

The BEACON

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Volume 59 Issue 9

Giuliani drops by Diamond City on heels of election

BY CURRAN DOBSON

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

On the heels of the recent elections, legendary New York City mayor and former *Time* Man of the Year paid a visit to the diamond city last night, speaking at Wilkes University's Outstanding Leaders Forum held in the F.M. Kirby Center.

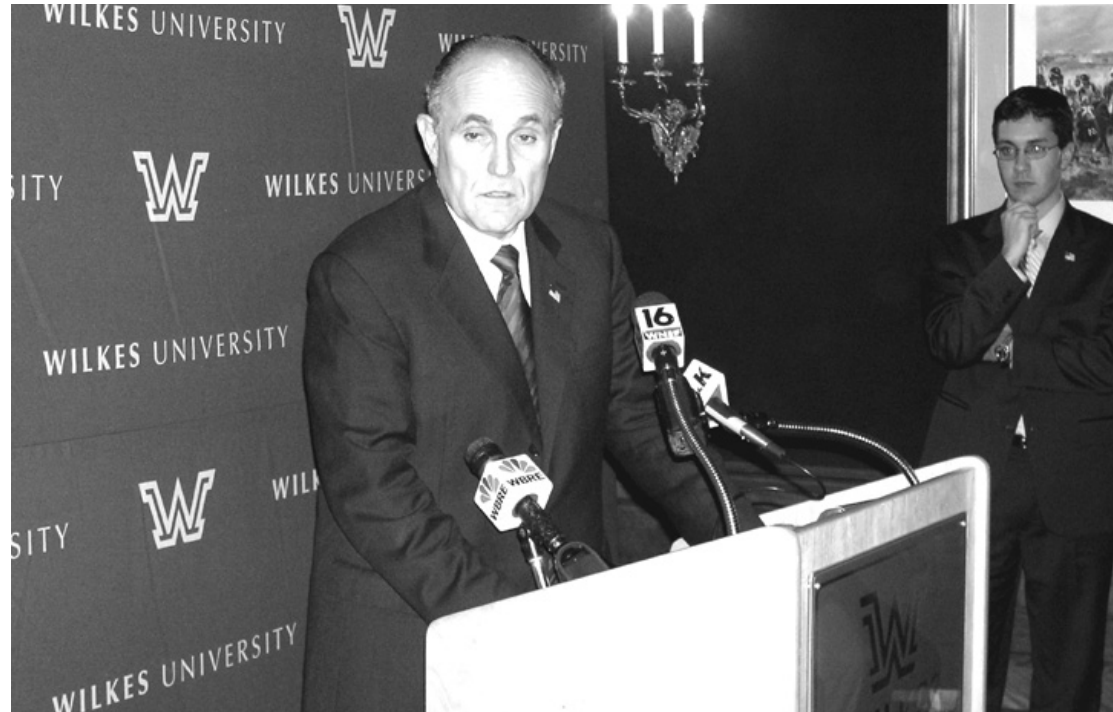
In the Reading Room of the Westmoreland Club prior to his speech, Guiliani answered reporters' questions at a press conference.

With rumors flying of his potential Republican candidacy for president in 2008, Guiliani stated that Americans need to first focus on the results of this election before concerning themselves with the presidential election.

Guiliani touched upon the recent election results of the Democrats winning the Senate by one vote. He commented that exit polls show that three issues were of paramount importance to Americans during the 2006 midterm elections: the economy, corruption in government and the war in Iraq. "Maybe the pervading issue was that things are not getting done in Washington," Guiliani said.

However, Guiliani stated that he doesn't see this year's election as redefining anything. Instead, he said that "the American people want cooperation. I don't think the American people are highly partisan Democrats or Republicans. I think the American people are basically practical people that want results."

See **GIULIANI** page 4



The Beacon/Andrew Seaman

Former New York City major Rudy Giuliani was in town Sunday to discuss the recent election, the war in Iraq and the immigration issue.

Preliminary plans suggest overhaul of HSC, Rifkin

Student ideas and input are strongly encouraged

BY ALISON WOODY

Beacon Asst. News Editor

"Rifkin may not be the same place it is today."

Chris Bailey, Director of Campus Support, suggested with the above statement that preliminary plans to rennovate the Henry Student Center (HSC), including a redesign of Rifkin Cafe, are currently being discussed.

"Einstein Bros. Bagels is moving in to the University Center on Main and [will be] a food outlet from early morning until early

afternoon. The bookstore has moved out and vacated space. These two events [have created] an opportunity to engage students to help determine what is the best use for student activities," said Bailey.

Bailey commented, "You do not want to cannibalize and build internal competition [between Rifkin Cafe and Einstein Bros Bagels]. There will now be another food outlet besides Rifkin in the HSC."

With the thought of competition looming and plenty of vacated space to use, a committee of administration and students has been created to develop renovation ideas

for the HSC.

Redesign concepts for Rifkin Cafe are now in the early stages of negotiation. However, one proposal has begun to stand out.

"The thought [for Rifkin Cafe] was more of a convience store combined with a take-out food outlet, including such things as bags of chips, frozen dinners, yogurt and packaged food," said Bailey. "[We also want] to provide a convience store since we do not have one close enough to campus."

Scott Byers, Vice President of Finance Support Operations, said, "We are interested in the concept of the convience store as part

of Rifkin Cafe based on our understanding of students' needs, but nothing more than that at this point."

Bailey explained that tours to other campuses with convience stores, including King's College who just recently opened one of their own, will be set up.

"Convience stores have done extremely well on other campuses... There may or may not still be a sit-down area, but you will still be able to get sandwiches... We want to

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Veddy Nice!!

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Biology department explores cancer and IBD link

BY NICK PODOLAK
Beacon News Editor

If you are over the age of 50, you may be at risk to develop colorectal cancer and not even be aware of it.

The most diagnosed cancer in northeastern Pennsylvania has become the second leading cause of death in the United States, and no cure seems to be on the horizon.

"Everyone's susceptible to cancer," said Dr. Linda Gutierrez. "Nobody's free."

However, Gutierrez's team of biology students are hard at work trying to find an association between colitis (inflammation of the colon) and colorectal cancer by studying mice that have been induced with an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) through dextran sodium sulfate (DSS) placed in their water intake.

"We are treating and injecting mice to see how these drugs can in some way ameliorate or decrease the clinical and pathological findings of the research," Gutierrez said.

The two sets of mice, one deficient in the protein Thrombospondin 1 (which is related to inflammation), are being studied to see if

the protein can in some way hinder or promote the development of cancer.

"The idea is to study induced inflammatory bowel disease in wild-type mice and mice deficient for thrombospondin production to see what differences there are and thereby to get an idea of how thrombospondin may be involved," said associate biology professor Kenneth Pidcock.

There are two main types of IBD's that can lead to colon cancer—ulcerative colitis (UC) and the more serious Crohn's disease, which unlike UC can spread down the entire gastrointestinal tract.

The project hits home for senior pathology major Nolly Nash, whose father suffers from Crohn's disease.

"I am very motivated and excited about the project. I think if we can obtain solid evidence to support our hypothesis with respect to thrombospondin 1 and its reaction with the growth factors in Ulcerative colitis, then this will be a great leap in the fight against IBD," Nash said.

Though Dr. Pidcock finds it unlikely that there will ever be a cure for cancer, he does see improve-

ments in the next 20 years.

"A diagnosis of most cancers will not seem as dreadful as it seems today, most assuredly," he said. "Cancer patients with most forms of cancer live longer today than they would have 20 years ago, and this trend will continue."

Colorectal cancer rate in northeastern Pennsylvania remains about 20% higher than the rest of the state and the entire US average. Gutierrez advised exercising regularly, cutting out smoking, reducing calorie intake and receiving a colonoscopy every five years if over the age of 50.

Some of Gutierrez's students will present their research via two posters at the Advances in Inflammatory Bowel Disease event held in Miami Beach on December 1-3.

"I just want to express, in behalf of the entire faculty in biology, deep gratitude for what Dr. Gutierrez has brought to our department. She has proven to be an outstanding mentor, and because mentorship is what Wilkes is all about, we couldn't be more thrilled," Pidcock said.



Courtesy of Dr. Linda Gutierrez

Amit Sharma will be one of the students presenting at the Advances in Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Miami December 1 through 3.

The BEACON

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

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Courtesy of Jef Bauman

Wilkes President Tim Gilmour cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the Barnes and Noble Academic Superstore on S. Main Street last Tuesday. The store, which serves the Wilkes and King's College communities, is just one of the many new additions to the revitalization of downtown Wilkes-Barre.

Does the individual vote really count?

New electronic voting machines put to the test nationwide

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Beacon Asst. News Editor

In Colorado, thousands of voters waited in line for hours because of a server crash. Tennessee saw similar problems.

Voters in New Jersey, Florida and Texas reported computer programming problems, causing some votes to be counted for the opposite candidate.

In several states, poll operators did not know how to use the new electronic voting

However, the American public was assured that the voting systems worked exactly as they should and no errors corrupted the political process.

Jackie Butwinski, a freshman at Wilkes said, "I don't see a problem with the electronic system of voting. After the Florida recount (in 2000), I'd rather have everyone just push a button. That situation was just ridiculous."

With all of the investment in new machines, the chances are that they will be around for a while. Some of the electronic voting machines

The most basic of democratic principles is that all eligible votes are counted. Yet the past three elections have sapped voters' confidence in electronic voting machines and the integrity of our voting process.

Common Cause's Website

machines, which caused delays in voting.

All together over 16,000 complaints about voting were filed with Common Cause, a group that describes itself "as a vehicle for citizens to make their voices heard in the political process."

According to the Common Cause website, <http://www.getitstraightby2008.com>, the group is leading the charge for voting reform for the 2008 presidential election, because "2006 is the third election in a row shadowed by questions about the integrity of voting machines, something most Americans never dreamed could happen."

According to reports from Common Cause, problems were not generally attributed to voter error or lack of skill with the machines themselves. Nationally, reports point the finger at poll workers who were uneducated in the new system and voter identification laws.

Luckily, throughout Luzerne County there were no major incidents with the voting process. In Luzerne County, the Commissioners sent out flyers, created a training video, appeared in commercials and set up demonstrations to familiarize voters with their new, iVotronic system. This planning seemed to pay off.

Unfortunately, that did not stop Republicans, who lost both the House of Representatives and the Senate, from crying "foul." When reports started to come in that people were complaining that their votes were cast for the wrong person, Republicans saw it as their chance to contest some election results.

can cost between \$4,000 and \$12,000.

Sherri Homanko, a sophomore and pharmacy student, also believes that voting should be done electronically with safeguards, "We should have electronic voting with a paper tracking to follow in case there is a computer system failure."

In a not surprising coincidence, close public scrutiny of the voting process is happening at a time when *Man of the Year* is in the theaters featuring Robin Williams, Lewis Black and many other

notable comics. The movie is based on a presidential election that is decided by a computer glitch.

Locally, candidates raised no objections to the results and by Friday, November 10 voters knew the Democratic candidates won most elections in the area.

However, spokespeople for Common Cause plan to continue the organization's fight for voting reform, by bringing attention to the fact that, "The most basic of democratic principles is that all eligible votes are counted. Yet the past three elections have sapped voters' confidence in electronic voting machines and the integrity of our voting process."

ELECTION RESULTS

2006

House Races

D Carney

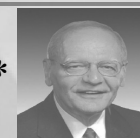


WIN

R Sherwood *



D Kanjorski *



WIN

R Leonardi



Senate Race

D Casey



WIN

R Santorum *



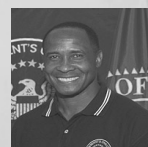
Gubernatorial

D Rendell *



WIN

R Swann



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Wilkes mentoring program promotes small school feel

Focus on learning and individual needs paramount

BY JEANNE STAPLETON

Beacon Correspondent

Wilkes University has always prided itself on the close relationships that small classes and one on one relationships could offer to their students. With the institution of the new e-mentoring program, the University hopes to offer just another advantage for students to make Wilkes the most memorable experience of their educational careers.

Student-to-student as well as faculty-to-student mentoring projects have long been a defining feature of Wilkes University. But now, mentoring grants are helping students and faculty to concretely define the nature of mentoring at Wilkes.

According to the Wilkes University website, "The Mentoring Task Force will be responsible for evaluating proposals and distributing grant funds to members of the Wilkes community." The task force encourages departments

to submit proposals that will further the mentoring concept and create new opportunities for mentoring at Wilkes.

"We want to become a place where mentoring happens more and more effectively in how we interact as a community, student-to-student, faculty-to-faculty and faculty-to-student," said President Tim Gilmour.

According to Paul Adams, Vice President of Student Affairs, the University Operating Budget allotted \$400,000 for the institution of the e-mentoring program. Many different programs benefit from these funds. Each of the six academic departments receives funds based on a major stipend per student. Approximately each academic department received \$6,000. The funds can be used at the departments' discretion, for example to host pizza parties or department picnics; however, they must be used in such a way to promote mentoring relationships. Other programs, such as the Freshman Foundations classes, receive funds used for upperclassman to come in and assist with the Freshman Foundations classes. Also funds

are allocated for undergraduate research, which the chemistry and biology Departments were able to take advantage of over this past summer. These are just some of the many programs that are receiving funds from this e-mentoring program.

Requests for funding mentoring programs will be considered from university departments and official campus organizations. According to the Wilkes University website, "The Mentoring Task Force is most interested in funding initiatives that encourage learning through mentoring relationships and that first and foremost focus on the developmental needs of the individual; secondly those that build better learning relationships and lastly to create seamless support systems." Gilmour believes that the mentoring program will help students and faculty develop themselves further.

"I believe that the closer relationship between students and faculty creates a stronger learning environment which in turn creates a greater depth of enrichment and value. The more connection we can offer,

the stronger the relationship and learning," says Paul Adams Vice President of Student Affairs

Michalene Davis, senior psychology major, is a volunteer mentor for incoming psychology students. She said, "Personally I absolutely love it. I think it's really helpful for the incoming freshmen because they're getting things they wouldn't normally get. I know I wish I had one when I was a freshman."

Many students learn a lot from the mentoring process. Gilmour said, "Students should be entering with the idea that they should be looking for a mentor and we need to give them the tools to be a good mentor. Often the person who is doing the mentoring learns the most."

With grant proposals in place and students learning how to support one another, it is clear that mentoring is a concept that will remain in the Wilkes community for some time. "We all need the opportunity to mentor and be mentored," said Gilmour. "It doesn't stop."

GIULIANI from FRONT PAGE

Most importantly, he advised the Republican party with, "You have to go back to your principles and figure out how you react to something like this... You have to take a look at your principles and say what can we do better. We could do a better job of reducing spending, reducing government... dealing with corruption."

Guiliani expressed a need to turn away from politics for a time, however. "I think the American people need relaxation from politics. That's

all we've been doing now, politics, politics, politics," Guiliani said.

Instead, Guiliani focused on issues that are important to Americans, such as leadership, the war in Iraq, illegal immigration and getting the youth involved in voting.

The topic for his speech was, "Leadership in difficult times," and Guiliani gave advice to local mayors that "running a city is like running a business. There's no Democratic or Republican way to pick up the garbage," Guiliani said.

America's safety was also a prime con-

cern of Guiliani's. He said that "the goal in Iraq has to be an accountable government that reduces significantly the possibility of terrorism in the Middle East as opposed to one that is in chaos that promotes terrorism." Guiliani states that we must remain steadfast in our goal to prevent terrorism from finding its way to the United States.

Directly following the war in Iraq as an important issue in America is illegal im-

Wilkes University uses the leadership principles that I'm very familiar with, the whole idea of understanding that leadership requires a combination of ideas and practicality, and it requires study....so that you develop strong ideas and people that have a sense of optimism and a sense of how to get things done and teamwork.

- Rudi Guiliani

migration. "I happen to be a proponent of a balanced approach to illegal immigration. I think we have to have strict security at the border, much stricter than we have, considerably more border patrol, considerably more technology, we need to know everybody that is in the United States and be able to identify them," Guiliani said. He believes that allowing people into this country that are not dangerous makes more sense. Guiliani feels that keeping all immigrants out creates an underground for those that are dangerous. "Now we're making the

scope so big, so large, that we can't concentrate on the dangerous people. I have great respect for the people who just crack down on immigrants, but they don't realize that if they just do that, they're going to make things more dangerous," Guiliani said.

Lastly, Guiliani addressed youth voters. At a focus group of eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 24 recently held at Wilkes, students said they were turned off from voting because politicians do not spend the time to talk about issues that concern them.

When asked what advice he would give politicians to ensure that they spend time talking about the issues that concern students and youth voters in

the upcoming 2008 presidential election, Guiliani stated, "Political leaders and candidates for office should reach out to young people, try to get them involved in their campaigns. They are more open to a different set of ideas than they were in the past. I even notice on some campuses that the students seem to display a broader cross section of ideas than sometimes the faculty.

I'm very impressed with the students."

Guiliani also said, "Wilkes University uses the leadership principles that I'm very familiar with, the whole idea of understanding that leadership requires a combination of ideas and practicality, and it requires study....so that you develop strong ideas and people that have a sense of optimism and a sense of how to get things done and teamwork."

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RIFKIN from FRONT PAGE

provide as many services without duplication,” said Bailey.

Bailey made it clear that the convenience store is only one suggestion and that the group is open to more concepts because “Rifkin Cafe will change.”

Byers added, “Based on our experience and knowledge we can help by listening and formulate the needs of students into a food concept based on today needs while considering future needs and flexibility for modification.”

“Rifkin Cafe is trying to do some convenience items now, but is not doing it the right way. We want to do something the students will benefit from,” said Bailey.

Dave Sborz, sophomore political science major and a member of the renovation committee, said, “We are going to accomodate Rifkin Cafe so that we have more sufficient space, which may include a convenience store. From a student’s standpoint, I think we can get enough people into Einstein Bros.

Bagels from the community. The HSC is for the students and we do not want to lose sight of why the students go there.”

Along with proposed changes for Rifkin Cafe, other areas of the HSC are also being considered for renovation.

“There are a lot of concepts that have been tossed out there, including a 24 hour study area, another 24 hour computer lab and an expanded student lounge,” said Bailey.

There are also suggestions to look at the Miller Conference Room, the second floor ballroom and the mailroom, along with making use of the patio out front as another eating area.

Bailey suggested, “The mailroom serves its purpose, but we do want to revisit the area. By taking it out, it gives more space - possibly turning it into another ballroom or connecting it to the Miller Conference Room... The mailroom would be configured somewhere else in the HSC. The actual operation of the mailroom does not need that much space, but it needs to be put in a place where the boxes are easily accessible to

students.”

“The HSC is a convenience issue, but we do have to realize that the geographic distribution of students is going to change once students are completely in the University Towers and the [dormitory area] of Stark Learning Center is built,” said Bailey.

Bailey added, “I would hope Student Government opens up meetings to outside students to foster input and engage others. There will also be some open forum discussions for the redesigned space. Right now, everything is very preliminary.”

“I would hope that we could conclude our process by February so that needs can be considered in the annual budget process and, if approved, schedule renovation for summer 2007,” said Byers.

While the expected renovations have some excited, there are also those who feel the changes are unnecessary and that the money can be used for the better.

Tony Scerbo, junior pharmaceutical science major, expressed his anger. “The HSC was just built in the 90’s. There are buildings such



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Workers at Rifkin may see a change, depending on the outcome of research on and interest in the renovation of the HSC.

as Stark Learning Center and other dorms that need to be renovated first.”

Scerbo has taken his frustration with the university and organized a peaceful “White Out Day” protest scheduled for Tuesday, November 14 in the greenway. The protest will cover issues such as the renovations, greenway expansion, parking and the One Stop Shop. Anyone wishing to participate is

asked to wear a piece of tape over their mouth to exemplify voices not being heard.

Scerbo added, “I feel that right now, it is mostly administration saying ‘this is what we are going to do’. These are excellent things that need to be done on campus, but the way the administration is going about it needs to be focused on students and faculty input, as well.”

DATE RAPE DRUGS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

You’ve heard about them on the news—young women being sexually assaulted after drugs have been slipped in their drinks. What exactly are “Roofies” and GHB? And how can you protect yourself?

What are they? Rohypnol, known on the street as “Roofies,” and Gamma hydroxy butyric acid, known as GHB or liquid ecstasy, are depressants that can cause dizziness, disorientation, loss of inhibition, memory blackouts, and loss of consciousness when mixed with alcohol. Both are odorless, colorless, and tasteless, so you may not even realize it if someone slips one of these substances into your drink. Because they may cause you to pass out, ingesting them may put you at risk for sexual assault.

How can you protect yourself?

Don’t put your drink down. If your drink is out of sight, even for a few minutes, don’t finish it. Get yourself a new one.

Don’t accept an open drink from anyone. If you order a drink in a bar, make sure you watch the bartender open the bottle or mix your drink.

Avoid punch bowls. With Roofies and GHB in circulation, you can’t be sure what’s in the punch, so think twice before you partake.

Make a pact with your friends to watch out for each other, and spread the word about these “Date-rape drugs” to everyone you know.

If you think you may have been given Roofies or GHB, immediately go to the emergency room and ask for a urine screening test. Though traces of the drug may still appear up to 72 hours after ingestion (depending on dosage, and individual metabolism) the chances of getting proof are best when the sample is obtained quickly. In the event of event that you are sexually assaulted after you were unknowingly given one of these drugs, the results of this test could provide incriminating evidence against your attacker.



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Misdeeds among the religious spark strong reaction

Politicians more easily forgiven than religious leaders

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

Recently, Reverend Ted Haggard stepped down from the Colorado Evangelical megachurch he had started in his basement twenty years earlier. He was president of the National Association of Evangelicals, an umbrella religious organization with over 30 million members.

A church internal investigation found him guilty of sexual misconduct. The minister has been accused of paying a male prostitute for sex and methamphetamine. The exact truth still remains hazy but church officials have revealed that there was some admission of guilt from Haggard.

The reverberations have been

substantial.

Haggard's story raises some important questions: does power corrupt or do the corrupted find their way into positions of power? In addition, how have scandals like these affected our views of organized religion as a whole?

Haggard is not the first Christian leader in America to face public scandal. The Jim and Tammy Faye Baker story of misdeed and misappropriations, the Catholic church sex abuse scandals, Pat Robertson's call for assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez...and many others serve as examples of human greed, excess and extravagance and are prevalent in American organized religion.

With public participation in

organized religion declining in America, it is not surprising that we may chalk the Haggard story up to just another church betrayal. Current trends show a shift away from organized religion. Phrases like, "spiritual, but not religious" are becoming the norm among both youth and adults.

A recent study conducted by ReligiousTolerance.org indicates that only 27% of Americans ranging from ages 18-34 consider themselves "religious" while 14% think of themselves as "secular." That puts the rest of the 59% somewhere in the "we're not too sure about anything" middle.

Many young people have come to mistrust organized religion as a result of stories of dishonesty, scandal and even child molesta-

tion. Though these remain valid reasons to be wary of any group, generalizing about religion because of the scandals that hit the airwaves seems unfair. Abuses make the news. Every day examples of religious efforts that aid communities do not.

When hypocrisy exists in any other place, we are much more forgiving. For example, when politicians live extravagantly and pretend advocacy for

the poor around election time, we tend to accept the appeals. Oh, Jib Jab will get in a few pointed jokes at their expense, and YouTube might offer some damning videos to the contrary, but for the most part, Americans tend to overlook the contradictions. We have to think too much otherwise.

But when a church official steps out of line people feel more personally offended because faith-and its social representation-is such a personal component of lived experience. In most cases, questions of faith are simply more personally felt than politics.

So does power corrupt? Is it natural for a person who catapults to the top of the food chain to make of glutton of him or herself simply because it's possible to do so? Having such an enormous amount of influence over the thoughts and opinions of an audience can create a situation where a person is likely to lose control. People who desire power put themselves in the position to have it, and there is no way to tell who is initially tainted and who is incapable of controlling their ego once in power. This is true with any organization, not just religious ones.

We cannot always know where dishonesty will come from. Obviously, it hurts more when it originates from a place where we are supposedly guaranteed safety and understanding. Perhaps this is why many Americans act like spurned lovers and completely turn away from religious organizations.

One thing we can count on is that the lies generally are revealed in time, as with any organization with individuals abusing their office. Religion is not for everyone, but if the public can forgive a politician for inappropriate conduct, it should also give the same break to religion in general and only punish the individual who committed the crime.

Beacon Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus. Results are based on 33 responses.

The Beacon asked:

What is your biggest relationship phobia?

- Being cheated on - **21%**
- Commitment - **18%**
- The break up - **15%**
- Other - **15%**
- Sex - **12%**
- Clingy partner - **9%**
- Losing own identity - **3%**
- Meeting the family - **3%**
- Diseases/STDs - **3%**
- Living together - **3%**

Next Week's Poll Question:

What is the most sensational celebrity break up?

- Britney Spears and K-Fed
- Brad Pitt and Jen Aniston
- Carmen Elektra and Dave Navarro
- Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillippe
- Kate Hudson and Chris Robinson
- Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown
- Nicole Richie and DJ AM
- Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson
- Richie Sambora and Heather Locklear
- Other

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

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Unless it was my house, I really don't care if it burned

Broadcast local news affiliates need to start listening to their viewers

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO

Beacon Opinion Editor

If it burned, rolled over or was undergoing construction, you can bet it was on your local news last night.

They always say "if it sinks, it rises" to illustrate the importance of disaster coming first and foremost in a newscast. It's not because disaster is necessarily important, but because disaster brings viewers, and with viewers come ratings. I could even take that a step further to say that with ratings come advertising revenue, and isn't that what everyone wants? Of course it is.

According to an article entitled "CNN-ABC: Putting the public last" in *Electronic Media* (11-4-2002), "...it's a sign of a larger lamentable fact of life, that when broadcasters and cablecasters talk about the 'news business,' the operative word is business and 'news' is incidental. It's kind of a nuisance to them, actually."

The problem begins when local news broadcast affiliates start to ignore the needs of the public to gain ratings, and I feel this is starting to happen in northeastern Pennsylvania.

According to an article on local print journalism in *Editor and Publisher* entitled "Local News Content," local news is very important, and should be treated as such.

However, the examples of the importance of local news stemmed from what they called "The Local Touch," where examples were given to illustrate how local news can bring national issues to a local level.

More and more, studies find that people actually do want to be informed on the national level, and not bombarded with over-sensationalized fires and "tractor trailer rollovers on 81." Still, local news affiliates scarcely pay attention.

WNEP, WBRE and WYOU are the three local affiliates in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. Looking at their websites, WBRE added two new stories in a seven day period between Nov. 3rd and Nov. 10th, 2006. WYOU was a bit better, updating once daily with all the news headlines, and WNEP updated frequently, but the top three headlines on November 11th, 2006 were "Fire Destroys Landmark Building," "Two fires in one day" and "Two killed in Union County Accident."

WOW! If I didn't read those stories, I would have lived an un-informed life!

I've had the pleasure of getting some real world insight into a newsroom throughout the past two months, and I can tell you that while they cover miscellaneous stories that they receive media alerts on, what they really want is for a building to burn or somebody to have a bullet wound to the chest so that

they can lead with it. That is not news!

If it's my house, I know it burned. If it's my neighbors' house, I can see that it burned. I don't need the news to tell twenty counties that it burned, because I can guarantee people in Lehighton (in our coverage area) really aren't going to care. They're not only *not* going to care, but they're not going to care even more tomorrow morning when the story is aired for the fifth or sixth time. This is a not mild exaggeration I'm so famous for, but rather a sad truth in the industry.

Taking you back into my "real world grade-A observing experience," let's go back to last week when the Democrats took not only the House of Representatives, but also the Senate. I remember reading breaking news when the jaws of skeptics all throughout the nation dropped as the Democrats took the Senate. It was pretty evident they might have taken the House, but the Senate was a whole different ball of wax.

I happened to be in a newsroom at that time near a person listening for fires on three different scanners. "The Democrats took the Senate," I said. The reply I got was, "Oh."

I thought it was a big deal, and I emphasized that. The person replied with something along the lines of their remembrance of the last time Democrats had control, and that it

wasn't really a big deal.

Funny that the person said that, because the *New York Times* decided to lead with it in days following. It clearly was important for the whole nation to read, but it wasn't important for people in Wilkes-Barre. They didn't need to know, or care. Let's tell them about a fire.

What we need is a morality check. Are we giving them what they need, or are we filling their eyes with sensationalized garbage? People care about fires, like the Country Junction fire that happened recently. That was a place where many local residents spent time. Naturally, they would care. However, if a little shack in Monroe county burns, nobody really cares about that.

People want to be informed, and since broadcast television is still free, I believe broadcasters have a duty to inform the public about issues that they depend on their news stations to give them. They need to know national news, but more importantly, they need to know how it relates to them. They don't need to know about a tractor trailer rollover with no traffic backups and no injuries. Maybe it's time to start taking the public into consideration.



YOUR VOICES

Thanks for taking out the trash, PA

Dear Editor:

I enjoy reading Andee's satirical rants, I really do. Her fuming humor always puts a smile on my face. In fact, when I read her last op-ed article, "New Jersey, please stop trying to save face with God" (November 6th, 2006), I couldn't help but laugh at her obvious envy of the Garden State. It's quite hilarious and entertaining.

Now, don't get me wrong. Before I make my point, I agree with her idealistic views on equality and separation of church and state. But that's not the issue here, is it? The issue is New Jersey. Why would she, someone who's obviously for gay marriage, attack New Jersey on the basis of their recent step toward her cause? As she herself said, "Gay couples [now] have the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples under the New Jersey state Supreme Court rules." Last time I checked, this is a hell of a lot more than Pennsylvania has done. In fact, PA has done nothing at all! Besides, who cares if gay couples can legally title their bond as marriage? It's only a title; an artificial word. Otherwise, gays now have all the same privileges as heterosexual married couples in NJ. But anyway, that's beside the point.

Like I said, gay marriage doesn't concern me and it's not the issue here. What really entertained me about her editorial is the fact that she holds such a typical grudge against New Jersey. As a lucky soul who was born and raised in beautiful New Jersey, I should really be offended, but it's okay because I can see deep into her mind and soul, and I know the true core of her bitterness: jealousy. You see, I sympathize with the less fortunate, and I realize that if I was from another state, I'd be jealous of

New Jersey too.

After all, we are the state that has everything. And I do mean everything.

New Jersey is simply more fun than Pennsylvania. Many a nights, you Pennsylvanians sit around looking for something to do, but seldom find any worthwhile activity. But in the promise land of New Jersey, you never run out of things to do. There's so much culture, so much variety, so much character, so much everything. From the diners to the music to the food and beyond, there are endless activities. From the cities to the mountains to the countryside to the beach, Jersey has every type of desirable environment. Tourism is the second largest industry in the state. People flock from all across the world just to see our Statue of Liberty (yes, it is ours, not New York's) and to sit on our beautiful shores. We have Giants, we have Jets, we have Nets, we have Devils. We're a leading state in both industry and agriculture. We're called the Garden State for a reason. Great things grow in New Jersey, and not just nationally renowned corn and tomatoes; I'm talking about brilliance all across the board. Baseball came from New Jersey. Scads of ground-breaking inventions have come from New Jersey: the motion picture camera, color TV, the LCD screen, not to mention the light bulb! Where would your Wilkes World be without New Jersey, Andee? We have the largest seaport in the U.S. If there was no New Jersey, the United States would suffocate and the economy would collapse. Not to mention, Great Adventure has much better rides than Dorney Park. I could really go on for hours...

So if you're sadly from another state and you feel jealousy or resentment towards the Garden State, feel free to throw

Views on The View from a casual observer

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

I was in the SUB recently enjoying a delicious Colonel Wrap from Rifkin(that's right, only \$5.49 gets you the wrap and a bag of Ruffles).

I was there by myself, and so for company I turned to the television, which was showing *The View*. Yes, airing *The View* in the Rifkin makes sense, because there is nothing better to college students at 11 a.m. than watching three middle-aged women speak on pointless topics while Elisabeth Hasselbeck thinks to herself: "I was on *Survivor*, and this is what I won? I'll take the fat, naked man, please."

Anyhow, congrats to Barbara & Co. for firing one outspoken loudmouth - Starr "Yes, I shamelessly plugged my wedding on television, even though it will end in divorce within two years" Jones, for another loudmouth - Rosie "Remember when I was popular?" O'Donnell. That move will really help get the ratings in the coveted 35-50 year old white female audience.

It's really only a matter of time before Rosie literally eats Elisabeth. I have it on good authority to know that they feed her a live goat during commercial breaks. Anyway, on the particular episode I caught in the Rifkin, the women had some "lifestyle

expert" on the show. What is that? Can you take that in college? Did he go to Tufts for a four-year degree in Lifestyle Management with a minor in Grilled Cheese Engineering?

Seriously, all this guy did was show off all these convenient household products that you see on those infomercials--you know, that swivel head broom that doesn't leave wet spots or that can opener that doesn't leave sharp, jagged edges. It seems to me like the Lifestyle Management course requirements consist of nothing more than watching infomercials.

In that moment, I thought about changing majors, and even took steps to do so, but the registrar's office won't return my calls. They said something about, "This is a serious institution" before hanging up.

The point is, way too many people have "expert" somewhere in their title. Some are actually worthwhile - car experts, computer experts, etc. And some are just ludicrous - decorating expert, movie mistakes expert.

I've been on this earth for 24 years, and I've been quite successful at it, meaning that I'm still alive - I'd say that qualifies me to be a lifestyle expert. I hate *The View*.

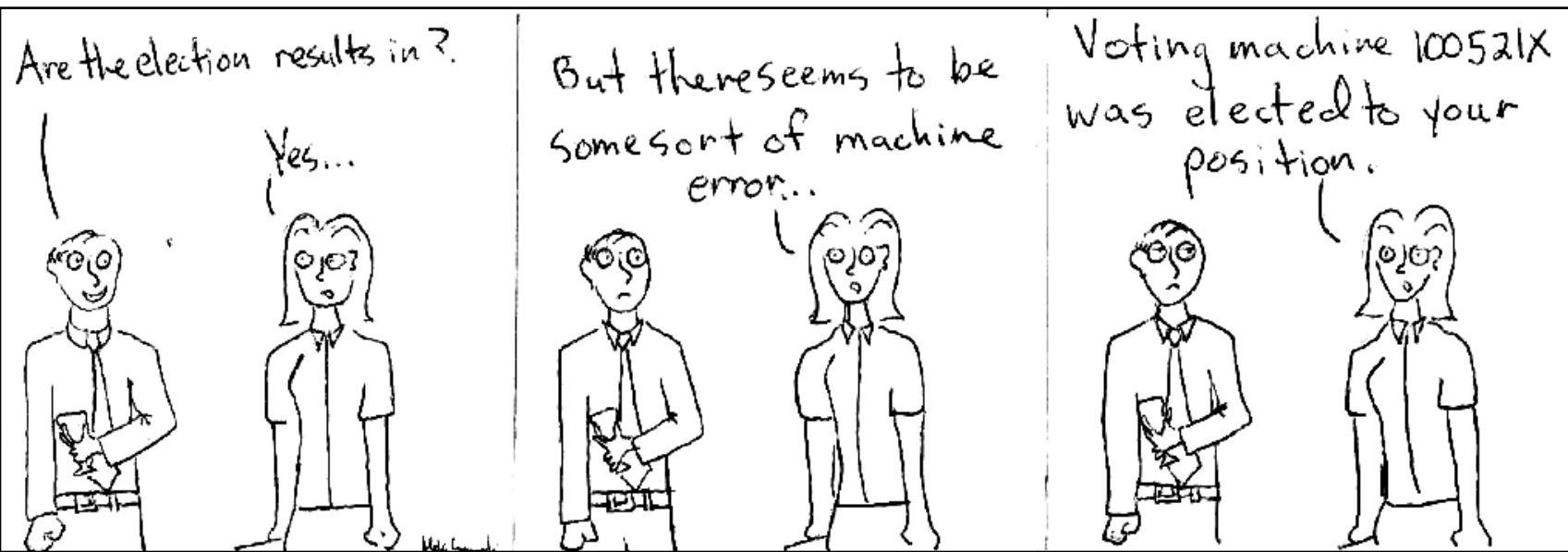
I think I'll call the registrar again.

any criticisms that you can. I don't blame you. I'd be pissed too. Besides, there's really nothing you can say to undermine the unyielding greatness of New Jersey. In fact, I wish I had this topic in Dr. Kinney's Argumentation and Debate class because the blatant facts and logic are all there. New Jersey is a better place. It's certainly something to think about while you're pumping your own gas in the freezing cold.

But don't get me wrong, I like Pennsylvania, too. It's nice here. And New Jersey really does owe PA a nice, big thanks. So, thanks, Pennsylvania. Thanks for being our dumpster and allowing us to fill your landfills with all of our garbage. If that's not being a good neighbor, than I don't know what is.

Jim Feeney

Telecommunications major, senior



A
Sight
for
Sore
Eyes

Aleksander Lapinski

Boris the Incredible Hypnotist makes entertainment his goal

Both audience and Boris himself enjoy performance

BY ARIEL COHEN

Beacon Sports Editor

With a stage name like the Incredible Boris, the hypnotist who recently visited Wilkes University seem destined for greatness.

The Incredible Boris was born in Moscow, Russia and immigrated to Canada with his parents when he was just 10 years old. As a teenager, Boris read the new-age classic *The Search For Bridey Murphy* by Morey Bernstein, which is a true story about a hypnotist involved in a past life regression with a female subject. Excited about a fascinating subject, Boris has tried to read every book available on the subject of hypnosis, hypnotism, hypnotists and hypnotherapy.

Early attempts at hypnotizing people were at parties where friends would provide the material and ideas that have evolved into what you see on stage today. Having continued with the education on the subject, at York University and the University of Toronto, Boris was provided training in the fields of psychology and computers. Even though the two fields do not appear to be related, computer and mind programming are very similar, providing logical outcomes to given instructions.

Boris's first professional engagement as a comedy hypnotist at the age of 17 gave him his start to a vast entertainment career that lead to worldwide performances from Amsterdam to Japan, across the USA and Canada. Having spent over 20 years entertaining, and performing close to 300 shows a year, Boris is a regular fixture in many settings - from theatres and night clubs to corporate functions and casino showrooms. The show is always a guaranteed success.

The Beacon: How did you get into the hypnotist business?

Boris: Curiosity. That is the best answer. I first read a book as a teenager and that got me into researching it. Most people do not bother doing the research but I went ahead and did the research.

The Beacon: What do you find is the greatest part of your job as a hypnotist?

Boris: The greatest part of my job is the fact that it is fun. In fact, it is not really a job. Anything you really enjoy in life isn't

a job.

I am a self-described kid in a toy box. I enjoy putting smiles on people faces.

The Beacon: What have been some of the moments that you have enjoyed the most in your career?

Boris: Well, let me preface this by saying that I am a huge fan of Johnny Carson.

Johnny, if he likes someone, gives them an okay sign. If he gave someone that sign, it transformed their job into a career.

So, when I was on Carson's show, I asked Howie to give me the okay sign if I was doing an alright job. Halfway through the show, I guess I was doing all right, because I got the sign from him and was also invited back a month later.

The Beacon: What are the biggest misconceptions and rumors about being hypnotized?

Boris: A lot of the time, it is disbelief at first. My job is not to always prove that hypnosis is real, but it is to entertain people. It is to put smiles on people's faces.

Hopefully I am doing it right. I try never to be the star of the show. I am simply just a director, and I let the people make the show.

The Beacon: What, in your opinion, makes people more susceptible to being hypnotized than others?

Boris: Anyone can be hypnotized. It is simply the ability to concentrate and follow suggestions.

Everyone can go under. That is why hypnotists send people back to the audience. You can read body language and be able to tell how well the person is reacting to the suggestions. Even those that are sent back to their seats can go under.

The Beacon: Do you ever use your skills to help people with quitting smoking or other things like that?

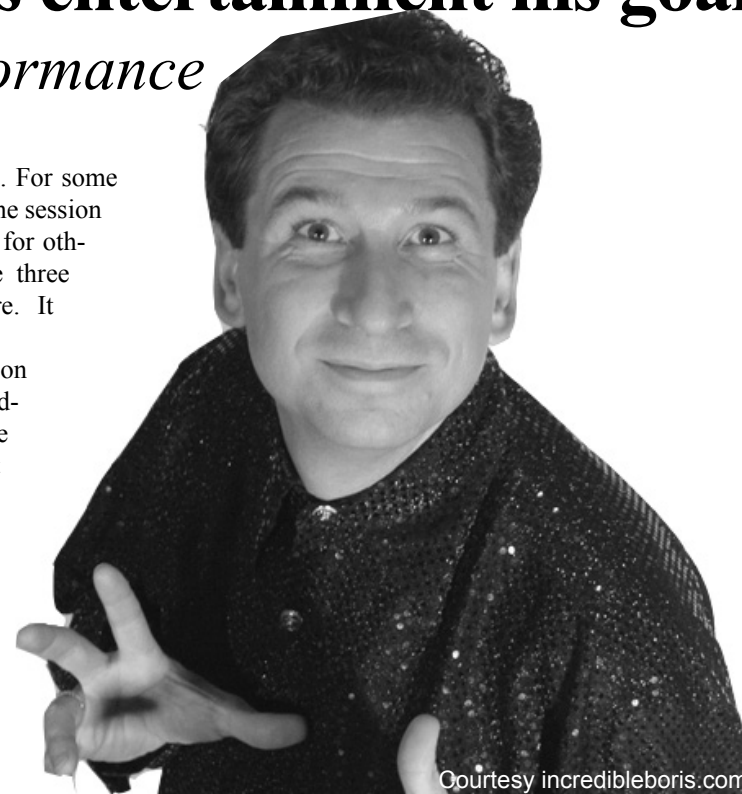
Boris: I do over 300 shows per year so it is difficult for me to actually hold actual sessions for that. I have created a CD that does those kinds of things, though.

The Beacon: How long does it take for the CD and these methods of hypnosis to start working and how long do they last?

Boris: It is following suggestions that

I give on the CD. For some people, it takes one session with the CD and for others it could take three sessions or more. It varies though.

More information about The Incredible Boris can be found online at www.incredibleboris.com or myspace.com/incredibleboris.



Courtesy incredibleboris.com



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Some of the most beautiful buildings on and around campus that you've never noticed



The Wilkes-Barre YMCA, located on the corner of Northampton and Franklin Streets, boasts detailed architecture both inside and outside the building.

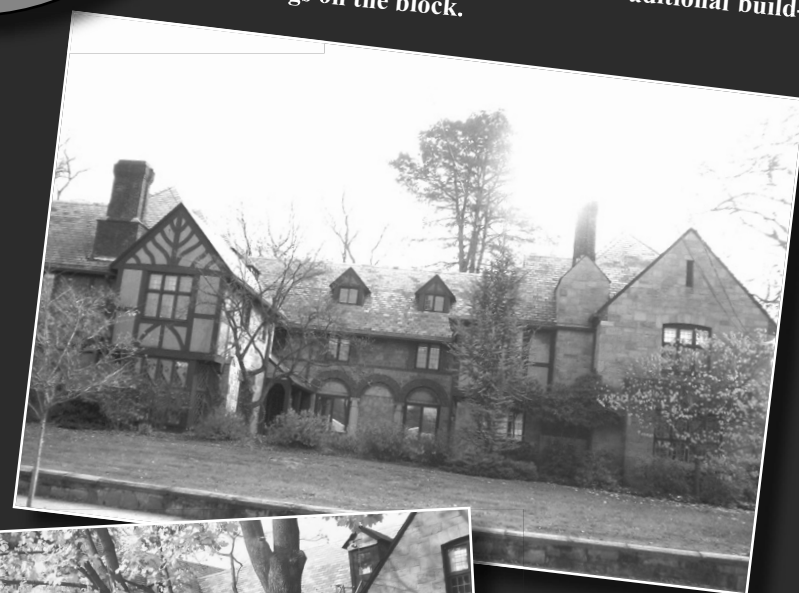
With all the talk of revitalizing run-down buildings and getting new facilities, sometimes it's important for all in the Wilkes Barre area to look around and appreciate those older buildings that are pleasing to the eye.



This structure on Franklin Street has a pseudo-turret and intricate stone working, making it stand out amongst the more traditional buildings on the block.



This stone home is located on Barnum Place, between South and Ross Streets, right next to the Wilkes parking lot near the Marts center. Its green doors and unique structure make it an eye-catcher.



Waller North and South are home to many students on campus, but the mansion dorm, complete with a tree swing, is an often overlooked stone treasure on West River Street.

Meditation brings creativity and focus to Wilkes community

BY ASHLEY GIBSON

Beacon Correspondent

Recently, some Wilkes University students have been discovering a new and entirely different sense of creativity on campus: Zen Meditation.

Zen is a form of Mahayana Buddhism that places great importance on moment by moment awareness and seeing deeply into the nature of things by direct experience. Zen merged as a distinct school in China and spread to Vietnam, Korea, Japan and, in modern times, the rest of the world, according to Wikipedia.

Dr. Mischelle Anthony, assistant professor of English at Wilkes said, "Zen meditation focuses on being present with wherever you are emotionally and physically...pausing and paying attention to your breath, whatever your situation, can change your response."

The Wilkes community practices a guided meditation under the direction of Dr. Linda Paul, professor of philosophy at Wilkes.

"Dr. Paul uses a Vietnamese bell to begin and to change guide words," said Anthony.

She gave the example of a first set, which is: "Breathing in, I know I'm breathing in.

Breathing out, I know I'm breathing out, in, out." During this time, people are encouraged to focus on words, parallel with their breaths so that they can practice focusing their minds.

Anthony added, "Since the basis of Buddhism is to minimize the suffering we cause in the world, both our own and others', meditation forces us to be with that, to not look past it or ignore what's in front of us. It helps us to deal with our world as it is."

Both Anthony and Paul have been practicing meditation on their own for quite some time now. Anthony, who classifies herself as a Buddhist evangelist, describes meditation as addictive and has noticed that she feels more grounded and less anxious after meditation.

Thus far, the first session has taken place with about 17 students, faculty and staff members attending. Jamie Gwynn, a sophomore political science/communications major who plans on attending a future session said, "I think that the meditation sessions are a great idea. It brings more diversity to campus in a creative way." He added, "It's another way for students to open their minds to something new and get more out of the money they al-



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Despite misconceptions that meditation can only be done by monks perched high atop foreign mountains, Wilkes students and faculty members hold meditation sessions in Kirby Hall, either in the salon or in other conference areas.

ready pay to Wilkes."

Students, faculty and staff can practice

Zen meditation sessions every Wednesday from 4:45 to 5:15 in the Kirby Hall Salon.

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Arts YOUNiverse calls for student participation

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Located literally feet from Breiseth Hall, the Arts YOUNiverse building is no more than a 30-second walk from central campus.

Even though it is close in proximity, according to its director, there is low student attendance at events, and few students get involved in the programs offered at the mansion. Is this due to lack of information or motivation? Or perhaps it's fear of the unknown. Whatever the cause may be, Executive Director Karen Godwin extends an invitation to local students, noting, "My mansion is your mansion."



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Designer Irina Krawitz is currently working on a collection of clothing aimed at college students and is one of the many artists at the mansion looking to attract more student attention.

Arts YOUNiverse has been open for just over a year, and the number of programs offered continues to grow. There are additional classes being developed, new artists renting workspace and a variety of public events. But Godwin still wishes to get local students involved in future projects.

There is currently a large open area on the second floor of the mansion that is offered to rent out for events. "I would love to have arts events featuring Wilkes University students," said Godwin. She would be willing to rent the space out for \$20 an hour to performers or even clubs who might want to set up an event to raise money. Whether dancers, poets, actors or a band, Godwin is looking to offer student performers an "alternative performance space."

Another opportunity for student performers to get involved is with the Madness at the Mansion, which is usually held every four months. With this event, performers are paid. The next performance will be held on December 9, and past events have showcased a variety of talents such as stand-up-comedians, improvisational performers and solo music acts, among other things. For those students who would like to get involved, but are a bit shy about performing, volunteers are always needed for the event. There is still a need for four student volunteers, and each volunteer gets free admission to the event.

Some of the individual artists in the mansion are looking to attract students as well. Designer Irina Krawitz is currently looking to cater to local students. "I just feel like I'm needed," said Krawitz, who is currently working on designing a line of clothing for college students. She would like students to "be able to afford the beautiful things" and so she has plans to put on an express fashion show for students in the second week of December.

Krawitz said that while most fashion shows are big and fancy, and for the rich, this show will feature the quick and affordable. Her show in December will be small and will offer just "a taste" of her designs, but she also plans a follow-up show sometime once students have returned from winter break.

In addition to coordinated events, there are many classes offered at the mansion by the in-house artists. Since money is often an issue for college students, Godwin said she is considering offering a "half-price night" one day a week.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Executive Director Karen Godwin and designer Irina Krawitz, along with the other local artists at the mansion, are looking to include more student volunteers in upcoming events.

Along with that, she discussed offering a weekly movie night which would cost no more than \$3.

And Godwin is open to any new ideas or requests. "All ideas are important, and everyone has them," she said. If there is something that students want, that the mansion does not currently offer, she is willing to listen.

Students interested in getting involved or looking to perform or volunteer at the upcoming Madness at the Mansion event should contact Kristin Nastansky at artsmadness@aol.com. Any students or clubs looking to rent space can contact Kathleen Godwin at kathgodwin@epix.net. Also, students can keep informed about upcoming events such as the upcoming Irina Krawitz fashion show at www.artsyouiverse.com.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, November 14

- Briefs, Arsenal Mayhem and Captain Random performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- The Let Go performing at Slainte

Wednesday, November 15

- Film: *The House of Sand* showing at the FM Kirby Center at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- M-80 performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Thursday, November 16

- Winona Ladue "Myth and Reason" lecture in the HSC ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 17

- Wheatus, House of Fools and the Morning Of performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- 1120: 10 Years and Counting, Livingston, The Writing Birds, Auxilia and Motionless in White performing at

Café Metropolis at 8 p.m.

- The Charlie Daniels Band performing at the FM Kirby Center at 8 p.m.
- Boscoe and the Storm performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Saturday, November 18

- Cipher, Today I Fight and Myriad performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- Passion, Tetsuo, Catapult Rome and Blackjaw performing at Café Metropolis at 8 p.m.

-Dennis DeYoung: The Music of Styx at the FM Kirby Center at 8 p.m.

- Rodgers & Hammersteins musical "Cinderella" in the Darte Center at 8 p.m.
- Boscoe and the Storm performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Sunday, November 19

- The Blackout Pact, The Holy Mess, Bourse and Ike Wit performing at Café Metropolis at 7 p.m.

CD Review: Sparta's *Threes*

BY NORA JURASITS
Beacon Features Editor

Threes, released in late October, marks Sparta's first full-length disc since 2004's *Porcelain*, as well as the first release without former band member, Paul Hinojos, and the addition of Keeley Davis. The record was released by the band's new label, Hollywood Records, after a break with former label, Geffen Records.

After becoming attached to Sparta's first full-length CD, *Wiretap Scars*, with its clear vision, despite being rough around the edges, and their most recent disc, *Porcelain*'s well-placed mix of smooth and raspy sounds, and its obviously planned order of songs, *Threes* seems somewhat scattered in both execution and track order. The album dabbles in some new vocal stylings, sounding as though they hope to stumble upon something they like, and finally establishing a steady sound with the last four tracks.

The disc opens with "Untreatable Disease," which, along with the next track,

"Crawl," is pretty comparable to previous songs recorded by Sparta. The energy is strong to begin the CD, but then leads into "Unstitch Your Mouth." The third track slows things down, and hints at the progression vocalist Jim Ward is making to explore the use of smoother vocals versus his raspy screaming vocals, which make often appearances on the disc's twelve tracks.

Ward began dabbling with a smoother sound on *Porcelain* with such tracks as "While Oceana Sleeps," and "Lines in Sand," and because many of the songs were inspired by the loss of Ward's cousin, the somewhat softer sound seems apropos.

The fourth track, "Taking Back Control," is a departure from Sparta's expected sound. Despite the fact that it's the first single released from the CD, it would be a better fit for Alkaline Trio's 2003 CD, *Good Mourning*, than as a representative single of *Threes*.

"Erase it Again" could be mistaken for a collaboration with U2 if it weren't for the late-coming signature rasp of Ward,

and the next track, "Atlas," sounds more like Coldplay than Sparta. While I can listen to the occasional Coldplay song, I had no intention of doing so when I popped in this CD. An evolution can be respected, and almost expected with a change in band members, but the softer sound doesn't fit well into the middle of a project.

"The Most Vicious Crime" begins to master the balance between smooth melody and rough vocals, and the aptly named eighth track, "False Start," indicates the band may not have gotten the jump off the block they had hoped for. With its rising energy and lyrical content, it would have served better as an introductory track than one buried three quarters into the album.

Beginning with "Weather the Storm," the last four tracks signify what this album could have been in its entirety.

"Weather the Storm" begins with Ward showcasing the smoothness of his vocals, with interjections of rasp and energy. The instrumental portion of the song, which lasts about two minutes,

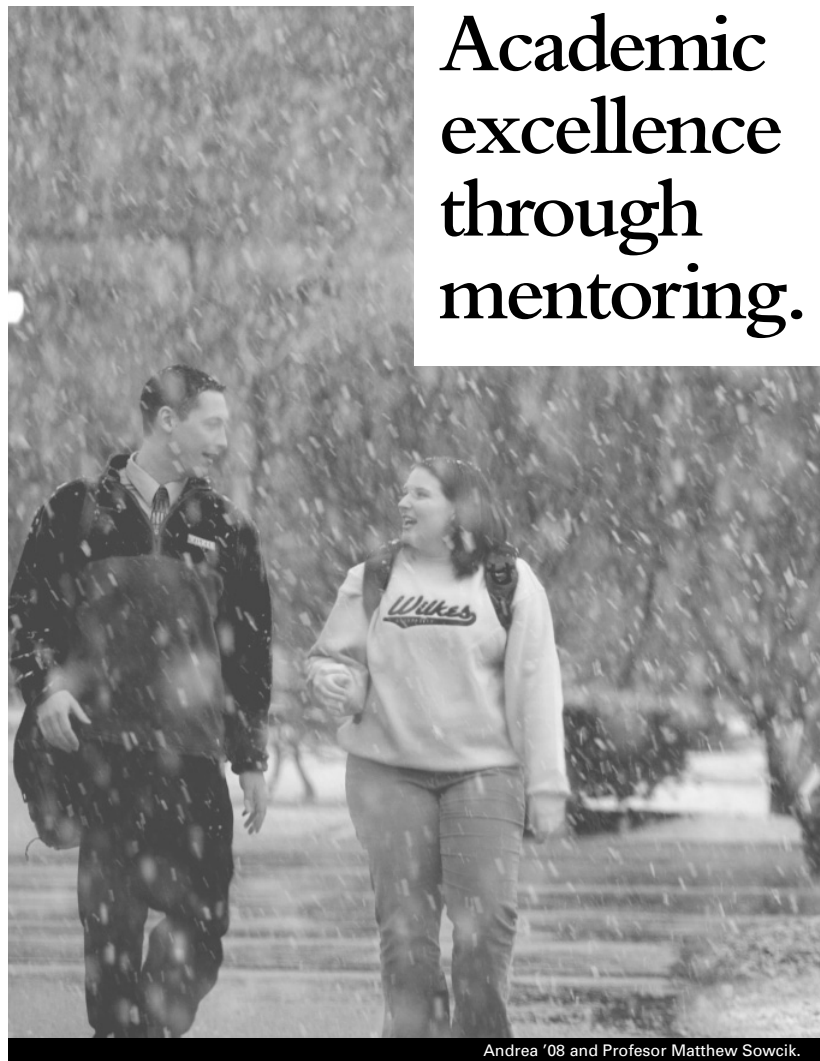
progresses from a calm to spastic sound that reminds us that members of Sparta and The Mars Volta were once collaborators as the now-defunct At the Drive-In.

The next two tracks, "Red. Right. Return (Straight in Our Hands)," and "Without a Sound," boast strong vocals with interesting accompanying instrumental sounds.

"Red.Right.Return." plays with echoes in guitar riffs and features a painfully catchy hook that firmly plants in the brain and reminds us why they call it a 'hook' in the first place, while "Without a Sound" is just a solid track, with good energy and varying vocals.

Despite a seeming confusion of track order, Sparta nails the closing track choice with "Translations." Ward's voice leads in smoothly, accompanied by the female vocals of Merry Clayton, and the build in energy then fade out leaves a strong lasting impression, and creates hope that Sparta's next release will channel their evolution into a more clear-cut vision.

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Dinner and a Movie

Dinner: Bart and Urby's

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO

Beacon A&E Editor

While downtown Wilkes-Barre is not exactly a bustling metropolis, it is beginning to be a little more college student-friendly, with the opening of plenty of new establishments. When we saw that a new bar/restaurant was opening very close to campus and where we live, my friends and I couldn't wait for it to open—a place within walking distance that offers both food and somewhere to hang out would be a hot commodity for us. This week Theresa and I practically pounced on the opportunity to try this new place we were so looking forward to.

Bart & Urby's Downtown Bar & Bistro looks just like any other average bar from the outside. Upon entering, though, the vibe is completely different than what I expected from first appearances. With wooden floors, maroon walls and interesting art adorning those walls, the atmosphere is at once inviting and very classy.

We seated ourselves in a high-top table, though there were also booths and a few

seats at the crowded bar. It was early on a weeknight, so the place wasn't exactly hoppin', but I assume that many of the people there were part of the after-work crowd.

We were waited on immediately, and when we place our drink orders we both stayed non-alcoholic. Bart & Urby's offers a wide variety of beers on tap, domestics, microbrews and imports, and that is something I fully intend on taking advantage of when I have more of a disposable income.

After much debate (which seems to be the norm when it comes to me and menus), Theresa ordered the Grilled Tuna Steak Salad and I opted for

the French Onion Burger, well done.

Our food arrived rather quickly, but since there were very few customers we expected that it would. Theresa's salad featured, in addition to tuna, spinach, tomato, oranges, red cabbage and what she described as "fried noodle things," as well as some unidentified red entities we assumed were red peppers.

While I didn't try it, I did think it was very aesthetically pleasing, and that should count for something. She liked

the dressing and thought that it, along with the textures of the other elements, complemented one another well. Her only qualm was that if she were to order it again, she would definitely get it well done, as opposed to medium well.

When I ordered my burger, I figured the \$9 price tag was necessary simply to match to the atmosphere of the bistro, which

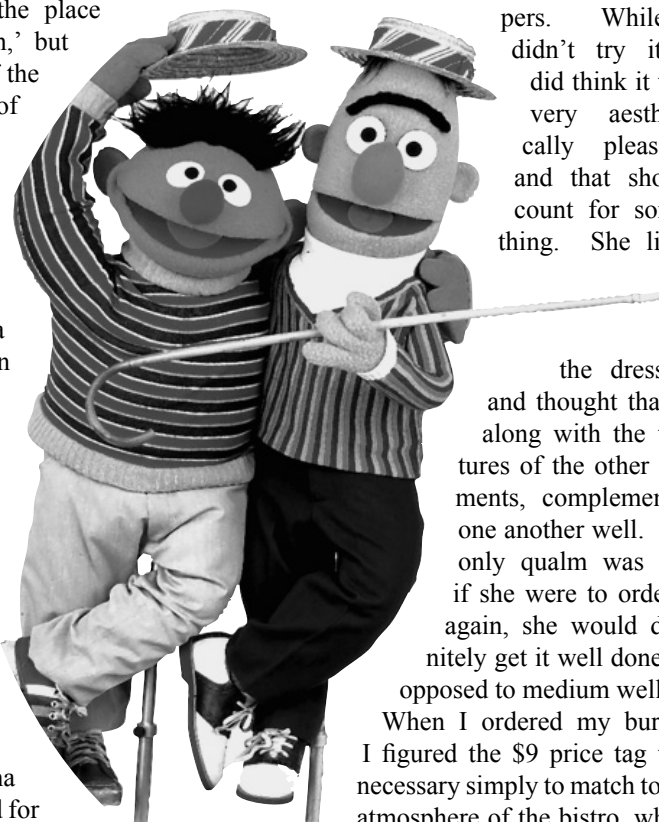
is kind of that of a place in New York City. But when I saw the portion I was receiving, I understood why the price was as high as it was. The burger, as well as the portion of fries that accompanied it, was easily two meals. With perfectly soft caramelized onions (I occasionally have issues with the texture of cooked onions), lettuce, tiny tomatoes, Swiss cheese and even more onions on a toasted bun, the burger went well with the au jus dipping sauce it was served with. The fries were crispy and quite tasty, and I ended up taking half of the entire meal home.

The menu offers, in addition to specialty salads and burgers, appetizers, pasta dishes, sandwiches and surf and turf. My biggest problem with the menu was that the sandwiches come with chips instead of fries. Am I the only one who feels gyped when restaurants do that?

Overall, I was quite impressed with Bart & Urby's. The atmosphere was definitely mellow, which was probably due in part to the fact that they played some rat pack-esque music that is hard not to love. The food was excellent and although the prices seem a little steep, the portions are tremendous. Over the next few months, though, there is no doubt in my mind that we will all be unable to resist the urge to "rename" it Bert & Ernie's.

Grade: A

Courtesy www.vak-artiestenbureau.be



...And a Movie: *Borat*

BY MIKE WILLIAMS

Beacon Correspondent

Jagshemash!

A recent issue of *Time* magazine asked whether comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's new film *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan* was either the funniest movie ever made, or just the most offensive.

By all rights, it is a perfectly valid question, considering the film's subject matter: the exploits of a sexist, bigoted, anti-Semitic Kazakh reporter traveling across the United States filming a documentary. However, in the case of *Borat*, drawing a line between funny and offensive is incredibly difficult, as one of the film's greatest assets is its ability to turn the blatantly offensive into something unbelievably amusing.

Shot start to finish as a documentary, the film follows the Kazakhstan's second most famous news reporter Borat Sagdiyev, a character that started off as a segment on Cohen's HBO series *Da Ali G Show*, as he journeys across America, hoping to capture the spirit of the US and A in order to modernize the nation of Kazakhstan. Beginning in his hometown, where he introduces us to

his sister, the trophy carrying number four prostitute of all of Kazakhstan, and his best friend, the village rapist, Borat then travels to New York City, where his epic adventure begins.

From the moment Sagdiyev enters the United States until his joyous homecoming, the film solidifies itself as an instant comic classic, as Cohen's loveably backward character tries his best to fit into our culture.

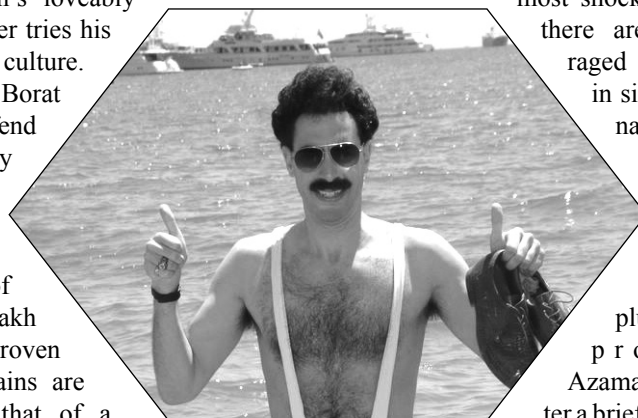
In his travels, Borat manages to offend just about every possible demographic, whether he's explaining to a group of feminists that Kazakh scientists have proven that women's brains are no bigger than that of a squirrel, or singing his home country's national anthem, which states that all other countries are "run by little girls" at a rodeo, much to the chagrin of the sea of rednecks in the stands.

Other attempts at assimilating to American culture find Borat in an RV full of

drunken frat boys, being "saved" at a Pentecostal church rally and eventually, at the film's climax, at a Pamela Anderson autograph signing in Hollywood, where our hero brings along a traditional Kazakh "wedding sack" in order to ask the former *Baywatch* beauty for her hand in marriage. Surprisingly, in what may be the film's

most shocking scene, there are no outraged Americans in sight, only a naked Borat, and his equally naked, three-hundred-plus pound producer Azamat, who, after a brief argument, engage in a what may be one of the

funniest, and most disturbing, fight scenes ever caught on film, as they do battle out of their hotel room and into the building's lobby, eventually ending in a conference room full of astonished businessmen.



Courtesy www.photobucket.com

It will be obvious to anyone with any sense of humor, just how brilliant the comedy of *Borat* is. However, it would also be very hard to deny the fact that some scenes are blatantly offensive. Cohen, who grew up in a devout Jewish family, relishes in his ability to poke fun at his own people through his anti-Semitic Borat character. Other than the Jewish community, Cohen's brand of scathing humor also attacks the African American community, the South and the gay community. *Borat* targets even gypsies on his journey across America.

So, if you're looking for a laugh, and you're not offended by a little racism or a little sexism, and think you can handle the sight of a hairy, naked, three hundred pound Kazakh man, then *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan* is the movie for you. If not, maybe you should try to develop a sense of humor, and quick, because this is not a movie experience that you'll want to pass up.

Grade: A+

Crossword Puzzle

BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

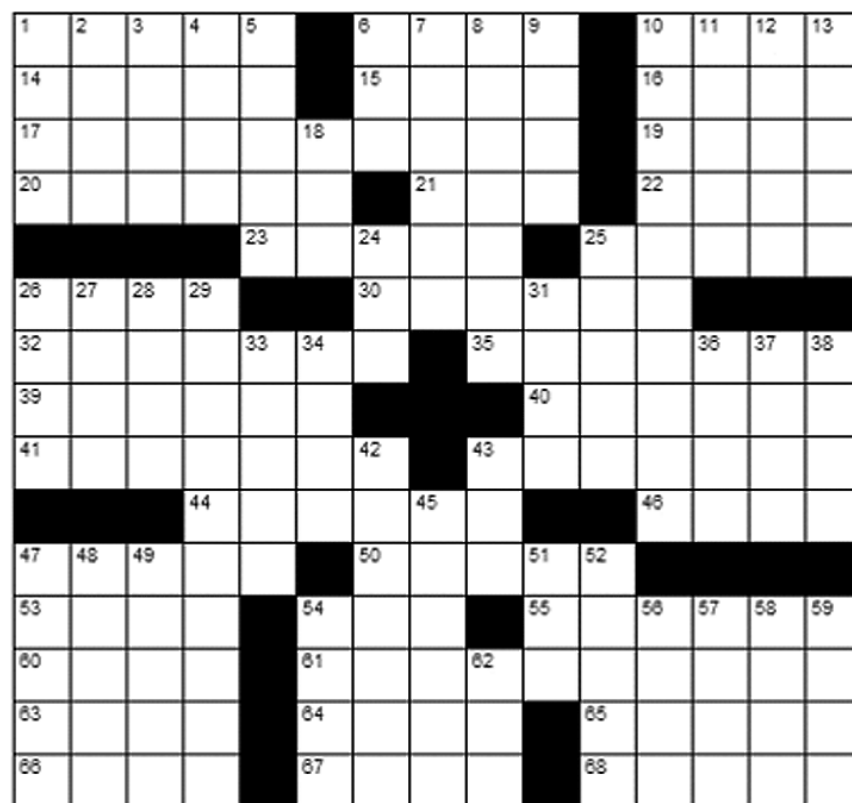
Beacon Correspondent

ACROSS

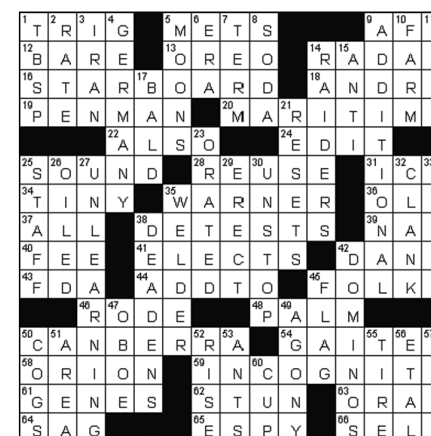
- 1 Pole thrown as a trial of strength
6 Hand Surface
10 Intersection of interlaced material
14 Wear away
15 An air or melody
16 A Climbers necessity
17 Ease in which words can be read
19 Days preceding events
20 Endured
21 Sailors destination
22 Homers son
23 Reduce
25 An analysis of something
26 Jump
30 Related on one's mother's side
32 Soft part of the ear
35 Female insect?
39 Get away
40 Summon to return
41 Invalidate by a higher authority
43 Teachers mark
44 Biochemical catalyst
46 Enthusiastic vigor
47 Flickering light source
50 Without face value
53 Degree of speed
54 A boy
55 Idle talk
60 Atop
61 Building blocks of proteins
63 "Say it ____ so"
64 Master card competitor
65 Spanish for "hands"

- 66 Links starters
67 Flu feeling
68 Refine metal
DOWN
1 Basic unit of life
2 Surface measurement
3 Waterlogged lands
4 Revise
5 Insubordinate person
6 Friend
7 Got up from sitting
8 True to fact
9 Yucatán Peninsula civilization
10 Stage of aerobic respiration
11 Exploding stars
12 Phantom's genre
13 Irritably impatient
18 Altar affirmative
24 Early Hours
25 Helped
26 Sly look
27 Freedom from difficulty
28 Bow shaped lines

- 29 Specific arrangements
31 Weight of a vehicle without cargo
33 To state as an opinion
34 Mercedes - ____
36 Gets you out of prison
37 Bone of the forearm
38 Small secluded valley
42 Batman and Robin the ____ Duo
43 Sales person, for short
45 Stylish
47 Apple, for example
48 Slip of the memory
49 Make amends
51 In past time
52 Walks without purpose
54 Soap containing pumice
56 Fraudulent scheme
57 Type of wave
58 Person regarded with admiration
59 Get one's attention quietly
62 Negative vote



Answers for 11.6.2006



This Week In History

BY MICHAEL GIONFRIDDO

Beacon Correspondent

Brought to you by the History Club.

November 13

1982: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington after a march to its site by thousands of veterans of the conflict. The long-awaited memorial was a simple V-shaped black-granite wall inscribed with the names of the 57,939 Americans who died in the conflict, arranged in order of death, not rank, as was common in other memorials.

November 14

1882: The gunslinger Franklin "Buckskin" Leslie shoots Billy "The Kid" Claiborne dead in the streets of Tombstone, Arizona.

November 15

1867: On this day in 1867, the first stock ticker is unveiled in New York City. The advent of the ticker ultimately revolutionized the stock market by making up-to-the-minute prices available to investors around the country. Prior to this development, information from the New York

Stock Exchange, which has been around since 1792, traveled by mail or messenger.

November 16

1532: On November 16, 1532, Francisco Pizarro, the Spanish explorer and conquistador, springs a trap on the Incan emperor, Atahualpa. With fewer than 200 men against several thousand, Pizarro lures Atahualpa to a feast in the emperor's honor and then opens fire on the unarmed Incans. Pizarro's men massacre the Incans and capture Atahualpa, forcing him to convert to Christianity before eventually killing him.

November 17

1558: Queen Mary I, the monarch of England and Ireland since 1553, dies and is succeeded by her 25-year-old half-sister, Elizabeth, thus beginning the Elizabethan Age. The long reign of Elizabeth, who became known as the "Virgin Queen" for her reluctance to endanger her authority through marriage, coincided with the flowering of the English Renaissance, associated with such renowned authors as William Shakespeare. By her death in 1603, England had become a major world power in every respect, and Queen Elizabeth I passed into history as one of

England's greatest monarchs.

November 18

1978: People's Temple leader Jim Jones leads hundreds of his followers in a mass murder-suicide at their agricultural commune in remote northwestern Guyana. The few cult members who refused to take the cyanide-laced fruit-flavored concoction were either forced to do so at gunpoint or shot as they fled. The final death toll was 913, including 276 children.

November 19

1863: At the dedication of a military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln delivers one of the most memorable speeches in American history (The Gettysburg Address). In just 272 words, Lincoln brilliantly and movingly reminded a war-weary public why the Union had to fight, and win, the Civil War.

Note: All information is provided by the History Channel and can be found at <http://www.history.com/t dih.do>

Wrestling makes impressive showing in King's tournament

Freshmen make improvements; sophomore lone champion

BY ALISSA LINDNER

Beacon Staff Writer

The Colonel wrestling team put on an impressive show in the Monarch Tournament at Kings College on Saturday, November 11, earning second place behind last week's opponent York College.

Wilkes earned 147.5 team points, falling short of York College's 162 points. Oneonta State earned third place honors with 125.5 points and the home team; King's College took fourth with 117 points.

The Wilkes lightweights put on a strong showing at the tournament. Sophomore Felipe Queiroz was Wilkes' lone champion, defeating Centenary College's Mike Gummerson with a 3-1 decision in the final bout of the 125 pound weight class.

Wilkes and Centenary would meet again in the 133 pound weight class final. Sophomore Josh Pauling lost a close 7-6 decision to Ricky Redd to earn second place honors.

The 141 pound weight class earned two place finishers for the Wilkes team. Freshman Donny Clark put on an impressive

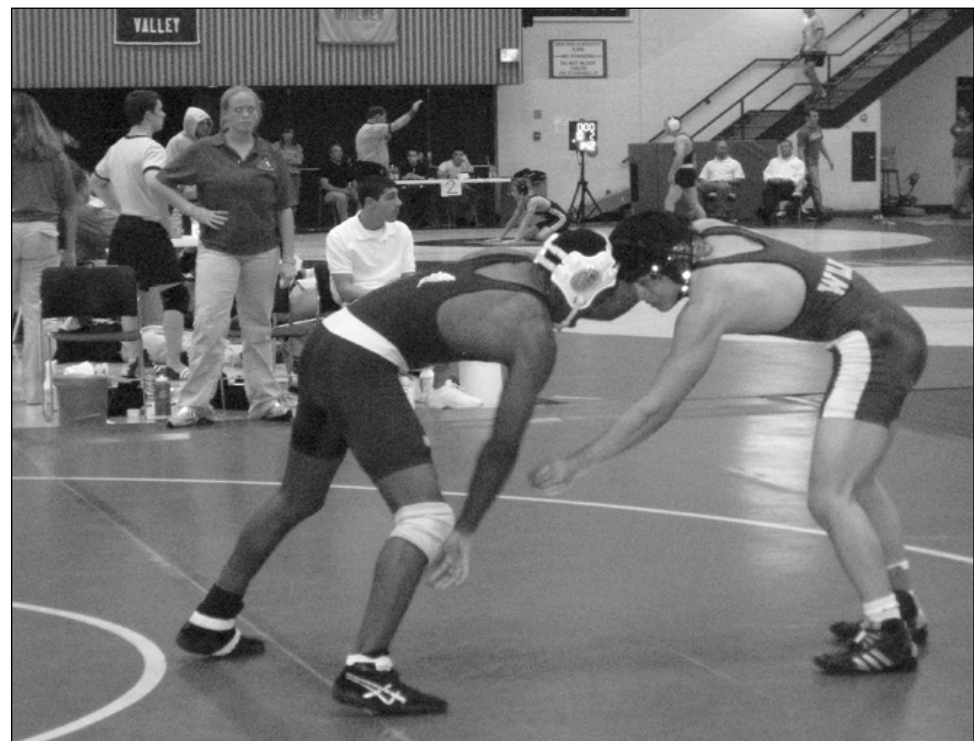
showing in his college wrestling debut, falling in overtime to Muhlenberg College's Rob Kein. Clark would finish second. Junior Adam Penberthy took third in the 141 pound weight class with a 4-0 decision over York College's Bill Platt in the consolation finals.

In the 149 pound weight class, freshman Derek Brownmiller also put on an impressive showing in his first college tournament. Brownmiller earned second place honors after falling in overtime to Gettysburg College's Matthew Shank.

Brownmiller feels himself and the other freshman wrestlers are adjusting to and learning from the college wrestling environment. He explained, "I was happy with my performance, but I noticed I have a lot to improve upon in the coming weeks. I think a lot of the freshman noticed what needs to be improved."

In the 157 pound weight class, the Colonels failed to earn a place-winner as

*See **WRESTLING** from PAGE 17*



The Beacon/Alissa Lindner

Sophomore Joshua Pauling had two wins during the tournament at King's College.

[illegible]

BASKETBALL from PAGE 20

fought every minute with pride, keeping pace throughout the entire game, despite the fact that they were up against a team from a higher division.

The Lady Colonels finished last season seventh in the conference and averaged exactly sixty points per contest. Starting point

guard Randi Corbo and forward Lacey Andresen both made high contribution scoring for the Lady Colonels by averaging nearly ten points per contest, and will look to guide

their team to huge wins in the tournament. The Lady Colonels begin the two-day tournament on November 18th against Dickinson College. The Red Devils concluded last season with a solid record of 19-8, and averaged 61.2 points a game. The Lady Colonels will look to apply their new "shut down" defensive strategy against the Red Devils, and

just might overcome the small difference in scoring and snatch the win. "We are trying very hard this year to play very hard nose defense, and a lot of in your face defense. Right now we're getting there," said Emmerthal. The Lady Colonels' second game of the tournament will be against Penn State Harrisburg.

"The first game of the season is always exciting. I am very excited to go to the tournament and play against some teams that we usually don't get to play. Every non-league team we play against will only help us prepare for the teams in our league," stated Perestam.

Lace your sneakers tight, because excitement this season is just around the corner, and the Lady Colonels are nothing short of ready to run teams out of the gym.



The Beacon/NickZmijewski

Tom Andreopoulos breaks through the King's defensive line, running up the middle of the field during Saturday's 28-7 win over crosstown rival King's College. Andreopoulos passed the 1,000 rushing yard mark and added the final touchdown for the Colonels in the game. The Colonels, who have a season record of 10-0 this season, will take on Washington & Lee this coming Saturday, November 18th here at home in round one of the NCAA Division III playoffs.

WRESTLING from PAGE 16

sophomore Joe Henshaw lost in the quarterfinals to the Army's Ed Gibbons.

Wilkes suffered a tough loss in 165 pound weight class when sophomore Justin Barowski was forced to injury default from his semi-finals match. Freshman Rich Clocker stepped up to earn fourth place honors after falling to his opponent in the consolation finals.

Senior DJ Giancola put on a notable showing after suffering defeat in his quarterfinals match. Giancola would wrestle back to take 3rd in the 174 pound weight class.

The 184 pound weight class featured another strong showing by a Wilkes freshman. Josh Ballan took second place after falling to Kings College's Zach Wilkinson in the final bout.

Freshman Chris Logan and junior Rich

Read wrestled strong in the 197 and 285 pound weight classes, respectively, however neither was able to place.

Coach Jon Laudenslager was happy with the performance of the Colonel wrestlers

at the Monarch Tournament. "We wrestled well," he said, "We had a lot of guys step up. A lot of guys who are our reserves surprised me."

Laudenslager also feels the freshman wrestlers are improving. He explains, "They are learning and improving every week."

I feel we have already improved from last week."

The Colonel wrestlers will attend the Oneonta Tournament at Oneonta State next Saturday, November 18. Wrestling is slated to begin at 9:30 AM. to the Army's Ed Gibbons.

Season Schedule Through January

Nov. 18	Oneonta Tournament
Dec. 2	RIT Tournament
Dec. 6	King's
Jan. 4	John Reese Duals
Jan. 6	North-South Duals
Jan. 12	Kutztown/SUNY Maritime
Jan. 17	Delaware Valley
Jan. 20	Messiah
Jan. 26	Lycoming
Jan. 27	Scranton
Jan. 31	College of New Jersey

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| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

New York Rangers vs. Pittsburgh Penguins

Penguins rookie looks to ice the competition

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Pittsburgh fans, your savior has arrived, and not a moment too soon.

It's a good thing too, as the Steel City has had it rough this year.

First, the Pittsburgh Pirates finished the season with a record of 67-95, making it the 14th straight season in which the baseball franchise has had a losing record. Rumor has it that after a 15th straight losing season, they get one losing season for free.

If that weren't bad enough, Pittsburgh also has to deal with the football team that calls itself the reigning Super

Bowl champion, but

unfortunately, fans have had to endure a season punctuated by players who look like all they really want to do is take a nap when the game is going on.

And just when you thought things couldn't get worse, Pittsburgh Steelers legend and Hall of Fame wide receiver Lynn Swann just lost

in his bid to become Governor of Pennsylvania. To make matters worse, he lost to a guy who used to be the Mayor of cross-state rival city Philadelphia.

In other words, it's been a bad year for Pittsburgh.

So it should really come as no surprise that the potential savior for the city should come in the form of someone who was born in the former Soviet Union, and who currently plays in what is arguably the most unpopular sport in the country.

Of course I speak of Evgeni Malkin, the 20-year old center and wunderkind of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Malkin, in only his first season in the National Hockey League, has already made a big splash, and is setting records in doing so.

He became the first player in the modern era to score a goal in his first six games, a streak which ultimately led to

his winning the NHL Rookie of the Month award in October.

The last time that happened, the United States had a guy named Wilson as President.

During his momentous scoring streak, Malkin led the Penguins to a 5-1 record, and has been compared to another Penguins great, Mario Lemieux, who was vital in the revitalization of the team and its subsequent dominance in the early 1990s.

Malkin will need to forget about being compared to some of the greatest players of all time for a moment as he attempts to continue his rampant scoring when he and the

Penguins face off against the New York Rangers in Pittsburgh.

New York is in second place in the Atlantic Division, leading the third place Penguins.

Pittsburgh will be led by Malkin, who leads the team with 7 goals on the ice, alongside center Sidney Crosby, whose 19 points (13 assists and 6 goals) is tops.

They will be relying on young goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, whose .921 save rate is among the top 10 in the league, to protect the net.

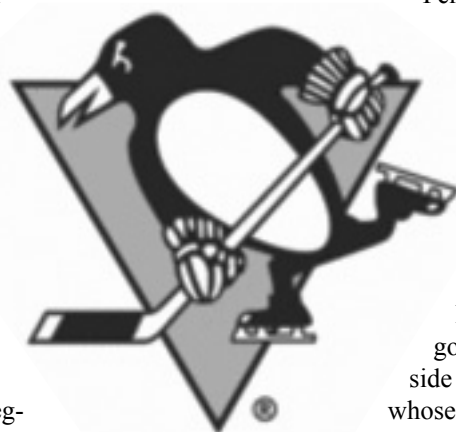
The Rangers are no stranger to great players, as their storied franchise has been blessed with the greatest "The Great One" Wayne Gretzky, as well as future Hall of

Famer Mark Messier, two of the most dominant players of their era.

This season the Rangers are led by right wing Jaromir Jagr, who spent the best part of his career playing for the Penguins, from 1990-2001, a span which saw him help the team make the playoffs every year, as well as leading them to two Stanley Cup Championships.

Jagr will take charge on the ice, and his league leading 18 assists will be a huge factor in the game, as will the ability of left wing Brendan Shanahan, whose 12 goals is 3rd in the league.

The Rangers' goalie, Henrik Lundqvist, will need to step up his game against the Penguins offense if he wants to give his team a chance. Lundqvist is the lesser of



the two goalies facing off, as his save rate is only .878.

The tandem of Crosby and Malkin will lead the offense for the Penguins, and will be looking to get the better of the veteran Jagr and the high scoring Shanahan.

Ultimately, the game will come down to whatever team can protect the net better.

Defense wins games, on and off the ice.

The pick: Penguins 3, Rangers 1

Double Take

Andee examines the stats that truly matter...

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

I'm such a girl. I really am. I like pretty things, and pretty websites, and pretty boys with pretty, nicely combed facial hair. Better yet, if they just ditch the facial hair, that'd really work for me.

First of all, the Rangers' website--totally not pretty. It's so "manly." It doesn't have any nice artwork; just some red, white and blue stuff that'd get a big fat "F" in Visual Rhetoric. I mean, it's fine if you're drawing an American flag, but the website is just too plain and ridiculously unintentionally patriotic for my taste. Yuck.

The Penguins, on the other hand, have this really fabulous website. It's so cute, and so are the players. They're young-looking and boyish. I'm not one for boyish guys, (to date, anyway) but I really like to look at them.

I also think penguins are cute with the way they waddle around across the ice, such cute little birds. They are birds, right? Yeah, they're cute, and I like cute. When I think of a Ranger, I don't think of cute. I think of a slightly overweight man who puts out forest fires and hangs out with Smokey the Bear.

I'm quite a fan of the Penguins, and if the Rangers don't do something with that website, they're never going to sell tickets for any of their games. It doesn't matter. They aren't going to win, especially not against the Penguins.



Wilkes crew team ends their season on a positive note

Women's team takes second in key race

BY ARIEL COHEN

Beacon Sports Editor

It might be called the Frostbite Regata, but by no means was the Wilkes' crew team frozen in Saturday's crew events held in Philadelphia near Boathouse Row.

The women's freshmen boat was on fire, taking second place in their event, beating much more established teams, including University of Maryland, SUNY-Stony Brook and Oswega.

The team, which was made up of Raquel Schubert, Kate Schaughnessy, Erica Moore, Ashley Maresca and Erin Wimer came in with a race time of 9 minutes 40 seconds and 33 hundreths.

"The girls' team did excellent. It is the best performance that any group from Wilkes has has in any race. Everyone should really be proud of what we accomplished," said rower Erin Simpson.

The team also had rowers in several other races in the event, including the college men's frosh race 33, college men's four race 54 and college women's varsity race 59. Although the team placed last in all of those races, they are all proud of what they accomplished this season.

Simpson added that, "Everyone really stepped up and showed that people from Wilkes are really capable of doing something."



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Raquel Schubert, Kate Schaughnessy, Erica Moore, Ashley Maresca, and Erin Wimer place second in their race at the annual Frostbite regata this past Saturday.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Jeremy Kable looks to pass the ball across court at one of the men's basketball pre-season games. The men start their regular season on Tuesday, November 21st against Baptist Bible.

WEEKEND RECAPS

Men's Basketball

Division I Rider University broke open a close game with a 20-0 run that spanned the end of the first half and beginning of the second half on their way to a 96-52 win over Wilkes University in an exhibition men's basketball game on Saturday night. Jeremy Kable led all scorers with 15 points.

Wrestling

Wilkes University sophomore Felipe Queiroz won the 125-pound title at the King's College Monarch Tournament on Saturday at the Scandlon Gymnasium. Wilkes finished second behind York College in the team standings. The Spartans had 162 points, while the Colonels finished with 147.5 points. Oneonta State was third with 125.5. King's finished fourth with 117 points, while Army was fifth with 110.5 points.

Football

Junior quarterback Al Karaffa threw three touchdown passes to help seventh-ranked Wilkes University wrap up their first undefeated regular season since 1993 with a 28-7 Middle Atlantic Conference win over King's College in the annual Mayor's Cup Game at Betzler Fields.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

104

Total number of receiving yards on six receptions by senior Jim Jordan, who was named Wilkes Player of the Game for his efforts.

15

Number of points scored by shooting guard Jeremy Kable in the Colonel's exhibition game on Saturday.

147.5

Total number of points scored by the Colonel's wrestling team as they finished in second place at the King's College Monarch Tournament.

10

Consecutive wins this season by the Colonels football team. The Colonels, who went undefeated will have homefield advantage for the start of the playoffs.

Preview of the Week: Women's basketball

Women's season begins with the Dickinson College Tournament

BY CARLTON HOLMES
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

The most exciting time of the year is almost here for women's basketball. All the preseason talk and speculations go out the window when the clock reads 20:00, and the players circle around for the opening tip-off. Players around the nation have worked hard for the new season and have dreams to emerge as champions of 2006-2007. Well, the time has come, and the Lady Colonels will come ready to play on November 18th and 19th as they begin their season in this year's Dickinson College Tournament.

"Getting off to a good start will definitely set the tone for the rest of the season. If we start the year off with a positive attitude, we are more likely to finish with one," stated junior guard Katie Cappeltoni.

The Lady Colonels wrapped up last season with a record of 6-19, and 2-12 in the conference. Although those numbers are not impressive, that season is in the past. The Lady Colonels have their sights set on bouncing back and surprising teams around the MAC conference. With seven veterans returning from last season, including Wilkes University all-time block leader Karyn Perestam, and captain Lacey Andresen, the team should be able to make positive strides towards a better season this year. "The girls have done a lot of hard work to prepare for this season, and it really shows on the court," stated head coach Rachel Emmerthal.

Emmerthal begins her second season as the Lady Colonels head coach and is looking forward to leading her troops to a successful year. "The sky is the limit with this

group. A lot of times it's any given game, any given night, any given team as to who wins, and I think this year we are going to surprise a lot of teams," stated Emmerthal. Alongside Emmerthal is first year assistant coach Kaitlin Kokolus. Kokolus is a 2006 graduate from Lafayette College, and served as their basketball team's captain both her junior and senior years.

The Lady Colonels start the season at Dickinson fresh off two big scrimmages where they put up a great fight against Cabrini College and NCAA Division II team, East Stroudsburg University. "The Cabrini scrimmage allowed us to see what we have been doing very well at and need to work on. But overall it was a very good scrimmage for us," stated Emmerthal. In the team's second scrimmage against ESU, the Lady Colonels

See **BASKETBALL** page 17



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

The Lady Colonels kick off their regular season schedule at the Dickinson College Tournament on Saturday, November 18th.

Campus Calendar

All Week

*Multicultural Awareness Week, HSC

Monday 11/13

*Women's health night, Evans Hall Health Services - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday 11/14

*Senior portraits, HSC - 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday 11/15

*Senior portraits, HSC - 9:00 a.m.

Thursday 11/16

*Senior portraits, HSC - 12:00 p.m.

*Winona LaDuke

Interdisciplinary Speaker

Series, HSC Ballroom - 7:30 p.m.

Friday 11/17

*Senior portraits, HSC - 9:00 a.m.

*Student Development Trip to NJ Devils hockey game, Marts Center - 2:30 p.m.

*Cinderella, DDD - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 11/18

*Wrestling @ Oneonta

Tournament - 9:30 a.m.

*Cinderella, DDD - 8:00 p.m.

*Women's basketball @

Dickinson Tournament - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 11/19

*Cinderella, DDD - 2:00 p.m.

*Women's basketball @ Dickinson Tournament - 2:00 p.m.

Monday 11/20

*No events scheduled

Tuesday 11/21

*Women's basketball vs. Marywood - 6:00 p.m.

*Men's basketball vs. Baptist Bible - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday 11/22

*Thanksgiving vacation begins

Thursday 11/23

*Thanksgiving break

Friday 11/24

*Thanksgiving break

Saturday 11/25

*Thanksgiving break

Sunday 11/26

*Thanksgiving break

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH



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

Congratulations to Julie Henry, who correctly identified last week's photo which was of the pillars on the front porch of Hollenback Hall.