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Wilkes to welcome new director of Public Safety

New director seeks to ensure the safety of Wilkes' community

By Nicole Zukowski
News Editor

In the beginning of March, Wilkes University will welcome Chief Christopher Jagoe as the new director of Public Safety.

Following an assessment made last January from an outside public safety consultants, Margolis Healy & Associates, a search had been underway for a new Director of Public Safety. The new position is just one of several initiatives to change the Office of Public Safety.

A committee comprised of faculty and staff, along with an outside consulting firm, Spelman and Johnson, set out to identify potential candidates resulting in the hiring of Jagoe.

"Wilkes is a beautiful campus. The largest thing for me (about taking on this position) was meeting the administration," said Jagoe. "Wilkes University made me feel very much like I was a wanted, welcomed person to the community."

Jagoe earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Maryland, College Park and is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. In his time with University of Maryland Department of Public Safety, Jagoe served in a variety of positions. His most recent positions there were Major, Assistant Chief of Police and Police Services Bureau Commander.

Some of the incidents that happen at Wilkes could be considered issues one would find at a larger university, such as the most recent attempted robbery on Jan. 29 when a Wilkes student was approached by a male driving a green Geo Tracker with pin stripes, had a gun in his lap and asked for money. Fortunately, the student was not hurt. The Wilkes-Barre Police received other reports about the same vehicle from other individuals not associated with the university.

Since Jagoe is coming to Wilkes via University of Maryland, College Park he had



Courtesy of Christopher Jagoe

Jagoe severed on the Public Safety department of the University of Maryland for many years and is knowledgeable about keeping an urban campus safe. He will bring this knowledge to Wilkes University in March when he officially starts his position.

this to say about crime in the city:

"Coming from the University of Maryland, College Park, a very urban area, a lot of the things you're experiencing there, while are very unfortunate, are things I am familiar with and happen at a lot of urban type campuses." Jagoe continues with, "I will be looking to make the same recommendations I do for the University of Maryland when I arrive at Wilkes."

At Wilkes, serving as the Director of Public Safety will entail a number of duties to ensure that best possible safety on and around campus for the students. Filling the director position was one of the last proposals of the assessment made last year.

"I will be sitting down and working with the administration of the university to bring all of the community's voice to the table and see what the expectations for Public Safety would be, and then with the administration

see what is prudent and financially viable," Jagoe said.

Jagoe also expressed some goals he wants to accomplish here at Wilkes. The Office of Public Safety will undergo various changes with Jagoe's ideas.

"I plan on getting Public Safety accredited so that we have standards that mirror standards that are out there of other public safety departments in the nation," Jagoe said. "I'm committed to ongoing training and staff development of Public Safety. Also, to make a partnership with the city's police force."

Of course, Public Safety can only do what is in their means to protect the Wilkes community. Staying safe is also up to the students themselves. Many signs are posted around campus to walk in numbers and to call Public Safety for an escort.

"Walk in groups and be aware of your surroundings. I see a lot of students walk-

ing around with headphones on looking at their phones," Jagoe said about students responsibility for their own safety. "I would encourage people to use their given instinct to detect when things don't feel right and act upon it."

Jagoe's arrival as the new Director of Public Safety in the spring will be a welcomed event. Jagoe brings with him an abundance of knowledge and experience to Wilkes with the hopes of improving the safety on campus.

"I intend to be fully engaged with the Wilkes community. I certainly value everyone's opinion and take them in account when I make the end of the day decision," said Jagoe



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THE BEACON

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UN lecture: insight on language and empowerment

Dr. Hanada Taha emphasizes importance of education, especially for women

By Sarah Bedford

Assistant News Editor

On Jan. 28, Hanada Taha, the acting Dean of Bahrain Teachers' College at the University of Bahrain, was invited to Wilkes University campus to give lectures pertaining to her studies in the Arabic language and a main lecture on women's empowerment in the Middle East.

Taha's first lecture pertained to international students learning new languages and her work within the field of the Arabic language.

According to Taha, languages are varied by categories based upon the amount of time needed to become fluent.

Arabic is a category four language, meaning it takes roughly four years of sustained instruction to learn.

Taha discussed international students and the experiences to be had while studying abroad. She explained that while it is important for international students to become emerged in the culture and language of the country a student may visit, international students often will group together and speak their native tongue in their groups, which is counterproductive to the experience.

Taha further explained that it is not enough to know a language academically, one also needs to know the "day-to-day" conversation. Reflecting about her own experiences in New Orleans, where she received her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction, she recalled how the people in that region had their own spin on English phrases.

Taha also discussed her own "journey" with Arabic language and her work with a curriculum design for Arabic language. She found that there were not the same resources available for those looking to learn Arabic as there are for languages such as English, French and German.



The Beacon/ Cheyenne Barnes

Dr. Taha gave insight to her own life experiences to explain why she feels education is the only way to truly empower a woman.

"New philosophies to teach Arabic," are needed Taha said in describing her K-8 curriculum for learning.

These philosophies included not only focusing on grammar, but literature as well.

A question came up during the lecture con-

cerning the impact for international students when returning to their homes with English as another language.

Taha explained that it is not just the language that these students take with them, but the culture as well. Because of this, these students become "change agents" and Taha commented that their experience may have their "world change beautifully."

Taha presented her main lecture open to the public in the Miller Room of the Henry Student Center. With this lecture, she addressed women's empowerment in the Middle East.

James Merryman, professor of anthropology and sociology, along with Interim Provost, Terese Wignot, gave opening remarks to the main lecture.

Taha gave praise to Wilkes by saying, "I think I'm falling in love with Wilkes University thanks to you."

She then continued by saying she would not be giving a lecture, but a "talk from the heart, to the heart".

Keeping that sentiment in mind, Taha began to discuss her "journey" as a woman in the work force. Her passion was to teach Arabic, and according to Taha, the University of Bahrain had seen that.

Taha claimed that being young, as well as being a woman, yet still becoming the Acting Dean is "really something challenging". She has always believed that "order comes with age." A belief based on the culture of her home, which is Lebanon.

The meaning of "empowerment" was a topic of the lecture. After citing numerous definitions of the term, Taha found the word in simple terms is "something external and given to us," which Taha did not agree with.

Taha's belief was that the only real way to empower women is to educate them.

She placed emphasis on the notion that a woman cannot just have an education but must

also "excel in it".

Taha stated that with every additional year of education a girl at the primary level receives, she will do, 10-20% better economically. In this way, these girls are more likely to be financially independent.

Taha claimed that she felt education empowered women based upon her own life experiences.

"It was not that someone bestowed the power ... it was something I worked for ... and I got," said Taha.

In Beirut in 1979, Taha was just 10 years old, and there were civil wars amongst the people; Christians against Muslims, people against people, with no sound logic to it.

In November of that year, a bomb had landed in her home, killing her father. After the incident, she and her brothers were removed from the house, which was then locked.

Taha remembers saying, "You need to open up the house... I need to get my red bookbag... my school bag." When asked why, she claimed that it was Sunday night and, "I have to go to school tomorrow."

After the tragic experience, Taha claimed that she needed to have some sense of control.

"When your losses are so huge and beyond your control, you need to hold onto something you can control yourself," Taha said.

For Taha, that was her education. From that point on, Taha went from a "mediocre" student to graduating as valedictorian and later, receiving her doctorate.

"I think my message to women and men is that once you are excellent ... very few people and things can stop you," Taha finished.

The United Nations Lecture Series will return at Wilkes University on Feb. 18 with the speaker to be determined.



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Beacon Briefs

Adventures in Reading Program

Wilkes University School of Education is once again sponsoring Adventures in Reading, an after school reading program for children in grades Pre-K through five. Teacher Education candidates will present innovative learning opportunities across the content areas with a focus on vocabulary and comprehension enrichment. The series of nine sessions, which is free of charge, begins on Wed. Feb. 12 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on the second floor of Breiseth Hall. Contact Dr. Diane Polachek at diane.polachek@wilkes.edu for more information and registration forms.

I'm Very Fondue of You

The Alternative Spring Break team will be selling tickets for their event "I'm Very Fondue of You" Chocolate Fondue Dipping Bar held Feb. 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Concourse. The

cost of an all-inclusive ticket is \$5.00, which entitles guests to two strawberries, two pretzels, two marshmallows and one crispy rice treat. Guests may also make a donation per individual or additional item.

Open Mic Night

Calling all singers, poets, dancers, magicians, jugglers or anyone who has a talent! Wilkes University Programming Board will be holding an Open Mic Night on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. will be coffee, tea, snacks and gift cards for anyone who participates. If interested, please e-mail everal.eaton@wilkes.edu by Feb. 3.

Wear Red Run

On March 23 a 5k race starts at 10 a.m. Pre-registration is at the Northampton St. Portal (Kirby Park) from 8:30 until 9:45 a.m. The event will be held regardless of weather. Operation Heart's Wear Red Run strives to promote awareness of heart disease as well as the importance of leading an active lifestyle. Participants are strongly encouraged to wear

their red shirts, dresses, hats, sneakers, shorts, tights, fanny packs, tutus, and any other weather-appropriate running gear. The color red is the embodiment of health and vitality. Awards will be given to the top male and female participants, as well as to the participant who best embraces the "WEAR RED" spirit. Arrive early to the event to receive a WEAR RED hat. Registration's \$12 (Checks may be made payable to Wilkes University APhA-ASP). For more information, contact Lizzie Cook (Elizabeth.cook@wilkes.edu) or Bethany Sharpless (Bethany.sharpless@wilkes.edu).

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser for Relay for Life

The Zeta Psi Nursing team will be sponsoring a Krispy Kreme Fundraiser for Relay for Life. The sale will run from Mon., Feb. 3 to Wed. Feb. 19. The doughnuts will be delivered on Wed. Feb. 26. Anyone interested in placing an order can contact Cathy Hauze at ext 7120 or via e-mail at catherine.hauze@wilkes.edu.

Multicultural Awards

The Center for Global Education and Diversity accepts nominations once a year for students, faculty, staff and board members demonstrating significant contributions toward raising multicultural awareness at Wilkes University. For more information contact the Office Of Diversity Initiatives (ODI).

Rock Climbing Thursdays

The Climbing Club hosts open climb every Thursday 11:00 am-1:00 pm in the UCOM, and is actively seeking new students, faculty and staff to try out our climbing wall. Rock climbing is a great way to burn stress, exercise the non-traditional way and experience a crowd of adventure-loving people who may or may not also be afraid of heights. They will teach you how to work the ropes, climbing techniques and how to stretch your comfort zone in good company. Email Patrick.Killian@wilkes.edu for any questions or details.

Stress from adviser complications plague students

By James Jaskolka
Assistant L&A&E Editor

A group of students at Wilkes University recently voiced frustration toward their respective advisers, calling them, “inattentive” and “unhelpful.”

“My adviser just sat there while I struggled with picking out classes,” said one sophomore nursing major. “She also never emailed me to meet up with me in the first place ... She then proceeded to sign off on a list of classes that were not correct for my track, and now I am in the wrong class.”

Another student, a sophomore who was studying clinical lab sciences before switching majors, voiced similar complaints:

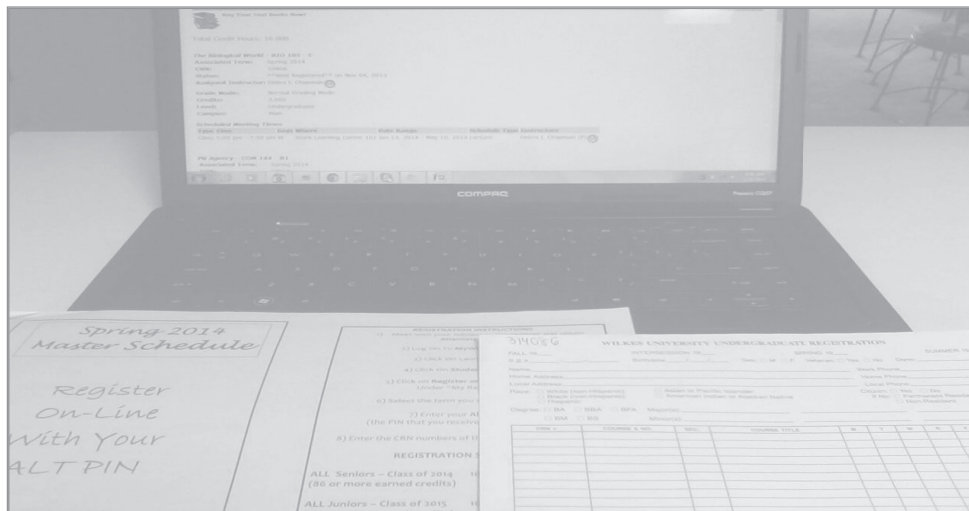
“My adviser never tried to schedule a time to meet with me to schedule classes for the semesters, or check up on me to see how I was doing,” she said. “If I was struggling, he did not give me advice to seek the help I need.”

This student in particular said that her adviser even went so far as to insult her:

“The one time I sought help from him; he blew me off and called me stupid.”

While these may be the opinions of just a few students, speculation of the school’s advisers’ abilities among unhappy groups of peers has been growing.

Dr. Michael Steele, chair of the biology Department, was quick to defend his faculty from the complaints:



The Beacon/ Nicole Zukowski

Most student problems with advisers stem from class scheduling.

“I know his reputation for being honest and forthcoming,” Steele said of the adviser who allegedly insulted his advisee. “Not for a second do I expect that he is doing anything other than trying to prepare students for the difficulties that may await them.”

Steele also stressed the fact that scheduling meetings for registration is the responsibility of the student, not the adviser.

“Students need to accept their responsibility in the advising role and realize they have a responsibility to contact faculty for meetings,”

he said. “It’s not the adviser’s responsibility to track them down.”

A sophomore pre-pharmacy student said that her problems lie not with her adviser’s attentiveness or professionalism, but rather with the advisor’s inability to help the student:

“My adviser is really nice and always keeps in touch. There’s just one problem, she is not a pharmacy adviser,” the student said.

Because the pre-pharmacy student is going to a career services adviser rather than someone in the science department, she said she has

been having issues with picking the correct classes.

Steele voiced his understanding for this student’s predicament, stating high enrollment in the science departments as the issue:

“If they bring in too many pre-pharm students without a guaranteed seat, it’s not fair to the students. There are limited seats in the program.”

“Many of my faculties are advising 30 or 40 kids ... there’s a limit on how many we can do,” Steele continued. “While bio and chemistry are perhaps best prepared to advise pre-pharm prospects ... it’s a real trade off. Some are left to be advised by other individuals on campus.”

The pre-pharmacy student has since been seeing a biology professor for additional help.

Dr. Prahlad Murthy, associate dean for the College of Science & Engineering, echoed Steele’s opinion that the student should take initiative, and said any problems should be addressed to the adviser.

He also said that if problems arise, the student should remember that advisers are not acting maliciously.

“(Advisers) want the best for the students,” Murthy said. “We would like them to succeed; whatever it takes.”

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Winter Weekend; theme

By Marisa Farronato
Correspondent

“Decades” has been selected as the theme for this year’s Winter Weekend celebration, which gets under way at Wilkes University Feb. 21.

As part of the festivities, the student body will enter teams into a two-day competition resulting in a winner.

The event will take place from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 21 and from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 22. Friday will include several competitions, including the banner and skit competitions along with a scavenger hunt.

Teams will start their Saturday morning with a surprise competition, activities in

UCOM during the afternoon and top the event off with a trivia competition.

Each team needs to present a decade, and follow through with picking up team registration forms in the Student Government office on the first floor of the Henry Student Center. Information regarding due dates for deposits, T-shirt designs, team decades, members and captains are located on the registration form.

Student Government Vice President Taylor Moyer is in charge of coordinating and facilitating the event, along with forming a committee to assist her.

Anyone interested in being a team captain can email Moyer at taylor.moyer@wilkes.edu.

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Gardner Series Lecture

By Amanda Fulk
Correspondent

Wilkes University will host guest speaker Karen Lindsey as part of “The Gardner Educational Forum Series,” which helps to provide a better understanding of what education can be.

Robert S. and Judith A. Gardner will present one of the lectures throughout the series featuring Lindsey from the Wilkes-Barre’s Victim’s Resource Center.

The lecture will focus on “Child Abuse & Mandatory Reporting” and will be held

at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014, in the Arnaud C. Marts Center, Room 214.

“We believe that these experiences offer opportunities to be other places and hear other voices. These are powerful experiences that help people understand what education can be,” Robert Gardner, said.

Additional lectures will be taking place throughout the duration of the spring semester. All lectures are free to the public. For further information, contact Robert Gardner at (570) 408-4686.

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Negotiations ongoing for Bartikowsky

By Christine Lee

Senior News Editor

The recently-vacated Bartikowsky Jewelers building next to the University Center on Main has been the topic of ongoing discussions between Wilkes and members of the Wilkes-Barre community.

According to Vice President of Finance and General Counsel Loren Prescott, Wilkes has been in discussions with the owners of the former jewelry store “for months.” There has been no agreement reached for Wilkes to acquire the building.

“We will continue to talk with the owners to explore their interests in selling and the potential for the university to acquire the property,” Prescott said.

Prescott said talks to acquire the building began when Bartikowsky Jewelers announced its intention to close a year ago. At that time, Prescott contacted Bartikowsky on the building’s future use.

“We started talking about his plans for the building, specifically his plans for when to close the business and whether or not he had any planned use for the building after the business closed,” Prescott said.

Prescott also talked with the optometrist owners of Dr. Brown’s Eyecare, who are located in the back portion of the building. Talks between all the building’s owners and Prescott for over a year.

Chair of the Department of Communication Studies Mark Stine sees the building’s potential as a home for all of the department’s activities and offices because of its space capacity and location in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

“The space that we think can be renovated to fit the Communication Studies Department’s needs, specifically in terms of television and radio station needs,” Stine said. “It takes the communication studies program and it moves it right onto Main Street so Wilkes University’s communication studies would have a clear and obvious presence on Main Street.”

Stine envisions the radio station and a TV being placed in the front windows, allowing passersby on Main Street to listen to music and watch Wilkes TV programming, adding to the city’s revitalization of the downtown area.

“Moving to the Bartikowsky building would really support President Leahy’s decision to play an important role in revitalizing the downtown area,” Stine said.

Stine said moving to the building would allow the department’s co-curricular activities to interact with one another in a single location, and with the local community.

“We’re closer to the downtown community, closer to businesses,” Stine said. “With the location there, we would probably be able to set up a camera on the roof and we could provide images of what’s happening downtown on Main and really engage the community, because we would have much easier access to the downtown area.”

However, Prescott said he isn’t aware of any discussions of academic programs into a building Wilkes doesn’t own. He said any talks on the building’s use by the university would begin when it is acquired.

“If the university is able to enter into an agreement to purchase that building, meaning the sellers express an interest in selling and


we decide it’s in the best interest of the university, then we would begin some discussions internally about how best to use the building,” Prescott said.

However, Stine said he would be willing to be a part of any internal negotiations on the use of the former Bartikowsky Jewelers building and has even put together a plan on utilization a building that could house the department faculty, staff and co-curricular activities which he has forwarded to President Patrick Leahy, Interim Provost Therese Wignot and Executive Director of Capital Projects John Pesta.

“Those discussions have already in many ways taken place but I think what’s holding things up at this point from them moving further ahead is the fact that the final sale of the Bartikowsky building has not yet taken place,” Stine said.

Stine said if the building is purchased by Wilkes, he and Interim Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Tom Baldino will be strong advocates for placing the department in the building. However, he said he will continue his advocacy for the department’s centralization into one building even if the former Bartikowsky Jewelers building isn’t purchased or if the department is not placed in it.

“I still will continue to advocate to the president and the provost that Communication Studies needs a location and needs to be brought together in one single building, be that the Bartikowsky building or some other building on campus that we feel would work as well as the Bartikowsky building,” Stine said.

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SG Notes: new fund requests on the horizon

By Nick Durdan

Staff Writer

Student government listened to two different fund requests for The Beacon and for Adventures in Science in their last meeting on Wed. Jan. 29.

The Beacon was requesting \$1,800 from Student Government so it can use The Beacon as an advertising service for its various events.

Editor-in-Chief of The Beacon senior communications major Jake Cochran stepped up to ask Student Government for the funds.

“One good advantage is more exposure, students will read The Beacon and will pay attention to the advertisements,” said Cochran.

As The Beacon produces 2,000 issues weekly, advertisement would be able to reach a variety of different people on and off campus.

In addition to the exposure, advertising will come with less work needed for Student Government.

Student Government had mixed reactions about the idea and will have a final answer at the next meeting.

More in fund requests, Adventures in Science is back for its annual event at Wilkes University.

Adventures in Science brings fifth grade students from local schools and they participate in different labs from each of the sciences at Wilkes University. This includes such as computer science along with psychology.

Two hundred fifth grade students are projected to attend this year.

Adventures in Science are requesting \$2,000 for the event. Student Government saw this with positive reception and will have a final vote next week.

The budget for this week is as follows: All College: \$20,244.11, Conference: \$6,141.64, Spirit: \$3,410, General: \$22,291.19, giving Student Government a total of: \$52,086.94.

Student Government meets every Wednesday in the Miller room in The Henry Student Center at 6 p.m.

Students, faculty and staff are always welcome to watch the meetings. Any questions from the audience are encouraged and would be answered at the end of the agenda.

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The Beacon/Nicole Zukowski

As discussions continue, the vacant Bartikowsky Jewelers building may become part of the Wilkes campus if a sale is to be made. The sale of the building would play a part in President Patrick Leahy’s hopes to revitalize downtown Wilkes-Barre.

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The Grammys
week of Feb. 4

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February 4, 2014

Contact editor: alyssa.stencavage@thewilkesbeacon.com

A random act of kindness goes a long way

By Alyssa Stencavage
L&A&E Editor

Have you ever thought about how a simple gesture could completely change the course of someone's day? A group of senior business majors at Wilkes has been putting that concept into practice through a club they initiated called Acts of Random Kindness.

As a way to make a lasting impression on the Wilkes community as they come to the end of their college years, President of ARK Anthony Peterson, Vice President Joshua Rodriguez, Treasurer Mark Vancosky and Secretary Cy Shickora said they had the idea of spreading kindness and wanted to do something to put themselves out there.

What better way to do it than through a club like ARK- one that takes little effort and reaches audiences wide and far.

Peterson said he was the official initiator of the club, which came into existence last year, but he won't forget the friends who helped him along.

"I sent out emails to professors and got in contact with the right people," Peterson said. "I knew that these three guys would be behind me as well."

ARK's mission statement reads: "to come together with the students throughout Wilkes to create Acts of Random Kindness. Each act will aid Wilkes students, faculty, or staff in a positive way. We also strive to maintain a professional image and plan to interact with professional companies throughout the community. Members will learn how to interact in a professional manner with the public and also have an opportunity to network and impact peoples' lives." It's obvious these members are getting to something.

Members have done a multitude of things following the ARK ways.

One of the largest acts so far happened on a small road off of River Street, a road known to be one of the biggest areas of crime and drug movement in Wilkes-Barre. With tools and other supplies provided to them, members took



Courtesy of Anthony Peterson

One lucky ARK recipient holds up an "ARK" sticker after having coffee paid for in Stark.

to the area filled with tons of illegally dumped garbage, including couches and mattresses. Over 12 people helped repair the road and clean up trash. ARK members are still in the process of getting the road paved and expect to get more done.

Peterson said taking the time to do this meant a lot to some in the community who were unsure of how to get this cleanup started, or who to contact about it.

"They really appreciate what we are doing," he said. "It means a lot."

Even when the group encountered issues with the township, it picked up and found a way to get the task done.

Other acts of random kindness have occurred on and within the Wilkes campus.

Last year ARK members joined with McCarthy flowers to bring their efforts here, ordering 50 carnations and delivering to staff members throughout the Student Union Building and UCOM as a way to show their gratitude for the work the staff does on a daily basis. Two people in the SUB proclaimed the impact it had on them, one man expressing happiness that he would have a flower to take to his wife suffering at home and another woman crying in appreciation of the gesture.

"Everyone was so happy and told us it made their day," Peterson said. "They said they knew we appreciate what they do, but never this much."

ARK also decided to spend some time distributing free hugs to anyone on campus. It was during this time that ARK teamed up with BACCHUS after hearing about its ideas from a BACCHUS member, and handed out free coffee and hot chocolate.

"We were more than happy to meet up with them," Peterson said.

ARK's generosity came through again when the club paid for several peoples' coffee in Stark. After being informed that their order had been taken care of, these lucky recipients were then given an oval-shaped ARK sticker, reading "acts of random kindness" on the top and "make a difference" at the bottom.

Another small, but powerful act involved words on paper. These members said they put post-it notes with inspirational words all over campus.

Members said the concept behind some of the bigger events is to try to incorporate a smaller business in the area who might be in need of some help. They call it a "pay it forward" notion.

"Our club is based a lot around the idea where we help someone and later that person helps another person," Peterson said. "We don't ask for much in return, just to spread the kindness. We hope that it's like a chain reaction, someone sees us doing it and then later

they spread kindness. We hope that by showing that we care for others, they can later help a customer of their own. For instance, when we got the carnations from McCarthy flowers, I told the owner the concept of what we were doing and he said he loved it and took a sticker to put on his car."

And that is what they're after – to turn their efforts into a domino effect, so every day their purpose shines through.

"We want to be random and make a difference, and hopefully get others to see that," Peterson said. "We want to motivate others to do it. It's starting to spread."

"Change the world with one act of random kindness at a time," Vancosky said.

As reflected in the club's mission statement, working with larger companies in the community allows ARK members to get a taste of the real world in the process, by interacting with companies and doing some planning. Members also see the open nature of the club as something special, in terms of having options rather than dictating assignments.

"All members get hands-on experience," Rodriguez said. "What's good about it is that in the real world, you gave to go out and get it rather than have the comfort of a higher-up telling you what to do."

ARK also collaborates with a variety of other clubs on campus for fundraising efforts, helping whoever asks for it.

"We have an event and split the profits to make both of our clubs better," Peterson said. "Whoever needs help, we're open arms to helping."

ARK even puts its own little twist on these fundraisers. One such event coming up, for example, is Dancing with the Stars. Partnering with the dance team, the club is worked to set up a dance in which students and a dance member competed against one another.

More importantly, these acts are not exactly planned.

"To generate acts, it's off the top of our

See KINDNESS page 8

VISIT THE BEACON ONLINE @ THEWILKESBEACON.COM FOR EXCLUSIVE 'BEACON BLOGS'



The Beauty Beat with Ashley Evert

What on Earth are Bettie bangs? What should I do while my blunt bangs are growing out? This week's beauty beat will answer all of your questions about that tricky fringe.



Looking back...

with Anne Yoskoski

O.J. Simpson was finally found guilty of charges connected with the murders of his wife and family friend, check out the full article on www.thewilkesbeacon.com.

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Battling it out using forensics

By Kayla Bucci

Correspondent

Wilkes University will be holding the Harold Cox Invitational Forensics Tournament on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8.

This tournament will feature 10 Collegiate Forensics Association-sanctioned events, if registration allows, with two rounds of individual events followed by finals which will include the top six competitors in each category.

The debate competition will include four preliminary rounds of both Parliamentary and Lincoln-Douglas Debate and a final round, if entries warrant it, based on number of schools and distribution of entries.

Each school may enter five contestants per

event, and three events per bracket. A student may enter two duos with different partners. No more than five Parliamentary Debate teams per school or five L-D debaters per school are allowed.

The forensics tournament is in conjunction with CFA and each team's points will count toward the Welch-Strine Trophy and each person's scores will count toward CFA's end-of-year individual awards.

For more information, contact Christine Mellon at 570-408-4210 or through email at



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'No-Frills Revue' features skit comedy, showcases theater students' talent

By Amanda Kornak

Staff Writer

The Wilkes University Theater department is presenting "The No-Frills Revue," which is set up like a comedy club with the feeling of being at a "Saturday Night Live" type of performance.

The show opens Feb. 14, 2014, just in time for Valentine's Day, and runs for two weekends. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m., and there will be a 2 p.m. matinee both Sundays.

"I think the audience will like it because it can relate to all ages," Amanda Thomas, a junior musical theater major, said. "There are some skits that relate to important historical events that the older members of the audience will relate to more. There are also skits that

would relate more to today's college crowd with different celebrity jokes and TV show references."

"The No-Frills Revue" has many different elements that make it a performance sure to entertain anyone who likes to laugh. Without a serious plot line, the show relies on its musical numbers, comedy skits and satires related to everyday life, history and pop culture to captivate the audience.

The show will be at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center at South and River streets in Wilkes-Barre. To reserve tickets, call the Darte Canter box office at 570-408-4540.



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A random act of kindness goes a long way

Continued from page 7

heads," Peterson said.

Someone comes up with an act and it goes through all members for approval as well as to ensure an impact on someone's day.

Fundraisers aren't the only thing ARK gets creative with. Some may think that a title such as Random Acts of Kindness might be more appropriate, and there is a national organization called randomactsofkindness.org. However, ARK members decided to make their club a spin-off of the larger one that exists for the very same reason -- and interestingly enough, this club at Wilkes is the only one with the name of ARK. If one were to visit the site, he or she would find ARK at the top of the list of organizations like it. Not only is ARK the only one with this name, it seems to be the only club of its kind in the region.

Regardless of the title, these acts of random kindness seem to gain a lot of popularity wherever they're found.

"There's a lot of interaction and attention throughout the entire country when you go to the site," Rodriguez said.

But where does the name come from, one might ask?

ARK members credit their inspiration to the movie Evan Almighty, which basically sends the

message that one act can change someone's life -- and so is their goal.

One major distinction that sets ARK apart from just about every other club on campus is that members don't accept or operate on any funding from Student Government. Rather, the money comes from anonymous investors like alumni and professors who make donations. Although most ARK acts don't require money, when it is needed, members know it's there.

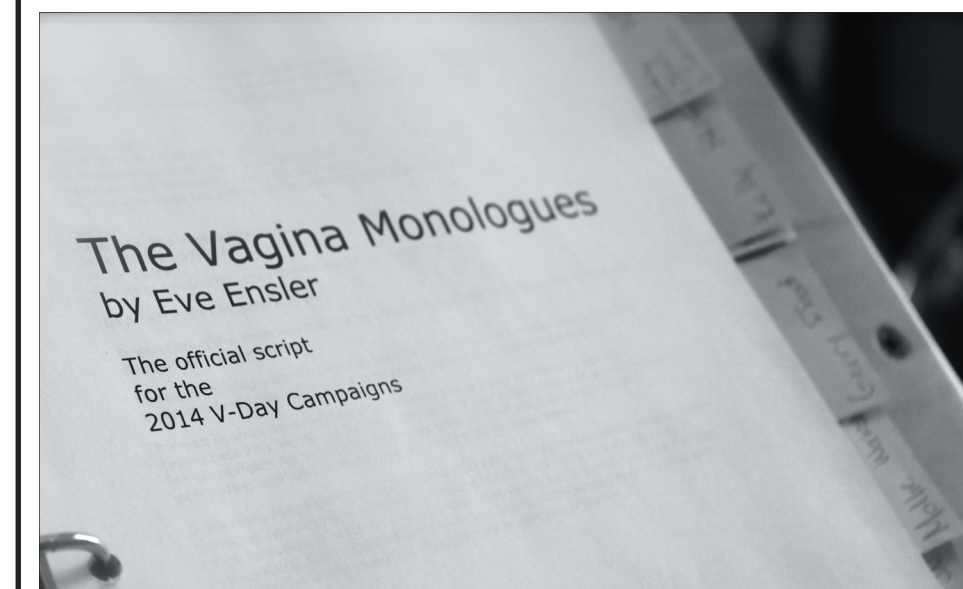
"That's a big thing that makes a real difference," Vancosky said.

This recently-formed organization wants to hear what others have to say.

"One of the main things we want is feedback," Peterson said. "We want to know how much of an impact we have made for people, and want people to tell us the stories they have experienced with us. This will help us for our future events."

Even those off campus are touched by the small performances ARK initiates.

"When Anthony told us this summer he wanted to start the ARK club, little did we know it would be such a hit," Peterson's mom Kim Peterson said. "ARK started as a thought over the summer and now it's a reality. The donations the club has received have been put to great use. It is so nice to see that



The Beacon/Zobaida Azad

Vagina Monologues, held on Tuesday, Jan. 28 in the Kirby Hall Salon, allowed students to act out different roles and express the wonderfulness of being feminine.

the club has helped out the community as well as brighten up the days of students, with hot coffee, hand warmers or just a hug. I am sure the success of this club will go on forever at Wilkes University with a great group of students, faculty and staff who do the right thing."

To share with ARK, it's as simple as sending an email to ARK.wilkes.edu.

It doesn't take much to implement this kind of work, and at some point or another, everyone can use a simple gesture to brighten their day. To help facilitate the process, ARK members offer some words of advice.

"A lot of students want to make a difference and want to help, but they don't know how," Peterson said. "We're here to provide that opportunity. We want to have a twist and make it out of the box -- that no one has seen before, impact someone's day and make that difference. Little things do matter and can impact someone's day, whether it be holding a door, giving carnations, smiling as someone passes."

"You don't need to always get something in return," Shickora said. "I love the club because I don't want anything in return, just to know that I made a difference to someone."

Peterson said he's heard of instances where this ideas has been proven to be true.

Perhaps ARK is also about learning to overcome obstacles, gracefully.

"Don't be discouraged about peoples' doubts or people not following up with their word," Rodriguez said. "You can't be discouraged. If people say you're not going to be able to do things, prove them wrong, and when you do prove them wrong, stay humble about it."

There seems to be an increasing number of people recognizing the importance of this kind of club.

"Every time we do an act, more people catch on to the idea of the ARK and ask if they can join," Peterson said. "We add members every act we do."

Sometimes the thought and impact that an act has on someone means more than the act performed, which reflects the beliefs held by ARK.

Peterson said the brainstorming process is still underway, but that ARK's goal for the semester is to double the amount of acts from last semester, reaching into the community.

These acts of random kindness are a simple start for a better future. Let's all make the best of what lies ahead.

For questions or more information, contact Peterson at anthony.peterson@wilkes.edu.



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Artist Spotlight: Israel Rodriguez

By James Jaskolka
Assistant L&A&E Editor

Israel Rodriguez is a freshman biology major with an art minor. Originally from Centerville, Va., the young artist has already had his art displayed at an art show in his hometown, as well as had one drawing used for the cover of Derek Jolley's acoustic album.

What kind(s) of art do you do? Is there a focus on one kind in particular?

I have been learning too many different types of media to see what I like the most. However, I do tend to stick to 2D. My most used method would have to be drawing using both pencil and pen. For color pieces, I mostly use watercolor to fill in the space. I also have been experimenting with acrylic painting and I am now self-teaching and discovering digital graphic design. My art usually focuses on character designs, fighters and fighting scenes, and many of my dreams, or visualizations of personal thoughts and ideas.

How old were you when you first started or realized you really enjoyed art?

I first discovered I liked art in eighth grade. In elementary school my teacher never gave me enough freedom to explore art the way I wanted to. I would draw here and there, in private. However, in eighth grade I had a teacher who actually taught me and gave me enough freedom to explore my own style and techniques. Then in high school I fostered my joy for art into a passion by taking higher level classes like AP studio art and AP art history.

Where do you draw inspiration from?

I kind of have a disorganized brain so trying to understand it, even for me, can be very difficult and confusing. So when I draw, I then get a visual of what's inside my head. I also do it from my own curiosity and the want to learn and improve on what I do.

Who would you compare your work to?

I would have to compare my art to the art of Otto Dix. He was a German artist that fought on the losing side of WWI and WWII. This was because he was one of the first artists that I felt connected to.

What's the piece you're most proud of?

I'm most proud of a piece called "To Sustain a Tree Without Leaves." It actually is one big piece, five by six feet, that is made of sixteen smaller pieces. I'm proud of this piece because it so long to make – from December to April. Also, I enjoyed how the pieces all came together toward the end and it allowed me to challenge my intellect and creativity.

What does being an artist mean to you?

For me, being an artist is being able to project my ideas into a visual medium and not giving a fuck what other people think. Being an artist is more internal than external: I believe that no other person can label me as an artist. The term can only be bestowed by oneself when they feel they are comfortable with visually expressing themselves.

Do you plan on doing anything with art after college?

After college I plan to continue to do art as a hobby. However, I was also thinking of becoming a tattoo artist or possibly working in graphic design. That all depends on how the future goes.

To learn more about Israel and his art, readers can contact him at Israel.Rodriguez@wilkes.edu

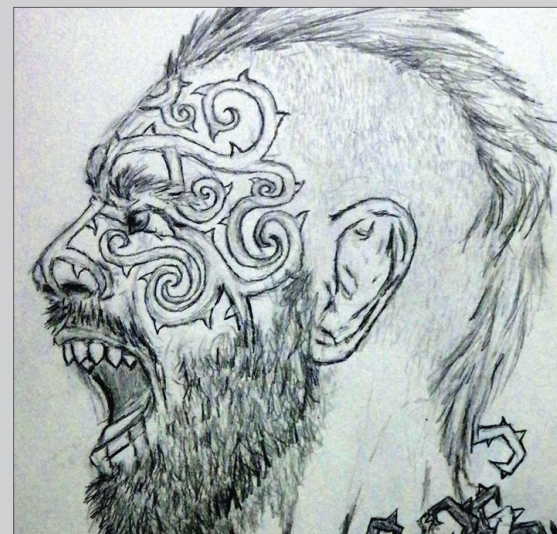
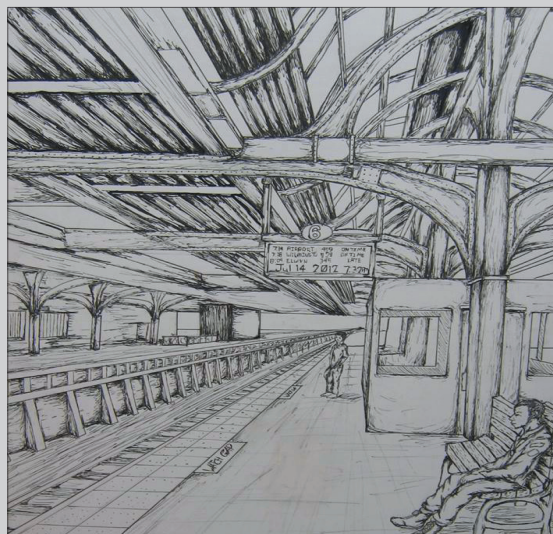


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The Beacon/James Jaskolka

Israel Rodriguez, a freshman at Wilkes, has been making art since he was in the eighth grade.



These three pieces showcase Rodriguez's individual style. The works on either side were done with pencil on regular paper. The middle piece, done with pen on regular paper, was recently used as the cover for Derek Jolley's sophomore acoustic EP.

Greetings from Mesa, Arizona!



Shredding the Gnar



Overlooking downtown Mesa!



My New Internship



Reaching new heights in Mesa

For updates on the students currently at the Mesa Arizona campus check out the Beacon Blogs online at TheWilkesBeacon.com for updates from Beacon Photographer and Engineering Student Dan Lykons as he spends a semester at the new location.

Feb. 4 2014

Contact editor: sara.davis@wilkes.edu

Crime creates remorse unless you are Bieber

By Carly Yamrus
Senior Editor

Nestled between the usual ignorant and irrelevant blurbs on my twitter Twitter feed I read two words: "Free Bieber."

A plea for the Canadian pop-princess pretty-boy recently arrested on charges of DUI, drag racing, and resisting arrest.

"Trending" on Twitter was the dismissal of an action that kills thousands of people a year and injures thousands more.

Bieber, seemingly unfazed by his arrest, must have confused his head shot with his mug shot as he grinned for the camera with glassy eyes.

Fans offered continued support for Justin as he transitioned from high-life to real-life, cheering for him as he stepped out of the jail and into an Escalade.

People make mistakes. I get it. But as a society, are we really going to back this kid for drinking and driving? Did that suddenly become excusable? It is evident from his mug-shot that he does not appear to feel the slightest built of guilt from his actions.

I'm mind-blown, but I can't say I'm surprised.

Celebrities do seem to find ways to pass go and collect two hundred dollars, which is a lot more than the average game player.

All the money in the world can, in fact, buy you out of almost anything. Doesn't it seem so?

Fame and money tend to put people high up on a pedestal, and maybe even above the law. But there are some things that should never be glorified and certainly not justified by any means.

There is no relationship between how many

hit singles you've produced and the amount of lives you put in danger when you get behind the wheel of a car after taking prescription drugs, drinking, and smoking the dope. If an average citizen were to perform these actions they would not be supported, and Justin Bieber should not be an exception.

I don't support you, Justin Bieber. Cheesin' in your mug-shot like you're something of a god.

Equally as disappointing is Bieber's lady friend and drag racing passenger Chantel, trying to make a quick buck while promoting herself in a negation to sell the story for 20 thousand dollars and a mention of her up and coming modeling "career."

Excusing these people of their misdemeanors only adds to their elevated importance.

Not saying what celebrities do is always right, just that if it is wrong, we are willing to overlook because of who they are.

In doing this, we allow them to be better than us. We allow them to be above the law because we worship them.

Would we still support Bieber if he had hit and killed someone? Because he could have.

Let's not forget that people die as a result of drinking and driving, and dealing with the rich and famous will not change the outcome.

I do hope we reach this mutual understanding: Popularity isn't a free pass. The same consequences apply to you and I as they do to people who make movies and sing.

Hopefully we'll have enough sense to keep our support for drunk driving off of Twitter so that I don't longer have to write about something so utterly ridiculous.



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Courtesy of Instagram

Even though he was arrested on charges of DUI, drag racing and resisting his arrest, Justin Bieber still receives undeserving attention and support from fans.

Filter or not? The inside look on recent model advertisements



Courtesy of Instagram

Despite the claim to advertise "real girls," companies such as Aerie and Victoria's Secret are still failing to successfully promote realistic ideas of beauty.

By Lyndsie Yamrus
Senior Editor

We are all very, very much aware of the Victoria's Secret Angels: beautiful women who are no shorter than 5-foot-9-inches, extremely thin, toned, tan and hot.

Many refer to these "angels" as perfect, flawless beings. They appear in countless advertisements, in catalogues and of course, on the runway.

For Victoria's Secret, the largest American lingerie retailer, this marketing tactic is highly effective. The women are poised, confident and glowing in their work.

They have to be. It is a job requirement so that the company can be as successful as possible- and they are.

Because this is America, our women have been convinced that VS "angels" are symbols of true beauty.

For the PINK clothing and accessories line catalogue and ads, young women are used instead of angels. These models are more realistic, if you will.

They're more of what you'd see on the street, not on the catwalk.

Still, the younger models are thin, toned and healthy looking, but their bodies are still airbrushed, manipulated and highlighted for the ads to create that flawless look.

Many criticize this technique as a corruptive strategy, claiming that the use of perfect models in marketing campaigns may causes young girls to think negatively of their bodies, which may not fit the American image of "beautiful."

The argument is that marketing thin, pretty models will cause girls and young women to look down on themselves, enough for them to potentially contract eating disorders or unhealthy lifestyles to try and fit that American vision of beauty.

Aerie, the lingerie brand of American Eagle, strongly believes in this argument, or so they

say. Aerie, in an attempt to boost sales, recently launched the "Aerie Real" campaign.

This campaign uses "real" girls, or models that are not airbrushed or digitally enhanced in any way for the advertisements. Aerie is trying to tell girls and young women that they can be beautiful in lingerie and cute pajamas too, even if they aren't super thin and toned like airbrushed models generally are.

So the result is a set of ads portraying everyday girls that have thicker midsections, birthmarks, lines and divots on their skin- features that many and most people have. Aerie even left the girls tattoos alone, claiming that the un-manipulated body, no matter what it looks like, is real beauty. What a fantastic way to think.

It is a good message for the younger generation, but as a whole, I think the campaign fails.

This isn't a compassion campaign. At the end of the day, Aerie isn't really interested in the happiness of their teen customer base and how satisfied they are with their bodies. They're trying to make money.

The girls that Aerie used for the new campaign aren't realistic either. They're not sticks but they're still relatively thin compared to the national average. Plus, the girls were still acquired as models.

Aerie continues to use pretty, thin girls on their website to model the lingerie too, which doesn't really back up the campaign at all.

It's almost as if the company is limiting the campaign because too much "real" would not advertise their products effectively.

The campaign is only a single step in the right direction.

Young women should believe they're beautiful because a mall store mass commercialized that message to them? I don't think so.



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Colonel Critiques

‘Silent Wife’ leaves readers bored, frustrated

By Anne Yoskoski
Managing Editor

Normally, I’m a mystery novel fanatic. Picking up A.S.A. Harrison’s “The Silent Wife” seemed like a good choice to me at the time. I was wrong.

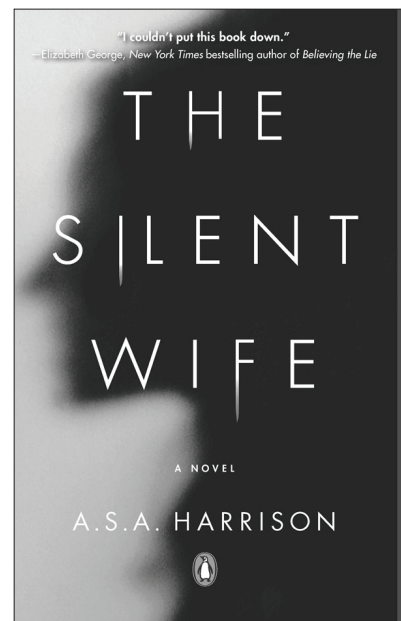
Harrison is trying far, far too hard here to be the next Gillian Flynn. This book is no “Gone Girl” and the characters are rather flat and not enticing at all.

A husband and wife at odds, a divorce at stake, a child on the way: these all seem like things that could cause an epic showdown between married couples.

This couple however, Jodi and Todd, take things in an odd direction.

Jodi tolerates his bad behavior. As a reader I wanted to scream at her.

As a psychologist, she should recognize signs of co-dependency, delusions, seclusion, a mid-life crisis and she should theoretically know the dangers of keeping ones feelings all bottled up with no release.



Not only should she recognize these things, but she should at least know how to get help to handle them.

Not Jodi though, she is practically a glorified house plant.

Todd isn’t much better. The reader is supposed to hate him, or at least be disgusted by him.

The feeling of revulsion got through, but Todd wasn’t someone who made me want to root for one side or another in this split.

On top of all of these issues, the book

has several false starts. Something happens and the reader’s inner monologue changes to, “This is it! This is when it all goes down.”

After four separate occasions of this happening, I was left with frustration and more of Jodi’s inner monologue describing her terribly boring day.

Even the ending is anti-climactic. It should have ended about thirty pages earlier.

The “little twist” ending Harrison tried to throw in just diluted the power the coup de grace action scene of the whole novel had.

Don’t pick up this book. Although it’s thin, it’s not worth the time. So much more could have been done with the story line, but instead it ends on a note that contains less drama than a day time soap opera.

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‘Papers, Please’ offers dystopian tale of morality

By William Conway
Staff Writer

Pitching the idea of a video game based around being an immigration inspector sounds like a hard sell. Luckily, one man, an independent game developer named Lucas Pope, circumvented that process by taking it upon himself to create “Papers, Please,” the self-proclaimed “Dystopian Document Thriller.”



In the game, you find yourself working as an immigration inspector stationed at the border of fictional communist country Arstotzka. The basic formula is as follows: Those with the correct credentials get a pass into the country and those without them get rejected. You as the player are given the power of deciding who ends up where.

Those in charge of Arstotzka have an ideal vision for their country, and they are very stringent who they allow in. As the work day begins you are given a code to follow. This code reads like a set of rules and you are specifically told which details to pay attention to most when examining papers. For example, on Day 1 you are instructed not to allow anybody from a specific country into Arstotzka.

In this sense, the game plays out sort of like a puzzle. People step up to your desk and present to you their papers. You read over them carefully, try to pick out any discrepancies and then decide whether to stamp their papers with an approval or a rejection.

The approval and rejection process is where this game really begins to shine. In theory, a game based around pushing and stamping papers should not work. It’s the morality of it all that hooks the player.

At the end of each in-game day you are graded on your work performance. The brass takes a look at how many you have allowed into the country and how many that you rejected. They also take into consideration how many you allowed into the country illegally. This all affects your score, and in the case of “Papers, Please,” your character’s salary.

The money you make at the end of each day goes toward supporting your family. You allot a certain amount of the money that you make towards heat, food, rent and other utilities. Some days you may only have enough money to pay for heat leaving your family hungry; some days you may only have enough money for rent leaving your family not only hungry but freezing too.

This helps drive the decisions on the job. Do you reject an old lady with an expired passport trying to get into the country to see her sick relative? Or do you illegally allow her access while taking a major pay cut?

The moral decisions that you make throughout the game lead you to one of 20 different endings.

“Papers, Please” is an addicting, challenging, and at times a melancholy experience. It shouldn’t be overlooked because of its seemingly boring premise.

Should you play *Papers, Please*? Yes.

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Despite latest trend, Newman remains on top

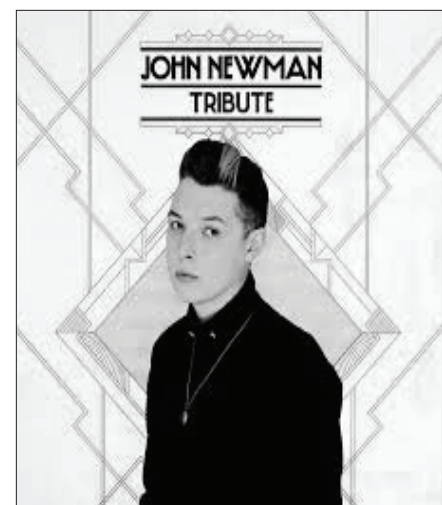
By Eric Casey
Staff Writer

DIY musician John Newman has officially burst onto the scene, whatever that may be. Recently, there has been an increasing wave of British musicians making a name for themselves. That scene can date back to Amy Winehouse and Duffy in 2007. The other scene John appears to be involved with is the Motown and retro soul trend sweeping the radio as of late.

Whatever it may be, he is certainly on the right track. Here is someone who grew up poor after his alcoholic father left him, his brother, and his mother when he was a kid. Newman would often get in trouble with the police as a teenager and smoked weed. Originally he wanted to be a mechanic, but decided to pursue music by studying in Leeds and London.

By 2011, he was signed to Island Records and a year later was featured on a No.1 hit song “Feel the Love” with an electronic quartet, Rudimental, in the U.K. He scored another hit with them months later. Around that time he also had a benign tumor removed from his brain, but is now okay.

Flash forward to today and the 23-year-old has his own solo



No.1 hit in his home country called “Love Me Again” which is currently reaching American audiences like wildfire. It currently sits at No.35 on the Billboard Hot 100. The song comes off his debut album “Tribute” which began No.1 in the U.K. last October, and No. 24 in the U.S. this year. The album is all about past breakups and

heartaches. Sure we’ve heard that formula before, but there’s just something different about this kid. Newman’s voice is like no one else’s at the moment. His raspy way of singing mixes wholly with the thick accent and retro soul sounds makes him stand out from other artists.

Tracks like “Loosing Sleep” and “Try” give the listener a hint of disco with a great backup of chorus singers. The mood slows and darkens on “Out Of My Head” while he asks the question, “why would you want to love somebody when love hurts in the end?”

“Day One,” another highlight of the record, has a ‘90s sound to it.

The major issue with this record is the overbearing choir in the last few songs, but other than that it’s a strong debut.

John Newman hasn’t created something entirely new, but definitely pays tribute to his idols of the past while bringing it into the present.

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the 101

By Sara Davis
Opinion Editor

When you turn on the TV, listen to the radio or look at a magazine, you most likely see something that advertises Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The idea of a new health care plan causes anxiety for some people, while others feel a sense of relief.

Although peoples' opinions may differ, some can agree on the idea that they do not completely understand what Obamacare entails.

In many circumstances this topic is often avoided because it can create serious debates. On both ends of the spectrum, people are passionate about their beliefs and are hesitant to change their opinion.

Although it seems like a simple idea, the idea of Obamacare creates controversy. Some people are against the idea because they feel that they will be negatively affected by the act, and that they will not be able to receive the best care when it is needed.

The Affordable Health Care Act was

Every week, Editor-In-Chief Jake Cochran, Opinion Editor Sara Davis, or a guest writer give an informative crash-course on the most random subject they can think of that week. Their views do not reflect those of The Beacon, its staff or Wilkes University. This week Sara Davis informs readers on health care....

Health Care 101

Wait, what does that mean?

This "cheat sheet" briefly explains some terms that are used when discussing health care. Often times people are confused as to what kind of coverage they are receiving. But don't worry, I also get confused when I go to the doctor and have to talk about my insurance. Hopefully, this will prepare us next time we go.

Co-pay: Also known as a copayment, this is the amount of money (determined by your insurance company) that you pay each time you invest in a service within the health field.

Benefit Penalty: In certain circumstances, an insurance company will reduce the payments on a claim when the agreements and rules of the insurance plan are not followed.

Deductible: This is the amount of money that you will have to pay before your insurance company will pay for a claim cover the remaining costs.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act: Also known as HIPPA, this form is that piece of paper the front desk may make you sign. This form confirms your privacy by allowing you to control who has the ability to view and receive your medical records.

Medicare: a federally administered health insurance plan that is available to people that are 65 years of age or older.

Out-of-Pocket Maximums: limits set by healthcare providers and limit the amount of money that a patient has to pay for a particular service during a designated period of time.

Medicaid: a healthcare program designed for families with low income.

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan: a new addition to Medicare, which provides partial payment coverage on generic prescriptions.

Private Pay: the use of personal monies to pay for healthcare services instead of using insurance coverage.

Assignment of Benefits: a form that you may sign that enables your medical provider to directly receive an insurance payment.

Ancillary Fee: a fee for prescription medications that are not listed under the list of covered medications by the insurance company.

signed into law on March 23, 2010, and was upheld by a Supreme Court ruling on June 28, 2012.

In basic terms, this law requires all Americans to have health care insurance by 2014. If an individual chooses to not obtain insurance they will be required to pay a monthly fee for each month without coverage.

Basically, Obama's idea was to reform the nation's health care system due to the number of Americans that do not have health insurance.

People were unable to have health insurance due to unemployment, pre-existing medical conditions, disabilities, age and expenses. The ACA has allowed these people to obtain their own health insurance.

Obamacare does not change the way that insurance is obtained, it changes the availability. Chances are that if you are reading this you have some sort of health insurance.

Whether it is through employment, private insurance or through an assistance program, you are able to seek medical attention when it is needed. You will still be able to obtain this with the ACA in effect.

You can still purchase private insurance, employer based insurance or obtain assistance through a government assistant program. Contrary to some beliefs, none of these options are being taken away.

In fact, Obamacare now allows Americans to purchase insurance through the State Health Insurance Marketplace where they can also compare various types of insurance plans.

Basically, I don't understand why people get bent out of shape over Obamacare.

If you want to continue to obtain the insurance of your choice, good for you.

That being said, why is there a problem with a different person receiving Obamacare? Shouldn't they be able to be cared for as well?

I can almost guarantee you that if you lost your job, had a disability or did not have enough money to pay for insurance that you would want to have the opportunity to receive Obamacare.

Considering the fact that we are "the land of the free," shouldn't everyone be able to live healthily and have an opportunity to be cared for?

Courtesy of Instagram



The new healthcare systems, especially Obama Care, can be confusing to understand and may cause apprehension if failed to be understood.



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Will future performance determine recognition for Manning?

Drew Feniello
Staff Writer

Before the Super Bowl even occurred, various headlines have dominated sports media stations since the matchup between the Seattle Seahawks and Denver Broncos became official. The highlight of this debate was centered around the Broncos' quarterback, Peyton Manning.

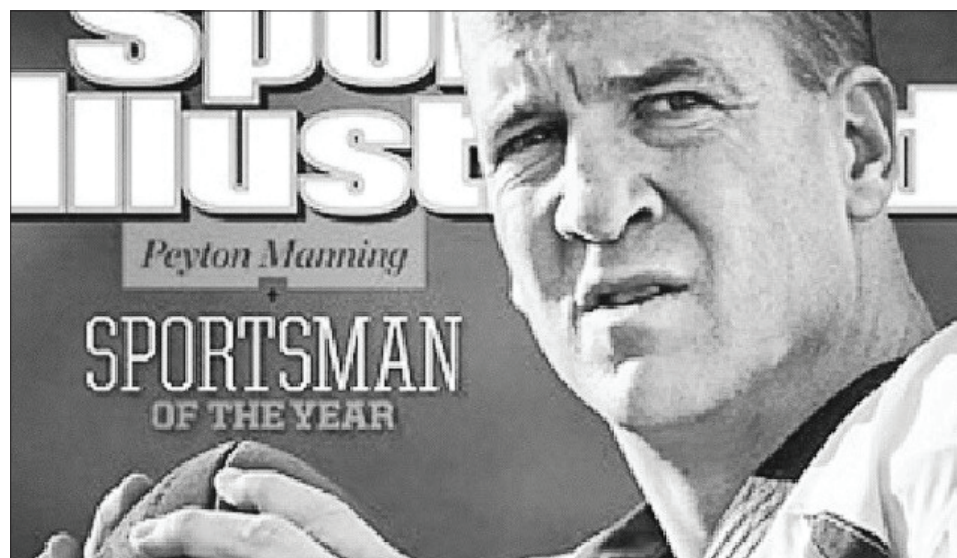
Manning has been argued to be the greatest quarterback of all-time. Some people will not approve of this statement until they see how Manning performs in the future.

On the other hand, Manning's past is believed to speak for itself and give him the recognition of one of the best athletes.

Manning's stats and rankings are enough evidence to prove him to be the best. Throughout his career, Manning has achieved 64,964 yards passing, 491 touchdown passes and 65.6% completion percentage.

In addition, Manning is a 2007 Super Bowl XLI Champion and MVP, four time NFL MVP, 13-time participant in the Pro Bowl, seven-time AP First Team All-Pro, eight-time AFC offensive player of the year and 2013 NFL single season passing yards and touchdowns leader.

Manning overcame four neck surgeries to find continued success with the Denver Broncos. This role model, and face of the NFL has had one of the most storied careers in sports



Courtesy of Instagram

Despite what his future holds, Manning's career has been believed to speak for itself and give him recognition as one of one of the greatest players of all time.

history, and is playing at the highest level of his career at the age of 37.

I believe that he is the greatest quarterback to ever strap on a helmet. Watch Manning on any given Sunday. No quarterback does more pre-snap, is better at reading coverage's or puts his players in a better position to succeed than Manning. He has taken players such as Austin Collie, Eric Decker, Julius Thomas, Knowshon

Moreno, and Marvin Harrison, and turned them into absolute stars.

Judging quarterbacks based off of Super Bowl victories is not the way we define the career of a quarterback. Yes, it does mean something for Dan Marino, who does not have a Lombardi Trophy attached with his legacy. Manning plays in an era where fellow quarterback's Tom Brady, Ben Roethlisberger, and

younger brother Eli Manning, all won multiple superbowl before he had. Super Bowl XLVIII was Peyton's third Super Bowl start. After being drafted No.1 overall in the 1998 NFL Draft, Manning turned the Indianapolis Colts into a perennial AFC Title Contender, giving us countless playoff matchups that are some of the greatest games in NFL history.

Aside from football, Manning has been in numerous commercials for various companies, wrote books, started his own foundation, started football camps, been a leader in the community.

As I said earlier, Manning has been the face of the NFL for decades.

Despite what his future may hold for him, Manning is already the best player based off of what he has already accomplished in his career.

I'd argue that since 2000, no player in sports has meant more to his team than Manning due to the various challenges that he has faced with his teams.

Indianapolis was known to perform with poor defense. Manning also had to face the Broncos' team who had Tim Tebow as their starting quarterback, running a college read-option offense to success and setting records in addition to playing in Super Bowls.

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Alyssa Stencavage, Asst. Life Editor
October 18, 2012

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Shawn Carey, Staff Writer

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February 4, 2014

Contact editor: alex.fahnestock@wilkes.edu

Wilkes basketball teams remaining Freedom games

Men's and women's teams control their own destiny in February

By Frank Passalacqua
Sports Co-Editor

With the basketball season 75% completed, both the men's and women's team control their own destiny to end the season.

The men's team currently sits at 7-10 overall and 2-5 in Freedom matchups, while the women are 4-13 overall, 1-6 in Freedom play. However, both clubs have a chance to turn their season around with their remaining games.

With seven games remaining, all seven matchups for the men's team are against Freedom Conference opponents. This final stretch will be crucial if they want to come out on top with a better record than last year. Out of the team's 10 current losses, two were by a margin of 10 or more points, while six games came close to a five points or less.

Their recent outing against Eastern University proved the team still has a lot left in them, as the 72-71 victory was one of the most exciting games all season, second to the game-winning three-pointer by Alec Wizar in overtime to lift Wilkes to a 77-74 win over Washington and Jefferson College earlier this season.

Wilkes jumped out early to a 10-1 lead to start the game against Eastern, but the lead fell apart in the second half when the Eagles made a late run to fight within three points in the final minute of play. Thanks to key layups by Steve Stravinski and back-to-back three pointers by Wizar, the Colonels held on as Eastern's Anthony Parenti missed a potential game-winning running floater as time expired.

Wizar currently leads the Colonels in scoring, averaging 13.8 points per-game with 49 three-pointers made (second-best in the Freedom Conference). Senior Pat Furst leads the team in shooting percentage converting 58 of 106 buckets from the field for a second-best 12.3 points per-game, while grabbing 5.3 rebounds. Steve Stravinski averages 10.1 points per-game, shooting a team-best .842 from the free throw line, and also has made 39 three-pointers on the year.

They will see great competition to close the season, as they will face Eastern again on Feb. 15, and cross-town rival Kings again to end the season on Feb. 22.

As for the Lady Colonels, they too can turn the season around. With six of seven games against Freedom matchups, they will need to prove they can still be a force to be reckoned with in the conference. They have lost two out of their last four games and have yet to win a game at home.

Their last two victories came down to



The Beacon/Zobaida Azad

Alec Wizar confuses an Eastern opponent as he decides whether to spread the ball around or drop another three point bucket himself over the players head. Wizar is one of the leading scorers this season on the team.

within a bucket, as they beat out Kings 52-51, and grabbed the 'w' over Penn State Hazleton 53-51.

Junior Elena Stambone is the high-scorer for the Lady Colonels, with a conference-best 20.0 points per-game. Stambone has converted 40 three-pointers on the year and

has 24 steals. Junior Chelsea Brown is averaging 12.1 points per-game, proving to be a threat on both sides of the ball with a team-best 164 rebound and 39 steals, and 32 blocks. Senior Ellen Rich has grabbed 120 rebounds this season and leads the Colonels with 49 blocks.

They follow a similar schedule as the men's team and will face Kings College on Feb. 22.



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Continued from 18: TJ Jackson AOTW

by JT Keer

Sports Writer

The university might be getting a track team for the spring 2015 season, any thoughts onjoining?

Ha-ha I'd be the first guy in line. Track is an incredible thing to do both mentally and physically. Probably would run the 100, 200, and the triple jump if they let me choose.

What has been your ultimate favorite or most meorable moment so far of your freshman season?

Probably the first half we played against Marywood. It was the first game I ever started here and that game gave me a lot of confidence and really made me feel like I belonged.

What has been the biggest victory for your team this year?

The first game in the conference against Misericordia. It was a full team effort to go out there and grab one. It went into OT and we toughed it out in the end. Great win for us to open up conference play.



The Beacon/Zobaida Azad

Freshman Tyler Jackson averages five points per-game in his 15 games as a Colonel.

Diamond Dinner

by Alex Fahnestock

Sports Co-editor

The Wilkes University baseball team will host its second annual preseason Diamond Dinner in preparation for the opening of the 2014 season Feb. 22 against Lebanon Valley College in Annville.

The dinner provides an opportunity for students and players to interact with coaches and alumni of the Wilkes University baseball team.

The Colonels are looking to improve on a winning 2013 season in which they posted a record of 21-15 in head coach Matt Hollod's first season.

The dinner will be at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, in the Henry Student Center Ballroom on the second floor. The dinner has a \$35 entry and includes the dinner buffet and drinks. Dress is business casual.

For any additional information, please contact head coach Matt Hollod at matthew.hollod@wilkes.edu

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Getting to know...

Tyler Jackson

Freshman Basketball Player

by JT Keer

Sports Writer

Tyler Jackson is the freshman point guard for the Wilkes University Colonels. He wears number 1 and is a key asset to the future of Wilkes basketball. Tyler has been in double figures 3 times so far this season and has been a major contributor to the team. Tyler is a psychology major out of Cresskill High School. At Cresskill, Tyler was a three-year letter winner who averaged 9.9 points, 7.0 assists, and 5.1 rebounds in his senior year. During the offseason, Tyler played soccer and ran track for his school.

Why did you choose to come to Wilkes?

I chose to come here to play for my coach, I like our program and I like the sense of family here with my team.

What are the goals you have that you hope to accomplish in your 4 years here in basketball?

I try not to set individual goals for basketball. I just want to win more than anything else and in the process try to be the best player I can.

How about with school?

I've really gotten into my major, which is psych, and I want to focus on getting a good internship so I can open doors for what I study and not have to switch majors

That's awesome. You wear #1, has that always been your number or did you have that number all throughout your career?

It's not actually my number, this is the first year. I would have preferred 11 or 3 but Alec and Craig have those

What's your favorite part about playing point guard?

To be honest it's passing the ball. I've always tried to get my teammates involved first and just keep the ball moving. I would take an assist over a basket any day and I feel like good passing is contagious.

Who's your favorite player on the team to get the ball to when they're open?

I can't choose anyone specifically. It depends entirely on where guys are on the court. Alec and Steve are tied anywhere behind the 3 point line. Ha-ha probably two of the best shooters I've ever played with.

So who is your favorite basketball player of all time?

Easily James Harden.

Why's that?

He just glides on the court and makes scoring look so easy. I always try to keep a similar

aggressive mentality from watching him.

Are the Rockets your team then?

Yeah no question ha-ha. Most entertaining team to watch with Harden and Parsons.

Can they win the west?

Not even the slightest chance. KD and the LA Clippers are way too good.

What are the most points you ever scored in a game?

I put up 47 in an AAU game the summer of my junior year in High School. It was seriously just one of those nights where the basket looks huge and every shot just feels good. Never scored anywhere near there since but that was definitely one of the best games I've ever played.

That's crazy. What's your biggest achievement in high school?

Taking home the state championship my junior year. I watched the seniors do it my freshman year but didn't see the court, I guess finally being given that chance to play and earning a ring of my own was a special moment in high school for me.

That's awesome. What high school did you go to?

I went to Cresskill HS in north Jersey, a really small school. I only had 120 kids in my class tops. Football's the main sport there so most of my recruitment came from AAU. We never played anyone crazy in High School.

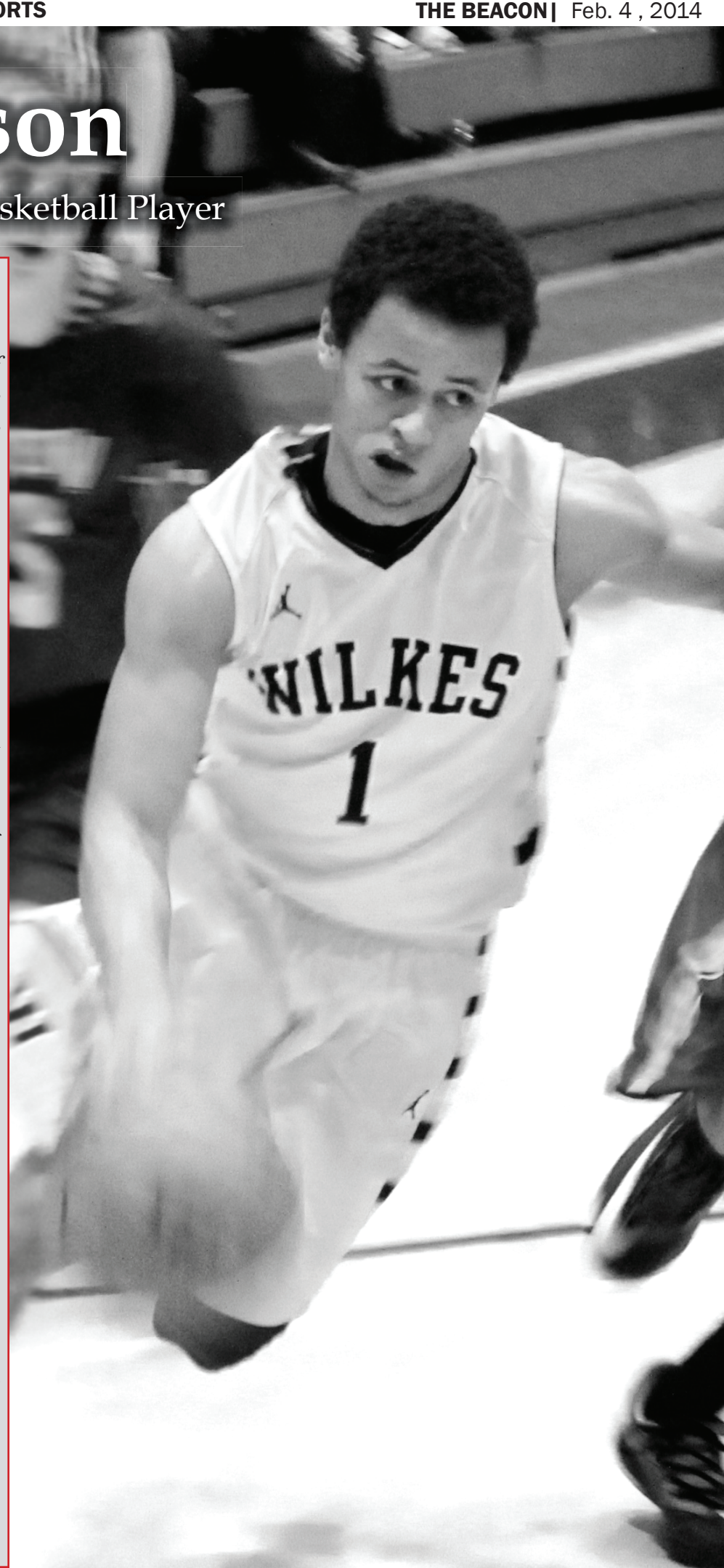
You play any other sports in high school?

I played soccer my sophomore year and ran track as a senior. I wish Wilkes had a track program, it was probably one of the best seasons of my life, ton of fun.



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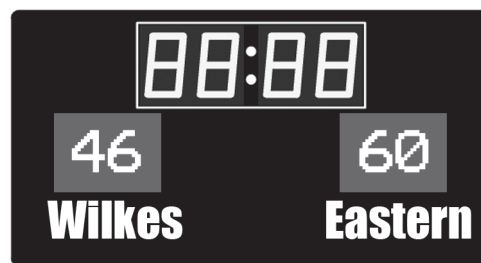
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Game of the Week:

Lady Colonels vs. Lady Eagles



By Brandon Gubitosa
Sports Assistant

The Wilkes University and Eastern University women’s basketball teams squared off in a highly anticipated game Jan. 29.

The Lady Colonels were looking to grab their first home win of the season against Eastern who entered the game ranked second overall in the Freedom Conference.

Leading the Colonels and conference in scoring this season is junior Elena Stambone who is averaging 20.2 points per game.

“I feel confident in myself and my team as a whole as we go into the game against Eastern,” Stambone said. “We have been playing very well as a team and will bring that momentum into the game.

“Our defense is improving and we are finally playing to our potential. We have won two of the past three games, and played a very tough game against FDU, in which we played excellent, although didn’t come out on top. I feel that if we play well together, hit open shots, and play tough defense, then we will win this game.”

Stambone and the team are aware that they have not won a game this season at home. But Stambone was not bothered by the fact heading into the matchup.

“No, I do not feel pressured going into the game against Eastern,” she said. “I do realize that we have not won a home game yet, but that is not a reason to feel pressured. When I put pressure on myself, I don’t perform as well.

“When our team puts pressure on ourselves then we do not play as well as we are able to. We need to have the attitude that we have



The Beacon/Zobaida Azad

Junior Guard Elena Stambone guards an Eastern player as she looks for a teammate to pass to.

nothing to lose, that way we will play relaxed. When we play relaxed, we execute our offense effectively, and give ourselves the opportunity to win the game.”

Lady Colonels start fast

Wilkes started off the game by going on a

9-0 run led by Chelsea Brown and who else but Stambone.

Five minutes passed in the first half and the Lady Colonels were up 14-8. With four and half minutes left in the first half Wilkes eventually lost their lead to Eastern , going up 22-21. At the

end of the first half the Lady Colonels were trailing 29-23. Going into halftime Stambone led Wilkes with 14 points, while junior Chelsea Brown contributed 7.

Looking to gain the lead back, Wilkes came out with something to prove, closing the gap to just one point five minutes into the second half.

Eastern University then began to pull away as they were up by twelve with ten minutes left in the second half. They were able to keep a steady lead for the rest of the game and went on to beat Wilkes 60-46.

Wilkes drops to 1-6 in conference

With the win Eastern boosted its record to 11-7 and now has a 6-1 Freedom Conference record. After the loss, Wilkes University dropped its record to 4-13 and is 1-6 in Freedom Conference play.

Stambone scored 17 points while she continued her dominance this season. Chelsea Brown finished the game with a total of 17 points and 10 rebounds. For Brown, that was her eighth double-double of the season.

Junior center Ellen Rich grabbed 12 rebounds for the Lady Colonels.

There are still eight games left for the Lady Colonels to get back on track. They return home at 1 p.m. Feb. 8 when they square off against Manhattanville College.

The Lady Colonels wrap up the season on Feb. 22 when crosstown rivals Kings College makes a trip up for a rematch.

Wilkes won the first meeting back in January by a score of 52-51 and are looking forward to sweeping the series.

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Colonel Scoreboard

Women’s Basketball

Jan. 29

Eastern 60, Wilkes 46

Feb. 1

DelVal 73, Wilkes 40

Feb. 5

Dallas, Pa.
Misericordia
6 p.m.

Feb. 8

Marts Center
Manhattanville College
1 p.m.

Feb. 10

Allentown, Pa.
Muhlenberg College
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 12

Madison, N.J.
Fairleigh Dickinson-College at
Florham
6 p.m.

Men’s Basketball

Jan. 29

Wilkes 72, Eastern 71

Feb. 1

DelVal 73, Wilkes 57

Feb. 5

Misericordia University

Dallas, PA
8p.m.

Feb. 8

Manhattanville College
Marts Center
3 p.m.

Feb. 12

Farleigh-Dickinson
Madison, N.J.
8 p.m.

Wrestling
Jan. 25

Middle Atlantic Conference 2nd of
six teams

Feb. 1

Wilkes, 36, Trinity College 6

Feb. 7

The College of New Jersey
Ewing, N.J.
7 p.m.

Feb. 8

Messiah Open
Grantham, Pa.

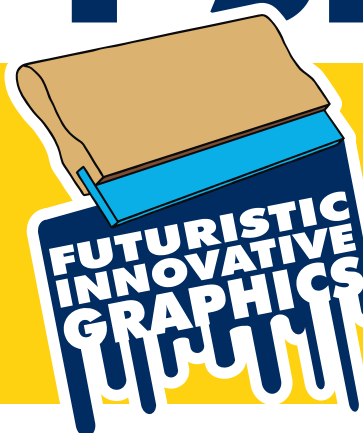
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