

The Beacon - February 10, 2015



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THE BEACON

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.



The Great American Trailer Park
New musical opens this weekend
more on page 10

Courtesy of Teresa Fallon

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor: sarah.bedford@wilkes.edu

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Beacon Briefs

Adventures in Reading Program to Begin on Feb. 18

The Wilkes University School of Education is sponsoring Adventures in Reading, an after-school reading program for children in grades Pre-K through five. Teacher Education candidates will present innovative learning opportunities across the content areas with a focus on vocabulary and comprehension enrichment. The series of seven sessions, which is free of charge, begins on Feb. 18 from 4 to 5 p.m. on the second floor of Breiseth Hall. Contact Dr. Diane Polachek at diane.polachek@wilkes.edu for more information and registration forms.

Off Campus Federal Work Study Positions Available

The Civic Engagement Office has several off-campus federal work study positions available at local non-profit agencies. Please contact Megan Valkenburg at megan.boone@wilkes.edu for more information.

Tax Form 1098-T Tuition Statement is Now Available

Tax Form 1098-T Tuition Statement is now available online. You can access your 1098-T online at mywilkes.wilkes.edu. Enter your username and password, select Student Services tab and then select Tuition Statement (Form 1098-T) under My Records.

Alumni Association Scholarship

Do you have a parent or grandparent who graduated from Wilkes? If so, you may qualify for the Alumni Scholarship. Deadline is Feb. 27.

SWB RailRiders Tickets Fundraiser for Cheerleading

The Wilkes University cheerleaders are selling field-level reserved tickets for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders baseball game on April 11 at 4:05pm. This is a "Giveaway Game," so the first 2,500 fans into the stadium will receive a free giveaway item. The shuttles have been reserved and seats will be saved on a first-come, first-serve basis! All faculty, staff, students, and community members are welcome to join us for this trip. Ticket orders will be taken every Tuesday and Thursday in the Henry Student Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., by contacting any cheerleader or Coach Jessica Short at jessica.short@wilkes.edu.

PBL Soda Tab Collection

Wilkes PBL will be doing soda tab collection for donation. Soda tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Donations will be collected in any of the jars around campus until April 18.

SG notes: Adventures in Science funds; IEEE, Big Event request

By Taylor Ryan
Staff Writer

Wilkes University's Student Government held its weekly meeting on Wednesday.

Last week, The Adventures in Science organization requested \$2,500 to fund its annual event for local fifth graders. The money will go toward lab goggles, lab supplies and T-shirts. The motion was passed by Student Government and the money was allotted to the organization.

Some new business proposed to the group included the IEEE Student Chapter requesting funding for the annual Engineering Olympics that will be held at Wilkes University. The organization invites 12 local high schools to compete in the all-day event. The engineering students create five events for the high school students to all compete in. The group is requesting funding of \$3,895. This money will be used to cover the awards for all of the winners, food to be provided, the supplies needed to put together each event, T-shirts for the volunteers, and all of the maintenance fees, including the 60

tables and 150 chairs. Student Government members will cast their final vote in the meeting next week.

Other topics that were covered in this week's meeting included the annual Big Event which will be April 25 this year. This year's total has come to \$3,292.77. This cost has been used to cover the breakfast and BBQ lunch as well as T-shirts and drawstring bags for each volunteer. It was also announced that there will be a new design.

Some new ideas had been generating throughout the Conference Committee Council. The committee has proposed adding a set in stone budget given to each conference that is brought to Wilkes. Nothing has been decided, but the ideas will continue to be generated.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report. The current budget is as follows: All College, \$47,086.37; General Funds, \$3,706.20; Conference, \$5,000.00; and Spirit, \$1,250; for a total of: \$57,042.57.



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High profile sexual assault trial sparks conversation

Bystander Intervention program, student leaders, peers

By Sarah Bedford
News Editor

The case surrounding four Vanderbilt University football players and a young woman has left college students across the country in shock.

Brandon Vandenburg, 21, and Cory Batey, 20, former Vanderbilt University football players, were found guilty of raping a peer in a Vanderbilt dorm in June 2013. Two other men, Brandon Banks and Jaborian McKenzie, both 20, are currently awaiting trial.

The woman, who could not recall the event, viewed videos that had surfaced of the crime, where she was able to point out her assailants.

The crime which has taken on numerous layers, has brought into question the role of bystander intervention in such instances.

Dr. Philip Ruthkosky, Associate Dean of Student Development and Wilkes University's Deputy Title IX Coordinator weighed in on the event.

"The Vanderbilt case in and of itself, the crime, the rape that was perpetrated was atrocious," Ruthkosky said.

Ruthkosky explained that sexual assault is a common topic at the university setting and one Wilkes takes very seriously.

"Our most important responsibility is to protect the safety and well being of our students," Ruthkosky said.

One such way the university attempts to educate students on sexual assaults is through various programming such as the newly implemented Bystander Intervention program which was created in Fall 2014.

The program, which involves faculty, staff and approximately 20 student leaders, allows for a range of interactions from face to face conversations to the handing out of

brochures to freshman students.

"We're able to challenge students on the critical thinking scale in respect to, here's a situation, how do you evaluate what you're seeing here?... How do you analyze what's the best action?" said Ruthkosky.

The program aims to not only educate students how to prevent sexual assaults but also to "attack the rhetoric" such as victim blaming when dealing with these cases as well as correct any myths.

Senior political science and international studies major Kayla Rooney, who presented with the program felt that it has been very beneficial.

"I thought the program was extremely successful and I felt like we really made an impact on first year students by educating them on the truths about sexual assault and our responsibility to try and help someone we see in a possible bad situation," Rooney said.

Ruthkosky explained that one such fact students do not realize is that 90% of sexual assaults on college campus are between acquaintances.

"We have the culture at this institution that when you come to campus, it's not only an expectation but an obligation that you look out for and respect each other and there's ways to do that without putting yourself at risk," said Ruthkosky.

Ruthkosky explained that education on sexual assault is not a single conversation but one that must be reinforced to prepare students for any situation.

"I would like to think our students have some tools in their toolkit to say, I can break this up and in a nonviolent manner."

Ruthkosky did express that he knows that this is not always easy.

Vanderbilt University faced more scrutiny days after the trial began as a previously scheduled sex seminar entitled, "How to

be Brilliant in Bed" commonly hosted at universities was held. While some welcomed the event, others found it to be poor timing.

"I don't know if the answer is to stop doing everything out of respect. There are ways to be empathic to a victim such as providing counseling services and making arrangements but the fact is new students continue to come in and continue to need to be educated on this topic," explained Ruthkosky.

Through the Bystander Intervention Program, Ruthkosky hopes that students will be aware of resources that are available to them.

According to the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, in accordance with the Clery Act, in 2013, a total of four "forcible sex offenses" took place.

The Clery Act requires all universities to publish crime and fire statistics which is available at the university to all.

The issue with these numbers according to Ruthkosky is that it only accounts for those events the university is aware of.

"A large percent of assaults, rapes, go unreported," said Ruthkosky.

The university encourages students who have been a victim of sexual assault or know of an incident to reach out.

"There are people who are here who care about you and you're not alone," Ruthkosky said.

Along with Wilkes Student Affairs, campus counseling, faculty and staff, students may also reach out to Victims Resource Center that has a 24-hour hotline, (570) 823-0765.



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Know the facts:

- Freshmen and sophomores are at greater risk for victimization than upperclassmen
- Sexual assaults were most likely to occur in September, October and November, on Friday or Saturday nights, between midnight and 6 a.m.
- Almost 12.8% of completed rapes, 35% of attempted rapes, and 22.9% of threatened rapes happened during a date
- 4.7% of women reported being raped in college since the beginning of the year and 72% happened when the victims were so intoxicated they were unable to consent or refuse

Statistics from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Wilkes receives \$40,000 to support science program

Wilkes University recently received a \$40,000 gift from UGI Utilities, Inc., through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program.

The gift will support the university's Women Empowered by Science program.

Women Empowered by Science offers 6th grade girls the opportunity to engage with Wilkes faculty and science students. The groups interact in laboratory and field

science exercises on campus throughout the course of the school year.

The WEBS Summer Camp, popular with many girls in the local area, gives the young women an opportunity to sample many areas of the sciences through investigative laboratories and projects.

The program caters to young women who have an interest in the sciences, have

potential for a career in the sciences and wish to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to reach their full potential in this field.

The program is part of the university's commitment to providing multiple opportunities for strengthening engagement with science among public school students.

For additional information on WEBS,

go to <http://www.wilkes.edu/academics/colleges/science-and-engineering/biology-health-sciences/women-empowered-by-science-webs/what-is-webs.aspx>

If you are interested in donating to Wilkes through the EITC program, or would like to speak to someone about WEBS, contact Lauren Pluskey, Director of Annual Giving at Wilkes at 570-408-4331.

Student Profile: Sophomore Ben Collins working toward dreams with ROTC

By Taylor Ryan
Staff Writer

Have trouble getting up for some of your morning classes?

Ben Collins has just the opposite problem. He can't stay in bed past 6 a.m.

As a sophomore criminology major, Ben is on a clearly defined path to fulfilling his dreams. He has chosen this path to make his dad proud.

"I want to make a career out of the military, I am training myself for that career now," Ben said.

Ben comes from a military background and has had big goals for himself from day one. He is driven, hardworking, and won't take defeat from anyone. He works every day to make himself better.

It takes a special kind of person to be as self-motivated as he is, between football, school and ROTC he is finding himself each day.

Ben came here originally after being recruited for the football team. He is on the offensive line and his job is to protect the quarterback.

"Being on the offensive line you learn pretty quickly that you do whatever it takes to protect your teammate. No one will get past you, and sack him."

Ben described football as just one of his families.

"We are instructed from the first day of camp that this is our family, and without that mentality we will not be successful, because we have to lean on one another each and every game and practice."

The Wilkes University football team is just one of his families that he described. The other is his ROTC family.

Ben is a member of the ROTC program and a member of the football team as well as a full time student.

A glimpse into his schedule during football season is overwhelming.

Physical training begins at 5 a.m. Monday through Friday. Then, he goes to the Martz Center to lift afterward -- he calls this his "me time."

Next, it's class at 10 a.m. back on campus. Then, he makes his way over to King's College for his afternoon military classes. He

comes back to Wilkes for classes from 1-3 p.m. and then goes back over to the Marts Center for a team lift. As a member of the football team, this is a requirement four days a week. He then finishes out his crazy day with football practice from 7:45-9:45 p.m.

After that, he usually stays up and does homework until about 1 a.m. Then it starts all over again at 5 a.m.

This non-stop schedule is just a daily routine for Ben.

"I really don't know how he does it, we've been roommates for two years now and I'm still trying to figure it out," says his roommate, sophomore business major, Ryan Dupre.

Ben has known for quite some time that this is what he wanted to do.

"I grew up with my dad in my ear, how he never had the chance to serve our country, due to medical issues," said Ben.

Now Ben has the chance to make his and his Dad's dreams come true.

"I'll make it there one day, and once I do, I'll look back and thank my Dad for pushing me and having the courage for me."

After graduating from Wilkes University, Ben plans to go into the Army and work in the Armor Division. He wants to continue to make his family proud and use all of his training from these four years to serve his country.

"I am just looking forward to getting where I want to, but I'm also enjoying the road to get there. Well, trying to," Ben said.

Ben works hard at everything he does, but also attempts to have a balanced social life.

"He goes out on the weekends just like the rest of us, and has fun while he's out, it's not all work," said fellow teammate, sophomore business major, Nate Hughes.

Ben has had a girlfriend, Alyssa Colangelo,



The Beacon/ Gabby Glinski

Collins, pictured above, comes from a military background. Having a strong ties to family values, Collins feels a bond with those on the football team as well as his peers in the ROTC program.

for about two years.

"She helps me get through the hard days," he said

The couple goes to different colleges and only usually sees each other over breaks or some short weekends.

"She has always been really understanding about how I'm always so busy."

Ben hopes to continue his hard work ethic, and keep improving, both physically and mentally.

"Anyone can do it, but it takes someone who is mentally tough to continue to do it, and that's what I'm training myself for."



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Army ROTC additional information

By Taylor Ryan
Staff Writer

The Army ROTC program is offered at Wilkes University and is one of 11 full partnership programs within the Royal Warrior Battalion.

The Royal Warrior Battalion was recently recognized as being one of the top 15% of all ROTC programs in the country. The classes for this program are held at King's College.

The ROTC program's focus is on developing leadership skills in its students, and having these skills transfer over to the students' careers in the Army. After graduation these students will finish off the program as a second lieutenant in the Army, Army National Guard or the Army Reserve.

Any student interested can take advantage of the leadership training in ROTC with no obligations for the first two years.

This program offers fully funded academic scholarships to include all books and fees for students interested in careers in the Army.

For more information, students can contact The Enrollment Officer, Major Bill Ramsey GS, herbertramsey@kings.edu

or visit www.goarmy.com/rotc or <http://matrix.scranton.edu/rotc/> for additional resources



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Meet your potential 2016 presidential candidates

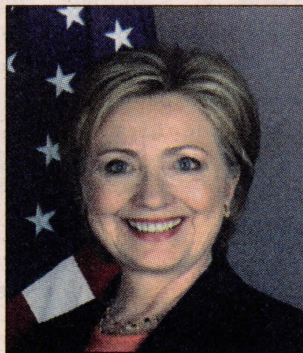
By Pat Walther
Assistant News Editor

Even though the next presidential election is over a year away, front-runners are already beginning to form among the hordes of those seeking the office of the forty-fifth President of the United States. A few are particularly worthy of note.

Democrats

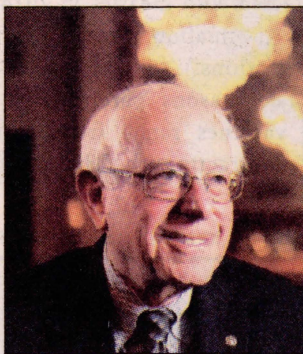
Hillary Clinton

Clinton is a former Secretary of State, senator from New York and First Lady. A highly recognizable figure, she has been involved in American political affairs since 1993. Clinton ran for president in 2008 and polled extremely well with Democrats, though she ultimately lost in the primaries to Barack Obama. Clinton has not yet announced whether she intends to run in 2016, but has said that she intends to announce her decision in "early 2015."



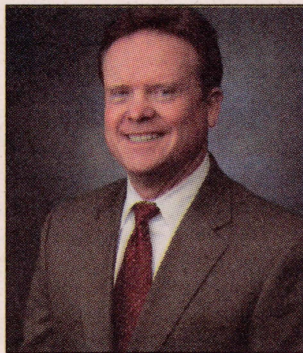
Bernie Sanders

Sanders is an independent senator from Vermont. A self-described "democratic socialist," Sanders is well known for his public criticisms of Wall Street, big business and the excesses of money in politics. He has praised Scandinavian-style social democracy and is an outspoken proponent of socialized medicine. Sanders has stated that he is "prepared to run for president in 2016," but has not officially announced a campaign



Jim Webb

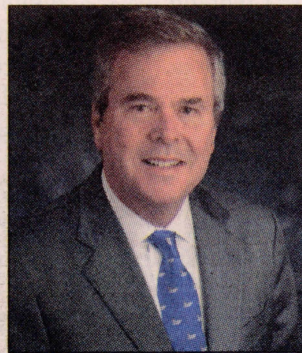
Webb, a former senator from Virginia and a Marine veteran who fought in Vietnam, has been involved in some facet of American politics since 1984. He's also an Emmy-award winning journalist, a filmmaker and an author of ten books. Webb retired from his senatorial position in 2012 and has since formed an exploratory committee in preparation to run for president in 2016.



Republicans

Jeb Bush

Bush, son of former president George H.W. Bush and younger brother of former president George W. Bush, served as governor of Florida from 1999 to 2007. Credited with initiating improvements in the environment as well as reforming Florida's education system, Bush has frequently been mentioned by mass-media outlets as a possible presidential candidate in 2016. On December 16, 2014, Bush announced he would "explore the possibility of running for president."



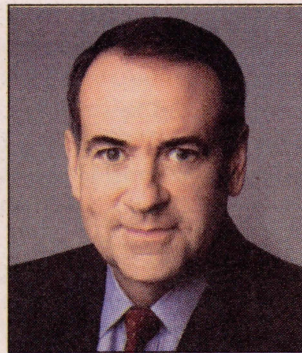
Rand Paul

Paul is a senator from Kentucky known nationally for his involvement with the Tea Party movement. Son of former congressman and two-time Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul, he has garnered attention for his political positions that have led to clashes with both Democrats and Republicans. Paul is seen as a likely Republican frontrunner in the 2016 presidential election, but has not formally announced if he plans to run.



Mike Huckabee

Huckabee served as the governor of Arkansas from 1996 to 2007 and ran for the Republican nomination for president in 2008. After being defeated by John McCain, Huckabee began hosting an eponymous talk show on the Fox News Channel. Huckabee ended the show's production on January 3, 2015 in order to focus his time on investigating the possibility of a 2016 presidential candidacy.



Measles outbreak: Pennsylvania among those states with confirmed cases; debate as to whether to vaccinate continues

By Gabby Glinski
News Photographer

As the measles outbreak in California continues to swell, attention has been drawn to parents to vaccinate their children from measles and other diseases.

According to public health officials, a small but growing number of individuals are eschewing vaccinations for their children, which led to a record year for measles cases in 2014. In the past year, the U.S. recorded 644 cases of measles, the highest number since 1994.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that lives in the throat and nose mucus of an infected person, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is particularly problematic because it can live on surfaces or in the air where someone coughed or sneezed for up to two hours.

The current outbreak centered in Disneyland, California, has added 18

new cases of measles to the CDC official outbreak tally in the past week.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 102 people in 14 states have become infected with measles.

Those states include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington.

The several dozen people who were exposed to the measles at Disneyland were not vaccinated.

"I just want people to know the facts and science and the information," President Barack Obama

said, in an interview with the Washington Post. "And the fact is that a major success of our civilization is our ability to prevent disease that in the past devastated folks. And measles is preventable."

Research supports the idea that vaccination is as much an issue of public health as it is personal health. States

with stricter school and day care laws that require vaccinations have higher immunization rates and lower measles infection rates.

"We have seat belt laws," Patsy Stinchfield, director of Pediatric Infectious Disease Services at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota told the Huffington Post. "We would never think to just lay that newborn baby down in the front seat and say, 'I don't really believe in car seats' or 'I don't really want to buckle my child up'... We should have the same kind of vigor when it comes to protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases."

Even though vaccines prevent diseases, not all parents are on board to let their child get the shot.

During a recent press call, Assistant Surgeon General Dr. Anne Schuchat recorded that 79 percent of people infected with measles in 2014 did not get the vaccination due to "personal belief exemptions."

The reasons parents have to say no to vaccines range from autism rumors to contracting the disease through the vaccine.

According to the CDC, the measles virus is contagious long before symptoms appear. One person infected with measles can spread it to an average of 18 other people. It is an airborne virus and can linger in the air and on surfaces after the infected person has left the room.

In 2014, the CDC reported 23 measles outbreaks, including a major outbreak among unvaccinated Amish communities in Ohio. In 2013, that number was considerably lower, with 11 outbreaks being reported, the largest having 58 cases.

Earlier this week, Lancaster County, Pa. media reported a possible measles case in Lancaster County. Additional information on the case was unavailable at press.

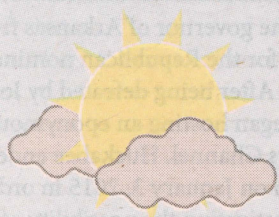
For more information about measles, see the Pennsylvania Department of Health website at www.health.state.pa.us/pdf/epi/MeaslesFactSheet.pdf. Additional information from CDC is also available at www.cdc.gov.



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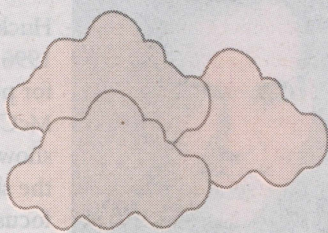
Beacon Weather Beat: Feb. 10-13

Tues.



32°
13°
Morning clouds

Wed.



33°
22°
Mostly cloudy

Thurs.



25°
1°
Mostly cloudy

Fri.



10°
-2°
Morning Clouds

Forecast as of Feb. 6 taken from weather.com

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have a story or want your event to be featured? Contact the Life, A&E Editor: Nicole.Zukowski@wilkes.edu

When one plus one equals three

By Nicole Zukowski
Life, A&E Editor

The expression goes, 'It takes two to tango.'

One man and one woman dance the night away under the sheets and nine months later a baby is staring up at them. They are now new parents.

But how did this happen? She was on the pill.

Last Tuesday night BACCHUS held "Sexual Jeopardy" in the Ballroom of the Henry Student Center.

The host for the night, Anne Holmes, read surprising statistics making the crowd gasp throughout the night.

One fact in particular, was that many women who take oral contraceptions are not taking them correctly.

Contraceptions only work when used properly. Knowing the facts and reading the instructions can prevent unexpected outcomes.

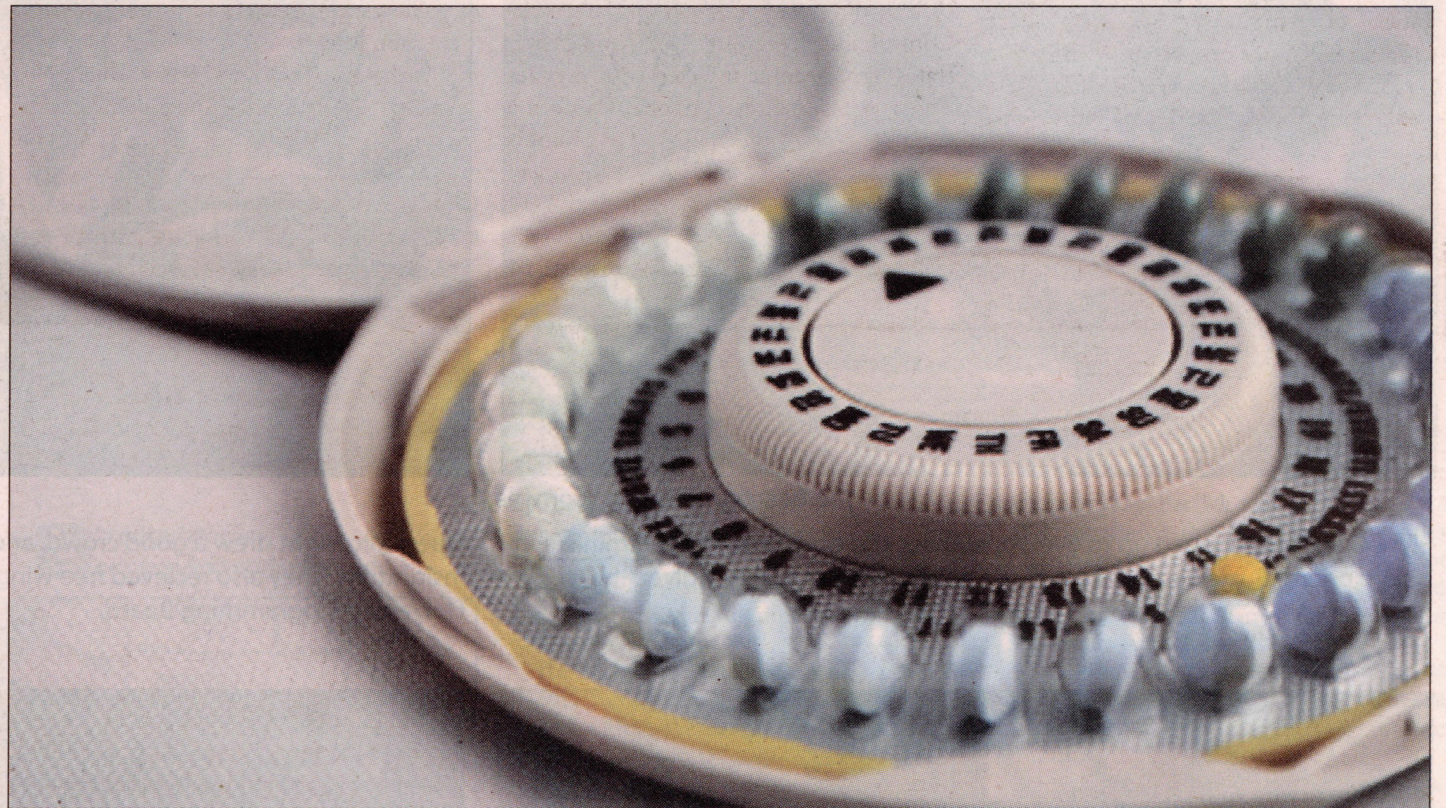
"I feel that college students are more prone to being sexually active and therefore it is vital to be educated in sex education and the practices of safe sex in general," junior communication studies major, Amanda Fulk, said.

Ways of practicing safe sex come from educating oneself about the different forms of contraceptives and the prevention of sexual transmitted infections, STIs.

There is a common misconception that birth control is only a female responsibility because the various forms of female contraceptives come to mind.

"I think it is important that both men and women know the facts about birth control for a couple of reasons," Fulk said. "First off, the pill does not protect either partner from sexually transmitted diseases. Secondly, there is always a slim chance of pregnancy (with) a condom regardless if you are on the pill or not.

"Again, both men and women should be educated when it comes to birth control



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Safe sex is the responsibility of all parties involved and informing oneself about the methods of safe sex is the first step.

to help practice the need for safe sex."

Practicing safe sex, whether it is a random one time night or a serious relationship, should be of priority.

"If it's just a hook up, you should definitely wear a condom as the form of birth control because you don't know where or who else she's been," sophomore Jeff Horwith said.

Sexual activity with another person calls for a sense of trust and a conversation about sexual history. Talking before the sexual action is the responsible way of protecting yourself, but the need of action with condoms and other methods of birth control is just as important.

"If you're just hooking up with her, use a condom because if she's having sex with you without dating there's a good chance she's having sex with someone else, too.

Not always true, but it's a solid rule of thumb to avoid the clap (chlamydia)," Britton Heim said.

It is reported that one of the most common STIs among people between the ages of 15 to 24 is chlamydia. Chlamydia is the most prevalent bacterial STI in the United States, with more than 1 million new cases reported annually. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention advise active females aged 25 years or younger to get tested for chlamydia every year because chlamydia can affect the chances of fertility.


"Most college students are between the ages of 17 to 24, which has been found to be the group that is most susceptible to new STI infections. People in this age group acquire almost half of all new STIs

every year, with individuals between the ages of 20 to 24 accounting for the highest infection rates," reported Ask Alice, an informational website sponsored by Columbia University.

Practicing safe sex is the responsibility of every person to take care of themselves.

The Wilkes Health and Wellness Services Department in Passan Hall offers free and confidential testing. The next scheduled days for these tests are March 19 from 3 to 5 p.m. and April 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Any questions on sex education contact Wilkes Health and Wellness Services Department in Passan Hall or go to AskAlice.com.

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WUPB sponsors Open-Mic Night for students



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Elyse Guzewicz opened up to everyone about the true meaning of feminism in a slam poem. Guzewicz is a freshman English major at Wilkes University



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Open-Mic Night drew a good crowd, and students watched each performance insightfully. They also recieved free wings and beverages provided by the Wilkes University Programming Board.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Danica DeMesa and Linai Galarza sang "We May Only Have Tonight" as a duet.



The Beacon/ Rebecca Voorhees

Members of the Guitar Club played songs throughout the night to help recruit new musicians.

She said, He said

The unspoken rules of dating and relationships

By Nicole Zukowski
Life, A&E Editor

The three-hour shopping trip for just the right outfit. The 30 minute shower, 35 minutes of making every strand of hair on your head perfect, 15 minutes of putting on makeup, and 10 minutes of changing outfits because you were convinced the other one made you look fat. Four and a half hours to accomplish a look that says "I tried to look presentable for you and did put a lot of effort in myself, but don't get a big head about it."

Most first dates are nerve wracking experiences.

It is the butterflies in the gut, the doubt that the other person actually has an interest in you and the hours it takes to get ready. In reality, you may have spent more time getting ready than you did on the date. Unless the date flows with ease. Then, an entirely different set of questions floods the mind: When the date should end? The doorstep, maybe after a late night coffee or maybe a morning coffee?

The general hope of the first date is that it goes well and a second one will come, eventually leading to the 'Facebook-official' relationship status.

"You are obviously nervous, your expectations are that you hope the night is going to end full of accomplishments," Natalie Smirne, a Wilkes University psychology major, said. "Overall, you start to think of things that can go wrong, but if you're lucky like me, the worrying will all be for nothing."

There are no written rules of dating, yet there may be several UNwritten ones.

"I think the guy should ask the girl out and manners are important," senior communication studies major Kayla Bucci said.

A healthy relationship today is mostly credited to good interpersonal communication skills, just like it was decades ago.

"I think there should be mutual feelings and trust," Smirne said. "Both should be willing to make the relationship work."

Another unspoken rule is that you should keep a sense of who you were before the significant other came into your

life. With that in mind, compromising is also important.

"Friends are important. You need to take time for yourself and do the things that you love doing," Smirne said. "But in a relationship there should be a 50/50, give and take, too. Couples should be willing to do things for the other person."

Smirne also had some advice about Valentine's Day.

"The guy or girl should make the extra effort. If you really have someone special in mind to go for, do not wait or be afraid," Smirne said. "If you do find that special person, you should also do your best to keep things exciting."

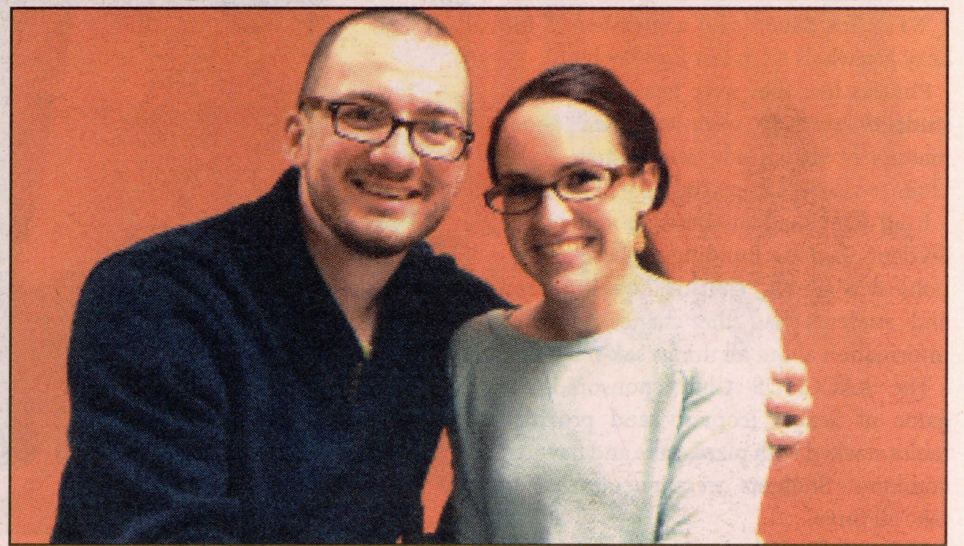
"I don't think it should be all about appearance either, I think, for a lot of guys, standards are too high and they expect too much out of the other person. This shouldn't be the case. If you look at a book by its cover, you are not getting the beauty of everything inside."

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The Beacon/ Marissa Spryn

Trust and letting the other know how much you care seems to work for Natalie and Jake's relationship.



The Beacon/Marissa Spryn

Jake Parrick and Natalie Smirne, his girlfriend and "best fishing partner", says she is also his greatest catch. The two have been dating for nearly three years.

By Justin Topa
Assistant Life, A&E Editor

After months of planning, sweaty palms and a well-written song, the girl had finally said yes to her suitor.

The story of Natalie Smirne and Jake Parrick began officially on April 7, 2012, a semester after Jake had set his eye on Natalie and began to win her over.

Parrick and Smirne are both graduates of Pittston Area Senior High School, but didn't get to know each other until sharing a biology class at Wilkes University during the fall 2011 semester. It was during this course that Parrick saw an opportunity to get to know Smirne.

He would head to class a half hour early each day so that he could move Smirne's desk into place, conveniently next to his own. After more than two years, Jake still finds that small acts of kindness help to keep the relationship thriving.

They shared their first "official" date seeing a scary movie, but the way in which Jake asked Natalie to be his girlfriend was much less ordinary. He brought Smirne to a secluded cottage, rowed her out to the middle of the lake and played her an original song.

"She deserved it," said Parrick, who added, "If you're going to do something, do it in a big way."

Jake said that, like most guys, he feels pressure this time of year to make Valentine's Day special for Natalie.

"Sometimes, I feel like I set the bar so high last year that I constantly have to do better

with each year," Parrick said.

Parrick shared that there are a few rules to keeping a successful relationship, most of which he has learned since the couple started dating. One essential element for a successful relationship is trust, began Parrick.

"I love how trusting she is and it really is important in a relationship to have that sense of trust. Of course, there is no reason she shouldn't trust me, either."

Parrick also cites being able to compromise in order to make his partner happy as another important element of dating.

"For instance, she's really cold all of the time and I'm really hot all of the time," he explained. "It could be the middle of the summer and she'll ask me to turn the heat on in the car and, of course, I do so she's comfortable. In the meantime, I crack the window hoping for a cool-down."

The most important 'rule' for dating, according to the happy boyfriend, is that you must continue the excitement most couples share at the beginning of their relationships well into the years. Parrick says he and Natalie continue to experience new adventures together, keeping the relationship a very happy one.

"I don't think other couples should make excuses about not doing things," said Jake. "Holding yourself back from new experiences with your significant other is going to leave both of you unsatisfied."

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Sex education is fun and games with Wilkes' Sexual Jeopardy

By Austin Ely
Staff Writer

"STDs for \$400," said a member of the Sexy Narwhals team last Tuesday night.

Phrases like that were heard by Wilkes students as they were educated about matters of sexual education when Anne Holmes visited campus on Feb. 3.

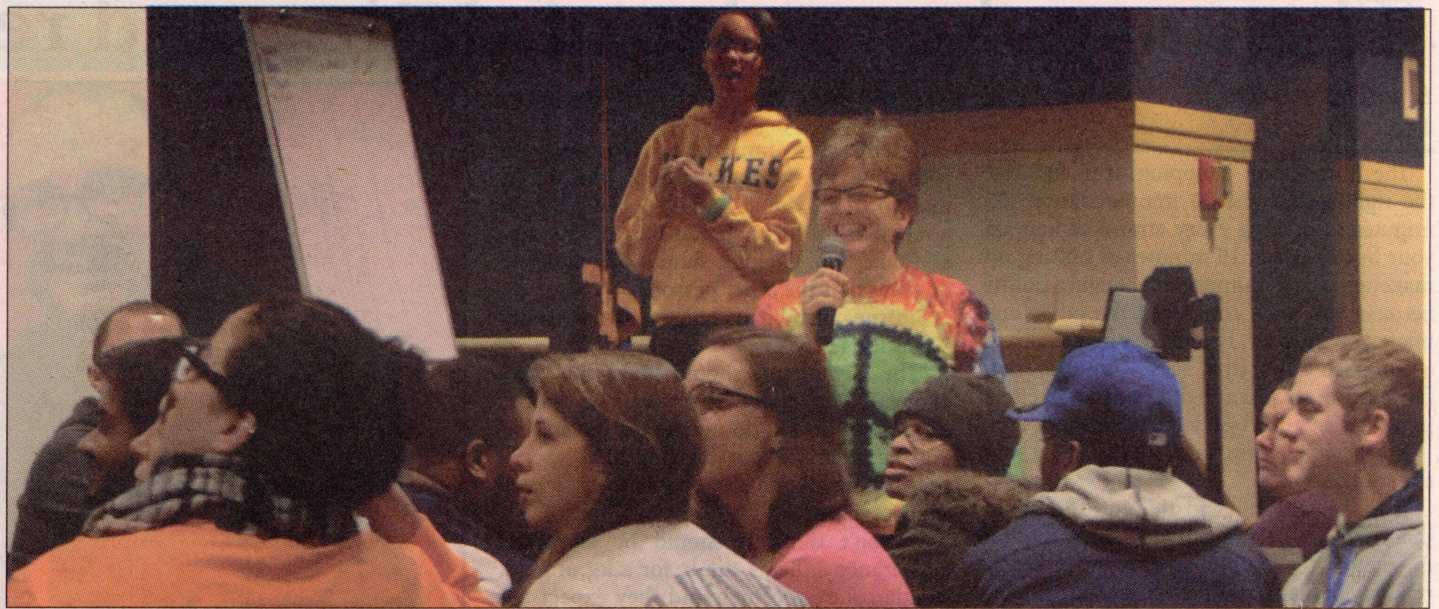
It all happened in the ballroom of the Student Union Building, where blow-pops flew about, chuckles were uttered and students had the chance to learn information about all things sex-related.

The BACCHUS Club sponsored the game of Sexual Jeopardy and provided tables stacked with pizza, cake and flavored condoms. Students were encouraged to take all three.

Holmes opened the show with some interesting questions from Dr. Debra Chapman's Biology 105 class.

As the night progressed, Holmes alternated between Jeopardy and those Biology 105 class questions. Jeopardy questions were directed to the five teams consisting of five participants.

Holmes talked about the importance and sanctity of one's own genitals over anyone else's and it remained a common theme throughout the game. Whenever the use of protection or the contraction of sexually transmitted infections (STI) or diseases (STDs) was brought up, the significance of



The Beacon/ Austin Ely

Anne Holmes hosted Sexual Jeopardy in the Ballroom of the Henry Student Center last Tuesday night. The main categories were anatomy of the human body, birth control, STDs and potpourri, which is a hodgepodge of different topics.

one's own genitals was also addressed.

Chapman said that her students, who had to write a review of the event for class, are often surprised with the presentation.

She agreed that Holmes is a very dynamic speaker and is able to be open about any topic. Also, Holmes is knowledgeable about the different types of relationships between people and she is able to address that as well.

Students in the audience who answered

an audience question correctly were awarded a blow-pop. Participants on the winning Sexual Jeopardy team received \$25 gift cards.

The winning team was Sexy Narwhals.

Shawn Carey, president of BACCHUS, was pleased at the turnout.

"Sexual Jeopardy is always a great event," he explained. "It gives students a chance to have fun while still being educated about the dangers of unprotected sex, STDs and

STIs, and also just how our body works.

"Ann (Holmes) always does such a great job and the students really enjoy it when she does the event."

Carey, who is graduating in May, added that he hopes the event continues next year, too.

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A sassy trailer park community visits Wilkes University

By Nicole Zukowski
Life, A&E Editor

A dysfunctional trailer park community, with all its hoot and howls, will soon be taking up home on the stage of the Dorothy Dickson Center.

The Wilkes Department of Visual and Performing Arts presents "The Great American Trailer Park Musical."

The musical will be showing at 8 p.m. on Feb. 13, 14, 20 and 21 and 2 p.m. on Feb. 15.

Those who have seen the musical describe it as having a cheeky script with an infectious score, as well as being comical. "Watching all the hard work and effort

that everyone in our department puts into each show is amazing," Simone Hanna, senior theatre arts major said.

"We as a collective group have learned from each other, and when I graduate I will take what we have accomplished and apply it to my future endeavors."

The musical sets the stage as a trailer park in Florida named Armadillo Acres. Together, married for 20 years, a couple's relationship is threatened by a new neighbor of the community, a stripper named Pippi.

An adulterous affair happens between Pippi and the husband, Norbert.

Apart from strippers and adultery,

Armadillo Acres also houses murderous ex-boyfriends, Cotsco and the Ice Capades.

The performance is based off the book by Betsy Kelso. The musical is directed by Jon Liebetrau accompanied with musical direction by Ken McGraw and choreography by Sean Harris.

Students and faculty can watch the performance for free with their Wilkes I.D. Students without an I.D. will be charged \$5, and adults without an I.D. will be charged \$10.

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Keep a eye
out for
"Alice in
Wonderland"
later in
April

"Vagina Monologues:" An act of ending violence

By Austin Ely
Staff Writer

In connection with V-Day, the "Vagina Monologues" will be performed at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 14 in the ballroom of the Student Union Building.

Students with their Wilkes I.D. get in for free; students without get in for \$5 while general admission is \$10.

The "Vagina Monologues" are dramatic readings first created by Eve Ensler. Ensler is a playwright, performer and activist. Ensler also created V-Day, which is a global movement to end violence against women and girls.

A reading of the "Vagina Monologues" is one of many events encouraged by Ensler and the V-Day organization. Its aim is to revitalize the public with the spirit to help end violence against women.

The monologues will be read by seven or eight actors, while staying true to the story of actual women. The real-life connotations the readings are expected to evoke an emotional response. It is also the hope of the performers that their production will help raise awareness of the issues surrounding

domestic and sexual violence against women.


Multiple organizations from throughout the Wyoming Valley will be in attendance with tables set up in the ballroom.

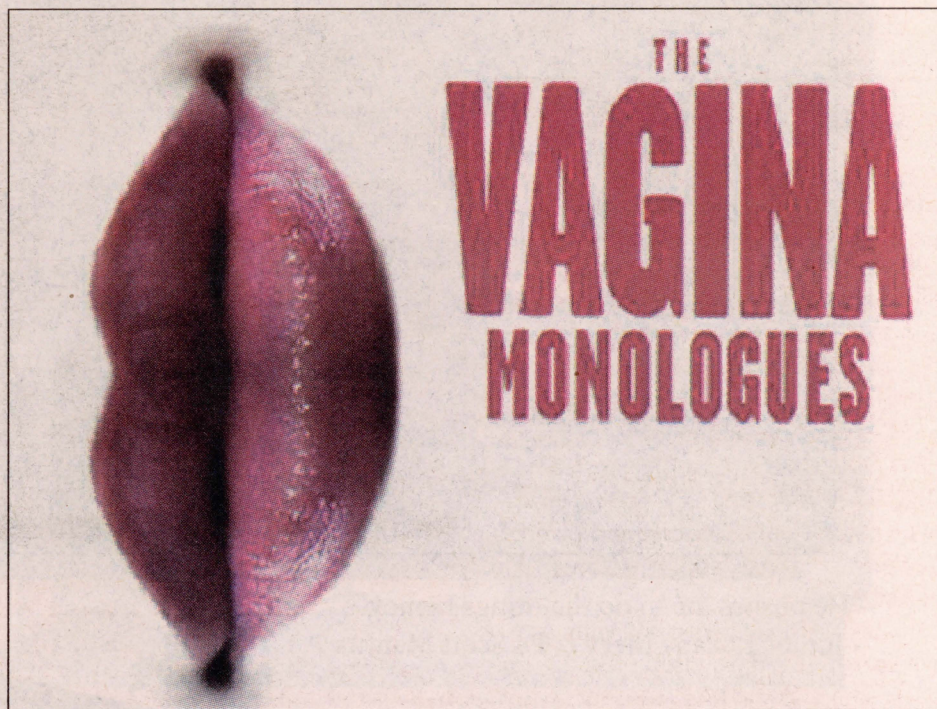
Organizations such as the Domestic Violence Service Center, Victim Resource Center and Planned Parenthood will be offering information to those who attend. T-Shirts and vagina-shaped lollipops will be sold, as well, with any proceeds raised to benefit their respective organizations.

Dr. Mark Allen, Dr. Thomas Baldino and Student Government made generous donations to the production, inspiring students and those from the general public to come, learn, participate and possibly donate as well.

"We appreciate any donations that will be made to any of the organizations," said Dr. Mia Briceño, the production's faculty adviser.

For any questions or information please contact Briceño at mia.briceno@wilkes.edu or Jennifer Magnotta, the director of the performance at jennifer.magnotta@wilkes.edu.

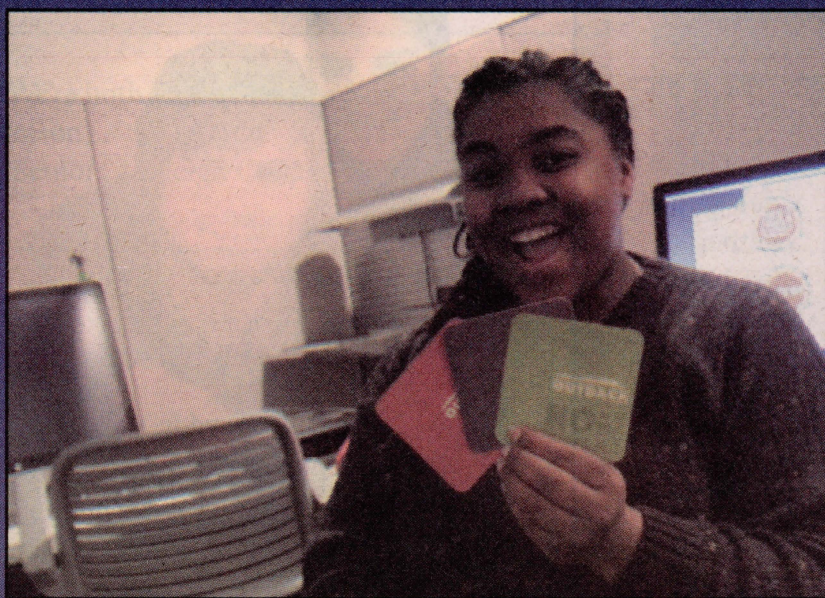
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Courtesy of Creative Commons

At 7 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 14, Wilkes students, faculty and staff will perform "Vagina Monologues."

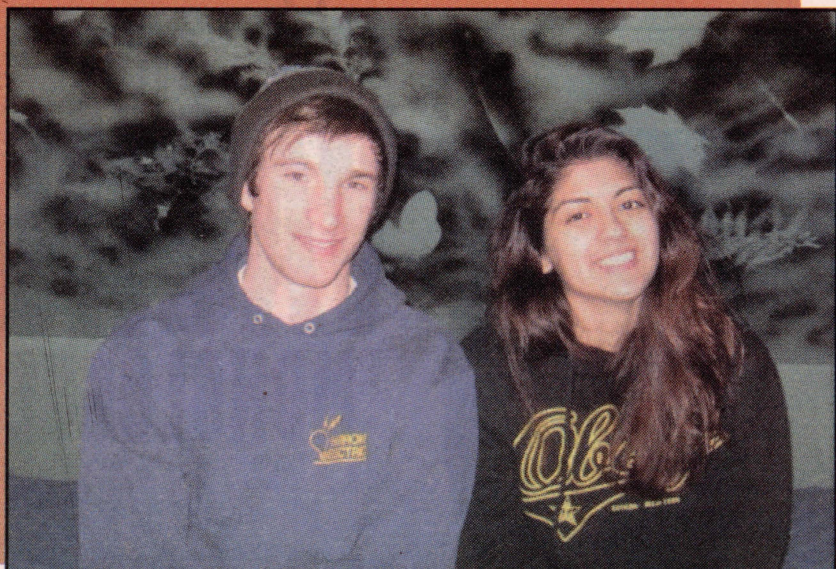
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The Beacon/Dan Lykens

"I stole these coasters for inspiration"

- Kahdijah Venable

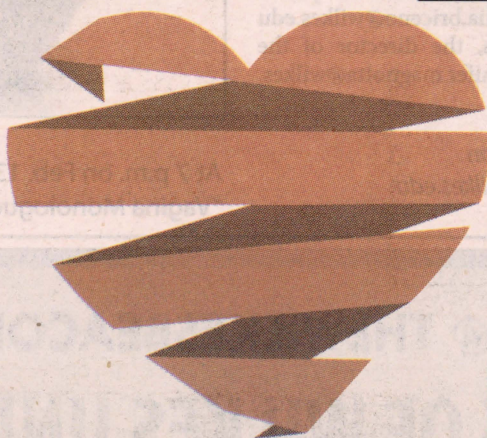


"He pushes me to do the things I enjoy."
- Junior Roxana Mery & P4 Scott Mantua



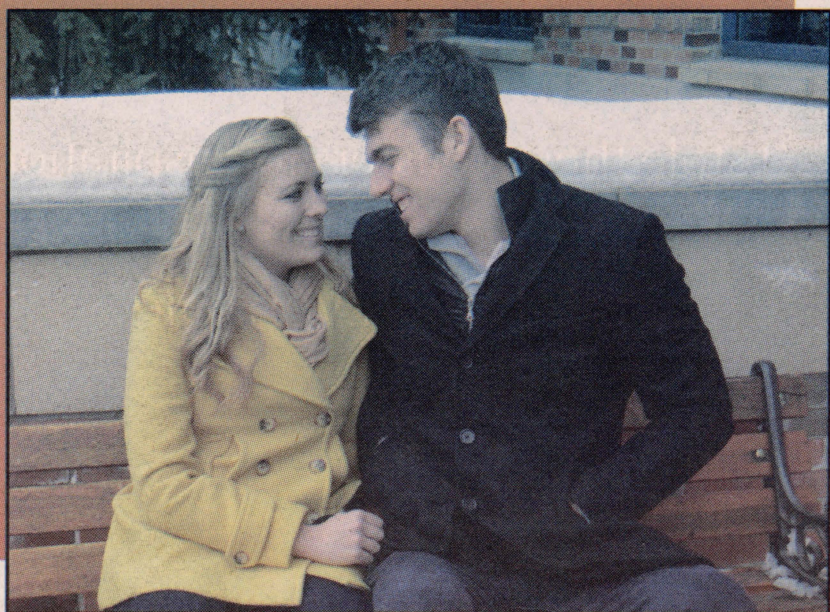
"He's just my best friend."
- Juniors Felicia Snyder & Roberto Ramirez

WILKES UNIVERSITY STUDENT



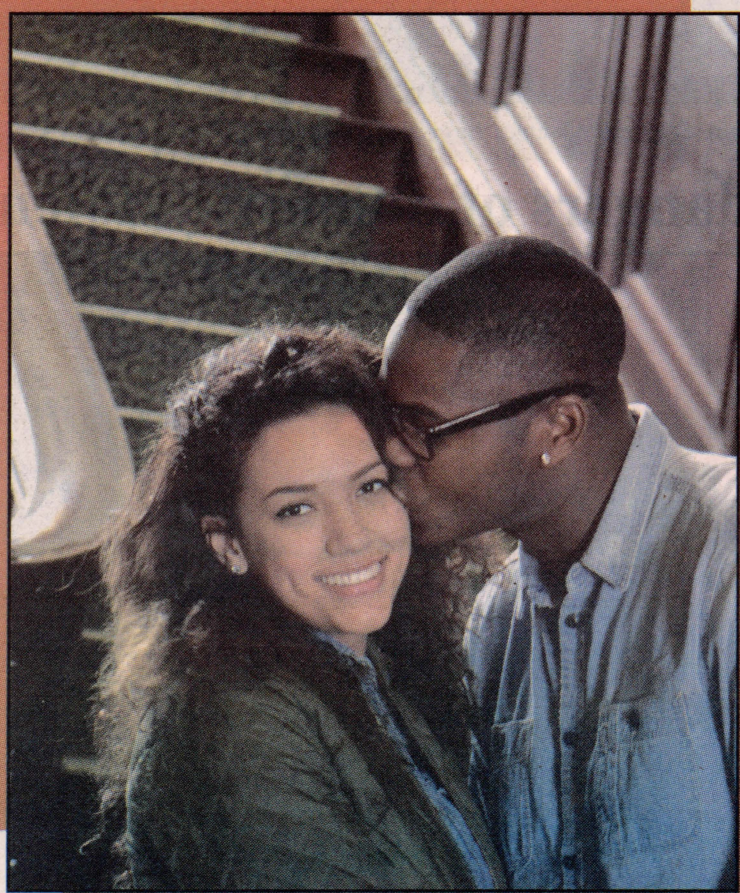
COUPLES

"She inspires me. She's my motivation, my muse."
- Juniors Adam Lubas & Kristine Kuriger



"I like that
we can both
be losers
and play
video games
together."
- Juniors Sofia
Soares &
Sean Mullins.





"Be with someone that motivates you and makes you do better."
- Seniors Jaleel Sterling & Kayla Rooney

"We're both Dr. Who enthusiasts!" [said in unison]
- Seniors Ashleigh Crispell & Zack Hill

Design by Steve Dziedziak

Photos by Gabby Glinski,
Purvit Patel, Marissa Spryn
and James Jaskolka



"Regardless of how life gets, or how stressful school is, I always know there's someone at home who wants to make it all OK."
- Junior Mike McCleaf & Sophomore Grace Cadigan



Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editor: frank.passalacqua@wilkes.edu

You Do Not Need Flowers Today: The dangers of domestic violence



Courtesy of Unsplash

By Allison Rossi
Opinion Copy Editor

"On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States — more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year," the National Domestic Violence hotline stated. Abusive relationships are unfortunately extremely common in the United States and around the world. Abusive relationships can occur in middle school, high school, college and even marriage. There are different types of abuse such as physical abuse or mental abuse.

At first in a relationship, there might be no indications of abuse. Abuse can occur progressively over time. There are possible signs of an abusive partner and/or relationship. Some indications are as follows: if your partner discourages you, if your partner shows jealousy of your friends and time spent away, discouraging you from spending time with family members, embarrassing you in a private or public setting, trying to control your expenses, and

even controlling who you associate yourself with.

You might be wondering why an individual would stay in this horror-stricken environment. There can be various reasons why a person would allow themselves to be treated this way. An individual could lack self esteem which might cause them to think that they will not be able to find another partner. An individual might be financially and emotionally dependent on their partner as well. This is where mental abuse can come into play. Another possible reason is that they are too fearful of their abuser.

In the mind of the victim, they might be in denial, they could become defensive of their abuser, or they could not find the courage and strength it takes to leave a romantic partner.

In the mind of the abuser, they want their partner to be completely isolated and emotionally dependent on them. If an individual is emotionally dependent and tied to another person, their choices and judgement may become clouded.

Paulette Kelly wrote a poem titled "I Got Flowers Today."

This poem tragically and beautifully depicts the thoughts of the abused. The poem states "I know he is sorry and didn't mean the things he said, because he sent me flowers today." Kelly continues to evoke the horrors of abusive relationships. The closing statement of the poem is: "It was a very special day. It was the day of my funeral. Last night he finally killed me. He beat me to death. If only I had gathered enough courage and strength to leave him, I would not have gotten flowers today."

Kelly's poem is shocking, horrific, and gives readers a reality check. This poem puts the reader into the mindset of the abused and then brings them back to reality by the horrible outcome. If only the abuser ended his or her unhealthy relationship earlier then that individual would not have died.

Leaving a romantic partner and or getting out of an abusive relationships is clearly easier said than done. That is why there are support groups, resources and hotlines

available for victims of abuse. One support group is the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The office is located on 3605 Vartan Way, Suite 101 Harrisburg PA 17110. The office phone number is (717) 545-6400 and they can also be reached at their website: www.pcadv.org.

There are many other hotlines. As mentioned before there is the National Domestic Violence Hotline (www.thehotline.org), and Help for Abused and Battered Women (www.helpguide.org). There are various organizations, hotlines and support groups nationwide.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, trying to get out of an abusive relationship, or have suspicions that the relationship might be getting physically and or mentally violent, speak up and say something.



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No more Beats: the top true headphones on the market

By Frank Passalacqua
Opinion Editor

Let me guess; you wear Beats by Dre, bro?

How come? Because they sound good, they are stylish, recognizable, comfortable? I'll give you two of the four, because they are a fashion statement and are certainly recognizable with that glaring "b" on the ear cup.

However, that is really all Beats are.

They do not sound good by any means, compared to a proper pair of headphones, they most likely feel awkward on your head, and are insanely over priced.

Now now, before everyone gets all angry and upset that they paid over \$200 for a fancy piece of plastic, let me explain.

Dr. Dre made Beats with one thing in mind, bass. Since hip-hop and rap is what he is known for, Beats were designed to give the listeners some extra punch on those 808's.

With that being said, Dre did not compensate for the highs, mid's, and low's that you want to hear in your music. Beats will produce bass, but will make everything else muddy and some garbled.

So they next time you are headphone shopping for a real pair of headphones, take this list into recommendation. They may not be a fashion statement or make you look like a cool kid, but they will give you the best listening experience on the market.

First up is the V-MODA Crossfade LP. These headphones are an over-the-ear style headphone with 50mm dual-diaphragm drivers that allow for deep and vibrant bass, organic mids, and high end clarity.

The frame of the headphones are composed from a light weight steel with a flexible memory headband for great comfort. Do not worry about breaking these.

To top it off, the ear cushions are made from memory foam, which not only will feel like pillows on your ears, but will reduce ambient noise on the outside and favor that low bass response.

These are probably the most fashionable on this list, coming in a variety of colors and actually allow for customizable plates on the ear cups. They can easily be found for around \$100, unless you want to spend

a little extra on it's big brothers and go for the LP2 or the M100 models.

Next up is the AKG Q 701 Quincy Jones signature headphones.

These are a unique pair of cans that will allow for a great listening experience.

The reason they are unique is because of their design. They are classified as "open-back" headphones, meaning the drivers inside are exposed. Not only that, but their flex-band headband won't have you fussing over sliding the headband up and down to best fit your head. With this flex-band, they automatically adjust to the size of your noggin for maximum comfort.

I mentioned before they are open-back. What this means is the headphones on the outside expose the drivers on the inside, so the soundstage will be much bigger. Meaning, it will sound like you are in the actual room the song is being played in, instead of having the song projected into your ears on typical closed-back headphones.

The AKG Q 701's come in neon green, black, and white. Something else that is also cool is the fact they have removable cables. This is a bonus because if your cable frays or the wires inside stop working, you don't have to replace the entire pair of headphones, you can just swap cables.

They are a little more expensive at around \$170, but are still cheaper than Beats and sound 100 times better.

Now is time for perhaps one of the most popular headphones in the world, for audiophiles that is.

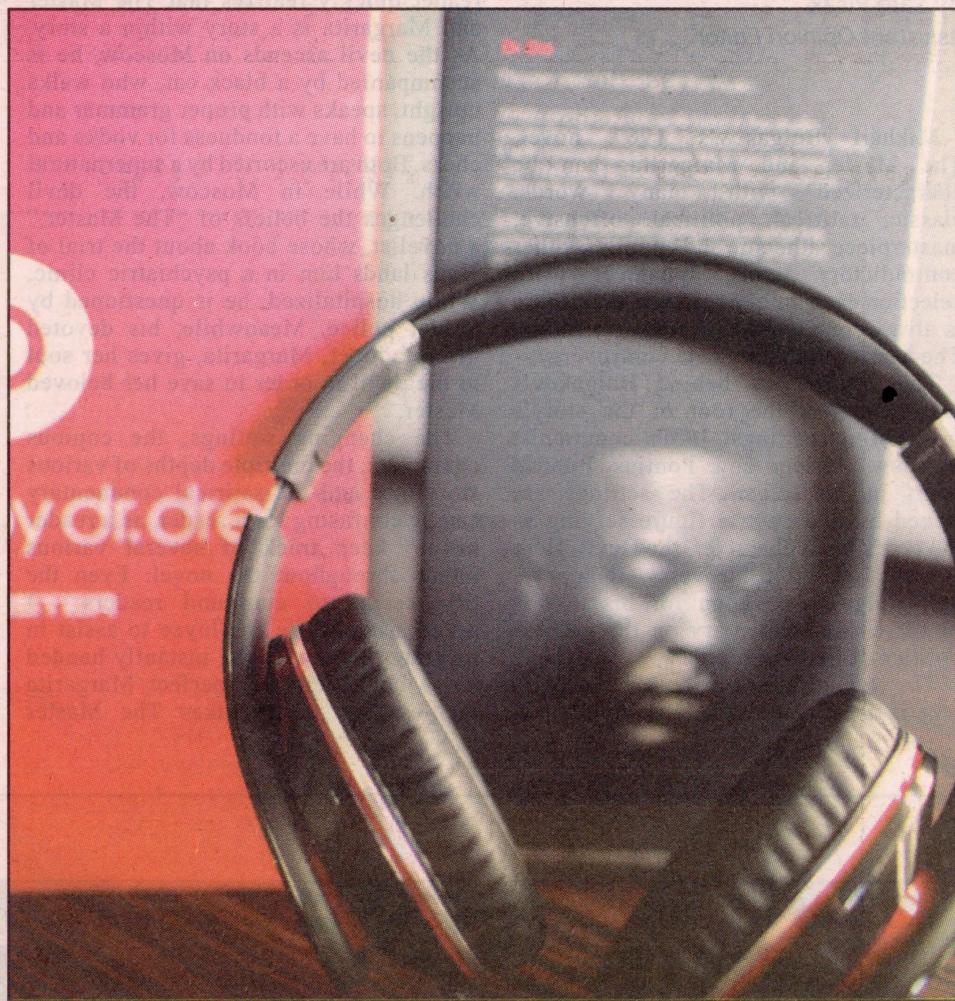
The Audio-Technica ATH-M50x are true professional studio monitoring headphones.

The M50x's are respected as the top-tier headphones because they give the most true and natural sound throughout the frequency range with deep and accurate bass.

Inside the cans are 45mm drivers. One of my favorite things about the headphones, besides the sound quality, is how portable that are.

Both ear cups swivel 90 degrees and the hinges fold up in to the headband for maximum portability. Much like the AKG headphones referenced earlier, these too come with three different removable cables.

The M50x headphones come in black, white, blue and dark green, but their M50 predecessors come in red



Courtesy of Flickr

and silver as well.

For around \$160, the M50x will blow your mind, and your ears.

Lastly, I am going to list a pair of headphones that are probably the coolest and most unique on the market.

The Beyerdynamic Custom One Pro headphones round off this list and offer a great listening experience for all genres of music.

Customizable. That is the one true word for this pair of headphones.

I say that because literally everything can be customized, even down to the sound.

Yes, the sound.

On their website, you can order the headphones in either black or white, but change the color of everything to fit your style. You can customize the headband, ear cups, steel accents, and the ear cup plates with a logo, pattern, picture...anything.

Now back to that custom sound I was talking about.

On the bottom of the headphones, you will find a slidable port on both sides. The one port allows for opening and closing the "bass port," which means you can choose to have no bass, some bass, or a lot of bass. Same applies for the other slider, but this one allows for them to be closed-back or open-back, again which is something I eluded to earlier.

Given all the customizing and the features for the Custom One Pro's, you can not go wrong.

So there it is, a list of headphones that will blow your Beats out of the water any given day. Remember, you are buying headphones to listen to music, not to look good.

Or maybe you are. In that case, stick to Beats and leave these true headphones available for people who actually care about sound quality.

Shots fired.

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The Master and Margarita: A classic worth revisiting

By Sara Pisak
Assistant Opinion Editor

Mikhail Bulgakov's 1967 novel, *The Master and Margarita*, can be characterized with many words: classic, satirical, political, offensive, masterpiece, atheistic and countless other contradictory terms. Whatever word selection each unique reader makes, there is always one word that seems to follow *The Master and Margarita* controversy.

The controversy behind Bulgakov's text begins at the root of the story's two distinct settings: 1930s communist Moscow, Russia and Pontius Pilate's court in Jerusalem. The settings are linked by one central figure serving as the text's main character, the Devil. Here lies the second controversy. It appears that Bulgakov's vision for his text is to serve as commentary on the godless politics of Stalin's regime.

The wonderful thing about Bulgakov's text is the "devil is in the details." A

reader quickly realizes that *The Master and Margarita* is a story within a story. As the devil ascends on Moscow, he is accompanied by a black cat, who walks upright, speaks with proper grammar and happens to have a fondness for vodka and chess. Both are escorted by a supernatural witch. While in Moscow, the devil challenges the beliefs of "The Master," a novelist, whose book about the trial of Jesus lands him in a psychiatric clinic. While hospitalized, he is questioned by Soviet police. Meanwhile, his devoted disciple/lover, Margarita, gives her soul to the devil in order to save her beloved Master.

The changing settings, the copious characters, the multiple depths of various storylines and the satirical commentary can be confusing for a reader, as a reader has to keep track of several various points throughout the novel. Even the title seems to confound readers: I asked a bookstore employee to assist in locating this novel, she instantly handed me a book detailing perfect Margarita recipes. So, what makes *The Master*


and *Margarita* a worthwhile read after all these years? What makes the novel deserving of being dusted off and read instead of being pushed behind a book of perfect Margarita recipes?

Bulgakov never unequivocally declares *The Master and Margarita* a political commentary or a protest of his country. He simply presents the interwoven stories for the readers to decide for themselves. It is no wonder that so many contradictory terms can be employed to classify this novel. Some readers find utilizing the devil and comparing other characters to Jesus Christ atheistic, while today's readers may view the novel's political agenda as too abrasive.

It is also easy to imagine why Bulgakov burned the first manuscript of *The Master and Margarita* written in the 1930s. Subsequently, the phrase "manuscripts don't burn" appears several times throughout the text. Here lies the true theme of *The Master and Margarita*. Whether Mikhail Bulgakov intended for his text to have a sweeping political

agenda or to cause great debates, only the author truly knows. As readers continue to focus on the finer details of the novel, an infinite number of possible interpretations occur. Personally, I believe "manuscripts don't burn" is Bulgakov's main point. Thus making *The Master and Margarita* more relevant now than ever.

Writers can physically take the time to light a match and watch their manuscripts heartbreakingly go up in flames. However, writers cannot ignite and destroy the ideas from which their manuscripts are based. Writers cannot shake the haunting sentiments their manuscripts spark within their own creativity. Furthermore, a writer cannot burn the changes, debates and insightful new ideas that stem from readers enjoying their work. Each time readers open the pages of *The Master and Margarita*, they create their own understandings, which no one can incinerate.

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Coca-Cola takes stand against cyberbullying

By Mandy Stickles
Assitant Opinion Editor

Bullying is an ongoing struggle, and over the past few years has also become problematic online. It is time to take a stand and speak out against cyber-bullying.

Coca-Cola addressed this issue in their 2015 Super-Bowl commercial, titled "#MakeItHappy." It started off with a young man on a computer receiving hurtful remarks online such as; "I hate you," "Loser," "Freak," etc. The commercial switches gears when a man accidentally spilled Coca-Cola on the server wires, allowing the Coca-Cola beverage to spread throughout, affecting all online bullying by switching them to kind remarks.

Coca-Cola has always strived to give a positive outlook on things through their commercials and the Super Bowl 2015 commercial time slot was a primitive opportunity for them to address such a controversial issue. Coca-Cola not only wanted to stand out during the Super Bowl commercials but wanted to create something that would stick with people after the big game.

"Our goal is to inspire America to become a collective force for positivity," says Jennifer Healan, Coca-Cola's group director of integrated marketing content, in an article posted on Coca-Cola's company website.

Bullying does not exist in just a school setting or with young children. Bullying can happen anywhere and to anyone. With new advances in technology bullying has escalated to a whole new levels online, allowing people to make crude and hurtful remarks to a person for everyone to see on a social media website.

There have been severe cases where cyberbullying has ended in detrimental or even life ending ways. People do not realize the effect their words can have on others.

Cyberbullying is a growing concern for social media users and instead of sitting back and witnessing such negativity it is time for people to take a stand and take Coca-Cola's commercial seriously. It is time to start spreading positivity and calling out those who think it is okay to bully someone.

The commercial makes viewers think about their past online activity and the things they view around them. Discovering if they have been a witness to cyberbullying, or realizing they might



Con un click puedes hacer mucho daño
El ciberbullying es un acto de cobardía

Courtesy of Flickr user cesarion_: <http://bit.ly/1lwNIOd>

"With one click, you can do a lot of damage. Cyberbullying is an act of cowardice," one illustration explains.

have been part of the problem themselves.

It can be somewhat manageable to monitor bullying in a school or work setting; however cyberbullying is harder to point out because it is done behind closed doors and in a written format rather than verbal.

As viewers and users of social media we have an obligation to speak out and put a stop to cyberbullying. Because if we do not, who will?

Cyberbullying needs to end. If there is a comment on Facebook or Twitter putting someone down, speak up and make it known to the bully that it is not okay. Let's make this a trend, to band together on social media and stop the hurtful comments. Even if you do not know the person, take a stand and stop the bullying.

If the person receiving mean comments does not have the courage to stop the bully lets have that courage for them and stand

up for what is right. No one should be put down or treated in a negative way.

"Kids are beginning to go online at such a young age and become easy targets for cyberbullying. People need to start taking note of the bullying and seek help from others," said Mittal Patel, a nursing student here at Wilkes. "Coca-Cola has the right idea in wanting to stop cyberbullying and spread love and kindness instead. This is only the beginning for how Coca-Cola will take a stand against bullying; it is our job as social media users to continue what Coca-Cola has started."

Coca-Cola has made their point against bullying. How will you help to stop cyberbullying?



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Do you support
Coca-Cola's
campaign?
Make sure
to use
#MakeItHappy
in your tweets.

Sports

Want your sport covered? Contact the sports editor: Brandon.Gubitosa@wilkes.edu

Men's Basketball fighting to secure a spot in the playoffs

By Jared Powell
Sports Writer

The Wilkes Men's Basketball team has had a roller coaster of a season so far, and is currently fourth in the Freedom Conference with a record of 5-4. Overall, the Colonels are 10-10 under first-year coach Izzi Metz from Boston College.

Wilkes has shot the lights out so far from behind the arc.

"Alec and Steve make the game a million times easier. It makes us much harder to guard, that kind of floor spacing makes it very tough to keep Cam (Hinkel) and I out of the lane," said team member Tyler Jackson.

Juniors Steve Stravinski, and Alec Wizar sit at first and third in the conference in 3-point shots made. The two have been lighting gyms up for the past two seasons. They make it hard on defenses, and do not allow their opponents to play lazy defense.

Senior Cameron Hinkel has also played a big part for Wilkes. He has grabbed the fifth most offensive rebounds in the conference, giving The Colonels more opportunities to score.

Sophomore Tyler Jackson is the glue that keeps the team together. He is also very

thrilled with the new coaching staff.

"I do workouts with Coach Thompson that are tailored to our offense, and specific things I need to work on, he has really been a blessing for me in terms of improving my game," he explained.

Metz and Assistant Coach Stefan Thompson have put in countless hours to steer the team in the right direction, but Jackson likes his coach more for things done off the court.

"Izzi is a players' coach first and foremost, he cares about his players more than anything."

Junior guard Alec Wizar leads the Colonels this season averaging 15.1 points per game. Wizar has made 57 three-pointers this season, which is second on the team to junior Steve Stravinski who has made 63. Stravinski is averaging 14.6 points per game to go along with averaging 7 rebounds per game. The Colonels travel Wednesday to take on Desales University.

They then return home to host Delaware Valley College on Saturday, tip off is scheduled for 3 p.m.

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The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Junior guard Alec Wizar prepares to guard his opponent



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Sophomore guard Tyler Jackson dribbles the ball up the court against King's.



The Beacon/Purvit Patel

Senior forward Jeremy Hartman pauses during a game against rival King's.

Wrestlers look forward to finishing season on a high note

By Cara Basile
Sports Writer

The wrestling team defeated three schools this past Saturday at the Marts Center. Wilkes won matches against Scranton, Trinity, and Alfred State all in one day at the home quad match.

Several Colonels pulled off wins and were able to contribute to the victory against Scranton. Guesseppe Rae won with an 18-3 technical fall over his opponent, and Pankil Chander won after another 16-1 technical fall. Matthew Grossmann pinned his opponent while Mark Mischewski, Stephen Turner, and Kyle Diesel all earned wins by a decision. The team defeated Scranton 45-3.

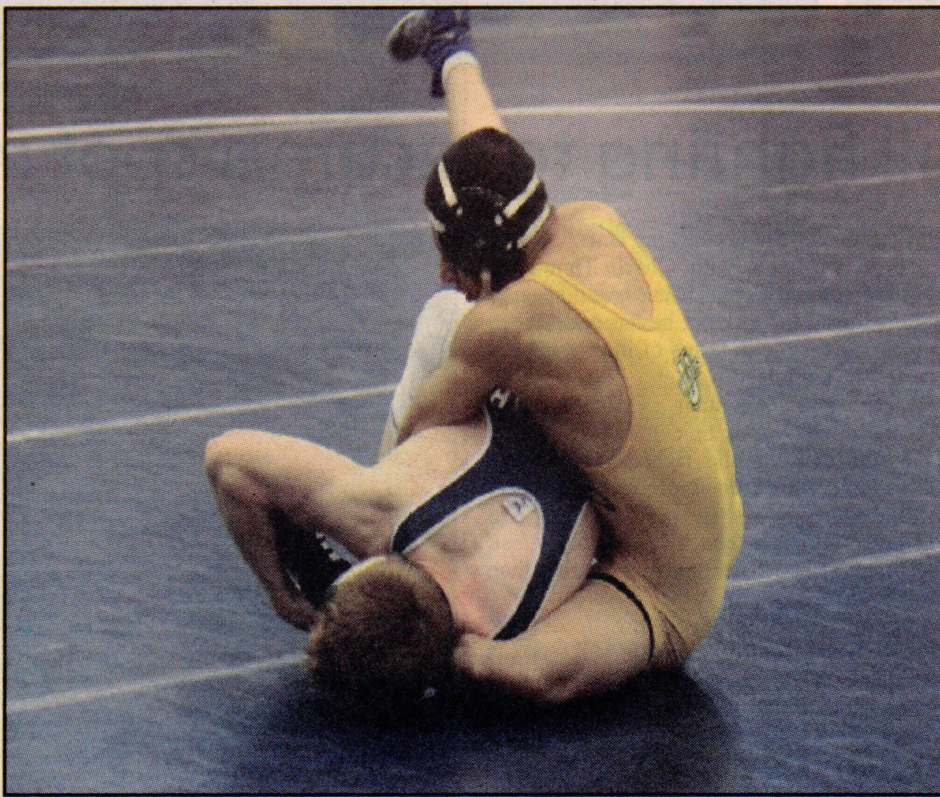
Senior Stephen Turner and Sophomore Pankil Chander both agreed that the match went very well.

"The meet we hosted Saturday went exceptionally well," Turner said. "We all wrestled very crisp and concise. We exploited our opponents by getting to positions we know we're good at."

Chander also shared his thoughts on the win.

"We put up a lot of bonus points and hustled through positions which is always good and something we can build on."

The Colonels did not stop there, pulling



Guesseppe Rea pins his opponent in a recent match

Courtesy of gowilkesu.com

off a 50-6 win against Trinity. A pin from Eric Bach and two more wins from Turner and Diesel helped the team to carry out a victory.

The third win was over Alfred State, where Rea, Grossmann, and Chander earned their third wins for the day. Other wins came from Josh Evans, a pin by Nicholas Racanelli, Dave Oberrender, and Diesel, Veppert, Bach, as well. Wilkes defeated Alfred 49-3.

The wrestlers look forward to finishing the season on this high note.

"The last goal to accomplish for me personally is to carry this final season into March, where my teammates and I look to place individually and as team at the national tournament at the Giant Center in Hershey, PA," Turner said.

"This season has been kind of a roller coaster ride and has had its ups and downs but my main goal coming into this season is just to focus on getting better every single day," Chander said.

"I have been fortunate enough to accomplish specific goals like winning the Monarch Invitational and getting wins over Division 1 competition at the Wilkes open."

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Swimming program sweeps FDU-Florham Devils

By Brandon Gubitosa
Sports Editor

The Wilkes University swimming teams conclude their inaugural seasons this week at the Middle Atlantic Conference Championships in York, Pa.

The Colonel men picked up their first win against the FDU-Florham Devils with a final score of 94-82.

The women's team went on to post their second win of the season with a 97-79 decision over the FDU-Florham Devils.

On the women's side, Mandy Stickles came in second place in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:29.80. Sophomore Beth Chmil went on to take first place in the 200 IM finishing with a time of 2:38.70. In the 500 freestyle sophomore Megan Evers asserted her dominance by finishing first with a time of 6:26.20.

On the men's side junior sprinter Greg O'Malley took first place in the 50



Courtesy of gowilkesu.com

Sophomore Will Hauze went on to claim first place in a match against FDU

freestyle with a time of 23.90.

Junior sprinter Jeff Mastrantuono broke the school record in the 100 butterfly finishing with a time of 1:00.40. He also went on to claim first place in the 100 breaststroke at 1:03.90.

Sophomore distance swimmer Will Hauze took first place in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:02.00.

So far this season for the Colonels has been a learning experience as this is their first season as a team since 1986.

"The kids want to make the foundation set so we're here not for five years, we're here for the long run," said Mark Barnes, head coach, in an interview earlier this season.

MAC Swimming Championships run from Feb. 12 through Feb. 15 at the Graham Aquatic Center.

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Recaps: Lady Colonels look to finish the regular season strong

By Danny Van Brunt
Sports Writer

The Women's Basketball team travelled to Manhattanville College in New York on Jan. 31 and came out victorious.

The Valliants were in control for most of the first half. They jumped out and took an early lead forcing the Colonels to play hard to come back against. The Valliants had the biggest lead of the first half was 38-28. The Colonels dropped a three-pointer to end the first half 44-39.

Manhattanville came out with another lead in the second half, scoring 11 unmatched points. Wilkes remained behind for the majority of the game, but continued to lower the deficit. After a long fight from behind, Wilkes closed in on Manhattanville, bringing the score to 69-68.

Wilkes took the lead with only two minutes left in the game. The team maintained the lead and won with a final score of 85-82. Cara Basile and senior guard Elena Stambone both scored 20 points each.

Eastern University came to Wilkes on Feb.

4, and defeated the Colonels. Eastern has an impressive record this season of 16-4, and a conference record of 8-1.

The first half ended 30-20 with Wilkes trailing by 10 points. Eastern took the game over in the second half and Wilkes could not overcome the 25 point difference. The game ended with a score of 81-52. Stambone scored 15 points leading the team, and Chelsea Smelas scored seven points.

The Lady Colonels currently sit at a record of 8-10, 3-6 in the conference. Stambone leads the Colonels this season averaging 16.5 point per game. Senior forward Chelsea Brown leads the Colonels with 7.9 rebounds per game to go along with 10.5 points per game.

They look to get things back on track when they travel to Center Valley Wednesday to take on DeSales University. Tip off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

The Lady Colonels return back home Saturday as Delaware Valley College travels to Wilkes. Tip off is scheduled for 1 p.m.

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Chelsea Smelas attempts a free throw against Kings

The Beacon/Gabby Glinski

Do you have a passion for writing? Taking pictures? The Beacon may be for you!

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Getting to know...

Guesseppe Rae

Junior Wrestler

By Evan Wiley
Sports Writer

Guesseppe Rea chose Wilkes University because his friends recommended it and that the wrestling program was top tier. He has been wrestling for six years and wants to continue wrestling for as long as he can. Guesseppe is from Stroudsburg, Pa. and is majoring in criminology and sociology. Last season he finished his sophomore season 28-7 at 125 pounds, with a 3rd place finish at the Monarch Invitational, 3rd at Messiah and 5th at the East Regional.

Q: Can you name any awards or accomplishments that you have received while wrestling?"

A: Most memorable ones: Bethlehem Holiday classic champion, PIAA AAA State Qualifier Messiah Invitational champion, Wilkes Open champion, NCAA East Regional team champions...

Q: If you could come up with a different uniform other than a singlet for wrestling, what would it be?

A: I would go with fighting shorts but I prefer the singlet.

Q: Are there any other sports you would consider being apart of other than wrestling?

A: Soccer was my passion before I started wrestling. I still play once in a while and maybe MMA in the future.

Q: Where are some of the places you have traveled for wrestling tournaments?

A: Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey and overseas in the near future.

Q: What is your go-to exercise to lose weight for a match?

A: Forty-five minutes of hard cardio and a bower before I go to bed.

Q: What is your dream job after you graduate from Wilkes?

A: I want to stick around wrestling for as long as I can."

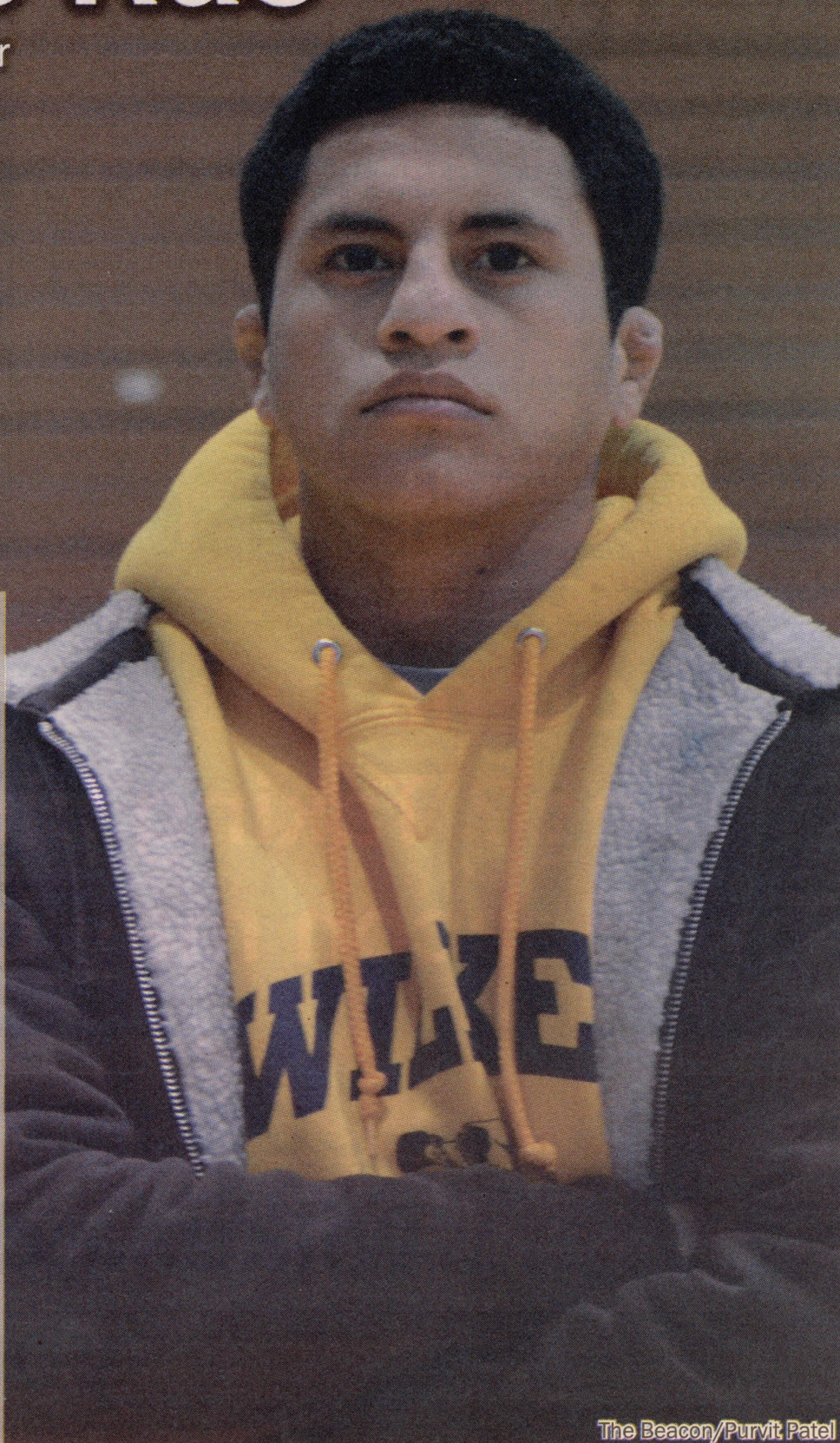
Q: Who is your biggest motivation in life?

A: I am my motivation.

Q: If your life was a movie what would be the title?

A: "-Dare to dream."

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The Beacon/Purvjit Patel

Getting to know...

Emily Sofranko

Freshman Basketball Player

By Andre Spruell
Sports Writer

Q: How did you feel when you played in your first collegiate game?

A: I was nervous, I didn't know what to think, but the speed of the game is very different.

Q: What has been the biggest change in how the game is played from high school to college?

A: The shot clock definitely and the tempo of the game, and the time length.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Jim Thorpe, Pa.

Q: What position do you play?

A: Point Guard

Q: Who do you look up to as a role model?

A: I look up to my grandfather who used to play. He has Lou Gehrig's right now but he used to play point guard so I look up to him the most.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Hanging out with my friends Kat, Nicole, and Sara, hanging out with my boyfriend and that's about it.

Q: What made you choose Wilkes?


A: Definitely the academics here are really high, especially because I want to do special education and I know they have a really good program and being able to play basketball again since I've played since I was little.

Q: What do you love most about basketball?

A: That fact that when you're stressed out it relieves all your stress and you don't have anything to worry about.

Q: What has been the highlight of the season for you?

A: Probably when we beat Marywood and we had a good game, everyone was making

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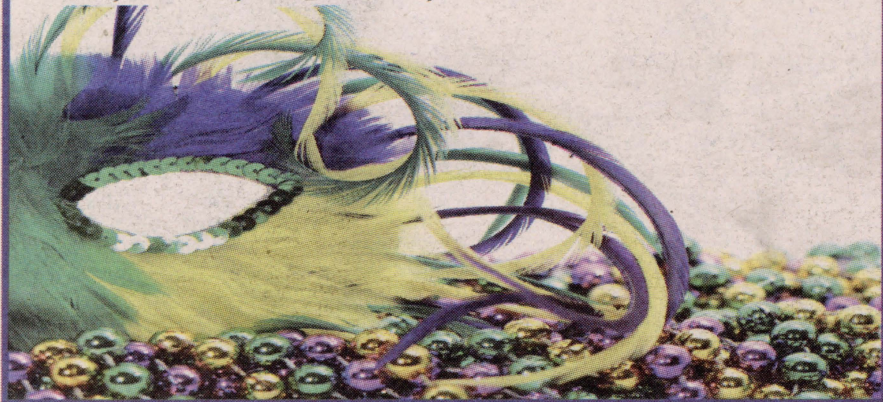
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