



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

"The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow."

WUPB kicks off Freak Week with Halloween-themed bingo



On Oct. 28, the Programming Board kicked off Freak Week with Halloween-themed bingo. The prizes ranged from tickets to House of Horrors to espresso machines and blankets. Many attendees also received a free Freak Week shirt upon entry.

Photo by Leah Smith



HPSC hosts second annual thrift store clothing drive, page 3



The women of the Memories and Inspiration exhibition, page 7



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News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Emma Broda: emma.broda@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: Oct. 23 weekly meeting

By Kayla Bicskei
News Staff Writer

Student Government reconvened on Oct. 23 for the eighth meeting of the Fall 2024 semester.

This meeting addressed the Student Government Treasury report, constitution updates, club recognitions, funding requests, the Student Government Fall Event report and committee work.

The Student Government Treasurer was invited to begin the meeting with the Student Government Treasury report. The Student Government budget was updated and is currently reported to be \$30,561.

The Multicultural Student Coalition returned for its week two of two constitution update presentation.

The constitution update consisted of corrections of grammatical errors, changes of hosted activities and events to reflect their campus involvement and added details of the coalition's bi-weekly newsletter.

Along with updates on the coalition's on-campus actions, the updated constitution details the qualifications for its general board membership, executive board membership, and probation requirements.

The Student Government voted to approve the constitution updates of the Multicultural Student Coalition.

The History Club was the next presentation on the agenda, and it was their week one of two club recognition requests.

The History Club works to provide students with an outlet to express, share and form ideas based on personal interests. The club also wants to increase historical involvement for its members and the campus community.

The club does not currently have

a pre-set schedule, but they hold their meetings based on member availability.

The History Club's fundraisers and community service projects will include gravestone cleaning, a historical bake sale, and designing history department apparel. In the future, the club will be holding a historical movie night, trivia night and peer review sessions for the history research methods course.

The History Club will return next week for its week two of two club recognition request.

During their private meeting, the Student Government Executive Board analyzed over six club reports this week, including the Psychology Club and the Ultimate Frisbee Club.

The Student Government President reported that they were not able to review the Wilkes University Choral Club presentation at the executive board Meeting like other club reports, so she presented the club's report at the general board meeting.

The presentation stated that the Wilkes University Choral Club has upcoming community service projects of singing at Winterfest and performing at the Spring 2025 Commencement.

The club will also be hosting fundraisers and activities, such as a Halloween costume contest, a karaoke night and their Spring 2025 singing valentine fundraiser.

Student Government voted to approve all club reports evaluated at



the executive board meeting and the general board meeting.

Next on the meeting agenda was the week one of two Spring 2025 Casino Night Event funding request. The Casino Night planning representative reported that the theme has been decided and will become public closer to the event date.

Along with the theme, the giveaway items and prizes that will be distributed at the event have also been chosen. The event will include various types of food, soda and mocktails for attending students.

The planning representative reported a total funding request of \$21,500 to fund the food, drinks, decorations, giveaway items and prizes of the event.

The Spring 2025 Casino Night event planning representative will return next week for its week two of two funding request.

The official business of the eighth weekly meeting of the Fall 2024 semester concluded with committee work for the Spring 2025 Casino Night event.

Student Government will meet again on Oct. 30.

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Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: emma.broda@wilkes.edu

HSPC hosts second annual thrift store clothing drive

By Leah Smith
Asst. Opinion Editor

The Honors Program Committee held its second annual thrift store clothing drive. The event took place on Oct. 22 and was held on the first floor of the Henry Student Center.

No clothing items were over \$5, and

all of the proceeds were donated to the We're Empowered by Science (WEBS) program, which provides young people with hands-on exposure to STEM labs and topics.

Any clothing items left went to Colonel Closet and Keystone Mission.



Left to right: Megan Rozanski, junior, event runner and head of the HSPC committee, Daniel Yap junior, Lindsey Scorey masters student



Event volunteers left to right: Liz Keller, sophomore and Andrea Buenano, freshman

Passan School of Nursing high pass rate on NCLEX

By Emma Broda
News Editor

This year, Wilkes University's Passan School of Nursing achieved a 98.72% pass rate on the National Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

The rate is well above the national average, 93.35%. The exam is a national test used for the licensing process for nurses in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

While statistics alone say that the Passan School of Nursing does an exceptional job at preparing undergraduates to take the NCLEX, students within the program also agree that they feel well prepared.

Katie Ritsick, senior nursing major, and Syd Farmer, senior nursing major, both shared the sentiment that they were not all that surprised to hear of the high pass rate statistic.

"This was awesome to hear and honestly not a surprise," said Farmer.

She continued by saying that "the teachers do a great job preparing us for the clinical aspect of nursing as well as the test taking portion which is essential for the NCLEX."

In addition to the hard work of the professors of the Passan School, Farmer and Ritsick agreed that the more recent introduction of the bracketing system contributes to the level of preparedness students gain.

This system breaks down the work throughout the program into three brackets and requires students to maintain an average of around 79 percent in order to do well within the program.

Farmer stated that "although this is a big undertaking and sometimes is tough, I do feel like it is a big part of the high pass rate."

Ritsick felt similarly about the system and shared that, "It has even been said that the rigor of the program may be harder than the NCLEX, which is why we feel so prepared."

"Wilkes does a great job of designing our exams to closely mirror the NCLEX, including timed tests with next-generation style questions," she said.

Both students are seniors this year and are soon going to be taking on the NCLEX themselves. They have been working more rigorously in preparation for the exam, even taking a dedicated NCLEX prep class nursing students take in their final semester.

Wilkes structures their different levels of bachelors and masters programs for nursing in a way that best prepares students for both this exam and their future career in the nursing field.

Ritsick and Farmer shared that they feel extremely confident for the exam and are even excited to do it thanks to the hard work of their professors and the Passan School of Nursing.

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WEEK FOR
LIVE ELECTION
UPDATES**



www.thewilkesbeacon.com

That's So Honors: HSPC elects a new president

Zoe Morley will take over as HSPC president in the spring

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Although most clubs won't elect their officers until the spring semester, the Honors Program Student Committee, or HPSC, election is in full swing. Students are competing for eight roles on the executive board that plans social, educational and community service events for students in the Honors Program.

However, one role has already been filled by junior biology major, Zoe Morley: president.

Morley explained that she originally chose to run for an HPSC position to have a greater impact on the honors Community and give back to the crogram.

"Being in the Honors Program has given me a place to make friends and participate in events that I never thought I would be able to do," she said.

She added that being in the Honors Program has also allowed her to participate in community service projects, letting her connect with the larger Wilkes-Barre community.

She ran for her current position, director of publicity, at this time last year. In her current role, Morley is responsible for creating posters for HPSC events and publishing everything on the Honors Program Instagram page.

"I loved serving as the director of publicity as it gave me an outlet to be artistic and interact with the Honors Program as a whole."

For every other role on the HPSC, students submit an application and have the opportunity to campaign for a few weeks before elections run in the Honors Program's weekly newsletter, the Buzz. Once the winners are notified, they sit in on one of the final HPSC meetings with the outgoing board so they have the opportunity to learn.

Morley's position, however, is a little different. For example, Morley wasn't elected by students in the Honors

Program.

"The election process started in late September when me and the other person who ran for HPSC President submitted our applications," she said.

"We then both had the opportunity to read a speech for the HPAC (Honors Program Advisory Council) and they had the opportunity to ask each of us specific questions about our leadership styles and what we would like to see happen with the HPSC under our leadership."

The HPSC hosts a wide variety of ends. The director of social events plans fun events for students, most recently, a Harry Potter movie and crafts night in the JPAC.

The director of educational events, hosts events meant to educate students on different topics, like the Gen Z & Social Media Marketing the HPSC hosted a few weeks ago, with help from the Wilkes University marketing department.

Since adding a community service requirement for future cohorts, as well as the class of 2027 and 2028, the director of community service, who always planned opportunities, has been working overtime to make sure that there are plenty of events for honors students to serve their community.

Morley, who regularly attends HPSC's events, said her favorite was a social event last spring: a trip to the Purrfect Mugs Cat Cafe in Plains Township.

Next year's board will look different, but the fun and educational events aren't going anywhere.

Although she doesn't have any specific plans, Morley says her first goal as president of the HPSC is to familiarize the new board members with procedures and help prepare them for the year ahead.

Her advice to those seeking a role on an executive board: "I would suggest talking to people who have previously or currently serve on executive boards of different clubs to get a bigger picture

of what will be expected of you in those roles. If you are interested, definitely try to get involved in e-boards as they are a great way to develop leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills."

Zoe Morley will take over as the HPSC president in the spring, but in the meantime, she'll keep creating content on the @wilkeshonors Instagram page.

Photo courtesy of Zoe Morley



Zoe Morley, Honor Student Program Committee's newly-elected president

Haunted houses provide spooky options: If you dare

By Leah Smith

Opinion Assistant Editor

Halloween is right around the corner which means that it's time for costume shopping and pumpkin carving for people who celebrate the spooky fun holiday.

This also means it's time to break out the chills and thrills of the classic Halloween attraction: haunted houses.

Pennsylvania is known for its multitude of haunted attractions all across the state such as Lancaster's Field of Screams and Nanticoke's Horror Hall.

At Wilkes University, many students have had their fair share of going to a haunted house and have expressed their opinions on how they feel about the scary yet exciting attractions.

Anthony Elms, a junior history major, expressed his love for haunted houses and said that Horror Hall is his favorite.

"Getting scared is my favorite part. Also getting that adrenaline rush with your friends feels like a bonding experience in some ways."

However, not everyone enjoys going to a haunted house due to the many jump scares and terrifying scenery.

Flora Tsang said she has no interest in going to a haunted house due to the scenery and situations the houses put their guests through. She claims that they are too realistic to handle.

Other students have expressed their love for haunted houses and their desire to go to them more often but cannot due to the prices for admission that have been rising in recent years.

Sophomore student Aubrey Hart addressed this issue by saying that she adored going to Reaper's Revenge last year and wanted to go again this year but decided against it due to its \$69

price for admission.

One of Pennsylvania's most infamous haunted attractions is the Pennhurst Asylum located in Spring City. This location is not only iconic for its mental asylum setting and ghost hunting tours, but because of its tragic history.

Before Pennhurst became the attraction it is now, it was an actual mental institution who took in patients with both mental illness and physical disabilities.

Students gave their opinions on this controversial decision to monetize the asylum in such a way after learning its history.

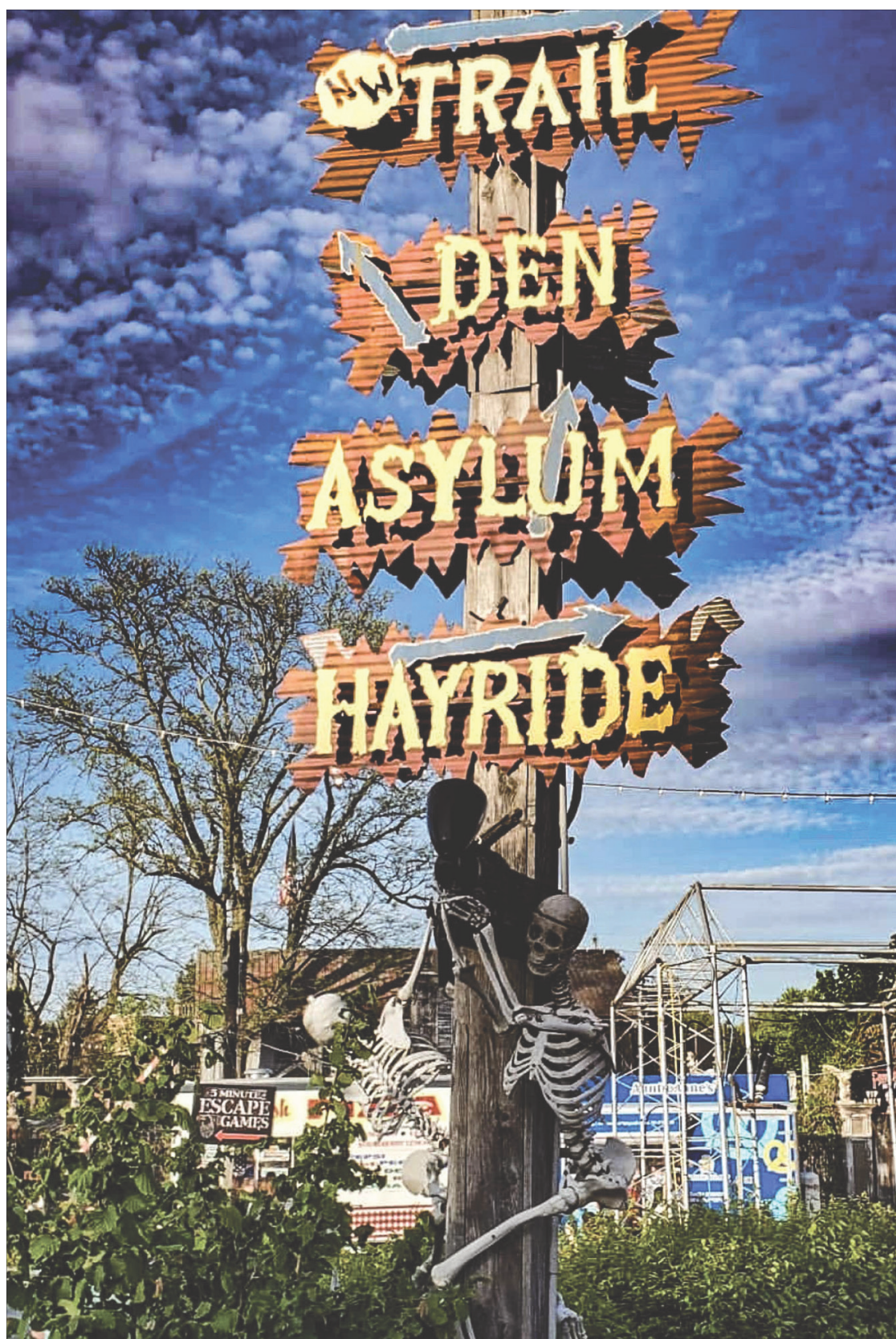
Eric Walsh, a senior, stated that the decision to turn the asylum into a haunted attraction feels morally wrong.

"I appreciate the authenticity of the setting and how the actors may look, but it just rubs me the wrong way," he explained.

However, others don't see this change of the asylum to be a negative. If anything they see it as a way to honor its legacy to show the public the horrors that the patients went through. Senior student Jackie Costello loves the idea, even calling it, "badass."

Pennhurst Asylum understands that the nighttime paranormal tours do not honor the hospital's historic patients. They have created daytime tours at the museum that give visitors an opportunity to learn the history of Pennhurst Asylum without the frights.

According to the official Pennhurst Asylum website, they state that they have become advocates for the disability rights movement and warned guests about the upsetting history they will share throughout the tour.



Courtesy of Lancaster's Field of Screams

Peace. Inclusion. Equity.

Student Diversity and Equity Conference to be held Saturday

By Kailey Vogel

Special to the Beacon

Wilkes students can look forward to the 7th Annual Student Diversity and Leadership Conference: Peace, Inclusion, Equity.

The event will be held on Nov. 2 and is hosted by The Office of Diversity Initiatives and Civic Engagement.

The Office of Diversity Initiatives (ODI) is a student service located at the Max Roth Center of Wilkes' campus. This service "assists students with personal, academic and career concerns that impact their academic success."

ODI is known for hosting many programming events for students that help build their awareness and leadership skills when it comes to diversity and inclusion.

The upcoming conference should do just that.

"I enjoy seeing what students get out of each conference and watching them have like a lightning bulb moment when they either grasp a new concept or have an idea about using what they've learned in their own lives," said Catie Becker, executive director of civic engagement at the university.

The conference will take place in the Henry Student Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Students will be offered to partake in workshops centered around the theme of diversity and inclusion.

"We will have workshops that discuss a variety of topics that discuss everything from macroaggressions and media consumption to staying relevant and inclusive as a leader," Becker said. "There will be a few familiar faces throughout our workshop sessions but we're excited to welcome some new speakers as well."

A coffee hour will be provided to all attendees. Students will be able to drink coffee from Wilkes-Barre's POUR Coffee House and partake in a resume workshop as well.

Students are expected to dress in business attire as it is a formal conference event. They should also be advised to bring a pencil, pen, or other writing materials with them to jot down notes and participate in workshops that require writing.

Beckers reminds students that the Colonels Closet is open to anyone who may need appropriate attire.

A certificate of completion will be

given at the end of the conference indicating attendees' participation.

Becker said the event is a collaborative effort between the two campus offices.

"Showing (students) what exists outside of their own worlds and how they can support people in different ways is something I've always wanted to do so I'm grateful for the opportunity.

"Working with the Office of Diversity Initiatives has been great to show students the power of collaboration and what we can accomplish together."

The workshop is free for Wilkes Students should register prior to the event.

Those who are interested in attending can sign up by filling out the Google form found on Today at Wilkes or by scanning the QR code located on numerous posters hung around campus. Spots are limited.

Contact Erica Acosta (erica.acosta@wilkes.edu) or Catie Becker (catherine.becker@wilkes.edu) for more information.



Peace. Inclusion. Equity.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 2, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.,
HENRY STUDENT CENTER**

Join us for the 7th Annual
Student Diversity and Leadership
Conference at Wilkes University!

The conference will offer workshops centered around our theme of peace, inclusion, and equity with speakers from around the area who will share their expertise. We will also offer a resume workshop and coffee hour. A certificate of completion will be given at the end of the conference.

REGISTER NOW [↗](#)

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment assistant editor: anthony.cazun@wilkes.edu

The women of the Memories and Inspiration exhibition

By Leah Smith
Asst. Opinion Editor

The Sordoni Art Gallery hosted its director's tour spotlighting the women artists of their Memories and Inspirations exhibition. The event was free to attend and took place at 5 p.m. on Oct. 23. It was led by the art gallery's director, Heather Sincavage.

The event flier on Today at Wilkes promised to highlight what was called, "the women trailblazers in the Memories & Inspiration exhibition... discover their lasting legacy through this intimate discussion amongst the art."

The evening's exhibition delivered on the key information of not only the art these women have made but the artist's history and how their history as well as other major historical events motivated these women.

Sincavage led the attendees through a historically enriching and powerful gallery experience highlighting African American women throughout history who have contributed meaningful works, making a name for themselves in art history.

One of the artists observed at the gallery was Lois Mailou Jones whose watercolor painting was and is currently

being shown at the Sordoni Art Gallery. The painting was done by Jones at her time in France during what is known as the expatriates movement in which many African American artists and creators moved to France and Europe due to racial and social tensions in the United States.

Jones' work is a reflection of the beauty of France with all of its various colors and shapes. Sincavage discusses Jones's history and quotes one of Jones's statements at her time of being an art professor.

"Visibility is important," said Jones.

This sentence made by Jones was to not only motivate her students but for young marginalized artists who wanted to express themselves.

Another artist that was observed was Stefanie Jackson who is a more contemporary artist, but still as impactful as Jones.

Her work highlights political and

social issues and in this specific image, black struggle. The painting done by Jackson was made after and inspired by the damage done by Hurricane Katrina. The various facial expressions and colors elevating those expressions are meant to reflect the pain and damage done to African Americans during and after the time of Katrina.

As the event came to an end, Sincavage summarized the importance of these pieces and women's role in art and history.

She was dedicated to the lecture and said, "These are women that kind of had the odds stacked against them, that's why I wanted to take the time and celebrate them and their work."

The Sordoni Art Gallery is holding more events throughout the fall season and hopes to bring more educational and creatively striking moments for students and local attendees alike.

Photos by Leah Smith



Heather Sincavage stands beside Stefanie Jackson's Hurricane Katrina inspired piece.



Lois Mailou Jones's watercolor painting.



Sydney Allabaugh:
Bigger In Texas - Megan Thee Stallion

Stephen Youkoski:
Six Years Wiser - Harrison Boe

Megan Davis:
APT. - ROSÉ, Bruno Mars

Anthony Cazun:
crystalized - Poppy

Sam Mullen:
Silver Springs - Fleetwood Mac

Adam Grundt:
Stop & Stare - Treaty Oak Revival

Leah Smith:
Reincarnate - Motionless in White

Zach Paraway:
Rah Tah Tah - Tyler, The Creator

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Check out this week’s bops!

PROGRAMMING BOARD EVENTS

FALL 2024

Techno Bingo	8/29
Field Day	9/5
Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?	9/12
Fiesta	9/19
Giveaway #1	9/26
Blockbuster Bingo	10/3
Wilkestober Fest	10/17

Sound Showdown	10/24
Freak Week	10/28-10/31
Comedian	11/7
Chillax Bingo	11/14
Giveaway #2	11/21
White Elephant Bingo	12/5

EVENTS. EVERY. THURSDAY.

Sordoni Sessions: The art gallery is for everyone

By Anthony Cazun

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

Art is often considered the beating heart of life, and campus is no exception. Residing within the Karambelas Media and Communication Center, the Sordoni Art Gallery is home to all kinds of artistic experiences.

Sordoni Sessions is a series of events that aims to bring out the creativity within students, all while enjoying food, company and the presence of art. The first of many Sordoni Sessions was held recently, to the satisfaction of many. The event held various activities for students to sink their creative teeth into.

Tote bags were a big draw, allowing students to draw and sketch all over blank tote bags that could be used in day to day activities, adding a personal touch to on the go storage. Mascots, video game and TV characters, fall themed pumpkins, The Starry Night etc, all kinds of art from all kinds of people spilling out onto the tote bag canvas.

“My friends told me about it and I heard it was a tote bag event,” said Basma Al-Salem, political science and international relations junior.

“I got excited because I love tote bags. I drew this cute cat with a strawberry on top of its head.

“I like how [Sordoni Art Gallery] allows activities that require drawing or art, which makes me more compelled to enter the art gallery. You can do anything, it makes it feel like anyone can do anything. Allows you to ask, what is art in reality?”

Along with the totes, there was also a button maker that could be used to create pins out of any image desired. Whether it be original drawings, custom printed images or pieces from the gallery, any pin could be created to customize and style accordingly.

Along with all the creative activities, a diverse array of foods was also a hit at the event. Baked macaroni and cheese, chicken, fried cauliflower, nachos and desserts like ice cream with various arrays of toppings were all available at

the event.

“Some of the best mac and cheese I have ever had,” said Amber Cazun, junior psychology major.

“I appreciated that there were vegetarian options. It was a great night with great food.”

The event had a substantial turn out, instilling extra confidence in the gallery to host more events such as this on a regular basis.

“The main goal of our Sordoni Session events is to engage our student population here at Wilkes University,” said Melissa Carestia, assistant director of the Sordoni Art Gallery.

“I love social events like these because they help lower the perceived barrier of the arts. Showing people that an art gallery can be fun and casual, it takes away the scariness. It is a community space for everyone.”

The barrier of entry is incredibly low, as to be eligible for event participation all one must do is sign their name at the door for a free student membership to the Sordoni Art Gallery. This allows for the event to be as inclusive as possible, creating a comfortable and appealing space for everyone is a priority of the gallery.

“I will 100% come to the next event,” said Al-Salem.

“You can bring a friend and do things at your own pace. Everyone is very friendly too. It’s a very safe space I feel. You can even come by yourself and enjoy decorating. No matter what, you can have fun by yourself or start a conversation with somebody. It is perfect, everyone is included. Please come to future Sordoni events! It is wonderful.”

The upcoming Sordoni Session event will have a focus on building LEGOs, encouraging participants to build with their own directions, expressing their creativity.

The Memories and Inspiration: The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art exhibition can be visited within the Sordoni Art Gallery through Jan. 6, 2025.



Attendees and members of the Sordoni Student Membership gather for the Sordoni Session.



Strawberry cat tote painted by Basma Al-Salem at the event.

Photos by Anthony Cazun

SWE, SHPE, CCDI host LinkedIn workshop for students

Students receive tips on how to use the platform

By Natalia Williams

Life Arts and Entertainment Writer

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and the Center for Career Development and Internships hosted a LinkedIn workshop for students to improve their LinkedIn skills.

Jenna Weiss from the CCDI began the event by giving a brief introduction to LinkedIn and what it has to offer for students for their professional careers.

“LinkedIn can play a crucial role for college students,” said Weiss.

“It provides numerous access to job and internship postings, along with the ability to connect with professionals and recruiters from various industries.”

They gave an informative presentation about the importance of LinkedIn, how students can make their profiles look professional and

how students can gain meaningful connections through the platform.

Students who attended learned valuable tips on how to build their profile by explaining elements like adding a good headliner, adding an about me that is almost like an elevator pitch, and the importance of including all of your skills and past jobs.

Not only did they give tips on how to build a professional platform, they also gave helpful information on how to manage and use the platform as well. They explained when it's important to make a post, what they can post about, and how to use the messaging system. It gave students an insight to see how LinkedIn can really help and benefit them.

Students were able to learn about who to follow as well. They showed examples of different groups from Wilkes such as an alumni group and an engineering group. They explained

that these groups are helpful for job searches since some recruiters or alumni may be looking for employees or interns and often post them in the groups.

President of the society of women engineers Kensington Edmond is one of the students who organized the workshop.

“In the past SWE club always had LinkedIn night and we wanted to continue,” said Kensington.

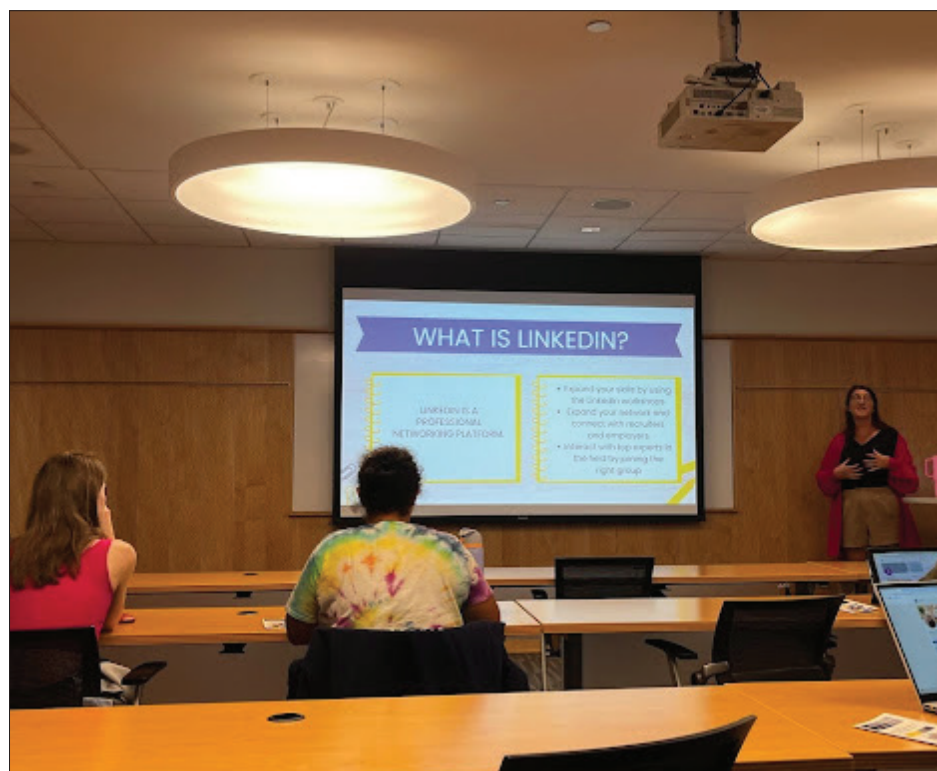
The Secretary of SWE Gabrielle

Vogel also weighed in.

“LinkedIn helps students connect to professional opportunities and helps establish a professional background” said Vogel.

This workshop was very helpful for students who had questions about the platform and how to really make the most of it. They gained helpful tips on how to really elevate their experience on the platform and how they are able to help grow professionally.

Photos courtesy of Jenny Nguyen



Gabrielle Vogel, Kensington Edmond and Deanna Stolpe helped organize the workshop.



Students in attendance received tips on how to build a professional platform and gain meaningful connections.

Crossword

HALLOWEEN EDITION

Word Bank

- 1. Cobweb
- 2. Vampire
- 3. Witch
- 4. Ghost
- 5. Halloween
- 6. Ghoul
- 7. Haunt
- 8. Coffin
- 9. Skeleton
- 10. Pumpkin
- 11. Zombie
- 12. Candy
- 13. Cemetery
- 14. Monster
- 15. Bat
- 16. Costume

P X M P U M P K I N R V K I D
T C O S T U M E Q D A V E P Y
F A E C O F F I N M I Y M V B
Y T N U A H X C P D J A W V Q
R Z O M B I E I G W C K F C J
E K L Q P W R F Z Q B A O B S
T W A L D E N E W A S B N K I
S C I P H H O E K X W W E D Z
N E M T S O H G E E K L E N Y
O M P U C Y A A B W E T G J Z
M E Q Q X H N F N T O J A G Z
B T L C A R W S O O D L H B H
L E H G Z U W N G F S O L E T
J R V A U B N R D G U F V A S
H Y E B Q Q M Z T L C W G Y H

Answer Key:

H A G W C T T Z W D B E Y H
S A V U G D G N B R V J
T S T O S G W U Z G H E L
H B H T D O O S W L C A R W S
Z G V J O T N F N H X Q E M
Z J G T W E B A Y C U M P O
Y N E T K E E G O H S O M T N
Z E M D W E M X K E O H P C I S
T W A L D E N E W A S B N K I
S E K L Q P W R F Z Q B A O B S
R Z O M B I E I G W C K F C J
Y T N U A H X C P D J A W V Q
F A E C O F F I N M I Y M V B
T C O S T U M E Q D A V E P Y
P X M P U C Y A A B W E T G J Z

October 30, 2024

WHO ARE YOU VOTING FOR AND WHY?

Interviews collected by high school students who visited for Fall Media Day

Delaware Valley:

Ella Becker, Junior
Annabelle Doro, Senior
Kaitlin Gelardi, Junior
Kristen Langelotti, Senior
Emma Simmons, Junior

Blue Ridge:

Maliya Lee, Senior
Ally Marvin, Senior
Carlissia Mayancela, Senior

Wilkes-Barre:

Brianna Goynes, Freshman

Stroudsburg:

Hailey Abba, Sophomore
Alexis Binikos, Senior
Olivia Celano, Senior
Jaden Harper, Senior



ISABELLA MENDEZ Junior
Musical Theater Major

"I'm voting for **Kamala Harris** because I agree with her personal social beliefs," Mendez said. She cited Harris' support of the working class and human and women's rights as some of the beliefs she agrees with.



TYLER MENDOZA Senior
Environmental Science Major

"I'm voting for **Harris** because our beliefs match up more than other candidates."



PAUL HENRY Left

"I'm voting for the conservative candidate because I prefer conservative reasoning and come from a conservative background."

ROBERT KOTSUR Right

"I'm also voting conservative because of my conservative background."



ANNA THOMPSON Freshman
Digital Design And Media Art Major

"I'm voting for **Kamala Harris**," Thompson said. She said Harris advocates for her beliefs, and she supports her tax plan.



JAKE MIDDLETON Junior
Biochemistry Major

"I'm voting for the Libertarian candidate because I don't like Kamala or Trump."



DELANEY FRESH

Right

"I don't really know."

MALIAH FRESH

Left

"**Kamala Harris** because she advocates for women's rights."



RYAN PIEKANSKI Junior
Mechanical Engineering Major

"Probably Trump. My family and I lean to the right, and in this particular election, there's not really a chance for an independent to win."



MAGGIE DOLPHIN Freshman
Early Special Education Major

"I am voting for **Kamala Harris** because her views match mine."

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact assistant opinion editors: leah.smith@wilkes.edu or logan.colonna@wilkes.edu.

Editorial Staff 2024-25

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Our Voice

Each week, The Beacon's editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

Constant election notifications are a nuisance

With the presidential election drawing closer and the stakes being at an all-time high, email and text notifications are also becoming more prevalent from both sides.

Lately, emails have been piling up, and it's not because of any updates on campus or hopes of classes being canceled, but because Kamala Harris's campaign team is pleading for a \$5 donation to ensure victory at the White House in November.

The number of emails and text messages have gotten to the point of frustration where muting and blocking numbers have become a necessity. Not only are they a distraction, but most of the time, they come with either pressuring or strange messages asking for a donation.

Every morning there are six new emails from both the Harris and Trump campaign asking for donations with follow-up messages explaining why they're in such desperate need for my money.

Most of the time, it's because they

want to ensure victory in November and show off their voters's loyalty to their campaign.

Isn't our vote enough?

These emails and text messages make it seem like we have to do more in order to support whatever candidate we align ourselves with but with the constant barrage of pleading and call to action, it makes it more confusing and annoying for voters receiving these messages.

The subject titles of the emails don't help much because they are either vague or meant to attack the emotions given the dire topics that are being combated in the polls.

Seeing these emails will make anyone feel guilty for not donating which is exactly what they want. However, the guilt turns into frustration because of the amount of times they send out emails and texts with the same title and emotional appeal.

There's also times when a candidate's celebrity endorsement will be the topic of the email which makes the email look like a scam. Also, this places the idea

that the receiver will be foolish enough to believe that someone like Taylor Swift is actually messaging them and not somebody from Harris's campaign team.

What comes to mind when receiving these messages is that many young voters and college students can't afford to chip in to this campaign.

Also, as mentioned earlier, the vote should be what ensures the campaign's victory, not the donation. All that the donation does is to give the campaign more money for advertising and events for the campaign to hold around the country.

This election is important and there is a lot at stake; however, that doesn't mean the campaign team can bombard and remind us constantly about the importance of the election.

We understand that donating and volunteering are important, but most of us don't have the time to commit to supporting these campaigns at the polls, and these emails shouldn't guilt trip us into thinking that our vote isn't enough.

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Email: sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu

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Mail: 84 West South Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766 Attn: *The Beacon*

The Icebox: Celebrating Venom, the Lethal Protector

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Eyes. Lungs. Pancreas. So many snacks, so little time.

It all started with the onset of strange symptoms for news reporter Eddie Brock. He needed to consume living flesh to keep himself in control, and yet, he wasn't even aware of what was really happening. Soon enough, he made a new best friend. The coolest, most badass friend anyone could ask for.

This week, the finale of the legendary “Venom” trilogy was released and I did not think twice about dropping everything I was doing to go and see it at the earliest possible time. As a matter of fact, I celebrated my own “Venom” day with Venom-themed clothing, food, cologne, candy, popcorn, you name it. If there was one fictional character that I could say for sure is my absolute favorite, I would say Venom.

Venom is an alien symbiote from the planet Klyntar who landed on Earth and requires a living thing to host in order to survive. Unfortunately, not all humans are compatible with symbiotes. Each alien from Klyntar must find its perfect host.

Somehow, Venom came upon

his perfect host, Eddie Brock. The two initially coexisted in a parasitic relationship but managed to bond on a physical and emotional level, resulting in the strongest combination of human and symbiote.

For the Marvel fans, Venom is commonly considered a villain and destroyer of Spider-Man. Peter Parker has also hosted the Venom symbiote, resulting in an aggressive, sometimes evil version of the web-slinging superhero. However, his bond is never as strong as Venom and Eddie.

As for Venom fans, we know that it is actually more of an anti-hero. Certain versions of Venom are focused on invading and conquering planets, while other versions let Eddie take the wheel. Either way, Venom fans love the symbiote unconditionally.

I can't say the same about Eddie, because sometimes he is really cool and other times he is really petty. There is no denying that he will always be the best host for Venom though.

Another interesting fact about Venom is that it functions by a hive-mind. This means that all pieces of Venom throughout the universe are connected in memory and cognitive ability. Furthermore,

Venom can even connect to other pieces throughout the multiverse, meaning that it can exist literally anywhere it wishes. That also means Venom can be anyone it wishes. In the comics, it has bonded with dozens of superheroes, villains and even civilians.

In the movie trilogy, Venom and Eddie betray their former boss and stop them from invading the planet and destroying everything, eat their own son to stop him from becoming the strongest symbiote on the planet and finally save the entire multiverse from complete destruction. All of that sounds ridiculous, especially the last one, but it only proves that Venom and Eddie are a very important character in the grand scheme of things.

Eddie Brock has been very likable in the trilogy, all thanks to Tom Hardy's performance. He not only acts like an unstable character, but he voices the symbiote too. The energy between the symbiote and Eddie is entirely decided by Hardy as he also had a hand in writing and directing the films. Basically, the trilogy has been accredited as Tom Hardy's project for Sony. It is quite sad that Tom Hardy's run with Venom has finally come to an end after six years.

Perhaps the idea of Venom isn't for

you. There are not many people that enjoy creepy, slimy aliens with booming voices and a knack for eating humans alive. Although the Venom movies don't go overboard with it, I can certainly understand that someone may feel discouraged to see them.

To such people, I say that the Venom trilogy is ultimately a romance. That's right, the ultimate friendship between Venom and Eddie which is heartwarming. The way that both of them interact with each other and collectively decide to be the “Lethal Protector” of all innocent beings, alien or not.

There are dozens of reasons to enjoy the movies, including the score and soundtrack which were produced by esteemed artists like Eminem and Ludwig Göransson.

Since the movie just released, it's difficult to discuss anything without spoilers. For the fans who are reading this, just know that the story is not over for Venom. There are still things meant to go down in future projects.

I can certainly understand that the concept of Venom is an acquired taste. The neat part is that all fans love him unconditionally.

After all... we are Venom.

Concert review: Justin Timberlake's “The Forget Tomorrow World Tour”

By Natalia Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

On Oct.11, Justin Timberlake came to Philadelphia for “The Forget Tomorrow World Tour,” and I was lucky enough to experience the magic.

I had pretty high expectations for this show going into it. I was seeing videos all over social media, and I was pretty excited to see it in person. I also looked at the setlist before my show so I was able to get prepared and see what's going to come song wise.

When going to a concert, I like to look at all aspects like ticket pricing, stage set up, set list and overall enjoyment.

First let's talk about ticket pricing. Justin Timberlake is a pretty popular artist, so I was genuinely surprised by the pricing. Granted, I did get these

tickets as a birthday gift, but I looked to see how much the tickets were in my section.

Since he is a bigger artist I was expecting tickets to be very expensive, but after looking at the other seats in my section, I was surprised my lower bowl tickets were not more than \$200. I was pretty close to the main stage and very close to the B stage.

I would 100% say that it was worth what my parents paid for those seats.

Looking at the stage set up on videos I was so excited to see it in person. I loved how he had two stages so people in all areas of the arena could view him clearly no matter where they sat. The B stage in particular was my favorite since he was really close. It was the most intimate and slow part of the show and I was glad that I had a good view.

Another aspect that I did enjoy was the “flying” stage when he sang “Mirrors.” Timberlake stood on this large block that was elevated in the air. It was an opportunity for people who were in the higher sections to see him closely, and I thought that was very neat. I would definitely give the stage set up a 10/10.

If I were to go again, I think I'd choose the seats that I had at the first go around.

When it comes to concerts, a good setlist is crucial for me. From experience, if an artist's setlist isn't up to par then I won't have a good time.

Luckily, JT's setlist was perfect. He performed all of his hits and material from his new album. I can tell he knew his audience and what people would want to hear on this tour.

Hearing his throwback songs live brought so much nostalgia and joy, and I

genuinely think his setlist was amazing.

When I saw the setlist for the first time and saw he was performing “Can't Stop The Feeling” from the Trolls soundtrack I was kind of worried about the vibe not being right for it, but it was so much fun and I'm glad he added it on there.

I genuinely enjoyed the concert so much. He is such an amazing performer, and it is definitely a top 10 show for me. The vibe and people in my section was a little boring, but nonetheless, I had such a great time. It was amazing to be able to experience the show with my sister because we have both loved Justin for a very long time.

If you have the opportunity to catch him on this tour or another if he tours again, I 100% recommend that you do.

It is a guarantee you'll have the best night.

Why “Friday the 13th” is the best of the slasher big three

How Jason Voorhees stands out from other horror villains

By Leah Smith
Asst. Opinion Editor

In many pieces of media, there’s this concept of “the big three,” where a franchise or genre is represented by three of what fans would consider to be the faces of that certain franchise or genre.

When it comes to horror movies, specifically under the slasher horror subgenre, the big three movie franchises are “Halloween,” “Friday the 13th” and “A Nightmare on Elm Street.” These three movies are the staple of the horror genre, from its inspiring humble beginnings of the 80s slasher horror zeitgeist to the franchise’s monetary value and how the antagonists of those films are basically the faces that people recognize whenever they think of horror movies.

“Friday the 13th” is, in my opinion, the best of the slasher big three because of how creative and consistent the franchise is and how iconic Jason Voorhees has become as a horror icon.

Obviously, Michael Myers and Freddy Krueger of their respective franchises are iconic on their own merits, but looking at various horror media, the hockey-mask wearing, machete wielding Camp Crystal Lake killer is the one that comes to mind the most.

Jason Voorhees is the face of the slasher horror genre just from his iconic look alone since the hockey-mask wearing killer is the one that shows up in all sorts of merchandise and even in media that has nothing to do with horror such as “The Simpsons” and “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.”

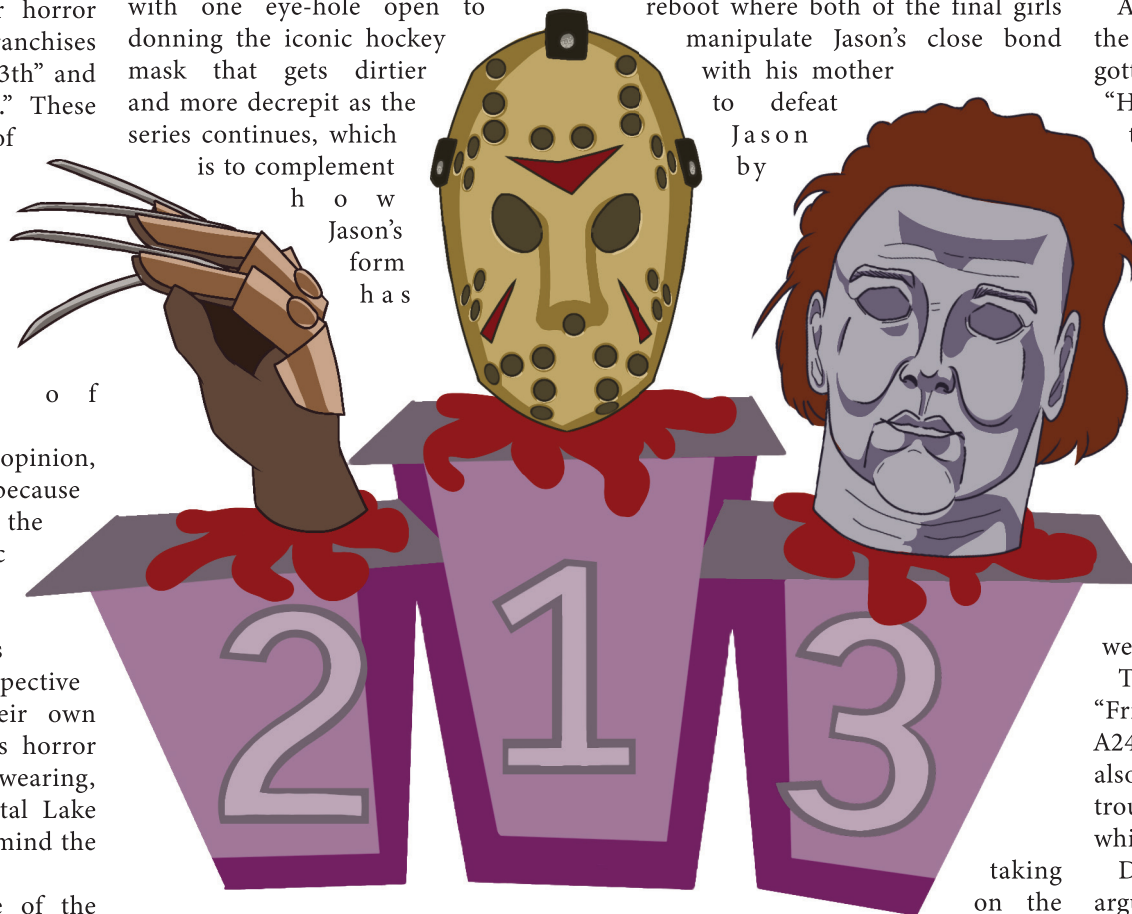
The “Friday the 13th” franchise is the quintessential sleazy slasher series, since the series made all of the horror cliches audiences make fun of today. Not only that, but the series has been able to one

up itself with each entry from the series.

For example, the first film of the series doesn’t even have Jason in it as the camp counselor killer we know and love him as. His mother, Pamela is the main antagonist of the movie and after her death, Jason grows up and takes the reins for the rest of the series.

In each entry as well, Jason’s look changes from wearing a pillowcase with one eye-hole open to donning the iconic hockey mask that gets dirtier and more decrepit as the series continues, which

is to complement
how
Jason’s
form
has



progressed from looking like a bulky human man to becoming an actual zombie.

If you were to look past all of the cheese and sleaze of the franchise, you’ll also see that compared to “Halloween” and “A Nightmare on Elm Street,” there are a lot of interesting psychological aspects to Jason Voorhees and the franchise. Jason is essentially an overgrown child who blindly follows his mother’s orders

to harm others because his mother tells him to do it in the name of love.

This is why he says, “ki-ki-ki, ma-ma-ma,” as he is looking for his next victim in the woods. The original film’s composer, Harry Manfredini has confirmed that Jason says this because he is trying to say, “kill for mother.” This idea of child psychology is also explored in the franchise’s second film and 2009

reboot where both of the final girls manipulate Jason’s close bond with his mother to defeat

Jason
by

taking
on the
persona

of Jason’s mother.

This makes Jason’s story more tragic and interesting since, unlike Michael and Freddy, Jason has a reason for why he kills the counselors at Crystal Lake. Also, as mentioned, the franchise one-ups itself with each entry and that also means quality as well as just how far and insane the series can go.

By the eighth, ninth and 10th entries, Jason has gone to Manhattan, to Hell as

a bug creature, and to space with two different forms of himself.

Cheesy as all of this sounds, this gives the franchise a creative edge over “Halloween” and “A Nightmare on Elm Street” because it gives the cast and crew different ideas to explore and new ways that they can tell Jason’s story without needing it to be the typical killing teens at Crystal Lake routine.

A big elephant in the room is that the “Friday the 13th” franchise hasn’t gotten a movie in over a decade while “Halloween” just wrapped up its trilogy. While “A Nightmare on Elm Street” has also been on the Hollywood back burner, it still has relevance given Freddy Krueger’s appearance in the hit horror game, “Dead By Daylight” alongside Michael Myers.

The “Friday the 13th” series has been put on limbo because of a series of copyright lawsuits between various studios including Gun Interactive, the studio who made the “Friday the 13th” video game. The game shut down at the end of 2023 because of the lawsuits and the fact that they were unable to update the game.

There has been development of a “Friday the 13th” prequel series by A24 called “Crystal Lake,” but it has also been going through development troubles due to showrunners leaving, which pushes back production.

Despite all of these issues and arguments about relevancy to the new generation, “Friday the 13th” will also stand out as the best of the slasher horror big three because of the name this series has been able to make for itself.

Jason Voorhees is an interesting and epic slasher villain that is able to carry such a unique franchise on his back. With passionate and creative filmmaking teams, Voorhees is able to stand out from other horror villains.

Graphic by Laura De Lora

Are leaks harmful to the entertainment industry?

Analyzing the recent Insomniac and Game Freak leaks

By Shawn Carey
Opinion Staff Writer

The Digital Age, also known as the Information Age, is often characterized by the free and quick transfer of information.

The age of magazines and libraries are slowly becoming a thing of the past. Now, if you want to know something all you have to do is turn on your phone and open Google. We are carrying all of the world's history in your pocket.

With that being said, we often learn of value information before its intended reveal, especially in the entertainment industry.

Within the last few years, leakers have become a major part of the film and gaming landscape. At this point it feels like we can't go a single week without a major leak.

How truly impactful are leaks? Are they really changing the industry?

Let's first discuss the two types of leaks. First, we have minor leaks. As you probably assume, these leaks reveal a very minor amount of information, such as characters and new in-game features.

Second, we have the bigger leaks, also known as "giga-leaks." These leaks show off top secret information, like concept art, early builds of games and private business information.

Minor leaks tend to be more common, happening whenever a new game, show or movie is close to being released.

For example, Marvel's new show "Agatha All Along" has been the subject

of several leaks. Important plots, characters and visuals were posted online before their intended reveal.

Now, it sucks that the show was spoiled; however, compared to other leaks, it isn't really that big of a deal. No one likes getting spoiled but it happens.

Let's look at a much bigger Marvel leak: the "Spider-Man 2" leak, also known as the "Insomniac Giga-leak."

The massive leak reveals all of the games the studios had in development all the way through to 2032, including "Wolverine," a "Venom" spinoff game and a "X-Men" game.

It all started when Insomniac was threatened by a ransomware group. The group told the studio that they were going to leak confidential files to the public if they didn't receive \$2 billion worth of bitcoin in a week.

At first, everyone thought that it was a bluff, even the higher ups at Insomniac. However, as time went on, it was revealed that it was no empty threat.

Countless files were leaked containing early gameplay builds, story details, concept art, important documents, the company's release roadmap and much more.

One of the details included in the leak was the mention of "Spider-Man 2" receiving story downloadable content (DLC) in the future. Now, let's fast forward to last week. Insomniac announced the PC port of the game, alongside the news that there wouldn't be any further update.

Now, we don't know if the DLC

was canceled because of the leak or if something else happened behind the scenes. However, we have seen other projects get canceled due to leaks.

The Insomniac leak happened just this year and it became known as one of the biggest leaks in gaming history. That was until a month ago.

Game Freak, the developer of "Pokemon" games, suffered from a huge data leak, among the trove of data were unused stories, worldbuilding, beta designs, game development tools, earlier builds of games and much more.

The leaks dated back to the development of the third generation of games, all the way to the sixth. That's 10 years of development. Ten years of history.

A lot of important behind the scenes documentation got released, documents that are important for preserving the series development history.

Preservation of video game history is often overlooked. Every once in a while we get art books and develop vlogs from the big publishers; however, a lot of the time we don't get that peak behind the curtain.

The leak also exposed the personal information of over 2,600 Game Freak employees, including their names and email addresses. This puts the employees at risk.

The Game Freak leak allowed gaming historians to catalog development history that was previously unknown, as well putting employees at risk.

So, which leak was worse?

I know it may be a bit silly to compare leaks. However, they were both of similar sizes. They both also changed the standard of leaking.

Unlike the Insomniac leak, it seems like Game Freak is planning on canceling any of their upcoming projects. In fact, it doesn't seem like the information that was released is going to hurt the studio in any major way.

Game Freak employees' private information getting leaked, on the other hand, is a massive deal. We also learned which part of the game each developer worked on specifically, which could cause problems depending if they had an NDA.

The Insomniac leak included very important business documents, everything from financial details, studio contracts, budget details and casting information.

Both leaks provide the public with valuable industry information, as well as private details that should've never been disclosed.

I am of the personal opinion that leaks cause more harm than good. Yes, it's cool seeing the behind the scenes stuff. However, leaks always reveal something that they shouldn't.

Leaks hurt the careers of those infected by them. Imagine spending years of your life on something with the intent to surprise others, only for it to be shown off early and unfinished.

The next time you're looking at a leak, keep in mind who it's affecting.

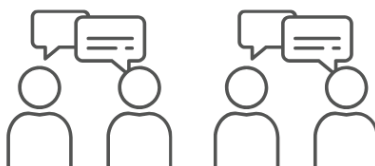
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Politics, culture, social issues

Reviewing music, books, movies

Columns, petitions, letters to the editor

A review of Tyler, The Creator's second studio album "Wolf"

An analysis of delivery, production, features, replayability

By Logan Colonna

Asst. Opinion Editor

In preparation for Tyler, The Creator's new album "CHROMAKOPIA," I've started listening to all of Tyler's past work. My favorite of these past albums is his 2013 record, "Wolf."

I first listened to it a few years ago, and I've had it in and out of my rotation ever since then. Not to spoil too much of how I think of it, but it is within my top three of Tyler's projects.

First as always, I think Tyler absolutely delivered on nearly every song. There are, of course, a couple songs every here and there that don't necessarily resonate with me, like "Pigs" or "Treehome95." Regardless, I'd say that every other track is a hit.

My favorite songs off of "Wolf" are "Jamba," "48" and "Lone."

As for "Jamba," I love Tyler's flow during each of his verses. He makes sure to match well with the feature, Hodgy, too.

"48" offers a more melodic side to Tyler with him singing the chorus. Following this, Tyler goes right back to his classic rapping.

When it comes to "Lone," I adore the somber tone that Tyler attaches to his voice. It really does make it seem that he's over everything that he's been through. If you enjoy Tyler's typical flow and overall sound, you're sure to like his performance here.

We'll cover this more in the section of the album's replayability, but the way that Tyler can tell the story at hand all throughout the album, all while sounding cohesive, also speaks as to how great he is as an artist.

Next up, we have the features of the album. There are quite a lot here, but a few excellent collaborators are as follows.

On "Jamba," we have Hodgy. He absolutely glides on the instrumental during his verse, honestly rivaling Tyler's verse. The two's verses both

intertwine with each other perfectly, making his feature all the more better.

On "Slater," we get a melodic interlude from Frank Ocean. His voice is layered with Tyler's and offers a wonderful listening experience as he

To round off the track, we get Earl on the third verse of the song. While I do believe that it's the worst verse of the song, the verse is still really good. This just speaks volumes about how good the entire album is.



vocalizes near the end of the track.

Lastly, we get Domo Genesis and Earl Sweatshirt on "Rusty." Domo begins on the track with his excellent verse. This verse is one of my favorites off of the entire tracklist. After Domo's verse, we get a hook that is nothing short of addicting. The way that he addresses each bar makes it so pleasing to listen to.

While these are the most notable features that can be found on the record, every single feature has something that makes them appealing.

Most important to me is the production. Without a good production, it's doubtful for me to enjoy an album.

Thankfully, every instrumental off of "Wolf" is beyond great. From the

raunchy sound from "Jamba," to the drab soundscape of "Lone" as Tyler speaks about how he's regretting the fame he's received as well as speaking on his grandmother passing away. No matter what track you pick out from the bunch, it will be very difficult to compare it to another track.

The fact that Tyler can pick out instrumentals that sound so different from each other, but still be slightly similar in order to put them all together is crazy to me. Some of my favorite pieces on the record are "Answer," "IFHY," "Rusty," and even the exuberant "Tamale" with the beat being legit all over the place. Whether you want a more serious tone or a playful song, you get both out of the tracklist here.

When it comes to replayability, this album knocks it out of the park. As the album progresses, we hear about characters such as Wolf, the protagonist, Sam, the antagonist, and Salem, Sam's girlfriend, and all of their time at the local summer camp, Camp Flog Gnaw.

Without spoiling anything, all I can say is that I do often see myself revisiting the album as a whole just to hear the story be told again and again.

I know that I usually preach that I only like shorter albums. However, although this album is 70 minutes, the way the album progresses it does not feel this long whatsoever. I do not know how, but this album feels like it's 50 minutes at most even after relistening to it all these years.

With this, it's easy to see that the album's replayability is apparent.

When keeping everything in mind, I truly do love everything this album has to offer. From Tyler's great performances on each track to the iconic story between Wolf and Sam, it's no surprise that this album is among one of Tyler's greatest albums to this day.

I give "Wolf" a 9 out of 10.

Graphic by Lara Mullen

Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editor: zachary.paraway@wilkes.edu

FB: Wilkes drops big matchup against ranked Susquehanna

By Zach Paraway
Sports Editor

The Colonels football team walked into Saturday's game on a four-game winning streak, including three conference wins against Juniata, Lycoming and Keystone.

The team averaged 51 points per game during that stretch with standout senior performers Elijah Jules and Xavier Powell.

Defensively, the team held their own as well with three straight Landmark Defensive Players of the Week, with senior. Donell Mackey-Woodson winning twice and junior. Travis Shaver winning once. They took this momentum into the game last Saturday against the number seven team in the country, Susquehanna University.

The Colonels fell to the River Hawks, however, at home, 48-21. The River Hawks took the lead early, going up 7-0 with eight minutes in the first off a trick play to QB Josh Ehrlich with the pass from RB Rahshan La Mons.

Both defenses held up until the second quarter when the River Hawks added two quick TDs off a TD run from La Mons, then a Powell INT that became a 72 TD pass the next play with Ehrlich throwing the bomb to WR Kyle Howes. The River Hawks would score again at the eight minute mark of the second quarter off of an 82 yard punt return TD by La Mons, putting the score at 28-0.

The Colonels did not go quietly as they put seven on the board off of a pass from Powell to sophomore. WR Janas Simms and went into the half 28-7.

The third quarter did not prove to be much better for the Colonels as the River Hawks added two TDs, both being passes from Ehrlich to Chris Bookter and Howes respectively, making the game 41-7.

The fourth quarter saw a change in the team with an early TD in the period off a two yard run by Jules. Wilkes followed that up with an interception by sophomore. S Rob Barberri that turned into a 14-yard TD off a pass by Powell to sopho. WR Juju

Fears. The River Hawks added one more TD in garbage time off a 36 yard run by RB Drew Hutchins.

The final score of the game was 48-21.

Wilkes now falls to 5-3 with a 3-1 record in conference, now dropping into third place in the conference begins

Susquehanna and Moravian. Wilkes will now have a bye week and then return to action Nov. 9 on the road against Catholic University.

For more information about the football team and all Wilkes teams, please visit gowilkesu.com.



Senior Xavier Powell takes aim to pass in Saturday's game against Susque-



Junior Nick Volpone lines up for a kick.



(Left to Right) Sophomore Mike Golay, Sr. Angel Ramos, and Sr. Chris Rodriguez getting set before the play during the Colonies loss to Susquehanna on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Photos by Zach Paraway and Sam Mullen

WBB: Colonels are ready to leave it all on the court

By Adam Grunt
Asst. Sports Editor

As the Wilkes University women's basketball team returns to the court this fall and winter, the Colonels are looking to build on last season's successes and make a deep playoff run.

Head coach Al Berger is entering his second season at the helm and aims to instill a competitive spirit in his team.

"I expect a competitive season from our group," Berger said.

"We have a lot of growing to do as individuals and as a program, and a challenging schedule ahead, but I'm confident that the hard work we put in on a daily basis will translate to success on the court."

The team returns two starters this season: Yami Matos and Nadia Evanosky. With many new faces, including five first years and three transfers, the Colonels are looking to compete in the Landmark Conference. Last season, the team finished with an overall record of 9-16, including a 5-13 mark against conference opponents.

Junior Madison Robel is particularly excited about this season's squad.

"I'm thrilled to play with this team," Robel said.

"We already have great chemistry and spark. Even though we're a new team, with a second-year head coach and a new assistant coach, our focus is clear. We're competing in a tough conference, but I know every player will make

an impact, whether through physical or vocal support. From freshmen to seniors, we push each other past our limits and have each other's backs, no matter the outcome. I expect big things from this team in my junior year."

Robel noted that, despite being young, the team is bonding well during practices.

"Preseason practices have been fast-paced, intense, and vital for preparing us for our first scrimmage and game," she said.

"With half of the team made up of newcomers, we've had to adjust to new roles, positioning, and learning each other's play styles. Our team culture emphasizes energy, effort, and enthusiasm. So far, we've lived up to

that standard. We've grown since day one and continue to improve with every minute in the gym and weight room. Coach Berger and Coach Perez design practices to challenge us every day, always pushing us to be better."

Last season, Matos earned All-Landmark second team honors, averaging 13 points and grabbing 133 rebounds. She aims to maintain that level of production as a returning starter.

The Colonels kick off their season on Nov. 9 against Albright College at the Marts Center. Landmark Conference play begins on Nov. 20 when the team travels to face the University of Scranton. For more information on the team and all of Wilkes' athletic teams, visit gowilkesu.com.

Wilkes University wrestling 2024-2025 season preview

By Ava Tureen
Sports Staff Writer

The Wilkes University wrestling team is set to begin its 76th season on Nov. 2 against King's College.

Last year, the team enjoyed a successful season, finishing with only a couple of losses.

This season, the team welcomes 18 new freshmen, the largest freshman class in over five years. Freshmen make up over 40 percent of the roster, with only 24 returning wrestlers.

Coach Jon Laudenslager is entering his 22nd season at Wilkes. He was promoted to director of wrestling in the summer of 2024, following the announcement of the addition of a women's wrestling team for the 2025-26 season.

He remains the head coach and has achieved 17 winning seasons, consistently reaching milestones.

Senior Caleb Burkhardt is a competitor to watch this season. Hailing from Hughesville, Pa., Burkhardt is in his third season with the team.

In previous years, he earned the title of MAC Wrestler of the Week and won the Ned McGinley Invitational.

Last season, he recorded a 32-11

overall record and qualified for nationals as a junior.

Cameron Butka, a senior from Scranton, Pennsylvania, is the program's first All-American since 2015. He earned the title during the 2023-24 season by placing fourth in the NCAA Championship. Butka has also been named "Male Athlete of the Year" for the past two seasons.

Junior Sam Kimmel, from Drexel Hill, Pa., posted a 6-15 overall record last season.

He believes that his experience over the past two seasons has enhanced his role as a teammate.

"Now we are leading by example and showing the younger classmen the ropes and what it is like to wrestle at the college level," Kimmel said.

Kimmel improved his record from his freshman to sophomore year by three wins and feels more confident heading into this season.

"My skill set has improved drastically by focusing on my strengths and sharpening the areas where I needed work," he said.

The season opener against rival King's College will take place on Nov. 2 at 9 a.m

Nov 2nd, 9am

Wilkes Barre, PA

King's Tournament

Nov 8th, 7pm

Ewing, NJ

The College of New Jersey

Nov 9th, 4pm

Marts Center

Keystone College

Nov 9th, 5:30pm

Marts Center

Elmira College

Nov 9th, 7pm

Marts Center

New Jersey City University

Nov 16th, 10am

Winchester, VA

Shenandoah Invite

Nov 22nd, 7pm

Elizabethtown, PA

Elizabethtown College

Nov 23rd, TBD

Scranton, PA

Lackawanna College

Nov 25th, 7pm

Marts Center

Delaware Valley University

Dec 7th, 9am

Elizabethtown, PA

Elizabethtown Tournament

WRESTLING

AWAY

HOME

Wilkes men’s ice hockey 2024-25 season preview

Andrew Marshallsay
Sports Staff Writer

With the temperatures falling and fall sports nearing an end, the winter season is almost here. A sport that seems to define winter at its core is ice hockey. In just a few days, the Wilkes men’s hockey team will take the ice, this year in a new conference with some familiar foes.

The Colonels were part of the United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) and the MAC from the 2018-19 season to the 2022-23 season. In 2023, they joined the Landmark Conference, which does not sponsor ice hockey. The team only played in UCHC games in the 2023-24 season.

Winning MAC titles in 2020 and 2022, the Colonels hope to continue their success in the conference, with time and more on the line. The conference now has its automatic playoff qualification, meaning the team will no longer play in the UCHC.

Last season, the Colonels made it to the UCHC playoffs after amassing a regular season record of 18-9-0, with a 15-5-0 record in conference play. The team made it to the UCHC semifinals, losing an overtime thriller against nationally ranked Stevenson University, 3-4.

Entering his sixth season at the helm, Head Coach Tyler Hynes says the team has had an excellent preseason.

“Our team has had an outstanding fall in the classroom, weight room, and in the community,” Hynes said.

“Now that we are practicing every day, it’s been encouraging to see the shape our returners are in. and how quickly our newcomers are adjusting to college hockey.”

Entering their first year of collegiate hockey with the Colonels include defenseman Tyler Boudreau, as well as forwards Jake Kloss, Nick Del Gaizo and Easton Stafford.

“We hope a number of players can build on the success they had last season, and so far in practice they seem poised to do just that, Hines continued.”

Last year, the Colonels had success with their offensive play, outscoring opponents 100-64 across the span of the

2023-24 season. Goaltending was another strong suit for Wilkes, as they had a team average of .924 save percentage and 2.36 goals allowed average.

The Wilkes power play was also effective, with a success rate of about 31 percent. On the other hand, the Colonels’ penalty kill was also effective, with opponents scoring about 15.5 percent of the time.

Senior goaltender Anthony Del Tufo said that expectations are high.

“We expect to work from the first puck drop to the last, making our presence known in each arena we play in,” he said.

“We expect to not only be a contender but play deep into the season and for a championship. This team has had success against MAC opponents before so we expect to continue that.”

Familiar opponents that the Colonels will face this year include King’s College, Lebanon Valley College and Stevenson. A new team enters the mix as well for Wilkes. They’ll face off against Misericordia three times this season, as the Cougars begin their inaugural season.

Both Del Tufo and Hynes agree that there are some standout players to look for this season. They say to look out for forwards Nick Swain and Cam Lowe, as well as defensemen Cole Jungwirth, Joe Johnson, Luke Dobles and Judson McGrath.

Swain was second on the team last season in points, scoring 20 goals. Johnson and Jungwirth were first and second on the team in assists. For Lowe, he was the team’s fourth-highest point scorer with 26.

Returning senior goaltender Jack Perna took over the duties from Michael Patterson-Jones last season and did it spectacularly. Perna played in 17 contests overall, amassing a record of 11-5 with one shutout, a .919 save percentage, and a GAA of 2.42

The Colonels begin the regular season on Nov. 1, with an away contest at seventh-ranked SUNY Geneseo. Face off is slated for 7 p.m. After that, the Colonels begin their MAC campaign against King’s on Nov. 8. Face off against the Monarchs is slated also for 7 p.m. at the Revolution Ice Centre in Pittston, Pa.

ICE HOCKEY

Nov 1st, 7pm	Geneseo, NY	Nov 22nd, 5pm	Dallas, PA
SUNY Geneseo		Misericordia University	
Nov 8th, TBD	Pittston, PA	Nov 23rd, 3:30pm	Dallas, PA
King’s College		Misericordia University	
Nov 9th, 4pm	Pittston, PA	Dec 6th, 5pm	Toyota SportsPlex
King’s College		Stevenson University	
Nov 12th, 6pm	Toyota SportsPlex	Dec 7th, 1pm	Toyota SportsPlex
Arcadia University		Stevenson University	
Nov 15th, 5pm	Toyota SportsPlex		
Lebanon Valley College			
Nov 16th, 3:30pm	Toyota SportsPlex		
Lebanon Valley College			

AWAY

HOME

Athlete of the Week

Jess Shea

Sophomore, Midfield, Women's Soccer

***The Beacon:* Female Athlete of the Week**

Shea scored the lone goal in the Colonels loss to Elizabethtown College.

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Franklin, NJ

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

My favorite memory as a Colonel was last season when we played King's College. I scored my first college goal in that game and the environment was incredible to be in.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

Buffalo Bills

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Spend as much time with my friends and family. I love being around them and any opportunity I get to see them I take it.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

The balance between school and soccer. I also love my teammates and the team environment here.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

My go-to sports movie is The Blind Side. I absolutely love that movie.

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

I would want to play softball. I feel like if I stuck with it from when I was little, I would've been good.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

When my club team won a game to make it to the National Championship series in Orlando, Florida

What is your favorite post-game meal?

My favorite post-game meal is Chinese food.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

I feel honored to be selected as Athlete of the week. I put a lot of work and energy into soccer and I love it so much, so anytime I receive an award like this I am extremely grateful

The Beacon//Samantha Mullen

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Asst. Sports Editor

Athlete of the Week

Xavier Powell

Senior, Quarterback, Football

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

Powell led the Colonels offense with four total touchdowns in the 69-24 win over Keystone College. He went 19 for 22 with 330 passing yards and three passing touchdowns. Powell also added 35 rushing yards and another touchdown with his legs.

Major: Sports Management
Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

Winning the Mayor's Cup and MVP two times

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

New York Knicks

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Spend time with family and friends

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

The brothers I met along the way

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

Evolution of the Black Quarterback

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

Basketball

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

My favorite sports memory overall is winning the Mayor's Cup in 2022 and 2024

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Texas Roadhouse

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

So thankful to be selected as Athlete of the Week. All Glory to God

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Assistant Sports Editor

The Beacon/Sam Mullen

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."



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