaciation, excessive exercise and/or taking laxatives or diuretics to lose weight. Most who suffer with anorexia will deny that they are hungry or thin. Approximately 60% of those with anorexia will also develop bulimia.

Do you have a question for the Health & Wellness Corner? Email your questions to wellness.services@wilkes.edu, and you may see your question in next week's Health & Wellness Corner. your privacy will be protected.



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New Year's resolutions fizzle at Wilkes

Two months into 2010, students give up on personal promises

BY ADRIENNE SHELLENBERGER

Correspondent

Every year after the ball drops and the celebrations are over, the reality of New Year's resolutions set in.

Many American adults make New Year's resolutions. Some popular resolutions include drinking less alcohol, losing weight, managing debt, reducing stress, and volunteering to help others.

"I always thought that if someone wanted to change something about themselves and were serious about that decision, they shouldn't wait until a new year to do so," said Brynn McGregor, coordinator Upward Bound.

"I guess I understand the saying 'new year, new you' but why wait," said McGregor. "For me, the motivation to make a lifestyle change comes from within."

So, why wait until a new year to change? Studies have shown that people are more likely to reach their goals if they make them as a resolution.

New Year's resolutions have been a tradition for a long time. They are usually a reflection of something in your past that you would like to change in the future. The Romans named the first month of the year after Janus, the god of beginnings. Janus had two faces which allowed him to look at both the past and the future.

John C. Norcross, professor of psychology at the University of Scranton, has done

studies in the past on New Year's resolutions. He found that after two weeks 71% of people kept their resolutions. After one month it dropped to 64% and after six

months only 46% of people had kept their resolutions.



months only 46% of people had kept their resolutions.

Around campus, most New Year's resolutions seem to be health related.

Melanie Good, sophomore pharmacy major, made a resolution to work out more and be healthier. She kept it for awhile but "when I got back to school I got busier and it was harder to keep," she said.

Junior Erin Robinson, English major, made a resolution to quit smoking. "I haven't completely quit yet," she said. "But I have cut back significantly."

Michael Bosco, junior, communication studies major, also decided to quit smoking, but only kept his resolution for about a day.

Melissa Thorne, freshman English

major, didn't make a resolution this year. "There's no point," she said. "I don't normally keep them."

"If they can stick to it, then great," said McGregor. "I always like to hear that someone sets a goal to make a positive change in him or herself."

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The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Chuck Stevens, a fifth year student, lifts weights at the gym at the YMCA on Franklin St. Stevens, along with many other students, work out to try and keep up their new year's resolutions.

Student of the Week: James Spickard

BY MAJORIE WHISPELL

Correspondent

James Spickard, a junior electrical engineering major from Trukerton, NJ, is the president of the newly reformed Robotics club.

"I am not usually a person to take charge, but I wanted to get more involved this semester," explained Spickard.

Despite being inactive on campus for some time now, Spickard plans on doing whatever it takes to help get the club back together, and he is ready to take charge. "I know that I can take the Robotics Club where it needs to go," said Spickard.

Electrical and mechanical engineering majors can use Robotics Club as an extra-curricular activity to spice up a resume, or to learn more about a field in which they're

interested. "A robot is a machine that can be completely self-automated, without any interaction from humans. We make robots, and would like to enter them into competitions like Battle Bots," explained Spickard.

The Robotics' Club is also looking forward to hosting a competition here at Wilkes "What that would be is a simple competition, where a robot would have to navigate itself a around a certain course. It will have to do everything completely automated, go through obstacles and make it to a checkered flag," said Spickard.

Dr. Matthew J. Zukoski, associate professor of math and computer science, who passed away last spring semester, was the club's adviser. Now Abu-Nabaa, director of Engineering Operations and Strategy, MS [EOS], and an engineering professor, is the club's adviser. The Robotics Club meets on

Tuesdays at 11 a.m., in Stark Learning Center, room 238. Any person of any major is welcome to join.

The Beacon: Describe yourself in three words.

Spickard: Hardworking, active, and leadership material.

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

Spickard: That I am the President of the Robotics Club; my friends back home would not expect it.

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

Spickard: Hopefully in a good job [at] an engineering firm, either one that I start, or

one like Lockheed Martin.



The Beacon/Allison Roth

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FEBRUARY 23, 2010

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MTV's "Buried Life" aims to put resolutions six feet under

The Beacon talks with the four boys who are making their dreams a reality

BY BRIE FRIEDMAN

A&E Editor

Four Canadian boys shared an idea four years ago to one day make a television show out of their efforts to achieve certain tasks before they died, such as asking out the girl of their dreams or delivering a baby. *The Buried Life*, which is their concept brought to life, currently airs on MTV, and has captured hopeful audiences of all ages, surpassing the usual demographic for MTV. Yes, even beyond the *Jersey Shore* fans.

The four hosts of the show are Dave Lingwood, Ben Nemtin, Duncan Penn, and Jonnie Penn. Through an exclusive event provided by Collegepublisher, *The Beacon*, along with other college publications, was able to sit in on a conference call with Lingwood, Nemtin, and (Jonnie) Penn.

Brett Hanes, the senior vice president of comedy and animation for MTV and executive producer for *The Buried Life* also sat in on the interview. Hanes recalled receiving a DVD trailer of what the boys had been doing, trying to promote their cause and

taping their lives over the last three years. Without hesitation, Hanes knew that he had stumbled upon something unique and perfect for MTV.

The boys' challenge was finding the right platform for their television show. Prior to MTV, the boys received an offer in 2007 from another production company, but if they agreed, they would have lost all creative control. Instead, their show fell into Hanes's hands.

"Our [MTV's] only help would be to broadcast and be part of the journey," said Hanes. "We were inspired, and it's a really (explicative) hilarious show."

All of the boys grew up together in Victoria, Canada. Being extremely busy promoting their new show, Penn said they were finally able to gauge the response of the audience, now that they are doing a press tour across the country and in Toronto. The idea behind the show was for them to make something that their friends would enjoy and to inspire them.

"We get to meet people and talk to them about what they want to do before they die,

it's been very humbling," said Penn.

Their friends and family have kept the boys' efforts alive by throwing events at home where their whole community got together to support them.

"We started to ask ourselves, and our friends, why we aren't going after what we really wanna do, and why are we settling," said Nemtin.

Out of everything they have completed on the list thus far, and trying to put a positive spin on death, it's safe to say that they have witnessed some life altering events.

The Beacon: Out of everything that you have seen, what has been your most eye-opening mission thus far on the show?

Lingwood: The mission that most changed my life was the story of Queen, a recent episode. Her mother died in Katrina and she never got to say goodbye to her mom, who was buried all the way in Denver, Colorado. We had the chance to raise enough money to get her up to Denver to say goodbye.

The Beacon: Wow, that's emotional. It's

great you guys are shedding light on doing what you want to do before you die.

Lingwood: Yeah, I mean, death is not really a part of society as much as it used to be- a weird phenomenon. Death is hidden from us and it's a really unnatural thing to be there with a stranger and see her say goodbye to her mom- it was just a blow. It reminded us of all the reasons why we do this, and we celebrate it.

The Beacon: Embedding a positive legacy into society today, which is what you are doing, does stir up controversy. Has there been any outstanding negative feedback from all of this?

Nemtin: Oh yeah, that we're "self-centered, taking a booze cruise across the country." They think we're promoting entitlement. [And we've also heard people say] that MTV scripts everything on our show. For the one episode when we wanted to get into a Playboy mansion party, we actually had to write a letter to Hugh Hefner and had to work really hard to get in there. It's

SEE MTV, Page 15

Review: "Art of the Brick" Exhibition transforms toys into art

BY GILLYAN GOWARTY

Assistant A&E Editor

The Art of the Brick Exhibit in the Everhart Museum in Scranton is an exhibit like no other. All of the artwork in this particular exhibit, which included multiple 3-D sculptures and portraits, was constructed of LEGO toy bricks. There was a combination of 3-D sculptures and pictures hanging on the wall. Nathan Sawaya is a New York based artist, who discovered LEGOS as an art medium, rather than just a toy, after his college years, according to his website, www.artofthebrick.com.

According to Sawaya's book, *The Art of the Brick*, he used to be an attorney before he made the transition to professional artist. Some of my favorite sculptures include "Heart," "Yellow," "Crowd," and "Future" and several of his untitled portraits.

The heart sculpture was my personal favorite. It was built in March of 2008. It is constructed as an actual human heart. The details of this sculpture really amazed me. It is completely anatomically correct, and

took Sawaya over 100 hours to complete, according to his website, www.artofthebrick.com.

"Yellow" was constructed in February of 2006. It is a sculpture of the bust of a man, ripping his chest open. The yellow LEGOS, once part of his chest, were dispersed haphazardly across the table. It is very difficult to portray the full effect of the sculpture using only words. It is best to actually view the sculpture to understand how striking it truly is.

"Crowd" is another one of my personal favorites. There are small figurines of people walking in many directions. This sculpture also contained an optical illusion feature. When I took a step back, I saw that the color on each of the figurines combine to make a large blue eye. "Inspired by the throngs and graffiti of New York City, art is where you see it," said Nathan Sawaya in his book. Perhaps Sawaya is trying to portray that you can find art everywhere if you keep your

SEE LEGOS, Page 15

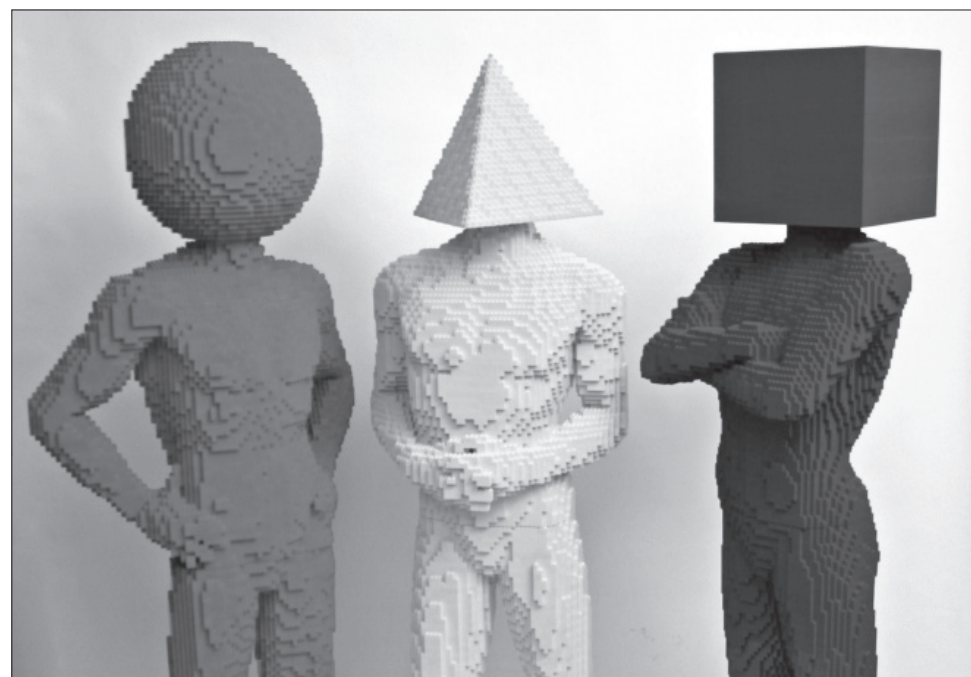


Photo courtesy of Nathan Sawaya

Sawaya's sculpture "Circle Triangle Square" was constructed in April of 2009. Three human bodies were built out of LEGOS with geometric shapes where their heads would normally be. This is one of the many LEGO sculptures Sawaya has on display. Photo was reproduced with the permission of the Everhard Museum.

Review: *Shutter Island*, a psychological joyride

BY KIRSTIN COOK

Assistant A&E Editor

Editor's Note: This review may contain spoilers.

The latest psychological thriller, *Shutter Island*, presents the question: could insanity be contagious? The film, released on February 19, makes you question this concept, and more, as you follow the winding plot-line and complex characters.

The movie takes place in 1954, a time period emphasized by the underdeveloped, unethical practices in the field of psychology. Teddy Daniels (Leonardo DiCaprio) is a U.S. Marshal recruited to investigate a case at Ashecliffe Hospital, an institution for the criminally insane on Shutter Island in Boston.

The case is regarding a missing patient, Rachel (Emily Mortimer), a war widow who is at the penitentiary for drowning her three children. She invents a fictional world in which her husband and children are still alive, and the workers at Ashecliffe are simply neighbors.

The disappearance of the prisoner turns

Daniels' wife died in a fire. Daniels visually suffers from a wounded past from losing his wife and serving in World War II. As Daniels spends more time at the hospital, his traumatic past continuously haunts him. His time working on the case is plagued with nightmares of his wife and the war, constant hallucinations and fragmented thoughts.

Daniels finds it difficult to uncover answers from this twisted mystery. Dr. Cawley (Ben Kingsley), the head psychologist at Ashecliffe, is incriminatingly unhelpful with the case, refusing Daniels access to patient files.

Daniels' sidekick, Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo), serves as the ideal partner with his insightful and supportive personality. He suggests that the psychologists at Ashecliffe manipulated Daniels to become involved at the hospital.

The theory of unethical operations being conducted at the institute is developed, and it becomes evident that *Shutter Island* is not what it appears to be. From that point on, it becomes difficult to decipher who can be trusted and what is real.

can be labeled as crazy. The patients state that once one doctor calls someone insane, all the other doctors backs them up, and any attempt at objection is simply perceived as proof of the insanity. With this broad definition, anyone could be insane, which leads to some thought-provoking discrepancies.

There are several intriguing concepts that mirror each other. The missing prisoner mirrors Daniels, since they are both widows. Daniels has fractured flashbacks to his complicated past, which mirrors the scrambled clues to the missing patient case. The unethical practices at the institute set up a clear mirror of the holocaust. The ending was mind-blowing, and connected all the loose ends in a satisfactory manner. The only weakness was its slight openness at the conclusion, with there being possibilities for two different ending, though the ultimate end is assumed.

There are few flaws I can scrutinize from this movie. The plot seemed to rush too quickly into Daniels background and how his wife died, while I think it should have focused on the information of the case in the beginning. Also, while other aspects of Daniels' wife are elaborated on, the storyline lacks a major piece of her background.

There are some traumatic images present-



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

ed that may impact audience members and require a warning. These visuals involve the holocaust, as well as the dead bodies of children.

These small flaws can be easily overlooked, however. *Shutter Island* is more than just a movie; it is a psychological venture that should not be missed. Though insanity is not a contagious disease, this movie will make you doubt whether what you are seeing is real or an illusion.

Rating: 5/5

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THE DEEVOQUIP!

BY DAVID LEWIS

Staff Writer

Use the clue provided in order to decipher the meaning of the puzzle. The clue represents a letter that can be used to guess what other letters within each word are. Through the process of elimination and knowledge of vocabulary, solving the puzzle depends upon how well you can deduce the possibility of one letter equaling another. Once you assign a letter to equal another, the letter cannot be changed for the remaining letters in the puzzle. Good Luck!

AP CHSOQKAXD AC I CQH XO'C QKMHZ IZIV,

QKOX AQ SECQ KIJO DAJOX CHSOHXO I

KIML QASO!

This week's clue: O=E & Q=T

Last week's answer: If a chipmunk can catch pneumonia then shouldn't pneumonia be able to catch a chipmunk?

MTV

Correspondent

Continued from PAGE 14

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Around Wilkes” online at:
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FEBRUARY 23, 2010

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Coaching comes with pros and cons

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Assistant Sports Editor

***Editor's Note: What follows is the second part of a look into the background of coaching, a three-part feature series entitled "The Life and Responsibilities of a College Coach."*

The Life and Responsibilities of a College Coach

PART 2

Jerry Rickrode found himself coaching basketball for the first time in 1985, when he assumed responsibility as the freshmen JV coach at his alma mater, Skidmore College. A "wet-behind-the-ears" 21-year-old, Rickrode

took the job with vigor after a decision he had made a year earlier left him with few other options.

"I got into it in a funny way," said Rickrode. "When I was a senior, we had a game at New York University the same day I had to do a lab for one of my sciences. I went to see the professor [...] He said that I couldn't miss it and that it would greatly affect my grade if I did [...] So I dropped the class," he said, matter-of-factly.

Rickrode traveled with his team to play NYU, and had to later sign up for an additional semester so that he could take a comparable science course in order to graduate. He tried to rejoin the basketball team that fifth year of school, but found that his eligibility had since expired after his senior year. It was then that his coach approached him about the possibility of coaching Skidmore's junior varsity team.

"I don't necessarily advise kids to do what I did," said a chuckling Rickrode. "But it was a life-changing decision for me, that's for sure."

His choice ended up directly influencing his future; Rickrode soon earned his Master's in Physical Education from Ithaca College while serving as a graduate assistant coach there in 1986. By 1991, he was at Wilkes University and on his way to becoming a highly regarded Division III head coach.

"My parents always joked that I put too much emphasis into basketball [when I was younger]," said Rickrode, "but I really do love it. I love holding practices with the boys and seeing them day-in and day-out. When I get out of coaching, if I ever do,



The Beacon/Daniel Kautz

Men's and women's tennis head coach Christopher Leicht (left) helps sophomore pharmacy major Jefferson Bohan string a racket in his office.

that's what I'm going to miss the most. [The] second part of [what I like most about coaching] is when these guys graduate and you still hear from them quite often- I still go to all their weddings. I get to see how well they're doing."

Influenced by his passion for tennis, Christopher Leicht also became a coach at an early age. He began teaching at Frost Valley Country Club while still an undergrad at Bloomsburg University, and soon became the club pro. He later tried for the head coaching position at Danville Area High School, his alma mater. During his three-year tenure there, he oversaw a program that went 57-4 and reached the state semifinals two years in a row, epitomizing excellence.

"Coaching's always been about my relationship with my players," insisted Leicht. "I think my players [at Danville] took to me more easily than another possible coach because of the fact that I wasn't much older than they were; it made being able to relate a lot easier. They always had a ton of energy and enthusiasm for tennis and it got me excited to be able to help teach it."

When he arrived at Wilkes, he continued to build relationships with his players on the men's and women's teams, citing the process as one of his motivations for his in-

volvement with coaching.

"When we're [at competitive matches], I love motivating the players in the way that best suits them," he said. "I take it in a case-by-case basis. Some kids want to be fired up; some need to joke around to relax. I always try and behave in a way that helps them perform better, and it's something I get a kick out of."

That Lisa Rizzo became a volleyball coach was no real shock for her after looking back on the past; she participated in the sport during her four years of college and admittedly loved it. It is the fact that she wound up at Wilkes- after playing those four years at rival King's College- which she said shocks people whenever they learn of it.

Despite the changing of loyalties, Rizzo guided her team to a 16-12 season in 2009, an improvement of four wins over the 2008 squad.

"I've been playing sports since I was a toddler," said Rizzo. "[Coaching] is just something that I find neat; I like leading my players and watching them form that team bond that allows [them] to overcome obstacles, whether it be in a game or in real life."

The coaches discussed the enjoyment that

Colonels given royal treatment in 21-point loss

BY GINO TROIANI

Managing Editor

The Colonels packed their bags for the last time of the season, traveling just a few blocks to partake in the classic hometown rivalry against the Monarchs.

Coming into the game with an average record of 13-11 (4-9), Wilkes did not want to end its season with another loss, however, the shots just did not fall for the Colonels, shooting 36 percent from the floor and hitting just one three pointer throughout the course of the game.

An 11-13 (7-6) King's team came into the game with a chip on their shoulder, dominating the Colonels in the first half 43-23, and solidifying a win with a final score of 77-56.

The game began by honoring Wilkes seniors Chris Gulla, Anthony Gabriel and Tom Kresge on their home court. This year the three were all key players on the Colonels' starting lineup. "It was defiantly emotional, the big crowd, (the) last game on the floor," said Gabriel. "We wanted to go out with a win."

In the first five minutes of the game it was all Wilkes, quickly establishing a 10-2 lead while playing tight defense and bringing it hard down low. However, over the next four minutes the Monarchs were able to shift the momentum with an 11-1 run over the Colonels, making the score 13-11 in favor of Kings.

Just like a game of Super Nintendo's NBA Jam, the Monarchs were on fire throughout the rest of the first half. While keeping the pressure on the Colonels, King's was able to ignite their three point game, shooting 6-10 from the perimeter.

With two minutes left in the half, the Monarchs held a 16 point lead and Wilkes continued to dig themselves deeper into a hole, continually missing easy shots from the field, which lead to a 6-0 run by King's, ending the first period with a score of 43-23.

A major factor to King's success in the first half was their ability to spread the ball

Athlete Spotlight: Scott Mantua, fab freshman

BY JUSTIN JONES

Staff Writer

After a monumental season last year, the Wilkes wrestling team is having another record breaking season, and freshman Scott Mantua has been a vital part of it. His seemingly easy transition from the high school to college level has locked down the 125 pounder from Clarksville, Maryland, as this week's Athlete Spotlight.

"The transition to college has gone well for me. Obviously, the competition is tougher but I try to just take it one match at a time and only worry about who I have to wrestle that day," Mantua said.

When Wilkes took to the mat against rival King's last week, all that Mantua had on his mind was Mike Tabasco. Mantua went down early and gave Tabasco a 2-0 lead, but he admitted that he normally gives up the first take down, so he wasn't worried by the small deficit. It only took four more seconds for Mantua to gain the upper hand with an impressive escape.

"I took a shot from neutral, creating my own offense, and [Tabasco] tried to counter my shot using a risky move. I knew the



Courtesy of Sports Information

Freshman Scott Mantua has been a revelation for the 17th ranked Clonels this season. Mantua is sporting a 30-10 record heading into the postseason, leading the team in wins.

move was coming because he had already tried it and I was able to catch him on his back," commented Mantua. "I always work for the pin but I definitely am more excited about a pin in a match against King's. The extra points definitely help the team and also help with the general attitude on the

bench. As the first match I like to get the dual meet started with a pin."

Not only did Mantua's pin start Wilkes towards a 27-9 thrashing of nationally ranked King's, but it also pushed his individual record to 30-10.

"Having three times as many wins as

losses has actually been a goal for me this season," said a proud Mantua. "About halfway through the season, once I got adjusted to college wrestling, I made goals to have three times as many wins as losses and to win thirty matches. I was able to achieve both of those goals this weekend and that was pretty exciting for me."

Mantua's record credits the seniors on the team for preparing him physically as well as mentally.

"The seniors have been awesome this year; they were very welcoming to me in my freshman year and I look up to all of them," said Mantua. In aspects of wrestling we have plenty of seniors on the team such as Frank Heffernan and Zach Pizzaro to look up to, as well as seniors such as Burt Griffith to give me guidance in academics and other areas."

Now it's on to the Metropolitan Conference Championship, where Mantua will look to continue his fantastic freshman season against the conference's best.

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2/16 vs. DeSales 64-75 L
2/18 @ Eastern 45-69 L
2/20 vs Kings 56-77 L

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/16 vs. DeSales 42-76 L
2/18 @ Eastern 62-72 L
2/13 vs. Kings 61-90 L

WBS PENGUINS

2/17 vs. Albany 9-2 W
2/20 @ Lowell 1-0 W

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

2/16 vs. Miami 78-105 L
2/19 vs. San Antonio 106-94 W
2/20 @ Chicago 90-122 L

NEW JERSEY NETS

2/16 @ Charlotte 103-94 W
2/19 vs. Miami 84-87 L
2/20 vs. Toronto 89-106 L

WEEK AHEAD

WBS PENGUINS

2/23 @ Portland 7:00pm
2/27 vs. Providence 7:05pm
2/28 vs. Hershey 3:05pm

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

2/23 @ Golden State 10:30pm
2/24 @ Phoenix 9:00pm
2/26 @ Los Angeles Lakers 10:30pm

NEW JERSEY NETS

2/23 vs. Portland
2/27 @ Boston
2/28 vs. Washington

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FACE OFF



Who is the Mid-Season MVP?

Kevin Durant has arrived, Thundering into the MVP race



Sports Editor
ANTHONY DORUNDA

Over the past season, Kevin Durant has not only proven he's a star; he has entered the same category as players like LeBron, Kobe, and D-Wade - superstar.

Loaded with a plethora of unbelievable talents, Durant has flashed greatness, offering only a glimpse into what this man is capable of doing. One thing he is capable of this season, at only 21, is an MVP award.

And before we talk about defense, LeBron makes those chase 'em down blocks from behind that make the highlight reels, but that's not man-to-man defense. In fact, there isn't much difference between the two defensively.

Show me the last time playing defense was a pertinent factor in the MVP race. Let's be real here. More often than not the MVP award is given to the player who scores at absurd rates.

Or in other cases it goes to the most electrifying player who makes you close your eyes for a few seconds, blink a few times,

and ask yourself if that really happened. In that case, there is no doubt in my mind the MVP is LeBron James. I'm not here to bash LeBron because, well, you can't.

The two are totally different players - LeBron's a slasher, Durant is more of a shooter. Sure, he may not make the highlight reel plays that LeBron makes every night, but ladies and gentlemen, no player is more important to the success of their team than Kevin Durant.

Besides the fact that he's already at 5,000 career points and on the cusp of averaging 30 points per game at the ripe age of 21, he has the Oklahoma City Thunder, yes THE THUNDER, at 32-21 as of press time and has literally turned the team into something exciting. Not since the Supersonics days with Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton has the team been this good.

The corps of this team revolves around four players, who are all under the age of 23. As good as these players are, the engine runs off of what Durant supplies, and more often than not that's 30 points a game. It's almost as certain as the sky is blue that if Durant doesn't score at the rate he scores, the Thunder will lose. That rate? Try 25-

plus points the last 27 games. He has scored nearly as much as his best two teammates. Combined. And in those games the Thunder are 19-8.

If that doesn't scream MVP, I don't know what does.

Did I mention that the man is 21, and the unquestioned leader of this team?

Durant has a power forward's height, a small forward's fluidity, and a shooting guard's touch, with the ability to bring the ball up the court and run the offense. Not to mention the Thunder's offense runs through him, or should I say is him.

He has the Thunder poised for their playoff appearance for the first time since...ever!

The sooner than expected resurgence of the franchise can be credited to one single player: No. 35. He's single handedly turned a struggling franchise into a playoff contender in the loaded western conference in the matter of only a few seasons.

Team leader, top two in the NBA in scoring, sole reason for a team's success, and attitude to continue to critique and improve his game - add that together, and we have an MVP on our hands.

The King will reclaim his title - MVP



Assistant Sports Editor
DANIEL KAUTZ

LeBron James stands to make a fortune this summer when he hits what may be the most anticipated free agency period of all time. The media sensation following his signing - or extension, should he stay with the Cleveland Cavaliers - will be overwhelming, and justifiably so. He is the rare athlete who manages to outpace the superlatives we try to assign him, the only one whom the title "King" could be fixed to without seeming absurd or trite. And he is this season's MVP.

The man is averaging slightly less than 30 points a game (29.9), and has filled the stat sheet by averaging 7.1 rebounds and 8.3 a contest to go along with it. Durant is averaging almost the same amount of points and rebounds a game (29.7 and 7.5, respectively), but has had less success distributing the ball and getting his teammates involved (2.9 assists per game).

This is not necessarily meant to sound like an unfair critique of Durant; he is four years

younger, and plays a radically different role on the Thunder than James does on the Cavaliers, where he is allowed to dictate the offense more often. However, it still does not change the fact that James is a better facilitator, and more valuable because of the multiple roles he plays.

The biggest disparity between the two of them is their defense, however, and not their offense. Durant was one of the worst defenders in the NBA last season; indeed, the Thunder allowed an additional 9.1 points per 100 possessions on defense last season when he was in games, more than negating the offensive boost he brought his team.

While he has improved of late, James is surpassing him in blocks (52 to 46) and steals (86 to 72) this season. His fast, physical style of defense even inspired the Cavaliers' front office to invent the "chase-down blocks" statistic for him, a category that records the number of times he chases a player in transition and successfully blocks his shot from behind. You know, the move that is a staple of James's highlight reel every other night. He had 22 of them last season.

Lastly, for those stat-heads out there,

there is the matter of their Player Efficiency Ratings (PER). The rating system, created by ESPN's John Hollinger and used league-wide in player evaluations, takes into account many of the positive and negative statistics a player accumulates throughout the season before using a formula to determine their value to their team.

A PER of 15.00 is league average; this is the rating you would see given to many bench players or common starters. Kevin Durant currently possesses a PER of 25.16, a rating that would establish him as a "fringe-MVP candidate" according to Hollinger's book, *Pro Basketball Forecast*.

James is currently posting a 31.65, which is beyond the 30 rating that indicates a "run-away MVP candidate." Only two players have posted a PER rating higher than that historically. One was Michael Jordan, who twice accomplished the feat, once in the 1987-88 season (31.79) and the other in the 1990-91 season (31.89). The other was LeBron James. His 31.76 rating last season was the third highest ever, and came with an MVP award in tow. There's no reason that shouldn't happen again this year.

BASKETBALL

Continued from page 16

around amongst their players, shooting 60 percent behind the arc.

In the second half Wilkes stepped their game up and continued to chip away at the 20 point deficit, putting pressure on the Monarchs offence and achieving a 14-4 run of their own with 12:38 to go. However, their short burst would not be enough, and King's would run away with the victory, 77-56.

Speaking of the loss, Gabriel explained

COACHES

Continued from page 16

they get out of serving at Wilkes, a school which all three believed gives more equal attention to its athletics than other programs in terms of support and publicity. They also noted that it is the close fraternity between coaches here that has helped engender such an environment.

"I think all the people and students here give pretty much an equal amount of respect to the different teams; the coaches, especially," said Rickrode. "We all support one another."

"I know that, for me, my transition was made much easier with the help of some of the other coaches here," said Rizzo. "They were always there to help answer questions or help me with scheduling [...] I think the entire athletic department here treats all of the teams more fairly than at some other schools."

Leicht said that there is a definite sense of equality between the sports programs at Wilkes in terms of administrative support.

"Football, for example, will always be high-profile wherever you go, but [...] Wilkes places priority on all sports, not just the big ones. The athletic department here has put a real emphasis on tennis [...] especially when other coaches tell me other negative things [about their programs]," he concluded.

As with nearly anything, however, there are negatives to be found. The challenges that coaches face today are numerous; while there are ways to steer around trouble, all three coaches admitted that there is not one "right method" in which to handle adversity; it depends on the situation and the coach's experience. In a day and age where adult professional athletes are in the news everyday for their transgressions, it calls to attention the question of how much we can expect from college-aged youths, as well as how to play the role of disciplinarian.

"I've never had any real problems on my teams fortunately," said Leicht. "Of course that doesn't mean I haven't had to step in

that the team simply "...didn't get [the ball] out to shooters," like the team wanted to.

The Colonels were lead by the seniors Kresge and Gabriel, playing in their last game as Colonels. Kresge racked up 14 points, four rebounds and three assists and Gabriel not far behind with 12 points, four rebounds and three assists of his own.

With the loss, the Colonels end their season with a record of 13-12 (4-10).

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sometimes [...] I'm fairly approachable; I try and talk with them and use setbacks as learning examples. I ask them, 'Did what you do affect the team? Is this something we can fix?' I don't yell; I just approach it calmly on a case-by-case basis."

"I've rarely had to admonish my athletes," said Rizzo. "And if I had, it's usually something like if I hear a kid [cursing] or horsing around. It goes back to [how I think players should represent themselves]."

Managing athletes' egos is also a job that coaches must master in order to effectively lead.

"You can't, as a coach, keep everyone happy," said Rickrode. "I was always a firm believer that if everybody in the world likes you, I'm not sure you've done everything right. You kind of have to do what's best for the team and what you feel is the right thing to do."

"I had a situation some time ago when a kid made a little spectacle of himself after the game in front of some fans and I suspended him for two games," he added. "I had some people fight me on it and I decided I wasn't [going] to back down from it. They could do whatever they wanted to do to me but I wasn't going to back down from that conviction; you have to be willing to treat your star player just the same as you would anyone else as a coach."

"It goes both ways," said Leicht, of massaging players' egos. "Some athletes who were standouts in high school have egos when they get here, but then find themselves surrounded by others who are also talented. In those situations they can get overwhelmed and you have to give them time to get adjusted, maybe give them a word of encouragement."

***Check back next week for Part III in the series, which discusses the struggles and rewards of coaching.*

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The Beacon/Melissa Polchinski

As the rest of his team looks on, senior Chris Gulla (3) shoots a free throw during Wilkes University's senior night contest on Saturday against its cross-town rival King's College. The Colonels lost the game, 77-56, thanks to some hot shooting by the Monarchs, who made 11 three-point shots compared to Wilkes's one. King's (12-13, 8-6) took the season series with the win, dropping the Colonels to (13-12, 4-10). In his final regular-season home match of his collegiate career, Gulla finished with eight points, three rebounds, and a steal in 25 minutes of action.

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Monarchs conquer Colonels

Losses to DeSales, King's leave women on 11-game skid

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA

Sports Editor

It was a tale of two teams going in opposite directions last Tuesday – DeSales riding an eight game winning streak, Wilkes looking for its first victory since January 13.

Halfway through the first half, it was obvious that fortunes would not change.

After a back and forth 12 minutes that saw Wilkes on top after a three from freshman Angela Palmerio, DeSales clamped down on defense and cranked up the offense.

The Bulldogs forced turnover after turnover, capitalizing in transition with fast break points, ending the half on a 24-4 run. The Lady Colonels shot only 19 percent from the field, and had 19 turnovers in the period. DeSales, on the other hand, committed just nine turnovers, and hit nearly half the shots they put up.

The second half was more of the same story.

The Bulldogs stretched the lead out to 30 points and never looked back, thumping the Lady Colonels 76-42, extending their win streak to nine games.

Freshman Megan Kazmerski led the Colonels with 12 points, while Palmiero chipped in with 10. Junior Brittany Ely recorded her second double-digit rebounding game in a row, snatching 10 boards.

Wilkes committed almost as many turnovers (33) as they had points (42) in the game, and shot just 25 percent from the field.

After dropping their 10th straight game Thursday to Eastern, cross-town rival King's was in the house for a pink out this past Saturday, with all proceeds benefitting breast cancer awareness.

King's came into the game looking to get up over .500, while Wilkes was looking to end its rough season on a high note. In a game full of offensive fireworks, King's chalked up the win, 90-61.

Julia Lynott had a field day in the middle, dropping 27 points and snagging 14 rebounds for the Lady Monarchs, with many of her points coming after cleaning up the boards on the offensive end.

"You got to try and shut everyone else down and get any rebounds that don't go in and play hard," said Wilkes head coach Rachel Emmerthal. "You do what you can do, and if you can say you left everything on the floor, there's nothing else I can do, there's nothing else you can do."

Devastated by a rash of injuries late in the season, the Lady Colonels came out hungry early, dashing out to 9-4 lead, slashing to



The Beacon/Allison Roth

Freshman Morgan Thomas battles for a loose ball last Tuesday versus DeSales. Thomas finished with three steals in 16 minutes of action in the 76-42 loss to the Bulldogs.

the hole and getting to the line early and often.

"We have a lot of athleticism with our young players, so we're trying to work to our advantages," said Emmerthal. "We tried to let the girls run and take it at them."

But the running would not last long. After Kayla Dick drilled a three from deep for King's, the Monarchs would go on a 19-2 run to blow the game wide open, and never looked back.

With Wilkes playing without six foot center Lindsey Gosse, King's utilized its marked size advantage and pounded the ball inside the entire game, living off second chance buckets. The Monarchs out-rebounded the Colonels 56-32, with 25 of those boards coming on the offensive end.

"We had to pretty much go five guards all night," said junior Brittany Ely, who finished the night with eight points and three rebounds. "We had our girls that were playing down low front the post which made us rely on our help defense being there. A lot of times they weren't there, and we got into foul trouble early."

The Colonels would cut the lead to nine during the second half after freshman Amanda Pawlowski was fouled hard on a layup and converted the and-one. But King's responded all night long, answering every run by the Colonels with a larger run of their own.

Kazmerski filled out the stat sheet for the Colonels, recording 16 points, 13 rebounds, six steals and five assists on the night. Sophomore Lyndsay Ellis chipped in with 10 points, while fellow freshman Pawlowski added eight.

The loss dropped the Colonels to 3-22 on the season, 1-13 in Freedom Conference play. But Emmerthal was optimistic after the game, already looking forward to next season.

"It's a matter of putting everything together...we just ran out of time," said Emmerthal. "The best part about this year was that it was a great experience for all of them. We don't have any seniors. As long as they keep their heads up and work hard in the offseason, we have a lot of opportunities."

With the entire team returning fully intact next year, there's hope that this season was an opportunity to grow for the young Colonels, who had five freshman log plenty of minutes.

"Experience is going to help a lot," said Ely. "We have a lot of local girls, and they figured out what its like to play, figured out what the conference is about. We know we can compete in the conference so it should give us a lot of confidence heading into next year."

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BY THE NUMBERS

0

Number of seniors on this year's team. The entire group of players returns intact next season.

1

Number of girls that ended the season averaging double figures in scoring. That player was freshman Megan Kazmerski, who ended the season averaging 11.5 points per game.

3

Number of wins the Lady Colonels had on the season, down from the 11 wins they had last season, which was the second biggest turnaround in NCAA Division III history.

11

Length of losing streak the women ended the season on. Their last victory came January 13th, versus Eastern.

