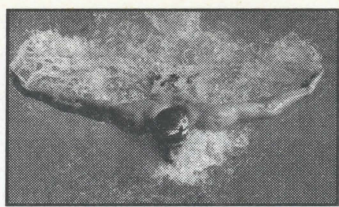




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The BEACON



FEBRUARY 17, 2009

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

Volume 61 Issue 14

Wilkes-Barre businesses preserve in recession

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
Beacon Asst. News Editor

Economic difficulties across the nation have challenged law and policy makers to take a much closer look at the needs of "Main Street," a term that has become synonymous with private, small business owners. While reports of chain store closings abound, some downtown Wilkes-Barre businesses are continuing to do well in spite of the doom and gloom on Wall Street.

Circles on the Square, a popular deli located on Public Square for the last 24 years, has actually seen an increase in sales over the past few months.

"Consistency and quality is what keeps us in business," said Phil Rudy, owner of Circles.

Circles offers high-quality, take-out only menu items for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The business also specializes in quirky gifts such as refrigerator magnets, postcards and postcard books, Japanese incense and wooden wind chimes, as well as Wilkes-Barre t-shirts.

But unlike many businesses seeking to boost sales through vigorous ad campaigns,

Circles relies on loyal customers to spread the word.

"It is strictly word-of-mouth," said Rudy.

In addition, Circles uses less expensive technology to highlight daily specials, according to Rudy. Its website has received as many as 4,000 hits, and Circles's daily specials are also faxed to over 200 local businesses in the area.

Over the years, Rudy has built an enduring and loyal customer base that draws heavily on the downtown workforce.

"Come again," said Rudy to a customer.

"I will, indeed," said the customer.

Rudy believes that in part because everyone has been taking measures to cut back on unnecessary expenses and limiting luxuries, cutting out particularly expensive restaurants has been one method. As a result,



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki
Circles has been located on the square since 1985. Consistency and quality keeps customers coming back in spite of economic hard times.

more affordable delis, such as his business, have actually seen an increase in sales.

See **BUSINESSES** page 3

Recovery plan to impact federal financial aid

BY AMY FUSCO
Beacon News Editor

Friday the 13th has long been a superstitious date associated with bad luck. But Congress worked to reverse the stigma of that date with its 1,073-page \$787 billion economic stimulus plan designed to reverse the bad fortune Americans have faced with the current economy.

After President Obama signs the plan, changes across the nation are anticipated to begin in short order, and some Wilkes stu-

dents will notice a change in their financial aid details.

According to www.whitehouse.gov, the recovery plan includes specific changes to education funding at both the K-12 and higher education levels. For K-12, steps such as reforming the No Child Left Behind Act and addressing the dropout crisis figure prominently. The recovery plan also includes supporting college outreach programs and college credit initiatives. A few outreach programs include GEAR UP, TRIO and Upward Bound, all of which en-

courage young people from low-income families to consider and prepare for college. Wilkes University runs a long-standing Upward Bound program through University College.

But according to the plan Obama is expected to sign, there are several elements expressly designed to impact how and how much a student pays to attend college. One important addition is the American Opportunity Tax Credit. The website states that

See **PLAN** page 4

Alumni Assoc. offers health insurance

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA
Beacon Lifestyles Editor

For some seniors, the day after graduation will be a cold plunge into the real world, when they find themselves booted off their parents' health insurance plans into the growing pool of the uninsured.

In order to fight the rising tide of uninsured recent graduates, the Wilkes University Alumni Association has partnered with Meyer and Associates to offer alumni a comprehensive short-term medical insurance plan. This program, which launched in January, can provide graduates with six months of medical coverage for just over \$500 with a \$500 deductible.

"As you graduate, you're often on your parents' insurance, or Wilkes health insurance, and that expires when you graduate," said Mirko Widenhorn, the director of Alumni Relations. "You're not going to necessarily find a job immediately, or go to grad school immediately, so we wanted a program that's inexpensive and provides good coverage."

Young adults are lacking medical coverage at a higher rate than any other age group. According to the National Health Interview Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2008, 28 percent of all people ages 18 to 24 are uninsured. For college graduates, the number jumps even higher. A 2008 report by the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation

See **ALUMNI** page 2



ON THE WEB

www.wilkesbeacon.com
beaconarchives.wilkes.edu

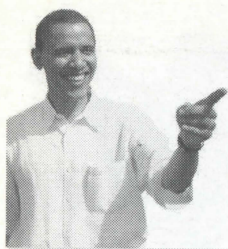
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Established 1936
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Association Member





RECOVERY PLAN PAGE 4

NEWS

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:

amy.fusco@wilkes.edu
jacqueline.lukas@wilkes.edu

wilkesbeacon.news@gmail.com

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ALUMNI from FRONT PAGE

that focuses on health policy, found that 34 percent of graduates spend at least part of the year following graduation uninsured.

Depending on their plan, students covered under their parents' health insurance may find themselves booted off the day of graduation, the day following graduation, or the last day of the month in which they graduate. Students under Wilkes' health insurance will be covered until August.

The plan offered by Meyer and Associates seeks to provide short-term health insurance to fill the gap before graduates find jobs with their own health coverage. Prices for the policies depend upon length, premiums, and deductibles, as well as the zip code which the students claim as their address.

A policy for a 22-year-old with a Wilkes-Barre zip code would cost just over \$500 for six months with a \$500 deductible. With this plan, students would pay a premium of less than \$100 each month, and would pay their \$500 deductible out-of-pocket before their insurance kicked in.

If graduates choose a higher deductible of \$2,500, the cost of the plan would drop to a little over \$300 for six months.

"Most people go for the \$500 deductible," said Ann Meyer Abdi, a vice president at Meyer and Associates. "Most people just aren't comfortable looking at a \$2,500 deductible even if it could save them a few hundred dollars up front."

When searching for plans, stu-

dents should do research on the cost of a plan for their location after graduation compared to the rate using their Wilkes-Barre address. If they are moving to a major metropolitan area, it may be cheaper to buy their plan before they leave Wilkes-Barre. For example, the same plan that will cost Wilkes-Barre residents \$500 over six months will cost those with a Philadelphia zip code \$600.

Additionally, some states such as New Jersey prohibit the sale of short-term medical insurance, so students would have to buy the plan while still in Wilkes-Barre if they want short-term coverage.

Students can purchase their plans up to 45 days in advance to when they need it to be effective.

"It's totally portable," said Abdi. "Even if you think you are going to move, you can purchase coverage to begin while you still live in Wilkes. Then, even if you move to New Jersey, that policy would still cover you because you purchased it and coverage began when you were in Pennsylvania."

The health insurance plan includes services of any licensed physician or surgeon, prescription drugs, lab work, room and board at hospitals, and inpatient and outpatient services.

The plan will not include any services for preexisting conditions, which are lingering conditions for which the student was previously



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki
Wilkes University has partnered with Meyer and Associates to offer a comprehensive short-term health insurance plan for Wilkes alumni. Mirko Widenhorn, director of alumni, right, and Michelle Diskin, associate director of alumni, left, discuss the policy.

treated, like asthma, migraines, or diabetes. It also will not include pregnancy or childbirth services, routine checkups, dental work, or cosmetic surgery.

John Botch, a senior business major who is president of the Money Matters financial club, plans on looking into short-term health insurance, especially if he finds it difficult to find a job in the scarce job market.

"Most people are outside more during the summer doing activities like grilling or playing sports, and all that opportunity carries extra risk or more opportunity to injure yourself," he said. "Sometimes a trip to the doctor can cost a few hundred dollars easily."

According to Abdi, the num-

ber one reason college graduates should purchase health insurance is to protect against something catastrophic. She gives the example of a ski accident which resulted in a knee injury that required \$40,000 worth of arthroscopic surgery.

Graduates who take the risk of foregoing health insurance may be setting themselves up for financial, as well as medical, hardship down the line.

"Most people we're talking about would not have to take a second mortgage on their house to pay a \$1,000 medical bill, but when you start talking about \$40,000 knee injuries or more than that for something really serious, then people can be in dire straights," said Abdi. "The number one cause

of bankruptcy is actually medical bills, and that's why people need health insurance."

For more information, students can log on to www.meyerandasoc.com/ma/wilkes.

Correction

In February 10 issue of *The Beacon*, the wrong photograph accompanied the Rinkside Report. The photograph portrayed player Ben Lovejoy. The picture should have been of Dustin Jeffrey. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

- ANDREW SEAMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The BEACON

130 S. River St,
First Floor, Conyngham Hall
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

PHONE: (570) 408-5903

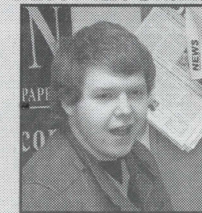
EMAIL: wilkes.beacon@wilkes.edu

Editorial Staff 2008-09

Editor-in-Chief: Andrew Seaman
Managing Editor: Nicole Frail
Advertising Manager: Christine Zavaskas
News Editor: Amy Fusco
Opinion Editor: Gino Troiani

Lifestyles Editor: Christa Sgobba
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Advisor: Dr. Andrea Breemer Frantz

Meet the staff...



Matthew Gogas
Assistant A&E Editor

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

NEWS

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BUSINESSES

from FRONT PAGE

Other businesses that have managed to survive the economic firestorm have done so because there is simply nothing else out there that offers what they do. They fall into the category of "niche" stores, and downtown Wilkes-Barre offers a few.

"It really is a 'niche' store," said Ryan Charnitski, in sales at Top of the Slope. Top of the Slope, located on South Main Street just one block from Public Square, sells gear for all sorts of outdoor activities such as skiing, snowboarding, skateboarding, indoor and outdoor rock climbing, backpacking and camping. The items and merchandise that the store sells are unique because there is not another shop like it in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

This year, Top of the Slope managers opted to buy less merchandise to sell; therefore, it has been harder to tell if the economy has affected sales dramatically.

"It [the winter sales] started off quick, [because] the cold weather affects the business," said Charnitski.

College students also support Top of the Slope and the climbing gym next door, which have the same owner.

Over the past few years, Charnitski has noticed a more price-conscious customer

coming into the shop.

"We have a very strong customer base... We also like to see younger kids getting involved because then they are life-long customers," said Charnitski.

Charnitski says that being located in downtown Wilkes-Barre probably hasn't helped them, but the business has maintained well in the same location for 37 years.

The store has been here since '72," he said.

Top of the Slope and Wilkes-Barre Rocks also use word-of-mouth advertising to attract customers. Top of the Slope doesn't use any television or radio ads, but does



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki

Circles on the Square is busiest between 11a.m. and 2p.m. Owner Phil Rudy said he has seen an increase in sales in 2008. Customers can buy things like windchimes, and Japanese incense as well as take-out food.

advertise in the Clipper Magazine, which has coupons in it for businesses around the area.

Located down the street from Top of the Slope is Place 1, a high-quality dress shop which specializes mostly in mother-of-the-bride and prom dresses.

Place 1 has two stores located in downtown Wilkes-Barre and Scranton. The Wilkes-Barre store has been doing better than the store in Scranton.

"It [the economy] has affected the sportswear business more than the special occasion business. There's still going to be weddings. Mothers are still going to buy a dress. I think they are a little more price conscious now. The big event in high school is the prom. They're still going to go to prom," said Michaelene Coffee from Place 1.

Coffee says that she sees women who have previously bought her dresses have found new ways to cut this luxury like re-purposing or swapping dresses. However, regular customers who have the same event every year will buy a new dress for the event.

"If it's a regular customer who comes in every year for something for the Heart Ball, they go to the event every year, it's the same people and they are not going to go in the same dress. And they are going to buy something. They may be a little more price conscious, though," she said.

Place 1's advertising is mostly on television because customers have a visual tie to the dresses after they see them.

"It's easier for people to see something and relate to it," said Coffee.

College students have also supported this store. King's has a Commencement Ball every year and Place 1 usually gets students from King's coming into the store to buy a dress.

Despite the economic downturn, Place 1 is still getting new, fashionable merchandise which has kept them in business and made them able to run two stores in different locations of Northeast Pennsylvania.

Another local business that college students, as well as other schools in the area, support is Futuristic Innovative Graphics Incorporated. Futuristic offers services such as screen printing and embroidery which can be placed on t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants and shorts.

"We have been steady... there has been no difference in our sales," said Mark Kaufman from Futuristic.

Schools which have many different clubs and organizations provide a consistent need for t-shirt designs. The business is split, "Schools about 60% and businesses about 40%," said Kaufman.

Students from Wilkes to Bloomsburg University to Delaware Valley College patronize Futuristic for many events. Wilkes depends on Futuristic to create t-shirts Winter Weekend, an annual event that involves team t-shirts.

The t-shirt business can, however, be expendable during an economic downturn.

"People can cut out anything... even food," said Kaufman.

LCCC program addresses economic needs of students

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

Beacon Asst. News Editor

Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) recently approved a one-time 12-credit tuition waiver for students who have lost their jobs in the past 12 months due to the economic downturn. The program is called the Employment Retraining Opportunities Program.

- The program's mission is to offer higher education opportunity to Luzerne County students who have lost their jobs to make them more employable in a changing marketplace.

- The tuition waiver is equal to \$1,200 and covers the cost of the classes. Students are responsible for paying for application fees and book costs.

- Because the program is specific to students living in Luzerne County, those who live outside the county lines will be responsible to pay \$1,200 to participate.

- The courses from which students can choose will be from the Approved Programs section on the Career Link State Training Provider List.

- The program will offer advanced skill training in fields such as health care, skilled trades and technology, and will be administered through the Workforce and Community Development Division.

For more information about when classes begin, call the Workforce and Community Development Division at 1-800-377-LCCC ext. 407.

PLAN

from FRONT PAGE

the "universal and fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students." How the tax credit will directly impact current and future Wilkes students and their families, however, is still murky.

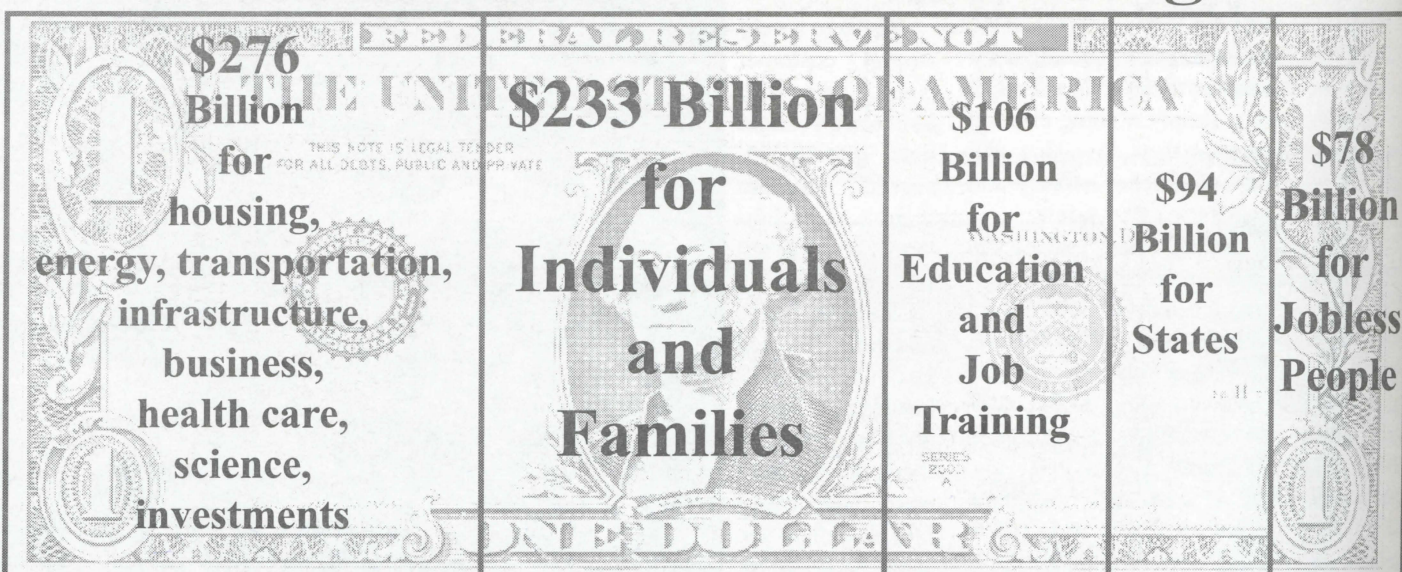
Michael Frantz, vice president for enrollment services, acknowledged that the plan will not impact everyone in the same way and could be very good for some Wilkes students and not bad for others.

Using the website www.insidehighered.com, Frantz explained that the compromise bill, which effects Pell grants, allocated more money than the Senate and House bills did originally. The Pell grant allocation was increased by \$17.1 billion. Frantz clarified that colleges do not yet know per student dollars, but it could increase the grant around \$500 or change the scale to make money available to more students.

According to Frantz, 35 percent of Wilkes students are Pell grant eligible. In addition to Pell grants, the recovery plan also provides \$200 million for additional work study funds, primarily focused on community service.

"A percentage of our work study funds goes to students who work in community service jobs," stated Frantz. "It could potentially create more work study positions." Though this change was in the Senate bill, the compromise bill does not have any increase in Perkins loans or subsidized Stafford loans.

"Bottom line, there is more money going towards student financial assistance. Anytime



The Beacon/Andrew Seaman

that happens, obviously the students win," said Frantz.

"We certainly believe that education is a major catalyst of the economy. The more educated our society is, the stronger, I certainly believe, our economy will become," Frantz added. He contends that investing money into higher education is an investment into the long term economic strength of the country.

Dr. Robert Seeley, associate professor of economics, acknowledged that he does not know all of the details of the current version of the economic stimulus plan, but he did know some aspects of it. He explained that it plans to increase Pell grants, which will have a direct impact on some college students. These federal grants will have a larger impact on lower income students, but overall, the federal government is

much less involved in education than the states are.

"I would predict that what would happen is that Wilkes and other institutions will look at that [the Pell grant increase] and students' needs from us are less than before, so reduce financial aid that is given from the institution," stated Seeley. It is understandable that institutions would not give the same amount of money if the money comes from somewhere else.

"The economic stimulus package is a combination of extra spending and tax cuts, which is going to create a much larger budget deficit than anything we've ever experience," Seeley said. This means that the government spends more than it takes in from taxes leading to borrowing money and adding to the national debt.

Critics of the recovery plan's details argue that it places greater burden on future generations for paying back the debt and borrowing. Along with debt, the budget deficit will cause interest rates to rise higher than they otherwise would be which means less private sector investments because it would be more expensive due to the high interest rates. With the reduction in private investments, including less spending on machinery, which makes workers more productive, there could be less economic growth.

"Budget deficits can be very useful in stimulating the economy in the short run, which is what we're looking for," Seeley commented, although it is positive in the short run, there are some long term effects. He believes it slows down the nation's economic growth in

the long term even if the standard of living rises right away.

Seeley explained that it is a battle of what is more important; fighting the recession and helping people right now versus the legitimate concerns about what this will do long-term. He acknowledged that both sides of the argument have merit.

"If you're 20 years old, this could really contribute to you having a distinctly lower standard of living at the age of 50 than what you could have had if we didn't have this big deficit," said Seeley. Furthermore, he added, "The question is once the stimulus package presumably helps get out of this recession, will we have the courage then to go back and cut the spending and raise the taxes and get rid of the deficit when there's no longer a recession?" He does not think the voters grasp the damages that these deficits do long term.

John Brady, junior pre-med major, believes the plan was a step in the right direction because the government has acknowledged the problems in the financial system and that there is a recession going on.

"[Students] have to realize that the job market is shrinking out there and people with more experience have been laid off and they will be competing with them for jobs," Brady explained. "The plan is trying to reboot the economy so that when we graduate, they'll have jobs waiting for us," he added.

"In the short term, his plan will work because [Congress is] spending money on infrastructure and stuff like that, but the question is, is it going to work in the long run?" stated Brady. "The goal is to have the economy working without the government paying for everything."

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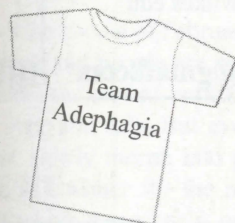
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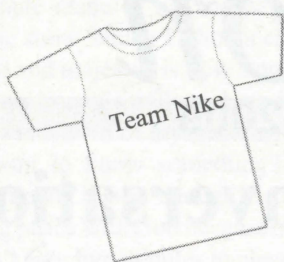
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WINTER WEEKEND 2009 GODS & GODESSES

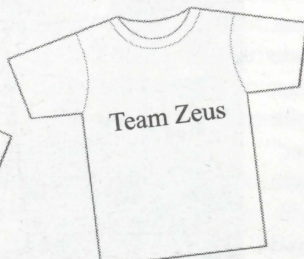


Friday February 20
Photo Scavenger Hunt
(First Floor Lounge SUB)
5 p.m.-8 p.m.



Saturday February 21
Field Games (Grassy area beside Fortinsky)
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Volleyball/ Dodgeball Tournaments (UCOM)
5 p.m.-?



SG Notes: February 11, 2009

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
Beacon Asst. News Editor

Treasurer's Report

- General: \$11,324.74
- Special Projects: \$3,864.06
- Spirit: \$4,000.00
- Leadership: \$8,652.56
- Start-Up: \$2,100.00

Club Reports

The following clubs
presented updates on
their events.

- Programming Board
- MSC
- Pre-Professional
- Education Club
- History Club
- Choral Club

New Business

- Choral Club Fund Request- \$2,073.00
for a concert on March 22 at St. Matthew's
Church in Scranton (Week One of two)
- BA 343 Fund Request- request for
\$2,000.00 for 3-day seminar in Dayton,
Ohio for five students (Week 1 of 1); mo-

tion to allocate \$550 was not passed.
- Student Concerns

Old Business

- Acceptance of Positions
- Matthew Zukoski Scholarship Fund
- St. Patrick's Day Parade Update
- Winter Weekend Update
- High Ropes Training Course



Events

- Winter Weekend, Feb-
ruary 20 & 21
- VIP Day, March 21, 1
p.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Wilkes-Barre St. Pat-
rick's Day, March 15,
- VIP Day March 21, 1-
2:30pm

* At 7:30 p.m., a motion was made to
adjourn the SG meeting. The motion was
approved.

SG meetings are open to all students.
They are held every Wednesday in the
Miller Conference room on the second
floor of the HSC.

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Opinion pages aim to spark conversation

BY THE BEACON
Editorial Board

The French philosopher Voltaire was quoted in a letter, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

In the January 27 issue of *The Beacon*, we ran what has become, a rather controversial opinion article, "The Angry Rant: Celebrating cultural absurdities." In it, *Beacon* columnist Tim Seigfried focused briefly on Thomas Beattie, also known by the wider media as "the Pregnant Man," and offered his trademark satiric take on American culture, this time focused on the transgender community.

While the staff of *The Beacon* does not share in Mr. Seigfried's opinion, we do not apologize for running his column.

Through our classes at Wilkes we have learned that we need to protect all thoughts, popular and unpopular. They are all a part of the robust marketplace of ideas that will propel this nation forward.

The Beacon's opinion pages are meant to provide a podium to the members of the Wilkes community in that robust marketplace. As an alum of the university and long-time member of the staff, Mr. Seigfried is a valued member of

that community.

The great thing about the opinion pages is that the other members of the community do not have to sit back and swallow an idea with which they do not agree. Over the past three weeks we have seen the beginnings of a real discussion take place on our pages about the transgender community. And the discussion made us think about the issue more than we have before.

We agree that the media does need to change in the ways

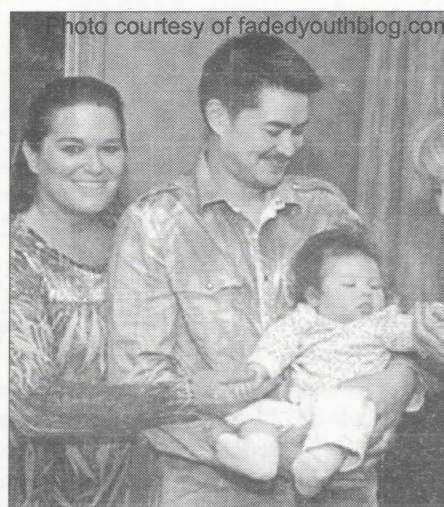
of the press when we try to take on issues we don't fully understand. For example, when do we stop using the pronoun "he" and start using "she," or vice versa?

The Associated Press Stylebook, the ultimate guide for journalists, briefly touches on the subject of "transgender" noting, "Use the pronoun preferred by the individuals who have acquired the physical characteristics of the opposite sex or present themselves in a way that does not correspond with their sex at birth."

Then, when you look up the term "Transsexual" the book just refers the reader back to "Transgender."

"The Angry Rant" is all about satirizing cultural phenomena. It is the only column of its kind at *The Beacon*, and we value the freedom it affords us to laugh at ourselves. But when is it socially and politically OK for satirists to use humor and lampoon real issues we all face? There is really no agreed upon timeline we can apply. Steven Colbert, because of who he is, might be able to get away with it faster than college journalists, but how do we encourage the next generation of Steven Colberts if we say that certain issues are simply off limits because they are too sensitive? We don't yet have an answer for that.

Yes, overall, the media needs to reevaluate how it treats sexuality, because as one reader put it, "Gender is socially constructed, and refusal to see it for what it is undermines the vast spectrum that



34-year old Thomas Beattie (center) was the first man to successfully have a baby.

is human gender expression and sexuality. We don't all fit into a neat little binary."

At *The Beacon* we have discussed the fact that sexuality is another aspect of diversity that the world, and Wilkes, seems to overlook. We should address that in our classrooms and through the student media.

As a society, how do we overcome the hurdles that remain? By starting conversation and acknowledging that we all come at such conversation from different vantage points.

The Beacon aims to serve its community by encouraging conversation and ensuring a free society where all ideas, popular and unpopular, are heard. Honestly, we did not know that we were starting this particular conversation when we printed "The Rant," but we think that *The Beacon* and the Wilkes community is better for it and the conversation it started.

Talking Points



#1

Opinion pages are a podium for members of the Wilkes community to express opinions.



#2

The media needs to re-evaluate how it treats sexuality as it is not completely understood.



#3

The issue of sexuality as another aspect of diversity is a topic that should be addressed in the classrooms and media.

The Angry Rant: Ice Holes

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Wilkes Alumnus

It's the middle of February, but the snow is melting and people are wearing shorts and t-shirts, the sort of outfits usually reserved for June and July. But even as the piles of snow slowly morph into puddles of water, it is still winter for the next month and a half which means only one thing: we live in NEPA, and we are going to have to deal with it again...and again.

And when that final, inevitable, late winter storm arrives, it's going to be another colossal mess on the highways that turns the asphalt into ice.

But the poor winter driving conditions aren't the only thing to be on the lookout for; there are countless other hazards on the roads that could very easily ruin your day.

This is, by far, my biggest pet peeve. You've all seen these people, and I'm sure some of you are among the nimrods that I'm talking about. After a heavy snowfall, these geniuses only bother to barely clean off the windshield, which is fine, except that there is a hardened shell of snow atop the roof of the car. And guess what? Once the car starts to get warm, that heat is going to travel upwards, and after about 20 minutes, that snow and ice is going to melt. And once ice starts to melt, it doesn't blow off into a million crystals that fall harmlessly to the ground like so much confetti at a parade. No, it breaks off into huge chunks, and when

it catches the wind, it jettisons from the car like a parachute made of ice and pain. At that point, the snow, which 12 hours earlier was beautiful and majestic, is now a projectile that is very capable of launching itself through the windshield of my freaking car.

Do you want to know something? My morning commute is bad enough; I don't enjoy making peace with God because some stu-tard didn't take five minutes to clean off his car. And I mean literally, it would have taken five minutes, not like five minutes when your friend says, "I'll be there in five minutes," and it's actually closer to 25 minutes. No, this will actually take five minutes, provided that you have an ice scraper. And if you don't have an ice scraper and you live in Pennsylvania, then you're an idiot, and you probably shouldn't be issued a driver's license, because that would be like giving a gun to a six-year-old, and telling them that it dispenses candy and bubblegum.

You only hinder yourself and you put others at risk. I'm not kidding when I say that people have died because of this. While those people are by far the worst on the road, these next guys aren't much better. You know the ones: jerks driving SUVs with four-wheel drive, so they think they are able to do whatever it is that they want, regardless of the road conditions.

"Listen," they say, "I've got 50 pounds of sand in the back of my car, and I'm not going anywhere. I can pass going 60. That ice isn't going to stop me!" Wrong. Let me

tell you a secret—that ice is actually gunning for you. Every night, that ice hangs out with its other ice buddies, exchanging stories about the cars sent careening into the ditches earlier that day. You and your SUV are like the white whale – the ones for which they want to cause an accident. You're like the hot girl at the party to whom every single frat guy is going to give his best line with the hope that he can brag to his friends the next morning. And you don't normally fall prey to the drunken advances of some guy named "Jake," but eventually, you cave. And the next morning, the ice tells all his buddies that he sent the guy in the SUV into an embankment. His trophy? Your hubris.

Finally, there are the guys who are actually dispatched to help us in our time of knee-deep snow and blocked drive-ways: the snowplow drivers.

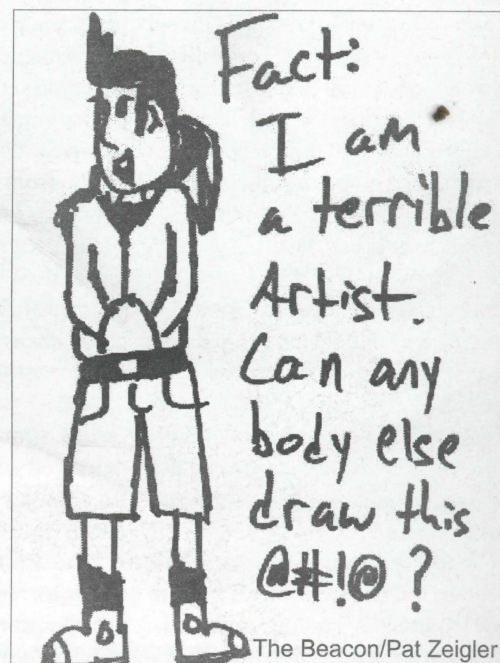
They do a lot of good in the winter months. After all, who else is going to get up at 3AM to clear the roads? Not me. But that isn't the issue here. The problem is that while they are busy clearing the roads of snow and ice, they are also distributing salt and gravel on every square inch of asphalt.

That may sound like a good idea, but that salt is going to cause a bigger pain than it's worth, because that stuff sticks around forever, and you'll be cleaning it off until May. And does anyone know what salt does to a paint job? You may

as well just dump acid on your car.

Listen, snow plow drivers: why don't you use a little common sense and take it easy with the salt and the gravel? Think of the roads like a delicious hamburger and the gravel and salt as ketchup. You only need to put down as much as you need to add flavor, and that's it.

Or would the gravel be pepper, and the salt be salt? This is a confusing food metaphor. Whatever I mean, stop making things harder than they need to be, idiots. Driving is a privilege, not a right.



Michael Phelps need not wear a scarlet letter forever

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

The drama surrounding swimming's golden boy Michael Phelps and the bong photo that surfaced in a British tabloid is overblown.

First, let's get one fact straight: I'm not an advocate of marijuana. In all honesty, I hate the stuff. I think it ruins lives, leads to worse drugs down the line, and I don't feel it does any good for society whatsoever. Nevertheless, I don't pretend that it's not all around (especially in Wilkes-Barre, which I swear resembles the streets of Los Angeles with the recent drug busts).

But honestly, this kid (and I say kid because he is only 23, the age of many college students) has been ripped apart by the media for one silly little photo that surfaced three months after the event took place.

In spite of the fact that Phelps never disputed the photo's accuracy, and issued a public apology, acknowledging "regrettable behavior" and "bad judgment," USA Swimming suspended Phelps for three months

and the Kellogg Co. has cut ties with him.

Yes, it is clear he did inhale, but unlike other professional athletes who have engaged in questionable behavior, Phelps took responsibility and handled the situation maturely. He never flaunted his actions. Prolonged press attention will only lead to further public vilification, and for what purpose? To bring the once-heralded athlete back down to our level?

A case in point: The Milwaukee Admirals, an AHL hockey team, will host a "Don't Be Like Mike" night on February 19. In short, all DARE graduates, people with the name Mike, Phelps, Mary Jane, Cheech, Chong, Weed, or anyone who has won an Olympic gold medal gets into the game for \$2. On top of that, if the Admirals score in any period at the 4:20 minute mark, some lucky fan gets season tickets to all games next season.

That's a joke, right? I wish I could say it was. It's an uncalled for low blow and an immature move by that organization.

If it weren't bad enough, now a South Carolina sheriff is arresting kids who were

at the party, looking to construct a case against Phelps.

It's not like the guy went Chris Brown on his girlfriend or something. He was at a college party, a place we've all been, and decided to have a little fun, which most of us can say we have done at some point in our lives. Did he go too far? Absolutely. But the public scrutiny that has resulted from this single incident has been excessive, given the offense.

The Phelps case suggests that it stems from an officer looking for fifteen minutes of fame, much like the Duke Lacrosse case. Phelps was acting like a kid. Yes, he should wise up and realize he is a colossal figure in the sports world, an icon that children and adults alike look up to. But Phelps is still human, and for this mistake he's definitely paid the price and then some.

Phelps didn't lie about the situation, he didn't try and defend himself, and he didn't go after the person who took the picture. He took it like a man, even saying that he deserved the punishment.

A-Rod, Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens

should take note. This kid is manning up to his mistakes. He's isn't hiding behind it like a coward and taking shots elsewhere. He could have easily said that it was not weed and even that it wasn't him, and he would have been believed. He told the truth, which in this day in age is like trying to nail jello to a tree.

Police have defended themselves nothing that they are treating Phelps just as they would anyone else in this situation. Really? If police pursued everyone with the same sort of enthusiasm for suspicion of pot use, when would they have time to catch murderers and rapists? As for the media, if I were to go on Facebook and print out all the pictures I have seen of people doing the exact same thing, and send them to any local newspaper or television station would they run them? No.

Michael Phelps doesn't deserve the abuse he is taking for this photo. He made a mistake. Let him learn from it and move on. Given the offense and his response, he does not deserve to wear a scarlet letter on his chest for the rest of his career.

Americans should be outraged at KBR

BY GINO TROIANI
Beacon Opinion Editor

Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR) is the nation's top Iraq war contractor, providing duties such as water treatment, construction, food services, laundry and much more for troops stationed in the Middle East.

KBR currently employs roughly 50,000 people worldwide, with more than 21,000 working in Iraq alone.

The company's history dates back over 100 years, originally established in 1901 by Morris W. Kellogg. Formally a pipe fabrication business, the company made major strides during the World War II era, obtaining governmental contracts to build war ships, and the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station near Corpus Christi Texas.

In 1962, Halliburton, a massive oilfield services company bought KBR, and in April 2007, more than four decades later, Halliburton formally separated from KBR, restoring it as a stand alone company.

As the war in Iraq began, KBR became the United States's largest war contractor, landing multi-billion dollar agreements, and expanding its empire.

Despite record profits, KBR has failed to execute agreements in a professional manner and has risked the lives of thousands in the process.

The following examines the last nine years of KBR's history and highlights some key events that should enrage Americans.

2000

Former vice president Richard Bruce Cheney resigns as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer for Halliburton after a five year commitment.

2003

The Association of Military Surgeons reported that 9.1 percent of soldiers returning from Iraq/Afghanistan in 2003 suffered from digestive system problems. Another 6.4 percent had nervous system disorders. 6.1% suffered urological problems; and another 8.3 percent suffered from unknown illnesses.

2004

The *New York Times* reported

on June 17, 2008, that Charles M. Smith, former senior civilian overseeing the multibillion-dollar contract with KBR was forced from his job in 2004 after blocking \$1 billion in questionable charges that "lacked credible data" from KBR, and warning the company that the military would find out. After his removal, the contract was pursued.

2005

Ben Carter, a KBR water expert at Camp Ar Ramadi in Ramadi, Iraq, reported contaminated, non-chlorinated water in March 2005. He said that KBR failed to use its own water purification equipment, allowing contaminated water directly from the Euphrates River, which contained contaminants such as human waste and garbage to be used for general purposes. Shortly after, Carter resigned after KBR apparently kept him from notifying the military.

2006

At Camp Q-West, KBR again delivered chlorinated wastewater for showers and latrines, failing to notify military medical officials. A report released in 2006 by the inspector general said, "KBR did not monitor or record the quality of water at point-of-use containers before April 2006, even though the ... contract required the company to do so."

Ben Carter and Ken May (former employees), testified at a Congressional hearing in January 2006 that KBR used contaminated water from the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Carter testified that he found the water polluted with sewage and that KBR did not chlorinate it.

2008

Joshua Eller, who worked as a civilian computer-aided drafting technician with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, filed a lawsuit against KBR and Halliburton for providing everyone at Iraq's Joint Base Balad with unsafe food, water and exposing them to hazardous fumes.

Eller claimed that KBR shipped ice in mortuary trucks that "...still had traces of body fluids and putrefied remains in them when they were loaded with ice," and later served the ice to U.S. troops.

The lawsuit also claimed that

KBR disposed of medical wastes by disposing them in open air burn pits. *Military Times* has received more than 100 letters from troops

saying they were sickened by fumes from the burn pits, which burned plastics, petroleum products, rubber, dining-facility waste and batteries.

On March 10, 2008, the Associated Press reported that dozens of U.S. soldiers in Iraq fell sick because of unmonitored and potentially unsafe water supplies. The individuals exposed reportedly experienced side effects such as, skin abscesses and infections, cellulitis, diarrhea and a variety of illnesses after using questionable water for personal hygiene and laundry at five U.S. military sites in Iraq.

Later in September, Albert "Jack" Stanley, a former chairman of KBR, admitted to participating in a decade long scheme to pay \$182 million worth of bribes to land contracts to build a \$6 billion gas liquefaction plant on Nigeria's Bonny Island.

Stanley served as KBR's senior representative on Madeira, a Portugal-based consortium called TSKJ, which was awarded four contracts for work on that complex.

2009

Army Times reported on Feb 5, that Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore), Bill Delahunt (D-Mass), Tim Bishop (D-NY), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Keith Ellison (D-Minn), Sander Levin (D-Mich), and Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa), joined a list of legislators concerned about service members who say burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan have made them sick. A report showed that military personnel were exposed to burning petroleum products, plastics, and batteries.

On January 9, CBS reported that Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich) and ranking Republican Sen. John



Photo Courtesy of Mssparky.com

KBR uses massive burn pits to dispose of waste.

McCain (R-Ariz) sent a letter to the Department of Defense Inspector General on Dec. 12 requesting an investigation based on claims by former Army civilian Charles M. Smith who worked out of Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois.

Smith said that in August 2004, KBR charged the government approximately \$200 million in unjustifiable costs pertaining to dining facilities. Smith was later removed from his position.

In an interview with the *New York Times*, the executive director of the Army Contracting Command said the military was not willing to withhold money from KBR because it feared the company would reduce its level of support for the troops in Iraq.

The reports are endless, and continue to accumulate as the war in the Middle East continues. When will it stop? At what point will the military put its foot down and prosecute KBR for the unjust and despicable service it has provided?

KBR has been single handedly robbing money from taxpayers' for years, and for what? Even if the organization executed its contracts the right way, it would still be earning a more than generous profit. I am ashamed to learn that the government has continued to conduct business with this company, and has no intentions of stopping, despite the information that has been widely reported by different sources.

The American people should challenge their representatives to carefully examine KBR's contracts and services. Those of us who proudly claim to support our military should do just that and demand accountability from KBR.

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.

The Beacon asked:

Do you feel that Wilkes should implement home rule?

- Yes - 75%
- No - 20%
- Undecided - 5%

Next Week's question:

Has the media been insensitive towards issues dealing with sexuality?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

Visit www.wilkesbeacon.com to cast your vote. Results will be published online at wilkesbeacon.com

Speak Up! It's Your Right!

The Beacon wants your opinion. Contact us at **WilkesBeacon.OpEd@gmail.com** with your Name, Major, Year, and Opinion!

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





Week in the life of
an AFROTC cadet
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Lifestyles

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:
christa.sgobba@wilkes.edu
leeann.searfoss@wilkes.edu

wilkesbeacon.lifestyles@gmail.com 9

Pharmacy student learns life lessons after brain surgery

BY NICOLE FRAIL
Beacon Managing Editor

While skiing in early January with Wilkes students in Killington, Vt., p1 pharmacy student Erica Hoot lost control of her snowboard and hit her head when she fell on one of the courses.

"It was kind of powdery so I was getting stuck, and I just fell and hit my head... My heels got caught too far in and I just wiped out... It was a stupid fall... I was fine after that and I went boarding two days after that," said Hoot.

An athlete in high school, Hoot felt that she knew what it was like to have a concussion and figured that was why she was experiencing headaches after the fall.

Over the next week and a half, Hoot's headache returned and progressively grew worse.

"I could not stay awake... I normally stay up pretty late, I was going to bed around ten," said Hoot. "I looked, like, sick."

Jessica Lopatto, a p1 pharmacy student and one of Hoot's closest friends, noticed the difference in Hoot.

"[She] was going to class less and less as time went on... We were all really worried... She just wasn't herself at all, miserable. She just didn't look right... All she wanted was pain medication," said Lopatto.

Even Hoot's professors noticed a difference in her behavior.

"I can remember seeing her increasingly more distressed and I knew some things were going on," said Dr. Mary McManus, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

When Hoot told the nurse at Wilkes's Health Services that she had hit her head on the ski trip, she was told to go to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital for a CAT scan. They also made her an appointment with a local neurologist.

"I was really afraid at first. My first trip to the hospital, I was hysterical because I've never been to the hospital before for anything serious..." said Hoot. "I was freakin' out. I was just hoping everything would be okay and the doctor came in and was like 'You have a blood clot in your head.' And I just started bawling."

According to the medical assessment,

Hoot's head injury in the skiing accident caused a blood vessel to break, and a collection of blood had formed on the surface of her brain. The CT scan revealed that the subdural hematoma, or blood clot, was located on the left side of her head, over the part of her brain that is responsible for controlling many key functions.

Her headaches grew worse as the clot grew, taking in more fluid and creating pressure over the area.

"I was really lucky, actually. Because of how big it was and where it was, I had the potential of having function problems. Because I'm right handed and it was on the left side of my brain, I could have lost functioning of writing and motor skills and stuff. I could've had problems with speech and stuff, too," explained Hoot.

A neurologist then told Hoot that she would need surgery to remove the clot, but he wanted to wait to see if the clot would break up on its own. He told her to stop taking pain killers, like Ibuprofen, to monitor the intensity of the pain.

That night, Hoot went home to Hughesville, hoping that she would not have to have the surgery. On Saturday, she worked an eight hour shift at CVS Pharmacy and felt little pain.

"[But] Sunday morning, I couldn't even see straight. I just came downstairs and curled up on the couch and my parents took me to the emergency room because I couldn't even open my eyes because my head hurt so bad," said Hoot.

After two hours in the emergency room at General, another CAT scan was performed and surgery was scheduled for the following morning. Hoot texted her closest friends to let them know what was happening while her parents updated relatives frequently.

"When I found out that [she] was going to be out for weeks, I was like, bawling. I was like 'Erica's not going to be able to catch up and she's going to fall behind!' Our major is... intense and if you're not going to school, it's hard," said Lopatto.

At 6:45 a.m. on January 26, surgery to evacuate the subdural hematoma clot began.

"Basically what they did - they didn't have to shave any hair or anything - they cut a one-inch slit in my scalp, pulled back the skin and drilled a hole in my skull. The

hole's only like the size of a pencil. And... by pushing in water, they pretty much let [the clot] drain out of my head," said Hoot.

She added, "If I would've just let it break up on its own, it would've gotten bigger and I could've started to have problems."

Approximately three hours later, the procedure was over and Hoot woke up in the intensive care unit.

"I was fine after surgery, eating normally and stuff... They were amazed at how fast I was recovering, after three hours I was sitting up in bed eating graham crackers," said Hoot.

Within 24 hours, she was released.

According to Hoot, recovery from her surgery should have taken up to three weeks, but

she was ready to go back to Wilkes by the end of the first week. At a post-operation appointment, her doctor told her she could return to school the next week and though she had previously been instructed not to drive for up to three months, he gave her permission to get behind the wheel again.

Though Hoot received the green light for many of her activities at this point, contact sports in addition to snowboarding remain off-limits for up to six months.

On Saturday, February 7, Hoot made her official return at the Pharmacy Ball and on Monday, she began classes again. She jumped right in and took an anatomy quiz that same day.

"She didn't want to miss anything... When she came back, I was shocked. She came back and she walked into my office - you know when you see someone and you don't expect to see them? I was like 'Wait a minute, you're not supposed to be here!'" said McManus. "I think she recuperated significantly faster than anyone had antici-

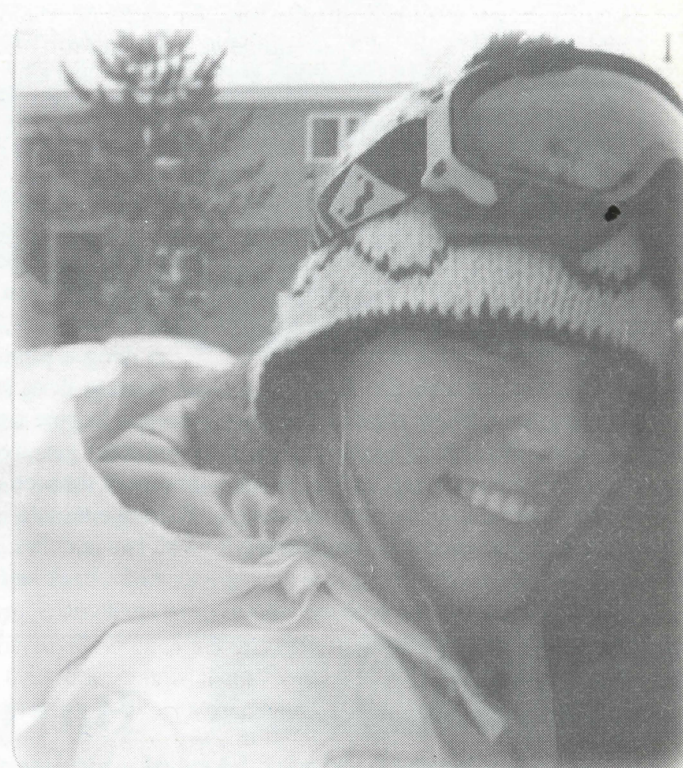


Photo courtesy of Erica Hoot

Erica Hoot, who underwent brain surgery on January 26, returned to classes after just two weeks of recovery time. Following a skiing accident, Hoot experienced excruciating headaches before a CAT scan revealed a blood clot located over the part of her brain responsible for key functions.

pated. And she came back and started getting perfect scores."

Catching up with school work will be challenging, but Hoot feels that she has enough time left in the semester to make up anything she has missed.

"I think one of her strengths was her ability to communicate as well as she did with everybody, which is why [doctors] picked it up," said McManus. "I think for someone [her] age, the thought of something like that is just so far from your radar screen and I think she was just exceptional with handling it and communicating with people, letting people know things were wrong... I think it saved her life."

Hoot recognizes this and claims that it is one of the lessons learned through the experience.

"If you feel like there's something wrong, go to the doctor," said Hoot. "...And now I'm going to wear a helmet, [but] I'll never give up snowboarding."

Enthusiasts light up for International Pipe Smoking Day

BY ALYSSA BENNER
Beacon A&E Editor

There are designated days for everything you can imagine. April 25 marks World Penguin Day, and Clean Air Day in Canada comes around every June 6.

However, one day in the calendar has been recently reserved for pipe smokers around the world. On February 20, pipe smokers around the globe will "raise their pipes together to foster friendship, benevolence, and tranquility across all borders," according to the United Pipe Clubs of America.

This February, International Pipe Smoking Day will be celebrated for the second time. The Comité International des Pipe Clubs or CIPC, which is the umbrella club for many of the national pipe smoking clubs such as the United Pipe Clubs of America, is very excited to celebrate the day.

According to CIPC's official website pipeclubs.com, "We envision a worldwide communion of pipe-smokers that is bound together by a shared love for pipe-smoking, mutual respect, and goodwill" on February 20, 2009.

One Wilkes professor who shares these

sentiments is Dr. Michael Garr, professor of sociology and anthropology. In addition to his day job, Garr is a pipe/cigar enthusiast.

Garr's love for pipe smoking began over 12 years ago on a whim. Now he owns over 80 pipes and holds the role of President of the Pocono Inner Mountain Pipe Enclave. In that role, Garr tries to turn people onto pipe smoking whenever he gets the opportunity.

On Tuesday nights at El Humidor, located 525 Scott Street in Wilkes-Barre, meetings for the Pocono Inner Mountain Pipe Enclave are held. There are currently 13 members of the club.

"For most, the major topic of conversation are guns and Family Guy...there's a few people who are very serious about their pipes and the rest are just there for really good camaraderie," Garr said.

Smoking a pipe can take anywhere from an hour to three hours. And time is of the essence in pipe smoking competitions. The competitor gets five minutes to rub out three grams of tobacco and load it into the pipe. Then one minute is allotted to light the pipe with two matches. After it is lit, the competitor kicks back and sees how long he or she can smoke it.

Garr took first place in the 2008 Northeast Regional Slow Smoke competition. He also competed in the CIPC's smoking contest in Germany.

Adam Zwolinski, a senior environmental science major, works at El Humidor and is also a member of the Pocono Inner Mountain Pipe Enclave.

"It's very relaxing because it's such a long process," said Zwolinski.

This long process dates back to the 17th century when tobacco plants were used by Native Americans and then brought over to Europe to be sold. Since then, pipe smoking has been refined and renewed, but the



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

The Pocono Inner Mountain Pipe Enclave meets Tuesday nights at El Humidor. There are 13 members of the club who come together to enjoy the camaraderie and smoke pipes, which can take from one to three hours.

draw to it is still the same. Relaxation and camaraderie are what come out of pipe smoking for many.

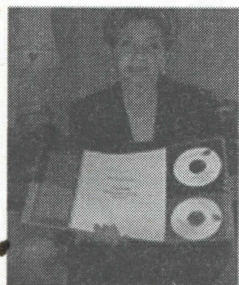
At 9 p.m. on Friday, February 20, pipe smokers are being asked to share in a worldwide bowl.



Barnes & Noble Wilkes-King's Bookstore

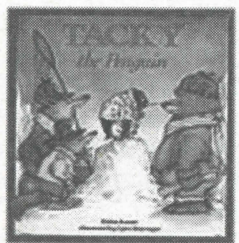
7 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 ~ 570.208.4700 ~ wilkes.bncollege.com

Live "Free" Music Every Wednesday Night and most Friday's
25% discount on anything you purchase from the café during the performance!



Friday Night Art Walk with Ann Smith at 5:00pm

Ann is the creator of "Life Stories Remember". She will be doing a presentation of "preserving personal histories: yours and those of your loved ones"



Come and join us for a special visit from "Tacky the Penguin" during story time.

We will be reading Tacky's stories during our weekly story time, and join us afterwards for a special visit from Tacky himself.

Saturday morning at 11:00am

- **New Age Book Club**, meets every last Monday of each month at 6:30pm this Monday's book of the month will be "The Moses Code"

AFROTC students balance college life, military training

BY LEEANN SEARFOSS
Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

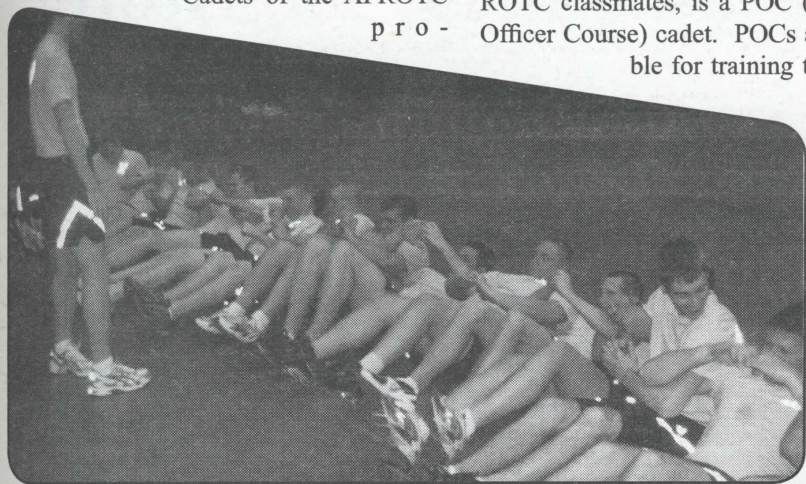
A college student's schedule can be hectic: get up, go to class (sometimes), eat, study, socialize, go to sleep, and wake to repeat the cycle each weekday.

Now imagine adding mandatory physical exercise, extra classes, and artillery training.

Wilkes University participates in the ROTC program run through King's College, but Wilkes has its own Air Force ROTC (AFROTC), Detachment 752, on campus. According to its official website, Detachment 752 "recruits, educates, and commissions officer candidates from any of our 13 colleges and universities in Northeast Pennsylvania."

There are approximately 46 cadets in the Wilkes chapter of the AFROTC program. In addition to the 30 students from Wilkes, cadets in Detachment 752 come from 13 regional colleges, universities, and community colleges, including Bloomsburg University, East Stroudsburg University, King's College, Misericordia University, Marywood University, and Luzerne County Community College.

Cadets of the AFROTC
p r o -



gram are required to have one hour of class (three hours for juniors and seniors), two hours of lab, and two hours of physical training per week at minimum.

"That's a common misconception. Yes, that is what we're required to do and is the baseline. However, that doesn't take into account all of the Honor Guard, recruiting and community service events we do. Plus, we still have to take time to prepare our uniform every week and take part in other flight activities and any specific jobs we may be assigned," said Jared DeWire, a senior engineering major and AFROTC cadet.

Junior history major Michael Gargano has classes almost every day of the week. He bounces from class to class, trying to earn the 120 credits necessary to fulfill his history degree.

Along with the classes for his history major, however, Gargano also spends his "free" time bouncing back and forth from meetings with officers, physical training sessions, and ROTC training labs.

"If there is one thing I am learning, it's time management. It [AFROTC] takes up a lot of time, but the officers are really good about making sure no one has too much on their plate," said Gargano.

As a junior, Gargano, alongside his AFROTC classmates, is a POC (Professional Officer Course) cadet. POCs are responsible for training the freshmen

and sophomores, or GMC (General Military Course) cadets, according to the official site for Detachment

752.

A typical Monday for Gargano, and many of the other 46 cadets apart of Detachment 752, sees him going to the detachment building to speak with one of the officers about a project he is currently working on.

"We are creating a mock-deployment exercise.

We will be working in Indiantown Gap, an Army National Guard training center. We will be spending a few days down there learning some deployment skills, small unit tactics, self-aid, and buddy care, obstacle course, and leadership challenges, to name a few," said Gargano.

Tuesdays, while filled with classes for many AFROTC students, are when Gargano usually attends his one of the two physical training sessions of the week each AFROTC cadet must attend.

"While physical training times depends on the school you are at, we usually start out with stretching, then running for thirty minutes or so...basic calisthenics," said Gargano.

Wednesdays are Gargano's "slower" days, in which he focuses on school work and AFROTC work to prepare for Thursdays, which are his most hectic days.

Thursdays for AFROTC cadets consists of hours upon hours of leadership lab. Leadership lab is the AFROTC training, consisting of everything from team-building to artillery training. On top of leadership lab, ca-

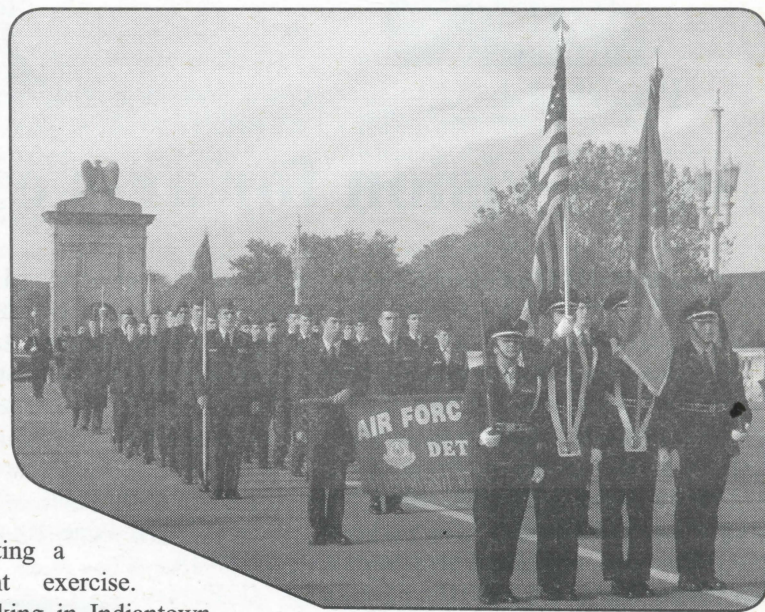
dets then must do another hour to hour and a half of physical training. AFROTC Thursdays typically begin around 1:30 p.m. and last until 9:30 p.m..

"Fridays are usually for me, and for most people, a recovery day from Thursdays. We need time to come back down from all the training," said Gargano.

While most college students have the ability to put their work off over a day or two of the weekend, AFROTC students are not that fortunate. Weekends for AFROTC students consist of even more training, approximately three hours any given day, as well as community service events and ROTC fairs for local colleges that hold college fairs and open houses.

Students in the Wilkes' chapter of the Air Force ROTC, Detachment 752, balance physical training, at left, with community involvement, like taking part in the parade above.

Photo courtesy of Det752.com



Student of the Week

Jared DeWire

Senior Engineering major

Jared DeWire wants to fly, but not in the way most little kids dream of soaring through the sky. DeWire is really going to fly jets.

After he graduates from Wilkes with his bachelor's in mechanical engineering, DeWire plans to move to Panama City, Florida, where he will embark on the journey to commission and become an Air Battle Manager.

DeWire, like 30 other students at Wilkes, is a member of the Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) program, and is training to become a member of the United States Air Force. As the Operations Group Commander, DeWire is directly responsible for the training cadets do every week at leadership

labs. Planning each week is only a small part of his job, however. He is also responsible for everything his two squadron commanders do—directing training and support of the wing.

DeWire has put determination and a strong work ethic into not only his academics, but his also passion for flying. For these reasons, *The Beacon* has chosen DeWire as its Student of the Week.

The Beacon: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

DeWire: Still in the Air Force as an Air Battle Manager.

The Beacon: Describe yourself in three

words.

DeWire: Procrastinator. Independent. Ambitious.

The Beacon: Finish this sentence: 'My friends would be surprised to know...'

DeWire: ...how much I actually do in AFROTC.

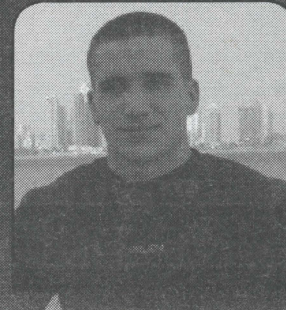
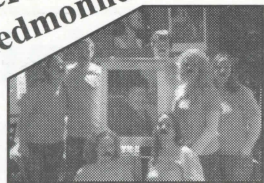


Photo courtesy of Jared DeWire

Concert for
Art Redmonnd



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A & E

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:

alyssa.benner@wilkes.edu
yoh.delossantosmaria@wilkes.edu
matthew.goags@wilkes.edu
wilkesbeacon.ae@gmail.com

12

Teen's vision for arts expansion leads to Vintage Theater

BY YOHANNA DE LOS SANTOS M.
Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Seventeen-year old Connor O'Brien stands in the doorway of the Vintage Theater in Scranton, looking more like a teenager hoping to while away a couple of hours to avoid homework, rather than what he really is: the theater's owner and the mastermind behind its development. The Vintage Theater's goal is to resurrect theater's classics for new audiences.

O'Brien is its co-founder and executive director and belies the stereotype of teens who are only attracted to the very newest, edgiest movies and videogames.

But when O'Brien speaks about his pet project, he seems far older than his 17 years. "Last spring the concept came to me. It's based off the revival theaters which are very popular in bigger metropolitan areas, and these were more directly the influence of the Boston revival theaters. My mother lived in Boston for several years," said O'Brien. O'Brien's mother, Barbara, is Vintage Theater's co-founder and its current artistic director.

The O'Briens' first vision for the theater was as a place where they could simply show vintage films at affordable rates. "Then it [Vintage Theater] grew into where

we would do other related cultural arts and events like bands, improvs, and live theater. It wasn't until about June [2008] that it took solid ground," said O'Brien. At that time, O'Brien and his mother chose a name, had organized fundraisers, and began planning for a schedule. And all of the planning paid off, when the Vintage Theater's grand opening took place January 16-18.

O'Brien describes his family as very creative, and arts-oriented. "My sister Maggie, who is also our board director, is a professional actress. She has done

work in the local area," said O'Brien. His brother has also been a public speaker for speech and debate.

Mother and Artistic Director, Barbara O'Brien said, "What I truly feel is unique about the theater is its blend of profession-

alism, with personal comfort. It combines the best of both worlds."

Vintage Theater is a non-profit organization. "We have had about four classic films, which included last weekend's The Little Shop of Horrors (1960)...We have

had about almost a dozen bands already. We have a

wait to perform again."

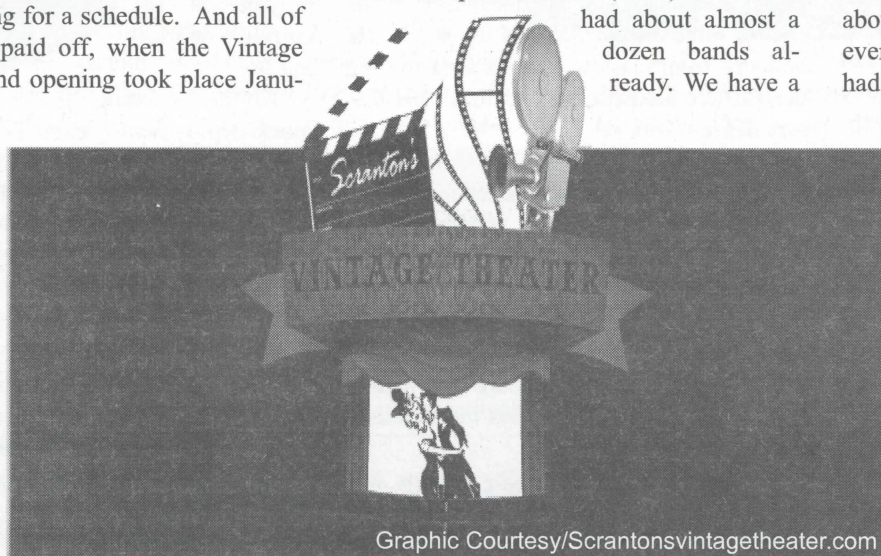
Abby Kern from Steamtown Improv said, "I've performed in a lot of places before, but the relaxed atmosphere of the Vintage definitely makes it one of the best!"

However, the Vintage Theater is not only about films and bands. Organizers are about everything related to the arts. "...We've had a photographer come in and hang his work which is still hanging currently," said O'Brien.

"Next weekend we have the Carey Grant, Audrey Hepburn thriller Charade. Very classic and a very nice movie," said O'Brien. The small, intimate theater seats about 50, so it offers patrons a unique, personal experience.

"What's really important is having a good team with you...the biggest part is that you have to absolutely plan ahead," he said.

Prices are set just right for college students. "Evening shows are \$5, matinees are \$3...\$7 dollars if it's a really special event," said O'Brien. The Vintage Theater is located in downtown Scranton at 222 Wyoming Ave.



lot of other stuff coming up; we've [even] had improv shows," said O'Brien.

Dylan Loughney, member of the band "Satellite" which has performed at the vintage, said, "Me and my band think though that the theater was awesome! We can't

CD Review: N.A.S.A. 'Spirit of Apollo' out of this world

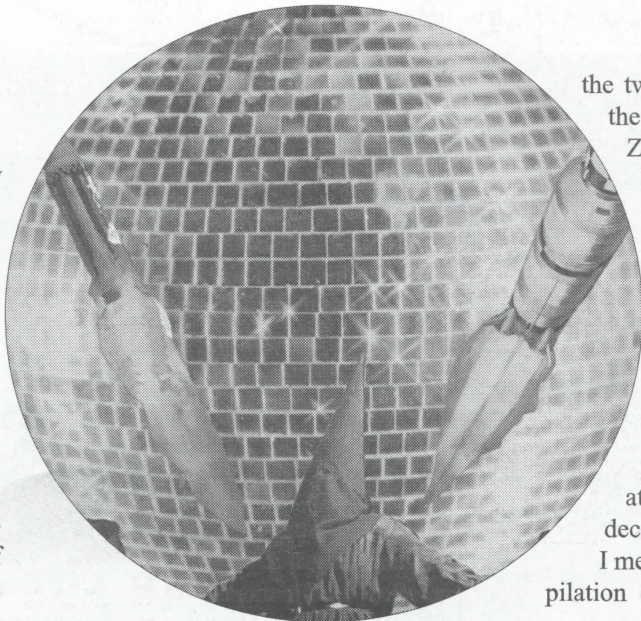
BY ALYSSA BENNER

Beacon A&E Editor

Sure, compilation CDs are a great way to make money. Throw a bunch of people on a record that appeal to the masses and what do you have? Instant cash. We are currently on NOW 1,000, I believe, and still going strong.

However, what do you get when you mix Kool Keith and Tom Waits? There is no punch line. You get brilliance. Or how about Karen-O doing her thing with ODB? Again, nothing short of genius.

The difference between the never-ending NOWs and N.A.S.A., "The Spirit of Apollo," an album out on ANTI-records, is



the two creative masterminds behind the album, Squeak E. Clean and DJ Zegon and their urge to bring people together via good beats and meaningful lyrics.

Backed by Brazilian funk beats, N.A.S.A., which is an acronym for North America/South America, has succeeded in creating a mix/compilation that doesn't sound forced. It's as if everyone just happened to stumble into each other at the supermarket and promptly decided to cut a record.

I mentioned that the album is a compilation of artists, but N.A.S.A. is the

shining star of all compilations. The Cool Kids, Santogold, Del Tha Funky Homosapien, Lykke Li, Ghostface Killah and M.I.A. amongst others make an appearance on the album. Everyone contributes in their perfect niche, working independently to create a whole sound that transcends categories.

Track twelve, "There's A Party", features the one-and-only George Clinton and Chali 2na. The CD liner notes Clinton as, "vocals, conscious altering, and prune juice." With an opening that resembles

See N.A.S.A page 14

The Dark Knight and his Dark Horses at the Oscars

BY KENNY BROWN
Beacon Staff Writer

The time has come once again for the big wigs at the Academy to make their choices on who they believe deserves the top honors in film. This Sunday, February 22, we will watch the red carpet roll out, the flashy dresses light up the stage, and maybe, if we're lucky Sean Penn, will beat someone up. But I do know one thing that will not be happening.

Neither *The Dark Knight*, the highest grossing film of the year, nor *Defiance*, one of Daniel Craig's best movies, will win the Academy for Best Motion Picture of the Year. Yes, Oscar night provides yet another opportunity for the Academy's judges to snub some of the best work out there.

This year topping the list of the snubbed are none other than *The Dark Knight*, *Defiance*, and *Seven Pounds*. First let us begin with the obvious, *The Dark Knight*, Warner Bros. summer extravaganza. After becoming the highest grossing movie of the year, many Academy followers believed there would be a few more nominations than just Heath Ledger for Best Supporting Actor. The buzz was that Christopher Nolan would get a nod for Best Director, Christian Bale for Best Male Actor, and possibly even a bid for Best Film. But alas, January came and went, and took the Oscar nominations with it. Left crying in the corner was Batman and Christopher Nolan with the Joker cackling and grinning his way to the Red Carpet. Some were shocked. Some were happy. And some were left all alone to think about what they had done in Gotham City.

Not only was it shocking when Academy judges left *The Dark Knight* in the dark, but also when they abandoned Daniel Craig's newest movie, *Defiance*. The story is about two men and a boy who fought against the Nazi forces in World War II and tried to help as many Jewish victims as they could to safety. In spite of the great storyline, it received not one single nod. And this was when many believed Craig to be a contender for Best Actor, and the film itself to be in the running for Best Film. It seems after *Valkyrie* the Academy decided to steer clear of any Nazi flicks this season.

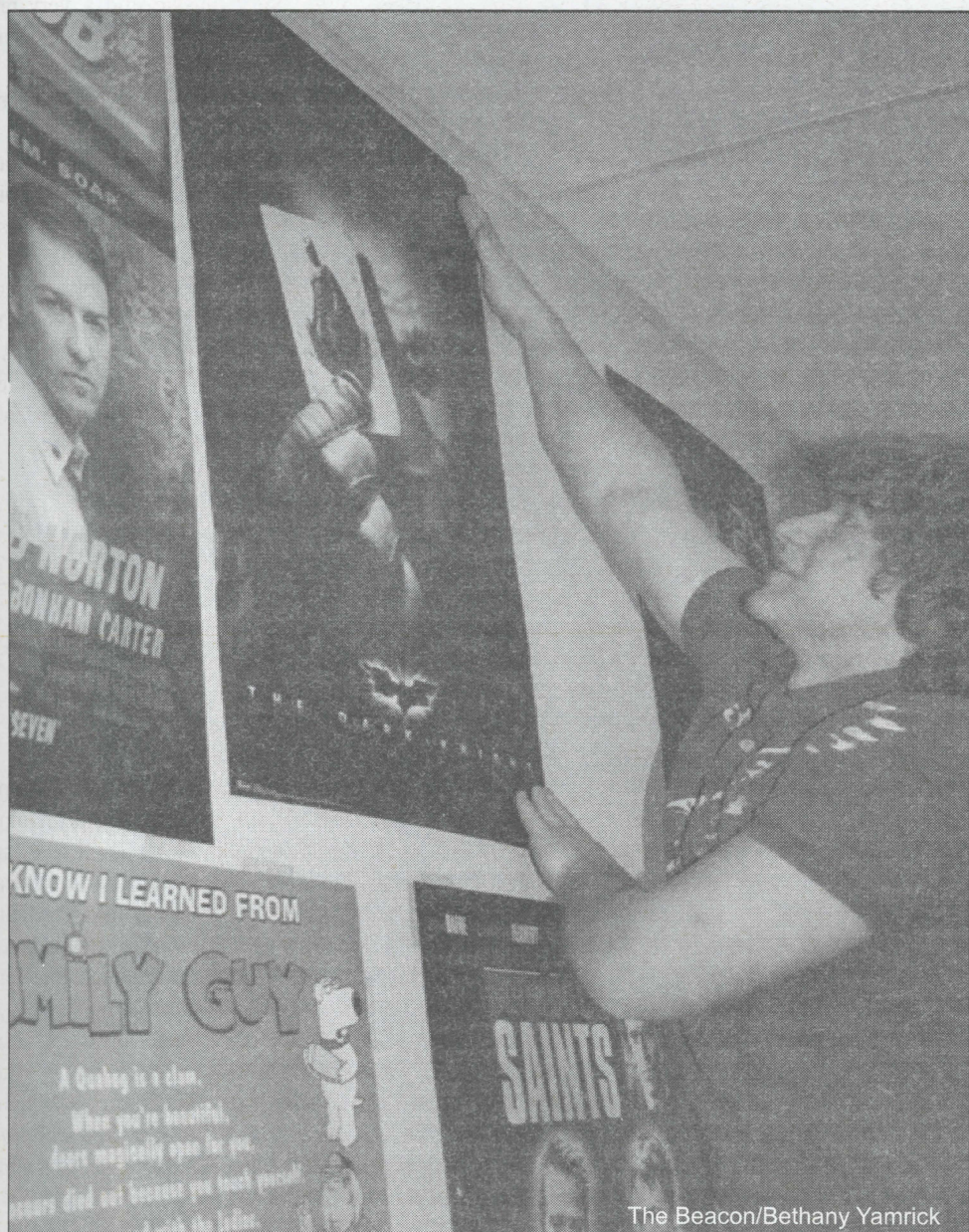
Finally, comes the slightly surprising snub of *Seven Pounds*, a thinker drama starring Will Smith and Rosario Dawson. I watched it online (legally of course) and even went to see it in theaters again. Both times I was surprised at how well done it really was. It seemed to me that Rosario Dawson was worthy of a Best Supporting Actress nomination and maybe even a far shot nod for Best Film, or even Best Screenplay. But when push came to shove

the Academy went on a binge to rid itself of those pesky extra *Seven Pounds*.

These were not the only snubs this year. There were a few more such as Bill Maher's documentary *Religulous*, which should have been up for Documentary Feature. Then there was the nice snub thrown Kate Winslet's way for her role in *Revolutionary Road*, for which she won a Golden Globe.

And then came the musical punch in the mouth when Bruce Springsteen's title song for *The Wrestler* was body slammed. And last we have the short-sighted pass on the ever-popular Swedish horror flick *Let the Right One In*. Even if it's a great horror movie, the Academy is too good for screams and scares.

Well the time has passed for tears and tissues. The nominees are in and have been for some time. The winners will be announced this weekend. I guess the *Dark Knight* will be riding his Dark Horse far, far away into the sunlight, while the Joker wins posthumously, God bless him.



Greg Heindel, freshman Pharmacy major, takes pride in hanging the newest addition of the *Dark Knight* movie to his varying poster collection.





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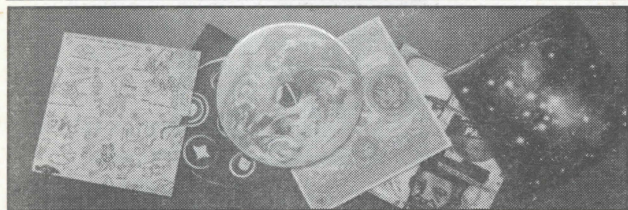


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The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

N.A.S.A from PAGE 12

light-hearted doo-wop with sporadic claps that make me feel like I'm hanging out with friends, the goal of "There's A Party" is obviously to have everyone up and shaking. And it does just that. I couldn't imagine attempting to sit still with any of the tracks blasting on the stereo (my roommates reinforced my thoughts).

The album artwork is also splendidly thought out. I am in love with picking apart an album, looking at the lyrics, the thank-you's, and most importantly the designs. I was not disappointed in N.A.S.A.'s artwork and neither was Vice magazine.

Listeners who take time to examine the four leaflets wouldn't believe they are for the same album. It's nice to see a CD that caters to all aspects of art—the visual and musical.

I encourage anyone who likes Brazilian beats or any of the artists featured on the album to go out and buy it to support this type of collaborative effort.

We are all one world/each and everyone of us. - "There's A Party"



The Beacon/Matthew Gogas

Friends and organizers of the concert for Art Redmond, which took place Sunday Feb. 15, was held at the River Street Jazz Cafe. The concert featured the bands *Cabinet*, *The Woody Brown Project*, *Mike Miz* and *JMMD*. All proceeds from the concert benefitted the Miguel León orphanage in Ecuador where Redmond volunteered in his spring semester of 2007. Redmond was very well-loved within the Wilkes community. For more information on the concert go to www.wilkesbeacon.com

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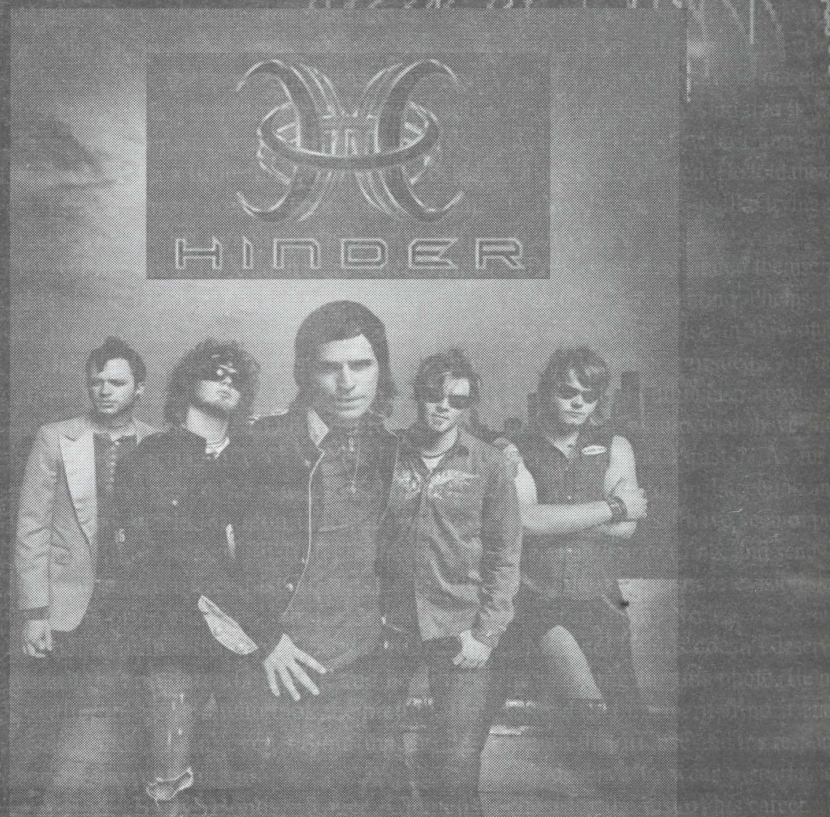
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• -Or-

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Cats

Where: F.M. Kirby Center
When: Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$27-54.00

Larry the Cable Guy

Where: Wachovia Arena at
Casey Plaza
When: Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$75-81.00

Monster Jam

Where: Wachovia Arena
When: Feb. 20-21, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5-21.00

February 3 Crossword Answers

1	D	I	C	T		5	C	H	A	S	E		9		13	G	O	A	L
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17	L	O	U	T		19	A	E	G	I	S		21		25	G	O	L	D
20	I	N	T	E	R	23	P	L	A	N	E	T	24	A	R	Y			
	</																		

Crossword

BY DEVIN J. KING

Beacon Staff

1		2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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54	55	56	57							58					59
60						61		62			63				
64						65					66				
67						68					69				

Across

- 1 Uttered by mouth
5 Kibbles 'n _____
9 Often becomes broken
14 Bubbly beverage
15 Object of worship
16 Sleep disorder
17 Country north of Thailand
18 Steak Sauce
19 Elector
20 Annie was one
22 Save for later
24 Rear part of a ship
25 "_____ the Terrible" of Russia
26 Two couples eating dinner
32 Time period
35 Roman god of war
36 Thought
37 City in western New York
39 Keep from sight
42 Reveal secret matters
43 Female horse
44 Hot tub
45 Identification digits
50 Like some signs
51 Optimal
54 Where boats are built and repaired

- 58 Powerful businessperson
60 First five books of the Hebrew Scriptures
61 Supernatural force
63 Therefore
64 Friend
65 Second stage of psychosexual development
66 Cease
67 Stitch again
68 Ambulatory appendages
69 Logical

Down

- 1 Capital of Norway
2 Lion sounds
3 Take into one's family
4 Struck with a whip
5 Twice a year
6 Bachelor's last words
7 Organs at the back of the throat
8 Arm covering
9 Cuba Capital
10 Literary genre
11 Opposed
12 Mouthpiece of a wind instrument

- 13 Weight of a vehicle without cargo
21 Agreeable odor
23 Small amount
27 Male friend, Slangly
28 Convulsive twitch
29 March 15th
30 Spring Tide
31 Festive occasion
32 Recedes
33 Regulation governing conduct
34 From a distance
38 Mulder's employer
39 Web device
40 Where electrons may be found
43 Ordinary and dull
41 Impoverished
46 In a careless way
47 Tract of open ground
48 Common type
49 Break for school kids
52 Main artery
53 Enter a computer
54 Heavenly body
55 Residence of a person or family
56 Colored portion of the eye
57 Boy servant
59 Slangy rejection
62 Annoy by persistent complaints

SPORTS

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:

alissa.lindner@wilkes.edu
daniel.kautz@wilkes.edu

wilkesbeacon.sports@gmail.com

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Wilkes Colonels defeat Manhattanville, Alvernia

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA

Beacon Asst. Op-Ed Editor

One game after Wilkes had its second player in as many games topple the 1,000 point mark, the Colonels needed every single point from each to get past the feisty Valiants from Manhattanville.

The Colonels came out on top 54-49, after a furious 8-0 run in the final 2:47 of the game to take home the victory and stay in the thick of the Freedom Conference race.

Fourteen of the Colonels 54 points came from the free throw line, despite shooting a Shaq-like 58% from the line.

Numbers did not matter this game however, as Manhattanville shot a mere four times from the charity stripe. The Colonels' leading scorers, Steve Kline and Tom Kresge, led the team in scoring with 13 points apiece. Kresge also pulled down a team leading eight rebounds while Kline went 6-9 from the free throw line. Both Kline and Kresge recently reached the 1,000 point plateau for their careers at Wilkes.

The Colonels played from behind with 9:23 to go in the first half until Kline hit a pair of free throws with 1:04 to play.

"Against Manhattanville in the second half nothing was going well for us at all and we couldn't really get closer than ten points," said sophomore guard Kyle Ruby. "Everything changed when [Kline] dove on the floor after the ball and we ended up getting a layup out of the play. Everyone started playing harder from that point on just because Steve made a very good hustle play."

The Colonels then laced it up for the final

installment of "Marts Madness" this past Saturday versus Alvernia.

Wilkes rolled to a 77-63 victory over the Crusaders, behind the sweet stroke of sophomore Chris DeRojas. DeRojas led the team and set a brand new career high with 37 points on 11 of 18 shooting from the field, including a scorching 7-11 shooting from three-point range.

Twenty of DeRojas's 37 came in the last five minutes of the first half, with the Colonels amidst a 37-6 run which took them from being down six with nearly ten minutes to play, to a very comfortable 46-26 lead at the break.

Tom Kresge chipped in with 22 points on 9 of 15 shooting.

Steve Kline, who suited up for his final home game in the blue and gold, finished with 11 points, a team-high six rebounds and dished out five assists.

The 14 point victory avenged a nine point loss to Alvernia suffered earlier in the season.

The Colonels have rolled off three in a row and now sit at 13-9 overall, including a respectable 9-6 record in the Freedom Conference.

They take the court again on Tuesday, when Wilkes makes the quick trip to Dallas to face Misericordia, whom the Colonels upended 59-53 in mid January.

"The team is finally feeling confident as a whole and everyone is playing for each other," said Ruby. "If we are peaking, like we all believe we are, we are peaking at the right time going into the postseason."

The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki



(Above) Number 24 Steve Kline watches the ball bounce around the rim as Tom Kresage (33) stands poised for a possible rebound. (At left) Chris Gulla (3) dribbles past a defender en route to Wilkes' 54-49 win over Manhattanville.



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki

On Saturday February 14 the Lady Colonels basketball team took on Alvernia University for their final home game of the season. The Lady Colonels were unable to overcome a slow start and lost the game 71-54. Seniors Khadija Bates and Chelsea Gosse were both recognized for Senior Night. Number 25 Samantha Simcox shoots the ball during the game on Saturday. The Lady Colonels will take on Misericordia University in Dallas on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. before finishing the regular season at home against Lebanon Valley on Friday February 20 at 7:00 p.m.



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki

Steve Kline and John DeFeo were recognized as seniors of the Colonels' basketball team on Saturday, February 14, as the team took on Alvernia College in the Marts. Sophomore Chris DeRojas had a career day posting 37 total points in a game Wilkes won 77-63. Number 4 freshman Michael Donatoni looks for a pass during the game. The Colonels will close out the regular season this week when they visit Misericordia on Tuesday, February 17, and then Lebanon Valley on Saturday February 21.

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JOAN HENRY HALL

RINKSIDE REPORT

Penguins trying to avoid hairy situation

BY MICHAEL CIGNOLI

Beacon Staff Writer

When the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins practice on the day before a game, the team usually concludes with a game of Juice Boy.

The rules are fairly simple. Every player at practice, as well as head coach Dan Bylsma and assistant coach Todd Reirden, take turns taking breakaways. If the shooter scores, they're eliminated. The last player without a goal is the Juice Boy, who makes sure his teammates are properly hydrated by delivering beverages around the locker room after practice.

Ordinarily, Juice Boy is a fun way for the team to practice one-on-one attempts and showcase some stick handling abilities that they might not get an opportunity to try during an actual game.

"It's a good way to show the goalie something new and maybe try to get a good laugh out of the teammates," said Penguins defenseman Danny Richmond.

But once a month, the Penguins raise the stakes.

Juice Boy becomes Mustache Boy, and the loser of that game has to grow a mustache for a month.

"It adds a little tension, adds a little fun. You get the jeers from the crowd," Bylsma said. "Guys are picking horses at the end... They're making horse sounds and jockey sounds and whipping the horse. Inevitably it ends up being one person. There's lots of good hearted fun that's going on."

Sure, players can joke around with their teammates once they're off the hook. But nobody wants to be the last man standing in the game.

Especially if it means they have to go without shaving for a month.

"You don't want to lose Juice Boy," said defenseman Ben Lovejoy. "But the consequences of losing Juice Boy are nowhere near that of losing Mustache Boy."

"It's a pretty funny game once you're out of the game," said Richmond. "Guys get pretty stressed out, but it's pretty funny to see the reaction of the guys when they're in the last three."

The incumbent Mustache Boy is winger

Tim Wallace, who hasn't shaved his upper lip in about three weeks. According to Bylsma, players have the option to shave their mustache if they are willing to pay a \$500 fine. That money goes into the players' fine fund, which is used to organize events like Super Bowl parties.

"Every time I look in the mirror, it's a little different," Wallace said. "But we're winning, so it's fun."

With the Penguins now 54 games into the season, just about everyone on the team has had an opportunity to be Juice Boy, including goaltenders John Curry and Adam Berkhoel. The goalies lose the game if they are beaten on four consecutive shots in the opening round.

"It's not a goalie tailored game, because the better you do, the longer you have to go," said Curry. "Whereas the better the players do, they get out early, and the game gets over."



Penguins winger Tim Wallace has been growing his facial hair since he lost a game of Mustache Boy in late January.

After looking at Wallace's recent facial hair growth, however, gathering refreshments for the entire locker room is a task that members of the Penguins are perfectly content with doing from time to time.

"Getting juice is pretty easy, compared to walking around with that thing on your face," Lovejoy said.

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Sloppy play dooms Lady Colonels' basketball

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Visiting Manhattanville College proved to be too much for the Lady Colonels' basketball team to handle last Wednesday, February 11, handing Wilkes a 71-57 loss. The victory helped improve the Valiants' record to 13-9 (9-4 in the Freedom Conference), while dropping Wilkes' record to 10-12 overall (5-9 in conference).

The Lady Colonels jumped out to a quick lead thanks to a Manhattanville shooting slump that saw them make their first field goal with 15:07 remaining in the first half. Wilkes and Manhattanville traded baskets throughout the first half before the Colonels

took a six point lead with eight minutes remaining in the half on a layup by Chelsey Gosse. The lead, which would prove to be their largest of the game, would not last long unfortunately. The two teams tied at 25 points apiece on a basket from freshman guard Samantha Simcox before the Valiants scored the last three points of the half, taking a 28-25 lead into halftime.

The story of the game could be found in the second half, when Manhattanville scored 21 points off of Wilkes' turnovers. The Valiants came out of the break using a very aggressive full-court press style of defense that forced Wilkes' women's basketball team into 16 turnovers. The Valiants also scored eight fast-break points in the

second half.

"We learned that we have to do a better job transitioning back on defense since they're a team that loves to run," said sophomore forward Mari Gabriel. "The loss really came down to them beating us up and down the court; in the future we just need to play better defense in general, especially in transition."

Manhattanville took a 47-38 lead with 10:38 left, and never looked back. They would score 43 second-half points in the game, and score 32 points off Wilkes' turnovers. The loss was the second Wilkes suffered at the hands of Manhattanville this season, although the first was a very competitive game that saw the Valiants win 78-

76 in overtime.

"Manhattanville is a very fast, fundamentally sound, athletic team," said Gabriel. "They're tough because they use those three things to their advantage and are constantly running on defense and offense."

Chelsey Gosse led Wilkes' in scoring with ten points, while Simcox and freshman center Lindsey Gosse contributed nine apiece. Lauren Grenier led Manhattanville with 15 points. The women's basketball team's next game is tonight at 6 P.M. at Misericordia.



The Beacon/Lauren Biernacki

Khadija Bates (34) tries to get a pass to Brittany Ely (22) near Manhattanville's baseline. The Lady Colonels' gave up 32 points off of turnovers in the game.

WILKES COLONELS

Women's Basketball
L Manhattanville 57-71
L Alvernia 54-71

Wrestling
W @ King's 29-9

Men's Basketball
W Manhattanville 59-54
W Alvernia 77-63

Wilkes defeats King's in final match of season, 29-9

BY RYAN HOLMES
Beacon Correspondent

Senior Erik Smith received his 100th win on Friday night in impressive fashion by pinning King's junior Frankie Davis with 1:01 left in the second period. The rest of the Colonels followed his lead in a 29-9 victory over the King's College Monarchs.

Smith said that coming into the season he was unsure of his record, but once he figured out that he could accomplish this, feat he set his sites on the milestone win. "Getting the 100th win was definitely in the back of my mind as I stepped onto the mat, but I didn't expect to pin. Just a win that's all I wanted", Smith said.

Seniors Shaun Farnham and Josh Pauling got the ball rolling with 6-2 and 6-3 victories at 125 and 133 over King's freshman Mike Tabasco and Anthony Dietrick.

The three seniors finished their dual meet season with all wins, but the realization of it being their last dual meet in a Wilkes singlet has yet to set in. "I haven't really thought about it", Farnham commented. "I still feel like I have so much to prove with the Metropolitan Championships coming up that's what is on my mind now; getting ready for the Metros."

Pauling confirmed the fact that it hasn't really hit him yet either that he had just wrestled his last dual meet. However, he is proud of what he and his other teammates have accomplished. "I'm definitely going to miss everything though. After four years I'm proud of what I've accomplished", Pauling remarked.

The rest of the Wilkes wrestling team followed the examples of their senior captains and stacked up some impressive wins

in their route to victory. Sophomore James Histed added to the victory collection with a 0:49 second pin of Chris Poletto at 157. After putting the Colonels up with an 18-3 lead, Richard Sparks came threw with a nail biting 4-3 victory over Jerry Robbins.

King's would then record two victories at 174 and 184 which made the score 21-9 with two more matches left in the dual meet. Without hesitation Matt Pizarro walked in the center circle and only needed 3:17 to record an 18-2 technical fall over Lewis Snover.

With the heavyweight match left, Coach Laudenslager opted to put sophomore Chris Smith up against the 20-6 junior heavyweight Chris Rash. Coming out of the first period Smith trailed the very talented Rash 1-0. However, Smith would then put on an impressive second and third period by scor-

ing six unanswered points to obtain a 6-1 victory to finish off the Monarchs.

After the match Coach Laudenslager commented on his memorable seniors by saying that he is proud of what they have accomplished in the years he has coached them. "They are all very hard to replace that's just shy of 300 wins that are leaving the line-up, but they have 10 more days to get focused and accomplish their goals of being champions", Laudenslager said. "But they will all be missed."

The Wilkes Colonels finished their regular season with an overall record of 17-6-2. They now look forward to the Metropolitan Championships on Sunday, February 22 at York where they all feel as if they have much more to prove.



Wilkes performed impressively in their match against the King's Monarchs, which will serve as a good tune up before the Metropolitan Championships. Senior Erik Smith works for points in route to his 100th win for the Colonels.

What to see and do this week...

17	18	19	20	21
Please attend the memorial service for Dr. Matthew Zukoski at 11:45 a.m. in the ballroom of the Henry Student Center	Visit the Painting the Beautiful art exhibition at the Sordoni Art Gallery at 12:00 p.m.	Go see "Eat, Drink and Be Larry" at Wachovia Arena at 7:30 p.m. Visit the website for prices.	Wilkes' 2009 Winter Weekend begins! This year's theme Gods and Goddesses!	The Wilkes University Department of Visual and Performing Arts presents Le Revue Fairytale, a musical of fairytails for grown ups at 8:00 p.m.

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