

The BEACON

Wilkes University Wilkes-Barre, PA

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

MARCH 27, 2006

www.wilkesbeacon.com

Volume 58 Issue 18

Students, faculty and staff weigh in with questions and concerns about Vision 2010 plans for change

BY VICTORIA WHITE

Beacon News Editor

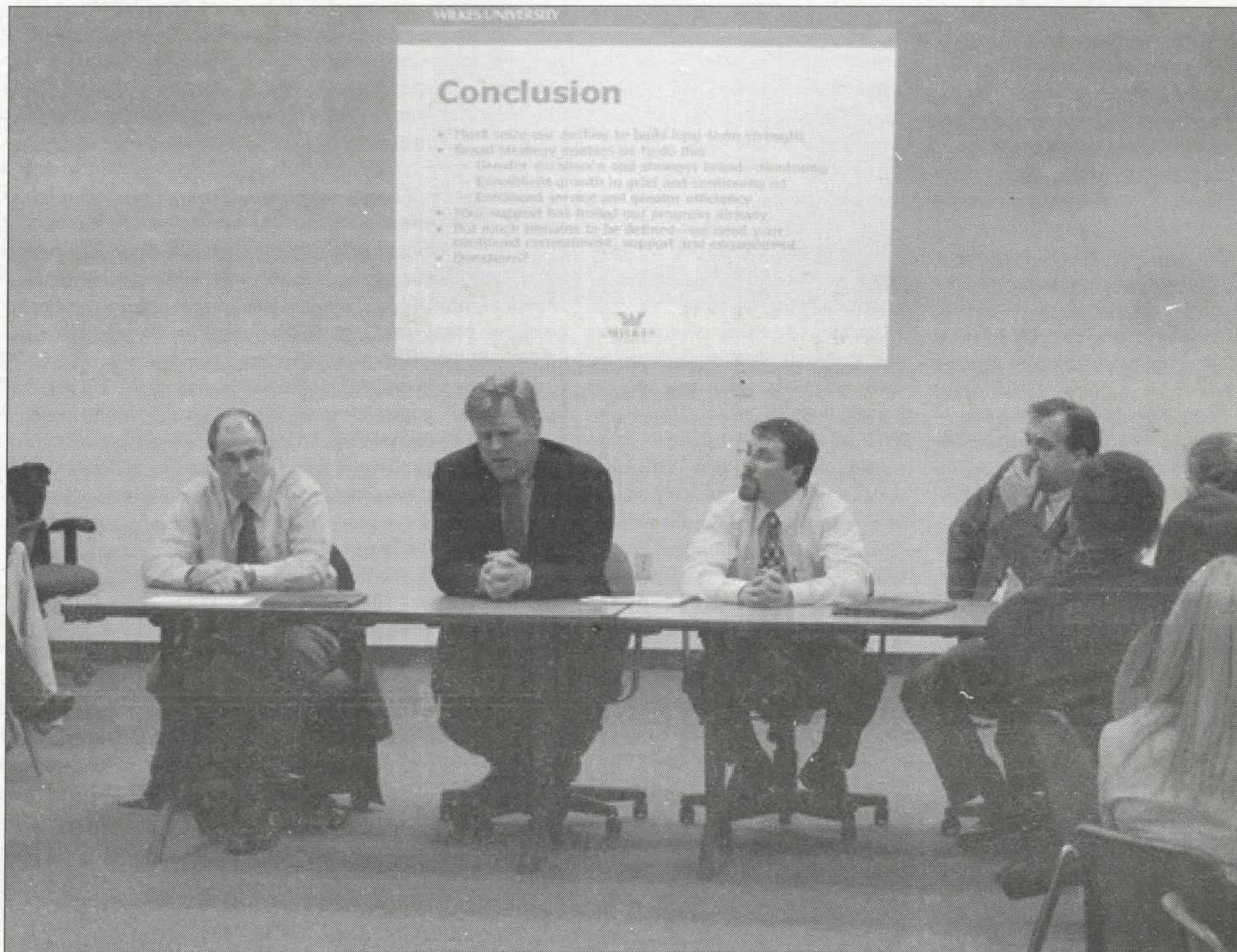
Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series on changes proposed by the Vision 2010 plan for Wilkes University. Last week's article offered an overview of the specifics of 2010.

In the week following the faculty and staff meeting announcing the changes associated with Vision 2010, members of the Wilkes University administration held open forums for faculty and staff as a way to allow for questions and concerns to be heard.

Representatives of the President's Cabinet; Mike Frantz, Dr. Paul Adams, Chris Bailey, and Scott Byers also presented a version of Vision 2010 to the Student Government (SG) general board meeting on the evening of Wednesday, March 22, in order to prepare students for upcoming changes and garner initial feedback.

Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President for Student Affairs said, "I think that (the comments) is why we find it so valuable to come to these meetings. We really appreciate the thoughtful comments that students give us. I know that I walk away having to think through some things in a different way. I really think that it helps us put everything in perspective."

The presentation to SG lasted about an hour with a question and answer period taking approximately twenty minutes during that time. SG members listened intently as each of the members of the President's Cabinet presented parts of the PowerPoint presentation.

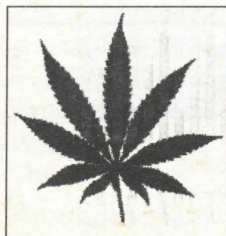


The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

See VISION page 2

The President's Cabinet presented a PowerPoint on Vision 2010 and allowed for questions from Student Government members about proposed changes. Students asked questions about the hot topics: proposed laundry changes, the 6% tuition increase, the proposed meal plan changes and how Wilkes administration proposes to keep up with the continuing increase in housing needs.

In This Issue...



Debate Over
Hemp Leaf

Page 7

Coping
with
Loss

Page 9

BATTLE OF THE BANDS



PAGE 13

Index

News.....	1-5
Opinion.....	6-8
Features.....	9-11
Arts & Entertainment....	12-15
Sports.....	16-20

NEWS

MARCH 27, 2006

2

Newspapers	3
Islamic Society	4
News In Brief	4
Cancer Awareness	5
Flu	5

VISION from FRONT PAGE

The presentation began with an overview of Vision 2010 in order to give students some background on the initiative and the progress that has been made since its inception in 2001. The goals of the program, as presented to SG are: 1) to provide world class academic programs; 2) improve Wilkes' brand and prestige; 3) to have state of the art technology, facilities and equipment; 4) to have financial stability through the upcoming Capital Campaign; 5) and to build relationships through the new mentoring program that will involve all disciplines on campus.

Although the goal of the presentation was to give students an overview of Vision 2010, much of the presentation focused on the positive effects of the program, rather than its challenges.

Many students asked questions of the President's Cabinet to gain better insight into some issues in the presentation. Hot issues for students included: the 6% tuition increase; the proposed meal plan changes; how Wilkes will continue to increase housing; proposed laundry changes; proposed mailbox move; and the lack of representation of the humanities in the Vision.

Mike Frantz, vice president of en-

rollment and marketing said, "It is always interesting to understand what [students'] hot-button issues are, what their priorities are. As all of us advance toward middle-age it is harder and harder to predict what those might be."

For the SG members, one of the hottest topics for discussion was the proposed laundry change. At this time the administration is looking into the cost-effectiveness of having an outside company provide the laundry machines and having the machines be coin operated. Administration is citing the possibility of greater cost-effectiveness of the change along with the ability to have more energy-efficient machines with technological advances that cannot be achieved if the machines remain owned and maintained by Wilkes University due to the cost of the upgrades.

Courtney Amrhein, junior class secretary said, "Back to the laundry issue, I don't see what the problem is right now. If you charge people to do laundry, you are going to have people going home every weekend to do laundry, and you are not going to have a community-base like Wilkes University is trying to have. If you create laundry as an issue...you are going to have the majority of people going home every weekend and I don't think that is what you want."

Scott Byers, vice president of finance said, "I agree, once we have

proposals I'll bring them back and we'll welcome that. We'll address that (the concern) once we have the final stuff so you can see it."

With the promise to revisit SG with more definite and distinct answers to some of the hot topics, the cabinet members left the meeting, leaving some members with questions that have not yet been answered.

Megan Fulmer, junior class representative said, "The Vision 2010 is focusing more on science, engineering and pharmacy rather than the arts and humanities and I am wondering what they are planning on doing to make the humanities more equal?"

Students were not the only ones left with some concerns after attending informational meetings. Dr. Richard Raspen, associate professor of business and chair of Faculty Affairs Council (FAC) said, "The questions being asked are: 'How do these things affect me, my division and my department?' I think those are the important questions that need to be asked because those are the people questions." The proposed changes acknowledge that restructuring will result in some job cuts for better efficiency.

After attending the initial Vision 2010 faculty and staff meetings, Raspen said, "I think there are a number of challenges as part of the plans, and challenges are not always a bad thing, but these are rather

major changes and some affect attitudes and perceptions of people on campus. These are all very significant kinds of changes that all of us are being asked to consider."

Dr. John Hepp, associate professor of history admitted to not attending any of the informational meetings but had taken the time to view the PowerPoint presented to faculty and staff and said, "I am not happy with the way the information is being presented for a variety of reasons. First, and perhaps most importantly, the future is being presented as a false dichotomy: either do nothing or embrace unspecified sweeping changes."

However, despite some anxiety on the part of employees, some have embraced the plans as healthy for the institution as a whole. Anita Ruskey, administrative assistant to the Provost

said, "I feel it is a positive vision. I agree with the President and Cabinet about the vision. I think it makes people feel a little leery about what the future holds for them personally, but I think it is the right thing for Wilkes."

With many students and faculty willing to embrace the benefits that Vision 2010 sets out to achieve, it is the challenge of completely understanding the Vision and all of its details that has some within the campus community perplexed by the proposals.

Despite the opportunities for feedback in open forums, some argue that more information is necessary. Hepp said, "Overall, I am disappointed with the lack of transparency in the whole process. Students, faculty and staff should know much more and should have known it much sooner."

The BEACON

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

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Kristin Kile

Managing Editor: Rebecca Goodman

Email: wilkesbeacon@gmail.com

News Editor: Victoria White

Email: beaconnewsline@gmail.com

Op/Ed Editor: Curran Dobson

Email: thebeacon.oped@gmail.com

Features Editor: Sarah Herbert

Email: thebeaconfeatures@gmail.com

A&E Editor: Donna Talarico

Email: thebeaconae@gmail.com

Sports Editor: Ryan Dippre

Email: beaconsports@gmail.com

Photo Editor: Nick Zmijewski

Advertising Managers: Jamie Babbitt

Kristyn Ostman

Email: thebeacon.ads@gmail.com

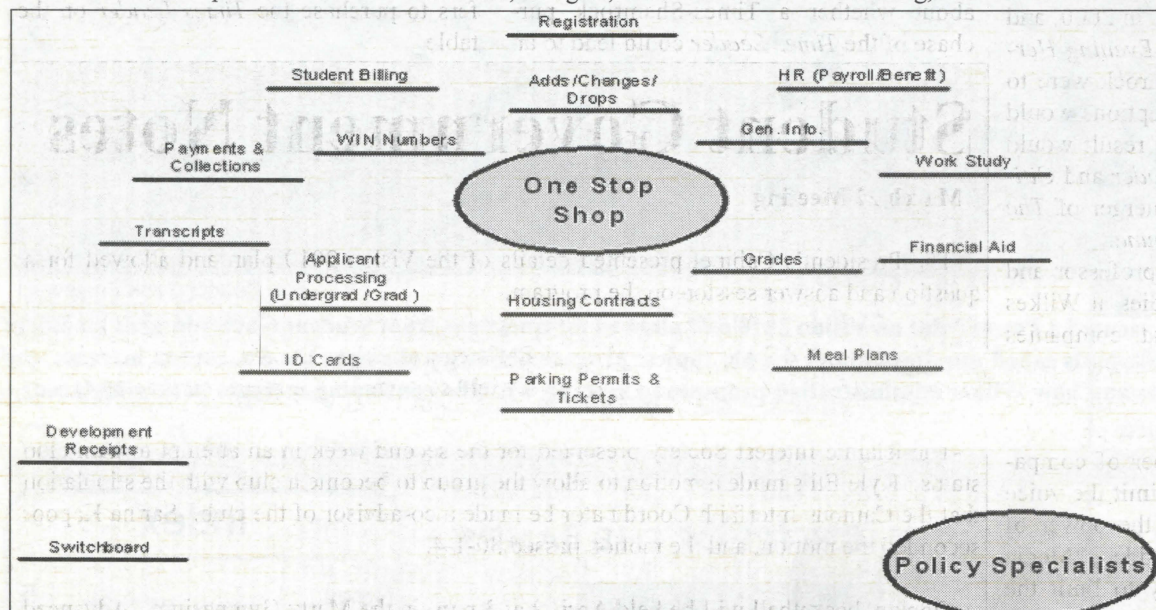
Advisor: Dr. Andrea Breemer Frantz

- Established in 1936
- PA Newspaper Association Member
- Printed on Mondays during the academic school year.

Box 111, Wilkes University
192 South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
(570) 408-5903

wilkesbeacon@gmail.com

www.wilkesbeacon.com



Courtesy of President's Cabinet presentation

Slides in the Vision 2010 presentation highlighted areas that students, faculty and staff may find of interest. The slide above shows how the UCOM will look when all of the administrative offices have been moved. The concept being utilized is 'one stop convenience,' to allow students to more efficiently be able to deal with the many different offices on campus.

Future ownership of *Times Leader* up in the air

W-B braces for the possibility of becoming a one newspaper town

BY MYLES RUMBEL
A&E Assistant Editor

NEWS ANALYSIS

For over two decades, Wilkes-Barre has enjoyed a unique distinction in the field of media. It is one of a very small number of cities nationally to enjoy the luxury of two competitive daily newspapers. That unique characteristic potentially hangs in the balance as the future ownership of the *Times Leader* is in question.

On Monday, March 13, Knight Ridder Newspapers announced its sale to McClatchy, Co., a smaller media corporation with a reputation for smart business investment in high growth market newspapers.

In the same press release announcing its purchase of Knight Ridder, McClatchy officials acknowledged they would quickly sell twelve of the newly acquired Knight Ridder papers in slower growth markets. Among the twelve to be sold are the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Philadelphia Daily News*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, and Wilkes-Barre's *Times Leader*. When the announcement to sell the *Times Leader* was made, active community discussion in Wilkes-Barre ensued about the history and future of the *Times Leader* and its 28-year competition for readers and advertising dollars with *The Citizens' Voice*.

Dr. John Hepp, Wilkes University associate professor of history said, "The *Times Leader* is the last survivor of the traditional Wilkes-Barre newspapers." Throughout the 20th century Wilkes-Barre supported smaller papers, which eventually merged to form the *Times Leader* in its present form. Over 200 striking workers from the *Times Leader* established the *Citizens' Voice* in 1978 after a bitter labor dispute with Capital Cities, then-owner of the *Times Leader*.

Hepp noted, "What is facing the *Times Leader* right now is, who would want to buy it?" If both papers were traditionally run by corporations (as opposed to a commercial entity and striking workers) one would likely have pulled out of the area.

When the *Citizens' Voice* was purchased by Times-Shamrock on 2000, it ensured the newspaper's future. With both newspapers owned by larger corporations, both had the financial backing needed to compete in Wilkes-Barre.

The McClatchy news release stated, "McClatchy intends to divest 12 Knight Ridder newspapers, mainly located in cit-

ies that do not fit the company's longstanding acquisition criteria, chiefly involving growing markets." The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the population in Wilkes-Barre dropped roughly 3.5% from 43,123 in 2000 to 41,630 in 2003. In addition, Wilkes-Barre's population saw a 9.5% percent drop from 1990 to 2000.

According to Hepp, the fastest growing area in NEPA is the Poconos, which has seen an influx of New Yorkers moving to the area and commuting for work. Hepp said, "I'm not sure the *Times Leader* has anything to offer that market." Typically people in that area would be more inclined to read a New York City newspaper and only need local papers for things on the local governmental level. The *Times Leader* does not have strong coverage for that area, making it easier more a potential buyer to start a new newspaper in the area.

Currently, two prospective buyers have emerged as the chief contenders to purchase the *Times Leader*. According to wire reports, Yucaipa, Cos. is backing a bid for all twelve newspapers by the Newspaper Guild-Communication Workers of America (TNG-CWA). The Guild's purchase of the *Times Leader* would be ironic in some respects because the Guild helped start and sustain the *Citizens' Voice* in 1978 during the strike.

Times-Shamrock, Corp., the other prospect, has been expanding aggressively over the past decade. Originally starting with *The Scranton Times*, Times-Shamrock purchased the *Citizens' Voice* in 2000, and the Pottsville *Republican & Evening Herald* in 2003. If Times-Shamrock were to purchase the *Times Leader*, options would vary; however, the probable result would be a merger of the *Times Leader* and *Citizens' Voice*, similar to the merger of *The Scranton Times* and *The Tribune*.

Dr. Mark Stine, associate professor and chair of communication studies at Wilkes University pointed out that companies owning more than one media outlet are becoming more common. He said, "When media outlets are concentrated under the ownership of a small number of companies, there is a tendency to limit the voice of the people and increase the power of media conglomerates." He added, "Media convergence has a tendency to limit the number of differing opinions that consumers receive."

Media convergence has already made its mark on the region with the development of the Northeast Pennsylvania News Alli-



The Beacon/Kristin Kile

With the pending sale of the *Times Leader*, Wilkes-Barre newspaper readers have voiced anxiety about its future.

ance. In the alliance, members share stories and information. Currently the *Times Leader* and WNEP-TV, which is owned by the News York Times Group, are the two major news sources not associated with the Alliance. If the *Times Leader* were to fold under Times-Shamrock ownership, it would undoubtedly become part of the alliance, leaving WNEP-TV as the only news source not associated with the alliance.

While there has been some speculation about whether a Times-Shamrock purchase of the *Times Leader* could lead to an

antitrust issue, Hepp, who is also a lawyer, said, "There would be an antitrust issue, but good lawyering would likely overcome it, if there were no other viable buyer." By defining the market as a "news" market as opposed to "newspaper" market, it could be argued that other sources, WNEP-TV and even other members in the alliance, prevent the Times-Shamrock from holding a monopoly.

At the moment, there are no official offers to purchase the *Times Leader* on the table.

Student Government Notes

March 22 Meeting

-The President's Cabinet presented details of the Vision 2010 plan and allowed for a question and answer session on the program.

-SAM presented for second reading of fund request. Megan Fulmer made a motion to allot the full \$1,500 to the group and Brian Diehl seconded. The motion passed 31-0-2.

-The Islamic Interest Society presented for the second week in an attempt to gain club status. Kyle Ellis made a motion to allow the group to become a club with the stipulation that the Campus Interfaith Coordinator be made a co-advisor of the club. Sarina Kapoor seconded the motion, and the motion passed 30-1-4.

-Donkey basketball will be held April 9 at 3 p.m. in the Martz Gymnasium. Advanced sale tickets are available for \$4 and tickets will be \$6 at the door.

-April 10 the annual Inter-Residency Hall Council sponsored egg hunt will take place at 8pm on the second floor of the Henry Student Center.

First religiously-affiliated club to be recognized on campus

BY JEANNE STAPLETON
Beacon Staff Writer

Last week the Islamic Interest Society petitioned Student Government (SG) for recognition as a club at Wilkes University. Members of the club hope to broaden cultural horizons by educating students about Islamic traditions and religion.

"In their constitution they clearly stated that educating others about the Islamic religion and tradition is one of their main goals. They also stated that they would be very respectful to other religions as well," said Mark Allen, dean of student affairs.

"I think that this new group will bring a lot of diversity, it will become one of those main staples here on campus that you see. It will basically promote diversity in the university," said Shuja Shafqat, SG corresponding secretary and junior biology major.

The effort of members to have the Islamic Interest Society recognized as a club is the first time in recent history that a religiously affiliated group has appeared before Student Government for such a request.

"We looked at the larger gover-

nance issues at the institute. We are nonsectarian institution with no religious affiliation, and just wanted to make sure that there was not perception that we were crossing territories where we had not ventured before... When you weigh the value of students following their interests and creating a more diverse campus culture versus guarding that nonsectarian status, we really feel that [the ideals] will still stay in place. But the students will still be able to exercise the religious initiatives that they have. It is a good opportunity for the students," said Allen.

In the past, the non-denominational Campus Interfaith has always overseen any type of religious programs allowing for all religious groups to be acknowledged.

"I can throw an interfaith blanket over all religions and bring groups of them all together. However, it is hard for me to do religious-specific programs because I want to be all encompassing. So, having these groups will help me to actually do this," said Kevin Gaughenbaugh, campus interfaith coordinator and Islamic Interest Society co-advisor.

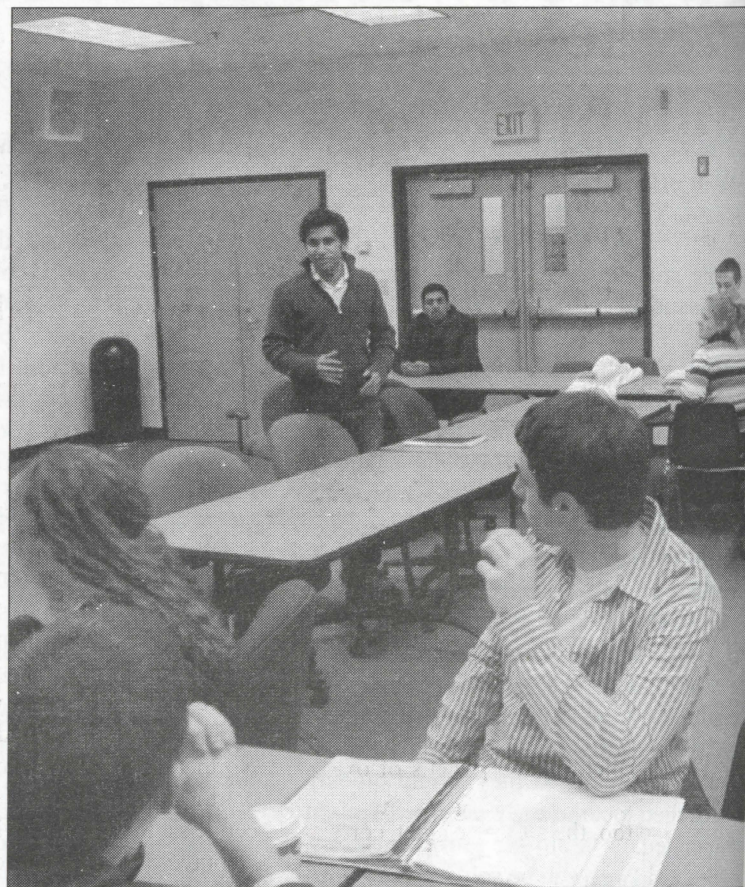
However, many students feel that Campus Interfaith is more geared toward Christianity and Judaism and that these smaller religious groups may allow for some of the religious minorities to find their niche on campus.

"Interfaith was established to have some kind of religious outlet but a lot of people feel that interfaith is more directed towards Christianity and Judaism and not enough toward Islam so that is what they are trying to do by establishing this club," said Shafqat.

"This group will help those who are Muslim kind of come out and be more involved and know that there is a place for them on this campus," said Gaughenbaugh.

The Islamic Interest Society is open to anyone, from any religious background. Students are encouraged to participate and to learn about a new culture that they may not know very much about.

"Probably the most valuable benefit would be to educate the students about the Islamic religion and traditions, to create a greater awareness, would be the overarching positive," said Allen.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Students representing the Islamic Interest Society, Salmon Punekar, presented an overview of their clubs' intentions to Student Government last week.

News in Brief

French law highlights differences between American, European policies

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO
Beacon Asst. News Editor

A recent policy change in France has led to outrage among the country's youth and exposed the stark differences between European and American tradition and policy.

According to a March 21 article in *The New York Times*, a law was recently passed in France that "gives companies the right to hire people under 26 years old for a two-year trial period, during which they can be fired without cause." This law was passed with a great deal of disapproval from the youth and labor unions in France, resulting in riots and strikes.

The article described the effects the law has had on French citizens. Tens of thousands of high school and university students marched in numerous cities, with some protests resulting in violence. Union leaders have refused to back down and are rigidly fighting the government on this issue, holding protests

and strikes. These individuals have also "refused to enter into a dialogue with the government until it rescinds the law."

In France, an employer has to have a solid reason for firing an employee. Dr. John Hepp, associate professor of history, explained the stringency of some European political concepts. "In most European countries, including France, once you're hired, you can only be fired for cause... and that's a very strong tradition that has existed in most European countries for about the last [one] hundred years or so," Hepp said.

Hepp explained that unemployment is extremely high in France, particularly among young people. This is due, in part, to the strictness of past labor laws that have made many employers reluctant to take a risk of hiring a young person because the employer was essentially forced to enter into a contract. The employer would then not have the option of letting the employee go.

The aim of the government was to lower the unemployment rate by allowing more people to get hired more easily. According to Hepp, students and labor unions see it from a different perspective.

"Well the students, on the other hand...see it, along with the labor unions, as going back on this long European tradition that you have to treat workers fairly. And they see it moving toward more [of] an American tradition where workers are basically just commodities that you figure into the cost of production," Hepp said.

The individuals who are most affected by the law also see it as a way to aid corporations. According to a March 20 report in *The Economic Times*, "students see a subtext in the new law: make it easier to hire and fire to help France compete in a globalizing world economy."

Dr. Andrew Miller, visiting assistant professor of political science, notes the new law will most likely be

a positive thing for businesses.

"I think French businesses probably feel constrained by French labor laws...just like in any country, there's a tension between labor and capital," Miller said. "Rather than being directly related to 'globalization' it seems the new law has more to do with French domestic unemployment, though that is certainly related to globalization."

All of this may seem unusual to Americans, because the restrictions on hiring and firing in the states are not nearly as rigid, leaning more toward non-existent. Hepp explained the way the labor system works in the United States. "For example, in Pennsylvania, unless you have a contract, you're known as an employee at will, and under Pennsylvania law, you can be fired for any reason whatsoever or no reason at all. The only reason why you can't be fired is for something that's constitutionally impermissible... you can be fired in most American

states for any reason or no reason whatsoever," Hepp said.

The European ideal is that every citizen should be treated equally and afforded the same degree of full protection. Americans do not necessarily always consider that to be a vital aspect of business, and so many probably cannot fully comprehend why these changes in France have led to such an uproar.

"This, I think, is seen by a lot of people, although to us it looks like a fairly simple change, as going back on a lot of tradition. I really do believe the fear that the students and the labor unions have is this is just the beginning of a radical remaking of European society more along American lines... and the strikes are coming out of the Sorbonne University [where], in 1968...France took a stand [essentially starting a revolution], and now it's time for them to do the same thing again," Hepp said.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Wilkes University sponsors lectures on genetic testing, heredity and "red flags" for Cancer Awareness Month

BY JOSEPH DEANGELIS

Beacon Staff Writer

The students in the seminar room were silent and serious. Cancer is no joking matter.

As part of his presentation, Dr. Gil Mor, an associate professor at the York University School of Medicine in Toronto, Canada, showed pictures of millions and millions of cancer cells.

The first picture was of breast cancer cells. Mor asked the diverse audience of Wilkes pharmacy, biology, pre-medicine, and biochemistry students in Breiseth 107 if this woman lived or died.

"She died," the audience answered correctly.

The next picture was of cells of ovarian cancer.

She died too, the audience again correctly responded.

The war against cancer rages everyday. Mor has tried for years to fight a battle against the disease, and has discovered that each cancer patient requires his or her own specific treatment.

"Cancer is a terrible disease," Mor said. "I have hope that we will be changing the mentality of the treatment."

Cancer is a terrible disease. I have hope that we will be changing the mentality of the treatment.

Dr. Gil Mor, associate professor
York University School of medicine

Mor's presentation on cancer and inflammation was part of a series of events sponsored by Wilkes University to recognize Cancer Awareness Month, a month dedicated to the education about the disease.

The week started off with a presentation by Christina Phillips and Laura Toole of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute Cancer Risk Program provides education and resource information to individuals concerned about increased cancer risk due to a personal and/or family history of cancer. The Cancer Risk Program also provides information and counseling for individuals interested in cancer genetic testing.

The seminar focused on cancer and heredity, cancer genetic testing, and "red flags" that may indicate the presence of a he-

reditary cancer syndrome. The goal of the program was to make healthcare providers aware of these syndromes and the importance of identifying and referring individuals who may fall into high cancer risk categories.

"We had a small but very interested group of students," said Toole, who is the Director of Education and Outreach of the Cancer Institute. The point of the lecture was to show the students the warning signs of cancer "so that when they go out in the field, they know what the red flags are."

Later that day, Dr. Linda Gutierrez, an associate research professor of Biology at Wilkes, took her students out to a free clinic to visit to do some community service work.

"I want the students to get out," Gutierrez said. "To reach the community, to see how

it is in real life."

Gutierrez, chairperson of the Saidman Chair, a foundation for the health sciences, wants to create a cancer research institute right here at Wilkes.

"The students are going to be mentored by faculty here at Wilkes, but also by health science professionals," she said. "So when they go to medical school, the training that these students will have is going to be super."

The program will include fieldwork and also research, particularly on colorectal cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States and the most frequently diagnosed cancer in northeast Pennsylvania.

"This area has a very high risk for colorectal cancer," Gutierrez said. "When somebody...is diagnosed with cancer, it is a very, very high probability is that the diagnosed colorectal cancer."

Other scheduled cancer awareness presentations are Friday, April 7 by Dr. Mansoor M. Ahmed of the Geisinger Clinic in Danville at 5:30 p.m. in Breiseth 106 and on Thursday, April 13 by Dr. Samuel M. Lesko of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute at noon in Stark Learning Center Room 359.

Flu still plaguing students

BY JEREMY ZUCKERO

Beacon Correspondent

As daffodils and crocuses begin to bloom and the temperatures slowly start to mellow, most people aren't too concerned with the flu. Flu is commonly associated with winter months. But as experts note, the flu is a potentially serious nuisance that can strike at anytime, especially as the weather changes.

Gail Holby, nurse at Wilkes University's Health Services, and coordinator of Health and Wellness Promotion, explained, "The... influenza flu is a viral upper respiratory infection, which comes on very suddenly. It causes symptoms such as fever, body aches, temperature - temperature can go anywhere from about 100 to 104 (Fahrenheit) with a fever - headaches, fatigue,

loss of appetite, and dry cough."

Influenza, if untreated, can under certain conditions develop into more serious ailments. According to Holby, "One of the more serious complications of the flu might be a (type of) pneumonia."

But how does one tell the difference between a cold and the flu? According to Holby, "Usually the flu has broader symptoms; (they) could involve the head, sinus, respiratory, and body. Usually the common cold is limited to maybe the throat and a runny nose."

There are several ways in which one can prevent the flu, says Holby, "Make sure you wash your hands, stay out of crowded areas, wash surfaces down after you use them, use your own towel. Because people are infected before (onset of

symptoms) and they could be infecting other people (in the mean time)."

Prevention is especially imperative at the University level. Steve Gapinski, instructor of mathematics said, "There will always be a certain percentage of lost class time that is caused by illness...if a student is ill it can hurt his or her ability to take notes and stay focused in class."

But even the best prevention methods won't always work. Once one does get the flu, one needs to treat the symptoms, according to Holby: "The flu is viral, not bacterial, so no antibiotic helps with it. You treat the symptoms, (using) over-the-counter medicines, like a decongestant for congestion, a pain-killer like Motrin or Tylenol for headache."

Casino Night



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski
SG hosted Casino Night on Friday, providing students with opportunities to win prizes ranging from beauty products to ipods and a television.

College newspaper censorship affects students' education and impacts integrity of the news

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

On the vast majority of college campuses nationwide, newspapers exist as a forum where students are able to generate their own ideas, interview their own sources and write their own articles without intervention from the school board or administration.

However, in a landmark decision made by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last June, university administrators at schools in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin have

print in the university newspaper.

This case started when the dean at Governors State University in Illinois demanded that one of the university administrators be permitted to read each issue of *The Innovator*, the school newspaper, and approve it before it went to print. Students at GSU understandably refused the dean this privilege, and the case went before the courts. Although the decision allowing administrators this privilege was made nearly nine months ago, the case is receiving headlines again now that the Su-

preme Court has refused to hear the students' case.

What is so alarming about this case is that the students at *The Innovator* assumed they were acting under editorial license and were granted the power to decide what they thought was newsworthy and to print it on their pages. Until the dean at GSU changed her mind, these college reporters were able to act as any other major news organization would, without censorship. What's to stop all university administrators across the country from deciding to begin the same practice, then?

University newspapers act as pre-professional organizations where students gain real-life skills about deadlines, interviews, journalistic integrity and creative ability. Taking away a college newspaper's right to act as an independent entity that provides news for the college community not only harms the veracity of the news, but also harms the futures of college journalists.

College journalists practice keeping their eyes and ears open on campus to discover what is happening and what should be reported on. This is as much a part of the job description as is writing and conducting interviews. If deans and administrators are going to decide this for the students, then what is the point of creating positions for college journalists in the first place? Part of being a journalist, whether in college or in the professional world, is being curious about the world and wanting to gain knowledge about a subject. Take this away from students by deciding for them what is newsworthy and you risk creating journalists entirely unprepared for the professional world.

Waiting for the okay to come down from an administrator about whether or not an article can be published is also downright impractical when working to meet a strict deadline. Journalists and editors understand the nature of this deadline and work towards achieving it all day or week or month. An administrator or dean who is double-checking the newspaper may not respect this deadline.

Although there are many reasons why allowing this practice is illogical and invalidates the nature of a college newspaper, the most pressing is that administrators at the universities adopting this practice seem to have an ulterior motive at heart. What exactly are they so determined to censor?

Apparently, the main motivation is to censor information that may

not portray the university favorably or in a good light, however true it might be. This censorship risks setting up a newspaper that only reports "happy" news and that is actually not a newspaper at all but instead a piece of propaganda for the university. Why set up an organization and disguise it under the name of a newspaper when really it will serve only the motivations of the administration and the university?

While Wilkes University is a private institution, and as such not technically covered under the First Amendment, *The Beacon* has, for many years, enjoyed the freedom to freely investigate and report stories as the students on its staff see fit. We are fortunate and we know it. Our administration recognizes the educational value in allowing students to cultivate the necessary journalistic skills that will effectively open doors as we seek jobs at competitive papers—even if sometimes what we report makes them uncomfortable. Ensuring such freedom is the mark of educational leaders who practice what they preach.

But the students at GSU and other public schools don't enjoy such freedom and as a result, the student journalists and the people who read those campus papers are short-changed. More importantly, though, the Supreme Court has opted to also short-change the American press and the First Amendment by refusing to hear the case.

While right now the decision affects only the newspapers in the 7th Circuit, or three Midwestern states, university administrators nationwide are realizing the power that they can begin to exert over their students if they decide to. The integrity of the news must be upheld and college journalists must be given a fighting chance to succeed in the professional world.

Nickle for Your Thoughts

By Jason Nickle

This just in,
Regardless of the
fact he worked for
the largest
politically incorrect
and sarcastic
cartoon of our
time...

Isaac Hayes
can not take
a friggin'
joke...



MARCH 27, 2006

OPINION

7

Celebrity sex videos raise legal issues of privacy

Scott Stapp strikes again

BY MATT ZEBROWSKI
Beacon Asst. Op/Ed Editor

It's been a busy few months for Scott Stapp.

Aside from putting out a brand new solo CD, the former Creed singer has kept his hands full with such diverse activities as fighting 311, getting arrested drunk at airports after his own wedding, and filming himself tag-teaming no less than four (count 'em, *four*) women with Kid Rock.

That last one has turned into a huge legal battle, with Stapp, Kid Rock, and one of the women all trying to stop Red Light Enterprises, an adult film company that got its hands on the tape, from releasing the video. As an interesting side note, Red Light is the film company that marketed both the Paris Hilton sex tape and the video that WWE stars X-Pac and Chyna made together, so apparently they know

what they're doing when it comes to marketing naked ugly celebrities.

This whole issue has, for me at least, raised a number of interesting questions. Aside from the obvious "what sort of woman would even consider engaging in group sexual activity with the two most oily men in rock and roll?" the whole thing is a legal conundrum. As I understand it, Stapp and Kid Rock are arguing that if Red Light releases the video, it will be a violation of their privacy rights, and Red Light is trying to frame the conflict as a freedom of speech issue.

Neither of these arguments makes much sense to me. For starters, as much as I love the First Amendment and would never ever want to see it infringed upon even a tiny bit, I'm not really sure where releasing a pilfered (and that's the key word here, *pilfered*) video of two rock stars porking some random woman ties in with my freedom to criticize the government or to use bad

words. Although they claim that they "received" the video from a "third party" and that they didn't quite "steal" it, the fact of the matter is that it's not Red Light's video, it never was Red Light's video, and it's not like the public's vested interested in seeing Kid Rock's greasy white trash butt outweighs the simple fact that the video wasn't Red Light's property in the first place, stolen or not.

And, as for the other side, the right to privacy? Come on. If their haircuts weren't enough to make me believe that they're both completely and utterly shameless, these are two guys who prance around topless on stage every night in leather pants. And, all that aside, if you don't want your sex tape falling into the wrong hands, the simple and easy solution is to not make a sex tape. I mean, imagine a reality in which having sex with four different women is so commonplace that you need to film it in order to remember it, and you'll understand

why I have a bit of trouble feeling sympathy here.

But, if I squint hard enough, I can almost see how the whole argument that if freedom of speech is restricted at all, even in a case like this, it may eventually set a precedent of gradually more drastic encroachments, just may, MAY, be possibly stretched to border on giving Red Light some theoretical ground to stand on. I can also see how a similar stretch of privacy rights could potentially cover the argument made by Stapp and Kid Rock.

But the bigger question here is, is it even worth it? Both sides here are making a mockery out of very important constitutional issues, and I don't even see why it's even necessary for our legal system to become involved at all. Scott Stapp's recent track record shows that he'll be more than happy to settle anything outside of court...namely in the parking lot after a few beers.

Debate over hemp leaf grows in Connecticut

'Marijuana' painting causes uproar

BY DONNA TALARICO
Beacon A&E Editor

Since it is past March 21, I'd give anything to see a bright, green, pretty leaf. Just one. Something that is a sign of spring.

So, you'd think that as winter temps rage on residents of Connecticut wouldn't find offense in a big botanical, flowering on a neighbor's home. Unless of course it is a pot leaf.

Ironically, this all happened on High Street in Winsted, Connecticut. (I'm serious.) Chris Seekins' neighbors complained to police about the leaf painting, but police say there is nothing they can do about it. They complained to town council and got the same reasoning as the officers gave them. Seekins' symbolic art is protected under the First Amendment. So, regardless of neighborly disputes, his message about legalizing hemp will continue to be displayed on his home's exterior.

So we know the hemp dude's rights were indeed protected. But let's look into the issue of what is really offensive and what is really useful. First of all, it's a leaf. (Granted, a big leaf.) But, it's not like his chimney is shaped like a giant bong. I can find far more offensive things on people's property: junk cars, high weeds (no pun intended) or whole houses painted in ridiculous col-

ors--like aquamarine, sea green and coral. So really? What is the big deal about a pot leaf painted on a suburban home? You see that's the first problem. It's really a hemp leaf. There is a difference.

Hemp.com states that hemp is not marijuana; both are from the species *cannabis sativa*. They liken hemp to non-alcoholic beer. That's logical to me. If one man is served a glass of fizzy, yellow O'Douls and another a glass of fizzy, yellow Miller Light, only one will get a buzz. Just because side by side these products look alike does not mean they will have the same intoxicating effects. In fact, according to HempNation.com when properly grown, hemp has virtually no psychoactive effects when consumed. There are very, very low levels of THC (in short, the chemical that makes you high and hungry). Hemp is grown by farmers solely for industrial use. But for you and me, it's treated like marijuana. In the late 1960s, the Controlled Substances Act was enacted, leaving the difference between hemp and marijuana to be a very gray area.

I once bought a bar of hemp soap and a hemp necklace from a cool, hippie dude at the Pocono Blues Festival. Aside from that, I never really gave much thought to the other uses of this versatile plant family. My own ignorance of hemp products shames me. However, perhaps this is because the

general public is not really educated about hemp. Perhaps many more hemp supporters are stopped before their message gets out. Perhaps, afraid they are pushing something illegal, mainstream media aren't telling the masses about the plant's many benefits.

For those who aren't familiar with the uses for this versatile vegetation, here is just a sample. Hemp fibers can be used to make clothing--which by the way is ten times stronger than cotton and more breathable. Hemp seed contains many essential nutrients and hemp seed oil contains necessary fatty acids, so many food products are made with this healthy component like burgers, cookies and dog biscuits. Hemp oil can also be used for varnishes, soaps, cosmetics and more. Hemp hurd can be used to make paper, plastic, textiles and fuel. In the early 19th century, hempnation.com says, 90% of ship sails were made from hemp. Even Henry Ford in the 40s made a hemp-fueled car. In the future, houses may be made of hemp-- sorry big bad wolf. It's pretty durable.

Here's a thought. Can the legalized murdering leaf tobacco do any of that? Perhaps tobacco should be outlawed and all the former Phillip Morris employees can make a career change and harvest hemp.

So, with all these health and environmental benefits, why are people griping about

the big hemp leaf? Perhaps the big deal with this case lies in the fact that the 'artist' was also arrested last year for growing over 100 hemp plants--not marijuana-- in his home for "research purposes." (That battle is still in court.) So, does this mean someone accused of drunk driving cannot hang a Budweiser-clad Dale Earnhardt Jr. flag from his porch? Does this mean that someone who was found guilty of possessing a weapon on a routine traffic stop has to scrape off his NRA bumper sticker? Do these people who complained have American flags on their homes? If they are so patriotic, then why would they try to take a right, protected under that flag, away from a neighbor?

Instead of stopping the message, the neighbors' complaints indeed helped Seekins' get the word out beyond High Street and Winsted. I guarantee you that, just like I did, thousands of others were intrigued by the story and googled "hemp". And like I was, maybe they were fascinated by all hemp can do. Perhaps if these hemp hypocrites dug a little deeper before they opened their mouths, they too would have ran out to their local hardware stores for some green paint to pass around the message.

So, hemp dude did nothing wrong in his High Street hemp house. But he sure did light a good one up for the nation's media.

What constitutes 'news' these days is questionable

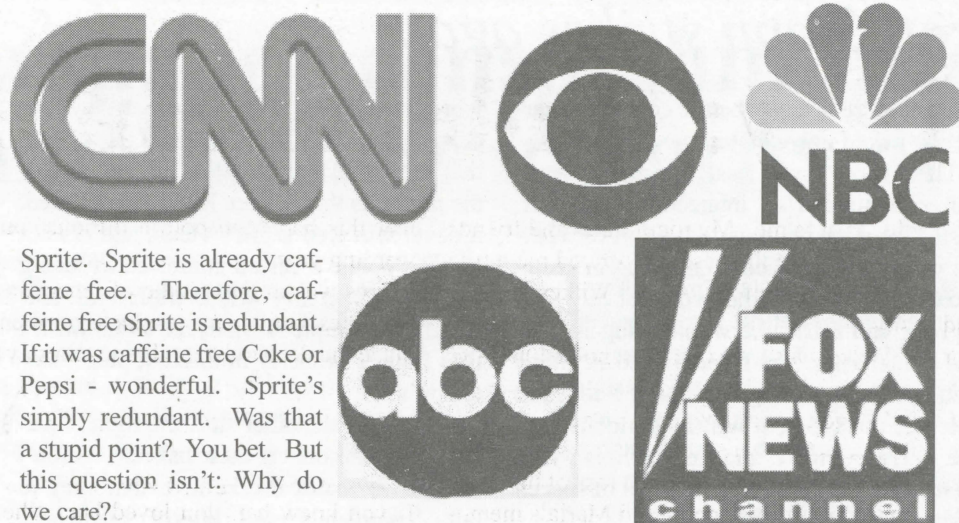
BY MYLES RUMBEL
Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Important people get special treatment. That's a fact. For instance, when Jennifer Lopez visited the BBC she demanded multiple dressing rooms, all decorated in beige. In the same vein, Janet Jackson requested 30-plus black towels. If you don't believe me, ask the people at the BBC - they'll be more than happy to tell you.

But now, thanks to some great investigative journalism, audiences know what Vice President Dick Cheney requires in his hotel room. According to multiple news reports, by sources such as CNN, MSNBC and *USA Today*, as well as a document found by The Smoking Gun website, Cheney requires the following:

- a Queen or King size bed
- desk with chair
- private bathroom
- all lights turned on
- temperature set to 68
- all televisions tuned to Fox News
- microwave
- coffee pot with brewed decaf
- container for ice (and location of ice machine)
- 4-6 bottles of water
- 4 cans of diet caffeine free Sprite
- hotel restaurant menu
- extra lamps
- newspapers, one each - local paper, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*.

I have a few issues with this list. Well okay, I only have one - diet caffeine free



Sprite. Sprite is already caffeine free. Therefore, caffeine free Sprite is redundant. If it was caffeine free Coke or Pepsi - wonderful. Sprite's simply redundant. Was that a stupid point? You bet. But this question isn't: Why do we care?

CNN, MSNBC and *USA Today* think we do (or should).

I could understand if Fox News blanketed the airwaves with: "The Vice President only watches us!" (Surprise, surprise). However, the motivation behind CNN and MSNBC "reporting" this "news" remains a mystery.

Now, don't get me wrong, I like to bash Republicans as much as the next ultra-liberal. But the bottom line is that there doesn't appear to be any real news to report on here, and analysts at news outlets really don't have anything legitimate to bash in Cheney's list of requirements. I think for someone who is arguably the most important man in the country, his requests seem reasonable.

If Cheney were springing for six rooms, decorated in bright pink with 400 white towels, at the taxpayers' expense - we might have a problem. But he's not. He has a list of requests that cost about \$20 and a

little time from volunteers (he does not require hotel staff to fetch his requests; rather, volunteers do this for him).

Is this what journalism has come down to in the US? Publishing a list of reasonable requests from our VP? How about some more investigation into Bush's wiretapping? How about figuring out just how many Washington insiders Jack Abramoff had in his pockets? What about a couple more reports from Iraq? Hell, how about the still spreading AIDS epidemic? Or starving children in Africa? Just about anything is more important than Dick Cheney's hotel room requests.

If this is where news reporting is headed, we're all screwed.

Check out *The Beacon* website at www.wilkesbeacon.com for actual links to these "news" reports.

Safety first:

All's justifiable in the name of national security

BY BENJAMIN IEZZONI
Beacon Staff Writer

You know what I'm glad for? How safe we are.

In this country, we're just so terribly lucky that I almost can't stand it. Most people are far too worried about all of the bad things happening around the world that they forget about everything good that people have done for the United States. All of you bleeding heart liberals who whine about government irresponsibility can just shut the hell up.

I've compiled a few things just to remind you of what a great nation we all live in.

On February 15, Houston police chief Harold Hurtt made a brilliant proposition for the residents of his glorious city: place surveillance cameras in apartment complexes, downtown streets, shopping malls, and most especially private homes to fight crime

during shortages of police officers.

Now, the police would no longer have to even worry about spending money to find out what we're up to, they can do it from the comfort of their seats in the police station. Several foolish reporters dared to ask Hurtt about violating the Fourth Amendment's protection versus unreasonable searches and seizures, but he quashed their pathetic resistance with a piece of clever wit, "I know a lot of people are concerned about Big Brother, but my response to that is, if you are not doing anything wrong, why should you worry about it?" A contemporary thinker, my friends. Pure genius.

February 9, 2006: two public figures of moral integrity (Homeland Security officers) step into the Montgomery Public Library, and demand the attention of all within earshot. They then make an important announcement: "Viewing internet pornography in this

county facility is strictly forbidden."

You heard me-- these two upright citizens went out of their way to protect other adults from sexual harassment, stepping beyond their call of duty to prevent terrorism in our country in order to halt the deadly advance of online sex. Not only were they looking out for our safety, but they used their powers to go beyond their job description. That's right. They were not even given the power to do this, and yet they did it anyway. Thank our good Lord God for the Patriot Act, or this criminal violation might have gone unnoticed.

Just remember this for the next time someone tries to make the fight against terrorism seem unnecessary, or illegal. In fact, I'd like you to spit in their face for me. That's what they deserve for calling our great nation fallible.

Freedom is something nobody should try to mess with, and anyone who doesn't agree with anything I've said here is a communist.

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 46 responses.

The Beacon asked:

If you were alive before the dawn of modern medicine, what disease would you least want to have?

- Scurvy - 11%
- Dysentery - 0%
- Consumption - 4%
- Plague - 35%
- Cholera - 11%
- Typhus - 3%
- Smallpox - 11%
- Measles - 3%
- Polio - 15%
- Other - 7%

Next Week's Poll Question:

Who is the best movie villain?

- Hannibal Lecter, *Silence of the Lambs*
- Khan, *Wrath of Khan*
- Annie Wilkes, *Misery*
- Norman Bates, *Psycho*
- Jack Torrance, *The Shining*
- Alex Forrest, *Fatal Attraction*
- Michael Corleone, *Godfather, Part II*
- The Wicked Witch, *Wizard of Oz*
- Mariah Carey, *Glitter*
- Darth Vader, *Star Wars*

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

FEATURES

MARCH 27, 2006

9

History Day 10
Mini-Olympics 10
Women's Studies Conference 11

Life's journey: students coping with loss

BY SARAH DOMAN
Beacon Staff Writer

Life can take many twists and turns. And while people can prepare emotionally for the stress of the job search, respond to financial challenges and even anticipate how a love interest may evolve, rarely is the death of a loved one an experience people are prepared for.

For students, such a loss can be doubly stressful because of the added perseverance required to continue with their education--a rigorous schedule that can be unforgiving if it's interrupted.

Nathan Hosie is a sophomore elementary education major whose eighteen-year-old sister Marla was killed in a car accident on August 15, 2004.

About two miles from his home in Montdale, a truck hauling a carnival concession stand ran a stop sign at an estimated 40 miles per hour. Marla was killed at the scene, her mother and grandmother hospitalized for serious injuries.

Coping with the loss of his sister has been difficult for Hosie. He said, "It is impossible to cope with it. You just find a way to get by. My sister is with me everyday. She lives in my heart and that's where she belongs and where she will always be."

After his loss, Hosie returned to school that semester with full support from the faculty and staff at Wilkes. Hosie said, "I tried my best to stay in the swing of things and surround myself with the people that mean

the most to me. My roommates and friends at school are the best and offered me a true feeling of comfort. As did Wilkes University."

Wilkes also named a scholarship after Marla. The award is given to an elementary education major who demonstrates an ethic of care and compassion.

Hosie also copes with the loss of his sister through family support and Marla's memory. "I remember Marla as so many things. A cheerleader, homecoming queen, a friend.

that this had been both a difficult, but rewarding year.

Rees was in the middle of rehearsing for a Wilkes University production when she made the decision to go home and stay with her mother. Throughout her battle with cancer, Rees tells of her mother's positive attitude.

"She was easy going and down to earth. If you knew her, you loved her. She was a really incredible woman and anyone who met her could tell you that," said Rees.

neral and thirteen friends of mine drove from Wilkes two hours to the funeral. I was very touched because they are like a family and helped me to heal. It is a process but the more support the better."

Rees hopes she can live up to her mother and touch as many lives as she did. The loss of her mother has helped Rees to look at her own life. "I think about what mom would do or tell me to do. If she wouldn't approve then I step back and think about it more. I evaluate problems that are worth worrying about and don't think about the unnecessary stuff," said Rees.

Rees had a very close and special relationship with her mother. She said, "She was my mom but my friend, too. I feel a lot of mom in me. She couldn't conquer the world, but she did her best."

In October, Rees will participate in the three-day walk for breast cancer in Philadelphia.

Twelve cities will be featured in this year's three-day walk. Among them is Philadelphia on October 6-8. Participants must register ahead of time and the organization will provide you with materials to get you in shape for the event as well as be up to date on all of the pre-walk festivities.

Anyone wishing to get involved may do so by logging on and registering at www.the3day.org. For those who are unable to participate in the actual walk, a link is available on the website to simply make a donation.

She was my mom but my friend, too. I feel a lot of mom in me. She couldn't conquer the world, but she did her best.

Dara Rees
junior communications studies and theatre major

She was an amazing person and touched the lives of all those she met. After she died, I found out the things she had done behind closed doors; the lives she touched without us knowing. She was beautiful," said Hosie.

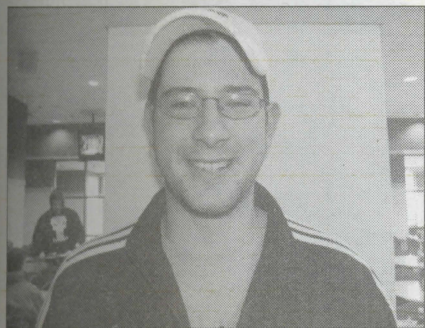
Many other students also deal with loss of friends and family members. Dara Rees is a junior double majoring in communications and theater. This past October her mother Pam, 44 of Limerick, died after a three year long battle with breast cancer. Rees noted

Rees decided to go back to school a week after her mother's death. "I knew she wouldn't want me to miss anything. You are never prepared for the loss of someone so close to you, but she was the kind of person who would ask, 'What are you crying over me for?' She would want me to be the best that I can," said Rees. Rees continues to "do it for mom" a tag line she lives by.

Rees found support from family, friends and professors at Wilkes. She said, "There were about five hundred people at her fu-

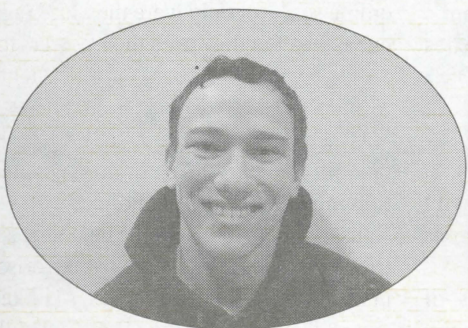
Managing Editor Becky Goodman was curious about what Wilkes students are thinking. Here is what she found out.

Tell Us... What is the worst part of spring?



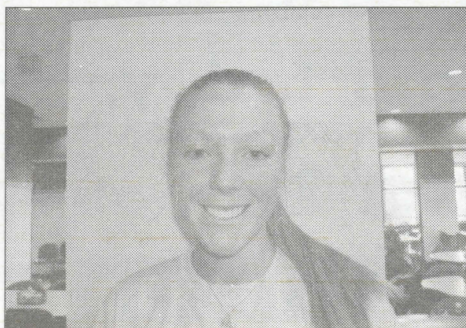
Michael Canzanella
sophomore psychology

"The smelly trees outside of Delaware Hall."



Adam Bachman
sophomore prepharmacy

"I do hate finals, and finals happen in the spring."



Kristina Bogdany
sophomore prepharmacy

"The allergies and the rain."



Ken Gareau
sophomore prepharmacy

"The copious amount of PDAs [public displays of affection]."

Emerging Leaders organize Mini-Olympics for CEO kids

Event marks the first public use of UCOM

BY ERICA LEO
Beacon Staff Writer

When Wilkes' Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) was prompted to plan a community service project at the culmination of its leadership classes, the consensus was that all participants wanted to work with children.

After much brainstorming, the five ELP members-- Alisha Cain, Rob Donahue, Andrew Chase Deleo, Theresa Brewer, and Dana Zlotucha--decided to work with the Commission on Economic Opportunity's (CEO) Kid's Cafe program in Wilkes-Barre and hold a Mini-Olympic event for the children who participate.

With the help of a few on-campus clubs and organizations, ELP's Mini-Olympics took place last Friday from 4 to 5:30 P.M. in the new UCOM building on South Main St.

Phil Ruthkosky, Director of Student Activities, talked about what he, as one of the advisors to the ELP program, wanted the

students to gain from the experience.

"We wanted the students to do a project that would not only enhance their leadership skills, but also their ability to work together as a group. In addition to that, we wanted them to do a project that would give back to the community," said Ruthkosky.

Ruthkosky is proud of the five students who, he stressed, orchestrated the entire event themselves.

"The students thought of it, organized it, budgeted it, and marketed it themselves. They also got the campus community involved and excited about the event. They really deserve all the credit," said Ruthkosky.

Over 120 grade school children from the Kid's Cafe program participated in the Mini-Olympics, which consisted of five semi-competitive athletic activities that served to not only provide the students with some exercise but allowed them to have fun in the process.

The activities included a basketball event which allowed the children, depending on



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski
The Wilkes' Emerging Leaders Program teamed up with the Commission on Economic Opportunity's Kid's Cafe program in Wilkes-Barre to hold a Mini-Olympic event for participating children. The event took place last Friday and featured many different sporting events. It also marked the first public use of the UCOM building.

their age and height, to shoot baskets into a regular hoop or garbage can; a baseball activity that measured pitching accuracy; a track and field event that allowed children to race against other children their own age; a football activity that measured passing accuracy and distance; and a soccer event to help the children develop passing and shooting skills.

With funding from Student Government (SG), the ELP students were able to provide the children with goodie bags which contained healthy snacks, a book, a bookmark and Cancer Awareness bracelets.

Volunteers from some of the Wilkes athletic teams, SG, the Spanish Club, the Equestrian Club and Circle K also helped with the event.

Dana Zlotucha, sophomore English major and member of the ELP program, was put in charge of promoting the event and thinks that it was a success.

"As part of the Emerging Leader Program we had to do some aspect of community service, so I was happy that we could combine it and tie it directly into Wilkes to show the community that we are involved," said Zlotucha.

Help Save Lives!

THE
INTERSTATE
COMPANIES

Donate Plasma Today.

Earn up to
\$200 a Month!

Interstate Blood & Plasma Inc.
665 Carey Ave Wilkes-Barre, Pa
Call (570) 823-4119

Wilkes celebrates History Day



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

On Thursday, March 24 students from the History Club celebrated "History Day" in the Student Union Building. Some events included a Civil War reenactment, a mining equipment display and a discussion about ancient gods.

Women's studies conference looks to 'find feminism'

BY ALISON WOODY

Beacon Asst. Features Editor

Throughout the month of March, there are many different reasons to celebrate- whether it's wearing green on St. Patrick's Day, breaking out the sandals for the first day of spring, or holding a women's studies conference to culminate the end of Women's History Month.

A conference is exactly what students in Women's Studies 101 and the Women's Interest Society Empowering the University Population (WISE UP) are planning for Friday, March 31 at the Genetti Hotel Conference Center.

According to the National Women's History Project website, in 1987, Congress was petitioned to expand the national celebration of women's history to the entire month of March. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas have been developed and shared.

Developing and sharing various women's issues has been a common theme for students in the women's studies minor. This year, students were required to write a paper dealing with different topics that range from eating disorders in women and images of women in popular culture to violence against women and pornography. These papers will be turned into three separate sessions of presentations at the conference.

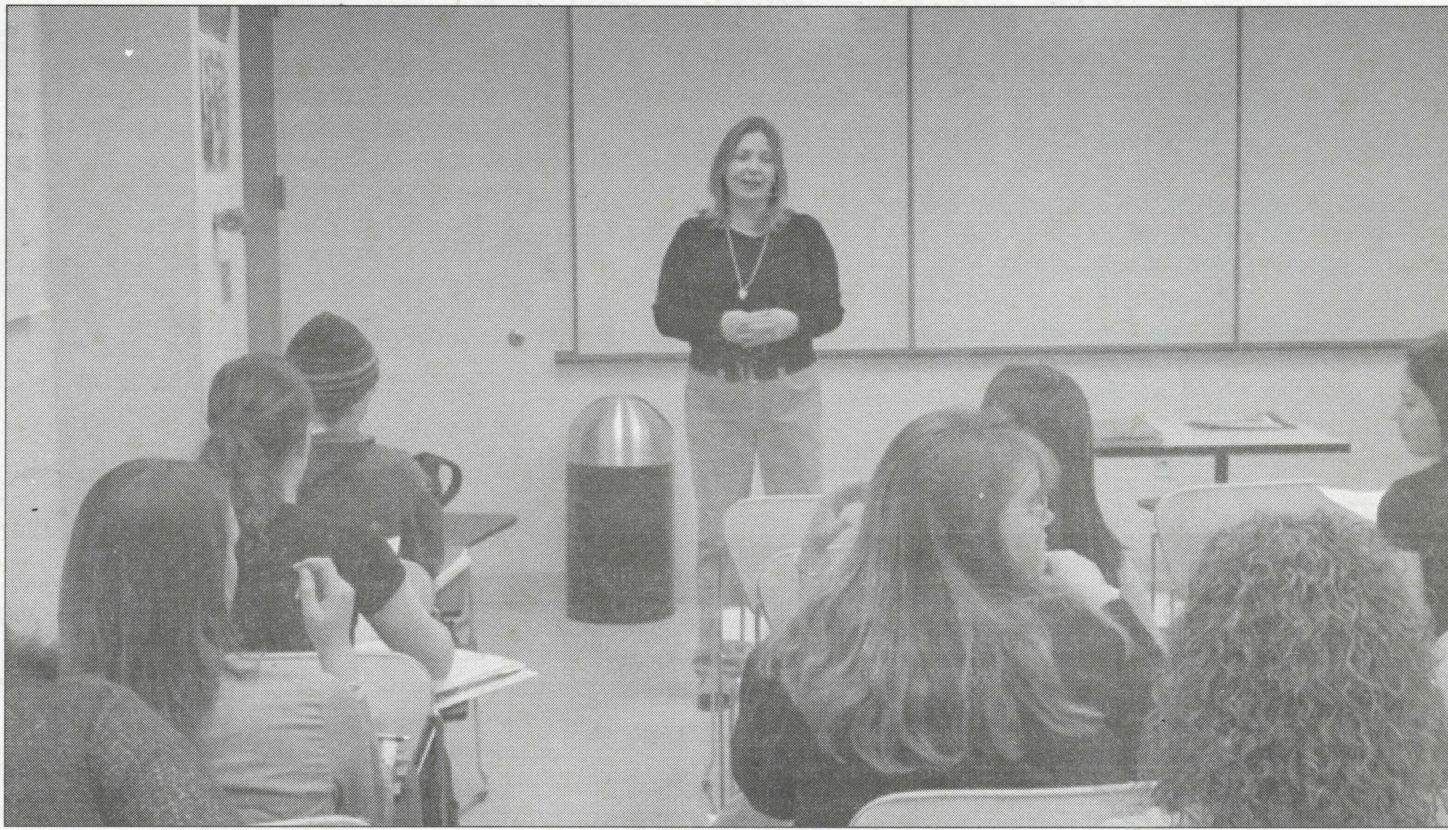
Nicole Leader, sophomore sociology major and member of WISE UP, explained the significance of the conference. "The conference started as a way to raise awareness in the community for women's rights and feminism."

"The 'F' Word: Finding Feminism" is the theme of the conference, and students from King's College and other local schools will also be in attendance.

Shannon Curtin, sophomore English major and president of WISE UP, explained, "The biggest problems facing women stem from the way today's women were socialized. We need more women in positions of power so that our voices are heard and I think that in order for the women of the future to truly gain equality we need to change the way we socialize our children. The emphasis on gender roles from an early age needs to be eradicated."

Theresa Kintz, women's studies program coordinator, also believes that women's voices need to be heard more often.

"Personally, I believe that since women were essentially excluded from participat-



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Students in Theresa Kintz's Women's Studies 101 course listen and discuss issues still facing women in today's society. Students of this class have written papers on topics such as eating disorders among females, violence against women, and pornography. These papers will then be turned into presentations that will be offered at the Women's Studies Conference on Friday, March 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Genetti Hotel Conference Center. Students from all local colleges will be in attendance to gain insight into the importance of women's rights and awareness. The theme of the conference is "The 'F' Word: Finding Feminism" and is set for the end of March to culminate Women's History Month.

ing in the political process for the past 2000 years of Western Civilization, the biggest issue we face now is making sure our voices are heard and our perspectives are represented when it comes to important social and political debates. It is time that women have an equal say in determining the future course of our society."

Those involved with the conference are already making plans for next year. Getting students interested in women's issues is still a main focal point for the group.

Curtin expressed her opinion. "I've been interested in Women's History and feminism in general ever since I discovered in fourth grade that only two paragraphs of our entire history book were dedicated to women's history. Now I find it fascinating to look back and see how far women have come as well as looking forward to the battles we have yet to win. I think that students should be interested in learning about the many injustices that still face women on a daily basis."

Leader also voiced her concern. "I feel students should be interested for their own knowledge. They can free themselves from ignorance and stigma if they simply open their minds and think. We are all affected

by women's issues, we all have an opinion on abortion and birth control and a woman president. These things are the most valuable we can learn in college. They surround us on a daily basis so it is only our duty to understand them and have something to say

about them."

The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those interested in attending the conference or learning more about the women's studies minor, can contact Theresa Kintz or Shannon Curtin for further information.



Planned Parenthood
Confidential. Compassionate. Close by.

Wilkes-Barre Medical Center
only 2 blocks from campus!

Already had your exam?

Need to buy your birth control in privacy?

Get Your Birth Control Without A Pelvic Exam*

Your number one source for birth control and the morning after pill.

1-800-230-PLAN

www.ppnep.org

* Certain instances, further evaluation may be required

Battle of the Bands	13
Felix Sarco	14
The Hills Have Eyes	15
Goldstein's Deli	15

Indian musicians to offer workshop at Darte Center

BY DONNA TALARICO

Beacon A&E Editor

As global awareness becomes more and more important, many Wilkes courses and events have sought to promote multicultural offerings. The Wilkes University Department of Music is one place this trend has been welcomed.

"This a theme we are trying to promote. Our department is heavily committed to world music as a way to understand and appreciate other cultures," said Phil Simon, instructor of music education.

This year, the culture of interest is Indian music. Sujata Nair-Mulloth's World Mu-

sic class offers an introduction to Indian music and culture. Nair-Mulloth says that students are exposed to the history of Indian music, starting 2,500 years ago to contemporary times. She explains that over time, the music has evolved into many different styles because of varied influences.

"There were the religious chants when it started. In the Middle Ages, there was the coming of the Muslims. Later, there were Europeans. There are so many differences to what is generally categorized as Indian dance," she said, adding that the differences can be found in beat, content, rhythms and costumes of performers. Today, she says with globalization, Indian music is being appreciated at a very different level.

As a supplement to the course, a troupe of professional Indian musicians from Philadelphia will offer a 90-minute music workshop and performance on Tuesday, April 4.

While Nair-Mulloth plays some of the Indian instruments in class, she says this workshop will bring much of the course material to life through elaboration and demonstration.

"I do not play each and every instrument, whereas with the group, there is a percussionist, a flutist and vocalist. This is kind of an enriching experience, to have someone [play the mu-

sic] right in front of you so you can ask questions," she said. "There will be all different instruments and students can experience first hand all the sounds and notes and beat patterns and structure."

The workshop begins at 5:00 p.m. and later that evening, at 8 p.m. in the Darte Center, the musicians will perform Indian classical and semi-classical works, showing all types of substyles that are found in India.

Simon says the ensemble performs all over the East coast. He credits the Office of Diversity for making the workshop possible, providing \$2,000 to support the project. Because of the financial commitment from administration and the dedication in the music department, Simon hopes to see strong participation from the student community.

"The interesting thing about this is that there is a fairly substantial community of Indians in Northeast Pa, especially in Clarks Summit," said Simon. "This is really in the woodwork, and we want to help bring it out of the woodwork."

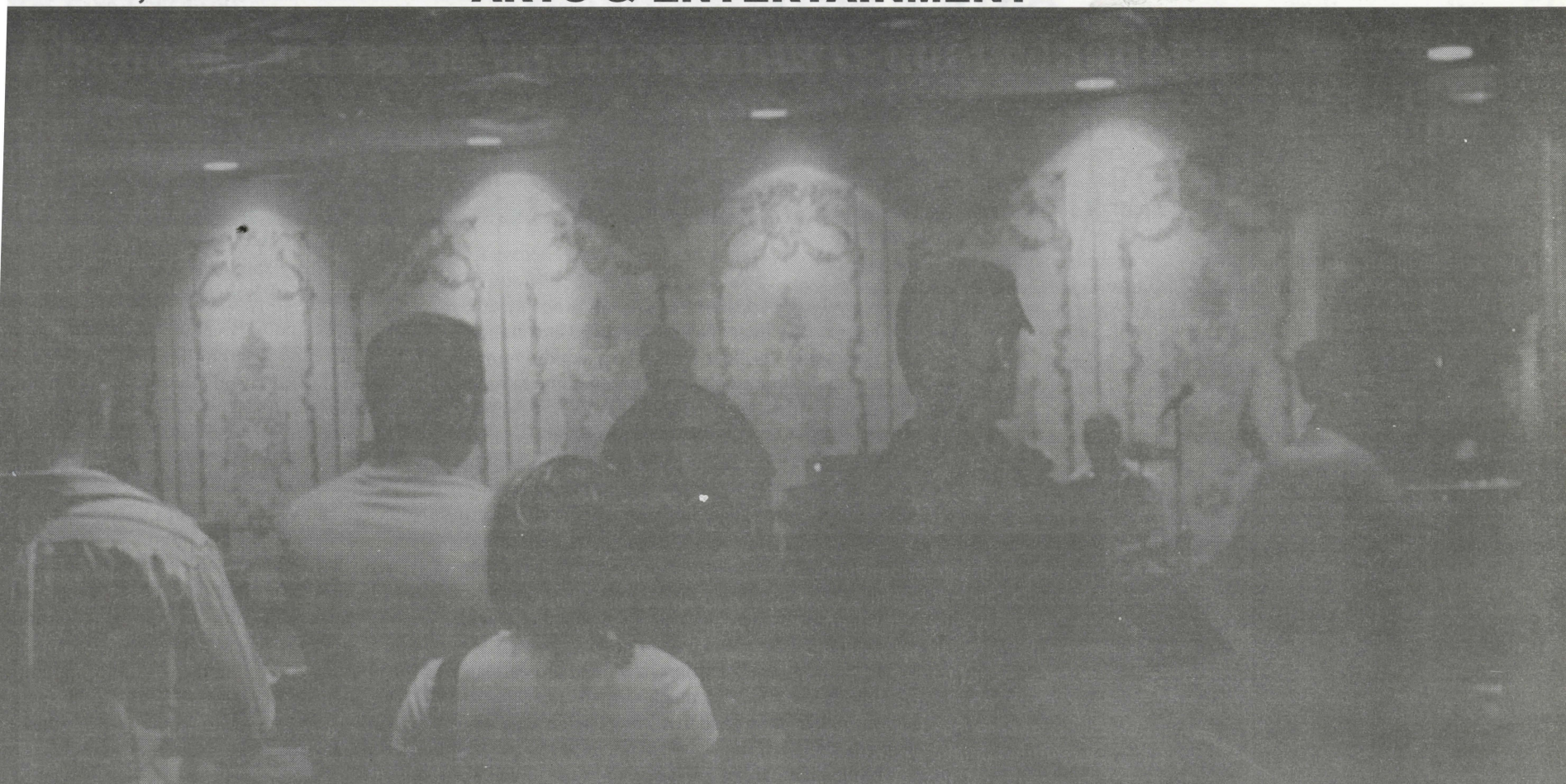
In fact, Nair-Mulloth has been operating her own studio, Kala Indian School of Classical Dance, in Clarks Summit for ten years. The concept of world music and fusing the class with public events is something that Simon says will be continued.

"We intend to continue to focus on various world cultures and present performances that represent [each] culture. That's one of our strongest contributions to the Wilkes community," said Simon.

Both events are free and open to the public.



Dorothy Dickson Darte Center
for the Performing Arts



Generating Synergy wages Battle of the Bands

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO
Beacon Asst. News Editor

Wilkes University students instigated a huge brawl this past weekend, and they did it to fulfill a requirement for their major. No, the freshman business students didn't wage a war over who gets to become the next *Apprentice*. They encouraged combat between musicians when they organized the Battle of the Bands.

The Battle of the Bands, held at Genetti's, was organized by 'Generating Synergy,' a team of freshman business majors. According to Dr. Nandita Das, assistant professor of finance and accounting, these students are taking Integrated Management Experience and are required to work together to cultivate a final product.

Sara Resseguie, president of Generating Synergy, said, "We actually have different departments. There is a finance department, a marketing department,

and human resources, and we just... separate the tasks between each department and work together to make a product, which is The Battle of the Bands."

When Das described the course and its requirements, she said, "This is a two semester sequence that takes the student through the entrepreneurial process from creating a business concept to planning the venture to launching and operating the business to harvest and closure of the firm."

The students must plan out and present what they want to produce, and Generating Synergy chose to organize a showcase, which is how The Battle of the Bands came about, Resseguie explained.

In terms of financing the affair, it was necessary for the students to take actions not unlike those required for any business.

Das said that each team applied for a loan from the bank, in this case, the 'Sidhu School of Business.' The team must then pay back the loan with interest at the end of the spring term.

The experience of organizing and supervising a major event allowed students to not only interact with peers on a professional level, but it also gave them invaluable practice in the careers they plan to pursue after graduation. Resseguie hoped the experience would provide her some insight into the challenges that are associated with owning and running a business. She said that, although it was definitely difficult at times, the entire experience was one that she will take with her when she graduates.

Das agreed that this was a good learning experience for the students, "from the hurdles faced in meeting the deadlines

[to] the unexpected events that popped up when the group thought everything was running smoothly." She added that it was a wise business venture because it generated plenty of interest among students.

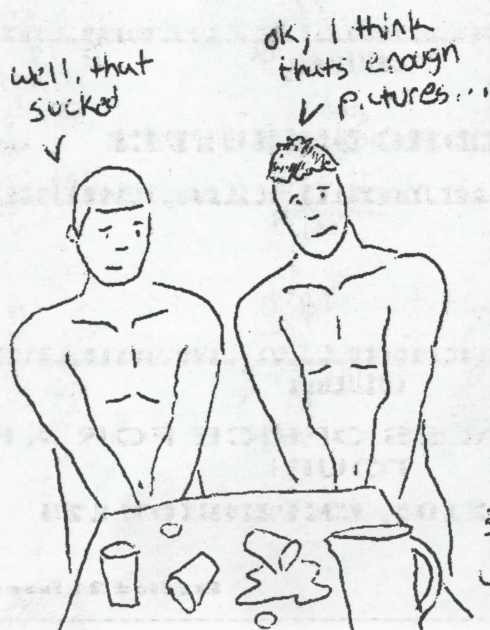
The 'Battle' was among six local bands, including Prelude to Chaos, Pave the Way, Last Conviction, Runner Runner, Money 4 Honey and Sold Short. Judging was based on not only crowd enthusiasm but also on the opinions of some of the team members.

"We'll have different departments throughout the team, like human resources and operations department, they'll be split up and they'll be the [judges] and then the audience will be a separate judge," Resseguie said before the show.

The winner was Prelude to Chaos and second place was snatched up by Money 4 Honey.



BY JASON NICKLE
Beacon Cartoonist



BY MATT ZEBROWSKI
Beacon Asst. Op-Ed Editor

In the interest of full disclosure, I should probably tell you that I personally know Gavin Robb, the lead singer of Felix Sarco, and consider him to be a stand-up guy. That, however, has nothing to do with how much I enjoy his band. I am, admittedly, a huge fan, and I am about to give them an immensely favorable review, but if I said I went into my first encounter with Felix Sarco with a completely open mind, I would be lying.

See, I've had friends in bands before, and the majority of these experiences have led me to expect mediocrity at best. When friends invite me to see their bands, I usually view it as taking one for the proverbial team, a sort of act of charity, because I would expect the same from them, no matter how bad my band happened to be. So, if anything, my knowing Gavin actually put the band in a worse position than they would be in if they were all complete strangers. The unfortunate truth is that most of my friends' bands have sucked so much that these guys were going to have to fight uphill to get me to like them.

The crazy part is, they actually succeeded. By the end of the second song of their set the first time I saw them, my skepticism had been entirely put to rest. It's almost weird for me to think of Felix Sarco as "Gavin's band," or even as a local band, because with the NEPA scene being deluged with skeezy cover bands or the "original" music of bands who rip off Green Album-era Weezer, a band this unique is a true anomaly.

And Felix Sarco's new self-titled CD is every bit as spectacular as their live show. It channels everything good and righteous that has happened in experimental

rock in the past few decades, with the most obvious benchmarks, in my opinion at least, being the Mars Volta minus the salsa riffs and Faith No More. But there's a bit of Mindless Self Indulgence in songs like "One For the Earth Girls," and even a bit of Pink Floyd in songs like "Pet Shop" and "Chester."

Despite rocking so disgustingly well, though, Felix Sarco obviously don't take themselves too seriously. Tracks like "Self Image" hyperbolizes the, well, self-image of wannabe demagogues in rock bands, and the tongue-in-cheek disco-pop of standout track "Hawks '06" parodies the derivative and seemingly omnipresent emphasis on dancy-ness in current indie music. Felix Sarco always seems to be as much poking fun at rock and roll as they are contributing to it, to the point where you almost don't know whether or not it's okay to even genuinely like these songs unironically because the very purpose of them just may be to mock you if you do.

This CD, which, I must add, is self-mastered and self-produced, is full of genuinely great local music that pushes boundaries while simultaneously making fun of everything you hate about the pretentious hipster folk that tend to go for this sort of thing. Screw the movie theater; this CD and the band who made it just may be the best things to happen to the Wilkes-Barre area in years. And, I kid you not, it costs just two dollars, only one-fifth of what you'd pay for the Swims' or Okay Paddy's or any other local band that isn't half this good's newest album. Experimental, funny, and, apparently, humble, Felix Sarco have made a fine album. You'd be crazy to pass it up.

Grade: A+

we buy and sell

DVDs

CDs

VIDEO GAMES

LPs and 45s

MUSICAL ENERGI

59 north main ~ wilkes barre ~ 829-2929

we have hundreds of posters !!

PS2
XBOX
NINTENDO

Just the
FACTS

COLLEGE
DRINKING
CONSEQUENCES

90% of all campus rapes occur when alcohol has been used by either the assailant or the victim.



Dinner and a Movie

Movie: *The Hills Have Eyes*

BY ALISON SHERRY
Beacon Correspondent

Remakes of horror flicks happen all the time. The philosophy in Hollywood seems to be that if it scared audiences once, it can scare them again if done just a little differently. What is unusual, though, is to have the same director/producer remake his own movie.

Wes Craven's remake of his own 1977 horror classic, *The Hills Have Eyes*, is a prime example of why every director should do their own remakes. It's just done right. While Craven doesn't direct this version (the remake is guided by Alexandre Aja), his influence in its production is clear, and

it's almost as if he cried, "Do over!" in the middle of a game. And the do over scores the point in this case. If you're in the mood for a good scare and some sleepless nights, then *The Hills Have Eyes* may be just what you're looking for.

We all know the typical American family; in this movie, it's the Carters. They are happily taking a trip through the Southwest and all seems to be going well until they come across a detour that leads them to an area closed off from any kind of human life. They discover that the area was originally occupied by the U.S. government for nuclear testing, but now it is supposed to be abandoned. Uh-huh, it's *supposed* to be abandoned...sure.

Naturally, the Carters' vehicle breaks down at the site and they are stranded with no connection to the outside world. However, it's not your ordinary breakdown. The Carters soon discover that a) they're not alone and b) that their breakdown might be a trap. The trap may be the work of the site's inhabitants who are setting up a gruesome massacre.

Wes Craven is the ultimate director for these kinds of movies. He never fails to get a jolt out of the audience. There is no doubt that *The Hills Have Eyes* will shock and disturb viewers. Mutations born of nuclear testing, rape, violence and gore all stay with the viewer long after the closing cred-

its. The movie also takes a critical stance against the environmental damage caused by man's carelessness and lust for power.

Wes Craven knows exactly what he needs to satisfy a good scare in an audience and it's achieved, even with a remake. With remakes being so popular these days, most directors should take a hint from Craven's work. If you are not a fan of scary movies, then I definitely wouldn't spend the money and, this is definitely no family movie! However, if terror is your idea of a thrilling night out, then this may be the best night you've had in a long time.

Grade: A+

Dinner: Goldstein's Deli

BY NORA JURASITS
Beacon Correspondent

I arrived at Goldstein's Deli, which is located at 200 Pierce Street, across the bridge in Kingston, at about 5 p.m. There was plenty of available street parking in addition to a parking lot in the back, which made it easy for me to park, and gave me plenty of time inside to order and get my food.

This may seem like a given, but in the city of parking meters and useless tickets I can't afford to pay, it's high on my list of priorities. I had checked out Goldstein's menu prior to arrival, but being the indecisive diner that I am, I had not narrowed it down to one selection.

I was looking for something that would be delicious and filling, but wouldn't drain my wallet. I finally decided on a mushroom and Swiss burger, which only set me back \$3.99. I ordered a side dish of Red Potato Salad for \$1.75. Being a girl who enjoys a good beer, I asked the man working there to help me choose a beer that would best accompany my burger. Goldstein's has five or six coolers filled with a variety of both domestic and imported beers available for individual purchase, as well as a "create your own 6-pack" option, with a 10% savings on your selected beers. After asking about my beer preferences, he recommended Xingu, a black beer imported from Brazil. The bottle of Xingu cost \$2.50, not much more than a soda at a restaurant.

My entire meal was prepared in about ten minutes, despite the fact that it was prime dinner time. The burger, potato salad, beer

and a mini chocolate chip cookie for dessert totaled \$9.04... Not bad!

I opted to take my dinner home to eat, so after I received my food, I began the trek back to Franklin Street.

I was slightly concerned the beer would go warm or the sandwich would cool off by the time I navigated the traffic, but when I arrived home, the foil-wrapped burger had maintained its heat, and the beer was still chilled.

When I unwrapped the burger, I was pleasantly surprised to find a hearty bun and a large beef patty, with my requested toppings. My only complaint was a slight skimping on mushrooms, of which I am a huge fan.

The burger was delicious. The potato salad was the perfect blend of sweetness and tang, and the Xingu beer had a good taste, and was an excellent compliment to the meal. It held its own as a flavor, but did not overpower the taste of the food. The soft-baked chocolate chip cookie was a great finale to a great meal, with its multitude of chips.

The meal was very satisfying, and not too expensive. For a cheaper alternative, diners can opt not to purchase the beer with the meal and save a couple bucks.

Goldstein's offers pizza and wings in addition to an extensive deli menu. The pizza has a sweet sauce and plenty of cheese, and the wing sauce hits the spot.

Grade: A

One Valley, One Book Wraps Up

Many book lovers across the Wyoming Valley since January have all been reading the same novel, *The Natural*, by Bernard Malamud. Program organizers say the title was chosen for its wide appeal as a sports book, romance and suspense, as well as its place among great American literary works of the twentieth century. The One Valley, One Book community reading project will culminate on Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 p.m. with a showing of *The Natural*, starring Robert Redford. After the movie, being shown in the Student Center Ballroom, a discussion led by local scholars will take place. All are invited, even if they did not take place in the OVOB project. Community reading projects are gaining popularity around the country.

STUDENT HOUSING SOLUTION CITY SUITES

At the Ramada Inn

Your Monthly Rent Includes:

Parking	Cable with HBO
Local Phone	Furnishings
Utilities	Exercise Room
Kitchen	Wall to Wall Carpeting
Air Conditioning	

LENGTH OF STAY REQUIREMENTS APPLY*

EFFICIENCIES

Priced from \$590* per month (1 or 2 per lease) including utilities

1 BEDROOM SUITES

Priced from \$750* per month (1 or 2 per lease) including utilities

2 BEDROOM SUITES

Priced from \$950* per month (1 to 4 per lease) including utilities

CALL OUR SALES OFFICE FOR A FREE TOUR!

570-824-7100, EXTENSION 175

Secure location

Restricted Access

Sprinklered

Staffed 24 hours

Wilkes golf team prepping for season under new leadership

New golf head coach looks to build up program to new levels

BY ARIEL COHEN
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Students who love the game of golf waited through the fall and even into the winter to hear the much-anticipated announcement of who would be coaching the Wilkes University golf team this year.

Finally it was announced that Meyers High School alum, Mike Hirthler would begin his first season as the Colonel's golf team's head coach.

Hirthler graduated from Dickinson College with a degree in economics and is locally self-employed at LPL Financial Services in Wilkes-Barre. When it comes to sports and coaching Hirthler is a long time expert coaching basketball for 15 years at the Wilkes-Barre Catholic Youth Center. He also was very influential in expanding athletic

facilities at the CYC through his efforts as a board member.

In addition to his love for basketball, Hirthler is equally as accomplished on the green and is an active member of the Wyoming Valley Country Club, the Glenmaura National Country Club, and the Reynolds Plantation Country Club.

Even with all of his success and experience, his new role as head golf coach is his first professional coaching post.

The official start to the golf season is Wednesday, April 5, when the team heads to the green under Hirthler's leadership for the first time against Scranton. Wilkes hasn't garnered a golf championship since the late 1970s and has only had six match wins in the past two seasons.

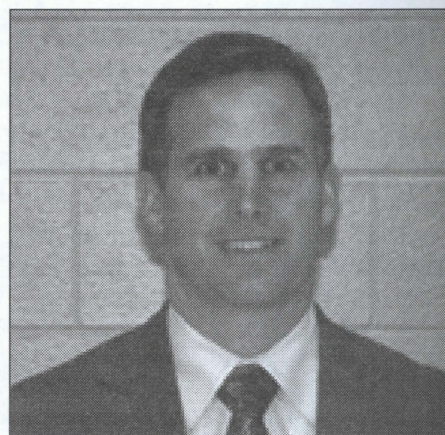
"We have a young team [including] six or seven freshman and a total of 18 guys signed up for the team all together," said new head coach Mike Hirthler.

The focus for this team is redevelopment

and rebuilding. "I am looking to really build and get a feel for the program over the next few seasons. I am looking to start a fall program and am also planning a trip next spring to Greensboro, Georgia," stated Hirthler about his plans for the team.

According to first time player Neal Jackloski, "He [Hirthler] seems to be organized and also very knowledgeable especially when it comes to swing patterns. I haven't had the opportunity to speak with him [Hirthler] that much, but he seems pretty friendly and approachable."

For the team to succeed this season it is crucial to have team unity and good leadership. "I tend to be inconsistent and I am not the best golfer, so I am hoping that Hirthler will provide guidance and tips on what we are doing wrong to help the other players and myself improve [our] skills," stated Jackloski and what he is looking for from the new coach.



Courtesy of Sports Information

Hirthler, self-employed at LPL Financial Services in Wilkes-Barre, took his first professional coaching position when he signed on as the head coach of the Wilkes varsity golf team. The Colonels take to the green on April 5.

**GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT
IT ON YOUR RESUME.**



AN ARMY OF ONE.

The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

**ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER**



Two Years Experience in only 28 Days! Get paid to attend & qualify for a scholarship valued at approximately \$75,000. If interested, call Captain Gildea, 570-941-7457 or Major Ramsey, 570-881-2406 or email rotc@scranton.edu.

COMMENTARY



Opening Day Preview: Welcome to "next year"

BY NICK PODOLAK
Asst. Sports Editor

The only solace a MLB fan can find after a losing season is the assurance of "next year." On April 2, next year begins as 32 teams enter Opening Day with a clean slate. For those of you still caught up in March Madness, here's an overview of the most intriguing storylines coming into the 2006 season.

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

They say that history repeats itself, but will Johnny Damon's trade to the Dark Side be another "Curse of the Bambino?" Not likely. Call it the "Curse of the Idiot," if you will. But while Damon adds decent pop to an already potent Yankees lineup, his presence won't have an effect on the mediocre pitching staff. Their aces, Randy Johnson and Mike Mussina, would be much better off pitching in a nursing home softball league. And while Carl Pavano could be the team's saving grace, it is uncertain whether he will be healthy enough for a bounce back year.

Over in Beantown, the Red Sox replaced Damon with Coco Crisp, arguably the most underrated outfielder in the biz. Crisp is coming off back-to-back seasons with 15 homers and 15 steals along with a .300 average. He won't be the rock star Damon was, but at least the Fenway Faithful can replace their fake beards with boxes of Cocoa Crispies. Pitcher Josh Beckett was another stellar pickup. The 2003 World Series MVP is a possible Cy Young candidate if his nagging blisters remain under control.

But forget about the Yankees and the Red Sox for a moment... the real winners of this off-season were the Toronto Blue Jays. With the additions of Troy Glaus (3B), Lyle Overbay (1B), A.J. Burnette (SP), and closer B.J. Ryan, the 'Jays are better on paper than both the Yankees and the Red Sox. But can they finally put it all together?

CHI-TOWN CHAMPS

Winning its first World Series in 88 years, the Chicago White Sox are in no hurry to go back to playing second fiddle to the beloved Cubs. The ChiSox bolstered its already potent line-up by signing slugger Jim Thome,

who will replace Frank Thomas who was shipped to the A's. Thome, if healthy, will bat behind Paul Konerko in the DH spot, providing for a vulgar display of power. The Sox also replaced pitcher Orlando Hernandez with Arizona ace Javier Vazquez, making the rotation even better than last year. However, don't expect the team to be a shoo-in for the playoffs, for the Indians and Twins are also serious contenders for the division title.

PUMPING UP ON STEROIDS

A new book titled "Book of Shadows" alleges that Barry Bonds has been using performance-enhancing drugs for the past four seasons. Big deal. Tell me something I don't know. What's important is that Bud Selig strengthened the steroid policy to a 50-game suspension for first-time offenders, and Bonds will come into the 2006 season clean. Expected to play in 125 games, Bonds needs only seven homeruns to surpass Babe Ruth on the all-time homerun list and 47 to break homerun king Hank Aaron's record of 755. Though Bonds may not break the record this year, he will certainly

turn the Giants from a pretender to a contender in the wishy washy National League West.

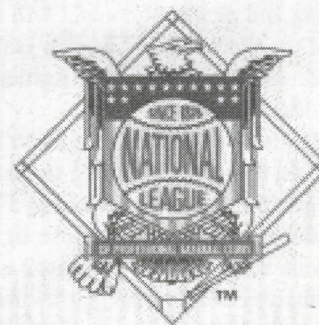
Tune into ESPN2 this Sunday as the Cleveland Indians and the Chicago White Sox open up the regular season at 8:05 p.m.

PREDICTIONS



AMERICAN LEAGUE

East: Boston Red Sox
Central: Cleveland Indians
West: Oakland A's
Wild Card: Toronto Blue Jays



NATIONAL LEAGUE

East: Philadelphia Phillies
Central: St. Louis Cardinals
West: San Francisco Giants
Wild Card: New York Mets

World Series

Boston Red Sox
vs.
New York Mets



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Senior business major Robert Balsemel engages in a friendly game of pool at the Henry Student Center. Billiards is an intramural sporting event that currently consists of about sixteen competitors. The name of the game is 8-ball, and follows the Billiard Congress of America rules of play. The regular season of Billiards has just drawn to a close, with the first round of playoffs beginning on Monday, March 27. Matthew Nagar finished the regular season on top, with a 7-2 record. David Crane and Matthew Burian will square off on the first floor of the Henry Student Center at 4 p.m. on Monday to kick off the playoffs.

| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

Arena Football League: Arizona Rattlers versus San Jose SaberCats

Stage set for west coast war on April 2

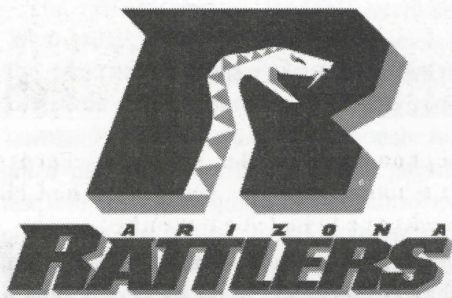
BY RYAN DIPPPE
Beacon Sports Editor

The Arena Football League is now in its twentieth season of play, and most people are still a little astounded by the fact that it still exists.

One of the only successful professional football leagues in the United States aside from the NFL, the Arena league has done something that both the USFL of the late 1980s and the XFL of two and a half weeks in 2002 were unable to do: create a brand of football that was not only exciting, but different enough from the NFL to stand on its own. Arena football has also filled a large gap in football viewers' lives: that boring time between the Super Bowl and pre-season camps, when we all have to pretend to enjoy the NBA just to get by.

The AFL's short field has created an offensive monster, which is exactly what fans love to see. The high-scoring games in the AFL gives fans every reason to be on their feet for any given play. Additionally, the lack of sidelines and the lack of width in the field creates a lot of traffic, giving rise to opportunities for some great hits. Plenty of scoring and plenty of contact will be the name of the game in this week's Game of the Week against the Arizona Rattlers and the San Jose SaberCats.

The Rattlers come into the contest riding high upon a four game winning streak. Arizona began the year 0-3, including a 58-50 loss to the then-winless San Jose in Week 3. Arizona began to turn its season around in a defensive duel (or what passes for a defensive duel in this league) against Utah on February 18. The Rattlers, AFL Champions in 1994 and 1997, are once again reach-



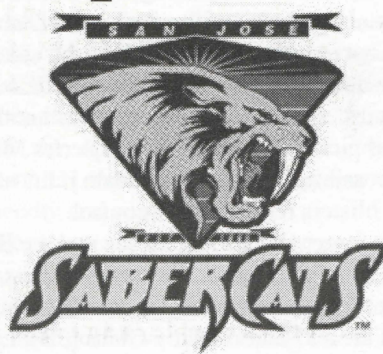
ing their typical standard of success in the league. Arizona is currently 5-4 overall, and leading the Western Division of the American Conference with a 3-2 division record.

The SaberCats are also members of the Western Division, and are still attempting to claw their way out of the basement this season. After posting a 9-7 season and earning a playoff berth in 2005, the SaberCats have struggled throughout the first nine weeks of the 2006 season. Their early-season win over the Rattlers gave them little momentum, as the team struggled to finish games later in the season. The SaberCats will come into the game with a 3-6 overall record, and a 2-3 conference record.

The game will be a pivotal one for the Western Division. Although the Rattlers are in first place, the SaberCats are not far behind. A win would place both teams at 3-3 and give the second place Los Angeles Gladiators a shot at first place.

Although there is a small chance for a shootout—it's a 50-yard field, for crying out loud—look for this game to be the AFL's sad excuse for a ground war.

San Jose is 2-0 when they have more rushing yards than their opponent, and Arizona's defense isn't going to give them much in the air. The Rattler



defense has been the backbone of the team during the winning streak, allowing the lowest quarterback rating in both conferences (87.8) along with the second-fewest passing yards and touchdowns (1,903 and 26, respectively). SaberCat QB Mark Grieb leads the league in yards per attempt, and he had a good day against Arizona last game, but the defense has been playing much better football since then. Expect Arizona to concentrate on going for the ball after San Jose's three-turnover game against Nashville a week ago.

Rattlers quarterback Sherdrick Bonner is an old hand in the league, joining the 700-touchdown club in last week's win over Los Angeles, and it is a given that he will get his yards. The deciding factor in this game will be on the effectiveness of San Jose's ground game against Arizona's stingy defense, and also the SaberCats' ability to keep the Rattler special teams in check throughout the game.

San Jose's Phil Glover is tied for first in rushing touchdowns this season with eight, and WR/DB James Roe is averaging 125 all-purpose yards per game. It will be up to this duo to keep the Rattler defense off-balance and guessing throughout the game, while also giving enough points to match whatever Bonner and his crew manages to throw on the board. The SaberCats have home field advantage, but the Rattlers have the advantage in both special teams and defense. It will be a fight to the finish, but Arizona's advantages compounded by their winning streak and the still-remembered sting of an early-season defeat should carry them through.

The Pick: Arizona 45, San Jose 38

Double Take

*Sarah examines the stats that truly matter*BY SARAH HERBERT
Beacon Features Editor

Note to self: don't make snide remarks about your editors in your actual column.

For some reason, I get the feeling that this week's game of the week is sweet revenge for complaining about having to cover stupid sports that I'm not interested in.

This week's matchup features the Arizona Rattlers and San Jose SaberCats. I'm sure absolutely no one has any inkling of what sport these teams play. That is because they are Arena Football teams.

It's a very sad point in one's life when one begins to avidly follow arena football. Now don't get me wrong, I can see featuring our local team or even the Philadelphia Soul, but where did this wacko idea come from?

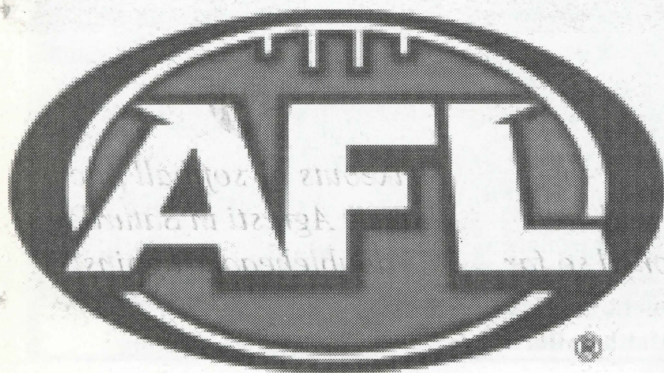
That being said, let me offer you all an anecdote about my experience with arena football.

I'm open to anything and I'll try anything once (in the case of football once is the limit, however). So I ventured out to a Pioneers game and was so distraught I whined and cried until the people I was with finally said we could leave. Apparently, we missed some amazing plays in the end of the game.

That's not to say that I felt badly about forcing everyone to leave. No one seems to understand how mentally draining football is for me. It actually hurts my head. Now that I think of it, it hurts my entire body. Just thinking about having to watch a football game gives me severe anxiety.

As you can see, my pick this week is going to be quite arbitrary. In all honesty, I don't care who wins as long as I don't have to watch/listen to/hear about the game. It just isn't my thing.

I'm sort of leaning toward the Rattlers. Wouldn't it be hilarious if instead of playing the SaberCats they played the Mongooses? Would the plural of mongoose be mongeese? Now I'm getting off topic, this is what football does to my brain. Go Rattlers.



Athlete of the Week

Baseball: Kevin Konschak

BY ARIEL COHEN
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

It may still be cold outside, but senior pitcher Kevin Konschak was on fire to start the Colonels' season in Florida and was honored as Freedom Conference Pitcher of the Week the week of March 13.

Konschak, who is a New Jersey native, earns *Beacon* Athlete of the Week honors thanks to a solid outing in this weekend's game against Drew University. In the rescheduled double-header home opener for the Colonels Konschak pitched the second of the two games giving up only 4 runs in his second complete game of the season.

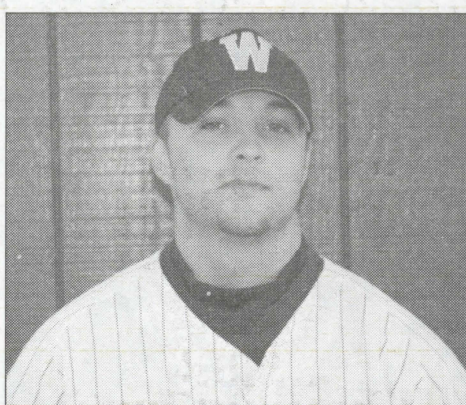
Konschak fell behind early in the game giving up one run in the first and second innings before he got a boost from his offense in the bottom half of the third inning. Konschak and the Colonels would split the double-header with Drew University winning 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh off a ground ball hit by Matt LoPresto.

Since the 2004 season, Konschak has posted an overall record of 10-8 and career ERA of 3.253. Over the 105 innings that he has pitched he has allowed 53 earned runs, 45 walks, and 130 hits.

"Kevin is an experienced pitcher who we are expecting to have a big year for us. He is going to be one of the guys who starts our conference games for us," said men's baseball head coach Joe Folek.

"It would be nice to win the MAC this season," Kevin Konschak expressed after the game. He went onto talk about how he does it for the team.

"Kevin may also find himself in the lineup this season in either a designated hitter or outfielder role. We're going to look for him to pull double duty to help us win ball-



Courtesy of Sports Information

Konschak threw a complete game against Drew University on Sunday afternoon and came away with a 5-4 victory.

games," stated Folek.

As Konschak pitches in his final season he stated that, "My biggest accomplishment is that fact that I have been a winning pitcher every year."

Konschak and the rest of the baseball team will be back in action on Tuesday at 3 p.m. at Artillery Park taking on Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

2006 Home Games

March 28	PSU Wilkes-Barre
March 31	FDU-Florham
April 2	King's
April 5	Misericordia
April 7	DeSales
April 11	Susquehanna
April 14	Delaware Valley
April 20	Old Westbury
April 24	Baptist Bible
April 28	Scranton



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Sophomore outfielder Kyle Follweiler is signaled to "Get Down!" as he slides safely into home plate Pete Rose style. The Colonels played their first home opener in four weeks due to inclement weather.

WEEKEND RECAPS

Baseball

The men's baseball team split its home opener against Drew on Sunday, winning the rubber match 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh. Kyle Follweiler led off with a stand-up double to center field, then Chris Mayerski was intentionally walked, setting up Matt LoPresto's game winning hit. Kevin Konschack walked away with the win as the Colonels improve to 5-5 overall, 3-3 in the conference.

Softball

Laurie Agresti threw a one-hitter, and Nadine Taylor had three hits during Saturday afternoon's doubleheader against Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA. The Lady Colonels took the first game 8-0 in five innings, and won the nightcap in an easy 7-0 shutout. The Colonels continued their weekend streak with a sweep of a doubleheader against FDU-Florham on Sunday. Agresti again dominated from the mound, striking out 10 en route to an 8-0 victory. Samantha Evanich struck out four in the second game to lead the Lady Colonels to an 11-3 victory. Wilkes is now 8-6 overall, with a 4-0 conference record.

Women's Lacrosse

The Lady Colonels posted a difficult 17-5 loss to Widener University on Saturday afternoon in Chester. Stacy Fimmano and Jen Compton each had two goals, and Catherine Simone had one in the loss. Shannon Chlebus also had an assist. The Lady Colonels are currently 1-2 overall, with an 0-2 conference record.

Men's Tennis

Wilkes University took two out of three doubles matches to start their match against Marywood, but were unable to hold on and fell to the Pacers 4-3. Arvin Narula and Josh Gardner took victories in singles. The Colonels fell to 5-2 overall with the loss.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

0

Runs allowed by the women's softball team in Saturday's doubleheader against Delaware Valley College.

2

Goals scored by both Stacy Fimmano and Jen Compton in Saturday's women's lacrosse game against Widener.

4

Number of times that the baseball team has had their home opener postponed so far this season.

9

Strikeouts by softball pitcher Laurie Agresti in Saturday's doubleheader against Delaware Valley College.

Sports

MARCH 27, 2006

20

Preview of the Week: women's lacrosse vs. Susquehanna on 3/28

BY RYAN DIPPRE
Beacon Sports Editor

Sometimes there's nothing better than being the underdog.

Sometimes the opponent gets off the bus a little too cocky, with a little bit too much swagger in its collective step. Sometimes it's just one of those days; there's electricity in the air, some snap in the wind, but the opposing team can't feel it. They're looking to another day, against another opponent, and they don't even notice the determined faces of the team standing right in front of them. And sometimes--just sometimes--they walk off the field after 60 minutes of play with a healthy reminder that victories are earned, not given.

The women's lacrosse team is hoping to make it one of those days for Susquehanna University on Tuesday, March 28, when the Lady Colonels take on the Lady Crusaders at Ralston field at 4:15 p.m.

The team, in only its fourth season of existence and its first under head coach Mary Kate Stauffer,



Stacy Fimmano maneuvers around defenders in Tuesday's game against Drew at Ralston Field.

The Beacon/Todd Wiebel

has started the 2006 season strong. The Lady Colonels are 1-2 going into Tuesday's game, with a 17-5 defeat of nearby rival Misericordia and a narrow loss to defending champ Drew University. "Their skills are constantly improving," said Stauffer, a 2000 Rowan University graduate. "They have a very strong desire to be successful and they are more than aware of the fact that they have to play as a

'team' at all times."

The team has done more than merely come together over the course of pre-season training and the first week of its season: the women have also sharpened their game to an impressive degree. "Everyone has improved by leaps and bounds," said freshman attack wing Catherine Simone. "Everyone has really stepped up."

Some of the older hands on the

team have noticed as much improvement in team skills as they have in individual skills. "This year, if I've got the ball and I need to pass it, I can know exactly where someone else is going to be," said senior captain Pam Carney. "We've gotten used to each other's play."

Fellow senior Cassie Malone agrees, "We've really clicked a lot more this year on the field."

Stauffer credits the leadership of the upperclassmen with giving the team the ability to handle setbacks "with class and patience." This will be of particular importance against Susquehanna, as the Lady Crusaders are noted for their rough style of play on the field.

"They can be nasty," said Carney.

Stauffer, however, doesn't feel that the leadership will fail to deliver against a team that made it to the semifinals of the MAC Championship Tournament in 2005. "They take everything that we dish out and we never hear any complaints," she said. "They want to win at basically any cost."

With a new coach, a new attitude, and strong leadership, it is no surprise that Wilkes can't wait to see the Lady Crusaders roll onto Ralston Field on Tuesday. The story of the underdog is one of the greatest chapters in the history of sports, and the Lady Colonels will have a chance to add a new page on their own turf. Check your swagger, Susquehanna: it could just be one of those days.

Campus Calendar

Monday (3/27)

*Men's tennis @ Keystone - 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday (3/28)

*Last day to buy Spring Fling tickets

*Senior Graduation meeting for May Graduates, HSC Ballroom - 11:15 a.m.

*Women's softball @ Moravian - 2:30 p.m.

*Men's baseball vs. PSU Wilkes-Barre - 3 p.m.

*Women's lacrosse vs. Susquehanna - 4:15 p.m.

*Open dinner discussion on "How to be a person who changes their community in positive ways", HSC Miller Room - 6 p.m. RSVP by call-

ing 408-4731 or culture@wilkes.edu

Wednesday (3/29)

*Men's tennis vs. Scranton - 3 p.m.

Thursday (3/30)

*Preview of the Recreation and Athletic Center (RAC) at UCOM - 11:30 to 1 p.m.

*Women's lacrosse vs. Centenary - 4:15 p.m.

*Team Rootberry, a comical sword and juggling act HSC Ballroom - 8 p.m.

*College Night Out, Chackos Bowling Lane - 9:30 p.m.

Friday (3/31)

*Men's baseball vs. FDU-Florham - 3 p.m.

*Spring Fling, Waterfront - 6 p.m.

Saturday (4/1)

*Men's baseball @ FDU-Florham - 12 p.m.

*Women's softball vs. King's - 1 p.m.

*Men's tennis vs. Philadelphia Bible - 1 p.m.

Women's lacrosse @ Messiah - 1 p.m.

Sunday (4/2)

*Men's Tennis @ Lebanon Valley - 1 p.m.

To have your events included, send an email to wilkesbeacon@gmail.com and include the event, date, time and location

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH

1952

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 Mark Mowery, who correctly identified last week's picture of a plaque on a rock outside of the library