

# The BEACON

Wilkes University Wilkes-Barre, PA

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JANUARY 30, 2006

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## University officials mull shared downtown bookstore space *King's and LCCC probable partners in move*

BY VICTORIA WHITE  
Beacon News Editor

For the past two to three months Wilkes University officials have been investigating the logistics of relocating the campus bookstore to the Innovation Center on Public Square in downtown Wilkes-Barre and entering into an agreement for a shared bookstore with King's College and possibly Luzerne County Community College.

The proposal would relocate the university bookstore for all of the involved schools to a centralized location for all schools on Public Square. Scott Byers, Vice President for Finance and Support Services said, "During [discussions about] the master plan we talked about the concept and that led us to look further into whether the concept had merit."

In the last 60-90 days Wilkes University administrators have inquired about the feasibility of a possible relocation and have engaged in discussions with representatives at King's College and the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce to gauge interest in the area for a larger downtown retail bookstore.

Byers emphasized, "There is nothing firm." The proposal has not yet been finalized by any of the participating organizations, and all are still in the exploratory stage. "I would suspect that by April we will know whether the idea is going to work or not," he added.

Although some students may see a downtown relocation of the bookstore as an inconvenience at first, Sue Martin, manager of University Shoppe noted, "The school is proposing that if they do this, they will reroute the shuttles to go past the bookstore."

The proposed downtown bookstore would provide the books necessary for classes for all colleges involved, along with individual college apparel, and a large section of reference books, trade books, novels, magazines and newspapers. School officials are also looking to create a coffee shop/café and possibly an Internet room to allow for students to socialize and do work while at the store.

Martin said, "There is going to be a whole lot more store. Right now our reference and trade section is very small. That would be expanded. We would also carry Wilkes-Barre souvenirs."

In terms of employment opportunities, Martin suspects that there will be many part-time positions available at the store due to proposed evening hours. Martin added that current employees of both bookstores will be guaranteed positions at the new store. "It will not have any impact on the current employees," said Martin.

Byers noted, "I think the advantage would be having a full scale retail bookstore presence within a few blocks of the campus that not only provides textbooks but also an opportunity that we just don't have right now."



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Local colleges look for sites appropriate for a larger scale retail bookstore in the area. The proposed site is the Innovation Center on Public Square.

## Etruscan Press to relocate to Wilkes University *Publishers aim for link with Creative Writing MA program*

BY KRISTIN KILE  
Beacon Editor-in-Chief

The Masters of Arts in Creative Writing program has only been in existence for a year, but already has made strides in becoming nationally recognized. One of those strides now includes a publishing

company to be housed at Wilkes.

Dr. Bonnie Culver, Director of the Masters of Arts in Creative Writing, announced at the Maslow Foundation Salon Reading Series on January 12, that Etruscan Press is set to move its operation to Wilkes University June 1. The announcement was exciting news

for both undergraduate and graduate students in the program.

Robert Mooney and Philip Brady, who are faculty in the creative writing program, are the founders of Etruscan Press. Their involvement with the program is what led them to tap Wilkes University as the new home base for

their publishing operation.

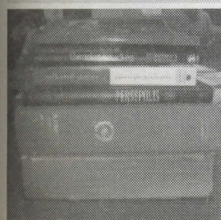
"They like Wilkes University a good bit and they like the way the administration treated the faculty and the program. We've had great support at all levels, and they felt this would be a good place for their press to be," Culver said.

Jim Warner, program assistant

with the MA in Creative Writing said every good masters program has a press at its institution. Now Wilkes will be right in step with others of its kind.

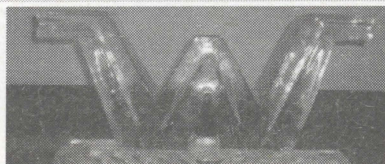
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# NEWS

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## Students raise concerns about Park & Lock safety

*Debris and evidence of homeless part of facility history*

BY DANA ZLOTUCHA

Beacon Staff Writer

While students now have an option for downtown parking that some would argue is convenient in terms of its proximity to campus, others have voiced concern about personal safety because of lack of lighting, trash and the fact that Wilkes Public Safety officers are not yet a full-time presence in the newly acquired Main Street Park & Lock.

Currently, Wilkes students and faculty are not the only ones using the building. The food containers, discarded bottles and other personal items that litter the stairwells also suggest that homeless persons and others use the space for respite and personal recreation. Christopher Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services, acknowledged the presence of homeless people at the facility and explained, "The facility does come with a history; because it was neglected for so long, people had used it as a residence."

Rich Hannick, President of the Commuter Council, recalled seeing a woman who was likely a prostitute in the facility this past summer. "It was pretty clear from her clothes and her actions who she was," said Hannick.

Litter and debris is another problem students have with the facility. Despite having been under University ownership for several months, the facility does not reflect signs of regular maintenance activity, according to some students. Beth Mahonski, a P1 pharmacy student, noted, "They said they were going to clean it up, but I haven't seen any changes," she stated.

Bailey explained that the building is cleaned twice a week, but since it is a "parking garage [it] can't be spic and span."

Perhaps the chief concern voiced by students using the lot this term is the bad lighting and lack of

university presence to date. "I'm afraid to walk in there...at night it's kind of creepy," said Christine Durdach, a P1 pharmacy student. Just after the spring semester started, a rash of car break-ins occurred downtown and several student vehicles were damaged.

Bailey said, "The perceived in-

crease of activity is because the facility is being used more." However, the most recent reports of theft and vandalism are believed to be tied to one person and Wilkes-Barre police made an arrest last week.

This development, along with the fact that Public Safety does pa-

trol the garage at random intervals 10-12 times per day should reassure the students. Although, in the event that anyone notices anything suspicious, he or she is urged to notify Public Safety.

The Wilkes Public Safety office is slated to move from Bedford Hall to the bottom floor of the garage in late February. According to Bailey, inappropriate entrance to the garage should be deterred in the front by the office and card swipe system that is planned for installation on the front door.

Similarly, access from the back should be restricted almost entirely with the solid gates that are to be added, opening only to let cars exit the building.

Bailey said, "Security will improve, but people have to understand that parking in any urban area will be a risk...[people] accept that risk when they park in the facility. We will do everything in our power to secure it, but there are no guarantees...we will never be able to completely prevent [the risk]."



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

**Due to the large amount of time that the Park and Lock facility was not patrolled or maintained before Wilkes University purchased it, students are wary of being alone or in the facility after dark. The litter and graffiti throughout the facility have not helped to allay the fears that students feel.**

## The BEACON

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## News in Brief

### January crime wave alarms residents in downtown

BY VICTORIA WHITE  
Beacon News Editor

Many Wilkes students left the Wilkes-Barre area for winter recess, and when they returned a month later they learned about numerous crimes that had taken place during the weeks they were gone. The crimes ranged in severity, but some were violent, including shootings, stabbings and drug-related robberies.

Some Wilkes students have raised questions about the safety of Wilkes-Barre because one stabbing incident occurred just a block from campus.

Chris Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services said, "The types of crimes that we are seeing are drug related. I personally think that what we are seeing is reaction to improved police work on the behalf of the Wilkes-Barre police department. You are starting to see drug dealers fighting over turf because they [the police] are focusing more on drugs."

Jerry Rebo, Manager of Public Safety said, "It's not like they [drug dealers] pick someone off the streets. They know each other. Wilkes University campus itself is very safe. You can see in the last couple years that there is very little crime on campus... and most of the crimes outside of campus do not involve students at all."

Because some students currently reside downtown at the University Towers and

apartments nearby, Bailey and Rebo suggested that students remember that Public Safety provides an escort service for students who feel uneasy walking alone. Also, Posten Taxi will provide rides free of charge for students, as long as students show their Wilkes identifications. Bailey and Rebo also suggested that students remember to walk in groups at night and to stay in well-lit areas.

Bailey said, "It [crime] should serve as a reminder to students you're in an urban setting. We're not out in the country. We're in a city. Cities have problems, and we're in a depressed socio-economic area. The university is not isolated from the neighborhood. We are integrated into the neighborhood but the areas of the campus that are well lit and patrolled are the areas that you want to stick to."

Though many of the violent crimes reported in the last month have been linked to drug trafficking, Bailey and Rebo assure students that they should feel safe on campus.

Bailey said, "While in the media it looks like an increase in violent crimes, I think it is just a reaction to better police work. With the increase in crime, I think that what we are seeing is reaction to improvements in the city. It's not that the city is going to hell, so to speak. I think it's going the other way. The city is improving."



The Beacon/Nick Zmjewski  
The Cafe Metropolis on Main Street was the site of a violent stabbing in early January. The Cafe has since been closed down due to several different health and safety code violations.

## Student Government Notes

### January 18 Meeting

-Alan Zellner, Director of Diversity, requested a donation for *The Rockaway Review*. Mark Congdon made a motion to donate \$500, making Student Government a co-sponsor of the event and Alicia Cain seconded it. The motion passed: 33-0-1.

-University officials and SG members discussed plans to move the University bookstore to a downtown location.

-Revisions to the SG Constitution were passed 27-0-8 and will now go to President Gilmour for ratification and then to the student body for vote.

-Spring Fling will be March 31 at the Waterfront Bar and Grill on River Street, Plains.

-John Edwards made a motion to pay for half of the price of Programming Board's new poster machine, seconded by Ashley Joslin. The motion was voted down 14-19-2.

### January 25 Meeting

-Members of Lacrosse Club presented for the first time with a fund request of \$2,500 for new uniforms.

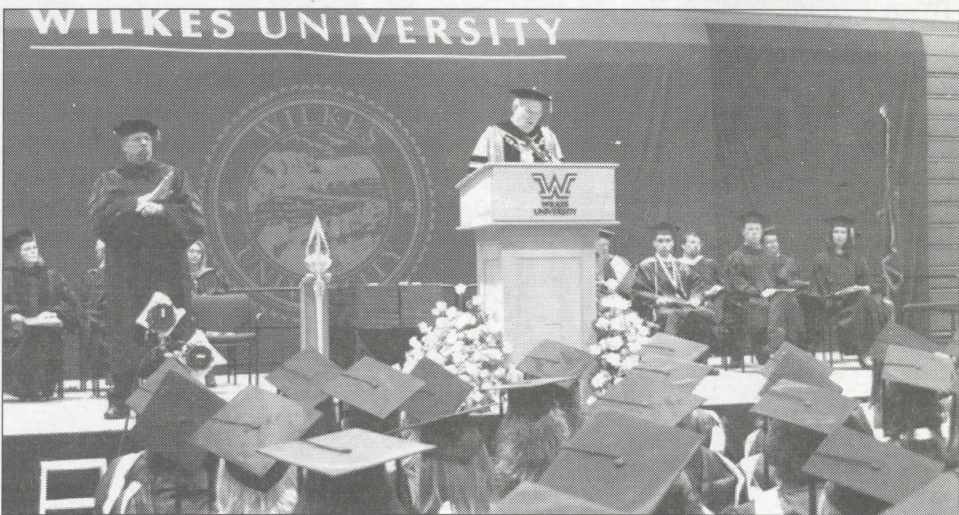
-Organizers of *The Vagina Monologues* requested for a donation of \$1,000 in support of the event. Motion made by Kristina Erat, seconded by Josh Swantek that the donation be made with the stipulation that all Wilkes students attend for free. The motion was passed 31-1-3.

-Members of the Robotics Club presented for the first night in an attempt to achieve club status.

-Members of the Running Club requested a donation to help support the Relay for Heat. Kyle Ellis made a motion to set a bottom on the donation of \$800 with a cap at \$1,200 in order to match whatever the club raises in donations. The motion was seconded by Dave Sborz. Motion passed 34-0-2.



## Over 200 degrees conferred at winter commencement



The Beacon/Nick Zmjewski

Wilkes University President Tim Gilmour conferred 64 Bachelor of Arts, 152 Master of Arts and Sciences and one Doctor of Pharmacy degree on Sunday, January 22 during winter commencement at the Arnaud C. Marts center.

Matthew Stuka spoke for the class and received his Bachelor of Arts degree. Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President for Student Affairs acknowledged that Stuka was only the 40th student in Wilkes history to graduate from the university with a cumulative grade point average of 4.0. In his address, Stuka reminded his fellow graduates to give thanks where thanks is due, highlighting in particular the sacrifices his parents made for

him to help him see this day.

The 2006 keynote speaker was Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall, Professor of communication studies and recipient of the 2005/2006 Carpenter Outstanding Teacher Award. During Elmes-Crahall's speech, "Let Your Life Speak," she reminded students that they are life-long learners.

"Live like a leader, the way you would want others to remember you as a person," Elmes-Crahall said.

Gilmour also reminded graduates to thank those individuals who sacrificed so they can achieve their accomplishments. He said Wilkes will forever be a part of their lives and they will forever be a part of Wilkes.



# Graduate Teacher Education proposes doctoral program

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO  
Beacon Staff Writer

For more than a year, the Graduate Teacher Education department at Wilkes has been working to launch a doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in the area of educational leadership.

While the proposed program has not yet been approved and must still undergo multiple steps in the approval process, Dr. Michael Speziale, Director of Graduate Teacher Education, explained that it would potentially include concentrations in the areas of educational technology, K-12 administration and higher education administration along with basic core courses.

The project has been coordinated by Speziale along with a number of other staff members who have undertaken key responsibilities.

"It has really been a department-wide effort," Speziale said, adding that the department as a whole has contributed on many levels in the proposal process.

Faculty of the graduate teacher education department recognized that there was a need for a degree at this level based on a

number of different factors. Over the past few years, the department has kept a log of the number of people who have contacted Wilkes with an interest in a doctoral degree. Additionally, research has been conducted in the field to uncover what elementary and high schools need. The results from this research have been a major factor in the determination of what aspects the program will focus on. One of the most significant reasons for the proposal is the large number of graduates from the masters programs in Graduate Teacher Education.

"We have a lot of people in our program now who are in their second and third masters programs because of the lack of an advanced degree option," Speziale said. This helps to prove that there would most likely be a great deal of students interested in pursuing this doctoral degree.

As previously mentioned, this program has not yet been fully approved. The proposal will be going to the faculty for review in February. After that, the next step will be to get approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This will be an extensive process that is an-

ticipated to take until the fall of 2006. Assuming all goes as planned and all levels approve of the proposal, the new program will then be implemented in the spring of 2007.

The Ed.D degree will be a 60 credit, post-masters program. Students will also be required to complete a component based on dissertation, Speziale said. He also anticipates that it will take students between 5 to 7 years to complete. The core courses will center on research and leadership, allowing students to gain leadership and administrative skills as well as the chance to share important academic findings. There will be a strong mentorship component as well, allowing faculty members to support students through open communication.

A number of indicators of academic ability will be used to determine admission to the doctoral program. According to Speziale, included in these factors will be "prior academic performance, performance on GREs or MATs, professional level references, and successful completion of an interview process with graduate education administrative and faculty personnel."

While many students recognize the neces-

sity for a degree like this at the university, some also seem to be content with the level of schooling the university is already offering to education majors.

"It might affect enrollment, and I do think it would be [a positive thing] for the school, because any advancement of education is beneficial. However, I really don't think it would affect me personally because I'm planning on getting my masters," said Amanda Arnold, junior education major.

If the proposal for a doctoral degree in education is, in fact, approved, Speziale expects it will be a positive component to the university. The implementation of this program would most likely raise the profile of the university and may even give Wilkes an edge over the competition in an already competitive market.

"We think that the doctoral program is the next logical step [after having a great deal of success in masters programs]. It will provide our students with a continuum of courses from undergraduate right through a doctoral program in education, so it will provide [a great deal] of opportunities," Speziale said.

## ETRUSCAN from FRONT PAGE

"What they (Etruscan publishers) liked was the fact that we're establishing a community, a real serious community of writers and artists here at Wilkes and they saw that commitment, I think, with our program, with our students and our work ethic, and they wanted to be a part of it," Warner said.

Etruscan is currently at Youngstown State University in Ohio. According to its website, Etruscan is a "nonprofit cooperative of poets and writers working to produce and promote books that nurture the dialogue among genres, achieve a distinctive voice, and reshape the literary and cultural histories of which we are a part."

The press does not seek submissions; rather, the publishers make requests. Etruscan has published books by H.L Hix, a well-known poet and critic, Milton Kessler and William Heyen, whose book, *Shoal Train*, was nominated in 2005 for a National Book Award in poetry.

"They do...high end, by-request-only kinds of books. So they have [established] a very good reputation in a short time," Culver said.

The press will link its operation with the MA program, which will soon be moving out of Kirby Hall, where it currently resides in the English department, into its own space. Culver said *The Manuscript* will also move with the MA program. To date, no

specific new location has been named for the program and Etruscan Press.

Culver noted that the press will be beneficial to both undergraduates and graduates because they will be able to see how a press works firsthand.

The press will

also hire a Managing Editor as well as a graduate assistant. The interviewing process for the Managing Editor position will begin in March. Culver said the space Etruscan will require will mainly consist of

boxes of its inventory.

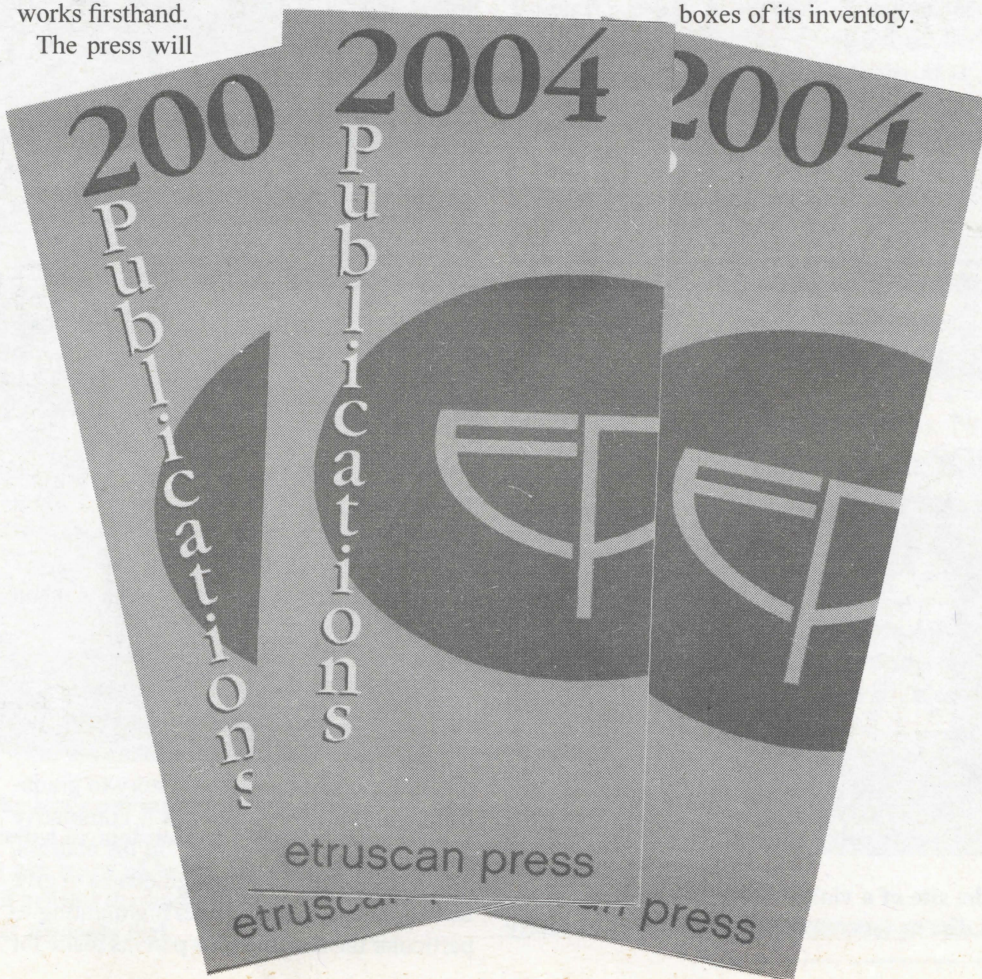
Culver said that with the move to Wilkes, Etruscan is helping to build a national visibility for the MA program as well as increase its own reputation and credibility. "...Anytime a book is published, it will have the Wilkes logo on it, so it will help increase our national reputation in writing, which the MA is doing as well," Culver said.

Wilkes already has some noteworthy characteristics related to the MA program that are garnering national attention including: the James Jones First Novel Fellowship, which uses MA and undergraduates as readers; and Letters About Literature which is the Library of Congress book reading program.

"We're forming a nice little nucleus," Culver said. "So it's really all of those things that made Etruscan feel it that this was a good place to be for writing, because there's a good bit happening already here. We're building a national presence to all of those pieces together."

University Provost Maravene Loeschke, has been involved with moving Etruscan Press to the University by offering support during the transition period.

"I am pleased that we are able to engage in this partnership with this exciting, new press that already has earned a solid reputation. The partnership is an enrichment to our Masters in Creative Writing [program] and an asset to our Wilkes academic community," Loeschke said.

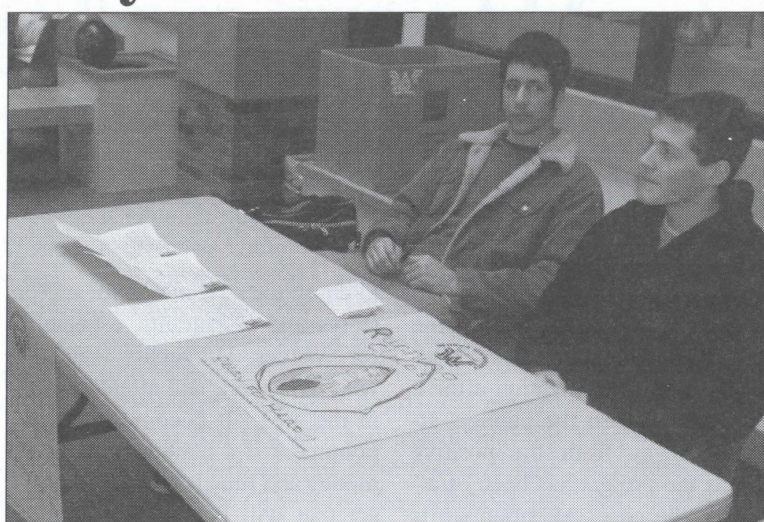




# Wilkes community members run in annual relay fundraiser for Ceo

JEANNE STAPLETON

Staff Writer



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Running Club members ask for donations in the Henry Student Center in support of the Relay for Heat.

ing emergencies is through the Martin Luther King Fuel Fund, which is administered by the Commission for Economic Opportunity (CEO). So I suggested to the [Running Club] a relay to raise money for the Martin Luther King Fuel Fund would be a good community service event that would tie in well with the club's mission. Then, when heating cost went even higher this year, it seemed like a good idea to hold it again," said Terzaghi.

"We wanted to do something here on the local level so when Dr. Terzaghi gave us the idea of Relay for Heat we ran with it; just like the running club," said Jared Shayka, P2 pharmacy major and running club president.

The money that is raised by this event will help benefit local families with small children, elderly and the disadvantaged to pay their heating bills and stay warm this winter.

"Last year I was really pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm of the participants, and I'm hoping for a similar level of enthusiasm this year. Many of the participants hung around for most of the afternoon and seemed to have a good time. We had about 10 people at the finish line when Jared completed the final leg, even though it was well below freezing by then," said Terzaghi.

The running club will be in the Student Union from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday asking Wilkes community members for pledges. Supporters who would like to become involved in this cause and are capable of running four miles, contact Terzaghi at 408-4762 or Shayka at 570-267-4225.

"Relay for Heat is an opportunity to get the running club involved in a worthy cause and give back to the community via an activity that we all enjoy," said Terzaghi.

community members who expressed an interest in running for the relay.

The idea for "Relay for Heat" originated last year when heating bills began to rise to exorbitant levels.

"Last year heating costs had gone up astronomically, and since my wife works a lot with local charities she knew that many poor families were asking for help with their heating bills. One of the best ways for them to get help for heat-

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## Violent crime a financial deterrent to Wilkes-Barre

### Increased visibility affects downtown revitalization

BY THE BEACON  
EDITORIAL BOARD

If you've been in the area for the last month, you have undoubtedly heard reports claiming an increased level of violent crime throughout the city of Wilkes-Barre.

According to a January 16, 2006 *Citizens' Voice* article, a Wilkes-Barre man shot on Hazel Street on Sunday, January 15, marked the tenth incidence of violent crime since the first of the year. A January 21 *Citizens' Voice* article recapped the stabbing of two men outside Café Metropolis on Main Street, and a January 25 article in the *Times Leader* highlighted various other recent crimes, including the fatal stabbing of a police informant, an attempted robbery and

fatal shooting at Turkey Hill in Wilkes-Barre and a Wilkes-Barre restaurant robbed at gun point.

Is violent crime actually a new phenomenon in the city? According to a January 24 article in the *Times Leader*, thefts, burglaries, assaults and weapons violations have increased in the city during the last year and drug arrests have soared in the past five years. Conversely, homicides have dropped in numbers.

We can't forget, first and foremost, that Wilkes-Barre is a city, and American cities do have to address the issue of crime. But perhaps what is most alarming is how the sudden increase in violent crime reports may have an effect on the public perception of the success or failure of the down-

town revitalization project.

Without a doubt, the latest crime spree has the potential to adversely affect the revitalization efforts. Such crimes turn the public's attention away from the positive effects the project has been offering for the city. Attention shifts instead on what is lacking and what still remains and needs to be addressed. City officials acknowledged in a January 22 article in the *Citizens' Voice* that many incidents of crime are attributable to the drug activity in the city. Thus, it is clear that the drug problem must be addressed in this city before real progress can begin.

We anticipate that sprucing up the downtown will have little effect if no one feels safe enough to walk the streets or park their cars

to enjoy the new movie theatre or stores and restaurants, especially for Wilkes University students who live, work and attend school in the area. It becomes a disappointment if a notable amount of money and time is spent on a project that will benefit few people. Seeing a potentially successful project fail because of fear and crime would prove a severe setback for the efforts of so many in Wilkes-Barre.

It is notable that clearly the drug busts and reports of violent crimes are not being covered up. While there may be some economic drawbacks to fully informing residents, we contend such disclosure is healthy and important for the community. Everyone has the right to know the truth about the area in which they live. But such disclosure also begs the question: has crime always been an issue and are we just hearing about it now because city administrators and police are making the effort to address it?

Reports of unsafe streets hit close to home for Wilkes students. The attack at Café Metropolis occurred mere minutes from campus and the acts of vandalism on more than 25 cars in the downtown area also directly affected some Wilkes students. According to the *Citizens' Voice*, the Park and Locks at both South Main Street and South Franklin Street were targeted.

City officials need to make the drug problem and fighting crime one of their top priorities for 2006 and beyond if they hope to have any success with the revitalization project. In addition community residents and college students must take an active role in addressing the issue and offering solutions. Crime is a social and financial deterrent, and all community members have a responsibility to address the issue head-on and come up with reasonable solutions sooner rather than later.

## Nickle for Your Thoughts

By Jason Nickle

WHAT'D YA EXPECT  
IN A RECOVERING  
CO-DEPENDENT

How could you do this  
to me and all of the other  
book readers! We trusted  
you! I feel sooo  
VIOLATED!



James Frey



Oprah

127  
JR/6

## Beacon Poll

Next Week's Poll  
Question:

What is the most  
fascinating mystery?

- 1975 disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa
- 2005 disappearance of Natalee Holloway
- 1947 Roswell Army Airfield
- The origins of humankind
- What happens after death?
- Disappearance of over 170 boats and airplanes in the Bermuda Triangle
- 1937 disappearance of Amelia Earhart
- Crop circles in Minnesota farm field, summer 2005
- Other

Visit [www.wilkesbeacon.com](http://www.wilkesbeacon.com) to cast your vote. Results will be published in next week's issue of *The Beacon*.



JANUARY 30, 2006

OPINION

7

# This Christmas was a 'happy holidays' war zone!

*The liberals are coming! The liberals are coming!*

BY MATT ZEBROWSKI  
Beacon Asst. Op/Ed Editor

Working extra hours at my job over break, I was, unfortunately, kept especially in tune with what was going on in the world of retail clothing, and as a few irate customers and frazzled co-workers let me know, the hot trend this winter season was apparently a retro one.

The perennial debate about whether or not retail clerks should say "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays," a debate that my earliest memory of can probably be dated roughly to sometime within the first Bush presidency, still rages on. And by "Bush," I mean "George H.W.," a man who some of you freshman may only know via "I Love the 80's." Who knows? I'm old; I can remember Reagan being president.

But all of that is beside the point. My ruminations on past presidents were just a roundabout way of saying that this quibbling has been going on way longer than it ever needed to, because frankly, it's all kinda stupid. For some reason, however, the debate really seemed to reach fever

pitch last year. Contrary to past years, when the whining of the religious right was only a minor annoyance, this year it seemed as if I couldn't open up a newspaper or watch cable news without some sort of commentary on this alleged godawful oppression of Christianity. So, I had a near constant source of reminders of what a silly thing it is to be worried about.

"War on Christmas?" Puh-leez. Contrary to what Bill O'Reilly and friends will tell you, the clerk at your local five and dime is neither the Grinch nor the Antichrist. In fact, by choosing to say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas," that clerk may be exercising simple Christian kindness. See, after only dealing with you for the few seconds it takes to ring up and total your purchases, it's very hard for a sales clerk to determine what religion you are (unless, of course, you are wearing a crucifix, a burqa, a yarmulke, or a pentagram. But even then, assuming is risky business). This means that they have no way of knowing whether or not you celebrate Christmas. Which means that saying "Merry Christmas" just might not be appropriate. Conversely, there's also no fair reason to

assume that all clerks celebrate Christmas themselves, so why should they be forced to say it if they don't want to? "Happy Holidays," on the other hand, encompasses everything, as most people celebrate at least New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, both holidays, maybe even in addition to a religious holiday.

Since Christmas just so happens to be one such holiday, I don't see how Christians can say that wishing someone "happy holidays" constitutes any sort of affront to Christianity. Sure, Christians are in the majority in this nation, but it doesn't give them the right to assume that everyone else is Christian or to place their holidays above everyone else's. After all those centuries of being fed to lions, you'd think that Christians would maybe have learned a little humility. Whatever happened to "the meek shall inherit the earth?"

And you can go on all you want about the "secularization of Christmas," but let's be honest here. Liberals attempting to uphold their interpretation of the First Amendment aren't responsible for the secularization of Christmas. That happened a loooooooooooooong time ago. If you want to point a finger for

that one, look no further than the system of *laissez-faire* capitalism that all you conservatives seem to hold so dear. I mean, who do you think brings the gazillion dollars worth of presents you buy down the chimney? I'll give you a hint, it sure ain't Jesus. Of course, Santa Claus is "based on" the Christian story of St. Nicholas, but anyone who's ever watched Lifetime knows what "based on a true story" really means. For one thing, I really doubt that St. Nicholas went around crawling down chimneys, and it's highly unlikely that he flew using reindeer, especially because a map I found on the internet of their natural habitats says that Germany doesn't have any.

All that said, I do kinda sympathize with these "war on Christmas" folks. It must be a strain to kvetch so much in such a limited amount of time. But I'd assume that so much kvetching over so many years would leave them slightly kvetched-out. So, I would encourage them to take 2006 off. They've worked so hard at filling our media with their petty complaints that they deserve a break. Furthermore, the rest of us could use the silence to finally enjoy our holidays as we see fit.

## New Year's resolutions and the beginning of a new semester

BY AMANDA MCMAHON  
Beacon Correspondent

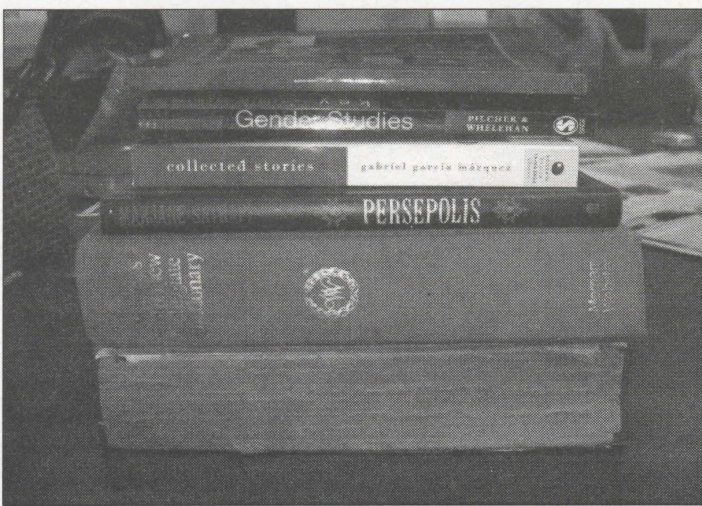
I'm sure by now a number of you have forgotten about your New Years' resolution.

I don't think mine ever went into affect. Let's just say that my dinner of two bowls of nachos and cheese mixed with salsa (it's good that way; you should give it a try sometime) isn't exactly the healthier lifestyle I had in mind when I rang in the New Year. Oh yes, and did I mention I have recently developed a severe allergy to running shoes?

O.K., so maybe our New Years' resolutions aren't going as planned. But, as college students we are given a second chance at the turn of the new year. If the initial resolution didn't work out there is always the good old Beginning-of-the-Semester-Pledge to help start anew. It goes something like this: "I'm going to do better this semester. No, really. I already bought my overpriced books at the bookstore. I found out where the library is, too. Oh yeah, and did you know there is a Dean's List? No, no. This is a different one. The King lady doesn't run this one, and you don't get fined for hav-

ing your name on it. So, I've decided I'm getting my assignments done ahead of time so I don't fall behind like I did last semester. No more all-nighters and caffeine headaches. Yeah, this semester I'm getting a 4.0!"

But, perhaps January 16 was no different from January 1 and by the second week of the semester you sounded more like this: "I went to the library. It smells. The good news is they have computers. The bad news is the school came up with this code so that no one can log on to them, so I left. I needed some drinking money for this past weekend, so I sold a couple of books back that I figured I wouldn't need. I was going to start some assignments but instead I Facebooked. Oh well, I have the rest of the semester to get my grades up.



The Beacon/Curran Dobson  
Keeping up with reading assignments is one resolution common to college students.

While it is somewhat humorous how easy we give in to our urge to procrastinate, New Year's resolutions and beginning semester pledges reveal a weakness about ourselves that goes beyond couch-potato laziness; we don't take ourselves seriously. Think about it. When you made a New Year's resolution, did you really mean it? Or having been caught up in the streamers and confetti

was it a promise made to be broken? Were you honestly planning to use those books, or did you know all along they would never be opened, let alone read?

There is a clear distinction between being lazy and not taking yourself seriously. Being lazy is relaxing on the couch and watching *SNL* with some friends for a night and doing your response paper for English class the next morning. Not taking yourself seriously is not reading the assignments for English class and ten minutes before class piecing together what you can remember of the ideas presented by your peers during class discussion and calling it your response paper.

It is easy to get caught up in the rush of life and lose track of which way we were headed. We start to keep from taking ourselves seriously because we don't want to rise to the challenge of being responsible for the people we are. As the saying goes, we turn on cruise control and forget to be drivers. So you get to take in some sights, but you also miss out on the experience. I guess the Volkswagen people have it right; "There are passengers and there are drivers. Drivers wanted."



## YOUR VOICES

## Service with a smile is a Wilkes University myth

Dear Editor:

Ridiculous. That's the only thing that comes to mind whenever I begin to think about how our University's food service has been since I have been a student here at Wilkes University. The service is bad and the food is even worse. I hear a lot of students muttering and complaining about it but no one has said anything publicly to the whole University yet (much like the whole gay issue not too long ago), so I decided to be the dissenting voice for the student body. Here are some of the problems of the food service.

The first problem is the treatment of the Henry Student Center cafeteria during the lunch hours of the day. Many students have just finished with morning classes or are just getting ready to go to their afternoon classes. So there is an overabundance of people wanting to sit down and eat but not enough seats for them to go to.

This wouldn't be a problem, one would think. Shouldn't the cafeteria people be watching this number and making sure that they do not let in too many people? Potential troubles include the fire escapes being blocked, the room capacity being exceeded and the fact that it is just too darn crowded. Shouldn't the cafeteria people make sure that they have enough seats for the number of people they let in to eat? I mean just about every restaurant in the world makes sure it has seating for those to eat before they let them in.

It's common sense, yet the cafeteria people seem to disagree because they continuously let people in when all they really have to do is look over their shoulders and see that it is too crowded. *Why?* Why would you let the lines overflow in the serving section? Why are you letting in more people than you can seat? Why are you not regulating it so that something dangerous doesn't happen? God forbid that a fire or something happens in the kitchen and there is a panic because with the way that our lunchroom is during the "peak" hours there could be some fatalities.

The second problem is the fact that food workers do not always get the orders right. For example this afternoon for lunch, I asked for a roast beef and American cheese on rye bread. Delicious, I know. Instead, I got what looked like roast beef, some cheese, and a spattering of onions and wheat bread. Wow. I did not know that it was particularly hard to make a sandwich, but what do I know? I only go to college. Some orders they do fine and get it right all the time. Other orders leave much to be desired as the food service personnel seem to just throw it about and rush to complete things so that they either forget something or add something that is totally unwanted.

Another problem is the fact that workers are not very clean when they are doing their work. How long do they wear their gloves before they change them while making meals? God forbid that I was deathly allergic to onions when the dirty gloves left a few in my sandwich. Luckily for me onions only make me mildly sick and not deathly sick, otherwise the food service would be facing some problems. What about the students here at Wilkes that have food allergies? What if the "dirty glove" problem ends up hurting or killing one of them? Is that what is needed to change some of the food policies here on campus?

Another thing to mention is the fact that the food that we are served is not the healthiest and is quite repetitive. The caf. offers pizza, burgers and cereal. That seems to be the main gist of what we get served here at the University. And sometimes we cannot even count on being able to get all of those things either. The only real thing that students can count on for sure when they go to the cafeteria is the cereal. The cereal is the one thing that is always being served.

Why is that? If you are going to be catering to college students you should always have food out and ready to serve. If you are open to 11 p.m.. then you should be serving food until 11 p.m. and not closing and starting to put food away at 10 p.m. College students are known for weird diets and the inability to eat at normal hours. As a college food service you should know this and adapt.

The final thing about the food service that I am going to point out as a problem is the fact that the workers are not, for the most part, very customer friendly. I work as part of the customer service team at a local retail store and I know the importance of a smile. That is not the case with the majority of the workers that our food service hires and use at our University. If anything they look very bitter to be doing what they are doing and not very happy at all with the fact that they are catering to college students. How hard is it to fake a smile every now and again? I do it all the time at work. It does not take very much to be pleasant even if it is not genuine. And if you are not happy doing what you are doing then maybe you need to go and find a new job.

All of these things have been bothering me for some time and I am sure that it is also bothering a lot of my fellow students. A lot of things at this University have been changing and improving. Redoing our entire computer network is probably important but it's not as important as making sure that all of our students are fed and healthy. Isn't it time that our food service got revamped as well?

Jim Morrison  
Senior History Major

## Response to Grandparents' Day card controversy

Dear Editor:

Last fall, the Development Office proclaimed a "Wilkes University Grandparents Day" for November 6, 2005. Students were asked to complete the names and addresses of their grandparents and the Development Office would mail a greeting. Included in the mailing was a "business reply envelope" should a grandparent wish to make a gift to Wilkes University.

In hindsight, because the business reply envelope was not presented to students for their approval, it was inappropriate to send such a greeting with its business message. The Development Office regrets this error and wishes to formally apologize to any students and their families who were offended by this communication.

In the New Year, we hope to work together with students to continue helping Wilkes University to be a great place to study and learn...together. Our thanks to you for your understanding.

Sincerely yours,  
Michele Zabriski  
Director of Individual Giving

## What do YOU think?

*The Beacon* wants your voice to be heard. Your Voices is the opportunity for students to voice their concern. If you want your voice to be heard, please contact *The Beacon* with the following information:

- 1 Contact information including your email address and a phone number where you can be reached
- 2 Your name, major, and year
- 3 Your opinion

**thebeacon.oped@gmail.com**

*The Beacon* reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for space and content.



# FEATURES

JANUARY 30, 2006

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## Wilkes students resistant to website changes

BY SARAH HERBERT  
Beacon Features Editor

As Wilkes officials continue to move on building a new public image for the university, one important component is its website presence.

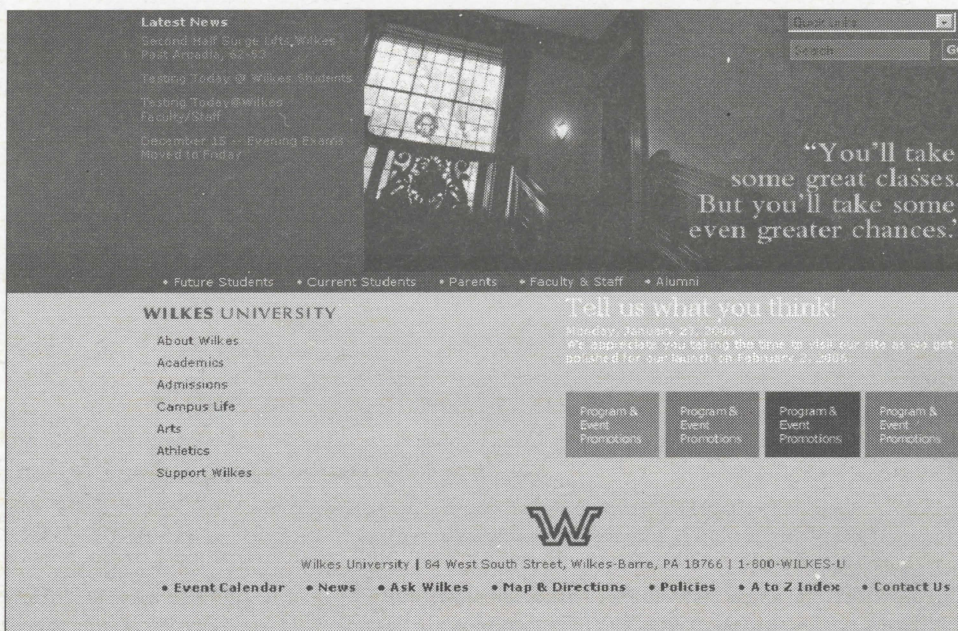
As a result, those involved in the website redesign offered a "sneak peek" to community members on January 23 to gauge first impressions of proposed changes. While the re-design unveils an important new look for the university, some students who previewed it weren't especially impressed with the changes.

Senior mathematics major Paul Jakubowski remarked, "I don't like the colors. I mean, they're Wilkes colors, but they could use a better scheme."

The new site features a home page with bright shades of blue and yellow. But for some, the brightness was overpowering. Lisa Dreier, junior communication studies major said, "It's blinding."

Clicking onto the current students link, students are re-directed to a tan colored page that some argue doesn't resemble that of the current website. This left some students wondering how the change is an improvement.

Others wanted more interactivity capabilities. Sophomore mechanical engineering major Jonathan Roskowski said, "It's alright. I just wish I could customize it to fit my needs. I don't use half of the links on



Courtesy of www.wilkes.edu

On January 23, the Wilkes community was offered a "sneak peek" at the redesigned University webpage. Those involved with the project were looking to gauge some first impressions, and offered students the chance to provide feedback through an online survey. Some students who have previewed the site were not impressed. The comments include an overbearing color scheme and an unrecognizable Current Students link. The final redesign will officially debut on February 2.

this page."

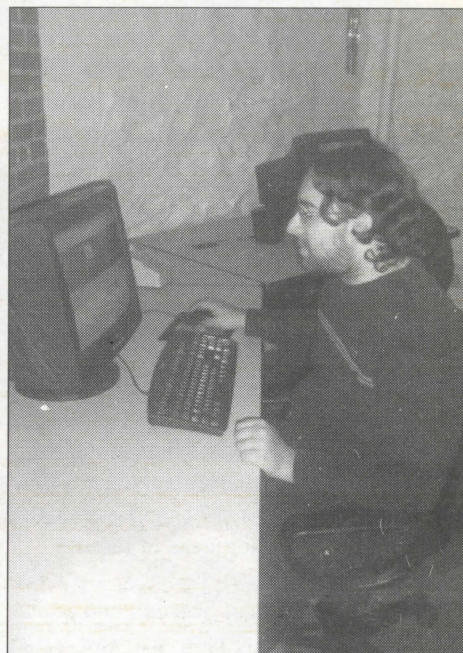
Still, the major hang up with the new design seemed to be aesthetics.

According to freshman communication studies major Lee Surma, "I just can't get past the way it looks. It's way too much, and honestly I have a hard time reading it."

So will this new design be effective? Will students accept it once they become more familiarized? Or, is this just a case of students fearing change? Only time will tell, but for now students like Jakubowski are wondering, "What was wrong with the old site?"

The preview site can be viewed by visiting [wilkes.collegis.com](http://wilkes.collegis.com). The site is scheduled to launch on Thursday.

Next week's issue of *The Beacon* will offer a follow-up story that examines the changes from the designers' perspectives.

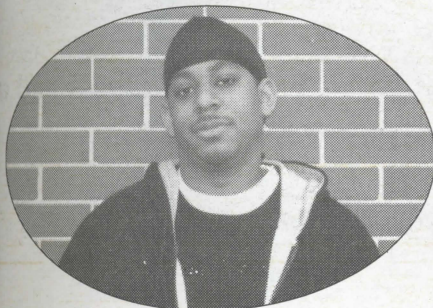


The Beacon/Sarah Herbert  
Senior mathematics major Paul Jakubowski previews the new look of the Wilkes University webpage. He suggested that even though Wilkes' colors are present, they could use a better scheme that is easier on the eye. The site can be previewed by visiting [www.wilkes.collegis.com](http://www.wilkes.collegis.com) until it is officially unveiled.

## Tell Us...

Assistant Features Editor Alison Woody was curious about what Wilkes students are thinking. Here is what she found out.

If you could choose one superhero to fight the crime of Wilkes-Barre, who would you pick and why?



Paul Vaughan- sophomore, criminology major

"Superman, because he is the strongest."



Katelyn Kozma- freshman, pre-pharmacy major

"Superwoman, since females do everything better."



Adam Penberthy- sophomore, education major

"The Blob, because he will eat all of the toxic waste."



Lori Kratz- freshman, pre-pharmacy major

"Spiderman, because he can crawl through all the cob-webs of Wilkes-Barre."



# Saudi Arabian students study ESL at Wilkes

BY ERICA LEO  
Beacon Staff Writer

The Wilkes University campus is diversifying this semester thanks to a new program that allows students from Saudi Arabia to study at American institutions of higher education.

As a result of an agreement between the United States and Saudi Arabian governments, many students from Saudi Arabia are eligible to participate in The International Educational Exchange program which gives them the opportunity to study in any English speaking country.

The Saudi Arabian government also provides eligible students with scholarship money to assist them in paying for their tuition expenses.

Wilkes was chosen as one of several American colleges and universities by the Saudi Arabian government from which the students may choose to study. Most of the Saudi Arabian students will begin their studies in English as a second language to fine tune communications skills and eventually move on to their major areas of interest.

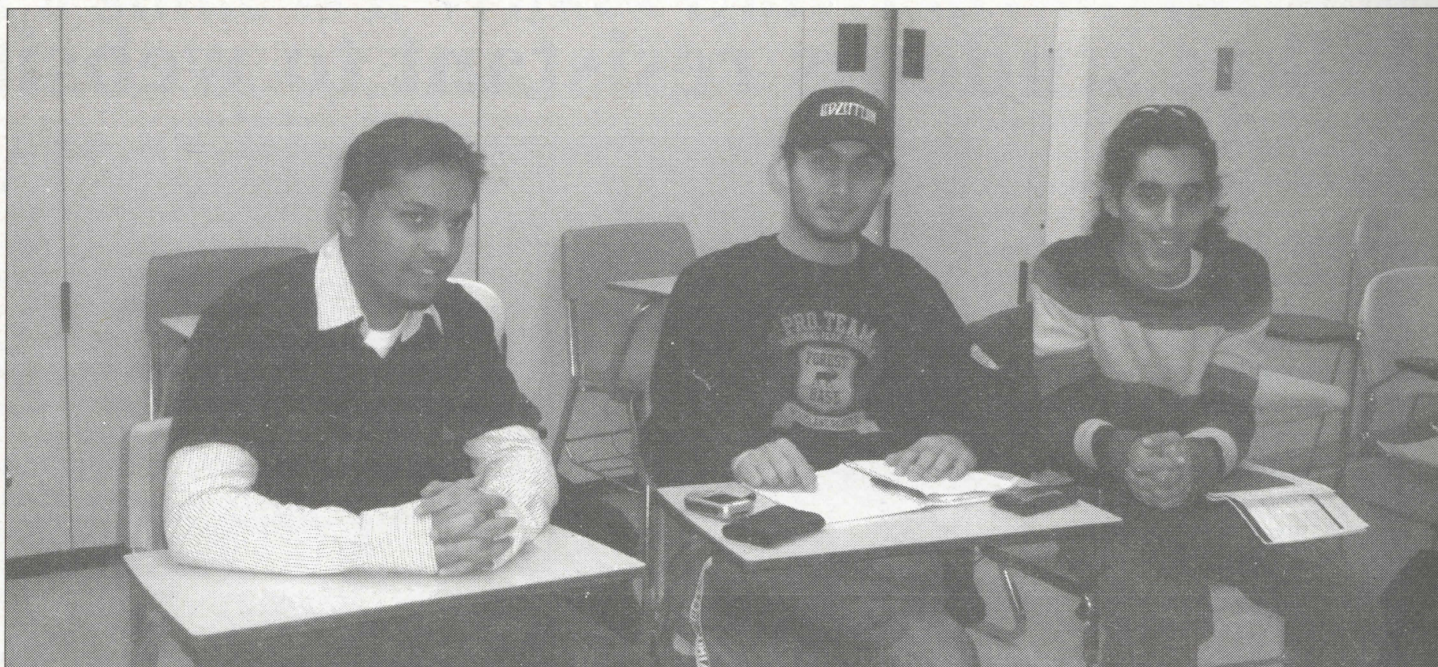
Three Saudi Arabian students, Badr Alhussain, Abdulrahman Salmah, and Abdulaziz Alzurair have already become a part of the Wilkes community and another ten to twelve students are expected to arrive by March.

Mike Frantz, Vice President of Enrollment, is involved in the process of bringing the students to the United States and enrolling them in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Wilkes.

"This is a great opportunity for both the Saudi students and our American students to interact, learn more about one another, and build international bridges of understanding," said Frantz.

In order for the students to study at Wilkes, they must first undergo year-round intensive English classes through the ESL program to sharpen their verbal and written skills. After training, the students will be able to enroll in classes and work towards obtaining degrees in the field of their choice.

Jennifer Blanchard, director of the Language Institute and ESL instructor, is currently working with the students inside of the classroom and out. Aside from teaching ESL courses, Blanchard is also helping to better acquaint the stu-



The Beacon/Erica Leo

Three students, Badr Alhussain, Abdulrahman Salmah and Abdulaziz Alzurair were eligible to participate in the International Educational Exchange Program. The program allows Saudi Arabian students the opportunity to study in any English speaking country. Wilkes was chosen as one of several American universities for Saudi students. The students will begin their studies in English as a second language. The three are expected to be joined by another 10-12 students by March.

dents with the campus and the community. "We are excited about the opportunity for Wilkes to participate in the program," said Blanchard.

The program is also an important opportunity for the Saudi students because of the high regard in which United States educational systems are held.

"American higher education is respected around the globe. We provide education in high demand fields like engineering and

computer science that is not matched in other parts of the world," said Frantz.

Alhussain came to Wilkes from Dammam, Saudi Arabia, and is planning to enter the engineering program. After two years of studying in his native country, he feels that his new experience at the university so far has been a positive one. "We've had good experiences. It's actually a lot better than I thought it would be," said Alhussain.

Salmah and Alzurair, natives of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, are also happy with Wilkes. They are currently exploring the computer

science and business programs as prospective majors.

Both Frantz and Blanchard encourage students to welcome the Saudi students and help them to become more familiar with the campus.

The new students are eager to participate in activities and become more involved in the Wilkes community. "It's a chance for us to learn a different culture," said Blanchard.

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## 'First Farewell' launches series of graduation celebrations

BY SARAH HERBERT  
Beacon Features Editor

With the start of the spring semester, Wilkes seniors annually begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. And as graduation day approaches, university officials start the process of helping students celebrate the end of their college career at Wilkes.

Last Friday, a "First Farewell" celebration was held in the Henry Student Center Ballroom, marking 113 days left until graduation.

Senior biology majors Jenn Ramil and Ashley McBrearty planned the event in conjunction with the Student Alumni Association.

The event was semi formal and offered se-

niors the opportunity to mingle with classmates and faculty. All eligible seniors were invited to the event which featured hors d'oeuvres and wine. One of the highlights of the evening was a large ice sculpture of the flying W that was provided by Sodexo Food Service.

Senior psychology major Kristina Day said, "The sculpture is exquisite."

In addition to providing an opportunity to socialize, the event also served as the venue to announce plans for the senior class gift.

The prospective gift aims to coordinate with the green space planned to replace the current Evans parking lot. The committee has proposed large brick planters, that can double as seating.

The committee pitched the idea to seniors



The Beacon/Sarah Herbert

Last Friday, the "First Farewell" celebration was held in the Henry Student Center Ballroom, marking 113 days left until graduation. The event offered seniors the opportunity to mingle with classmates and faculty. Senior psychology majors Joy Lander and Kristina Day enjoy a glass of wine at the event. The event also served as a venue to announce plans for the senior class gift. The Senior Class Gift Committee announced their plans to give brick planters that will double as seating in the new greenspace that will occupy the current Evans parking lot.

with an added perk. If students wish to have their name engraved in a brick that will be used in one of planters, they may do so by pledging \$25 a year over a 5 year period for a total of \$125.

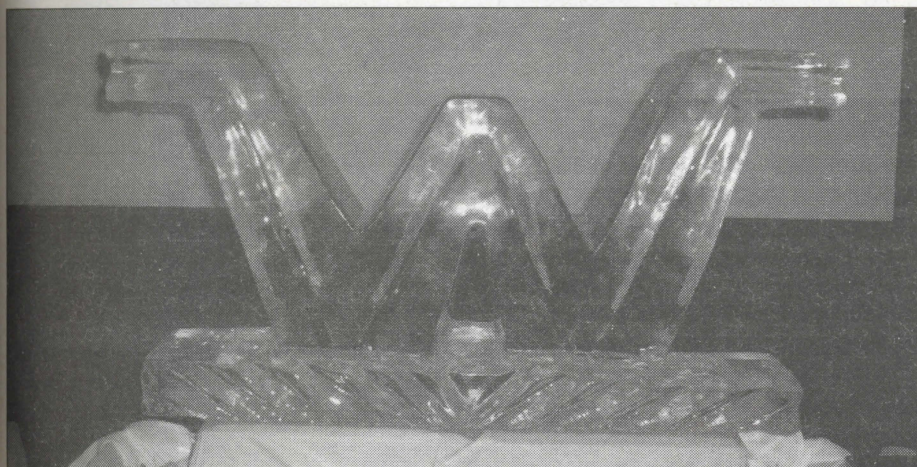
Senior psychology major Joy Lander liked the class gift idea. "I like the flower boxes, they will make the campus look better."

Day added, "I think it's a great idea. It's different, but it fits the campus style."

Overall, the event had a good turnout

among both students and faculty who seemed to enjoy the festivities. "They should have more senior socials throughout the semester and continue the countdown to graduation," said Lander.

Ramil is optimistic about that possibility. "If there's interest, we can plan little gatherings for the remainder of the semester. Maybe we can do something more informal next time," she said.



The Beacon/Victoria White

One highlight of the evening was the above ice sculpture, which featured the large flying "W" that has become a staple trademark of the university. The sculpture was suggested by the events planners, Jenn Ramil and Ashley McBrearty and was supplied by Sodexo. The sculpture served as a centerpiece on a table of cocktails.

## Chinese New Year welcomes the Year of the Dog



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

On Thursday, January 26 students were invited to celebrate the Chinese New Year in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. The event, which was sponsored by the Multicultural Student Coalition and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, featured a performance by the Tai Yim Kung Fu Lion and Dragon Dancers. Information about the holiday was given out at the event as well as free gifts. Traditional Chinese music was also played to celebrate the new year. The actual holiday began January 29 and marks the year of the dog. The celebration lasts for 15 days and ends with a Lantern Festival.

## Just the FACTS COLLEGE DRINKING CONSEQUENCES

According to the Core Institute, an organization that surveys college drinking practices, 300,000 of today's college students will eventually die of alcohol-related causes such as drunk driving accidents, cirrhosis of the liver, various cancers and heart disease.



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## Channel Surfing

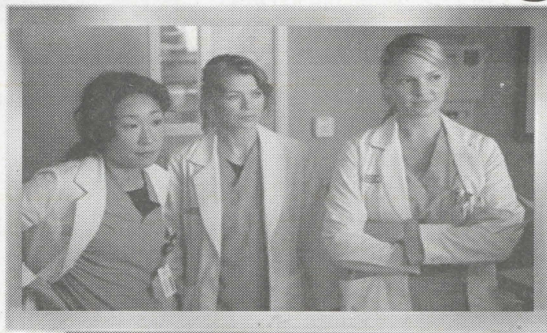


### Sitcoms

**The Office** (NBC, Thurs. @ 9:30p.m.)- There's a reason this docu-comedy moved to Must-See-TV. Emmy-winning Steve Correll runs Scranton's Dunder-Mifflin as the boss who thinks he's all that. (He's not.) NEPA references galore. -DT

**My Name is Earl** (NBC, Thursdays at 9:00p.m.)- Redneck comedy with hilarious cast and hilarious antics in the style of *Roseanne*, the *Simpsons* and *Married With Children*- the un-beautiful, imperfect sitcom world. And sometimes, it's even heartwarming. -DT

About the pictures: (From L to R) The cast of *The Office* (courtesy of NBC.com), a screen from *Grey's Anatomy* (courtesy of ABC.com) and a picture of Master P in *Dancing with the Stars* (courtesy of ABC.com).



### Dramas

**Grey's Anatomy** (ABC, Sun. @ 10p.m.)- Another medical show, this time following surgical residents in Seattle. Beautiful cast, quirky humor-throw in some relationships, and you have a new hit "dramadey." Plus, the lead chick was in *Old School*. -DT

**Desperate Housewives** (ABC, Sun. @ 9p.m.)- The wives of Wisteria Lane are still going strong into the second season. Tune in to see what type of trouble they are getting into now. -MR



### Reality

**Dancing with the Stars** (ABC, Thurs. @ 8p.m.)- I'm not a fan, but I am jealous. I have no rhythm. But America loves *Dancin'*, which pairs B-stars with A-dancers for a hot-blooded competition. Watch and you may sign up for Ballroom for Beginners. Yes, it's that addicting. -DT

**American Idol** (FOX, Tues. @ 8p.m.)- This hit is back and critics have charged they are meaner than ever. Activist groups already complaining, can you stand to miss it? -MR

## And Then There Were Six... Two television stations to merge

"The WB and UPN to Cease Operations in September 2006," was one the headlines on a CBS Corporation press release Jan 24. The current sixth and fifth rated broadcast networks will be merged into one network, to be called *The CW* in Fall 2006.

The new network will be equally owned by CBS, the current owner of UPN, and Warner Brothers, the majority owner of the WB. Until the fall, each network will continue their individual broadcasting.

Leslie Moonves, Chief Executive Officer of CBS said about the new network, in a released statement, "It will clearly be greater than the sum of its parts, delivering excellent demographics to advertisers, and building a strong new affiliate body."

The new network will still be far behind the industry leaders ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX, and still ahead of industry lightweight, PAX. Both the WB and UPN targeted the same general audience and both have been plagued by low viewership.

*The CW* will pull programming from both of the current networks. Shows that are eligible for inclusion in *The CW's* programming include WB's *Gilmore Girls*, *Beauty and the Geek*, and *Smallville*, as well as UPN's critically acclaimed, *Veronica Mars* and *America's Next Top Model*. - Myles Rumbel

The background is Kristen Bell in a shot for *Veronica Mars*, which currently is in its second season. It airs on UPN, Wednesday nights at 9. *Veronica Mars* is expected to make the transition to *The CW* in the fall.  
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## A&amp;E Profile

Matt Smallcomb, The Collective

Highlighting contributors to campus and community culture

BY DONNA TALARICO

Beacon A&amp;E Editor

While other Wilkes students were visiting home or participating in social activities around campus, Matt Smallcomb, 25, spent undergrad weekends flying to Florida with his band, opening for Busta Rhymes. Well, that only happened once - but Smallcomb played many gigs with his hip-hop band, The Collective, during his college years. After Wilkes, Smallcomb earned a master's in music at the New York City's Mannes School of Music. He continues to perform with The Collective, by far one of the most popular bands in Northeast Pennsylvania (and many beach areas along the East Coast), as well as in orchestra performances. Smallcomb returned to the place where he was both educated and inspired, to join the percussion faculty of the Wilkes University Community Conservatory where he gives private lessons.

**The Beacon:** The Collective is absolutely one of the hottest bands to come out of NEPA- tell me what it is like to be a part of something this big and popular.

**Smallcomb:** Well, honestly, I don't think about the popularity. But I can say that over the years we have worked hard together. We have managed to create a way to perform for a living. There are countless stories, and countless memories. I have to say being a member of The Collective is fun, but by no means easy. Some weekends we might total 1,000 miles of driving and 4 hours of sleep. Other weekends are easier, but for the most part, this is a great gig among great players and personalities; we have a blast.

**The Beacon:** One of my fondest Collective memories is St. Patrick's Day in Scranton at Tinks. Tell me what it is like to be on the other side of this incredible day, looking down on people who woke up with a beer at 7 a.m.

**Smallcomb:** This is some of the best fun in performing in Scranton. It is a long day and we are usually coming from somewhere far the night before, but the crowd has energy all day. When I first played St. Patrick's Day, I was blown away with Scranton being packed at 7:00 a.m. and everybody was drunk already. Personally I never got a chance to do that on St. Patrick's Day, drumming and all day of alcohol won't go that well together.

**The Beacon:** The Collective is more than just a NEPA band- where else have you played, and where is your favorite gig?

**Smallcomb:** Over the years we have performed a ton of gigs in several areas.

The group has been performing straight six years without a break. We have managed to perform throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, Vermont and Florida. My favorite gig might either be Key West, FL or Tampa, FL. Tampa was so great because this was when we opened for Busta Rhymes. This was the first show our band did at a high level. Being overwhelmed for the first time is a great feeling. I was at Wilkes, after class on a Friday I was on a plane to Florida, performed on a big stage for the first time in front of a couple thousand people and I was back to see a Wilkes theatre show at 2:00 on Sunday.

**The Beacon:** Now onto education- you are an educated musician having a BA and MM in the music discipline. You are obviously already part of something very successful- something many strive for- but you still felt education was important. Why? Can you touch on that?

**Smallcomb:** I feel education is very important, especially in music. As a musician, you have to constantly be improving or else you will become dull. Education was my first goal. I wanted to have a solid foundation for my future, and know how to keep improving. Most of the drummers and percussionists we as drummers look up to studied in music schools such as Steve Gadd, Steve Smith, Dave Weckl, Chris Lamb, Alan Able to name a few; there are hundreds. Needless to say if there is going to be a life long career in music, there are expectations, but music studies are essential.

**The Beacon:** What made you decide to join the faculty at the Wilkes Conservatory? And, what do you like about it?

**Smallcomb:** I wanted to be a part of an educational program. I like the fact that everybody teaching for the Conservatory studied at an accredited institution, and also there is a bright future for growth in education at a high level here. This program is much like prep programs I encountered in New York, like Julliard Prep or Mannes Prep, where you will have some students thinking about careers in music. I have great students here; I can really teach at a high level and lay a lot of philosophy on them.

**The Beacon:** Who are some musicians you look up to? Anyone in particular inspire you to become a drummer and/or instructor?

**Smallcomb:** Well, I am definitely a drum set player because of my talented family of drummers (grandfather, father, uncle, brother and aunt) I basically grew up playing drum set. However there were two instructors I met at Encore Music Camp (note: a

high school summer camp) at Wilkes University, Bob Nowak and Geoff Dent. These instructorshipped me to new ideas involving many styles of percussion not just drum set playing. This was why I came to Wilkes, because I was able to study with

Bob. Bob in particular is a good example of what I would like to do in my future.

**The Beacon:** Outside the Collective, you have played some pretty cool gigs... tell me about those.

**Smallcomb:** It seems I am busy performing orchestral music in NYC. I perform regularly with The New England Symphonic Ensemble at Carnegie Hall. Also I have been performing with the Philadelphia Vir-

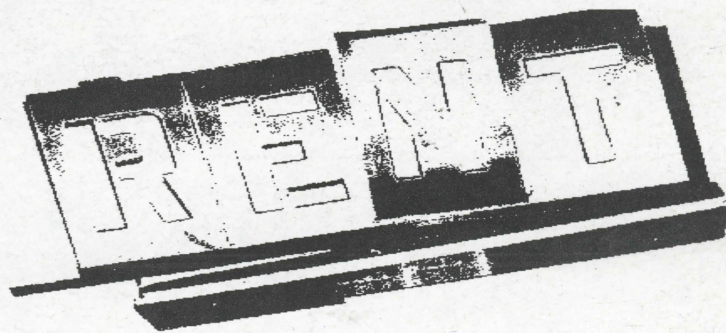


Courtesy Matt Smallcomb

tuosi Chamber Orchestra, which is touring South America in April. I recorded movie sound tracks with The New York Repertory Orchestra in Clinton Studios. Also, I was a member of the Redbull Artsechro Orchestra, which premiered the first Concerto for Turntable and Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and also did a recording, which will most likely be released in the future. Long story short, cool gigs seem to contain hard work, which leads to more rewards.

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## Dinner and a Movie

### Dinner: III Guys Pizzeria

BY DONNA TALARICO  
A&E Editor

Since I moved to No Man's Land in October, there isn't much in the way of delivery, or take-out for that matter. But still, I labor over dinner most weeknights, so Friday has become our token pizza and wings night. But, out in the country it's harder to get take-out; sometimes the food is cold by the time it makes it to our door.

The first few weeks we lived here, we chose Pizza Perfect, wonderful A+ rated pizza. But the same-old-same-old gets, well, old. So, I have been scanning Route 309 in Dallas, the congested route I must take home, for a new place. (There is a short cut to my home, but there is no take-out to be found on that woodlands road.) I remembered there was once a III Guys in Wilkes-Barre, and it was pretty good. So, before I left school Friday, I placed an order for a large pizza with pepperoni, a dozen mild wings with celery and bleu cheese and an order of mozzarella sticks at their Dallas location. They said, "Ready in 25."

I arrived a little later than 25 minutes, thanks to the congested Route 309. The parking lot of III Guys is too small for the eat-in and bar crowd it attracts. I would highly suggest

owners consider setting aside two "Take-Out Only" spots as other restaurants do. I entered the restaurant's nice, clean dining room side and was greeted quickly by a busy waitress. Before the girl could ask my name, however, she noticed the debit card in my hand, got a sad look on her face and pointed to a sign that said, with just my luck, "Cash only. Sorry for the inconvenience." Damn, I thought. So, off I went through the congested parking lot again, and through the congested 309 again to find an ATM.

Take II: I got my food this time, but it took about ten minutes to get out of the parking lot because I had to make a left onto Route 309, crossing the busy traffic flow. I ate three mozzarella sticks while waiting and they were delicious! The thick, creamy cheese wrapped in a crunchy breading helped ease my traffic pains. It took me 20 minutes to get home from there, but thankfully the pizza was still warm. Poor Dave ran to the door like he was starving. "What took so long?" I explained to him everything you read above.

We took a bite of the pizza and our frustrations disappeared. The pizza sauce was just the right amount of sweet I like and the flavorful, fresh cheese covered the whole pie, not like some places where it's just in clumps. The pepperoni left the little bit of grease I like- but not overdone to where you'd need a few paper towels to soak it up. Dave had a gripe with the wings, however. There was a pile of dry, deep-fried wings



Courtesy appetizer.com

sitting in the Styrofoam with the wing sauce beneath it. He prefers the wings to be smothered in sauce, not the kind he has to dip himself. But, the sauce was good.

Back to those mozzarella sticks--they were the best I've had in a while. However, in the car I was unable to dip them in the marinara sauce. So, when I was home, I ripped open the tiny condiment cup and dipped a stick. The powerful taste of horseradish entered my nose. Yep. The girl must have grabbed a container of cocktail sauce by accident. Other than that, the meal was great and worth the wait.

One more gripe I must add. Stuck to the pizza box was a sampler CD from Wal-Mart. Did they get a deal on pizza boxes by giving in to the Walton family? You pop it in your computer and use the activation code on the CD to hear/watch videos, downloads, trailers and songs. I am bothered that Wal-Mart was pushed on me by a locally-owned mom and pop pizza shop!

An A for taste, and a C for no ample parking and not taking cards- Overall: III Guys Pizza receives a B

### Movie: The Chronicles of Narnia

BY ALISON SHERRY  
Beacon Staff Writer

Whether you're a fantasy lover, or a C.S. Lewis fan or neither, *The Chronicles of Narnia* is something that will have you peeking into coat closets and wondering, "What if...?" for a long time to come.

Siblings Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy have been whisked away to the countryside from a war torn London, and entertainment now comes in any form. So the youngest, Lucy, soon discovers a curious old wardrobe during a game of hide-and-seek. Though she enters to the wardrobe initially to hide from her eldest brother, Peter, (who is "it" in the game), she quickly discovers that the wardrobe is a portal to the magical land of *Narnia* where animals can talk and fauns, trees that can hear and witches are the norm.

Eventually, her siblings follow Lucy into Narnia, and together they discover that all is not well in the magical land. The children, dubbed Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve, are informed they are the kings and queens who were prophesied years before, and the four eventually join forces with Aslan and his kingdom in a war to defeat the evil Jadis.

Personally, I knew very little about the story until I saw this movie, but it really kept me on the edge of my seat and after, I became curious about other stories in the epic series.



Lucy (Georgie Henley) and Mr. Tumnus (James McAvoy)

Courtesy of Yahoo! Movies

Even for those who are not lovers of fantasy, *The Chronicles of Narnia* can appeal to all ages and backgrounds.

The acting is also extremely believable--the children who play the main characters, are especially compelling. Lucy's wide-eyed innocence and goodness and Edmund's stubborn defiance are not only impressively portrayed, but suggest that this is not the last time we will see these young actors. Tilda Swinton, who plays the White Witch, is so evil that you just want to go through the screen and defeat her yourself. The movie takes on its own genre of fantasy as well, so don't expect any carbon copy of *The Lord of the Rings* or *Harry Potter*. *The Chronicles of Narnia* just may be the next award-winning epic series.

Grade: A+

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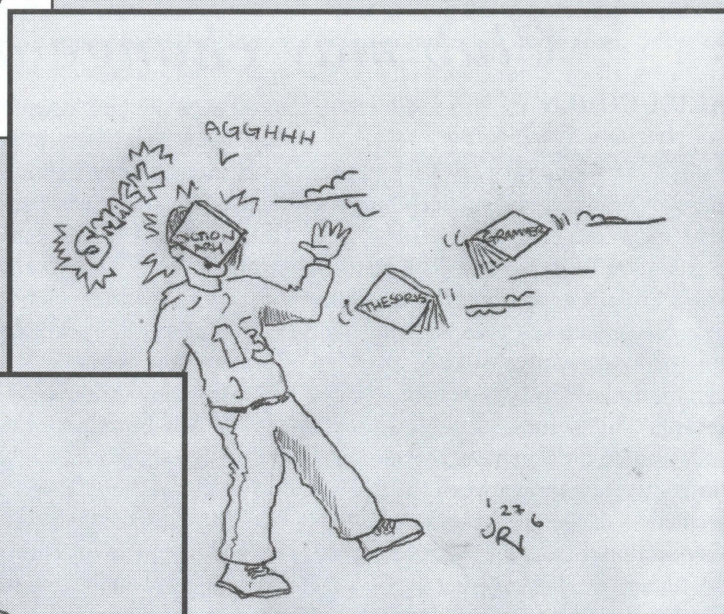
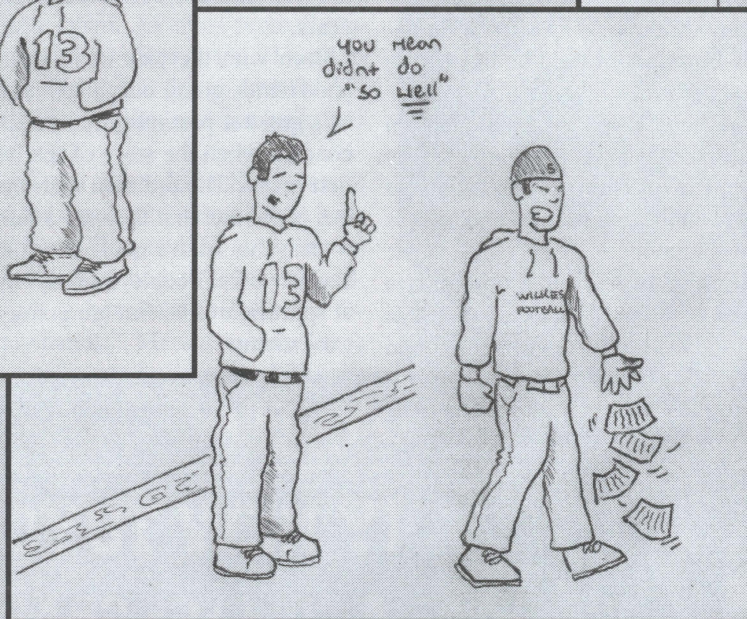
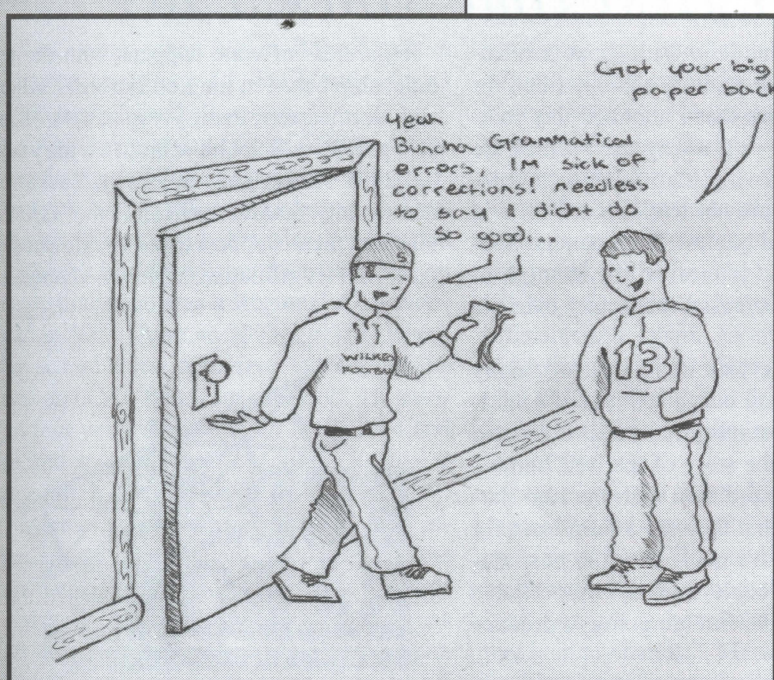
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BY JASON NICKLE  
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## COMMENTARY

# Red Barons club anticipates changes in 2007

## *Club may change affiliations for first time since 1989*

BY ARIEL COHEN

Beacon Assistant Sports Editor

Red Barons fans can take a deep breath... for now.

The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Red Barons, the Triple A farm team of the Philadelphia Phillies, has announced that the team will remain at Lackawanna County Stadium through the end of the 2006 season.

After the Philadelphia Phillies brought the farm team to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area in 1989, the bond between the two areas seemed to deepen and promise a long-term connection. But by the start of the 2005 season, rumors began to fly that the 16-year relationship would be ending abruptly and that the team would be moving to the Allentown area.

With minor league sports taking off in the

area over the past decade, millions of dollars have been spent to ensure their future and increase entertainment venues in the area. All of this has been happening with the increased interest and awareness that Northeastern Pennsylvania is undergoing a significant revitalization and image change. To allow a large-scale facility such as the Lackawanna County Stadium go empty like so many other buildings in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area would be like taking three steps backward.

Even though an empty baseball stadium would undoubtedly have a negative effect on the area, the question that arises out of all of this is whether a local baseball team is actually worth having.

After attending several Red Barons games this summer, I observed that the interest in the team might actually be a lot less than

what people think it is. With about only 20-30 percent of the stadium actually filled for any of the games that I attended this summer, it is clear to me why the Phillies are interested in moving their team to a community with a proven track record of avid fans who attend games. The financial situation and public interest in the strength of the team has decreased drastically over the years.

Even with the lack of interest of family and friends going out to see one of America's greatest pastimes, many still expressed concern when the story of the Red Barons first broke. The problem with the Red Barons is the fact that they are a farm team for a team that hasn't made it to the post-season in years. People want to be spectators at sporting events that are going to produce excitement.

Regardless of what happens with the relationship between the Red Barons, Phillies and Northeastern Pennsylvania, fans of local baseball will not be without a team when the 2007 season gets underway. Lackawanna County Stadium officials have assured fans that there *will* be a triple-A club housed there, but its affiliation may well change.



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## Former Wilkes football standout jumps to next level

BY JONATHAN MILES  
Beacon Staff Writer

Last week, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers team signed Julian Morales for its 2006 Arena2 football season.

An award-winning former Wilkes defensive lineman, Morales also served as assistant coach of running backs last year. During his Wilkes career, Morales was selected to the All Middle Atlantic Conference team three times and was a Regional All American in 2003. Also, in 2003—a year in which he scored three defensive touchdowns—he was an ECAC first team selection. He started four years straight from 2001-2004 and racked up 106 tackles and 4.5 sacks during that time.

Morales, who has been extremely busy attending graduate school, preparing for the upcoming season, and working as a graduate assistant for the Wilkes football team, has set the bar high for himself. Morales said, “As far as my expectations go, I’ve always had high expectations of myself. I have the opportunity to compete at a national level and possibly move up in the ranks. Being signed by the Pioneers gives me a chance to prove myself and hopefully do well enough to move on.”

His former teammate Jason Skarbez wasn’t surprised that Morales was signed professionally. “I wasn’t really surprised because he’s a good athlete with great size and strength and can compete at a high level,” said Skarbez. “I’m happy he was signed and I think he’ll make a great asset

to the [Pioneer’s] team.”

Morales seems to fit the archetype of all successful people with his confidence and intelligence. Skarbez remarked, “One of his greatest strengths is that he is such a smart athlete. He knows a lot about the game, retains knowledge well, and is just an overall smart guy.”

Morales will need to make some adjustments in order to play in the Arena2 league. He noted, “The number one adjustment I’ll have to make is learning how to play offensive line again. In arena football, the defensive line plays offense, too. I used to play in high school, but this is a whole different level and you have to get back into the rhythm of it.”

Even with the need for adjustment, it seems that the coach of the Pioneers is happy to have him. “I signed the contract and he [Pioneer’s coach] thinks I’ll do very well. It all depends on how hard I work. The future is in my hands.” Morales wisely keeps the big picture in mind. However, “There’s still a chance that I might not even make it through camp, but I just have to do the best I can and hopefully I can get ahead.”

Regardless of how far Morales eventually makes it in the pros, it must be said that this is a proud achievement not only for him, but also for Wilkes University. Skarbez put it best when he said, “I think it [Morales being signed professionally] helps the program here. Athletes will be able to see that they can come to a smaller school and still have an athletic career after college.”

To play on a professional level, getting

paid to play a sport you love, is every athlete’s dream. “Any time you get the chance it’s a great thing, because when you’re playing even at the college level you never know when your last game will be,” said Morales.

“Just getting the opportunity to play and do what you want to do is great. Most athletes at small schools never really get the chance that I did.”



The Beacon/Todd Weibel  
Julian Morales (above, center) played four seasons at defensive tackle for Wilkes. Throughout his career, which included 106 tackles, he also ran back three turnovers for touchdowns.

## Wilkes Grapplers take two out of three in MAC Duals *Queiroz tallies three wins as the Colonels go 2-1 at MAC Duals*

BY NICK PODOLAK  
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Felipe Queiroz (125) won all three of his matches and had two pins as the Blue and Gold took two out of three Saturday at the University of Scranton.

After beating Josh Craig of Messiah in the opening round 14-8, the fiery Queiroz pinned Peter Achilles of Elizabethtown before tacking James Saxton of ninth-ranked Lycoming to the mat. “I try to take the pressure off myself because if there’s too much pressure I’ll screw up. I go in there with a ‘nobody can beat me’ mindset,” Queiroz said.

The 21-ranked Colonels started off strong against Messiah, winning 28-6 and winning eight of 11 stints. The shaggy Josh Pauling beat Craig Gin with an 8-2 decision at



The Beacon/Todd Weibel  
The nationally ranked Colonels dropped both Messiah and Elizabethtown in the MAC Duals on Saturday before falling to 9th-ranked Lycoming College by a score of 25-14. The Colonels’ record now stands at 9-3.

133 pounds; Adam Penberthy needed some blood time but still came away with the 6-3 decision against Matt Gorko at 141. Justin Barowski (157) and Rex Harris (184) both had major decisions, and Erick Smith (149), Brandon Kelley (197), and Keith Altiery (285) were all victorious.

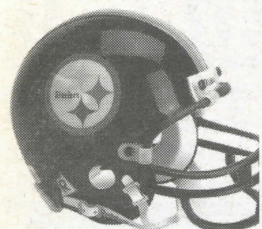
In its second match against Elizabethtown College, Wilkes won seven of ten as Peter George (141) pinned Justin Martin to lead the Colonels to the 37-10 victory. D.J. Giancola (165) won by major decision against Rob Rosario while Pauling, Tom Leggio (174), Harris (184), and Altiery won for Wilkes.

In its final match and loss to Lycoming, Justin Barowski beat Eric Miller 7-5 and Brandon Kelly won by technical fall to Bryan Kopesky, 17-1.

The two victories improve Wilkes to 12-3. The Blue and Gold will be in action February 4th at home against Ithaca.



## | Commentary |



# GAME OF THE WEEK

## Destination: Detroit Super Bowl XL



BY KEVIN REED  
Beacon Staff Writer

A month of training camp, four preseason games, a regular season, and three weeks of playoffs later, the National Football League has narrowed the field to its two most worthy teams.

An intriguing match-up awaits fans on Sunday, February 5, between the NFC Champion Seattle Seahawks and the AFC Champion Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Seahawks went 13-3 during the regular season, which earned them a #1 seed, home-field advantage, and a bye week for the first round of the NFC playoffs. They took care of business in their two postseason games by ousting Washington and then dominating Carolina in the NFC Championship game.

This is Seattle's first ever trip to the Super Bowl. The Steelers, on the other hand, had a more difficult road through the playoffs. Their 11-5 record earned them the last playoff spot, the #6 seed, in the AFC bracket. They defeated Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Denver, the top three seeds in the AFC, all on the road. Pittsburgh is the first team in NFL history to advance to the Super Bowl as a #6 seed. It is their sixth trip overall as a franchise.

This year, the Super Bowl boasts an uncharacteristically even comparison between its two teams. Let's look into the facets of the game and comparisons in skill in detail to see who has an advantage...

### The Breakdown

The match-up at quarterback features a Pro-Bowler, Seattle's Matt Hasselbeck, and a sophomore, Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger, but that is where the differences end. Both have done above and beyond what was expected of them since the beginning of the season and both have been aided by exceptional running attacks. In the playoffs, both quarterbacks have averaged about two touchdowns per game and have had similar statistics across the board. Both have been clutch performers on their roads to the biggest game of their lives.

The argument has been made that Roethlisberger means more to his team than Hasselbeck does to his, but the fact that Hasselbeck was voted to the Pro-Bowl cannot be ignored. In essence, the quarterback that plays the smartest game and makes the fewest mistakes will be the better player in the Super Bowl.

**Quarterback Advantage: Even**

Both the Seahawks and the Steelers rely heavily on running the football and they both have the personnel to do so. Seattle has one of the best backfields in the league, which includes two Pro-Bowlers in league MVP running back Shaun Alexander and fullback Mack Strong. Alexander can control a game by himself if he has a good day. If the Steelers can hold him to under 100 yards and keep him out of the end zone, they should have a good chance at winning.

On Pittsburgh's side, they have a versatile 3-headed monster at running back. They have a speedy outside runner in Willie Parker, "The Bus," Jerome Bettis, and Vernon Haynes, who is the best of all three in receiving out of the backfield. It is going to take a great coaching job by Steelers coach Bill Cowher to manage his backs' playing time so that he can get the most out of them. However, as in the quarterback comparison, it cannot be overlooked that the Seahawks' backfield is full of league all-stars. Both offensive lines are bound to provide holes to run through, but Alexander's explosiveness will prove beneficial.

**Backfield Advantage: Seattle Seahawks**

With both quarterbacks being as evenly matched as they are, their receivers will be the difference in each team's efficiency through the air. Seattle's leading receiver Darrell Jackson is accompanied by receivers Joe Jurevicius, Bobby Engram, and tight end Jerramy Stevens. Jurevicius is a proven clutch playoff receiver, and if Jackson is given double coverage by the Steelers' defense, expect him to grab the majority of catches.

Pittsburgh counters with primary target Hines Ward, along with Antwaan Randle El, Cedric Wilson, and rookie tight end Heath Miller. The Steelers do not center their aerial attack on one receiver, but watch for Randle El to try to stretch the field with his speed and create plays. Both teams like to incorporate their tight ends in the passing game, but the Steelers' versatility at receiver should give them an edge.

**Wide Receiver Advantage: Pittsburgh Steelers**

The Seahawks and Steelers have very fast defenses. Seattle's defense is lead by a rookie, playmaking linebacker Lofa Tatupu. Pittsburgh has some good linebackers as well in Joey Porter and James Farrior. Both teams have exceptional defensive lines,

but the difference comes in the secondary. Pittsburgh has improved a lot over the year and defended well against great passing teams this postseason like the Bengals and Colts. It is also good to have a playmaker like Troy Polamalu at safety.

Here is an interesting note: The Steelers play a standard 3-4 defense, which means three defensive lineman and four linebackers. The Seahawks have only played one team all year that uses a 3-4, which was Dallas. Even though Seattle won the game, they had considerable trouble in finding holes and passing lanes within the mobile style of defense that the 3-4 thrives on. It will be a storyline to watch for, since the Steelers play one of the best 3-4 defenses in the league.

**Defense advantage: Pittsburgh Steelers**

The Super Bowl is where kickers can actually make a name for themselves, whether it is a good reputation for one like Vinatieri, or a bad one like Norwood. In either case, the spotlight can be squarely on a kicker on the road to a championship. Both kickers, Seattle's Josh Brown and Pittsburgh's Jeff Reed (no relation), have done well this season, and considering the game is going to be played in a dome, there will be no adverse weather conditions to make the kicking eventful. This is pretty much an even draw as it will be up to their teams to determine if they get a chance to make a difference.

**Kicking advantage: Even**

Both special teams units are among the top in the league and both have exceptional kick and punt returners. Seattle has speedy Jimmy Williams and Peter Warrick returning punts and Josh Scobey returning kick-offs. Pittsburgh will have Antwaan Randle El returning punts and he will be accompanied by Ike Taylor on kickoff duties. Randle El's speed and playmaking could be an x-factor, but the Seahawks' many returners make them a threat as well.

**Special Teams advantage: Even**

Coaching and experience can be the best intangible a team can have in the Super Bowl. It is a great attribute to have to be able to manage the game and focus on the game plan rather than the many spotlights surrounding the NFL's Championship. Seattle head coach Mike Holmgren and Pittsburgh head coach Bill Cowher both have Super Bowl experience, but Holmgren has

already won the title while in Green Bay. Also, five Seahawks have played at least one Super Bowl versus only one Steeler. In a close game, experience can be a determining factor as to who comes away with a ring.

**Coaching & Experience advantage: Seattle Seahawks**

Sunday, February 5 is Super Sunday. The Pittsburgh Steelers will be wearing their road white jerseys and the Seattle Seahawks will be wearing their home blue-green jerseys. On paper, the match-up is one that is very even, but these two teams are sure to be involved in an offensively oriented game where the team who makes the fewest mistakes should have a distinct advantage.

**The Pick: Pittsburgh 30, Seattle 27**

**Double Take**  
*Sarah examines the stats that truly matter*

BY SARAH HERBERT  
Beacon Features Editor

Super Bowl XL is quickly approaching, and I couldn't be any happier. Yes, football still bores me to death.

However, I am shocked at the competing teams this year. Who ever thought the Seahawks would have made it this far? Furthermore, who ever would have thought that the Steelers would have made it through playoffs without choking under all the pressure?

Still, it's sure to be an exciting day. For one, football will be over for the season. But more importantly, it will be a day filled with awesomely funny commercials. You see, it's the commercials that make Super Bowl Sunday truly super. That, and it's a great day to justify eating the sort of junk food sure to clog our arteries down the line.

Even though I like the name Polamalu, I think I'll root for the Seahawks. I actually didn't even know the Seahawks were a football team until they made it to the Super Bowl. What is a Seahawk anyway, and can you really find them in Seattle? I guess that doesn't really matter. Go Seahawks.



## Athlete of the Week

### Women's Basketball: Rena Bolin

BY RYAN DIPPRE  
Beacon Sports Editor

Great teams do not simply pop into existence.

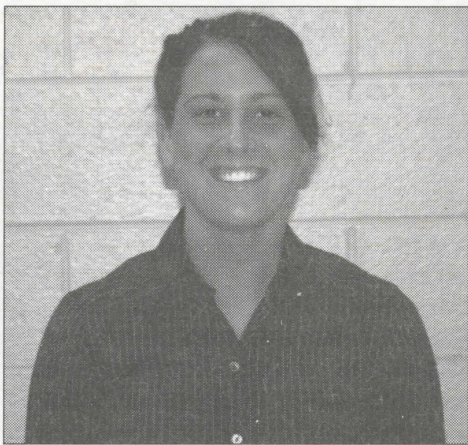
With the exceptions of perhaps early Boston Celtics teams and the post-World War II Cleveland Browns, teams in all sports tend to experience growing pains as they mature.

Players join and players quit, as coaches iron out team weaknesses, and slowly...a powerhouse is built. There comes a point, however, when these small steps give teams the momentum to make a leap forward. On January 21, the Lady Colonels took such a leap as they overcame a 14-point halftime deficit to defeat Drew 87-82.

Senior guard and co-captain Rena Bolin led the way in the comeback, scoring 22 points with six assists and seven rebounds. For Bolin, however, the points came from attitude as much as they did proper aim. "We had confidence in each other," she said. "They played us zone, but we didn't move the ball very well [in the first half]. In the second half, we just did what we had to do. Player movement and ball movement was much more dynamic."

Confidence springs from adequate preparation, which can only happen when all of the players on a team are deeply committed to gaining something from every minute of practice. This, according to assistant coach Kate Franks, is something Bolin is attempting to pass on to the younger players on the team. "She's been great to the freshman and the sophomore class," said Franks. "She works hard every single day and shows them what it takes to be one of the best players in the league."

Bolin's leadership both in the stats column and on the practice court is nothing new for the Lady Colonels. In her two seasons with the team, Franks has noticed "how much [she], along with the other two seniors [Tristin Tkach and Andrea Kacprowicz], are really the heart and soul of this team. How she goes, and how they go, is



Courtesy of Sports Information  
**Bolin, who has scored 56 points in her last three games, is also leading the league in steals with 58 on the season.**

really how the whole team goes."

Assistant coach Samantha Bedford agrees, "This is one of the closest teams that's ever been here, and a huge impact is the seniors. Rena shows how close you need to be as a team on and off the court, and a lot of the freshmen seem to follow in her footsteps."

Bolin's work ethic, particularly during practice, is paying huge dividends for both herself and the team, especially the younger players at her position. "She pushes them hard every day," said Franks. "She doesn't take it easy on them. It's frustrating for them sometimes, but it's going to help them in the long run because they're not going to see a better guard."

Several of the younger players have already taken Bolin's lead by playing tough against her at practices. "Tiana Lee and Holly Leszyk really push me hard," said Bolin. "They help me play my hardest."

The true legacy of student-athletes is not their individual achievements but the impact they have on improving the programs they are a part of. Should Bolin--along with Tkach and Kacprowicz--continue to foster the team unity and singleness of purpose that they have so far this season, future fans and teams may look back on this senior class as the group that ushered in a new era of Lady Colonel basketball.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

**Andrea Kacprowicz fights for a basket in Saturday's game against DeSales. Although the Lady Colonels pulled to within two points at the end of the first half, the Lady Bulldogs prevailed with a 77-59 victory.**

## WEEKEND RECAPS

### Men's Basketball

Chris Shovlin scored 30 points and Mike Constantine scored 18, but the Colonels were unable to pull away with a victory in Saturday afternoon's conference game against DeSales University in the Henry Gymnasium. The Colonels are now 11-5 overall with a 7-1 conference record. The Colonels still have a one-game lead in the conference thanks to Scranton's loss to Drew University.

### Women's Basketball

The Lady Colonels fought their way to within two points at the close of the first half, but were unable to continue their run in the second half and fell 77-59 to DeSales University. Rena Bolin led the effort for Wilkes with 24 points and four steals, while sophomore Lacey Andresen added 11 points and five rebounds.

### Wrestling

The Colonels won two out of three matches in Saturday's MAC Duals at the University of Scranton. Wilkes dropped Messiah by a score of 28-6, and dispatched Elizabethtown 37-10 before falling to Lycoming College 25-14. The Colonels' record now stands at 12-3, and they are currently ranked 21st in the nation.

## NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

# 30

Points by sophomore Chris Shovlin in Saturday's men's basketball game against DeSales University.

# 18

Wins by the Wilkes wrestling team during MAC duals on Saturday.

# 24

Points scored by senior Rena Bolin in Saturday's women's basketball game against DeSales University.

# 3

Wins by Felipe Queiroz (125) in Saturday's MAC Duals at the University of Scranton.



# Sports

JANUARY 30, 2006

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## Preview of the Week: Men's basketball v. Lycoming on 2/1

BY ADRIENNE RICHARDS  
Beacon Staff Writer

A five year streak has been broken in the Freedom Conference as Wilkes men's basketball continues to barrel through the season in an unstoppable frenzy.

On January 18, Wilkes men's basketball traveled to Lycoming for a long anticipated battle. Drowning out heckling students and poor officiating, the Colonels remained mentally tough and defeated the Warriors 64-52. This was the first time Wilkes defeated Lycoming in Warrior territory since 2001.

As if the pressures of a first place standing in the conference wasn't enough, the Colonels checked the schedule to find round two with the Warriors of Lycoming College fast approaching.

Senior Drew Amoroso shared, "We're not focused on the streak. We keep emphasizing the fact that if we keep winning one game at a time, we'll eventually distance ourselves from the rest of the

league."

One game at a time is the mentality that both players and coaches share. Being undefeated in the conference was never a team goal going into this season. The end goal was the same as it is every year: to win the Freedom Conference.

"Lycoming has their backs to the wall," explained head coach Jerry Rickrode. "Only the top four teams make it to the playoffs; they're in a must-win situation."

According to Rickrode, the team will watch tape from the January 18 game and make any necessary adjustments, although there may not be many to make.

"We did a great job defensively holding them to 52 points. They have many talented players--a small forward who was first team all-conference and a senior point guard with a solid turnover ratio," said Rickrode.

But it's almost inevitable that the Warriors will be shooting for sweet revenge.

"Every team comes gunning for us. We are the team to beat. We

practically have a bull's eye painted on our backs," junior Tyler Jenkins shared.

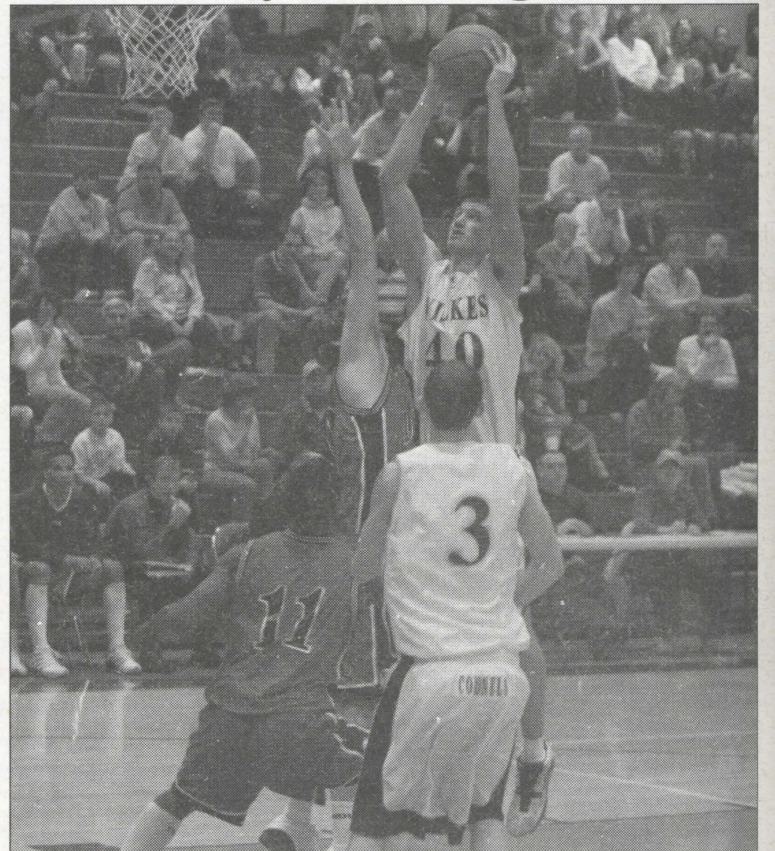
On the inside of an impeccable record lies the heart of a team. The Colonels this season have defined what "team sport" really means.

"Our success can be credited to a good mix of senior experience and younger talent. This year's team is the epitome of a group who sacrifice individual goals for team goals," Amoroso noted.

Rickrode finds this year's team tougher and taking more pride defensively. The mental toughness, along with an improved defense from last year, has proved to be crucial when battling through the conference.

Wilkes is finding this to be one of the strongest conferences in years with the Colonels stepping onto the court ready to play their game both home and away.

The Colonels have found much success offensively on their home turf in the past. Wilkes will have home court advantage on Wednesday, February 1 as the Warriors come back for revenge.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Evan Walters takes a shot against DeSales in Saturday's game at the Henry Gymnasium. The Colonels will come into Wednesday's game with an 11-5 (7-1) record.

## Campus Calendar

### All Week

\*Johnnie Winona Ross Abstract Paintings Exhibit, Sordoni Art Gallery

### Monday (1/30)

\*Women's basketball @ Lincoln

\*Spanish in the Workplace presentation, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact ext. 4731.

### Tuesday (1/31)

\*Talk it out with Campus Interfaith, Annette Evans Alumni House - 5 p.m.

### Wednesday (2/1)

\*Women's basketball v. Lycoming College - 6 p.m.

\*Men's basketball v. Lycoming College - 8 p.m.

### Thursday (2/2)

\*Spaghetti dinner sponsored by Alternative Spring Break, HSC Ballroom - 2 p.m.

\*Guest Speaker: Nego Gato @ King's College - 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Contact ext. 4409

### Friday (2/3)

\*No events scheduled for today

### Saturday (2/4)

\*Women's basketball @ Delaware Valley - 1 p.m.

\*Men's basketball @ Delaware Valley - 3 p.m.

\*Wrestling v. Ithaca - 2 p.m.

### Sunday (2/5)

\*No events scheduled for today

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