

Author gives inside view of Wall Street

The Beacon/Kirstin Cook

New York Times columnist and "Squawk Box" co-host Andrew Sorkin presented a lecture last week to the Wilkes community and used observations from his best-selling book, "Too Big to Fail," about the 2008 economy crisis to comment on current issues such as the Occupy Wall Street movement and rising student debt.

BY KIRSTIN COOK
Editor-in-Chief

Failure of General Electric, McDonald's not being able to make payroll and an 25 percent unemployment rate paints a grim portrait of society. Andrew Ross Sorkin, New York Times journalist, co-host of CNBC's "Squawk Box" and author of "Too Big To Fail," described this

scene as what could have been in America during his presentation at the Allan P. Kirby Lecture Series on October 18.

Sorkin's speech focused on the financial crisis of 2008, which featured the major landmarks of the sale of Merrill Lynch, the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers and the \$85 billion bailout of AIG. This economic meltdown, Sorkin said,

continues to leave scars on the economy today.

Sorkin was in the middle of the whole economic disaster, reporting from his insider's view on the inner workings of Wall Street for what he termed "one of the most remarkable weekends in our economic history."

A 25 percent unemployment rate in the U.S., compared to the current

9.1 percent rate, is one of the stark projections Sorkin referenced in a scenario where there was no government interference on this event.

"We could have been living in a very, very different world," Sorkin said.

Sorkin said while these numbers are hypothetical, the very real problem of businesses struggling to pay employees was a very real in-

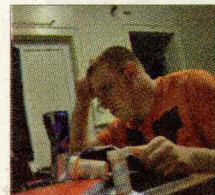
dication of how this crisis impacted more than just major corporations.

"The impact was not really strictly about Wall Street. It really was about Main Street in a way that we often don't appreciate," Sorkin said.

Sorkin's intimate view on the impact of this crisis led him to write his New York Times bestseller,

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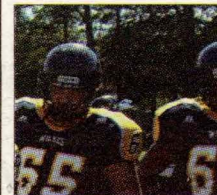
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Beacon Briefs

BY AMANDA LEONARD
News Editor

SPRING SEMESTER REGISTRATION - Online registration for the Spring 2012 semester will begin shortly according to the following schedule:

Seniors - Class of 2012 with 86 or more earned credits, registration begins 12:01 a.m. on Oct 31.

Juniors - Class of 2013 with 56 or more earned credits, registration begins 12:01 a.m. on Nov 2.

Sophomores - Class of 2014 with 26 or more earned credits, registration begins 12:01 a.m. on Nov 7.

Freshmen - Class of 2015 with less than 26 earned credits, registration begins 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 9.

The Spring 2012 Master Schedule is now available online and in printed format. Make an appointment to meet with your adviser to pre-register and obtain your alternate PIN as soon as possible.

FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE - Wilkes University Health & Wellness Department is offering flu shots for \$20 payable by check made out to Wilkes University or cash. Vaccines will be given during regular office hours. A limited number of shots are available and will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the week and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays at Passan Hall.

ELIE WIESEL PRIZE IN ETHICS ESSAY CONTEST 2012 - The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay contest is now in its 23rd year. Students are encouraged to write thought-provoking personal essays that raise questions, single out issues and are rational arguments for ethical action. The contest is open to undergraduate, full time, juniors and seniors. Students must apply and submit es-

says online, and receive online verification from their faculty sponsor. Any professor may act as a faculty sponsor and endorse the quality and authenticity of the student's work. Students must also upload a letter from the registrar or National Student Clearinghouse verifying enrollment. The deadline for submission is at 5 p.m. on Dec. 5. For more information, see flyer outside of the Interfaith Office at 204 Henry Student Center, or Contact Caitlin Czeh at caitlin.czeh@wilkes.edu

VOLUNTEER TO BE CONVERSATION PARTNER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT - The Intensive English Program (IEP) at Wilkes has created a conversation partner program. It's an opportunity for Wilkes University students to volunteer and be paired with an international student for the semester. They will meet once a week to chat, giving the American student a chance to learn about a new culture while helping an international student adjust to life in Wilkes-Barre, and giving the international student a chance to practice their English and make some new friends. The IEP has 47 international students from China, Korea and Saudi Arabia in need of conversation partners. If interested in volunteering to be a conversation partner, email kimberly.niezgoda@wilkes.edu

WEIGHT WATCHERS AT WORK - The Health Services Office has had employee and student interest in continuing the Weight Watchers at Work Program for the spring semester. It will be held at the workplace at a convenient time. It would be a Weight Watchers meeting, with a weekly weigh in and a half hour meeting. The cost is \$10 for each meeting. Weight Watchers has programs students can participate in for an eight week series and pay \$80 for a 10 week program paid in advance. If anyone would

be interested in the program, call Health Services at Ext. 4730. to register for the Weight Watchers at Work program. A minimum of 15 participants is needed for the program.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF POLISH DESCENT - The Polish Room Committee Scholarship and The Judianne Stanitski Scholarship welcome applications from Luzerne County residents. To be considered, applicants must write a brief description of their Polish heritage and what that heritage means to him or her. This must be submitted, along with the applicant's name, WIN and contact information, to Melanie Mickelson, vice president for Enrollment Services. Applications can be e-mailed to melanie.mickelson@wilkes.edu. Include "Polish Heritage Scholarships" in the subject line of your e-mail.

CORRECTION:

In our Oct. 11 issue, *The Beacon* misprinted the dates of Student Government's Casino Week. The correct dates are:

Bingo - Tuesday, Nov. 1
Horse Racing - Wednesday, Nov. 2
Texas Hold 'Em - Thursday, Nov. 3
Casino Night - Friday, Nov. 4

The Beacon apologizes for this error.

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Wilkes alumnus' life in law



Photo courtesy of Kyle Kreider

On Tuesday, Oct. 11 the Pre-Law Society at Wilkes University hosted a speech by Brad L. Williams. Williams, a 2006 alumnus who now works as a lawyer at Fine, Wyatt & Carey, one of the oldest law firms in NEPA. Williams talked about his post-Wilkes experiences in law school, taking the bar exam and in the legal job market.

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SORKIN

Continued from Front Page

"Too Big To Fail: The Inside Story of How Wall Street and Washington Fought to Save the Financial System -- and Themselves."

The goal of Sorkin's book was to bring readers into the conference room of CEO's in major corporations so they could understand the background of the crisis. He said that many people have their opinions on what happened, but those might change with a viewpoint from the inside.

"If we could get inside the room, if we could actually see what the choices were that were on the table, our perspective may ultimately be different," Sorkin said.

Sorkin explained that he ultimately is not trying to shape peoples' opinions, but to simply inform them on the event.

"My goal was not to tell people what to think, it was to tell people what happened, so that we could actually understand where we are today," he said.

Jeffrey Alves, Sidhu School of Business Interim Dean, was involved in bringing Sorkin to the lecture and said that Sorkin has an ability to effectively inform his audience on the technicalities of the financial system. This ability was a main reason the business school invited Sorkin to Wilkes.

"He's one of those rare journalists with the

ability to translate that into a language that you and I can understand," Alves said.

Sorkin used this event as an attempt to translate the financial situation into perspective and a bigger picture for his audience. He said that there are a lot of significant issues he hopes locals can appreciate.

One focus that Sorkin took is how the poor financial state came about. He said that people often like to pick favorites to blame, but he is not sure if it can be singled out on one group.

"Unfortunately there's a lot of fathers to this crisis, and a lot of blame to go around, and we can always pick out the one group that we think is more responsible than the others," Sorkin said.

Sorkin said that a frequent target is the bank executives that were so involved in the event, but there are other influences that need to be considered.

"We've sort of talked a lot about the banks and the role of the banks and their role and responsibility and clearly they played a huge role in the crisis, but there's also functionally the government's role, in not just exacerbating the crisis in some cases or not mitigating it the way people would have wanted but in creating the crisis unto itself."

The major issue Sorkin highlighted was debt, stating that it is the major catalyst in many financial breakdowns.

"You could have everybody doing every-

thing wrong, but as long as there's not too much leverage in the system, it actually doesn't matter," Sorkin said. "It's the leverage and the debt, that is the match that lights the fire, every time."

He said another major problem right now is the concentration within banks. He said bank assets are more concentrated than ever before, and that the top ten banks today control 77 percent of all bank assets.

The current corporations have an issue that Sorkin terms "too big to manage."

"It's hard to think that one, two, three, five, six, even a dozen people who are on a board of directors or a CEO or a management team can actually know what's going across these institutions," Sorkin said.

Sorkin said he is disappointed that the glorification of greed in these corporations has continued from before the days of the meltdown.

"If there's anything I was most sad about, it's actually that the ethos on Wall Street has not changed one bit," Sorkin said. "The sense that greed is good is still alive and well."

This sense of greed is one thing that the recent Occupy Wall Street protestors have spoken out against. Sorkin said he believes many people have sympathy for the occupiers. He believes there is a main message that many are connecting with.

"There's a larger message that everyone

seems to be willing to agree on, which is the system isn't working for them," Sorkin said.

While he said that Wall Street is not concerned with the protestors and a potential of change in their industry, they are paying attention to this larger message and the social unrest around it.

Sorkin said there is some potential for change from these protests, but they will most likely be within the educational system through cheaper tuition and simplified loan processes.

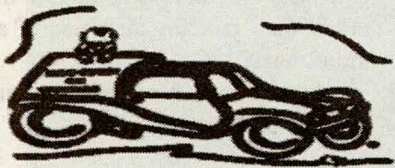
He said that he has been impacted by the cases of students graduating with massive debt and not having job opportunities.

"I've been very moved by the stories that graduates tell about not having employment, about having some ungodly numbers in term of the debt they have to pay off, and that clearly is not working for people," Sorkin said. "That's a system that is functionally broken, I would argue."

From the analysis of all of these ongoing problems, Sorkin said the most effective goal to address them is to find a leader who can truly instill hope in people.

"Whether you're homeless, whether you're middle-class, or whether you have a billion dollars, you still want to be loved, you still want to be told that things are going to be great," Sorkin said.

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G.I. Jobs names Wilkes military-friendly school for second consecutive year

BY BILL THOMAS
Assistant News Editor

During his stay in the United States Navy, Wilkes-Barre native John Smith had the opportunity to travel to such faraway destinations as Thailand, Panama and Brazil, amongst others. But there was something missing from those exotic locales, something the Navy could not offer him, something that made Smith long for home.

It was his family.

When Smith finished his tour in the Navy, it was not long before he returned to his hometown and reunited with his loved ones. A civilian once again, Smith also had a desire to re-enter the halls of academia. Soon enough, this desire led him to enroll at Wilkes University. It was, Smith said, a perfect fit.

Apparently, Smith is not the only member of the armed services who feels that way. Wilkes was recently named by G.I. Jobs magazine as one of the most military-friendly schools in America. Of the 8,000 colleges and trade schools surveyed by G.I. Jobs nationwide, Wilkes now ranks as one of the elite 1,518 selected for the list.

This is not the first year in which the university has received this honor, and retired Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Kaster, who now works at the school teaching meteorology and advising student veterans, said he's sure it won't be the last.

"This is only the second of many, many more to come," Kaster said. "I think we'll be

doing this year after year."

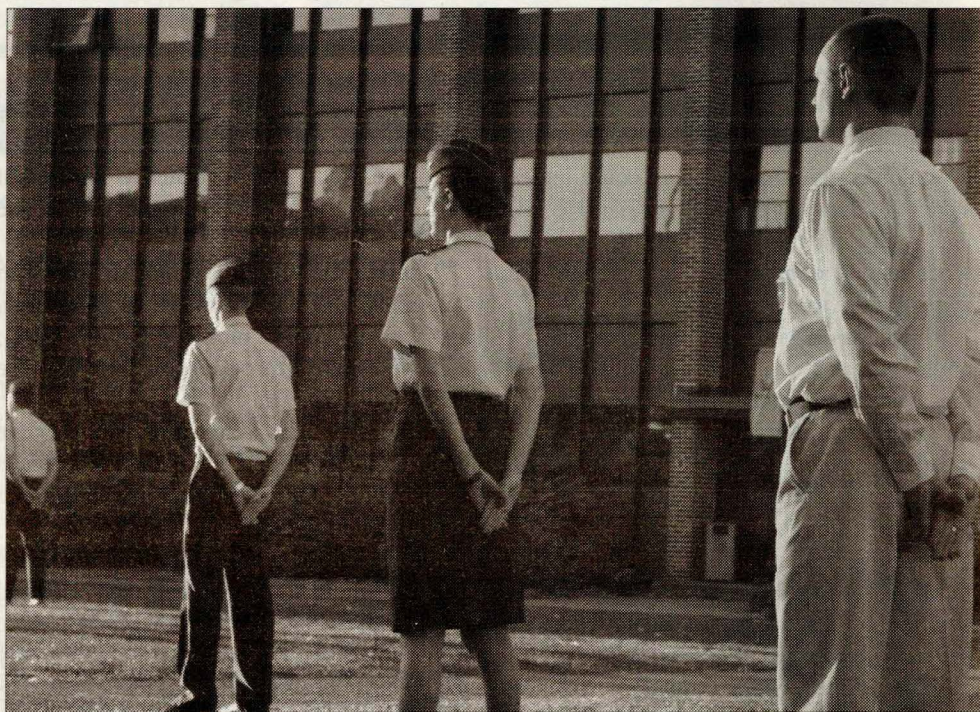
Elaborating on the steps the school takes in an attempt to extend the olive branch to members of the military, Kaster points to his own efforts as on-campus veterans outreach counselor, as well as the university's close relationship with Air Force ROTC Detachment 752 and NEPA Army ROTC. Particularly notable is Wilkes' participation in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Yellow Ribbon Program.

Smith agrees that Yellow Ribbon serves as one of the most attractive advantages Wilkes offers to veterans. The program, which provides enhanced education benefits for post-9/11 veterans, was instrumental in Smith's decision to attend Wilkes, as well as in helping him make the transition back into civilian life.

"They pay a hundred percent of my tuition," Smith explained, "and they also give me a stipend to live off so I don't have to worry about work while I'm trying to learn."

Joseph Brown, a former member of the Air Force who now studies computer science at Wilkes, similarly cites the university's participation in Yellow Ribbon as a major way in which Wilkes makes itself more welcoming to veterans. However, Brown remarked that what he may benefit from most is the school's treatment of him as a student on equal footing with his non-military classmates, neither over- nor underprivileged.

"I feel the fact that you're treated as just a normal student is a positive," Brown said. "You don't have another crutch. ... You have



The Beacon Archives

Pictured above, the Air Force ROTC Veterans Day ceremony, held on campus in 2010, showcases Wilkes' commitment to being military-friendly.

to work just as hard as everyone else."

It's sentiment reiterated by Smith, who notes that although instructors are sympathetic to his status as someone who has "been out of the process of learning for so long," he doesn't feel like he is given any special treatment.

At the same time, Kaster assures that "just a normal student" does not necessarily translate to "just another student." One of the

things he feels veteran and non-veteran students alike mutually gain is Wilkes' overall commitment to intimate classrooms with an emphasis on students as unique individuals rather than faceless members of an anonymous mass.

"As a student here," Kaster said simply, "you are not a number."

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New chemical hygiene officer position ensures safety

BY LYNDIE YAMRUS
Staff Writer



BIANCO

James Lennox appointed Maria Bianco to the new role of university chemical hygiene officer.

Maria Bianco is also the university's chemistry lab manager, with responsibilities

A new position was recently created and filled aiming at the safe handling of dangerous materials.

Late last August, Provost and Chief Academic Officer Reynold Verret and University Safety Officer

that include inventory, classification, storage and disposal of chemicals in the Stark Learning Center chemistry laboratories. It is also her duty to ensure that all laboratory safety procedures are being followed.

The newly-developed Chemical Hygiene Planning model that Bianco will be working on will extend into all academic departments that handle chemicals and hazardous materials.

"All departments will have the same format to make the process easier," Bianco said.

Bianco said that the plan is completed, and preparation of the new inventory has begun. The model includes new procedures and guidelines for chemical procurement, inventory management and disposal.

Bianco's responsibilities will include cataloging the chemicals with bar code la-

bel and uploading them from each department by scanning the codes into a central database. This process will allow Bianco to know the exact location and amount of each chemical in the building.

The database will allow the university to be more in control of the materials to ensure the highest level of safety for its students.

Bianco said that chemicals must be handled properly "from cradle to grave" and that chemical management is an important responsibility.

Verret explained that it is important to know what materials are inside the building, especially in an emergency case that would require the fire department or hazardous materials team. Centralizing the process will save money and time, which is a large advantage of the model.

Upon completion of the database, each de-

partment will be able to search for and transfer chemicals to and from other departments as they are needed. This sharing of resources reduces the amount of chemicals in need of both purchase and disposal, which can get costly.

Bianco was chosen for this role because she is well known in the chemistry department and has the knowledge necessary to successfully execute the responsibility.

"She has the expertise," Verret said, adding that Bianco is representing the university in this aspect of safety by guiding each department in the use and control of dangerous materials.

Bianco is working with Lennox and the Environmental Health and Safety Committee on the Chemical Hygiene Planning model.

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Islamic Interest Society expresses concern regarding prayer room move

BY TODD ORAVIC
Staff Writer

The Islamic Interest Society, part of Wilkes University's Campus Interfaith, has expressed concern following the move of their designated prayer room from the library basement to the Savitz Lounge in the Henry Student Center.

Starting in 2005, the IIS used the library for regularly held prayer. Over the past summer, Ebrahim Brnawi, president of the IIS, met with Wilkes Student Affairs and Global Education, and was told that because many departments on campus would be relocating, the prayer room would be moved.

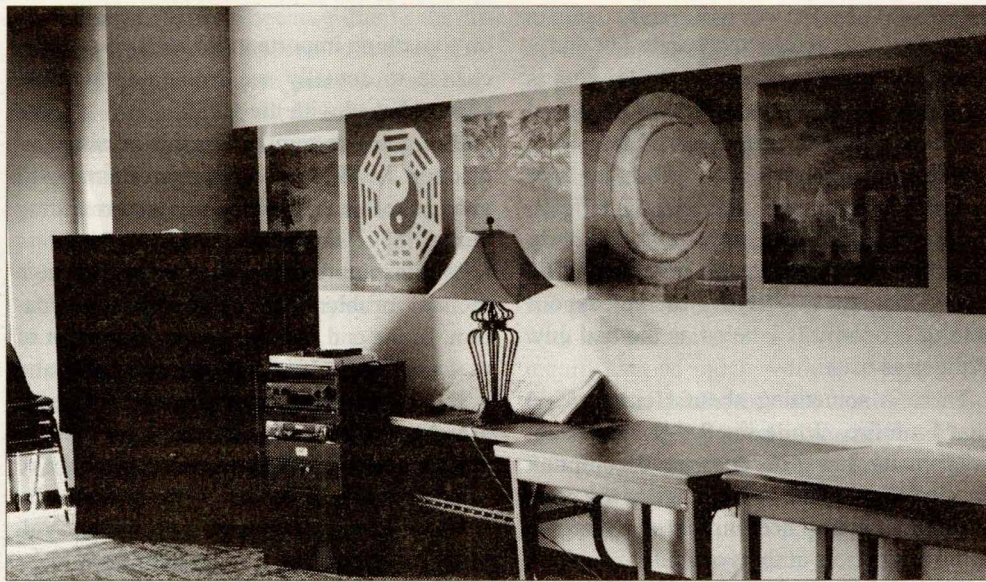
"They said that Wilkes needs to move the help desk to the prayer room, I think for no reason especially, to that place," Brnawi said. "Someone told Global Education that Muslim students don't use the room regularly."

Brnawi stated that Muslim prayer occurs Monday through Friday four times a day, with 45 to 50 people in attendance at noon Friday prayer.

Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Paul Adams said, "They were already using the (Savitz Lounge) for Friday prayers last year. We asked that they use this location until we are able to identify an appropriate new

space."

Brnawi stated that Muslim students are more comfortable in the original prayer room in the library, because they are close to study areas.



The Beacon/Thomas Reilly
The Savitz Room in the Henry Student Center is currently being used as the prayer room.

"It was promised that the prayer room in the library would be a designated place after renovations," Brnawi said. "The Savitz Lounge is a public place where students can reserve the room for club activities such as parties, dancing, coffee hour and watching movies. It is not a respectful place to pray at all, and Muslim students do not feel comfortable."

The IIS has been active on campus for eight years and holds the Eid celebration at the end of the holy month Ramadan. The society has also held viewings of films about Islam which are open to the public, students and faculty.

As of late, the IIS has sent a request to the Wilkes provost, Dr. C. Reynold Verret. The IIS received an e-mail that the request will be taken care of.

"We really appreciate Wilkes University's effort and we hope that Wilkes can hear our voice as soon as possible," Brnawi said. "We just need a respectful place to pray."

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9-9-9? Or Nein nein nein? - Herman Cain means business

BY TIMOTHY FISHER
 Staff writer

I am not a registered voter. When I turned 18, I made a promise to myself: To not vote for a presidential candidate I did not agree with. Lo and behold, I have made it this far without voting in the presidential election. The candidates just plain suck.

However, I have changed my mind this time around. Just when I thought that no real high-quality people could run for president, Herman Cain has come out of the woodwork.

Cain is able. In the monotonous sea of republican candidates, he has distinguished himself in the Florida straw poll in an outright upset. Unlike Donald Trump, or even Barack Obama, Cain has real experience and success in the business district. Godfathers Pizza was on the brink of bankruptcy, and Cain brought it back from the edge of failure. He is an experienced businessman.

Cain's newest proposal is called the 9-9-9 plan. It consists of a 9 percent flat in-

come tax, a 9 percent corporate tax and a 9 percent national sales tax. So far, this is the only proposed tax overhaul proposed by the republican candidates. While Cain works to develop his plan, the other candidates criticize and ridicule his efforts. To me, it is easier to sit back and identify problems rather than try to solve them; it's funny that the guy trying to remedy our failing economy is labeled as the bad guy. Politics as usual.

There is something about Herman Cain that I admire. While his 9-9-9 plan is not without its flaws, he does have gumption for declaring a plan in this stage of the presidential race. Top economists are lining up to take pot shots at the system.

OK, so this plan may sound a little utopian in a sense. A 50/50 shot at fixing our economy, stimulate business, possibly make things worse. However, what is the key thing that all politicians do? They lie.

It is a frequent truth in American politics. Now, what would you prefer from a politician: another set of lies, or a 50/50 choice

on something important? At least you get the chance to actually see something positive accomplished with the 50/50.

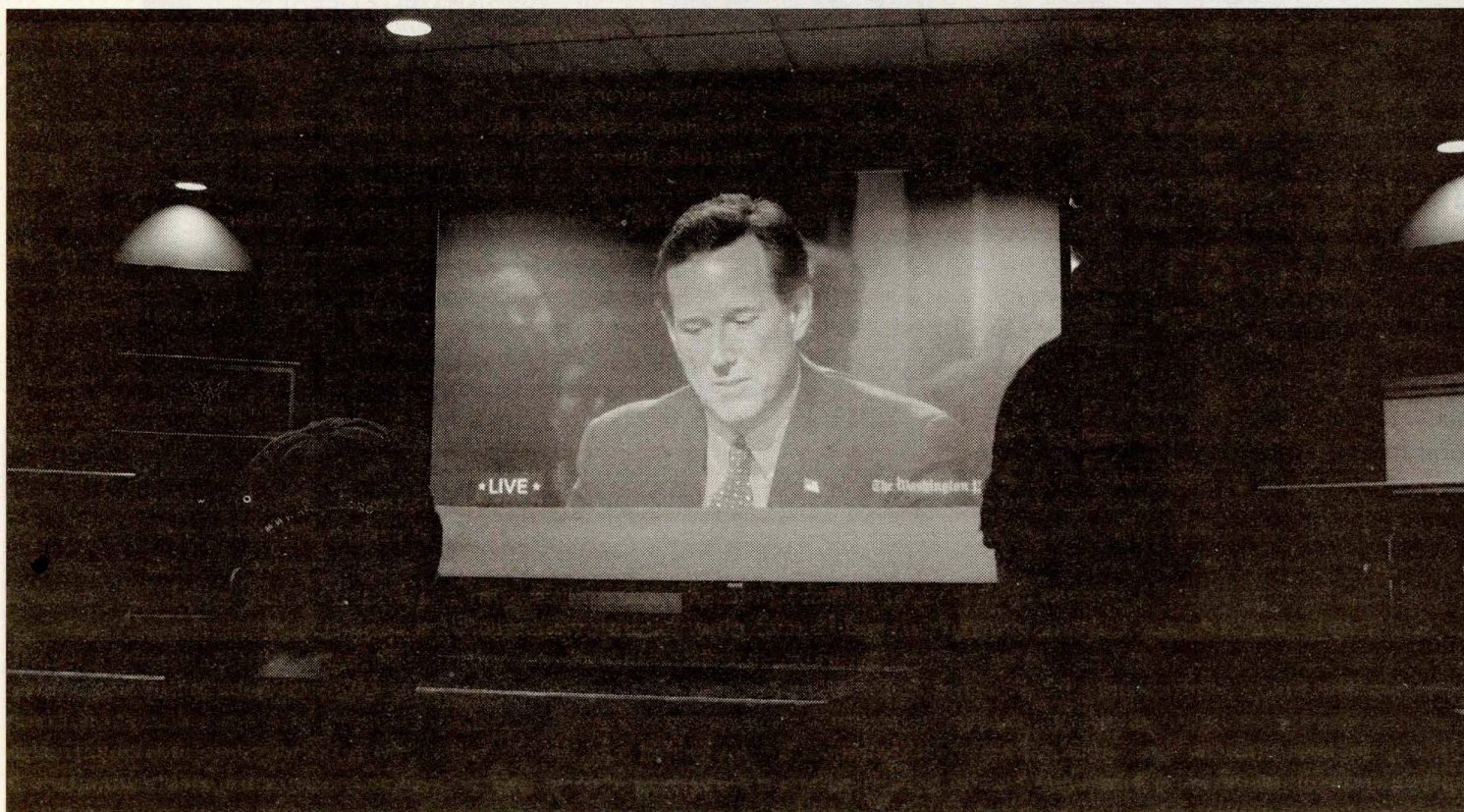
I am going to register for this presidential election. I will vote for Herman Cain. I will attempt to break the monotony surrounding our politics. I am sick of it.

Politicians promise that they will change the way problems are dealt with in our nation. In the end, it is the same thing: a lot of rhetoric, blaming of the opposite party and nothing getting accomplished.

At least with Herman Cain, I get a 50/50 chance at seeing if his proposals are right or wrong.

The 9-9-9 plan will have its benefits. With taxing consumables, people will save more of their money, which is good for the economy in the long run. Now it is up for you to decide: Do you prefer lies or 50/50 chances? I know that sounds bad, but we have to start somewhere.

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The Beacon/ Austin Loukas

Two Wilkes students listening to Tom Pawlenty at the Republican debate party hosted by the College Republicans. The writer argues that candidates like Pawlenty are not as strong as Herman Cain with his experience and practicality.

BEACON POLL

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

Last week's question:

Have you ever used the motion simulation D-box seats that are meant to enhance the theatrical experience?

- No. 75%
- Have not heard of them. 25%
- Yes. 0%

This week The Beacon asks:

What type of personal phone do you own?

- iPhone
- Android
- Blackberry
- Other smartphone
- Standard cellphone
- Landline

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

Students resorting to drug use to maintain grades

BY THE BEACON
Editorial Staff

Today many jobs require at least an associate or bachelor's degree. Even if a job doesn't, there are often people who are over-qualified that are applying for the position, and a person without one of these degrees can find himself at a disadvantage. Higher level education not only increases a person's annual salary, but also decreases his chances of being unemployed.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics people who do not have a high school diploma experience an average unemployment rate of 14.9 percent and an average annual salary of \$23,088, while those with a high school diploma have an unemployment rate of 10.3 percent and an annual salary of \$32,552. Comparatively, people who achieve a bachelor's degree from a four-year college have a unemployment rate of 5.4 percent and an annual salary of \$53,976. Further achievement greatly increases these differences and those with Doctoral Degrees average 1.9 percent unemployment and \$80,600. These calculations do not account for unpaid vacation time.

With the job market becoming more competitive, a greater number of students are continuing on to college than ever before; either through personal motivation or parental influence. According to howtoedu.org 68.6 percent of High School graduates went on to become freshman at college or attend technical schools in 2008. The ever increas-

ing flow of students into colleges is making college acceptance and unfortunately even the assignment of grades more competitive than ever.

This puts undue amounts of academic pressure on students because due to the increased number of students attending college admission is more selective, scholarships and grading are more competitive and important classes fill up more quickly than ever before. In addition, students are also confronted with economic, parental, peer and self-pressure. Each of these pressures has specific problems and considerations which increase the overall pressure load on an individual.

In many situations, problems with one type of pressure may compound or aggravate the pressures of another. Coming home and learning that a credit card is maxed out after failing a test can really ruin a person's day and have severe negative complications such as demotivation, depression, appetite changes and sleep pattern changes, all of which are symptoms of high levels of stress.

Stress and its symptoms can have drastic effects on a person's efficiency and the process of dealing with stressors itself consumes quite a bit of time. Very few family arguments are settled in less than ten minutes and their occurrences can rarely be prevented, even if the student happens to have a final in class the next day. Faced with a copious amount of work and a dwindling amount of time many college students have been resorting to Schedule 2 stimulants to

help them focus and stay up to finish projects.

Adderall and Ritalin, drugs primarily prescribed for symptoms of ADHD, are two of the drugs most commonly abused in this manner. According to a "60 Minutes" report 50-60 percent of college all juniors and seniors and more than 80 percent of those that are in fraternities or sororities use the drugs to prevent themselves from being overwhelmed by the inordinate amount of work they are expected to accomplish. Why are students laden with so much work?

The source of this work is quite obviously the professors themselves, though it is not with malicious intent or due to a lack of humanity that so much work is assigned. As far as most professors are concerned they are assigning a perfectly normal workload. Reading 20 pages a night is not a difficult task. However, many professors fail to consider the amount of work assigned by other professors and how quickly it adds up.

A student today may be taking as many as five or six classes a semester, assuming for now that the student has an equal spread of credit hours across the week. That creates an

approximate workload of reading 60 pages every night. Add to this long term projects in every class, collegiate sports, and extra-curricular activities such as school newspapers and students clubs, and students find themselves with far too much work to complete in the time that they have left.

The Beacon believes that professors should be more aware of these issues and make attempts to decrease the overall amount of work assigned to be completed outside of class, or allow students who are forced to contend with multiple large projects at the same time the option of an extension. Many professors already extend this courtesy, but few mention this as they fear it will cause and increase in students who hand in late projects. It is entirely understandable that there are many assignments which cannot possibly be completed in the classroom and many classes require that the student practice methods or read certain literature, but work assigned for the purpose of assigning work is superfluous, and where possible, should be eliminated.

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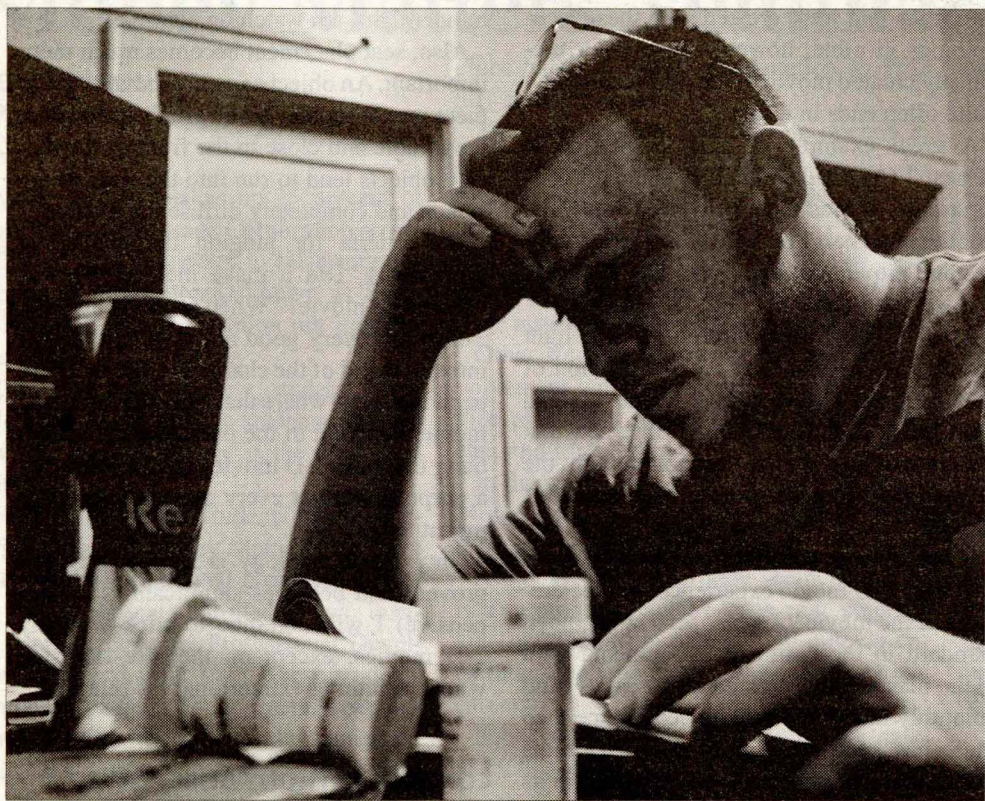
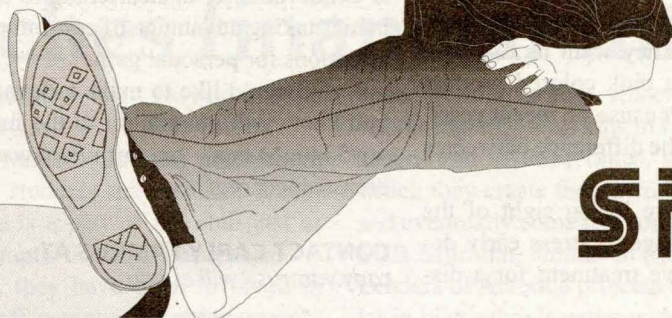


Photo by The Beacon/ Laura Preby

TOMY GS



SPOT

3D movies: fad or future?

BY ANTHONY GORECZNY
Opinion Editor

I have a great love for movies. I enjoy just about every type of film out there from "Despicable Me," to "Ten Things I Hate About You," to "300." A truly artful and well made film is a pleasure to behold, no matter what genre it happens to fall into. I even have a special place in my heart for absolutely terrible movies; the ones that are so bad that by the time they are over you can barely breathe

because you were laughing so hard. If you have never had the pleasure of enjoying one of these cinematographic treats I suggest you rent "Army of Darkness" or "Tank Girl."

In today's society technology is advancing at an ever increasing rate and every aspect of our lives is enjoying new innovations, and the Hollywood experience is no exception. These days movie theaters are showing 3-D films and placing customers in "immersive experience" vibrating seats. According to

SEE 3-D, Page 8

Is Corporate America taking advantage of Breast Cancer?

BY CARLY YAMRUS

Assistant Opinion Editor

October is national Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Pink products line the shelf, each leading their own crusade against breast cancer. For one month out of the year, companies can guiltlessly promote their products by sporting the pink ribbon in a façade of compassion.

Breast Cancer Awareness just may be the greatest marketing scheme of all time. After all, everyone is willing to buy something that benefits both a cause and the donator. In recent years, many major consumer products companies have pumped out pink 'special edition' products for just about anything you could imagine.

Some of the most ridiculous products I've seen include pink vacuum cleaners, pink ice cream scoops and even pink garbage cans. Garbage cans for the cure? Marketing has now reached a whole new low by exploiting breast cancer in favor of higher sales.

The term "pink-washing" refers to a company or business that promotes pink items said to benefit Breast Cancer research and treatment, while profiting off the sale of the merchandise.

So where is your money really going every time you choose the pink product over the regular one? In many cases right into the pockets of the corporations. Companies are relying on the customer's good intentions to sell the product. They want us to feel a good about buying a pink colored product that benefits a popular cause. In recent years, it's been hard to tell the difference between a supporter and a scam.

Many companies are losing sight of the campaigns real message to stress early detection as an effective treatment for a dis-

ease that affects one in eight women in the United States. Breast cancer awareness has become more of a trend these days and can even be looked at as fashionable.

The pink ribbon is incorporated into all sorts of consumer products such as make-up and clothing, making it feminine and pretty. Most people don't bother to read the fine print because who would want to scam people out of money using cancer as the attracting element? Sadly, the promised donation to breast cancer charities is not always made.

Some companies put a cap on the amount that they will donate to the cause. Every year, the Yoplait Yogurt company launches their "Yoplait and You" fight against breast cancer campaign. Yoplait promises to donate up to \$2 million to breast cancer, 10 cents for each lid sent in. Only after you bought the yogurt, cleaned the lid and mailed it back will they count each dime towards the cause. What I want to know is why Yoplait is making us waste all this time and postage on cleaning and mailing in lids, when they could just make a \$2 million donation directly to the Susan G. Komen Foundation? They even set a limit on how many lids you can submit per day. Since when do "restrictions apply" on donations? Why go through all this trouble if the company is just going to end up donating \$2 million in the end no matter what? It is extraordinarily disheartening to see companies taking advantage of consumer's good intentions for personal gain.

If you would like to make a donation that you know will go straight to the fund, visit ww5.komen.org/ or <http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/>.

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The Beacon/Tom Reilly

3-D

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

last issues Beacon Poll 0 percent of respondents have used these seats while 75 percent have not, and 25 percent did not know they existed. These advances can provide a truly thrilling adventure when properly integrated into films that were created with these technologies in mind, however adapting a preciously created movie to the new technology quite often ends in disaster.

A great example of this is the movie "Priest." Originally filmed in standard configuration, it was later converted into 3-D. For the most part I thought that it was a pretty good movie, but one of my friends vehemently disagreed.

After further conversation it came to light that this friend had seen the 3-D version of the film while I viewed the 2-D one. I talked with other friends and trend emerged that people who saw the 2-D version thought the movie was better than those who viewed it in 3-D.

It has always been difficult to produce a seamless 3-D movie experience, but the creators of the movie "Avatar" set a new golden standard in the realm of 3-D cinema with their masterfully created landscapes and smoothly integrated 3-D objects. Since then there has been an explosion of 3-D films hitting the box office. I enjoy a 3-D film as much as the next guy, but when it begins

to take away from the actual movie that is where I draw the line.

3-D is great but there a couple of downsides to it. The first is that directors become obsessed with throwing things in your face. I enjoy the odd shiruken that comes my way and catches me off guard, but when there are cars flying at me and chunks of metal whizzing past my head it becomes a constant reminder that I am watching a movie.

Also, seat placement becomes much more important. An object can only move as far as there movie screen. If you aren't seated near the middle and close to the front of the theater, objects tend to run into the edge of the screen and completely diffuse the illusion.

My criteria for judging the quality of a movie is "Did it make me forget I was watching a movie?" When properly applied, 3-D can be very good at drawing a viewer into the world of the characters, but there are tripwires everywhere that many of these 3-D movies released in the post-Avatar rush get hung up upon. 3-D movies have a place and a purpose, but not every movies released is meant to be 3-D.

Until the technology is significantly improved (and becomes significantly less expensive) I will continue to stick with my 2-D movies, except on the rare occasion when something extraordinary is released.

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Students promote pharmacists on 'Good Morning America'

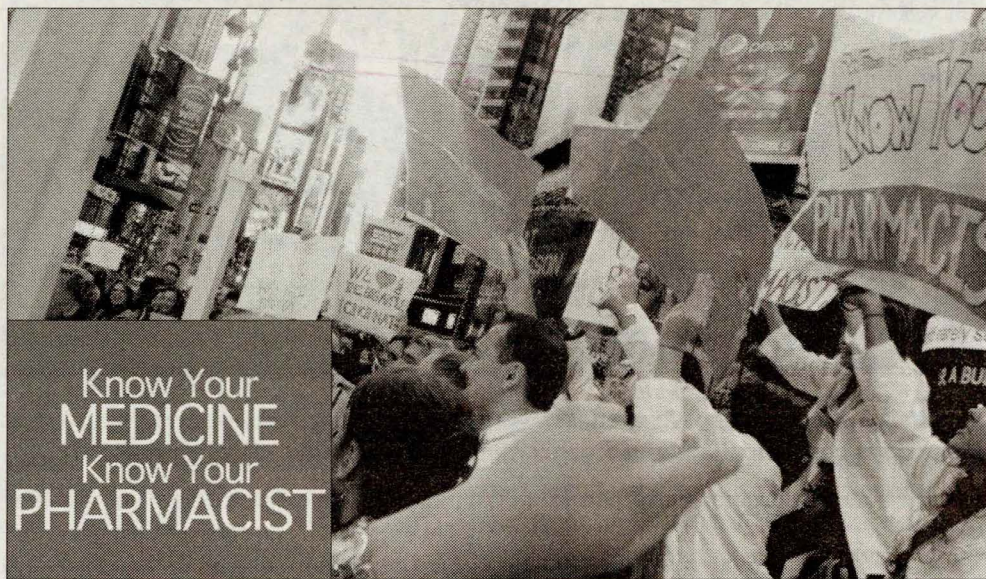
BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

For the last month, anyone who is friends with a pharmacy major has probably noticed their profile picture change to a red sign reading "Know Your Medicine, Know Your Pharmacist."

This expression is the theme for the month-long celebration of American Pharmacists Month, sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association. The APHA Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter at Wilkes has been especially involved in this month's celebration of pharmacists on campus.

The month was kicked off with Media Day, in which pharmacy majors went into New York City to promote the month's theme, "Know Your Medicine, Know Your Pharmacists" on "Good Morning America" and the "Today" show.

Students held up signs with the month's theme slogan on them in the background during live tapings of "Good Morning America" and the "Today." Junior P1 pharmacy major Meribeth Derkach was among the group of students who went. They said the day allowed them to meet with other pharmacy schools celebrating American Pharmacists Month.



Photos courtesy of Emily Snyder and Meribeth Derkach

Pharmacy students wave signs in the crowd of "Good Morning America" during Media Day on Oct. 6. Inset, the slogan for American Pharmacists Month.

"The fact that Wilkes is such a small school that we could go to something like that with the bigger schools was amazing," Derkach says. "A bunch of schools from around the Northeast (came), which was kind of cool to see that we were recognized and we had a really big following."

Derkach said that going to New York City for Media Day helped Wilkes show that stu-

dents are really dedicated to pharmacy. She also said that there has been a big Facebook movement to celebrate this month, with tips for better interaction with one's local pharmacist.

"APHA is trying to advertise as much as possible to get people more aware that pharmacy is an important job out there," Derkach says.

In addition to Media Day, pharmacy majors have been promoting American Pharmacists Month through outreach committees on campus and in the local community designed to spread awareness of health and wellness, healthy living and medication.

The committees include Generation Rx, Operation Diabetes, Operation Immunization, Heartburn Awareness Challenge, Student Pharmacists Advocacy Network and International Pharmacy Student Federation.

"We have been promoting heartburn awareness, telling people about the importance of getting your flu shot, doing Diabetes education," P3 pharmacy major and Operation Diabetes chair Emily Snyder said.

Pharmacy students have been doing screenings for diabetes and blood pressure in the Student Union Building, usually during club hours. They have screened 32 students so far. They have rotated through Public Square, Unity Church, the Wilkes-Barre YMCA and the SUB.

According to P3 pharmacy major and APha-ASP president Emily Thudium, the APha-ASP chapter has been creating t-shirts for pharmacy students who are doing community awareness. She says a couple of students have appeared on WNEP to talk about

SEE PHARMACY, Page 11

'Money Matters' seminar teaches financial info

BY ERIN HOHOL
Staff Writer

Payment history makes up 35 percent of an individual's Fair Isaac Corporation score. FICO scores are connected to car insurance. Information from bureaus known as Equifax, Experian and TransUnion put together an individual's FICO score.

FICO scores can follow students their whole life. Many college students may not know that the FICO score is the most-used credit score.

Students in both the Students in Free Enterprise Club and Money Matters club have put together informational presentations for their fellow students enrolled in two business courses: Personal Professional Development 301 and PPD 302. These students teach fellow students about practical personal finance topics in one class each semester.

This fall, a team of students from both

clubs had a one-class presentation to PPD 301 students about credit.

This presentation was also opened to Wilkes students not enrolled in PPD 301, senior business administration major and SIFE president Raina Connor said.

Senior accounting major and Money Matters club president Jared Sabol and Connor were instrumental in putting the presentation.

Other students who presented and had involvement with the presentation were SIFE vice presidents Alison Drake, Stephen Exeter, and Matt Ruch.

In the spring, the same group of SIFE and Money Matters students will present to the PPD 302 class about retirement.

Although retirement may seem far off, it is a personal financial issue that students who graduate from college will quickly encounter upon beginning their professional careers.

Sabol noted that no other majors formally teach this vital information; Wilkes does not

offer Credit and 401k 101. He said that the info "can be dry, but is certainly useful."

The Money Matters club has much more going on than students may realize. Community service is a part of the club just as much as on campus financial awareness.

In the past, they have been involved in a number of off campus activities, mainly aiming to make the surrounding community, especially non college students, more financially aware.

The club teaches first-generation college students in the Upward Bound program about federal loans and other money matters associated with getting through college.

The club has been involved in activities at Kid's Café, a place where they taught children about currency, how to be healthy, and basic leadership skills. Now they continue these activities at the McGlynn Center in Wilkes Barre.

Money Matters also runs a program called Wilkes University Entrepreneurial Experi-

ence for high school students. This involves meeting with kids in local area high school two to three times, in the span of which they create their own business plans and eventually come to a competition in the SUB ballroom, similar to Future Business Leaders of America projects that are popular in high schools nationwide.

The information that the SIFE and Money Matters club make available is vital to college students, especially those approaching the end of their education and the beginning of their career in the real world.

The economic context that Americans are faced with today makes this all the more important.

"In a time where we're in such an economic downturn, any little bit of basic financial knowledge helps," Sabol said.

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Community takes steps toward alcohol awareness

BY HOLLY BOYER
Assistant Life Editor

Last week Wilkes celebrated the 11th annual National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week on campus. The university took part in several different activities throughout the week.

The biggest and most advertised event that took place was the Walk Toward Awareness. More than 400 students, faculty and staff started the half hour walk at the greenway and headed to Kirby Park, around the pond and back to the greenway.

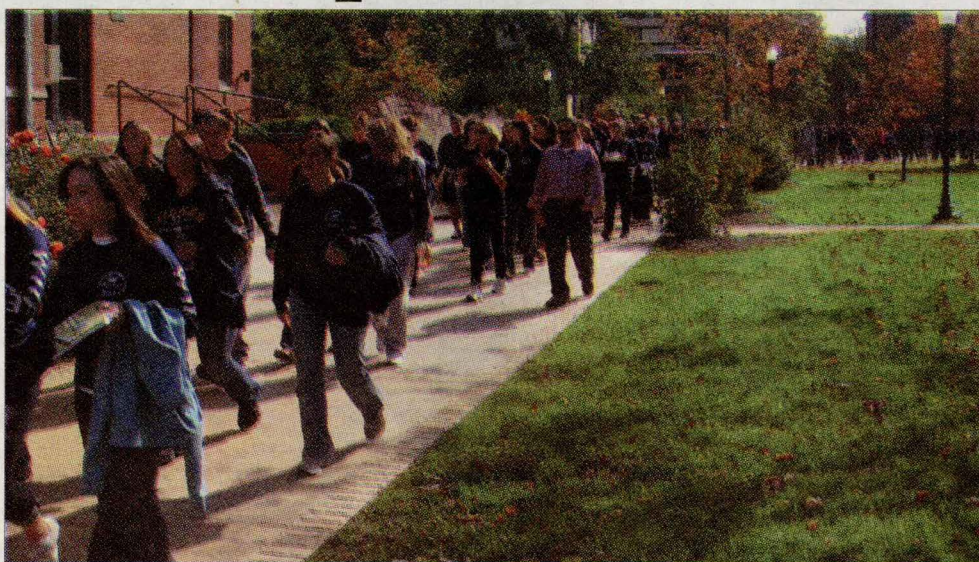
"It was our biggest turnout this year, it even made Facebook," Health and Wellness Coordinator Gail Holby said.

Wilkes community members from all over the campus participated in the walk. Many different clubs, sports teams, and even residence hall RAs and residents took part.

"It was a great turnout and a beautiful day," Jessica Short, junior elementary education major, said.

"Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun, it was a fun event."

This is Short's second year participating in the Alcohol Awareness walk. With her being president of both Programming Board and the Education Club this year she made sure



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

The Walk Toward Alcohol Awareness was the highlight of Alcohol Awareness Week. Many clubs, residence halls and organizations took part in the walk this year.

to have both organizations take part in the event.

The week had several activities for students to get involved in to raise awareness about alcohol abuse.

There were educational displays around campus and question-and-answer sessions hosted by guest speakers.

"It was good for students to get involved

because it makes them aware and bringing them together. If students see their peers participating, they'll look up to their peers and join in as well," Holby said.

Along with the Health and Wellness administration, the BACCHUS club was very involved in the organization of Alcohol Awareness Week, making signs for the week and speaking on the day of the walk.

Also on the day several different speakers to learn f

The tables include Alcohol and Drug Cross with AIDS i Highway Safety I County DUI Che members of the w driving while unde

"It's beneficial t because it makes comparison of on ample," Short said

"You come to make good decisio lege issue, someth

The National C ness Week at Wil turnout which help this issue.

This lead for a the campus while together to do so.

"I loved that the of Wilkes could ge awareness of alcol

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Alternative fall and spring breaks: helping out while on v

BY ABBEY HADLEMAN
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to do something genuinely nice for someone or a group of people, but just weren't sure how to go about it? Well, Wilkes University Alternative Fall and Spring breaks can help you out with this ambition.

Every year during both the fall and spring breaks Campus Interfaith and the office of Community Service sponsors a trip or more, but not just any type of trip.

This particular group of six to 12 students, along with faculty advisers, travels to different places domestically and internationally, often with other organizations, to help out.

Each year the group takes two international trips and two domestic trips. On previous trips they have worked in areas affected by natural disasters or those in which are in need of educational help.

While working alongside other organizations or alone, students do things such as home renovations, repairs, rebuilds, organizing, cleaning and educating.

At one point the group built a house from the ground up because it was deemed less expensive than renovating.



Courtesy of Caitlin Czeh

Campus Interfaith Coordinator Caitlin Czeh and sophomore criminology major Anastasia VanCamp organize the basement of the Ronald McDonald House of Scranton.

For this year's alternative fall break activity a group of students traveled to the Ronald McDonald House of Scranton, Pa, on Oct. 13-15, where they helped to clean and rearrange the basement of the house in preparation for an inspection the building is undergoing.

The international trips can take students to places such as the Dominican Republic and

Costa Rica.

When students travel to the Dominican Republic they stay in orphanages and help teach elementary age students there. In Costa Rica they have the ability to work alongside coffee farmers.

Campus Interfaith Coordinator Caitlin Czeh, who serves as an adviser for the spring

trips and coordinat finance their own t

"The domestic the cheaper of the trips can cost anyv Czeh said.

Caitlin also said fund themselves, t letters to local org nations, or to peop

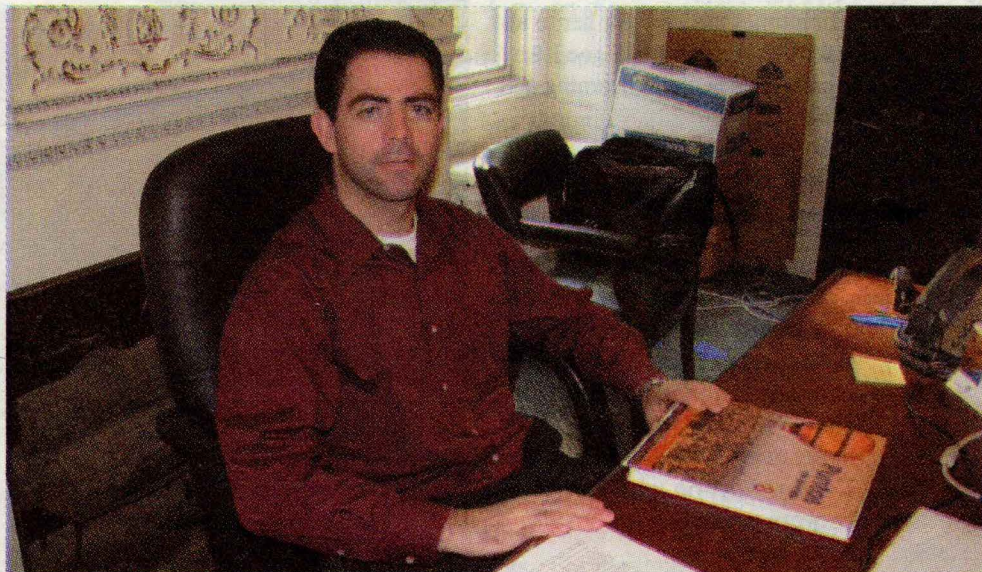
They have also ner on several d the money made a funds.

For Alternative students will be tra they will work with the Dominican Re working at an or help out with relie and Costa Rica, w re-vitalize a schoo fee industry. The week of March 3-

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Unimportant Questions with Important People

DR. RAFAEL GARCIA, NEW ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SPANISH



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Dr. Rafael Garcia is in his first year as visiting assistant professor of Spanish. He is a native Spanish speaker from the central Spanish province of Valladolid.

BY HOLLY BOYER
Assistant Life Editor

What is the importance of your position?

Languages, especially Spanish, are becoming important as a second language here in the whole country. I can also serve as a mediator to the Spanish community. I can be very helpful.

What is the best thing about your position in your opinion?

I like the teaching and interaction with students.

What is something interesting or funny that has recently happened to you?

When I had my interview to get the job, members of the department called me by my nickname, they were calling me Dr. Campas. I was surprised, how did all these people here know my nickname that only my

friends and family call me back at home. They assumed my nickname was my last name because of how I had my g-mail address name set up.

What is your favorite thing about being a part of Wilkes?

I like the sense of community in Wilkes-Barre. I feel like I am a part of the community, having people to talk to, to meet, do business, especially for me as a foreigner.

Do you have a favorite past time?

Soccer. When I play soccer I forget about everything. It is how I can relax. I also enjoy hiking, and going out to dinner. There's something about having food with company.

Where are you from originally?

I am from a small town right in the heart of Spain. It's a farmer's town. The town is called Campaspero, located in the province of Valladolid. That's how I got my nickname Campas, 'cause of the town I'm from.

If you could choose your ultimate dream vacation, where would you go?

South America. Something about it appeals to me. Something strange, but in a good way. It is a different culture, but they speak my language. It would be nice to do that.

Ever take trips to other Spanish speaking countries?

I went to Peru in the winter of 2008 for ten days, over Christmas break. It was like going on an adventure. There were interesting sites, and ruins to see. We were in Lima which is by the ocean, and we were also inland. The locals there actually thought I was an American fluent in Spanish as a second language, it was funny.

Do you have a favorite Spanish saying?

The Spanish language is very rich in sayings. My favorite is 'poco a poco, se llega lejos' which means little by little you'll get

far. It's a saying about perseverance and constancy.

Are there any upcoming events that you look forward to most?

Thanksgiving break, because I am going to California to meet with a friend. Also, I am looking forward to going back to Spain over Christmas break to see my family. It's been more than two years since I've been home. When I get there I will go there and kiss the ground.

Got a favorite movie you like to watch?

"The Godfather", "The Lord of the Rings", and "A Man for All Seasons".

What is the No. 1 item on your bucket list?

Traveling, I definitely want to visit other parts of South America.

What is one thing that is good about being fluent in Spanish?

A good thing about being able to speak Spanish as a second language is that you are capable of seeing reality in different eyes. For example, in Spanish there are different words for different kinds of love. The love for food or a car is not the same kind of love for your family. You get a whole different perspective. It's a good exercise to open your mind.

What are you looking forward to most in your future at Wilkes?

Being a part of this community. Man is a social creature, not to be alone. You can walk to places here, everything is within walking distance. Where I was before you had to drive everywhere. When you're in a car you feel isolated to just you but, with walking you can meet new people on the street.

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PHARMACY

Continued from page 9

"I have been in touch with all of the chairs to get them to take part in creating some kind of event or activity to promote American Pharmacists' Month and the profession of pharmacy," Thudium says.

Although pharmacy students went on "Good Morning America" and the "Today" show and have been doing health care awareness, Snyder says this month is to recognize that pharmacists are important part of community health care more than people think they are.

"A lot of pharmacists feel that they aren't being as utilized as heavily as they could be and pharmacists are qualified to do a lot of different (types) of things besides referring prescriptions," Snyder says. "They can take blood pressure, do diabetes screenings, counseling on diet and Medication Therapy Man-



Courtesy of Emily Snyder

A group shot of pharmacy students who appeared in the crowds of "Good Morning America" and the "Today" show to promote the month's slogan on Oct. 6.

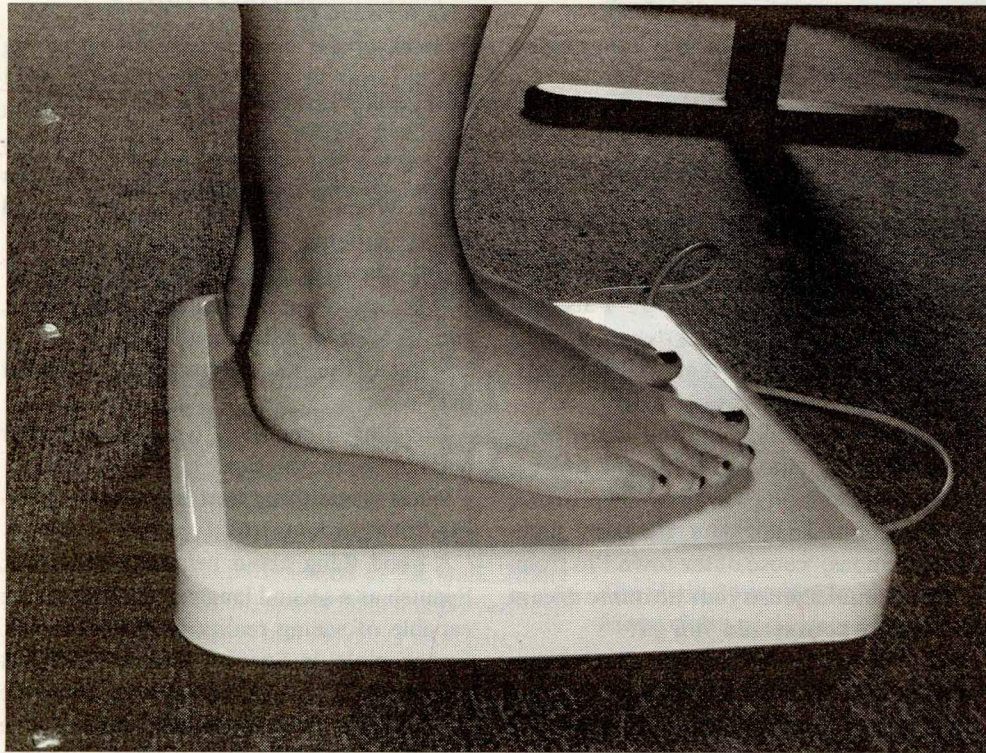
agement which is where a patient brings all their medications in with them and the pharmacist will sit down with them and educate the patient on side effects, make sure there is no drug interaction and on the best therapy for their disease states."

Snyder says part of the initiative for the month is for people to see their community pharmacists in a different light and to realize pharmacists can also give immunizations can answer questions about over-the-counter and prescription medications.

Thudium says that pharmacists are the most accessible health care professional and it doesn't cost anything to ask a question and get information about how to improve overall health.

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Weight Watchers at Work convenient way to lose weight



BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

Sophomore pre-pharmacy major Julie Miller wants to stay in good shape while at school. She finds that she can maintain a good diet and exercise but needs a way to track how her eating and fitness intakes every day.

Having done Weight Watchers in the past at home and having liked the experience, Miller decided to get involved with Weight Watchers at Work at Wilkes.

"It's more of a lifestyle change rather than a diet because it teaches you about portion size and with weight loss," Miller says.

Miller says that Weight Watchers at Work makes her more aware of what she is eating throughout the day and oftentimes people don't realize that all the foods they are eating can be unhealthy.

"They say if you put it in your mouth you have to track it, so even drinks that are sugar-free can have two or three points on the Weight Watchers points scale," Miller says. "It just makes you more aware of what you are eating and to re-assess that."

For the past 10 years, the Health and Wellness Center is sponsoring an initiative to help those who want to lose weight but may not have the time to during the week.

For the past few years, they have sponsored the Weight Watchers at Work program on campus. The 10-week program is open to any students, faculty and staff.

"We had students, staff and faculty interested in having a Weight Watchers program on campus," says Health and Wellness Cen-

ter office assistant Anita Burns, who coordinates the program on campus.

"It makes it easier to fit into their schedules instead of having to go somewhere for a meeting if they come to campus they can do it during their lunch hour before work or afterwards rather than having to drive somewhere."

Those participating meet weekly during the 10 weeks on the program to discuss how the program is working for them with a Weight Watchers representative. Each week there is a different topic that is designed to give advice while discussing topics in a weekly guide.

According to Weight Watchers At Work Administrator Cindy Edwards, the program is designed for participants to learn a healthy lifestyle by losing weight and continuing to maintain it.

"It is easy for anyone to follow," Edwards says. "You can eat grocery store food because it's based on a simple Points Plus value number system."

The core of the Weight Watchers at Work program is the Points Plus Program. Each food has a particular point value and each person has an individual point system with a target based on gender, age and height.

Each food has a point to it with recommended foods that are good to eat and foods that can counter the point value.

"Each person has a Point Plus Value like a budget, so it is easy to control," Edwards says.

In addition to losing weight, those employed by the university get a half reimbursement from Human Services if they complete the program.

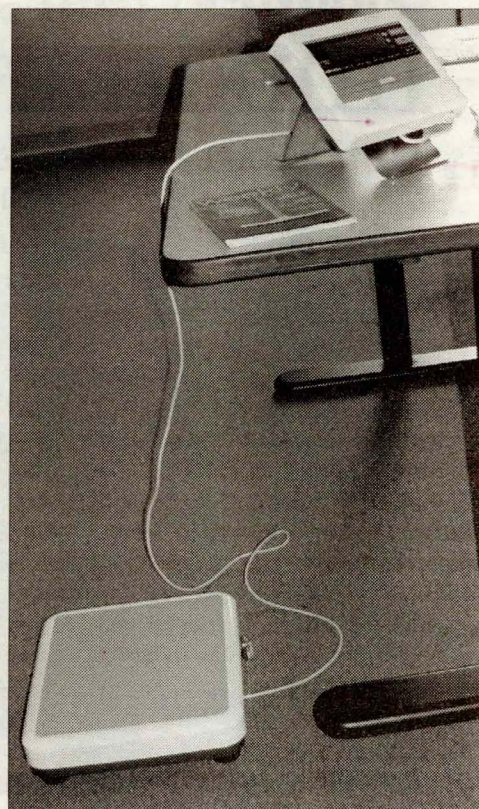
Health Services will offer an incentive to anyone who completes the program gets a part of their money back. It currently costs \$100 to enroll in the program and runs both fall and spring semester.

Miller finds that it is convenient for her as a student when all the resources are all on campus. The meeting times are easy for her to attend. She thinks the incentive is a good way for Wilkes to promote a healthier learning and working community.

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Photos: The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Each week of the program, participants do a weigh in before each weekly meeting. Weight Watchers at Work is based on a point system that is assigned on an individualized basis. Weight Watchers at Work currently meets every Monday at noon in the Marts Center. Anyone who can complete the program gets a refund.



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Chad Szeliga on tour with Black Label Society

Drummer continues to perform while Breaking Benjamin is on hiatus

BY DEVONI NOVAK
A&E Editor

Chad Szeliga knew he wanted to be a professional drummer at an early age. He began playing the drums when he was only 6, and since then Szeliga has been drumming for most of his life.

Szeliga got his first big break at age 25 when he began playing for the band, Switched, in Cleveland, Ohio. After performing with the band for some time, Szeliga heard Wilkes-Barre's Breaking Benjamin had lost their drummer and he decided to audition. In late 2004 he was hired, and has been working with the band since.

Recently, legal issues came upon Breaking Benjamin after lead singer, Benjamin Burley fired two band members, Aaron Finke and Mark Klepaski. Burley filed a lawsuit against them back in June after they had given Hollywood Records permis-

sion to create a new version of "Blow Me Away" for the Breaking Benjamin greatest hits album.

Because consent was given without consulting Burley, he said Klepaski and Finke were guilty of contract violation. According to Szeliga, Burley was against putting out a greatest hits album this early in his career. Apparently, Burley refuses to purchase the album because he is ashamed of it.

With just two musicians remaining, the band announced its breakup this past August. However Szeliga and Burley will continue to work together, either with new hires or as soloists. For the time being, Breaking Benjamin is on hiatus, since Szeliga explained that Burley is physically ill and if he is able to recover the band will continue performing.

"Hopefully he can get better and we

can start pressing on for the future for a new record," said Szeliga.

With Breaking Benjamin on break, Szeliga is currently on tour with Black Label Society. Presently, Szeliga works with numerous groups. To keep his skills top notch, he tries to play with every band possible. He admits he is a perfectionist and dedicates himself to the art of drumming.

Although it is necessary for his career, Szeliga says it is tough to be on tour. He compares going on the road

to living with your colleagues 24/7. In his opinion, it is a good time for the most part, but tolerating the same people constantly can be a challenge.

"Sometimes it gets annoying and gets aggravating but you [have] got to make the best of it because we're all trying to do what we love," Szeliga said.

To pass on his love for music and drumming, Szeliga also gives drumming lessons both privately, at his home and internationally, over Skype. Teaching is a new passion for Szeliga. He hopes teaching will help him to reach his ultimate goal professionally.

"I think my goal is to just touch a lot of people and pass down the feeling that I have for drumming to another person and get them inspired like I've been inspired," said Szeliga.

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Check out these local haunts this Halloween

Try a variety of seasonal scares this fall if you dare, enter at your own risk

BY BILL THOMAS
Assistant News Editor

Every autumn, the leaves change color, the wind adopts a chilling bite and unassuming locales everywhere are transformed into dreadful domiciles for the undead and insane. Then, when Halloween passes, the ghouls go back to their day jobs and the body parts get boxed up into storage until next year. Seemingly overnight, the haunted houses vanish, as ephemeral as the ghosts they purport to lodge.

While the retail giants busy themselves replacing their tricks 'n' treats with Christmas ornaments and singing stuffed Santa's, the macabre minds behind spooky seasonal attractions such as Gravestone Manor and Carnival of Souls are already toying with ideas for next year's nightmares.

It's something that seems to be in their very blood.

"I think I was born this way," Rick Markham said. "I built my first haunted house and charged admission to the public when I was 8 years old. It was in my parent's basement and I charged kids a nickel

to go through."

Now, at age 46, Markham is one of the head organizers of Gravestone Manor in Plains. It's a position he's held right from the attraction's start on throughout its 13 seasons. Markham said the key to the longevity of Gravestone Manor is its unique approach, wherein the traditional Halloween attraction is merged with live theater.

"We started as a reaction to a lot of haunted houses where it's just dark with people jumping out at you with chainsaws," Markham explained. "What we wanted to do is actually present a ghostly story, an interactive mystery with a plot and a resolution that people could follow and be a part of."

This year's story, a sequel to 2005's show, is a twisted tale entitled "Killjoy's Revenge." Patrons find themselves cast into the role of prospective buyers of an abandoned mansion. As the "realtors" lead their "clients" on a tour of the foreboding abode, spine-tingling shocks are dealt out by a killer clown with a bone to pick: yours.

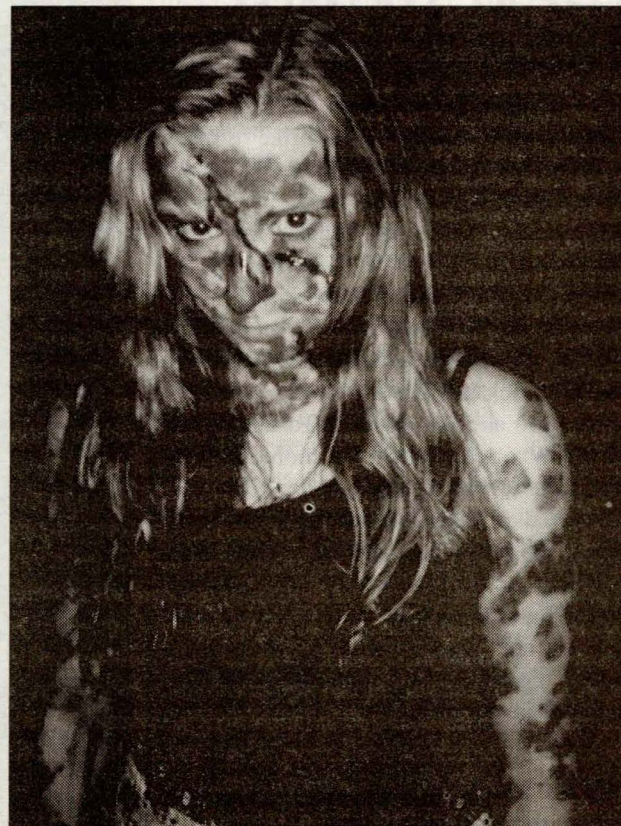
More horrible harlequins lurk at the pitch-black heart of another NEPA haunt this year.

Far from the seasoned staple that is Gravestone Manor, the upstart Tru Fear Productions unleashes Carnival of Souls in Mountain Top. Making its deadly debut, Carnival of Souls is Tru Fear's second offering, being preceded only by a free, small-scale "test" haunt that was well-received by locals in 2010.

Despite being the newest monster on the block, Tru Fear founder Karl Buzak is confident that, by utilizing high-tech special effects and taking inspiration from other haunts across the nation as opposed to those down the street, Carnival of Souls can provide area audiences with newer, fresher frights.

"Even though it's our first

SEE LOCAL HAUNTS, page 14



Courtesy of Gravestone

'American Horror Story' is a TV must see; FX creates another unique series

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
Correspondent

Warning: This article may contain spoilers

What's scarier than visiting a haunted house at Halloween? Try living in one. This is the premise of "American Horror Story," FX's hot new show.

Created by the same men behind the critically acclaimed "Nip/Tuck" and "Glee," "American Horror Story," this show has captivated an audience with an honest respect for being frightened on a weekly basis.

The series centers on Ben Harmon (played by Dylan McDermott), his wife Vivien (played by Connie Britton) and their daughter Violet (played by Taissa Farmiga). In the first couple of minutes of the first episode it is 1963.

The viewer meets two destructive red-headed twin boys who decide to wreak havoc on a broken-down home. They soon meet their fate when they sneak down into the basement where someone or something kills them instantly.

Flash forward to present-day, and it's revealed that characters Ben and Vivien Harmon are having marital problems that included an affair on his part and a miscarriage on hers.

Thinking that moving from Boston to sunny California is a way to start over – the family finds and purchases a beautiful Victorian

styled house at a slightly decent price on account of the deaths of the previous owner.

Here are five reasons to tune in:

1.) There's nothing like this on television

One has to applaud FX for once again creating a show with such a unique and eerie atmosphere. Not only will this show keep the viewer on the edge of their seat, but it also provides at least one frightening scene each episode that most movies these days can't even accomplish in their allotted time frame.

2.) Tate, the patient

In an attempt to be closer to his family, Ben tries to open a practice of his own. As a psychiatrist, his patients are frightening and almost every single one is dangerous to either themselves or others.

The first episode reveals Tate, a youth with a dangerous and destructive attitude toward life.

Ben can't seem to track down any information about him, but has anyone noticed that he is never seen outside of the house and is constantly appearing and disappearing – especially when he interacts with Violet?

3.) Moira, the maid

Ben sees her as a young vixen in a slinky maid costume and Vivien sees her as an old

and humble maid. Why? The viewer isn't quite sure but Moira (Alexandra Breckinridge) has a familiar uneasy relationship with Constance, the noisy neighbor.

It is revealed in the third episode that men see Moira as what they want to see (apparently a beautiful ginger dressed up in a promiscuous Halloween ensemble) and women can see the good in her heart, so she appears as a gentle old woman.

4.) Dennis O'Hare and Jessica Lange

Dennis O'Hare plays Larry Harvey, an ex-convict that killed his wife and daughters while living in the Harmon's house.

He is one of the few characters that are seen outside the house; however, it is not clear if he is alive or dead or if he honestly means well by his constant threats to Ben to leave the house because it's evil.

Additionally, Jessica Lange plays Constance, one of the most interesting characters of the series. She is a wacky southern Belle with a young daughter who has an unhealthy obsession with the house.

Constance is both friendly and shrill with the Harmons but it's evident that she is carrying around remorse and regret and it's reflected on how she interacts with every single character.

5.) The creature in the basement and the rubber dude

The creature in the basement was only seen a few times, but it definitely isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

Does anyone else think it's strange that only Viola and Tate have had contact with this thing? What about all the dead baby fetuses and body parts in the jars in the basement?

The rubber suit that Ben finds in the attic and throws in the trash can, ends up on someone that's not Ben. Who is the rubber dude that seduced Vivian? She finds herself pregnant immediately the next day. She assumes it's Ben's, and why wouldn't she?

"American Horror Story" is as interesting as its title. A combination of old Hitchcock film and a risqué Stephen King novel, it provides a gripping and ultra-erotic storyline, a remarkable cast, and is easily the most provocative and captivating show on cable TV.

Tune in on Wednesday at 10 p.m. on FX to see the special Halloween episode. Try not to watch it alone or in a basement.

Rating:



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LOCAL HAUNTS

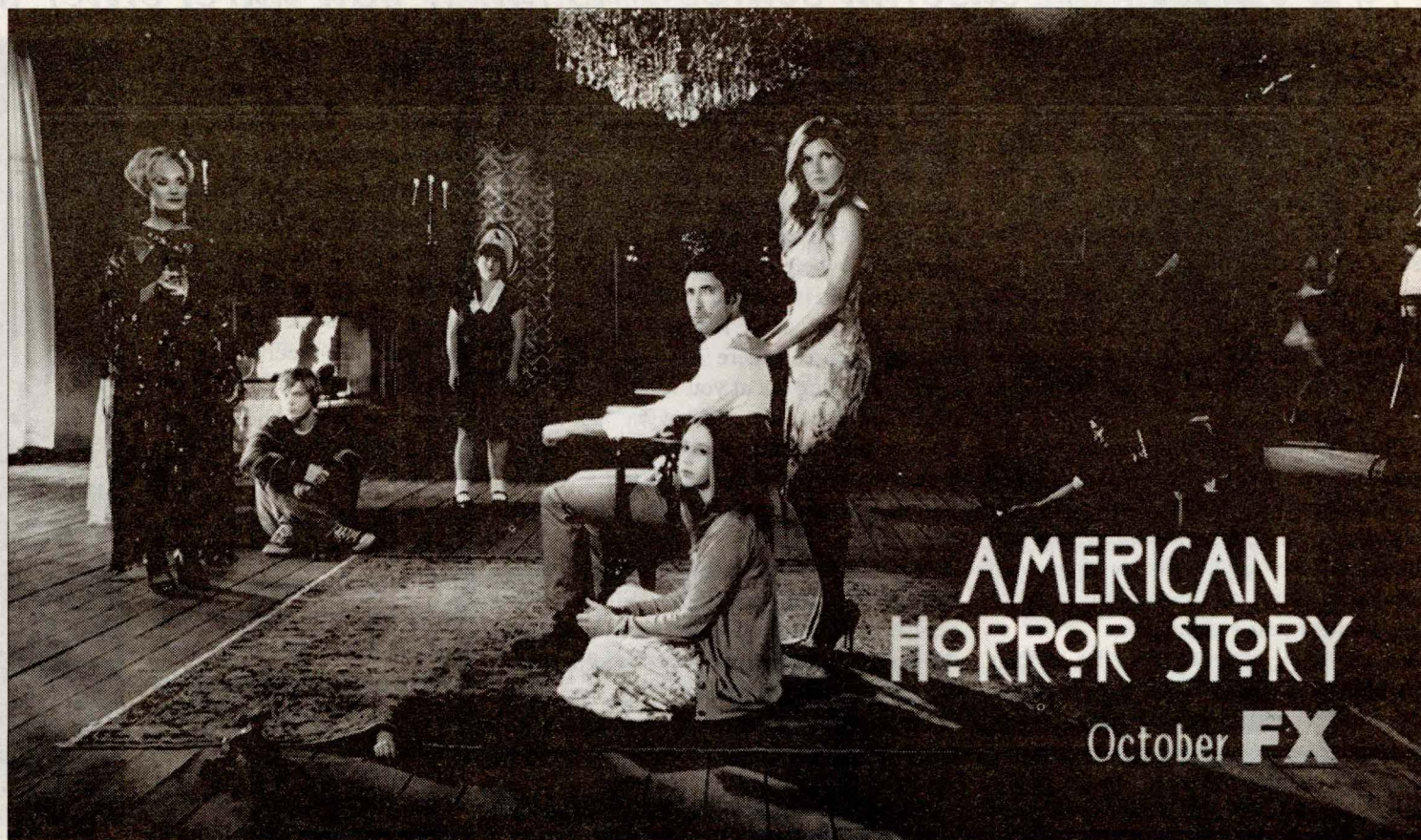
Continued from PAGE 13

we're doing a lot of things other haunted houses aren't," Buzak said. "I like to think we're many, many levels above people in costumes hiding around corners."

Gravestone Manor is located at 1095 Highway 315, Plains. It is open from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 29, and from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30. A performance by local band Pop Rox will kick off the Oct. 30 date. Admission is \$10 and all proceeds go the United Way of Wyoming Valley. For more information, visit www.gravestonemanor.org.

Carnival of Souls is located at 1550 Henry Drive, Mountain Top. It is open from dusk to 11 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 29, and from 6 to 10 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30, and Monday, Oct. 31. Admission is \$10. For more information, visit www.trufearproductions.org.

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'The Luxe' repetitive plot points leave readers annoyed

Lengthy detail and flat characters make for an underdeveloped story

BY ANNIE YOSKOSKI
Staff Writer

Manhattan in 1899 was known to many as the "age of innocence." However, in the world Anna Godbersen portrays in her novel 'The Luxe' the main characters are anything but innocent.

Elizabeth and Dianna Holland are important socialites in New York City. But what happens when Elizabeth is engaged to the most eligible bad-boy bachelor, Henry Shoonmaker, the object of her best friend's desire? Putting feelings for her best friend aside Elizabeth has another problem; she is in love with a family stable hand, a man her family would never approve of.

The plot may sound complicated but it is not. It is intricate, but everything is clearly defined and explained throughout the novel. One of the best things about the book is the way the chapters are outlined.

I loved the fact that Godbersen used fake gossip stories as if these people were real celebrities. I found character development



in the novel amazing, but it became over-detailed. The descriptions of a ball gown can only go so far before you have to reach the point that says "I get it. It's a red dress and she's the villain."

On the opposite end of the spectrum, some characters are completely flat. I found myself wanting to know more about the parents and why they were so desperate to marry their children off into good families. A lot

goes on at parties and behind closed doors, so the characters are out of sync with each other and always need to be filled in, which led to annoying repetition.

Overall the plot was solid and the characters were interesting. The time period was of drama and theatrics, which is prominently displayed in the novel.

This novel seems to appeal to a narrow audience, guys may be bored with the story but I think girls will enjoy it. Think Gossip Girl in the early 1900s.

Even though this book is part of a four book series, I didn't feel the desire to read the others.

Rating:



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'The Three Musketeers' is tacky adaptation of the novel

BY BILL THOMAS
Assistant News Editor

I doubt when Alexandre Dumas wrote "The Three Musketeers" in the 19th century he was thinking "Dude, this would be awesome in 3-D with a bunch of flame-throwers, CGI explosions and an airship crash into Notre Dame Cathedral!"

Then again, you never know. Somebody thought it was a good idea. The "somebody," in this case, is director Paul W.S. Anderson of "Resident Evil" and "Death Race" fame.

In Anderson's vision of "The Three Musketeers," we meet D'Artagnan, a brash kid with dreams of emulating the valor of his heroes, the titular Musketeers: suave leader Athos, jaunty juggednaut Porthos and somber enigma Aramis.

Unfortunately, when D'Artagnan finally meets his heroes, he finds them embittered shells of their former selves. Conveniently, an insidious plot by royal adviser Cardinal Richelieu to usurp the crown of France for himself is just the spark needed to reignite the passion of the Musketeers, launching them into a desperate struggle to keep the world from collapsing into cataclysmic war.

Despite swinging an ensemble cast which boasts the talents of Christoph Waltz, Mads Mikkelsen, Til Schweiger and Juno Temple, Anderson chooses to shine the limelight predominantly on hacks like blander-than-bland Logan "Percy Jackson" Lerman, or the ever-grating Orlando Bloom, whose hammy performance here borrows so much from the arsenal of former "Pirates of the Caribbean" co-star Johnny Depp that it borders on plagiarism.

Of the actors with substantial screen time, only Milla Jovovich's winking turn as the archetypal femme fatale, Milady de Winter, achieves that much-desired balance between genuine acting skill and upbeat fun.

Although the characters' names are familiar to anyone who's read Dumas' novel, no reasonable person should expect a faithful adaptation from Anderson. Instead, the book's complex narrative has been reduced to a simple MacGuffin-hunt, with both heroes and villains interested solely in gaining possession of an all-important plot device. Naturally, there's plenty of flashy swordplay and steampunk gadgetry throughout, with the film taking on a campy "Ocean's



Eleven"-meets-"League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" persona.

While Anderson does know how to craft energetic and exciting action scenes, his ability to make something memorable without the use of swashbuckling fight choreography and copious amounts of collateral damage seems nonexistent. Some audience members will find them-

selves counting down the seconds between action sequences. Then again, the endless exposition, tacky one-liners and ill-advised appropriation of blockbuster tropes might put them into comas of boredom first.

The only moments of the film likely to rouse authentic interest are those which are so outlandishly over-the-top that one can't help but raise an eyebrow in bemused befuddlement.

Watching Anderson apply his sleek, faux-gritty, post-"Matrix" brand of filmic fetishism to this iconic tale of political intrigue and romantic melodrama is like watching someone airbrush the Mona Lisa to look more like Snooki.

Mostly, it's horrifying, but there's a little part of you that almost admires the insanity and audacity it takes to do such a thing. I said "almost."

Rating:



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October 25, 2011

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Football team shows that nobody puts baby in the corner

BY KIRSTIN COOK
Editor-in-Chief

The Pittsburgh Steelers started the trend when Lynn Swann, Hall of Fame wide receiver, started taking ballet, tap and jazz dance classes in the 1970s. Philadelphia Eagles jumped on the bandwagon with Randall Cunningham taking ballet to help recover from injuries. Teams like Miami Dolphins, Oakland Raiders and Arizona Cardinals have hoisted players into the spotlight of "Dancing with the Stars." Now, the Wilkes Colonels are stepping onto the dance floor.

This semester, nine football players have decided to show off their skills in introductory dance. Harry Reese, criminology senior who plays defensive line, decided to take the class to increase his dance skills.

"I took it because I figured it would be a great opportunity to learn some new moves," Reese said.

Athletes like Reese may have noticed the prominence of dancing athletes in media. Athletes have swept the floor in the show "Dancing with the Stars" by not only participating, but often winning the dance competition. Totalprosports.com stated that even though only 20 percent of "Dancing with the Stars" contestants have been athletes, they have won 50 percent of the 12 seasons.

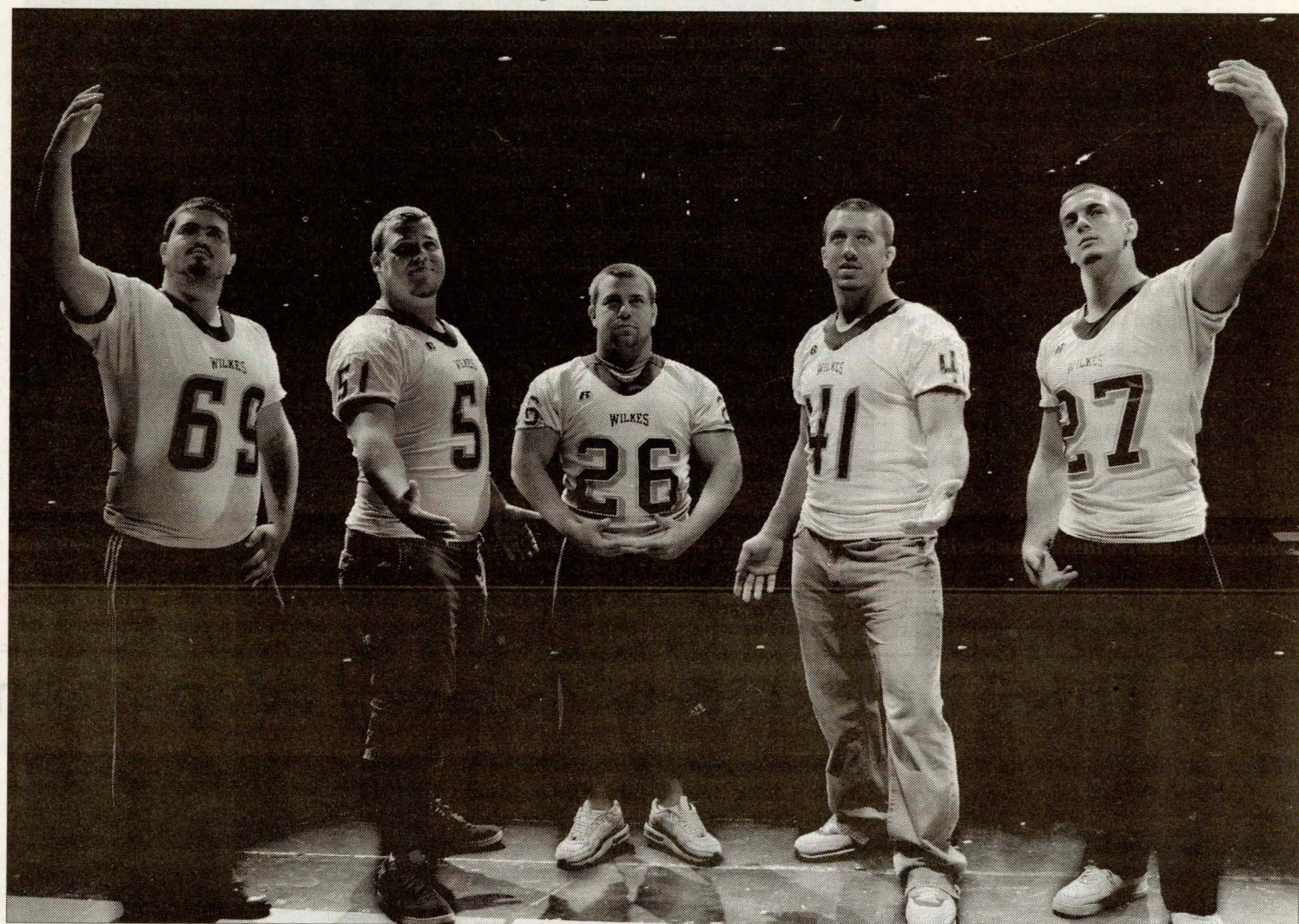
This type of success may have helped remove the stereotypes about football players taking dance. Senior business administration major and senior center Ben Webb said many of his fellow classmates in dance were surprised in the beginning at having footballers in the class.

"They were definitely a little skeptical, but no one really knew what was going on. But after a few classes, they kind of warmed up to us," Webb said.

Zach Tivald, senior physical therapy and running back, agrees with this observation. Tivald, who many of the other footballers call the "shining star" out of the bunch, was in a jazz recital last year and considers the athletes to be dedicated to the work.

"I think they thought we would just fool around, but we're serious about it," Tivald said.

Ryan Baicher, senior business admin-



The Beacon/ Alex Zero

Pictured above are Ryan Baicher, Ben Webb, Rob Paxson, Harry Reese, Zach Tivald. These Athletes are currently taking an introductory dance class, which has approved their moves on the field.

istration major and offensive lineman, described their mentality as a "Tuxedo T-shirt," part classy and part goofy. Despite their dedication, they still manage to fit in their fair share of fooling around in the class. Webb describes a typical class day to be full of antics.

"There is another class with four underclassmen. Baicher always goes off on his little dancing tangents, or like sings to the song," Webb said. "(Josh) Brito always tries doing handstands, it never works."

The players had created a reputation for themselves with the professor, Kris Cross, of being loud and rowdy in class. Cross explained that the dance culture is supposed to be quiet, but Webb said that "quiet" doesn't exactly describe him and his fellow athletes.

"The teacher puts up with a lot of it. I

guess dance is supposed to be quiet. She loves us, I think," Webb said.

Cross said that this ruckus is a part of the sport training and culture, especially in football.

"The sports culture is all about rah-rah, picking up the team, boosting them up, 'go!' you know, testosterone and all that," She said.

However, Cross said this does not translate as well in the quiet dance studio. She said the men are rowdy every day during class, goofing off and cheering teammates on.

"These guys literally cannot shut up," Cross said. "I'm always on their case. They work hard, they do good stuff, but it's like 'shut up.'"

While Cross is sometimes annoyed by the ruckus, she appreciates the motivation

that the football players and all athletes bring to her class.

"What I like in return is athletes have a very strong work ethic," Cross said, "Because they understand that you don't get better if you don't practice, and you don't get it if you stay home and read about it."

She also appreciates the humor these players bring to the class in their rowdiness.

"We are downright laughing out loud because they are so funny," Cross said.

Conversely, the players state that part of the reason they have enjoyed their dance experience is their interaction with Cross, as they said she is a "sweetheart" and "the best."

Cross said the typical football player has

SEE DANCE, PAGE 19

Colonels football special teams gets off on the right foot

Geoffrey Arentz and Cory Cesare talk about their specialized roles on the gridiron

BY JUSTIN FRANIAK
Asst. Sports Editor

The old saying is that defense wins championships. Others view the offense as the main show. Specials teams can sometimes be easily overlooked. When breaking down the game of football, special teams boils down to being one-third of the game. It is where a game can be won or lost, special teams becomes a pivotal point in almost every football game. Wilkes' Sophomore kicker Geoffrey Arentz reiterates these points.

"Special teams are not usually considered big plays, but a lot of "hidden" yardage is won and lost in special teams," Arentz said "They also are very big momentum changing plays."

Arentz began kicking and punting his sophomore year in high school when a friend convinced him to try it. Arentz said he messed around with the idea and eventually joined the football team. He said his kicking and punting roots were grounded in soccer although he now only plays on the gridiron in college.

"I was always a soccer player. Even when I kicked in high school I still was captain of my high school soccer team. Kicking usually came second until I entered college," Arentz said.

College kickers can come under extreme criticism when the game is on the line. Former Boise State kicker Kyle Brotzman received many threats after missing a crucial field goal to send the Broncos to the national championship game, but Arentz has already had experience with pressure while kicking in high school.

"My senior year I kicked a field goal to win the state championship semifinal against West Catholic," Arentz said. "We then went on and won the PIAA class AA state championship in a blizzard."

Arentz has also shared duties punting this year along with sophomore football player Jordan Fredo. Arentz has punted twice this year and averaged almost 34 yards a punt. Arentz is currently 2 for 5 on field goals, but has hit 75 percent of extra point attempts.

Kickers are sometimes given crazy number when entering college. Arentz currently wears number 85 and explained how he wound up with the number.

"I was given 85 when I came to Wilkes University and I have to admit it's been growing on me," Arentz said.

Another aspect of special teams is the re-

turn game. If a team's return game is not up to par, it can effect the whole team. Sophomore Cory Cesare talked about his goal when he returns kicks.

"My goal as a returner is just to set up the offense with a good spot to start with." Cesare said, "I just want to find the hole and hit it as hard as I can because the coverage team is screaming down the field."

The Colonels return game has been pretty efficient this season by averaging around a 20-yard return per kick. Cesare has seen a big change from returning high school kicks to returning kicks as a collegiate player.

"I did return kicks in high school and I loved it. It was a little easier in high school because the kicker wasn't as good and the coverage team wasn't as good," Cesare said.

In order to adjust to the new level of kicking and speed, Cesare put in extra time and commitment in order to become the Colonels' returner.

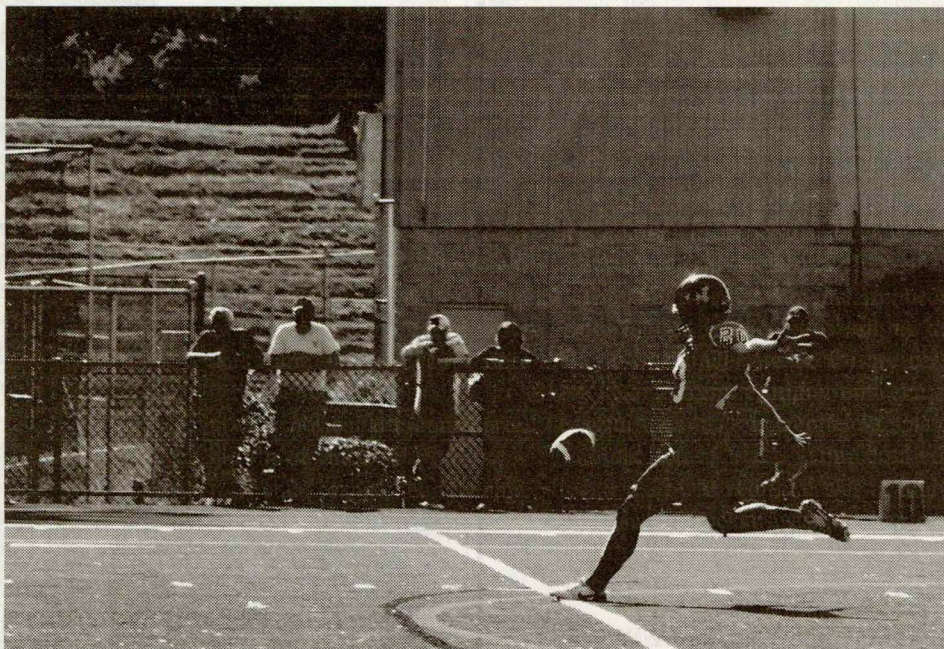
"I wound up being the kick returner by practicing it everyday and talking to coach shep and telling him I wanted a chance at that spot," Cesare said.

Along with Arentz Cesare also drove home the fact that special teams can be a game changer. He said on little play can change the momentum and personality of a game.

"Special teams are important Because they can win games and lose games," Cesare said, "A return for a touchdown, a blocked punt, anything like that can change the outcome of a game."

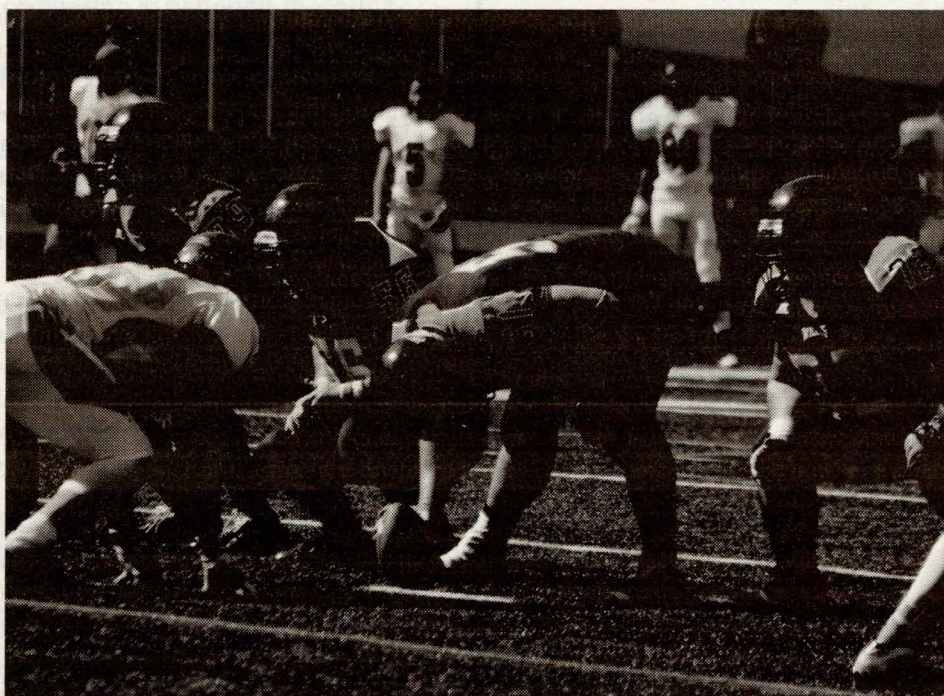
Whether its returning a kick for a touchdown, placing a punt within the 10-yard line, or kicking a 50-yard field goal with the game on the line, special teams is a crucial point of any football game. The pressure special teamers take on is monumental, but they quietly accept their duties and look at it as just another day on the job.

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The Beacon/ Jaclyn Palummo

Jordan Fredo is set to punt the ball. Wilkes is averaging 34.5 yards per punt.



The Beacon/ Michael Klimek

Center Ben Webb, 51, prepares to long-snap the ball. The Colonels are very efficient on point-after attempts.

Special Team Statistics

Avg Punt Yds
34.5

Longest FG
25 yds

Avg Kick Return
19.8 yds

PAT Kicks
15-20

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

10/15 Lycoming 40-7 L

WOMEN'S SOCCER

10/18 Kings 4-1 W

10/22 Delaware Valley 4-1 W

MEN'S SOCCER

10/19 Kings 1-0 L

10/22 Delaware Valley 4-3 W

FIELD HOCKEY

10/18 Kings 1-8 L

10/22 Manhattanville 3-4 L

VOLLEYBALL

10/22 Manhattanville 3-2 W

WEEK AHEAD

FOOTBALL

10/29 @ Kings

WOMEN'S SOCCER

10/25 @ Cortland

10/29 Eastern

MEN'S SOCCER

10/26 @ Lycoming

10/15 Eastern

FIELD HOCKEY

10/25 Misericordia

10/29 @ Montclair State

VOLLEYBALL

10/26 FDU-Florham

CROSS COUNTRY

10/29 @ MAC Championships

Joseph Pugliese
CORRESPONDENT



The most disappointing NFL team so far is the 0-6 Colts. The Colts have won 12 games, 10 of the last 11 years and with exception of the Patriot, they have been the only automatic playoff team in the NFL.

While Peyton Manning was questionable heading into the season, many, including myself, believed he would not miss a game. The fact is he will miss the rest of the season. Even without Manning, the Colts have pro-bowlers on offense and defense like Reggie Wayne, Jeff Saturday, Dwight Freeney, Robert Mathis and Adam Vinatieri.

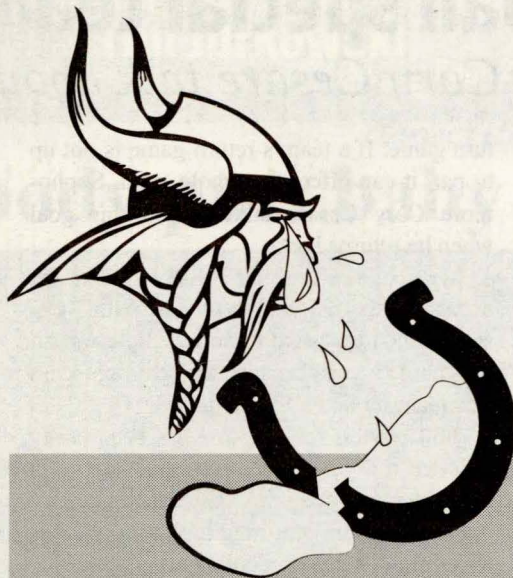
Anyone would say that the Colts are still an above average team given the amount of talent on the roster. When news came that Peyton Manning would be out for the majority of the season it was certainly a shock and expectations were lowered.

Kerry Collins was signed and is a veteran quarterback that many thought could lead the team and make some plays, but he has done just the opposite. Collins suffered an injury and Curtis Painter has taken the reigns but he has fared no better. With Peyton Manning there is no doubt the Colts would be 5-1 and well on their way to another 12 win season but that is not the case. There is no doubt that Manning is the single most valuable player to his team in any sport.

It solidifies the fact that Manning is the best QB in history. Manning is the ultimate MVP and without him, the Colts are showing they are a totally different team. While there are other teams that have been disappointing in the NFL, they are not quite on the same level.

The "Dream Team" Eagles have been a disappointment at 2-4 but are only two games out of first place. The St. Louis Rams are certainly a disappointment but they have had a brutal schedule and were also seen as a "work-in progress team" and not expected to be a contending playoff team. Miami had no expectations, and while the Vikings are a disappointment, they have become the underachiever and train wreck of the NFL the last few years in a tough division with the Bears and Packers.

The absence of Manning has revealed more problems than many imagined with the Colts, an aging offensive line, no heir to the Manning thrown, and a defense that is undersized and has poor fundamentals. The Colts are in serious trouble if Manning's injury is career ending, the only possible hope in sight is if they get the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, maybe then their Luck will change.



Who has been the most disappointing NFL team so far?

The Options:

Colts, Vikings, Eagles, Rams, Chiefs, Dolphins

The Buzz:

The season is almost halfway over and some teams are a lost cause.

The Results:

The Colts and Vikings are both in last place and continue to fall.

To see the full debate visit:
www.thewilkesbeacon.com

Justin Franiak
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR



The obvious choice for most disappointing in my eyes is Philadelphia Eagles. They have not lived up to the hype of the "Dream Team," and are consistently underachieving.

The Colts have also produced a lackluster start to the season, but with Peyton Manning missing, this may be a year where tanking is expected.

The St. Louis Rams have also not managed a win this year, after last year's stellar performance by Sam Bradford, where the rookie almost led them to the playoffs.

The Chiefs also are having a bad year, after making the playoffs for the first time in a while, because three of their star players have torn their ACLs. With so much focus on the Eagles, Rams, Chiefs and Colts downfall, people are missing the poor performances of other teams who were expected to come out hot.

I believe the Minnesota Vikings are this year's most disappointing team so far. A few years removed from and almost – trip to the Super Bowl, the Vikes do not look like their storied past. Ever since Brett Favre left town, the Vikings haven't been the same. Last year they finished 6-10, granted they were playing with a terrible quarterback.

The addition of Donovan McNabb this offseason provided Minnesota with a hope of a better year. Vikings fans were ecstatic to see another proven veteran quarterback come to Minnesota to pair up with arguably the game's best running back in Adrian Peterson.

The rushing offense of the Vikings is not the problem thought, it's the passing game. Donovan McNabb threw for 39 yards in one game this year, and let's face it, that doesn't cut it in the NFL. The defense is also letting the Vikings down.

The big men up front on the defensive line are doing their job. They rank among the top in stopping the run, but teams are throwing all over them. They are ranked 31st in total passing yards, but thurd on overall running offense. They are 24th in pass yards given up, but are fifth for rushing yards given up. The Vikings just aren't the team they used to be. It seems to be a tale of two teams; their inconsistency is what kills them.

Now that Donovan McNabb is benched, the rookie Christian Ponder is the starter. I am very high on Ponder and loved him in college, but putting a rookie behind a tired offensive line just isn't a smart move.

DANCE

Continued from Page 16

some obstacles to overcome because of their body build. She explained that footballers typically have big, bulky muscles, compared to the long, lean muscles of a dancer, and this can make some dance aspect much more difficult.

"It really is hard for them," Cross said. "And some of the stuff they will never get because the muscles are just too bulky."

To overcome this, Cross suggests that athletes stretch every day to lengthen muscles.

Building leaner muscles is just one of the benefits athletes can gain from taking dance. Cross feels that dance helps to set up a flow through the body, which easily translates to performance on the field.

"I think when athletes learn to move to music there's a natural kind of flow that comes out of the body," Cross said.

Other benefits include coordination, which Cross said helps athletes to play the game with their whole body, flexibility and balance.

One outcome that has surprising benefits to dancing athletes is the strengthening of feet. Cross said there are simple exercises to strengthen the often-neglected feet muscles.

"The stronger your feet are the higher you can jump, the faster you can run — there's several muscle groups in the feet that we just don't train as a culture," Cross said.

Webb said he has noticed a difference in his game performance since he's been taking the class, as his muscles are looser.

"It definitely keeps us stretched out," Webb said. "We're a lot looser with it. When we did ballet, she would stretch us before we went out to practice."

Cross said that the football coach at her college, Ohio State University, recognized these benefits to his players when she was a student in the 70's. The coach, Woody Hayes, would make the team members summer ballet classes to improve their game.

"So they would come in, and they looked horrible," Cross said. "They were so funny, but he made them take ballet all summer."

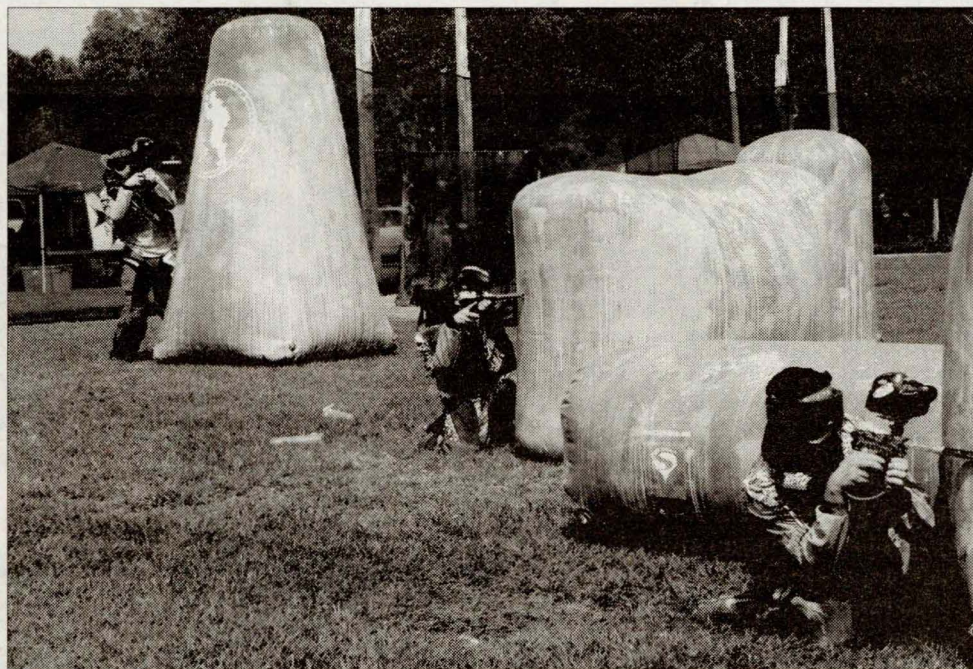
Cross believes this technique of athletes incorporating dance into their training is going to continue, especially on the professional level.

"I'm pretty sure in the pro world, it's here to stay," Cross said. "They're going to take dance classes."

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Paintball to compete in 2nd event at NEIC



The Beacon/Jaclyn Palummo

Pictured above is the Wilkes paintball team competing in nationals in Florida. After finishing first at the NEIC second event in Cream Ridge, N.J., the Colonel paintball squad looks to carry that same momentum next weekend when they travel to Syracuse, N.Y.

Colonels football set to battle King's College

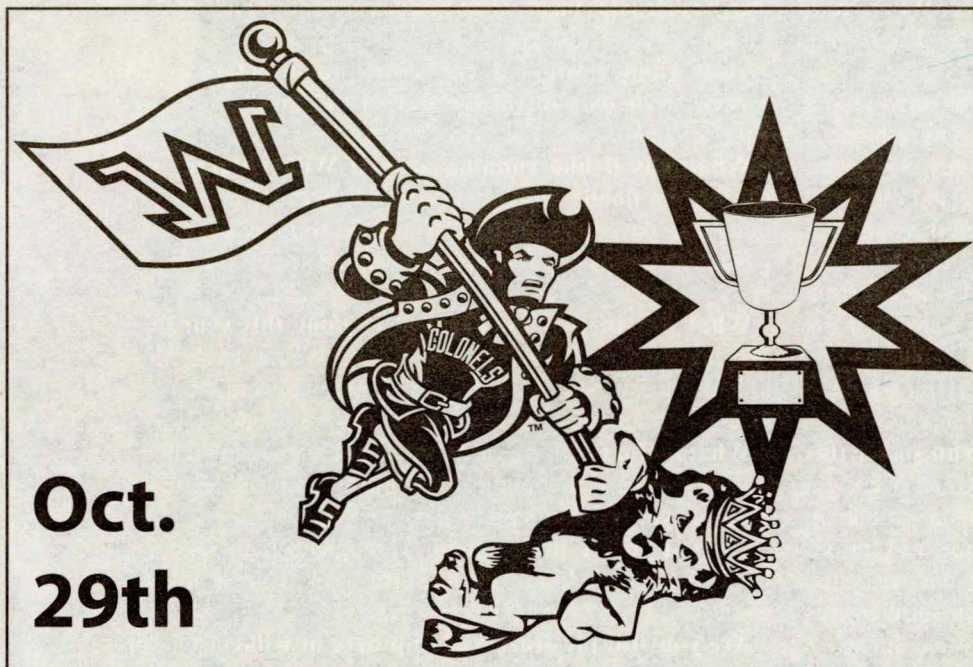


Photo Illustration/Bryan Calabro

Wilkes is set to face their cross town rivals, King's, in the annual Mayor's Cup. This years game will be played at 1 p.m. Oct 29 at McCarthy Stadium, Robert L. Betzler Athletic Complex

TIM

Continued from Page 20

Describe your self in five words: Fast, patient, average height, sarcastic and outgoing.

What is your favorite racing distance? I would have to say the mile because it wasn't a distance spring like the 800 meters but it wasn't a really drawn out like the two mile. It like the happy median.

What was your PR for the mile? 4:38.

What other distances did you run in high school? I ran the 800 and 4x800.

What was your time for the 800? My PR was a 2:02 for the 800.

Did your coach ever ask you to run the 4x400m? (laughs) No, and if he did I wouldn't do it.

Are you surprised that Wilkes doesn't have a track team? I was, but I mean there are other teams out there that don't have a track but participate at meets anyways even though they don't have a track at their school.

What do you do for fun when you're not running around? I do Army ROTC which takes up a bunch of my time. I work with the Boy Scouts too.

Do XC and ROTC workouts go hand-in-hand? Not really. PT is every Monday Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 in the morning. Then I have practice every day. It's just tiring because you have wake up every morning, but it's not bad.

What is one thing that not a lot of people know about you? I am a Native American Grass Dancer.

Really? Yup, through the Boy Scouts, I'm in a group called the Order of the Arrow, which is a honor society based of off scouting from Native American ideals. There's Native American activities like drumming and dancing. So I'm a part of Native American dancing and drumming.

Are you part Native American? (laughs)
No I'm not actually.

*To see more pictures and clips of Tim Jurkowski, check out our website at www.thewilkesbeacon.com

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Getting to know...

TIM JURKOWSKI

29:04 8k, Men's Cross Country

BY PHAT NGUYEN
Sports Editor

Meet Tim Jurkowski, the Eagle Scout and top runner of the men's cross country team. Jurkowski now holds the school record for the 8,000 meters at 29:04, beating the previous record by 43 seconds. The future male nurse is also a renowned Hozzie king and a Native American Grass Dancer.

Major: Nursing**Age:** 18**Hometown:** Honesdale, PA. It's about an hour north.

Why did you choose to major in nursing? I knew I wanted to do something in the medical field. I just looked around and thought maybe I should be a doctor, but I didn't think med school was for me. With nursing I could expand my career and be successful.

Has anyone ever given you crap since you want to be a male nurse? All I've ever heard for the past two years was "oh Tim the nurse, Tim the nurse," but it's cool. I'm over it.

Just tell everyone you're the man like Gaylord Focker. Yeah he was pretty cool.

What's the highest mileage that you've run so far this season in a week? Around 70 miles.

Have you run more than you've driven since you started training? Since I've been here, I haven't driven a car at all, so in the past few weeks alone, I've run more miles than I've driven all summer.

Did you ever run to the grocery store to pick up milk, and then run back? Not quite because it's a pain in butt to run with a gallon of milk, but I would totally do it if I could.

How has Coach Wadas' workout plans improved your times as a runner? At the beginning of the season he had splits written down, and we were hitting them just as he planned. We are running faster now while running longer distances too. I'd say it's working out well. It's definitely paying off now.

I mean, you're the school record holder in the 8k now. That's not too shabby. It's pretty awesome. Coming in as a freshman, I didn't even expect to be the number three or four guy. So getting the school record was a shock but I'm proud and glad I did it.

What was that course like at DeSales? I raced there in high school so it brought back good memories. It was fun. I ran my race and felt good. I came across the finish, and I was surprised and really happy. It was a hilly course, but there were flat parts to even it out.

Was that a fast course in high school too? Everything I ran in HS was the same. I actually had my best 5k time there too.

What was your favorite course that you've run so far this year? I think it was definitely at Gettysburg. It was an overnight trip over fall break, and we got to go out to some Italian restaurant before the big race. The course was muddy which is bad for our times, but it's great to run in the mud. It makes it that much better.

Really, so it doesn't bother you that? Running in the elements just pumps me up. I love running in the rain, snow and mud.

Worst weather race that you've ever ran? My high school districts, because it rained the day before so the whole course was flooded with water, but then the day of the meet, the temperature dropped down to thirty degrees, and we were running through water puddles. Everyone was going around the puddles, but I'll always run right through it.

Did you wear anything to keep warm? I had a hat and my uniform.

That's it? That's it.

Does the mud or puddles make your shoes heavier? Well, I don't wear socks when I run, which I've found a lot of people do. The mud doesn't get on your feet and the socks don't get wet.

What's the toughest thing about the transition from high school to college cross country? The mileage is about twice the amount I did in high school. So I mean I get through it. But it really is a lot when you've been running for an hour and a half at a time. You definitely feel it later in your legs when you're done when your legs are sore, but that's about it.

There are a lot of fast women out there. Have you ever gotten beaten by one in a race? Back in high school there was me, the No.2 miler, and a girl who ran a five minute mile, then everyone else. She'd be the person on our tails. There have been times when gives have beaten me in races by a minute, which is pretty amazing. I was just like...ok.

What's your favorite class so far? I really like my English class with Grier. English was never my favorite class, but his views on different things just make the class interesting.

What's funny about the class? We read stories then he discusses them. Then he goes on rants which I think are comical.

Most runner will eat carbs the night before a race, what do you eat the day of the race? I'm always a fan of pb&j the day of.

What was it like running around Wilkes-Barre during the flood? Kirby park was fun because everything was covered in mud, so you'd be slipping everywhere. It was cool to run everywhere and see all the debris.

What was the longest run you've done this year? We did a run to the back mountain trail. We ran twelve miles that day. Six out and six back and we were on a side of that mountain for a while. It was pretty cool.

What is Hozzie? It's a card game that I learned in high school. It's a pretty complicated game to teach and learn, but once you get it, it's pretty easy to play.

I heard you're pretty good. Throughout high school I was the Hozzie king. During spirit week, I never lost a game, and I was always Hozzie Champ.

Are you still the Hozzie champ here at wilkes? Oh, of course.

Would you be willing to accept a challenge from someone who reads the Beacon? Bring it on.

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The Beacon/Laura Preby

