

The BEACON

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Students say race played a factor in arrest of Wilkes staff member *Officials say the incident is still under investigation*

BY KRISTIN KILE
Beacon Editor-in-Chief

Following a campus Black History Month celebration on Thursday, February 16, Andita Parker-Lloyd, Wilkes University Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs and several Wilkes students headed out to the Cracker Barrel restaurant for dinner to continue discussion.

But several blocks into the trip, the evening took a turn when one of the two cars was pulled over and Parker-Lloyd was eventually arrested by Wilkes-Barre police for disorderly conduct. The Wilkes students who witnessed the incident are crying foul play.

Valerie Martinez, freshman political science and communication studies major and Suzanne Chirayil, sophomore pharmacy major were traveling with two other individuals in a car behind Parker-Lloyd when they said they heard what they thought was an emergency vehicle behind them. Chirayil, who was driving, pulled the car over and discovered a Wilkes-Barre police officer pulling in behind her vehicle.

Parker-Lloyd said she pulled over as well, realizing Chirayil was behind her. Chirayil said she had to get out of the car in order to get her wallet and Parker-Lloyd got out of her car as well to make sure nothing was wrong. Parker-Lloyd then returned to her car when two other police vehicles arrived on the scene. Chirayil said she was pulled over for failure to signal three times.

Mark Congdon, sophomore political science and communication studies major was traveling in Parker-Lloyd's car and said the police officer must have been following them for several blocks before they were

pulled over on Scott Street.

"We realized he was apparently following us from basically when we left Franklin Street, or close to there," Congdon said.

As the police officers questioned the students in Chirayil's car, Parker-Lloyd became concerned that she should document details of the incident because of her role as the university staff representative of the group. Thus, it was important to know the identity of the officers.

According to Parker-Lloyd, she then got out of her car a second time to get the officer's badge number. A confrontation ensued and Parker-Lloyd was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Students who witnessed the incident are outraged and say race played a factor. "You cannot misinterpret this to not be a racial issue," said Martinez.

Parker-Lloyd on the other hand, said she is not sure what played a factor. "I'm honestly

not sure what played into it. But being an African American woman, some people are quick to say, 'oh it definitely was that.' I don't know if it was that. For all I know, the officer could have been having a bad day. I really don't know. So that's to come out whenever," Parker-Lloyd said.

As of this writing, an official police report of the incident has not been released to the

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Accounting students prepare tax returns

BY ADRIENNE RICHARDS
Beacon Correspondent

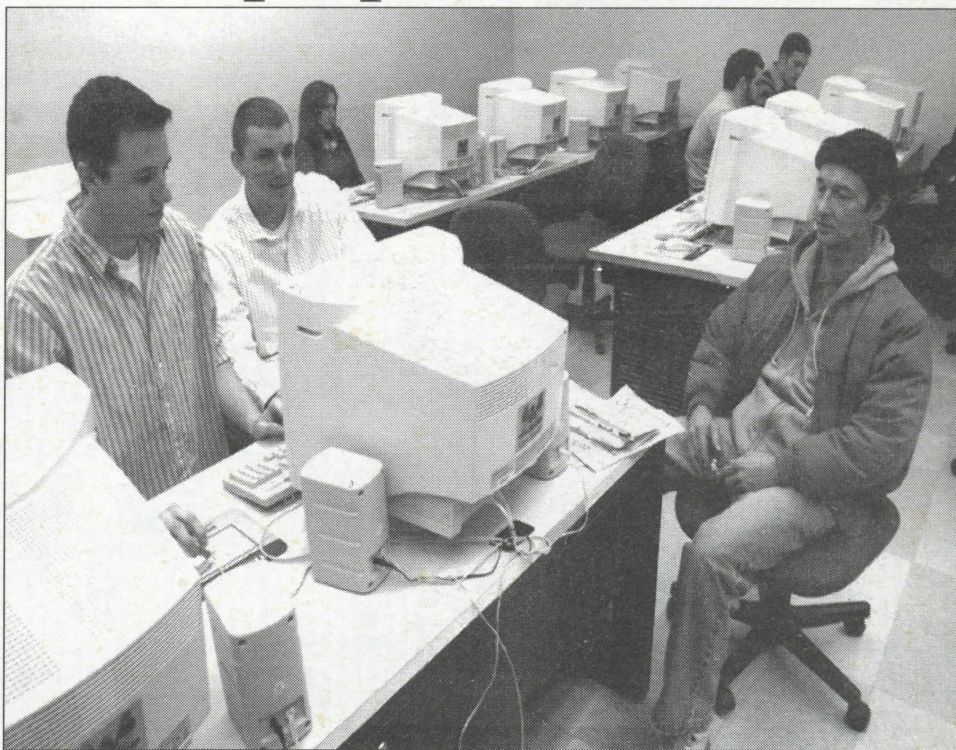
It comes once a year. Right after the New Year. Valentine's Day doesn't even come close to the number of envelopes that are popped into U.S. post boxes on this day.

That is right--it is the dreaded tax day on April 15. However, accounting majors at Wilkes University have made this seemingly dreadful holiday less stressful for individuals in the Wyoming Valley.

In conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service and Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, Wilkes University students have been preparing, free of charge, tax returns for elderly and lower income families each Saturday for the month of February.

In January, junior accounting majors were provided with formal training in the tax

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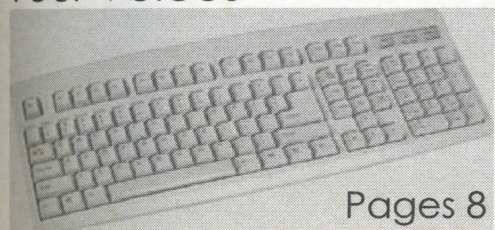


The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Accounting students prepare tax returns for low income Wilkes-Barre community members free of charge through the VITA program. Shawn Potter and Andrew Eckert work preparing a tax return.

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Usage decision for Bedford Hall unclear after Public Safety move

BY VICTORIA WHITE
Beacon News Editor

As Wilkes University Public Safety prepares to make its move to the first floor of the Park and Lock on Main Street early next month, a significant amount of space is about to become available in Bedford Hall, where the offices have occupied the first floor of the building for the past couple of years.

Chris Bailey, director of campus support services said, "Public Safety is going to move out probably during the second week of March, during spring break. I am going to be moving very quickly sometime around that same time period."

With the move of Public Safety is also the move of the 24-hour computer lab currently located in Bedford. The existing lab will be

phased out and the 24-hour feature will be shifted to Breiseth 006. Bailey said, "We won't shut this [the Bedford lab] down and open that [Breiseth lab] up. It will be that we will open that up and get people used to it and then shut this one."

As both Public Safety and the computer lab eventually both phase out, Bedford Hall will be largely empty on the first floor, at least initially.

John Pesta, director of finance and support operations said, "Presently, there are no immediate plans for the space vacated by the Public Safety office."

Bailey said, "The intention is to basically empty the building out and then it will probably sit empty for a while until they figure out exactly who is going to be coming in here. And then there will obviously probably have to be some minor work."

Currently, the Air Force ROTC is housed on the second floor of Bedford along with Institutional Research and several adjunct professors have offices in the building as well.

Bailey said, "Air Force, I have no idea what is going to happen with the Air Force. For the time being they are going to stay put. I don't know if they are going to be moving to the UCOM. Institutional Research will eventually move over to UCOM but that won't happen until a lot of the administrative offices go over there, which will probably be this summer."

The Master Plan does call for something to be done with Bedford. Scott Byers, vice president of finance and support operations said, "The Master Plan anticipates Bedford turning into an arts building. At the present time, we have not considered any options or be-

gun looking at the details of the building to see what is the best use for Bedford."

This idea, however, is not new. Bedford has historically housed art faculty and classrooms before. Prior to the discontinuation of art as a major at Wilkes, the building was home to studio and classroom work.

Pesta said, "The intention is for Bedford Hall to remain a key element of the art district proposed in the Master Plan. Currently, there is no confirmed schedule for the project."

Some see the incorporation of Bedford as a building dedicated to art as a natural decision. Bailey

said, "Obviously with the addition going in, that's the ceramic studio, so it's a natural decision."

The decision to turn Bedford into the art building is not final as Pesta pointed out, "Initially, there were a few issues discussed with the architects regarding the suitability of the building for art. The project team with [the art faculty] will determine if the facility does not support the program during the project's programming phase."

With much work still to be done, Wilkes student and faculty can expect to view changes in Bedford throughout the summer and into the fall of 2006.



The fate of Bedford Hall remains uncertain while the Master Plan and the suitability of the building as an art building are reviewed.

The BEACON

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

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News in Brief

Sex Week at Yale aims to take the ho-hum out of sex ed.

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO
Beacon Asst. News Editor

Recently, at Yale University, some students attended a workshop featuring a sex therapist whose topic of discussion was sex in relationships. Other Yale students--perhaps those eager to get away from the standard lecture approach to class--learned to striptease with a former Playboy TV host.

Sound like an excerpt from *The Howard Stern Show*? In fact, these events were part of Sex Week at Yale, a series of activities (sponsored mainly by a company called Pure Romance) so risqué that pundits and educators alike have raised speculation about the validity of the educational value of the program.

According to a letter from the director, Dain Lewis, on the event's website, sexweekat-yale.com, the events are "an interdisciplinary sex education program designed to pique students' interest through creative, interactive, and exciting programming."

In the letter Lewis added, "In February 2006, renowned professionals from a wide variety of industries, from models and sports stars to professors and relationship specialists, will convene at Yale University to challenge students' conceptions of sex and sexuality and question the way sex is presented in our society."

According to a February 19 article in the *Chicago Sun Times*, "Critics say Sex Week is just the latest act of college debauchery." This is because some of the events that take place during the week are slightly unconventional and include workshops such as "The Art of Mackin': Developing some semblance of game at Yale," and "Sex and Love in the Age of the Booty Call: Can girls view sex the way guys do?"

The entire series of events calls into question what sorts of tactics it takes to get college students to pay attention to issues regarding sex in this day and age, where standard sexual education has become, in many ways, boring. Also, many students are uncomfortable speaking openly about

sex and relationship issues.

In a February 10 article from the *Yale Herald*, the director "stressed that the week is not about promoting sex. Rather, the emphasis is on challenging, teaching, and allowing students to explore their own ideas about sex in a safe and open environment."

While many people criticize Sex Week at Yale, others see it as an effective way to not only get students' attention but to make the process of discussing these issues enjoyable and interesting.

Diane O'Brien, director of Health Services at Wilkes University, said, "I think you have to be creative in the way you approach college-age students, and [Sex Week at Yale] seemed like it had a... kind of diversity to it."

O'Brien also mentioned the ways in which the topics of sex and relationships have been approached at Wilkes, and compared the effectiveness of these programs to that of Sex Week at Yale.

"We did 'Sexual Jeopardy' and it was just a really kind of fun, creative way to teach,

and... I bet half of the people left there saying, 'Wow I never knew that,' or 'I really learned something from that,' and so it was fun, educational and creative," she said.

O'Brien also discussed the ways in which Wilkes students have an advantage when it comes to discussing issues relating to sex.

"We're very open in this university as far as through the Health Services, discussing sexual issues, which I think is such an advantage over other universities and colleges... I think our environment here is very open to new ideas and the promotion of healthy, safe sex," she said.

Some students agree that, although the kinds of programs offered during Sex Week at Yale may be slightly provocative, targeting students in such a creative way is an effective approach to catching their attention while also educating them about issues regarding sex, love and relationships.

Beth Mahonski, P1 pharmacy major, said, "I think something like that is a great idea. I think a lot of people would be intrigued by it, I know I would be."

Student Government Notes

February 22 meeting

-Representatives of WISE UP appeared for second reading in order to receive club status. Josh Swantek motioned for the club to be accepted, Dave Sborz seconded the motion. The motion passed 30-0-0.

-Members of the Chemistry Club appeared for a first reading on a fund request of \$1,500.

-Tickets for Dashboard Confessional, sponsored by Programming Board, are on sale. Tickets are \$15 each for students, two per ID.

TAXES

from FRONT PAGE

program they would be using. Junior accounting majors prepare the returns while the seniors have helped in the transitioning process.

"The Volunteer Return Preparation Program is fully student run with four senior coordinators who each have a responsibility," said faculty coordinator of the program professor Cynthia Chisarick.

Junior student coordinators Jennifer Gilbert, Ashley Arcuri, Brian Vivaldo and Andrew Eckert meet Tuesdays and Thursdays to see what returns were accepted/declined and contact the clientele.

Student coordinator Ashley Arcuri stated, "We have the same customers from previous years who are very appreciative."

Accounting majors are not only applying what they have learned in the classroom, to real life, but are also providing a community service.

"We are performing real tasks while working on our people skills. It has taught us the valuable skill of time management and responsibility," Arcuri said.

"These students are not receiving extra credit but rather gaining a valuable learning experience while giving to the community and enhancing their skills in the profession," commented Chisarick.

Equestrian Club competed at first Intercollegiate show



Photo Courtesy of Alisha Cain

Members of the Wilkes University Equestrian Club attended their first competition through the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association at Centenary College on Saturday, February 18. Wilkes riders competed against schools like Princeton, Rutgers, Scranton, ESU, Lehigh, Lafayette, and Moravian to name a few. Pictured left to right are: Lindsey Schneider (4th place), Dana Manning (5th place), Alisha Cain (Captain), Sarah Brown (3rd place) and Jessica Ashford (2nd place).



ARREST from FRONT PAGE

public. J.J. Murphy, City Administrator confirmed that officials are still looking into the matter.

Repeated calls seeking comment from Police Chief Gerald Dessoye or a representative of the Wilkes-Barre police department were not returned.

"We're in the middle of an investigation right now to see how all the incidents unfolded, and at this time I'm not at liberty to discuss the nature of those comments. It's a situation where the city and Wilkes are trying to work together and make sure all sides have been heard," Murphy said when asked to comment about whether race may have played a factor in the incident.

The students said when Parker-Lloyd approached the officer for his badge number he became defensive and would not give her the number. The witnesses said he began yelling that she was "interfering with a police investigation."

"Every time she would step back, he would step forward," Chirayil said.

The students said the officer then told Parker-Lloyd to get in the car before he counted to

Martinez, who is Puerto Rican, and Chirayil, who is Indian, confirmed they and a third individual in Chirayil's car who is African American were singled out during the incident by the officer who arrested Parker-Lloyd. In addition, there was one white staff member in the car. Chirayil said the officer pointed his flashlight at the three minority students and talked to them in a demeaning manner, at one point questioning Martinez's claim that she was a student.

"It was a racial thing because he only pointed [the flashlight] to us three and we were the only minorities in the car," Martinez said.

Despite repeated attempts local police were unavailable for comment; however, based on the description the Wilkes students and Parker-Lloyd have offered of the incident, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) would likely define the incident as possible racial profiling (see sidebar for definition).



Beacon Graphic/Kristin Kile

incident because she's afraid another situation like this will arise.

Martinez said she does not feel they are getting the support they need to handle this situation. She and Chirayil have talked to Deans, Provost Maravene Loeschke and will be speaking with the Wilkes University President Tim Gilmour this week. They said that the representatives of the administration they have met with all say they need counseling, but the students do not agree.

"If I was the President of the school, if I was the Provost or the Deans or whatever, I would make sure that something would get done to make sure that this woman [Parker-Lloyd], who is working so hard to make sure that [the] school has

some type of diversity program, doesn't have charges against her for helping and motivating her students," Martinez said.

Loeschke said she has been working with the individuals involved in the situation.

"On my own behalf, all I can say is that I have seldom been so saddened," Loeschke said and referred all other comment to Gilmour.

Gilmour confirmed he will be meeting with the students today to discuss the incident. He said the university is committed to building a diverse campus community.

"In fact, one of the university's core values includes the belief that collegiality, professionalism

and tolerance are central to relationships among all members of our student-focused community. As a family of learners, we should all strive to promote and support a culture of increased diversity here and in the region," Gilmour said.

He also said the university is providing support for Parker-Lloyd and will continue to do so as long as it is needed.

"However, since this matter is still being reviewed we hope to avoid this necessity," Gilmour said.

Congdon said all city officials and police officers should have to go through diversity training. "I am angry. This is the first time ever I witnessed racism by a police officer... You hear stories, but to actually witness it...I'm really angry."

Murphy said officers do complete diversity training, though neglected to specify what is entailed in such training. He added that the department has been working with the NAACP to improve relations with minority communities.

"Out of this, I just want justice to be served...the charges to be dropped for Andita, a formal apology from the department and those cops and a change in the community," Chirayil said.

Parker-Lloyd said she is in the process of getting a lawyer because she believes she was wrongfully arrested. She also said a disorderly conduct charge will stay on her record and could affect her future employment.

"Students were here to see this. That's what I think hurts my heart the most," Parker-Lloyd said.

Race a factor in traffic stops nationally

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), racial profiling is "any police or private security practice in which a person is treated as a suspect because of his or her race, ethnicity, nationality or religion." ACLU also states racial profiling often occurs by stopping and searching people of color for traffic violations. Racial profiling is predominantly associated with African Americans; however, it is widespread to include Asians, Native Americans, Arabs, Muslims and South Asians.

The ACLU argues racial profiling violates the Fourth Amendment, which requires authorities to have probable cause prior to a search. It also violates the 14th Amendment which ensures equal protection for everyone regardless of race.

According to studies conducted by the ACLU, the "hit rate" of traffic stops and searches reveals that people of color, are no more likely, and often less likely, to have drugs or weapons than whites.

According to the Department of Justice as of October 2004:

Twenty-nine of the nation's 49 state law enforcement agencies whose primary duties include highway patrol required their traffic patrol officers to record motorists' race or ethnicity during traffic stops.

Twenty-two state agencies required officers to record race or ethnicity data for all officer initiated stops, and seven in more limited circumstances.

Among the 20 agencies that did not require traffic patrol officers to collect race or ethnicity data in 2004, 14 agencies previously reported collection of race or ethnicity data in 2001.

Twelve of the 29 state agencies reported that specialized units (such as investigative units) were also required to collect race or ethnicity data.

Students were here to see this. That's what I think hurts my heart the most.

Andita Parker-Lloyd
Wilkes University Coordinator of
Multi-cultural Affairs

three. According to the witnesses, Parker-Lloyd appeared so stunned at the threat she didn't move immediately. By the time the officer reached, "Two," she turned to leave, but the officer then snapped the cuffs on and made the arrest. Chirayil and Congdon agreed in their characterization of the officer as "aggressive" and their description of his actions-continually pointing in Parker-Lloyd's face as he spoke.

"Truth of the matter was that before he even counted to three he had arrested her. He said, 'One, two,' she turned around, and then he arrested her and then he said 'three,'" Martinez said.

Martinez and Chirayil said this is not the first time they have encountered racial discrimination while at Wilkes. Chirayil said she is transferring in the fall because of racial discrimination and Martinez said her mother has also urged her to transfer.

"It's one out of many racial problems I have witnessed here as a freshman. I've only been here one year, or going on one year, not even a full year yet, and... there are no words to describe the racial inequality that Wilkes-Barre contains," Martinez said.

Both Martinez and Chirayil said they have difficulty sleeping. Chirayil said she does not want to drive by herself following the

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Wilkes students participate in National Engineers Week

BY JOSEPH DEANGELIS

Beacon Staff Writer

They were little cars, only a couple of inches long and a couple of inches high and were made of no more than everyday construction paper, neon colored straws, tape, paper clips, and mint flavored Life Savers.

But for the approximately 20 students of second grade class at Wyoming Seminary Lower School in Forty Fort, they were machines of wonder that they made with their own hands.

The automobile construction happened courtesy of Dr. Prahlad Murthy, Wilkes University professor of earth and environmental sciences, who took five of his students to the elementary school on Tuesday, February 21 as part of National Engineers Week, a week set up to teach the science of engineering.

After taking his students to lunch at Grotto Pizza, Murthy, who tries to go to teach elementary school students on an annual basis, took his students to Wyoming Seminary to teach the second grade students a

little about engineering.

"It's just to instill some interest in science and engineering in little kids," Murthy said. "Whenever you have something hands on, they like it."

In order to do this, the students made Puff Mobiles and domes made out of nothing more than just toothpicks and gum drops. The Puff Mobiles were operated by the wind of the second graders who could blow it a couple of feet. The domes were then used to hold up the students' favorite books.

"What we did today was just we let the kids get an interest in these kinds of things and if they follow through they might actually get an education in it," said Josh Shoff, an environmental engineering major who helped the kids build the Puff Mobiles and the domes.

"That's how we can sell science and engineering actually," Murthy said. "If you just lecture, you're not going to help."

At the end of the day, when the students were cleaning up their workstations, Murthy popped an interesting question to the students; how much water do they use in a

week?

The students then sent Murthy and his students some cards, which Murthy has in a pile a couple of inches high.

"They're already thinking," Murthy said about the cards. "I think at least a half of a dozen of them said 'I'd like to be in engi-

neering,' and things like that."

In addition to Murthy and Shoff, the other students who helped teach last week included Fred Gerloff, Mary Baron, Tim Nolt and Dan Lougran. All are members of the Wilkes University Student Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association.

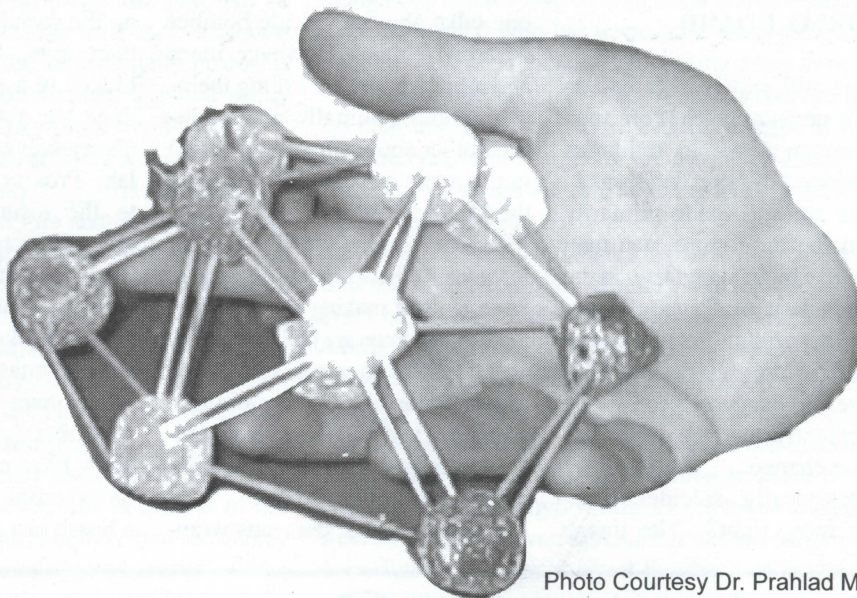


Photo Courtesy Dr. Prahlad Murthy

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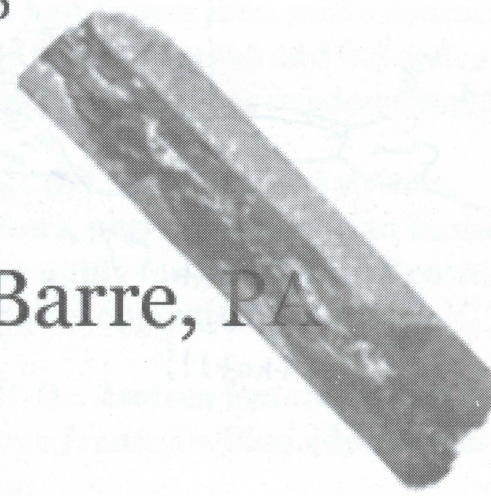
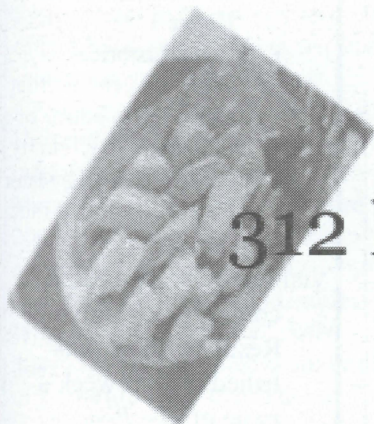
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The changing face of war

Women assume visible, aggressive stance

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

War is still widely regarded as a man's undertaking. More men than women serve in militaries worldwide. Strategic decisions in wartime are still made primarily by men (because more men than women rise higher and faster in the military ranks). And, stereotype or not, men continue to be viewed by most cultures as the more aggressive and dangerous sex.

But recently, the face of war has begun to change.

Stereotypically, suicide bombers are men, right? The image

that comes to mind when someone talks about a suicide bomber is rarely female. However, more and more women are killing themselves (and, optimally, a few hundred other souls along with them) in the name of Allah every day in the Middle East.

As feminists the world over fight for equality between the sexes, are these women making a clear statement that women are just as valuable and qualified to serve a martyred cause? Or, are they merely misguided patriots and religious zealots adding increased numbers to the ranks of extremists willing to die?

In a society that demeans wom-

en and places them much lower on the social and legal totem pole than men, Muslim women are locked in a debate about whether they are even allowed to blow themselves up in the name of Allah. Proving themselves valuable to the insurgency, women who are willing to die are seen as less likely perpetrators and are therefore invaluable because they are far more likely to catch potential victims unawares. The new face of terrorism--a feminine one--suggests that the rules we thought we knew have changed. Women can be terrorists. Women can strap on a bomb just as husbands, brothers

and sons have done before them. Women can be just as violent and hostile as men.

Whether or not this is a feminist statement is an argument for another editorial, and it's likely a question historians will need to puzzle through. What is noteworthy is that this attitude taken by Muslim female suicide bombers seems to reflect a change in attitude about the role of all women in war, as either perpetrators or victims. The recent kidnapping of a female American journalist working for the *Christian Science Monitor* in Iraq echoes the idea that women are now also "fair game" in war. Her kidnapping seems motivated by the U.S. detention of nine Iraqi women in military custody. The kidnappers have demanded simultaneous release of six female Iraqi detainees for the release of the American.

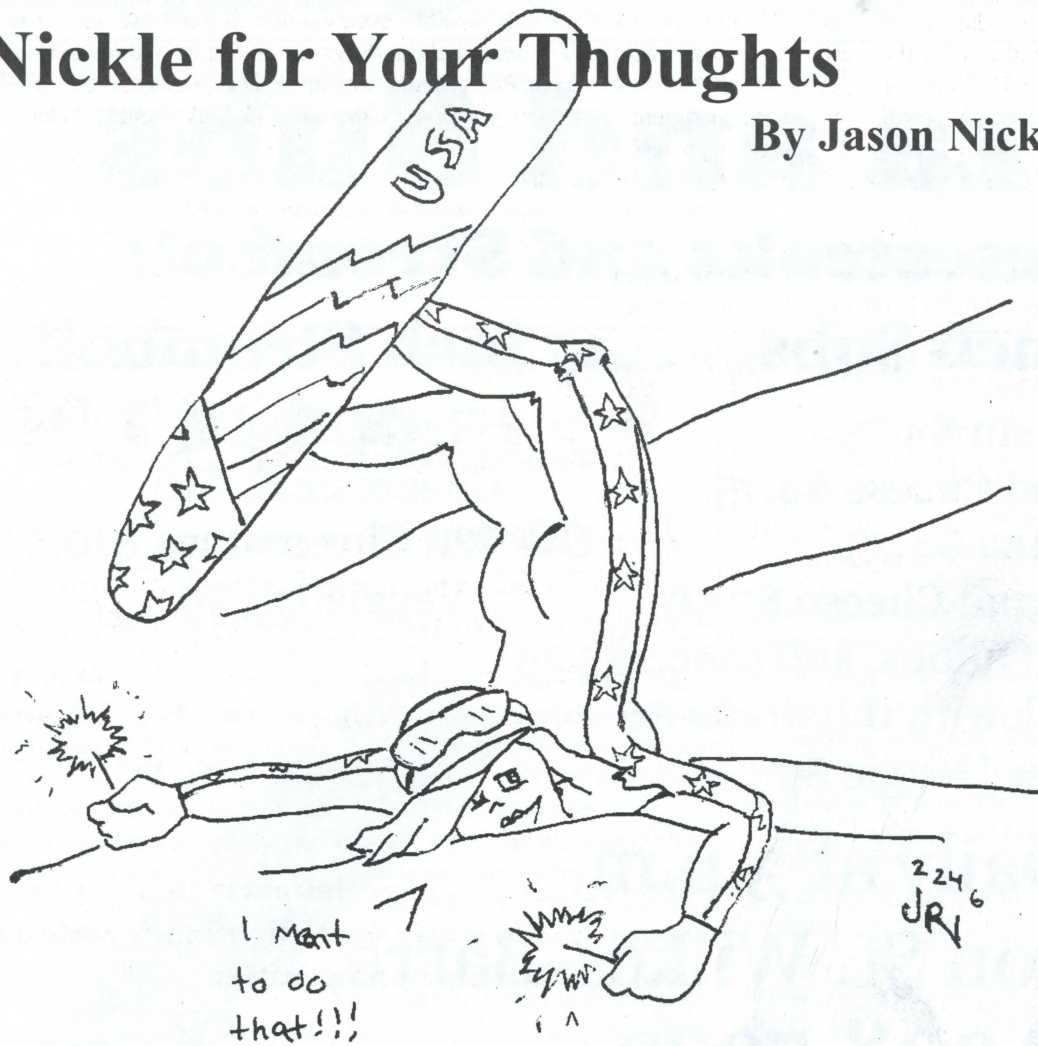
Now, women have never been exempt from war violence, of course. Humans have unfortunately a long, long history of perpetrating violence and hatred on other humans, regardless of gender. Talk to women of any country engaged in sustained battle (Japan in World War II, Bosnia, Vietnam) and they'll tell you horror stories of torture, rape and murder. War is never pretty, never clean, and women know that as well as men.

But in the U.S. war on terror we see a new and frightening trend emerging: an "anything goes" attitude. Young mothers can be suicide bombers. Female journalists are even more attractive hostages than men because they engender sympathy in different ways. Women are not only players in this war, but they are strategic pawns in an extremely complex ideological battle.

The question becomes whether women can rally the strength of conviction to be the catalysts for finding solutions to end conflict rather than to perpetuate it.

Nickle for Your Thoughts

By Jason Nickle



Beacon Poll

Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus. Results are based on 65 responses.

The Beacon asked:

Who should the 2006 Wilkes University graduation speaker be?

- Larry Flynt - 14%
- Kurt Vonnegut - 17%
- Andrea Mitchell - 2%
- Hilary Clinton - 12%
- Oprah Winfrey - 17%
- Donald Trump - 8%
- Bono - 12%
- Bill O'Reilly - 12%
- Magic Johnson - 5%
- Other - 1%

Next Week's Poll

Question:

If you won \$21 million in the lottery, what charitable organization would you give money to?

- Red Cross
- St. Jude's Children Hospital
- SPCA
- American Cancer Society
- Ronald McDonald House
- Local historical societies
- Libraries
- Schools
- Big Brother Big Sister
- Other

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

YOUR VOICES

Please do not let Matt Zebrowski use a keyboard anymore

Dear Editor:

Anyone that knows me knows that I am a very calm, cool, and collected person, with a bit of a wacky side.

Unfortunately, my calm, cool and collectiveness goes only so far. Last semester, my hours at the help desk in the SUB looked something like this...8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Yeah I know, where's my life? However, I would look forward to reading *The Beacon* every Monday. Just ask Nick Z.....I can't remember how many times I had to ask him where my stack of *Beacons* was for the desk.

This is not what brings me to you today. Although I, like many students and faculty on this campus, love my *Beacon*, the latest article by Zebrowski has tainted my view of *The Beacon*. Now I know he has written in the past and that he is not a new writer, I've read almost all of his articles and have only had minor or no problems with them before. Some would say the answer to my problem is to just stop reading his articles, but usually they are well written, dripping with sarcasm, and to the point--his point. Of course these prerequisites are all standard for an opinion column and I also understand that. My point in writing this letter to the editor concerns his latest article about how drug education on television is boring to him. Granted, this is his opinion column and he is entitled to his opinion. You know, First Amendment stuff.

He argues that television commercials featuring a child running from junkyard dog named "Tick Tick" (Come on, Matt do your research, my boy) the day after he smokes pot makes no point and is "just plain dumb." That is of course if one would consider that something is "just plain dumb" because it makes no point to exclusively *them*. However, looking deeper inside the commercial one would understand that if a person were to start using drugs they might try to out run a junkyard dog the next day and even perhaps go a little

farther and try and out run the police the next week.

The point is, when someone starts using drugs, logical thinking eludes them. It seems to me Mr. Zebrowski over-looked thinking about what the message is truly about and was "just plain worried" about when his next "MTV U" video was coming on. Start doing drugs and one will be running for the entirety of time during their use; whether it is from Tick Tick, the boys in blue, or the family problems created by drug use. That's the message. Seemed pretty clear to me, then again maybe I'm wrong.

Let's assess another section of his article. I wouldn't want to "get anyone started" on those pesky "_____ is my anti-drug" commercials. However, facts don't lie and the facts say that the average American child watches television on average between 3 and 4 hours a day, according to www.aacap.org. "Television can be a powerful influence in developing value systems and shaping behavior," says the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Now Matthew, wouldn't you say that this would be a good place to "get started" on these "_____ is my anti-drug" commercials.

I agree with you that more money could be spent on drug education in high schools. However, this is the job of the state, and being an education major, I believe that the money for drug education could be funded through easier means, such as eliminating mandatory testing and allowing students to learn creativity rather than the conformity we get with "No Child Left Behind." Sorry about getting on my soapbox there. Consider it a little plug for the education department.

So, the AACAP says that television can be a powerful influence. Well, I agree. You sir, are the perfect example. Although your obvious disgust with the drug education related commercial has been voiced, the drug education commercial has still had an impact on you. Otherwise you wouldn't have written about it in the first place. Just as your

article has impacted me and propelled me into writing this opinion letter in response. Powerful influence I say!

I will go as far as agreeing with you one more time. Most of the time these commercials are "laughably square" (which I might add that the term "laughably square" is nothing but "laughably square" lol) to drug users and sellers alike; however, for a child who has never used drugs such as yourself or someone who is thinking about using drugs these commercials might hit "laughably home" and encourage the would be drug user/seller to choose a different path in life. These commercials aren't targeting the casualties already inflicted in the war on drugs, they are targeting those children who still have a chance to say no.

Finally, I'd just like to make apparent how much a 30-second television commercial really impacts the lives of others, I have contributed my 1,006 words and however many words your article contained, plus the addition of time and effort to write and compose those thoughts, (which if anyone has taken Dr. Seeley's class this equals opportunity cost), time and effort that might have been exchanged at a job making money. Also, in addition to those two categories, any time that anyone might have taken to read your article and possibly even mine if it is chosen for print. All this opportunity cost could equal hundreds of hours of wages wasted, possibly even enough to purchase one 30 second commercial about drugs. So if you truly think a 30 second commercial about anti-drugs is a poor example of education maybe you are the one Tick Tick should be chasing.

Matt Givler
junior, secondary education major

Response to illegal downloading of music

In response to your front page article on easier ways to detect illegal downloading, I find it very interesting that the school will take it upon itself to discipline you if they find out you have been downloading illegal music and movies. They are taking a hard-line stance on a matter that should stay inside a real courtroom and not in a meeting room with deans and suits all around.

The thing that alarms me the most from this article is what Mike Salem, Chief Information Officer of Information Technology stated. I find it very troubling that a letter to some IT guy can set a chain of actions that cannot be stopped without the student dishing some serious money out for a lawyer.

A letter alone from the RIAA cannot give Wilkes University the right to provide the RIAA with the information it is requesting. Clearly in the ruling of Verizon vs. RIAA the court stated that on Dec. 19 of 2003, that the RIAA cannot serve "form" subpoenas on Internet service providers (ISPs). The recording industry must now seek identities by filing civil lawsuits against "John Doe" defendants, based on their Internet addresses, then work under the supervision of a court to learn their names. This means the university should be receiving and complying with the

subpoenas that it is receiving; however, not acting on a "letter" that they receive from the RIAA.

Also upon further research I found a local district court here in Pennsylvania stated in a ruling (Civil Action no. 04-1241) that the ISPs must first send their customers detailed notices about the subpoenas, including information about how the accused suspects can contest the subpoenas. Since students of Wilkes University do pay for the internet through tuition, fees and whatnot, they should be protected under the law by their ISPs. The ISP (Wilkes in this case) should follow all local, state and federal laws protecting the user, so if an RIAA letter does come the university should expect a subpoena attached with it for each and every user, and upon that subpoena they should notify the person immediately.

Finally, I think it will be interesting if someone does get punished by the university. In the long run I think that student should seriously look into how that information was obtained by the school and if it was even legal. I am sure the EFF and ACLU would love to get in on that argument.

Justin Rogers
junior, integrative media major

The BEACON
THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

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Contact: Dr. Andrea Frantz ext. 4165 or e-mail andrea.frantz@wilkes.edu for more information.

YOUR VOICES

I'll tell you what's going on in Evans second floor

Dear Editor:

Do you want to know what is going on in Evans on the second floor? Well, I'll tell you: business as usual.

The [letter to the editor] written [February 13] portrayed a few people negatively and should not have occurred. First, I want to say that the resident assistant's actions that were talked about were over exaggerated. To say that she "is never here" is absurd. I can vouch for her and say that she is in the hall as much as possible.

As college students, I believe we can all attest that we are very busy at times and cannot just sit in our rooms and be closed to the outside world; after all, we are here to receive an education and experience college life. We as RA's all know what is expected of us and do what is expected of us, or someone would be replacing us.

For the incidents that were mentioned in the article, yes, they are true. Last semester everyone's door knob did have a donut that was neatly placed on it, and there were eggs thrown throughout the hall recently this semester. I can also say that for both incidents I was present in the hall in my room and was totally oblivious to the events because they took place very early in the morning and very late in the evening while I was sleeping. However, no one ever came to me, or called me, nor the other RA on the floor, to explain the situation and to say if they knew anything about the incidents.

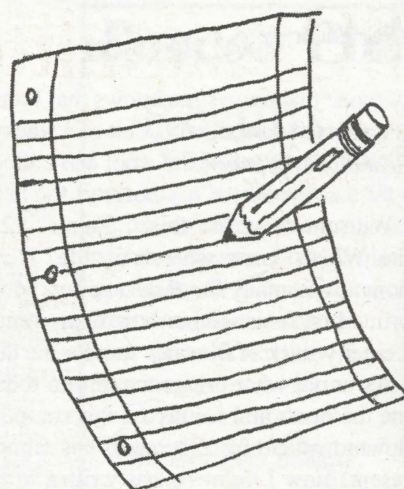
I don't know what could have been any different if the other RA was there or not. One would think that instead of complaining about the problems publicly, as was done by submitting the [letter to the editor], that the person or persons would have come to myself or the other RA that has been criticized to address the problem first. After all, that's why we are here, and if we cannot handle the situation, we would notify the correct officials to do so. I think I can speak for everyone on the Wilkes University RA staff when I say that we cannot catch everyone in the act when someone violates one of the hall rules or regulations, however, it is our job, and I believe we do a fairly good job at it as long as we are informed of the problem. We are not psychic; you need to come to us to address the problem.

One last statement I would like to make is that if someone is vandalizing the hall, it is a combined effort between the Residence Life staff and Public Safety to report the incident and stop the incident if it is still occurring, and then let Student Affairs handle the consequences of the incident. However, if the RAs or Public Safety do not know what is occurring, they cannot do anything to stop the problem either, so along with this comes some self-responsibility with you as residents to speak up about the incident. Along with the safety issue, if an act that is occurring in the hall could be seen as a safety hazard, you should either notify Public Safety directly, or your RA, so they can notify Public Safety that the event is occurring in order to stop it.

I may be somewhat of a decent size guy and part of the best Army in the world, but it is not my job to go out in combat mode and stop the person or persons vandalizing the hall with a baseball bat as is what happened during this specific incident. I believe other RAs would agree with this before risking injury to themselves. The proper authorities must be notified to handle the situation. So, yes, I do believe something should be done "before things get worse," though someone has to stand up and speak up. Otherwise you have no right criticizing one of my co-workers or Public Safety, and that goes for any residents on the Wilkes University campus.

Steve Davies, Evans 2nd Floor Co-RA

Junior



Forget dating services, some women look to local jail

Looking for love with death row inmates mind boggling

BY KRISTIN KILE

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

Like many other area residents, I am fascinated with Hugo Selenski and the circumstances surrounding the sensational trial slated to begin this week. I admit, murder and intrigue get me as well as the next person.

Selenski is charged with murdering two drug dealer suspects at his house in Kingston Township, then burning and burying the remains. Officials say that the remains of anywhere from five to 12 bodies were found buried in his backyard, two of whom have been identified as suspected drug dealers.

To make the story even more interesting, Selenski escaped from prison in 2003 just days after he was officially charged, by breaking out of a window and rappelling down an outside wall of the prison using bed sheets. Jury selection for Selenski's trial just began last week and has received extensive local and national media coverage ever since.

However, many other people are fascinated by this story for much different reasons. Women who have heard of the story or have seen his picture in the paper are fascinated with him because they find Selenski attractive. Selenski, 32, does not look his age and the cocky grin he regularly flashes for the camera suggests he could be your average big-man-on-campus college student. Many would describe him as charismatic, and others arrogant. But it astounds me that women will look past the double murder charges and previous felony convictions and talk about him as a sex symbol.

Selenski has undoubtedly received numerous pieces of "fan mail" from admiring women. I would not be surprised if he has even received offers for companionship or even marriage proposals. Is it an exaggeration to suggest women might actually propose to a murder suspect? No, and apparently, it's not even unusual.

According to a March 18, 2005 CBS News story, Scott Peterson has received numerous marriage proposals. Peterson was convicted

last year of murdering his wife and unborn son and sentenced to death. According to the article, switchboard operators at the prison fielded more than three dozen calls from women for Peterson his first day in jail, two of whom wanted to propose marriage to him.

The senior public information officer for the San Quentin prison where Peterson is being held said the practice is not uncommon. In fact, many of the men on death row who have wives, were married once they were on death row.

What is wrong with these women? Are the "free" men in this country so bad that women have to resort to finding a future husband in the local jail?

Everyone knows a woman who likes the "bad guys" or prefers a challenge. And I guess if women want to live on the edge, you can't get much more dangerous than courting a convicted killer. Some experts say these women believe in the convicts' innocence and offer emotional support. Experts have also attributed the fascination

to a desire for the media spotlight. Maybe these women think their best shot at fame is to marry a notorious killer who has gained a lot of media attention. Sorry, but someone who kills his wife and unborn son does not seem like husband material to me.

And what can a woman gain if the man she marries is in prison for life? Obviously he's not going to help pay the bills or take care of the children. Well I guess at least she knows where her husband is at all times. No more late nights wondering if hubby is passed out drunk at a bar. Nah, he's safely tucked in a 4x6 cell, with his cellmate "Tiny," passing the time away by counting how many dimples are in each cement block.

Maybe it's the adventure. Maybe it's the fame. Or maybe the women are convinced the guy is innocent. Whatever it is, these women need to get a grip. Most women would run the other way. Just as I don't understand how women could stay with their husband or boyfriend after physical and mental abuse, this is something I will never understand.

FEATURES

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SG committee solicits ideas for use of HSC bookstore space

BY ERICA LEO
Beacon Staff Writer

With the bustle of speculation regarding the Wilkes University bookstore moving downtown, many have questioned how the prime first floor space in the Henry Student Center will be reallocated.

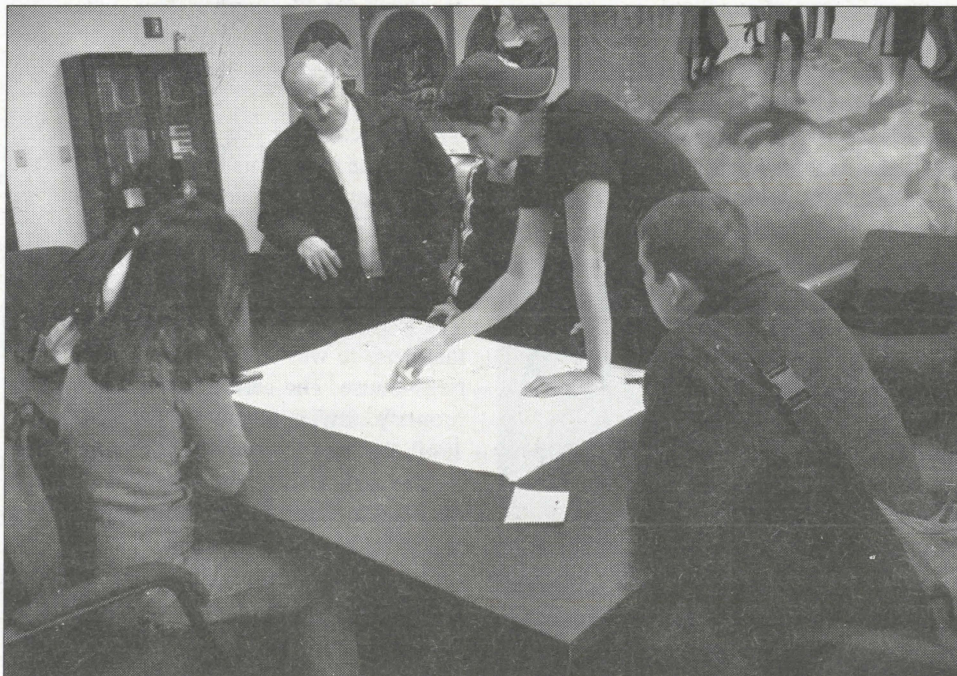
As university officials continue to examine the possibility of the bookstore moving downtown, Student Government (SG) representatives have put on their thinking caps in order to come up with a feasible and cost-effective plan to fill the space.

At the forefront of the planning is biology major and junior class president Dave Scordino. For the past few weeks, Scordino, along with some fellow SG members, has been trying to discover what students think should occupy the room. SG recently formed a committee that held open-forum meetings for students to make recommendations and also encouraged students to e-mail them with suggestions.

"The meetings were very informal and students were welcome to present their ideas," said Scordino.

After some ideas were presented, a survey was also sent out to determine which possibility ranked highest in the interest of the students.

The survey results showed that among the respondents 394 were in favor of a lounge filling the space, 296 students think a convenience store is a good idea, 267 students would like a 24-hour study area, and 107



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Students of the bookstore committee look over floorplans for the current location on the first floor of the Student Union Building. There have been many ideas proposed for the new space after the bookstore relocates. Among those ideas are utilizing the space for a student lounge and stage, office space for Off Campus Council and Inter Residence Hall Council and a 24 hour study area. There has also been talk about WCLH-FM occupying the vacant space. The plan that Student Government has devised was presented to Student Affairs last week but is still not approved.

students think that the Wilkes FM radio station, WCLH, should move from the Dart Center to the SUB. Over 1,100 people responded to the survey.

Using the survey results, SG has come up with a proposal that was presented to

Student Affairs last week. Amazingly, the plan incorporates each suggestion (and then some) into the bookstore space.

According to Scordino, the proposal includes a lounge and stage area in the front of the room with access to Rifkin Café, which

has agreed to stock more food items such as milk, eggs, and candy. The bookstore manager's office will house office areas for both the Off Campus Council (OCC) and Inter Residence Hall Council (IRHC) clubs. The back of the room will be used as a 24-hour study area and group work area which students can enter at any time through the back door using their Wilkes ID.

The plan also details that WCLH will occupy an area by the windows facing South Street so on air personalities will be visible to students and become more accessible on campus.

"It would give them good outside and inside publicity. They could also do a lot in terms of getting people to come and do acts in the lounge area," said Scordino.

Because the plans are relatively new and not yet approved, SG members have been reluctant to inform students, but, according to Scordino, those who are aware are very receptive.

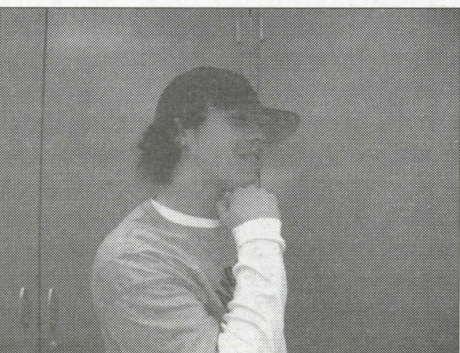
"We've compromised a lot. This is what we have come down to and people are really happy with it," said Scordino.

Susan Martin, manager of the Wilkes bookstore, has noticed several students assessing the space and is pleased that students are taking initiative to do something with the space.

"Unfortunately, there has been some negativity surrounding the moving of the bookstore, but I think that these new plans will alleviate some of the negative aspects and give students something to look forward to," said Martin.

Tell Us... What are you giving up for Lent?

Managing Editor Becky Goodman was curious about what Wilkes students are thinking. Here is what she found out.



Scott Zeigler- senior political science major

"To stop working so much."



Joe Pannick- senior political science major

"I'm going to try to give up cigarettes."



Candice Halliday- freshman, communication studies major

"It's probably going to be ice cream again."



Lauren Pantzar- junior pharmaceutical science major

"I haven't thought about it. I'll probably think about it the day before."

Historic mantelpiece connects Wilkes to local past

BY ALISON WOODY
Beacon Asst. Features Editor

A little piece of colonial history on Wilkes' campus connects the students of the 21st century all the way back to the nation's first President, George Washington. A historic mantelpiece with connections to the country's earliest days is housed at Wilkes University.

Dr. Wilbur Hayes, Wilkes University Professor Emeritus, has spent time tracking the

piece's history and movements.

According to Hayes's research, the historic mantelpiece artifact is currently located in the Miner-Moat House, which is the current location of the Office of Human Resources. The artifact has a long past with the city of Wilkes-Barre and its original owner, Tom Pickerling. Pickerling was a former Postmaster General to George Washington and was appointed to oversee the establishment of Luzerne County in 1786.

Hayes notes that during Pickerling's time

in Wilkes-Barre he constructed a large house at 130 South Main Street, which he occupied for four years. The mantelpiece was originally in the parlor room and is described as "elaborate and beautifully decorated with urns in central and corner panels, and festoons of roses in connecting panels."

After Pickerling was appointed Secretary of State, he moved his family to the nation's former capital, Philadelphia. He sold his real estate to William Ross, who was a general in the military. In 1868, the house was left to Mrs. Charles Abbott Miner.

In 1931, the house was dismantled and the mantelpiece was stored in the family's carriage house. The carriage house sat on the property of what is now the Martz Gym. In 1960, the mantelpiece was taken out before Wilkes acquired the property and placed in the house of Mrs. Stella Miner Moat located at 256 South Franklin Street.

The family donated their home to Wilkes University in 1999. It was officially designated the Miner-Moat House and even after renovations, the mantelpiece is still intact.

In 2001, Hayes was in the Office of Hu-

man Resources and noticed the piece. "I was the first to bring attention to the mantelpiece. People knew the significance, but there was no marker. It looked out of place. It was an old piece in a modern house."

Thanks to the work that Hayes initiated tracking down the historical relevance of the artifact, the university recently designated a historic plaque to acknowledge its importance. Hayes could not have been more pleased. "It is the only piece of work that connects Pickerling to Luzerne County."

Dr. Harold Cox, Wilkes University Archivist, stated that this piece is of high significance and would like students to become more interested and take advantage of the strong history of Wilkes.

"To me, the mantelpiece is the oldest existing man-made artifact from the earliest days of white settlement in the Valley and as such is part of our heritage. To the current generation, which appears largely indifferent to its heritage, its value is more nebulous. Should they be interested? Yes. Are they interested? In the present society, I believe that the overwhelming majority are not," said Cox.



TheBeacon/Nick Zmijewski

This historic mantelpiece is located in the Office of Human Resources on South Franklin Street. The mantelpiece was originally owned by Tom Pickerling, who was a former Postmaster General and Secretary of State to George Washington and oversaw the establishment of Luzerne County in 1786. The mantelpiece was discovered in 2001 by Dr. Wilbur Hayes, Professor Emeritus, and thanks to his work a plaque has been placed next to the historic artifact to acknowledge its importance.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters in need of a helping hand

BY ALISON WOODY
Beacon Asst. Features Editor

For Wilkes students, the possibility for stretching the definition of "family" just got a little bigger.

According to its website, the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships. The program matches students with a child suitable to them and they meet once a week in their community or at the child's school.

who are in need of a match."

Big Brothers Big Sisters has always relied on college students to get involved and become a role model. There are currently 14 Wilkes students matched with a "Little," and the program would like to see more students step up and volunteer.

Ruthkosky believes that students getting involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters will benefit all. "College students who participate in the program have a first hand experience and get the opportunity to realize the great impact and positive influence that

I am seriously going to look into becoming a volunteer.
-Amanda Grippo, sophomore nursing major

The local chapter, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge, currently serves five separate counties and aims to enhance many young lives. Philip Ruthkosky, Director of Student Development, is involved with the community development program Leadership Wilkes-Barre and is looking to design a program that will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Our chosen project will be an event type endeavor with the purpose of acknowledging the effort of current volunteers as well as assisting Big Brothers Big Sisters attract new volunteers," said Ruthkosky.

The need for new volunteers is immense. According to Ruthkosky, "Currently Big Brothers and Sisters of the Bridge has approximately 1,300 children matched with a big brother or sister. Unfortunately, there are also about 275 children on the wait list

they have on their respective Little Brothers and Sisters."

Amanda Grippo, sophomore nursing major said, "For nursing, we are required to participate in five hours of community service a semester. I have always been interested in the program Big Brothers Big Sisters and after hearing they have a need for students to participate, I am seriously going to look into becoming a volunteer."

College students are usually very busy writing papers and studying for exams. Students must realize that before deciding to apply to the program, they should carefully consider their schedules and availability. Ruthkosky noted, "Deciding to volunteer requires a dedication of your time."

Those interested in joining Big Brothers Big Sisters can visit the website bbbswb.org and apply online or call 824-8756.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge, the local chapter in Wilkes-Barre, is in need of new student volunteers. There are currently 1300 children matched with a big brother or sister, but 275 children are still on the wait list. Students are matched with younger children and meet once a week in the community or at the child's school.

Faculty Writers: Dr. Paola Bianco publishes new book

BY SARAH DOMAN
Beacon Staff Writer

Wilkes University faculty are evaluated according to a variety of services they provide at and outside of the university. Good teaching, service on faculty committees, and scholarship all play a role in faculty assessment.

Dr. Paola Bianco has taught at Wilkes since 1996 and serves as the coordinator of the study abroad program. She is also a published author. Recently, Bianco published a series of books for university and upper-level high school study. These books consist of three editions of Spanish works entitled *La casa de Bernarda Alba: a play by Federico Garcia Lorca*, *San Manuel Bueno, Martir: a short novel by Miguel de Unamuno*, and *El burlador de Sevilla, a play written by Tirso de Molina* and two volumes of Spanish literature. Bianco's volumes of Spanish literature are titled *Introduction to Latin American Literature* and *Introduction to Spanish Literature*.

Bianco co-authored the books with her husband. She said, "It was a good process. He teaches one course where I teach four, so he had more time."

During the writing and publication process of the books, Bianco was granted a sabbatical in order to complete her work. She decided to write the books because she saw a need for them and publication companies agreed.

"It took three years for two books. The second publishing company accepted it, because there was a need for this kind of book," said Bianco.

The process of copyright and editing were also a lengthy process. Bianco said, "It was more painful than writing. I like the writing part better."

For her research, Bianco traveled to Mexico and also drew on personal experiences to make the process tangible. She believes in teaching and using her doctorate degree for research.

Bianco currently uses her own books when teaching her classes. "Students like to know their professor is scholarly. I can be a professor in class, but I apply my knowledge outside of the university and I believe students are satisfied."

Students are not the only ones



Courtesy www.wilkes.edu

Dr. Paola Bianco has recently published a series of books co-authored by her husband. Bianco took a sabbatical to dedicate time to the research aspect of these publications. There will be a reception to celebrate the publications on March 3.

who are satisfied with Bianco's accomplishment. Dr. Darin Fields Dean of the college of Arts said, "I am thrilled and happy for Dr. Bianco on her publication. This project represents several years of hard work, travel and research, and I know she is proud of her work. I am proud of all that Dr. Bianco brings to Wilkes, in the classroom and as a respected scholar in her discipline."

There will be a reception for Bianco to celebrate the book publication on March 3.

Just the **FACTS** COLLEGE DRINKING CONSEQUENCES

As many as 70% of college students admit to having engaged in sexual activity primarily as a result of being under the influence of alcohol, or to having sex they wouldn't have had if they had been sober.

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Oscar Preview: 78th Annual Academy Awards to air 3/5

BY DONNA TALARICO
Beacon A&E Editor

It's that time of year again. The 78th time celebrities get glamorous freebie bags and sit together in clothes designed just for them, just for the evening. The time when we hear awards for movies we've never seen, starring actors we sometimes never heard of. Still, the Oscars create buzz beyond Hollywood.

But much of the talk isn't about who will walk away with the trophy- but what they will walk down the red carpet in. And, with whom. Jennifer Aniston is slated to be a presenter, and many fans and tabloid followers may be eagerly waiting to see if Vince Vaughn or a seat-filler will be next to her. And, will fellow Aussie Keith Urban escort academy-winning actress Nicole Kidman? While these questions may not be the main focus of the night, they may be the talk of the town the next day.

Whether one watches the Academy Awards to truly see which actors take home an Academy Award of Merit (the official name of the statue) or to see who the Style Network will deem the best and worst dressed, the Oscars certainly do make for a night of entertainment. (From the living room of course, as the awards have been invitation only since the 40s.)

The host of this year's awards is Jon Stewart, sure to bring some wit and humor to an otherwise stuffy event. Other celebrities to look out for this year include presenters Jessica Alba, Morgan Freeman, Tom Hanks, Will Ferrel, Steve Carell, Clint Eastwood, Sandra Bullock, Queen Latifah, Will Smith, Ludacris and last year's best actor and actress, Jamie Foxx and Hillary Swank.

There are many categories (24 to be exact), but only real industry buffs and film school students really care about the behind-the-scenes awards. Here is a look at who is up for the fancy mantelpiece knick-knack:

Best Picture: *Brokeback Mountain*, *Munich*, *Good Night and Good Luck*, *Capote* and *Crash*

Best Actor: Heath Ledger (*Brokeback Mountain*), Joaquin Phoenix (*Walk the Line*), Philip Seymour Hoffman (*Capote*) and Terrance Howard (*Hustle and Flow*)

Best Actress: Charlize Theron (*North Country*), Keira Knightly (*Pride and Prejudice*), Felicity Huffman (*Transamerica*), Reese Witherspoon (*Walk the Line*) and Judi Dench (*Mrs. Henderson Presents*)

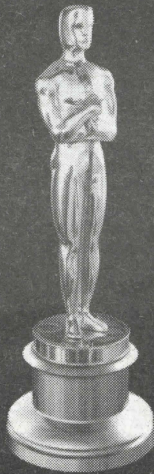
Best Supporting Actor: William Hurt (*A History of Violence*), George Clooney (*Syriana*), Matt Dillon (*Crash*), Jake Gyllenhaal (*Brokeback Mountain*) and Paul Giamatti (*Cinderella Man*)

Best Supporting Actress: Frances McDormand (*North Country*), Rachel Weisz (*Constant Gardner*), Amy Adams (*Junebug*), Michelle Williams (*Brokeback Mountain*) and Catherine Keener (*Capote*)

The Beacon A&E editors and movie critic have chosen their picks. Who are yours?

Our 2006 Oscar Picks

	DONNA: A&E EDITOR	MYLES: ASST. EDITOR	ALISON: CRITIC
Best Picture	<i>Brokeback Mountain</i> . It just caused such a buzz. Which is probably why I am wrong!	<i>Brokeback Mountain</i> even though <i>Crash</i> should win. There's too much momentum to stop <i>Brokeback</i> .	<i>Brokeback Mountain</i> because it made movie history with such a powerful love story. It has received the most nominations and deserves every single one of them.
Best Actor	If the deserving Joaquin Phoenix does not win, I will be upset. He acted and sang.	Joaquin Phoenix...thus far, Ledger hasn't picked up any (major) recognition for his part, and other than those two... who else is even nominated?	Heath Ledger. He took on an extremely challenging role and even had to create a new accent. For a film with so much controversy, he really portrayed his frustration and anger brilliantly.
Best Actress	Reese Witherspoon gave the performance of her life as the incredible June Carter Cash in <i>Walk the Line</i> . Not a blonde bimbo in this role.	Reese Witherspoon...because she is just great. Legally Blond anybody?	Reese Witherspoon since she did all her own singing and even learned to play the auto-harp for the role. Way to go girl.
Best Supporting Actor	Clooney. Enough said.	Matt Dillon totally deserves to win.	Jake Gyllenhaal in <i>Brokeback Mountain</i> because it's not every guy who can pull off such complexity.
Best Supporting Actress	Amy Adams because I didn't see Junebug- call it strategy.	Rachel Weisz. <i>The Constant Gardener</i> is supposed to be a great movie, and it's not nominated for anything else.	Michelle Williams because this girl has definitely come a long way since living at the Creek. She convincingly portrayed what a woman really must experience upon discovering her husband was homosexual.
Should have Been Nominated....	Where's Jessica Simpson's nomination? I'm kidding.	<i>Rent</i> . That's a real gay movie.	



Oscar Fun Facts from Oscar.com

-The Oscar weighs 8.5 pounds and is 13.5 inches tall

-Three people have refused their Oscar

-The Oscars were postponed three times. Pop culture junkies would know this. In 1938, LA was flooded. In 1968, the academy held the awards two days to observe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s funeral and in 1981, they held them due to the assassination attempt of Ronald Reagan.

-The awards began in 1929. The first year it was televised was 1953 and the year we found out the carpet was red- as in the first color broadcast- was 1966.

Dancin' with Mr. Cooper Wilkes alum revolutionizing dance

BY DONNA TALARICO

Beacon A&E Editor

Trash-talking. Rivalry. Boos and hisses?

Those are things more likely associated with World Wrestling Entertainment or the Super Bowl. However, one Wilkes University alumnus hopes those words will become synonymous with dance.

Raphael Cooper '04, now an English teacher at Wilkes-Barre's G.A.R. high school, showed up for a *Beacon* interview fresh from the classroom donning snazzy dress clothes complete with a bright tie and suspenders. But once the chalkboard is erased, the homework assignment is given and the last bell rings, this teacher has another gig to get to: dancing.

Cooper, who also runs a volunteer theater and music program at the Scranton Boys and Girls Club, recently founded Dance Entertainment Company (DEC). With organizational help from a friend and Cooper's sister, DEC's mission is to revolutionize dance in Northeast Pennsylvania. Between scouting and a successful audition in Scranton earlier this month, Cooper already has a cast of ten and hopes to grow in to 20 or more. DEC, however, is more than just a crew of dancers rehearsing for a show or two. Cooper has taken his love of the WWE, football and dance and is putting together a package that he has not seen anywhere else. He explains DEC will put on two tournament-style dance shows per month, starting in September.

"I love the theatrics of (the WWE)- the theme music, the trash talking. I am a big fan of rock shows, too. This will make dance more enjoyable, more tangible," he said. "I want to create that same rivalry and translate it to the dance audience. I want it to be an electric atmosphere."

Cooper explains that the volunteer cast, which will be chosen by June, will take part in an intensive training camp to learn the choreography through the summer. The cast will learn ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop styles and develop characters, all of whom will be implemented in a storyline that will play out over performances throughout the season. Cooper says characters may on stage despise one another to get the crowd riled, but says behind the scenes, he wants the company to be like family. And, so far so good, he says.

"(The Scranton try-outs) went very well. We drafted ten people. We have a great hip-hop dancer from Meyers (high school) and we had people from Mountaintop and Hazelton, the whole area covered. We have an Eagles cheerleader who may join us," he said.

Dance talent is not the only trait needed says Cooper, explaining that thick skin is also required, given the DEC format.

"We want the audience to cheer and scream, and we want them to boo," he said of the rivalry. "They [the dancers] have to have thick skin because they will get booed. It will all be quality dancing, but with different characters."

And just like on the WWE, there will be championships each week for male, female and group or duo, things that could very well develop a following.

"Why not tailor dance to people who don't normally appreciate it?" he said. "That's why I call this a revolution in dance."

The next audition will be held at the David Blight School of Dance on Main Street in Wilkes-Barre on Friday, March 24. Registration starts at 5:00 p.m. and the try-outs are from 6 to 8 p.m. An April audition at the Woodlands is in the works.

Aside from realizing his dream of choreographing for his own dance company, Cooper has a few other goals in mind for DEC. First, he greatly wishes to open dance up to more

types of people working to change the stuffy stereotype that formal dancing is reserved for the elite. In fact, he admits that some studios are frightened of his concept.

"The dance community is a funny community. It's very pretentious, very elitist. (DEC) might annoy some people, but I think the 'common' people will understand and appreciate dance," he said.

Cooper's sister and DEC marketing and web manager Lana Cooper echoes those sentiments.

"In the dance world, you have to look a different way, be a certain height or weight and even come from a certain socioeconomic background. All these little factors make it an elitist practice. It makes it closed off and not fun. What my brother is doing is to try to incorporate everyone," she said.

As for getting opposition from some studios, Cooper feels it may be because they think they are losing dancers, which is simply not the case.

"We are like an all-star company of people from other studios who will get to take this experience back to their own places," he said. Cooper went on to say that with shows like *Dancing with the Stars*, people are realizing that anyone can learn to dance.

"People are seeing that celebrities who aren't trained in dance are willing to make mistakes," he said. He also explains that dance, particularly ballet, can put people to sleep. His goal? To wake people up.

"I am tired of the classical stuff. The audience falls asleep and I am bored myself with it. I'd fall asleep, too, if I wasn't in the show," he said.

Lana Cooper feels the same way about ballet.

"It's pretty cut and dry. It's like, 'Oh yeah, here's act two.' You need nachos to keep you awake. You just sit there and look at the program and smile. We want to get people out of their seats," she said. "(Ballet) is an old traditional art form. Why not breathe a little new life into it."

Aside from putting on a show that will attract a new audience, he hopes to inject lower-income parts of the Valley with the desire to learn dance. Cooper, who has been dancing since he was three, feels very privileged to have had an opportunity others may not. Cooper explains that he wasn't rich growing up and that he lucked out getting dance lessons for free. Since he is male, he is considered a commodity in the business. But he knows that many underprivileged people are not exposed to dance.

"After we get the shows going and make a profit, we want to send a different kid (from a poor neighborhood or housing project) to a local studio for a month of dance lessons. That's the goal. To get some kids cultured so they can bring it back to their 'hood,'" Cooper said.

But, Cooper has received opposition from some studios, even though the lessons would be paid for, and he doesn't know what to make of it.

"I don't like seeing that one bit. I've seen discrimination in dance; that it's only for certain people. I want to get dance into these other areas," he said.

Cooper explained that even though the kids he is footing the bill for will only get a few lessons, he hopes they will take what they learned and teach others.

"It spreads. This could be their ticket out," he said, explaining that if they like dance, they can go to school for it, get a scholarship for it, pursue it as a career or maybe teach dance.

Cooper is just eager to get through the auditions and get his cast assembled.

"Training camp. That's all I think about."



The Beacon/Nick Zmiejewski

Raphael Cooper and Dance Entertainment Company plan to revolutionize dance with a unique concept deriving from the WWE, rock concerts and sports.

Raphael Cooper '04

is a dancing machine. He was a guest artist with the NEPA Ballet, won the NEPA Dancin' with the Stars charity fundraiser (his partner was WNEP's Julie Sidoni) and has even toured with Neil Young.

Cooper, born in Scranton, relocated to Philadelphia after high school and began college at Temple. He transferred to Wilkes his junior year and has been in the area since. Since graduation, Cooper has been teaching secondary English at G.A.R. He compares teaching to dancing.

"In both education and dance, you need discipline. If you don't study, you will not get it done on test day. The test day in dance is on performance day. It all takes preparation and discipline and today's kid doesn't like that," he said. He used an example of video games- kids just want the cheat codes to get through to upper levels.

"With school, you have to go. And as a teacher, you are not necessarily able to get people on the same page with your passion and the content. Dance is like an elective. When you add in music, it becomes a good time," he said. "I do take teaching more seriously though. Do I love it more? No. But I just make sure young minds and legs are getting exercise." But, it's not just his English class that he is shaping. After work, he drives to Scranton twice per week to run the Boys and Girl's Club's music and theater program, a role that Cooper took over after his mother passed away. The club puts on a few shows each year.

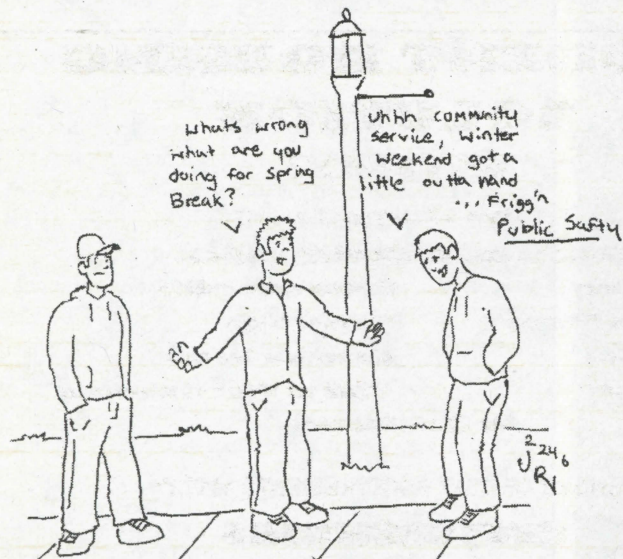
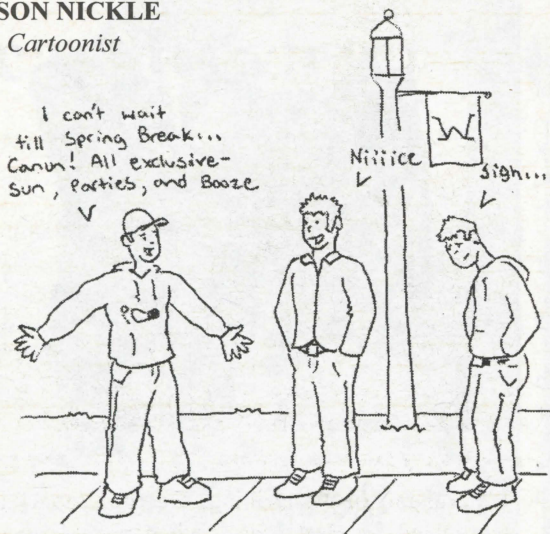
"My mom knew she was sick. She prepared me well and left notes about what to do. My family doesn't get down much, so she wanted comedy. She wanted us to keep laughing," he said of his mother's choosing of a show called "Comedy Tonight." Cooper does a lot of what he does for his mother, and says that God's not 'up there' alone watching him. "Her flame is still going. She is the impetus for everything I do," he said, as he showed off his mother's class ring from Temple, which adorns his ring finger. "This is how I keep her alive."

His passions are teaching kids, helping unfortunate kids, teaching dance and of course performing. He is thankful he can wrap everything into his life.

"I love the situation I am in. At 23, I am blessed."



BY JASON NICKLE
Beacon Cartoonist



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Off The Charts

Music Review



BY PAUL LESSANE
Beacon Correspondent

After a few years hiatus, Clearlake is back. You know them--the art school boys who sound as if they have frogs in their throats. The new CD is titled, *Amber*.

Clearlake is a bit of a revelation for drunk nay-sayers who have ever wondered what their voices would sound like when they can hear themselves...through their heads. Clearlake is a band from the UK with two previous albums in the bag. Their debut *LIDO* was critically acclaimed, and their sequel *Cedars* was produced by eighties great Simon Raymonde of the Cocteau twins. Clearlake seem to have a good deal going for it. So why does the group sound so dreadful? The third time around Clearlake, a guitar band, opted to employ the talents of producers Steve Osbourne and Jim Abbiss, who have been responsible for the likes of giving acts like Ladytron, Badly Drawn Boy, and other UK acts that can spell creativity the best duds on the block. Abbiss broke his back to give Clearlake's guitar sound a better haircut.

In *Amber*, the lyrics and music work together to produce a hypnotic effect. The chorus of opener 'No Kind of Life' trickles down your eardrum like a suicidal message that actually makes sense. It's the helping hand of the album that makes you feel like doing the rosary. On 'Dreamt That You Died', Jason Pegg reaches further into his purse of witty

repartee to make a frightening metaphor about what the love/hate ratio really means. Lead single 'Neon' is a harmonica tinged trombone free-for-all worthy of a Johnny Marr. 'Hate it that I got what I wanted' is a stomping epic, saying once more that blondes really don't have more fun. 'Widescreen' is another good one that sounds like it would look--a walled-in panorama of sound backed against a banana split guitar lead. With more hooks than you can shake a Republican veto stick at, it's clear that this band can get away with making a career out of saying what you're thinking...legally. Purchase this at once.

Grade: A

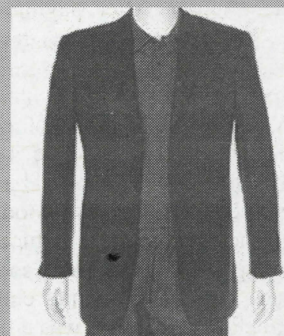
Trendspotter Blazers

Most guys think that Ryan Seacrest is the only guy who can pull off t-shirts under a classy blazer with jeans. Boy, are they wrong. Herringbone blazers are among the classiest trends out there for guys today. The great thing about these blazers is how universal they are. They can be worn to class, work or even for a night out on the town.

Guys, to dress your blazer up, pair it with some nice dress pants and a chic V-neck sweater. If you want to tone it down, throw on a solid colored T-shirt (no holes or stains, guys) and a trendy pair of distressed or worn jeans.

Herringbone blazers, like the one shown above, can be found in stores like Banana Republic, The Gap, Ralph Lauren and even Target. Guys, you'll be sure to stay stylish throughout the week with a great herringbone blazer.

-Megan Mance



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Dinner and a Movie

Movie: *Syriana*

BY ALISON SHERRY
Beacon Staff Writer

The Academy Awards are just around the corner and it's time for movie fanatics to watch and rate our favorite movies and for stars to get the awards they deserve.

In the case of *Syriana* though, the accolades don't seem especially deserving, thanks to a nearly incomprehensible plot. George Clooney and Matt Damon may be in it, but ladies, hold those hormones. In this movie, audiences are sure to find two of the sexiest men in Hollywood in very different and more serious roles. Yes, it's a very dramatic and serious movie, but it also may be the longest 126 minutes of your life. From writer/director Stephen Gaghan, winner of the Best Screenplay Academy Award for *Traffic*, *Syriana* is a political thriller with intertwining a combination of different stories about the global oil industry. Yeah. Sound exciting yet?

Oh wait, it gets better. A CIA operative (George Clooney) goes undercover in the Middle East only to discover a disturbing truth about his undercover work. A rising star of an oil-broker (Matt Damon) faces a horrific tragedy and finds solace in a partnership with a Gulf Prince. In an-

other aspect, a corporate lawyer (Jeffrey Wright) faces a questionable merger with two powerful U.S. oil companies, while across the globe a Pakistani teenager falls prey to the recruiting efforts of a suicide school. Each character plays a part in connecting the story together in a complex system that has each person unaware of the impact their actions will have on the world. So...what's this about again? Sometimes it can be fun to see different stories in one movie (i.e. the *Lord of the Rings*). But in this case, it is just downright annoying. The viewer has absolutely no idea what is going on the entire time or why it is relevant until the very end. When the ending *does* come, it's not even that wonderful. It almost seems like a complete waste of time and effort trying to figure out something that ends so abruptly. True, these are the kinds of things going on in the world, but you don't need a movie to tell you about oil. Turn on C-SPAN.



George Clooney stars in *Syriana*

Courtesy WB Media

It's probably just as thrilling. George Clooney is currently nominated for Best Actor and Stephen Gaghan for Best Writing and Screenplay. I'm not so sure about the writing, but on a slight upside, Clooney definitely went through a lot to make himself look as a believable CIA agent. That may be the most impressive thing about *Syriana*.

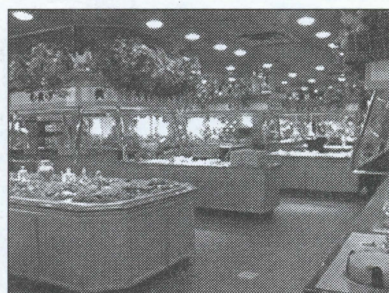
Otherwise, just save yourself the eight dollars and turn on C-SPAN.

Grade: D

Dinner: Old Country Buffet

BY DONNA TALARICO
Beacon A&E Editor

I admit it. I hate driving and I hate traffic, two pet peeves of mine frequent readers of the *Beacon's* Dinner and a Movie may now be familiar with. So, when we needed a new desk, groceries and were growing hungry, I decided to find a place in Wilkes-Barre where we could



Courtesy Tradershop.com
A typical OCB buffet line.

do all three in the shortest amount of time and with the least driving. The thing was, I already knew I wanted a cool desk from Big Lots. I thought we could eat and shop at Wegman's, and then get the desk. But why go to a busier part of town when there is a Price Chopper and Old Country Buffet right next to Big Lots? Problem solved.

We arrived at OCB at around 5:30 to find that many others had opted for an early, family-style dinner. After paying the \$21.19 for two adult dinners, we managed to find a booth. That's a good thing because neither of us prefer tables in the center of restaurants. We both made a beeline for the salad bar first- I have always loved salad bars, especially when they have peas, bacon bits, sunflower seeds and Chinese noodles. And anything other than iceberg lettuce. I added some cottage cheese and I was set for my first course. I also had a small cup of corn and potato chowder, which was a little bland. Then loaded up on a combination of things: meatloaf, chicken-n-dumplings, an enchilada, stuffing, corn and taters and gra-

vy. I had a third small plate of another slice of meatloaf, baked beans and another enchilada. All was pretty good. The stuffing was sweet, though. The meatloaf was great; by far the best thing on the buffet and perhaps better than some diners. Dave took quite a few trips too. His favorites were

mashed potatoes and the mac-n-cheese. He also said the wings and said they were tasty. The beverage selection was diverse- even Sprite Zero on tap, as well as coffee and tea. The chocolate milk is awesome, just like at Wilkes. There is something about a big metal vat filled with a bag of milk. Mmm! Overall, the concept of OCB is just like the Wilkes cafeteria, only a little pricier at \$9.99 per dinner. There are different dishes every night, but always a good selection of meats, side orders and veggies. They have dessert too, but somehow my date and I never have room.

Those with an OCD may not like OCB- all sorts of hands touching things. I on the other hand just believe that my immune system will take care of me as I indulge buffet style dining. As for the atmosphere, it's just so-so. With high traffic to and from the buffet, there is bound to be spills, crumbs and other debris on the floor and spoons in the wrong serving pan. During our visit though, there were employees constantly cleaning; a good sign.

Grade: B

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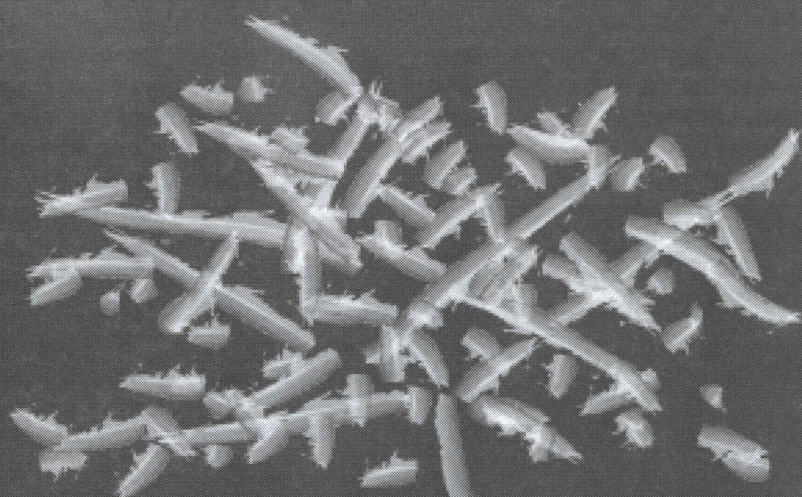
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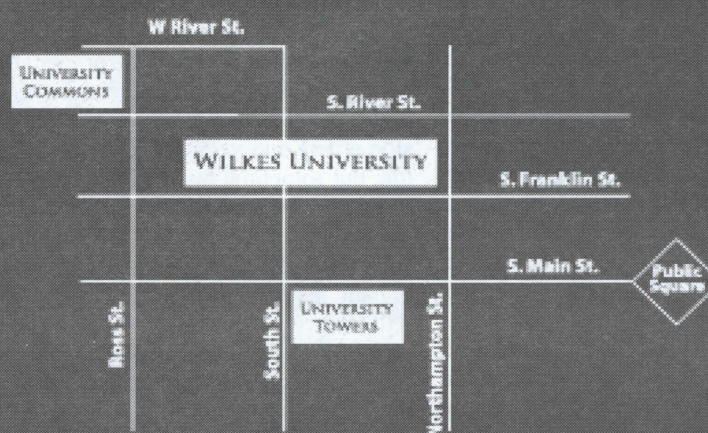
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Chattin' with Past Colonels

Wilkes assistant softball coach Sandy Mullen

BY RICH HANNICK
Beacon Staff Writer

This week, the Chattin' with past Colonels feature will be taking a little bit of a different approach. Even though our feature is a past Colonel, she is also a present Colonel. Wilkes assistant softball coach Sandy Mullen spent her four years of eligibility with the Lady Colonels' softball team, and has been splitting her time between her pharmacy studies and her coaching duties ever since. Recently, Mullen, who is assistant softball coach, had a chance to sit down with *Beacon* correspondent Rich Hannick to discuss her career and plans for the future.

Rich Hannick (RH): What made you decide to come to Wilkes and play softball?

Sandy Mullen (SM): I liked that Wilkes was close to home and allowed me the op-

portunities to continue to play softball and also focus on school.

RH: What positions did you play?

SM: Catcher, third base, and designated hitter.

RH: What accolades or honors did you receive for playing softball?

SM: First and Second Team Freedom Conference and MAC Academic Honor Roll.

RH: Why did you decide to become a coach after your eligibility expired?

SM: I still wanted to be involved with softball and knew that with the rigorous pharmacy schedule in addition to working, coaching would allow for that opportunity.

RH: Does coaching interfere with your pharmacy studies?

SM: No, the faculty of the pharmacy school have been great in allowing me to continue to coach and the athletic department under-

stands that academics come before athletics.

RH: What do you teach your players regarding eligibility?

SM: I hope that my involvement with the program over the last four years shows them that even though your eligibility has expired, your involvement with softball and the team at Wilkes does not have to end.

RH: How does your work on the field reflect your work off the diamond?

SM: I think...trying to do my best at every practice and every game for the team in order to help them improve carries over into everything I do from school to work to my involvement in the pharmacy organizations. It's that mentality that drives you to be a better student, athlete, coach, or whatever you focus is at the particular moment.

RH: Do you have a favorite U.S. women's

softball player? If so who?

SM: I don't have a favorite player, but I respect the entire team and think its great women's sports have come so far over the past several years.



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Senior Tribute

BY NICK PODOLAK
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Participating in athletics can be a heart-breaking endeavor. Athletes who love their sports can find the shock of missed shots and narrow defeats to be a sobering experience that they may feel far too many times in an athletic career. This chance for heartbreak is topped by the NCAA's eligibility rules, which gives most athletes only four years to take their shot at a conference crown or

Women's basketball

The women's basketball team went through a transitional season after losing several key players and having to adjust to a new coach. It was up to seniors Rena Bolin, Tristin Tkach, and Andrea Kaprowicz to carry a young squad and acclimate the coach to the Colonel system. Just like the men's basketball team, the senior women took on different leadership roles, bringing their own unique style to the table. "Rena was the heart of the team," said coach Rachel Hartung. "She led by example. Tkach and Andrea Kaprowicz, on the other hand, took on a parental role. While Tkach dished out tough love to the team, telling it like it was, Kaprowicz played the soccer mom,

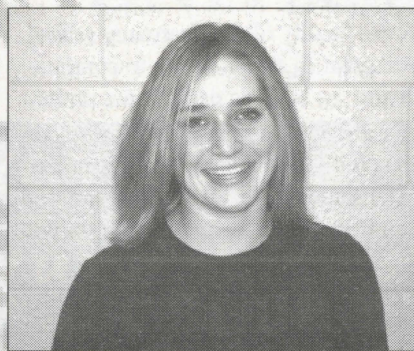
national title.

The Wilkes winter sports programs have recently closed the 2005-2006 season. Of the dozens of athletes that have hung up their uniforms for the year, nine have hung them up for good. The Beacon honors these individuals for the four years of dedication that they gave to their respective Wilkes programs. Although their careers as student-athletes may have drawn to a close, the traditions they added to at Wilkes will continue to build.

always cheering and offering positive reinforcement. "Each possessed a different leadership quality that made for a very nice



Rena Bolin



Andrea Kaprowicz



Tristin Tkach

Men's basketball

Senior Drew Amoroso gave new meaning to the term student athlete during his four years at Wilkes. An English major, Amoroso maintained a 4.0 average while serving as president of both the Sigma Tau Delta and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, not to mention co-captain of the men's basketball team his junior and senior years. "Drew is the best leader I have ever had," said head coach Jerry Rickrode. "And that's saying a lot because he doesn't get to play all that much. He just has a rare quality and is mature beyond his years. He'll probably be in the Senate someday," Rickrode laughed.

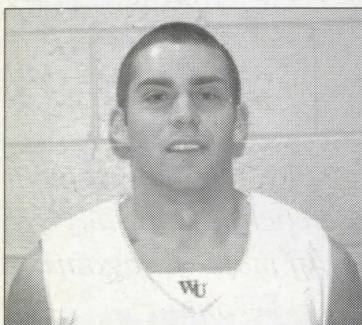
Sharing the captain's role with Amoroso was big-man center Evan Walters. A standout soccer player at Cumberland Valley high school, Walters was persuaded to join the basketball team and has been a shot-blocking fiend in the paint ever since, leading the league in blocked shots this season with 73. Walters is a math major and hopes to become a mechanical engineer.

While Amoroso and Walters served as the team leaders, guard Michael Constantine was the team's workhorse. Playing three seasons with the Colonels after transferring from Div II Saint Rose, Constantine was a threat beyond the arc all season, complet-

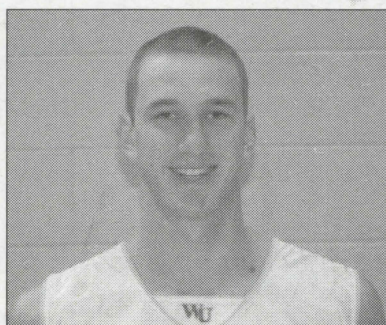
ing a scoring trifecta behind Walters and sophomore guard Chris Shovlin. "When he gets an open look, you get the feeling it's going in," Rickrode said. "C-Dawg" was second on the team in scoring and second in the league in three pointers, sinking (65) treys and coming in second only to Freedom Player of the Year Jonathan Pribble of Lycoming. "It's no surprise that he's the best shooter because he has the best work ethic. He's a deadly shooter, he works at it, and he's confident. And that's going to be important later on in life because it will carry over into whatever job he gets into," Rickrode said.

Also graduating from the men's basketball team are guard John Sclafani and 6-6 forward Greg Cardamone, who both played major roles in Wilkes' playoff run. Sclafani is an accounting major and made the Deans' List all four years of his academic career. He also interned at Bear-Sterns the past two summers. "John's going to be very successful," Rickrode said.

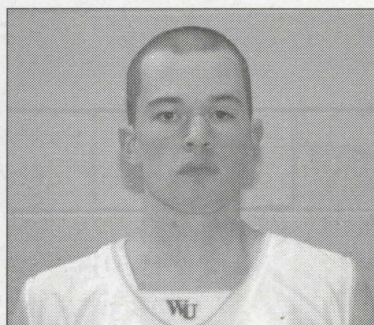
Rickrode also expects Cardamone to reap life's benefits. An electrical engineer, Rickrode said "Greg's come a long way. He has a great family and is a worker in and out of the classroom."



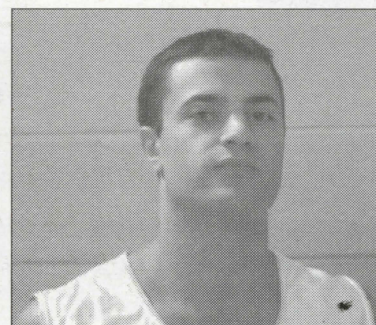
Drew Amoroso



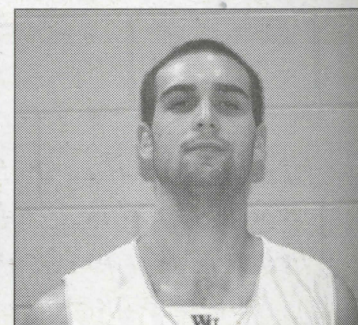
Evan Walters



Mike Constantine



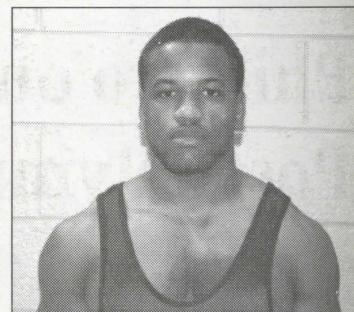
John Sclafani



Greg Cardamone

Wrestling

Rex Harris came into this season with something to prove. A champion in 2003, Harris suffered from a torn ACL and had to rehabilitate the past two years. His return definitely made a statement about his character and drive. "Rex gives it everything he's got and he meshed well with everybody else," said head coach Jon Laudenslager. Harris, the lone senior who served as a team captain, finished (31-6) and plans to follow up on his business major.



Rex Harris

team environment," Hartung said. Despite a losing record, the team showed improvement, winning two more games than the

previous year. The team also played competitively throughout the season, setting an intense tone for the years to follow.

| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

National Hockey League: Flyers versus Rangers

Philly to outlast New York in Post-Olympic shootout

BY KEVIN REED
Beacon Staff Writer

The Olympic torch in Torino has been extinguished and the many National Hockey League participants are returning home.

It is now the time in the NHL season when teams decide whether they are still striving for the Stanley Cup or if they are going to begin rebuilding for next year. The month of March represents the final full month of the regular season and the last major push for either a playoff berth or for a division title. In terms of this game, the race at the top of the Atlantic division continues as the New York Rangers bring their slim division lead to Philadelphia to battle their long-time rivals, the second place Flyers.

The marquee names in this rivalry are ever changing. From the old days when there were players by the name of Davidson, Clarke, and Barber, to only a decade ago with names like Lindros, Messier, and Richter, and to now where the big names are Forsberg, Gagne, and Jagr, there have always been great players and games to watch between these two storied clubs.

As for those current prominent players, all of them are limping back to the NHL after injuries kept each one of them out of serious playing time in the Olympics. Philadelphia forwards Peter Forsberg, who has been battling injuries all season, and Simon Gagne, who took a rough hit in Team Canada's quarterfinal loss to Russia that momentarily took him out of action, may not be playing at full throttle. Also, the Rangers' star

Jaromir Jagr suffered a head injury during the Olympic tournament that noticeably reduced his effectiveness on the ice.

With prominent injuries affecting both teams, the supporting casts will have to rise to the occasion to make up for any potential lack of star power. Unfortunately for Philadelphia, Forsberg and Gagne make up a vast majority of their scoring, so the team will have to count on forwards Mike Knuble, Sami Kapanen and newly acquired Petr Nedved to lead the scoring rush if their big guns are not playing. Also, some contributions will need to be made from offensive defensemen Eric Desjardins and Joni Pitkanen if the Flyers want to keep up with the Rangers offensively.

Speaking of the guys in blue, the Rangers boast more offensive depth on paper. Forwards Michal Nylander, Martin Straka, Petr Sykora, and Martin Rucinsky all have the ability to take over the game offensively on a good night. Defensively is where the Flyers have a decided advantage. Philadelphia has one of the biggest and most physical defensive corps in the league and they will most likely use that advantage to frustrate the Rangers' forwards and get them off their game.

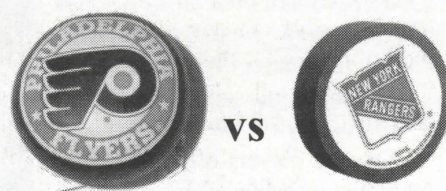
Staying with the physical aspect of the game, expect a rivalry such as this to be filled with hits and possibly some fisticuffs before it is all said and done. Expect the Flyers' Derian Hatcher and Donald Brashear as well as the Rangers' Darius Kasparaitis to be in the middle of the action. It simply would not be a true Flyers-Rangers game

without a healthy dose of physical play.

The rookie watch for this game centers on New York's sensational rookie netminder Henrik Lundquist, who ranks among the top-ten in the league in every major goaltending category. On the other side, keep an eye on the duo of Flyers rookie centers Jeff Carter and Mike Richards, potential 'x-factors' in the game.

It will be interesting to see how the players on both teams perform after an extended hiatus in the NHL schedule due to the Olympic Games. Assuming both clubs are in midseason form, it will be a good battle between the Rangers offense and the Flyers defense. Expect a close game the whole way through, as it should end in a one or two-goal difference.

The Pick: Rangers 4, Flyers 3 (OT)



Double Take

BY SARAH HERBERT
Beacon Features Editor

Sarah examines the facts that truly matter...

Well, you sure can bet that this week's Double Take will be short and to the point.

The point you ask? I still hate hockey. It's nonsense in my opinion. Nevertheless, my ruthless editors have forced me to examine the face off between the Rangers and the Flyers.

I'm not even sure where to begin. Hockey is just an excuse for men to ice skate without being picked on. Male figure skaters take heat all of the time, but hockey players are "macho".

Since I'm not too sure what the heck a Ranger is supposed to be, I'll pick the Flyers. Although, I'm not quite sure how they got their name either.

I hear Philadelphia hockey fans are brutal, so I won't take any chances. Go Flyers.

WEEKEND RECAPS

Men's basketball

The Colonels were unable to hold on to a 32-27 halftime lead against the University of Scranton, and fell 64-63 in the Freedom Conference championship game. Wilkes had a 63-62 lead with 1:22 to go when Scranton's Ryan Fitzpatrick was fouled. Fitzpatrick nailed both free throws to give Scranton a 64-63 lead. The Colonels attempted to take advantage of a Scranton turnover with 33 seconds left, and tried to capitalize on a Scranton error with only 10 seconds left, but the ball was knocked loose as Chris Shovlin made his way to the basket, and Kable's rushed throw missed as time expired. Evan Walters finished the game with a team-high 17 points, while sophomore Jeremy Kable added a 15-point effort. Wilkes finished the season with a 14-10 record, while the Royals advanced to the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

17

Number of tallies by Evan Walters in Wilkes' 64-63 heartbreaker to Scranton Saturday afternoon.

35

More days until opening day of Major League Baseball.

0

Legitimate calls made during Saturday's men's basketball playoff game at Scranton, the most poorly-officiated game in recent memory.

15

Buckets by Jeremy Kable off the bench in Saturday's playoff matchup against Scranton.

Athlete of the Week: Men's basketball- Jeremy Kable

BY RYAN DIPPRE
Beacon Sports Editor

King's never saw it coming.

After splitting two extremely close games with the Colonels during the regular season, the Monarchs expected Wednesday night's game to be a nail-biter. They expected the pomp and circumstance that surrounds a rivalry game, with the added pressure of conference playoffs to boot. They expected the momentum to shift, and the screaming crowds to play a major factor. Late in the game, after a strong comeback by their beloved basketball team tied the game at 55, they probably even expected another momentum switch or two before the final gun sounded.

What they did not expect was for Jeremy Kable to put them in their places so quickly.

Thirteen seconds after Vince Scalzo knocked in a three-pointer to tie up the game, sophomore support guard Jeremy Kable hit a three-pointer of his own to give Wilkes a 60-57 lead. The Colonels would not relinquish control of the game again, and left the Monarchs' Scandlon Gymnasium with a 69-61 victory and a shot at the MAC title on Saturday.

The three-pointer was only one of several crucial shots made by Kable during the contest. Kable, who would go on to score fifteen points in the game, proved what a deciding factor strong bench support can really be. "When-

ever you have someone come off the bench like that, and you get a lot of points from the bench...I think the starters can feed off of that," said senior co-captain Drew Amoroso.

Support players often make the difference between winning and losing in close contests, but rarely are support players able to come up with the stats that Kable did on Wednesday night. "It's pretty hard to sit for 20 minutes and then come in cold off the bench," said Amoroso. Players are no longer properly warmed up after sitting for so long, and the playing time lost can often have a devastating effect on overall statistics. Kable, however, is unaffected by such a stop-and-go playing time scenario. "It didn't really affect my play," said Kable. "I've been coming off the bench all season."

Although he had been in the situation before, his 15-point effort caught a little by surprise. "It was surprising at first," said Kable, a criminology major. "I just wanted to do what I could to help our team win."



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Senior guard Michael Constantine gets airborne for a layup in last Wednesday's victory against King's. Constantine put up 11 tallies and four assists as Wilkes went on to play Scandlon for the Freedom Conference Championship Saturday. Wilkes lost the game, 64-63.

Campus Calendar

All Week

*Johnnie Winona Ross:
Abstract Paintings, Sordoni
Art Gallery

Monday (2/27)

*NUArts, DDD - 7:30
p.m.
*African American Movie
Night, Coach Carter, Rifkin
Cafe - 8 p.m.

Tuesday (2/28)

*NUArts, DDD - 7:30
p.m.
*African American Movie
Night, The Gospel, Rifkin
Cafe - 8 p.m.

Wednesday (3/01)

*Drugs and the Law, HSC

Ballroom - 9 p.m.

Thursday (3/02)

*No events listed for to-
day

Friday (3/03)

*Cholesterol Screening,
Health Services Office, Ev-
ans 1st Floor - 8:30 to 10
a.m. Cost is \$10.

*Women's Softball @ Vir-
ginia Wesleyan Tournament
- 10 a.m.

*Alumni Spaghetti Dinner,
HSC Ballroom - 6 to 8 p.m.
RSVP to alumni@wilkes.
edu or x4130

*Spring Break Recess be-
gins - 5 p.m.

Saturday (3/04)

*Women's Softball @ Vir-
ginia Wesleyan Tournament
- 10 a.m.

*Men's Baseball vs. Caze-
novia - 12 p.m.

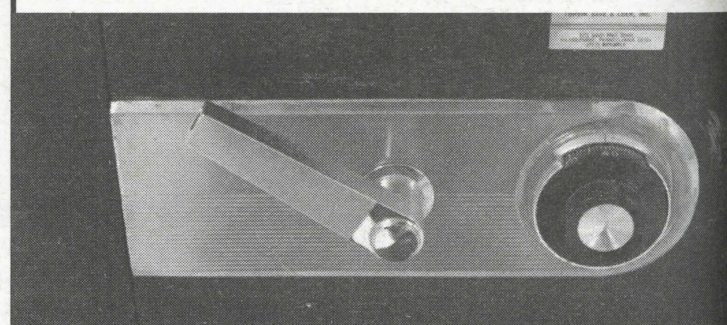
Sunday (3/05)

*Men's Baseball vs. Neu-
mann - 12 p.m.

*To have your events in-
cluded, send an email to wil-
kesbeacon@gmail.com and
include the event, date, time
and location*

The Beacon will not pub-
lish again until March 20
due to spring break.

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH



This photo was taken somewhere on Wilkes University's campus. **When you find it, email us the answer at:** wilkesbeacon@gmail.com. Be sure to put "Campus Picture" as the subject heading, as well as your name, phone number, and either campus mailbox or mailing address in the body text. A random winner will be picked from the correct responses and will receive a \$10 cash prize courtesy of the Programming Board.

Congratulations to Aleksander Lapinski, who correctly identified last week's picture taken in the basement of the library.