



# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

## RAs help residents better understand mental health

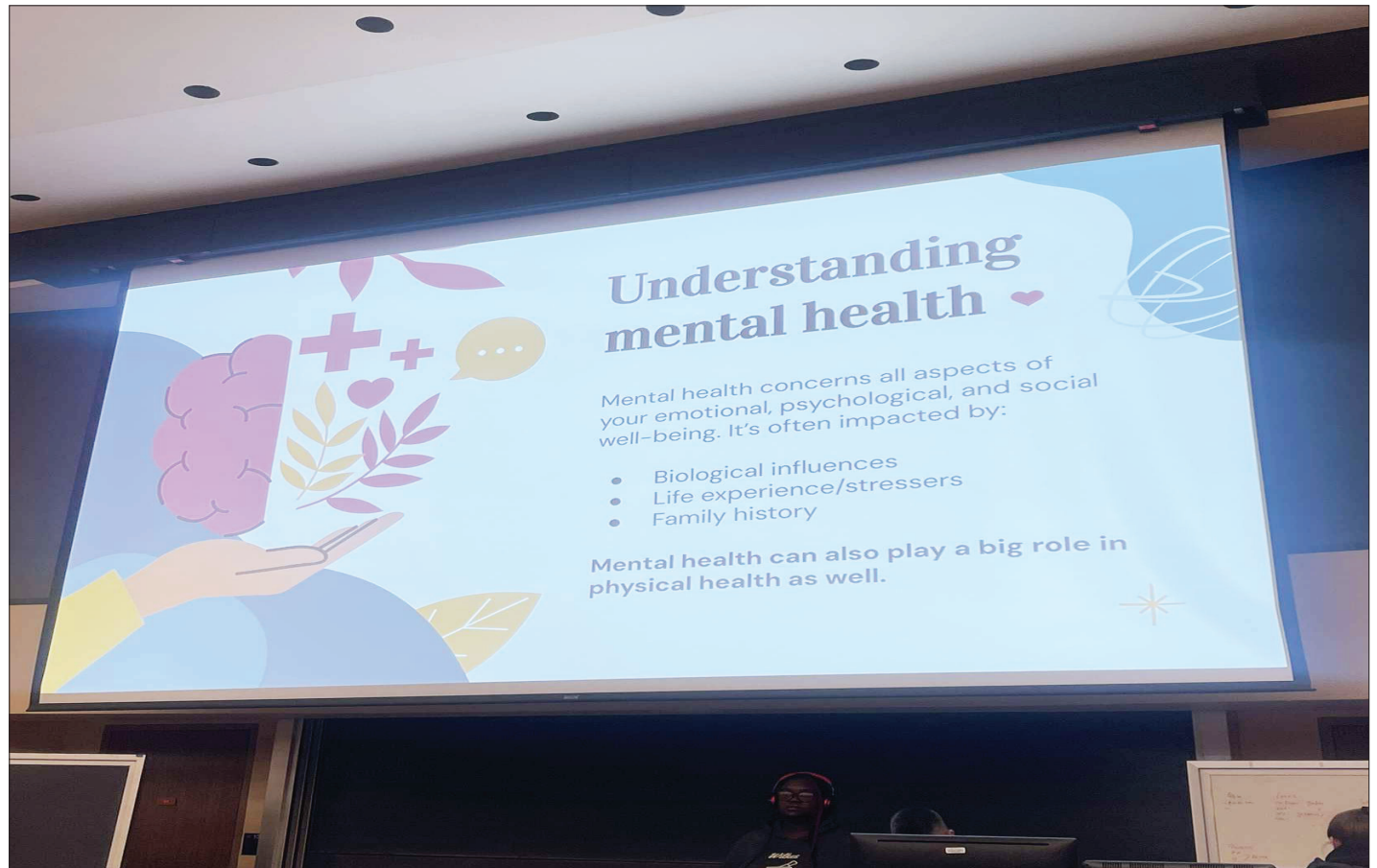
**By Lexi McHugh**  
Contributing Writer

In an event that combined mental health, compassion and community outreach, Resident Advisors (RAs) recently hosted a gathering for students at the Stark Learning Center.

The evening not only delved into the crucial topic of mental health but also provided a place for students to engage in thoughtful activities, leaving a positive impact on both their well-being and the community.

The main highlight of the event was a presentation on mental health, made and presented by the RAs to address various aspects of college students' mental health. The presentation went over four specific sections regarding mental health including indicators of mental health issues, seeking assistance, prevention and self-care, and ways to support those around you.

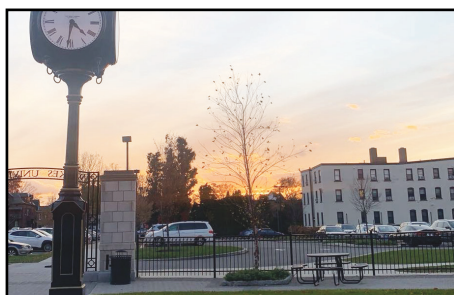
The goal was not only to raise awareness but also to enable students to recognize signs, seek help when needed and be able to surround themselves with a supportive environment.



**See health, pg. 3**

Understanding mental health was topic of recent event held by resident assistants.

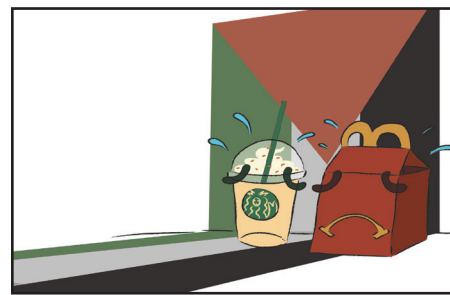
The Beacon/Lexi McHugh



**Public Safety addresses recent Wilkes-Barre burglaries, page 3**



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# News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Amanda Montgomery: [Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu)

## Student Government notes: Feb. 7 meeting

By Zach Paraway

Student Government had its second meeting for the semester Feb. 7.

The first order of business was a fund request from Wilkes Athletics. Presented by Keith Kalhold, a strength and conditioning coach here. The request was Late Night Lift items such as shaker bottles and t-shirts for the event. LNL is an event held in late February, the date is still pending, where the athletics department opens the Martz weightroom to the Wilkes community after hours. The request was for \$1900 and was approved for the full amount.

The second order of business was a fund request from Wilkes Adventure Education from a spring break trip. WAE had many places for their proposed trip and are looking to take a west coast hiking tour

for the trip. Considering all logistics, the request was for \$3,600. This was week one of a two week request and will be voted on next week.

The third order of business was a club report by the nursing student organization. They spoke at the conferences that they went to over the past year.

The fourth order of business was a club report/update by the South Asian Cultural Association, formerly the Indian Cultural Association.

The fifth order of business was a club report from the pre-pharmacy club. They spoke about their event called Kathy's kids where they teach kids the importance of knowing what you eat and not mistaking drugs for candy.

The sixth order of business was a club report from the ski and snowboarding

Club.

The seventh order of business was a fund request for spring fling, presented by executive member, Marytere Quinana-Avliia. The date for this year's event is still being determined but is looking to be held in late March again in the Mary Stegmaier mansion.

The budget is still under debate and will take more than the normal two weeks.

The eighth order of business was a fund request for Big Event, presented by executive member, Nolee Ana Garbowski. Big Event is a large community service event for all clubs on campus held on April 27. The request was for t-shirts and other items for the event This was week one of two and will be voted on next week.

SG will meet again on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

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## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

### Spring Intramural Sports

Registration is now open for intramural sports this spring. The season begins Feb. 19 and ends March 27. Sports offered are soccer, basketball, dodgeball and volleyball.

Register yourself and your team on [IMleagues.com](http://IMleagues.com) before the start of the season. Any questions contact [casey.carpenter@wilkes.edu](mailto:casey.carpenter@wilkes.edu).

### Alumni Scholarship Opportunity

The Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a current Wilkes undergraduate student who has a parent or grandparent who graduated from Wilkes, has at least a 3.0 GPA and has a FAFSA on file for the 2024-2025 academic year. Deadline to apply is March 17, 2024.

Use this link to apply: [www.community.wilkes.edu/alumnischolarship](http://www.community.wilkes.edu/alumnischolarship). Contact [alumni@wilkes.edu](mailto:alumni@wilkes.edu) with any questions.

### Kappa Kappa Psi Talent Show Interest Form

Wilkes University's music fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi, would like to host a talent show this semester. Anyone is allowed to sign up.

Fill out this form if you are interested: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnAmAtuUyJOxInXXPiLyKY9pzb\\_uMCsOenMyDopx-6RT6lVQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnAmAtuUyJOxInXXPiLyKY9pzb_uMCsOenMyDopx-6RT6lVQ/viewform).

### Lavender Graduation Ceremony

This spring, GSA will be hosting a Lavender Graduation Ceremony for the LGBTQ+ members of the class of 2024 on May 3 at 3 p.m.

Use this link to fill out the interest form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccGu5bgXa1Ll-w7bju5jLEZaezizB34svSyqPwqacpI2io3w/viewform>.

### CCDI Resume Workshop

The Center for Career Development and Internships is hosting a resume workshop on Feb. 29 in the JPAC Ballroom starting at 11:15 a.m.

Students are encouraged to bring their laptops/tablets to create their own resumes during the presentation.

Contact Jenna Weiss at [jenna.weiss@wilkes.edu](mailto:jenna.weiss@wilkes.edu) with any questions.

Register on Handshake with this link: <https://wilkes.joinhandshake.com/edu/events/1467525>.

### HPSC Soda Tab Collection

Join the Honors Program Student Committee for a soda tap drive. Donate your soda tabs in the marked boxes located on the first floor of the SUB, outside the Honors Office and in the lobby of the SIMMS Center.

The donations will be taken to a recycling center in exchange for funds that

### Upcoming Events: 2024 Spring Semester

#### February

15 - Music BINGO  
22 - Family Feud  
25 - Ice Skating at Revolution Ice  
29 - Giveaway One

#### March

14 - Adventure BINGO  
17 - Orangetheory Fitness Class  
21 - Laser Tag

#### April

4 - Everything but the Kitchen Sink  
11 - Bye Bye BINGO

*Want your event featured in the calendar?*

*Email: [Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu)*



**...cont. from pg. 1  
health**

The first part of the presentation talked about the indicators of mental health challenges. The common indicators presented in the slide were: feeling anxious, worried, depressed, guilty, worthless or unhappy, having emotional outbursts, sleeping problems, moderate weight/appetite changes, being more withdrawn than usual, neglecting responsibilities, strange or harmful thoughts and considering substance abuse. After the RAs talked about the indicators, they gave the students the appropriate resources to get help. There were three main Options: go to in-person counseling, use the 24/7 hotline and to hunt down a green bandana.

Shortly after discussing the crucial indicators to declining mental health, the RAs presented to students six self care methods they can go about. Doing a full skin care routine, reading your favorite book, watching a movie or tv show, spending time with friends, crafting and journaling.

The last section of the slide may be the most important, "How do I help?" The RAs gave students two resources. Students can join NAMI on campus to educate themselves on more mental health and develop the skills to help others. Students can also join Green bandana to become an official student resource for others that need help with their mental health.

The presentation ended with statistics of students who struggle with mental health, people between the ages of 18-24 who struggle with mental health, and the percentage of college students who meet the criteria for mental illness. RAs also asked students if they had any questions about the presentation.

While the RAs were presenting their mental health slideshow, students worked on Valentine's Day cards. Students left kind messages on their cards to the elders at the senior center who may be struggling with their mental health.

# Public Safety addresses recent Wilkes-Barre burglaries extending toward campus

**By Amanda Montgomery**  
News Editor

In recent days, the city of Wilkes-Barre has experienced a surge in burglaries, with several businesses falling victim to theft.

Among the affected businesses are two located in the vicinity of Wilkes University – Eden-a-Vegan Café and Asian Kitchen, both situated in the 100 block of South Main Street.

While these incidents are under investigation by the Wilkes-Barre City Police, Wilkes University students and the broader community are urged to remain vigilant.

"The best way to stay vigilant is to report anything that you may feel is uncomfortable, and always trust your instincts," said Chief of Police Michael Krzywicki. "If you feel something is not right, you are usually correct and you should report it to the proper authorities. If you see any criminal activity, please call 911 immediately to report it as it is happening. Valuable time and resources may be lost if you wait to report this activity."

The Wilkes University Police Department (WUPD) is actively monitoring the situation, emphasizing that no university-owned properties have been involved in these incidents.

"All decisions are handled on a case-by-case basis with the safety of our campus community in mind," said Krzywicki.

WUPD encourages anyone with information related to these crimes to contact the Wilkes-Barre City Police at 570-208-4200. In their email to students, WUPD reiterated safety precautions, including reporting suspicious persons or vehicles, being aware of surroundings when walking on campus and using the Wilkes Shield safety app to report incidents immediately.

A rumor surfaced on the social media app, YikYik, about a person who was allegedly robbed in the MAC.

"In reference to the MAC, I cannot



**Sunset on Wilkes' campus.**

share any misconception or additional details about something that has not occurred, or has not been reported to our department," said Krzywicki. "If there was a robbery in the MAC, we have an obligation by law to notify our campus community."

Local businesses affected by recent burglaries have shared their experiences on social media.

"Today I woke up to devastating news," said Boozy B's, a local shop, via Facebook. "Early this morning around 3 a.m. someone broke into the shop. Completely shattered the glass on my front door with a brick and stole all the money from my register."

Another affected business, Eden-a-Vegan Café, expressed their frustration, also on Facebook.

"A smashed front door and they got a few hundred bucks from the register," said Eden. "When they are found, it surely will prove that it wasn't worth it."

The impact on business is not just financial; it disrupts their operations and challenges their sense of security. Despite these setbacks, the affected businesses were determined to reopen promptly, demonstrating resilience in

the face of adversity.

As the community rallies to support one another, both businesses and Wilkes University are taking steps to enhance security measures. Residents are encouraged to stay informed, report any suspicious activity and actively participate in community safety efforts.

A recent update, from The Times Leader, reports that a 17-year-old boy is responsible for a number of the downtown burglaries, according to Wilkes-Barre City Police.

"We are working with WBPD by providing them with video footage we have relative to their investigation," said Krzywicki.

For more information on safety and security, students can refer to the Wilkes University Police Department's annual security report at <https://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/safety-security/annual-security-and-fire-safety-report.aspx>. Questions about this advisory can be directed to Chief of Police Michael Krzywicki at 570-408-4952 or by email at michael.krzywicki@wilkes.edu.

# What is... the Office of Residence Life at Wilkes University?

**By Morgan Steiner**  
Contributing Writer

Wilkes University is full of groups that share the same goal: support. The Office of Residence Life, affectionately dubbed "Res Life" by those working in it, provides comprehensive support for students living on campus. From sending out forms to apply for housing, reminder and safety emails and filling the halls with Resident Assistants (RAs), Res Life is here for the students who call this campus home.

Residence Life is a blend of professional staff and undergraduate RAs. The director and assistant director of residence life work with students and staff to prepare the halls for move-in, deal with serious issues and send out the forms and information needed to apply (and reapply) for housing.

Residence life is also staffed by two graduate assistants, learners in graduate programs who live in the halls with RAs and students as an extra layer of support. These individuals work directly with RAs to ensure they are performing their duties and serve as a bridge between residential students and the directors of residence life. Then, there are 34 resident assistants who live and work directly with the students of Wilkes University.

First, to become an RA, applicants fill out an application and participate in individual interviews and a group processing day, which puts students in small groups and has them complete activities that allow current RAs and staff to see how applicants work in a team.

"It can feel pretty stressful leading up to the different events, however, once you are in the moment the stress disappears," said Starr Sandt, a sophomore RA serving University Towers, floors two and three.

After the process is over, candidates are notified and assigned to their buildings. RAs are not necessarily placed in buildings because they want to be there, but because the professional staff believes your skill set is best suited to a specific building.

Nolee Ana Grabowski, who is also a sophomore RA on the fifth floor of University Towers, said, "...if you get the position and aren't thrilled with your placement, keep in mind that your first year is all a learning experience. I was placed in

Evans as my first year as an RA and I loved it. I created really great bonds with my residents and being an RA has really helped me grow in my leadership skills."

All of this occurs in the spring semester. Before the new year starts, in August, RAs report to campus for a few weeks of training to prepare for their new roles as resident assistants.

RAs do so much in the residence halls, even if it goes unseen. Grabowski says that most of her responsibilities include hanging up posters, connecting with and checking in on residents, working to resolve issues, and serving on a residence life committee. There are four committees: New RA Selection, which focuses on the interview process to select new RAs; traditions, which focuses on hosting annual events, like the Waller haunted mansion or hall brawl; social media, which has students working to curate content for the residence life Instagram; and advisory board, which hears and resolves RA complaints and considers the changes suggested by the RAs. Another major aspect of the RA role is ensuring safety and enforcing the rules. Wilkes University is an open, urban campus and RAs must make sure the halls are safe and their residents are comfortable. If your RA seems very strict about propping open doors, there's a good reason.

Resolving roommate conflicts and ensuring safety in the halls aren't all that RAs are responsible for. They must also host two community builder events and two educational events for their residents each semester. These can be done for an individual floor, building, area, or even campus wide. Last year, Grabowski hosted an event for her residents in Evans Hall.

"It was a Valentine's Day event where I had written the names of every resident on the floor on the back of a heart and I gave my residents hearts with the other side of the hall's name on it and vice versa," said Grabowski. "I had my residents just write a sweet message on it and then flip it over and give it to the resident that they had. It was very sweet seeing the whole floor come together and at the end I handed out goodie bags to everyone who came."

Events like these are examples of Community Builders: they focus on building a community, one way or another.

Other examples of this include movie or game night, an interactive bulletin board or karaoke nights. One popular event is the highly-anticipated sex bingo.

"The RAs hosted a sex bingo for students to come learn about safe sex and play bingo at the same time," said Sandt. "I loved seeing how engaged everyone was and overall it was such a fun time."

Events like these are educational because they teach students something, even if it isn't a "traditional" lesson. Educational events also include things like the recent cookies and cards, where RAs gave a mental health presentation, shared cookies and wrote Valentine's Cards for a local nursing home, a tutorial on how to use the laundry machines or a kahoot about hall policies and the student handbook.

Being an RA isn't all about the work. There are plenty of fun things going on in residence life. Sandt shared that the professional staff, or pro staff and RHC have recently shown their appreciation with gifts, like blankets and winter coats.

"Walking around with my Res Life jacket on rounds makes me feel "official" and puts

a positive spin on certain job duties," said Sandt. "I am always excited when we receive something, even if it is as simple as a bag of candy from RHC, because it truly shows that we as RAs are valued."

There are other, non-material benefits.

"I have enjoyed getting to know my residents...I always have to smile when an old resident still feels comfortable talking to me about anything going on or even just saying hello when we are out and about," said Sandt.

Grabowski shared that her connections with the Pro Staff are one of the highlights of her Res Life experience.

"It is very nice building close connections with a team of people that you will be working with very closely, they are all so helpful and are there to assist whenever you need it," said Grabowski.

The Office of residence life is located in the second floor of Max Roth, at 215 South Franklin Street, directly across from the Farley Library. To keep up with residence life, follow them on Instagram @wilkes\_reslife.



Photo Courtesy Residence Life Instagram

**Evans second floor celebrates their victory in hall brawl back in October.**



# Programming Board welcomes all to Pickles-Barre

By Emma Broda  
News Staff Writer

On Feb. 8, Programming Board hosted Pickles-Barre in the MAC. The event had a wide variety of different pickles and pickle-flavored foods. In addition to the many snacks to try, students also participated in a pickleball competition.

Some of the pickles included bourbon maple pickles, dill pickles, sweet and sour pickles, bread and butter pickles and the TikTok famous chamoy pickle kit. While these were more classic flavors, the pickle flavored foods had a large assortment of flavors.

These included pickle chips, pickle flavored popcorn, pickle dip, pickle pizza, pickle ranch dressing, pickle flavored wings, relish for hot dogs, fried pickles, a pineapple pickle drink and a pickle margarita mocktail. Both pickle lovers, and surprisingly a number of pickle haters who were willing to change their minds, gathered to try the treats, hang out with friends and try to win the pickleball tournament.

Students shared both their favorite and least favorite snacks of the night. William Wolfgang, sophomore data science major, shared that his favorite of the spread were the bourbon maple pickles.

Natalie Hernandez, senior accounting major, shared that she was a pickle lover, even saying that she “dips them in

hummus,” and had been looking forward to the evening. Hernandez also shared that “The pickle wings were really good.”

Eza Chaudhry, senior business management and marketing major, said that her favorites were “pickle chips, because they taste like pickles without being too much.” Chaudhry also shared that her least favorite was the pickle margherita.

While pickles were the main star of the night, students also got to enjoy other foods like chicken tenders, onion rings and jalapeño poppers. After eating every variation of pickles and pickle flavored foods, students who never played pickleball before and regular players both got ready to play against each other in the pickleball competition.

Wolfgang was excited to participate in the competition as he shared, “I’m so hyped to play pickleball after eating my pickles. I’ve never played before, but I play tennis so I’m looking forward to it.”

Chaudhry also shared that she had never played before but was “so excited.”

Whether students were self-proclaimed pickle lovers or pickle haters, everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy the huge spread of pickles and pickle flavored foods, and had fun playing pickleball in a friendly competition.

While “Pickles-Barre” is not nearly as famous as “Pickles-burgh”, it was still a night of love for pickles and fun.



**TOP:** From left, Aster Rowland, junior criminology major; Savannah Evanski, senior theater major; Alyssa Brown, first year psychology major; Abigail Malin, first-year psychology major; and Ozzie Priebe, first-year, history and sociology major take a break from pickle-eating to pose for a picture at Pickels-Barre.

**BOTTOM:** From left to right: Ellie Schreiner, junior early education major, and Alexis Reedy, junior nursing major, playing pickleball.



**The TikTok famous chamoy pickle kit which contains one pickle, a fruit roll up, chamoy sauce and tain powder.**



# Lunar New Year celebration draws crowd

**By Brooke Lare**  
Staff Writer

Monday night, the Office of Global Engagement and Residence Hall Council had a Lunar New Year celebration to commemorate the beginning of Chinese New Year.

With this event, more than three dozen students came in and out to eat, make arts and crafts, and play trivia games for a chance to be entered into

a raffle for a gift card. Students were also treated to a variety of Chinese food options, including vegetable dumplings and lo mein, which proved to be quite popular.

Abigail Malin, Alyssa Brown and Sam Dempsey, all first-year students majoring in psychology had different reasons for attending, but all seemed to have a good time

Malin said she was interested in the food provided. However, she arrived

too late and the food had already been eaten.

Brown wanted to learn more about the celebration, as she didn't know much beforehand, and Dempsey came at the prompting of her mom, who encouraged to be more involved on campus.

The trivia was interactive as students went around to each table to scan QR codes, encouraging people to mingle with one another.

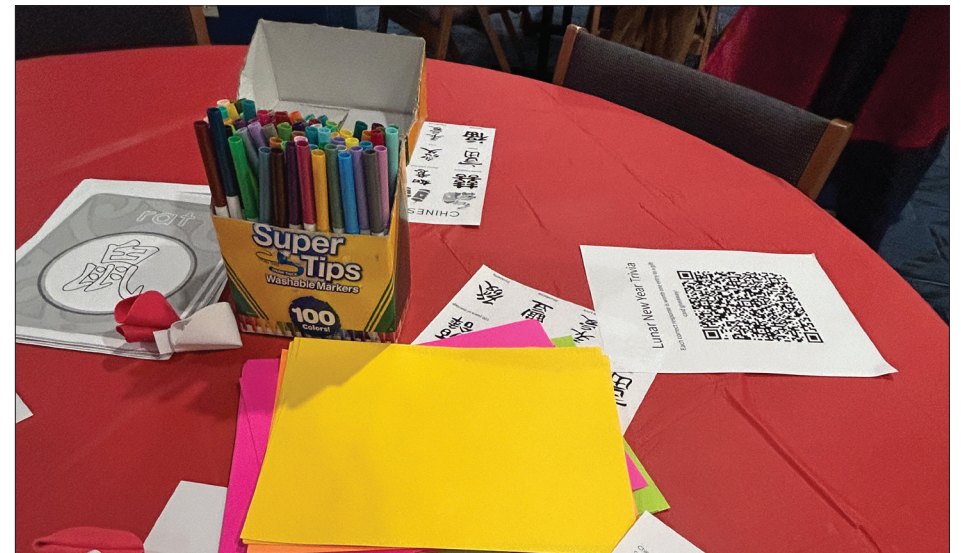
As much as it was fun, it was just as informative. Aniah Austin, a first-year student majoring in business, was impressed with the food provided. She sampled everything, and enjoyed it all.

As different students piled in, they could all be seen making different crafts laughing and having a good time.

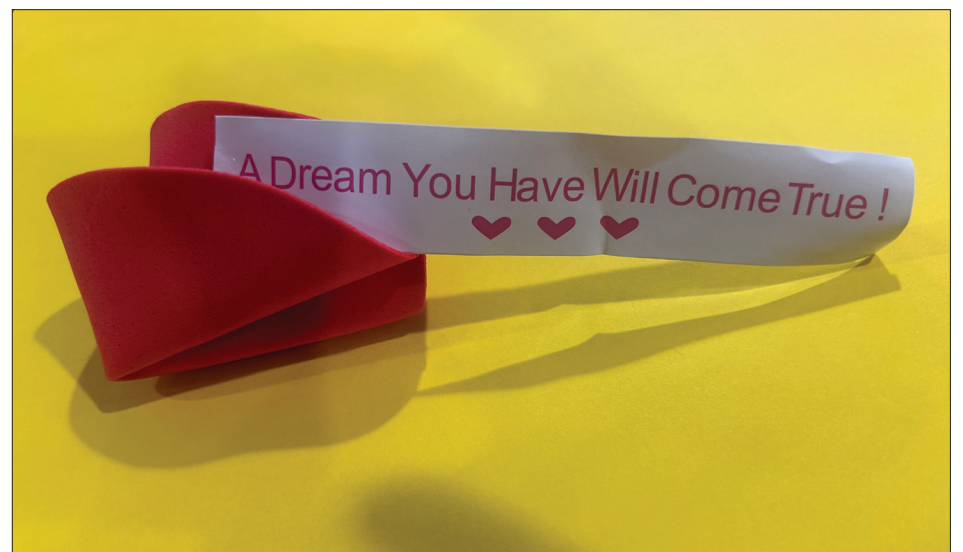
The success of the event was evident in the positive energy circulating throughout the room and K-Pop music playing over the speaker.



The Lunar New Year celebration proved to be a popular event for a number of students on campus.



Crafts and trivia were popular at the Lunar New Year celebration.



Who doesn't love a fortune cookie? Here's hoping this person's fortune comes true.

Photos: The Beacon/Brooke Lare



# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: [Anthony.Cazun@wilkes.edu](mailto:Anthony.Cazun@wilkes.edu)

## Wilkes Adventure Education hosts ropes course fundraising event

**By Anthony Cazun**

*Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor*

On Feb. 11, WAE, or Wilkes Adventure Education, held a ropes course within the McHale Athletics Center here on campus.

The event was comprised of various different ropes course obstacles that involved the attendee climbing, ducking and crawling in order to test the strength and resolve of the participant, all while having fun in a safe environment. The event had a small entrance fee in order to help fundraise a spring break trip to the Pacific Northwest. The money raised will help make it easier and more cost efficient for those within the WAE.

“We are a rugged group that likes to find adventures that take students out of their comfort zone in a fun and safe atmosphere,” said Carolyn Purdy, senior psychology major and member of WAE. “We will be hiking, camping, rock climbing and whatever else we can get into in Washington, Oregon, and the tiniest part of California. This, along with other fundraisers, will help keep the cost low for students going on the trip.”

According to Wilkes University’s website, WAE encourages students to step outside of their comfort zone and participate in new experiences. Students in the club are trained to lead small (and big) groups on ropes courses and rock walls. The club also makes frequent day and weekend trips such as hikes, camping, and biking.

The ropes course was set up inhouse by WAE members, staff and alumni, going to show that current and former members of WAE are incredibly passionate and knowledgeable about ropes course obstacles and wall climbing.

“It is important for students to have another outlet for fun on campus, especially here at Wilkes,” said senior history and political science major,



**Visitor climbing obstacle ladder.**

Kaelin Hughes. “WAE brings students outside of the “Wilkes block,” per se, and out into the surrounding area. It is a great way for students to explore and pursue their interests with the outdoors, building skills along the “wae” like backpacking and belaying for the rock wall and ropes courses.”

Both purposes of the event were met, as the fundraiser was successful, drawing in people from within and outside of Wilkes University. As well as providing a fun and safe environment for attendees to enjoy.

“We encourage everyone to take a step outside of their comfort zone and want to invite any and all adventurers, adrenaline junkies, climbers and non-climbers, as well as people willing to try something new,” said Purdy. “We also have fun games going on a well, so you can give your arms a break or get moving in between taking cool pictures of your friends.”

Keep a look out as WAE will also host a yoga night on Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Photos: The Beacon/Anthony Cazun



**A picture of the large rock climbing wall with various handholes.**



**Sophomore environmental engineering major Ben Campbell and sophomore chemistry major Simon Ferrell helped work the course for the fundraiser.**





**By Anthony Cazun**

*Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor*

There are no words to describe the level of stardom and adoration the English alternative “rock” band Radiohead receives.

Pioneers in more than one genre, creating some of the most visceral sonic landscapes and emotionally touching lyricism within contemporary music. After the massive success of their divisive song “Creep” off of their debut record “Pablo Honey,” Radiohead did a hard right turn in their sound, as they are now well known for doing repeatedly.

To the more emotionally complex record “The Bends,” then the sterile and unnerving “OK Computer,” an album many may deem the greatest of the genre, if not of all time, to

the cold and unfeeling ambience and soundscapes on “Kid A,” Radiohead have reinvented what it means to be Radiohead countless times.

Once the band released “Amnesiac” in 2001 and “Hail To The Thief” in 2003, the band’s contractual obligations were up, and there was no concrete need to continue as Radiohead. The band could split off, never to see each other again. After the daunting creation of their last albums, that was a large possibility.

However, two years later in 2005, Radiohead resumed their work, lovingly crafting “In Rainbows.” The album breathed new life into the band. While the previous records were still acclaimed, the creative exhaustion was felt. “In Rainbows” felt like the converging point of all their previous sonic experimentation,

giving fans the most versatile and fleshed out Radiohead project to date.

The “Kid A” influence on “15 Step” and “Videotape,” the rocking grooves and hard hitting edge of their early records found on “Bodysnatchers” and “Jigsaw Falling Into Place,” to the more melodic “OK Computer” esque instrumentation on “Weird Fishes / Arpeggi” and “Nude,” all of the songs felt like the culmination of years of perfecting their craft. New songs that while having familiarity, craft their own uniquely beautiful identities.

There is a lingering feeling of warmth throughout many of the tracks, primarily due to Colin Greenwood’s warm bass tone throughout much of the album, most noticeably on the track “Nude.” The arpeggios and complex string arrangements that are now a signature

of Johnny Greenwood and Ed O’ Brian on tracks like “Weird Fishes,” The jazz-like quality of Phillip Selway’s drumming and of course the haunting and beautiful lyricism written by Thom York. Every member playing their role perfectly, creating a cohesive and cerebral experience.

The album would release in 2007 on their website with nearly no buildup. The album was live, and the customer was given the option to pay any price they wanted, an unheard of practice at the time. The record would gain universal appraisal from both critics and fans alike. What could have been the end of the band ended up being possibly their greatest achievement.

## Album of the Week: “In Rainbows” - Radiohead



Graphics/Lara Mullen

**Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Our very own Anthony Cazun has put together a Spotify playlist where you can scan it and listen to the Beacon’s staff weekly picks!**

**Morgan Rich, Editor-in-Chief:**

London Boy - Taylor Swift

**Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:**

Salt In The Wound - boygenius

**Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:**

It’s Too Late - Carole King

**Brooke Lare, News Staff Writer**

see the real - 21 Savage

**Anthony Cazun, LA&E Editor:**

Suspension Without Suspense - No Doubt

**Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:**

Never Love an Anchor - The Crane Wives

**Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:**

0% - \$NOT, ZillaKami

**Samara Carey, Asst. Opinion Editor**

Heartbreak on the Map - Samara Carey

**“Freeze,” Opinion Staff Writer:**

Path - Altare

**Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:**

Linger - The Cranberries

**Sam Mullen, Sports. Asst. Editor:**

Loose Control - Teddy Swims

**Lara Mullen, Designer:**

Possum Kingdom - Toadies

**Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:**

Cool About It - boygenius



# HPSC holds a donut fundraiser sure to raise spirits

By Cally Williams

*Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer*

The cold winter weather often brings down everyone's spirits. With the drab weather and lack of daylight, sometimes a little pop of color and a donut is all that is needed to brighten up someone's day.

The Honors Program Student Committee, also known as HPSC, held a fundraiser for their program by selling Valentine's day donuts for \$2 each and giving students a chance to make Valentine's Day cards.

Valentine's Day acts as a nice pop of color and friendly warmth in the middle of winter. Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day's actual date, but Wilkes University students are starting their festivities a little bit earlier. Several Valentine's Day events have been happening all around campus from bouquet making to chocolate rose sales.

The HPSC held their fundraiser on Feb. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Building. Students from the HPSC set up a table with colorful paper and drawing supplies. The HPSC is made up of honors students who want to have a voice within the honors program.

"It is a cute little fundraiser," said Nick Devitis, junior psychology major and president of HPSC.

Zoe Morley, sophomore biology major and HPSC director of publicity, also helped with the fundraiser. She enjoyed the Valentine's Day event because of the colors.

"I just like pink," said Morley, "Everything is pink!"

As Morley described, there was a lot of pink in the Henry Center. There was an assortment of Valentine's themed donuts. From heart shaped to pink sprinkles to just glazed, the pink and red donuts helped share some Valentine's Day love.

Along with the donuts, students stopped by the stand to make cards for their friends and loved ones. The HPSC provided construction paper and markers for students to make their own Valentine's cards. The cards came in shades of red, orange, green, yellow and more.

"I think it was a great idea," said senior musical theater major Olivia

Scarborough. "It is nice that they offer that for people to make things for their loves ones or themselves. It is also a smart idea because who does not love a donut?"

Valentine's cards have been a tradition for a very long time. Whether it is the little store bought ones that kids give out to their classmates or a homemade card, valentines are a holiday staple.

The tradition of giving out "valentines" comes from the legend of St. Valentine. The legend states that a man named Valentine was imprisoned and eventually executed. He fell in love with the daughter of his jailer and sent her letters from his cell before he died.

While this is not the first instance of Valentine's Day being celebrated, it is a well known legend that gave us the

Valentine's cards that we know now. As well as the story of St. Valentine, the modern holiday also may originate from a Pagan holiday called Lupercalia where men picked women's names out of a jar for a date.

"It is just something fun to do to get into the holiday," said Devitis. "It was more about the cards than making money."



Photo Courtesy of the Wilkes Honors & Scholars Program's Instagram

**From left, sophomore political science, international relations and history major, Morgan Steiner; sophomore nursing major, Sydney Farmer; and sophomore biology major, Zoe Morley, sell donuts in the SUB for HPSC.**

# Winter Word Search

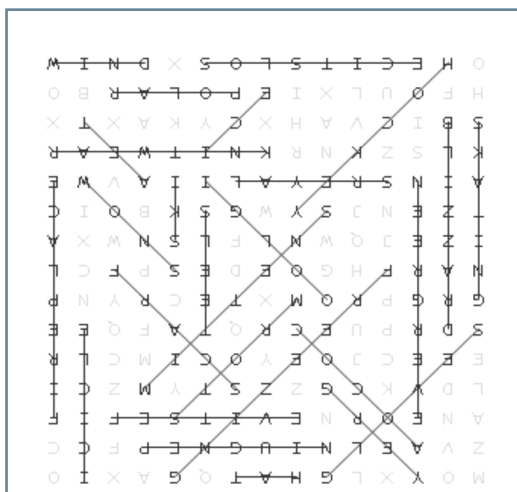
*Warm up with this cozy winter word search!*

## Words to find!

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| <i>blizzard</i>  | <i>sknitwear</i> |
| <i>festive</i>   | <i>penguin</i>   |
| <i>gloves</i>    | <i>skating</i>   |
| <i>hockey</i>    | <i>snow</i>      |
| <i>igloo</i>     | <i>tea</i>       |
| <i>mittens</i>   | <i>evergreen</i> |
| <i>scarf</i>     | <i>freezing</i>  |
| <i>sleet</i>     | <i>hat</i>       |
| <i>storm</i>     | <i>icicle</i>    |
| <i>cocoa</i>     | <i>layers</i>    |
| <i>fireplace</i> | <i>polar</i>     |
| <i>grey</i>      | <i>ski</i>       |
| <i>ice</i>       | <i>solstice</i>  |
| <i>wind</i>      |                  |

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

## Answer Key:



**Credit for these puzzles goes to:**  
[www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com)

Compiled by Morgan Rich, Editor In Chief



# Universal Music Group ends partnership with TikTok

By Anthony Cazun

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

The stranglehold that TikTok's grip has on the music industry is no secret by any means.

What used to be in the form of album sales is now within the hands of TikTok, the current arbiter of what goes platinum.

Or at least, they were, as it seems that concept may be in the rearview mirror very soon.

This is because the Universal Music Group, or UMG, has decided to end its partnership with the TikTok and pull all of their music from the application.

UMG is one of if not the largest music companies in the entire world, holding ownership over many of the largest record labels in the industry. These include Abbey Road Studios, Capitol Records, Virgin Records, Def Jam Recordings, Island Records, Republic Records, EMI and many more. This domination of record labels means they own the rights to many of the largest artists of today, including Taylor Swift, The Weeknd, Bad Bunny, BTS, SZA, Billie Eilish, Adele, Harry Styles, Ariana Grande, Elton John, Drake and many more.

All of these artists being pulled from TikTok is undoubtedly an incoming disaster for the TikTok service, as they rely heavily on music for their user experience. "Music is at the heart of the TikTok experience," said TikTok during their annual music report in 2021.

UMG is largely responsible for that experience, thus UMG's anger that



TikTok is refusing to play nice.

"I think it is frustrating for a lot of people who used that music as their audio on videos and for viewers that enjoyed those audios," said senior middle level mathematics education major Emma Freels. "Since UMG is a lot of big artists, like Justin Bieber, UMG pulling their songs removes a lot of songs from videos on TikTok."

UMG stated in an open letter titled "AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ARTIST AND SONGWRITER COMMUNITY - WHY WE MUST CALL TIME OUT ON TIKTOK" that TikTok has been neglectful of their responsibilities as a platform primarily centered around music, as well as unwilling to budge on various key issues.

"In our contract renewal discussions, we have been pressing them on three critical issues—appropriate compensation for our artists and songwriters, protecting human artists from the harmful effects of AI, and online safety for TikTok's users," said UMG in their open letter.

UMG goes on to state that TikTok is refusing to pay artists properly and is engaged in a strategy to bully record labels for less money than market value.

"As much as I personally find it annoying to come across a lot of muted videos now, I understand that UMG did it for the reason of artists not getting the money they deserve for their music being used," said junior biology major Amelia Smicherko.

UMG also stated that TikTok has done nothing to quell the fear many artists have about A.I. voice and likeness replication.

"We honor our responsibilities with the utmost seriousness. Intimidation and threats will never cause us to shirk those responsibilities," were the closing words in UMG's statement.

TikTok then fired back in their own statement, accusing UMG of perpetuating a false narrative.

"Despite Universal's false narrative and rhetoric, the fact is they have chosen to walk away from the powerful support of a platform with well over a billion users that serves as a free promotional and discovery vehicle for their talent," said TikTok.

Many speculate that the reason for TikTok attempting to pay much less than their contemporaries is because of their free promotion strategy, which has its pros and cons.

"I think that this entire situation was a shock for everyone, especially for TikTok creators and fans," said senior early childhood education major Amanda Merrick-Tompkins. "I know a lot of people feel silenced and disappointed after their favorite artists were removed from the platform. I am worried for the younger community that turns to TikTok to find a sense of comfort and entertainment, I think this is something that will negatively affect the community.

"Myself, I am definitely upset knowing that I will not be hearing some of my favorite artists on the app."

TikTok then accused UMG of being negligent toward their own artists, mirroring UMG's claims against TikTok.

"TikTok has been 'artist-first'

with every other label and publisher," TikTok stated. "Clearly, Universal's self-serving actions are not in the best interests of artists, songwriters and fans."

There is no knowing if UMG and TikTok will reach a compromise, but at this moment, users will have to get more crafty and creative with their song choices.

"If TikTok is such a wealthy company though, it really makes no sense to me why they could not just come up with a better agreement because I think having all this music on TikTok really benefits both sides," said Smicherko.



able to reach agreements

Graphic/Morgan Rich

# Valentines at WILKES

Photos by Michelle Jaramillo



“My plans for Valentine’s Day are to go out with the girls, make a cake, put all of our celebrity crushes on it, smash it and make some cute drinks.”

*Sarah Arshad*  
Neuroscience Major



*Shelby Brazes*  
Criminology and Psychology Major

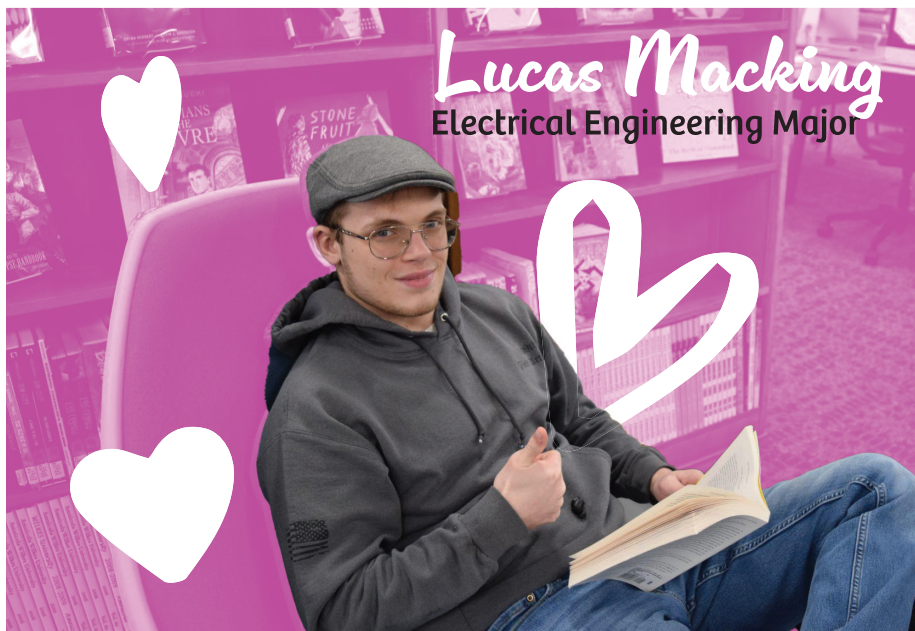


“I’m going away for the weekend for Valentine’s Day.”

*Cesia Diaz*  
Pharmacy Major

“My Valentine’s Day plans are to stay at home with my boyfriend. We like to cook in, so we make a big deal (with) dinner for ourselves without dealing with the crowds.”





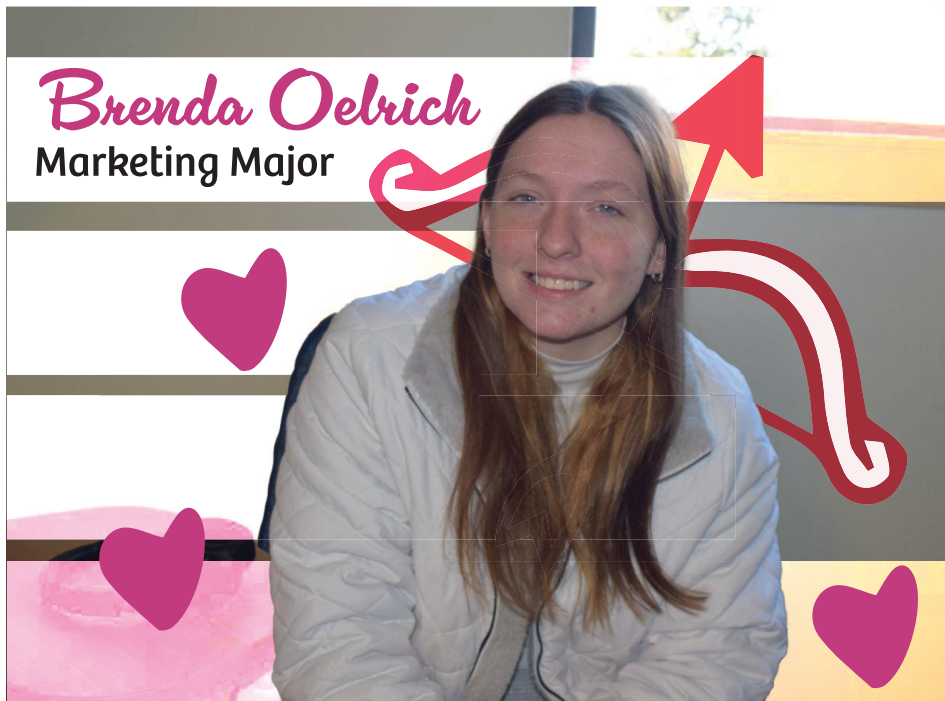
**Lucas Macking**  
Electrical Engineering Major

“Valentine’s Day is a good holiday for couples. I don’t have a girlfriend or boyfriend, but you know, it’s a fine holiday. I mean, something for a special day for couples...shows their appreciation for them.”



**Ali Hernandez**  
Pharmacy Major

“For Valentine’s Day, I am going out to dinner with my boyfriend.”



**Brenda Oelrich**  
Marketing Major

“My Valentine’s Day plans are to go to swim practice and then probably eat some dinner with the team.”



**Jack Valentine**  
Psychology Major

“...probably hang out with my girlfriend (and) go out to eat somewhere, nothing much. I really enjoy it. It’s a fun holiday.”

# Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact opinion editor: [sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu](mailto:sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu).

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## Our Voice

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

## Award show results should hold less influence

The 66th annual Grammy Awards was hosted on Sunday, Feb. 4. To no surprise, people had something to say about virtually every aspect. From iconic performances like Tracy Chapman and Luke Combs, to Miley Cyrus winning her first Grammy, the night was full of surprises.

The host was comedian Trevor Noah, and based on the lack of any social media eruption, he did not say any outlandish jokes, which is good, considering the fact that the public still have not been able to get over the monstrosity that was the Golden Globes.

Although little was said about Trevor Noah, people still had their complaints. Whether it was about Lana Del Rey not winning any of her nominations that night, or Taylor Swift winning far too much for the people's liking, the audience is never going to be pleased when watching the night unfold live.

That being said, society should stop treating award shows as gospel, and instead, we should make our own opinions on the nominees without being so impacted by the Academy's decision. It is understandably discouraging to

watch our favorite artist lose an award they were nominated for, but that does not mean that their work is bad.

With that in mind, it is important to not outwardly hate on the people that do win these awards. There was an absurd amount of hate online regarding the winners at this year's Grammys.

One of the awards to point out specifically is the one that was granted for "Best New Artist." Up and coming R&B artist, Victoria Monét, graciously won the award. After this was announced, the internet completely blew up in flames over it. This was completely unnecessary. We should not discredit the work she has done to get to this point in her career.

It goes without saying that Taylor Swift also received a disproportionate amount of hate online, with many saying that other artists deserved to win more. Although it is understandable to feel this way, no one should be blaming or sending hate towards the artists.

While this may seem obvious to most people, it is important to remember that for many artists, even being nominated was a struggle and an accomplishment.

Chances are, if they received the nomination, their work is likely deserving of one.

The original point still stands though, which is that we should not take these award shows so seriously.

Yes, it is fun to tune into the show itself, watch the performances and judge the different outfits that you see on the red carpet, but, at the end of the day, these award shows are not always earnest or of the highest authority to assess music.

Award shows are just different marketing strategies for the entertainment industry to cling onto to make money, attract viewership and create buzz. There are also countless controversies of Academies snubbing artists who are women or minorities, which was brought up at the Grammys in Jay-Z's speech.

Although being awarded a Grammy is an achievement, there are countless amazing artists who never received one. We should not allow award shows to influence our music opinions, and the results should not result in hate towards the artists.

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# The Icebox: A review of mobile game “Marvel SNAP”

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Do you remember in 2018 when our favorite superheroes all teamed up to fight the big bad Thanos? If so, then you probably also recall that he blew us all away with the snap of his fingers. Let's be honest, things haven't really been okay since that happened. The real world has experienced countless disasters. However, there are many good things that came of it. One of those things is a hit known as “Marvel SNAP”.

“Marvel SNAP” is a basic turn-based card game that is available to play for free on mobile. Wait a minute! I know it doesn't sound very exciting. However, this game is not like the rest, I promise. The game was inspired by the devastation that Thanos brought to the universe and officially released in 2022, so it is a relatively new game.

First of all, this game is unique in its structure, and there are no other card games out there that would compare to the style of play. One game can last anywhere from thirty seconds to three minutes, but it never exceeds that! This means that you can crack out several victories in just the matter of ten minutes, depending on how good you are.

The reason why matches are so short is because the developers wanted their target audience to be anyone who likes superheroes and villains. Moreover, they felt inspired to make a game that could be played while sitting on the toilet, as Ben Brode, cofounder of Second Dinner, said because he once broke his leg playing Hearthstone when the match lasted forty minutes while he sat on the toilet.

The gameplay is just as simple as the match progression. Two players face off with decks of 12 cards in order to claim the best of three locations on the table. There are only six turns in the game, with the exception of a few cards that can add or remove one turn. The first location is revealed on the first turn, the second on the second turn and the final on the third turn. Each location has four spots for cards and its own ability, which could drastically change the game. Therefore, players must strategize from turns one to three in order to maximize their power output. Power is determined by the

cards that are placed at each location.

But wait, can't players just build a deck with really high power and win every time? No, because there is also a cost system! Each turn players get increasing amounts of energy. On the first turn you get one energy, and then it increases by one each turn unless certain cards are played to change that. The energy is used to place cards that cost from zero to six energy. Generally, the higher the cost the more powerful or useful the card is. Most cards have one of two natures. “Ongoing” cards have an effect that lasts the whole game, while “On Reveal” cards have an effect that only happens once.

A lot of decks combine these types of cards to result in the best synergy. The developers were sure to make some cards work very well with others on purpose to make it easier for players. For example, all of the Spider-Man-related cards have similar abilities that have to do with moving cards from one location to another.

Personally, I enjoy the “Destroy” decks, which involve cards that destroy other cards to gain more power. Carnage gains two power for every card it destroys on reveal, and Venom gains the power of any card that it destroys. They both cost under three energy and work well with the king of symbiotes, Knull, whose power is equal to every card that was destroyed the whole game!

“Marvel SNAP” has an excellent matchmaking system, and it is very easy to rank higher. If you start losing a match, you have the option to “Retreat” in order to lose less of your rank progress. Be a good sport and don't close the app on your opponent! They will still win, but will have to wait through each turn anyway.

The fact that such a wonderful game is free-to-play on mobile makes it even more spectacular. You can assemble the Avengers, or take the streets with the Midnight Suns. From Howard the Duck to Galactus the Devourer, “Marvel SNAP” takes all of your favorite heroes and villains and puts them on the table.

Get ready to snap to dust!

# The Return of The Red Raven: an original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

## PART 10

Isabelle repeated, “Dad, are you telling me the truth?”

Rick stared deeply into his daughter's eyes. His face held no expression, and he didn't know what to say. He couldn't stand lying to her, but he's done it before.

He nodded, “Yeah, that's what happened.”

Isabelle exhaled and took a seat next to Rick. “Okay, I'll stay here until the doctor comes back to make sure dad is okay,” Isabelle said.

“That's fine with me,” Rick mumbled.

Rick leaned his head back, trying to calm his nerves. As he began to close his eyes, his phone lit up in his pocket and began to buzz. His whole body jolted as his fingers clumsily searched for his phone in his pocket. He looked at the caller name and saw that it was labeled as “UNKNOWN.” Panic electrified his body as he started to get out of his chair.

“Where are you going?” Isabelle asked.

“It's an important call, nothing to worry about,” Rick stammered.

He walked out of the waiting room and stepped into the same bathroom he was in before. He locked the door and quickly tapped the green call button.

“Hello?” he asked reluctantly.

“Mr. Greenblatt, it's nice to hear your voice again,” the unknown killer said.

“Oh god,” Rick said with choked tears. He slid down down the wall and hugged his legs.

“You were really hoping it wasn't me, weren't you? I appreciate the fear, Mr. Greenblatt. It makes me feel like I've done a good job with what I'm doing. Unless, of course, you're acting. Then again, you're really selling it if you are,” the killer teased.

“What do you want now?” Rick demanded.

“I realize I have missed one cast member from the show. I'm ashamed of myself, really because I feel she should've been the first one I killed,” the killer replied.

“Who?”

“Oh, I think you would know her very well, Mr. Greenblatt. I remember seeing all of the tabloid magazines talking about your affair with this certain woman. She was only

your love interest throughout the show.”

Rick froze, “...Vivian?”

“That's right, Mr. Greenblatt. Vivian Keller, the femme fatale Scarlet Redwood herself. She's been doing quite well for herself after the Red Raven ended, y'know? I know you two haven't talked in a while because well, you know. Anyway, I'm outside her door right now with a rope and I think it's time I pay her a visit,” the killer explained.

“Don't you lay a finger on her, or I swear I will kill you myself,” Rick threatened.

The killer gasped, “Mr. Greenblatt, that's not in the script! You know that the Red Raven doesn't kill people! Besides, you're at the emergency wing at the memorial hospital sobbing onto your daughter's arms. By the way, you didn't tell her about me, did you?”

“No, I lied to keep her safe,” Rick answered.

“You tell yourself that a lot I bet. That's good though, we can just keep all of this to ourselves.”

“I'm not going to let you get away with this, whoever you are.”

“Now that sounds like the old Red Raven I know and love! This is all a dream come true to me, you don't even know. Now, I have to go if I'm going to make this perfect. I'll keep in touch. Farewell, Red Raven.”

The call ended and Rick ran out of the bathroom. He hurried back into the waiting room and grabbed onto Isabelle's shoulders.

“What is it?” Isabelle said, letting go of Rick's grasp.

“It- Dammit, I can't say,” Rick shook his head.

“What's wrong, dad?” Isabelle asked again.

Finally, Rick told the truth. “The killer, the one that killed Teddy Flowers, they called me. They held Cameron hostage and tortured him. I found Cameron downstairs in the basement and realized the killer was in the house. I tried to find them but they were gone, and I took Cameron to the hospital. Now, they called again and said that they were going to kill Vivian Keller. Izzy, I'm so sorry for keeping this from you.”

Isabelle was speechless.

“They told me if I told you then they would come after you and I di-”

Isabelle cut off Rick and said, “I'll find Vivian. We'll talk later.”

*To be continued...*



# Why are Americans increasingly leaving religion behind?

## *The importance of finding meaning as a nonreligious person*

**By Sydney Allabaugh**

*Opinion Editor*

“In God We Trust” is the official motto of the United States, yet for many Americans, the Christian God and religion are no longer at the forefront of their lives.

According to a Pew Research Center survey, 29 percent of U.S. adults identify as religiously unaffiliated. As recent as 1990, this number was only at 5 percent, with 90 percent of U.S. adults identifying as Christian.

This rise of unaffiliates shows no signs of stopping. The Pew Research Center predicts that around half the nation will be religiously unaffiliated by 2070 if trends continue.

So, why is this?

Half of those who left religion say they did so because they simply no longer believe. Common responses in Pew surveys cite rational thought, evolution and a lack of scientific evidence as contributing factors of their choice.

Others, about 20 percent, left because they dislike organized religion, commonly citing corruption, contributions to social division, clergy sex abuse scandals and anti-LGBTQ+ teachings as their rationale.

Regardless of reasoning, some see this trend as problematic. They argue a loss of religion will likely lead to an increase in depression as religion historically provided answers to life's toughest questions, relieved anxiety and gave people purpose and meaning.

Frankly, research supports this notion.

Rachel Bonelli, Rachel Dew and other researchers reviewed hundreds of studies done on the correlation between religion

and depression and published their comprehensive review in the National Library of Medicine. They concluded that 272 out of the 444 studies found less depression among those more religious, and in general, those with no affiliation experienced higher rates of depression than other groups.

Why is this?

According to this research summary, it is possible that organized religion helps people cope, offers a strong support system and provides meaning.

Also, religious involvement has been associated with “greater altruism, gratefulness, forgiveness, marital

satisfaction, less delinquency/crime, better school performance, less substance abuse and more disease prevention activities,” all of which foster fewer life stressors in the first place.

Commonly, those who see this rise in unaffiliates as problematic use this research to argue why Americans need to go back to religion. However, when you consider the reasons why people left in the first place, it is easy to see how that isn't a feasible solution.

As previously stated, the primary reason why people leave religion is because they do not believe in God. This is not something that can be easily reconsidered, especially since there is not necessarily a way to prove a higher power exists.

The secondary reason is because they dislike organized religion. Although there are ways in which the church can attempt to reestablish trustworthiness, there would likely need to be significant proof of integrity or reconstruction to allow for any reconsideration from unaffiliates, and some may still be simply uninterested in returning.

Instead of ignoring the issues or fighting this trend and trying to force uninterested unaffiliates back into religion, it seems as though it would be more productive to accept and embrace it and determine how they can feel fulfilled and recover from depression without relying on religion.

I, nor anyone else for that matter, has objective answers on how everyone can find meaning and fulfillment. Personally, I do not even believe an

objective meaning or purpose of life exists.

However, if we continue to stray from religion moving forward, I think we should be empowered to actively work towards finding that meaning for ourselves and act in ways that foster fulfillment and happiness.

Although it can be scary to think about, I find a sense of purpose in the impermanence of things as it reminds me to suck the marrow out of life, to appreciate those around me, to accomplish, learn, share and experience all I can and to be grateful each day because I may not have the opportunity to tomorrow.

I try to reflect this perspective in my actions, by spending time with and appreciating loved ones, taking opportunities given to me, emphasizing education, trying to be present and caring for myself to the best of my ability, all of which are behaviors that foster lower rates of depression in religious people according to the previously discussed NLM research.

Obviously, my perspective is not the correct or only way to fulfillment. My point is solely that finding meaning without religion is possible, and it is something that should be actively sought after and worked towards to allow for fulfillment, happiness and direction in life, especially among those who no longer are guided by religion.

The search does not have to be difficult. Soul-searching, talking with others and reading could act as a helpful guide.

Purpose does not necessarily have to be profound. Potentially, education, activism, family or volunteering, for example, can be a source of happiness and fulfillment.

Regardless of what it is, you should find your reason, but it does not have to be religion.



# Why we should care about and support the BDS movement

By **Shawn Carey**

Contributing Writer

There isn't an easy way to describe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I want to say that the last few months have been crazy, but that would be partly untrue. Yes, there has been a lot going on; however, the problems Palestinians have been facing aren't exactly new.

So much has been coming out about the tragedies that the people of Palestine have been facing. Every day countless articles are released discussing the atrocities that Israel commits. What makes this worse is that it seems like the majority of people believe that the conflict is a recent event. In reality, it started all the way back in 1948 when Israel declared its independence.

As a country we have to ask ourselves a question: How are we, the United States, responding to this.

America has an extremely long history of joining in other nations' conflicts, especially if it's for a cause we deem as just, acting almost as a global peacekeeper. The two most well-known examples of this would be when the U.S. entered the Vietnam and Korean War as an attempt to prevent the spread of communism.

So how are we, one of seven global superpowers, responding to seeing Palestine getting repeatedly attacked? We joined the side of the people against them.

The United States has decided to side with Israel and has been doing so for a long time. The earliest record of us having a positive relationship with

Israel dates all the way back to the late 1940s when America became the first state country to recognize Israel as an independent state.

In the modern age, we have been showering the country with financial, military and political support. According to researcher Sahar Okhovat, we have used our United Nations Security Council veto power a substantial 42 times between 1991 and 2011 against resolutions condemning Israel.

It's not just the government supporting Israel however, many popular American brands and actors have been very vocal about who they side with in the conflict.

Many companies have made posts on their social media discussing the conflict. The posts all follow the same pattern. They open up by framing the people of Palestine as the enemy and close with them sending their thoughts and prays to Israel. In most cases, this is the most effort these brands put in. However, sometimes they go the extra mile.

McDonald's and Starbucks have made headlines for their support of Israel. The Hill journalist Miranda Nazzaro reported that McDonald's has been providing Israeli soldiers with free meals.

Meanwhile, Starbucks sued Workers United, the union organizing its workers, for a pro-Palestinian social media post, saying that it would damage the company's reputation, according to Dee-Ann Durbin from AP.

There are a few more major companies supporting or helping Israel, such as HP who's helping run the biometric

ID system that Israel uses to restrict Palestinian movement. However, the two I previously mentioned differ from others due to how the public reacted.

For a few months now, McDonald's and Starbucks have been the target of a mass boycott. Countless regular customers are now refusing to shop at the restaurant due to their direct or implied support for Israel.

There have been countless boycotts throughout the years, with various degrees of success. In most cases, the boycott slowly fades away and people forget about it. This one is different however.

The two mega corporations have seen a huge loss in their earnings. Beth Kowitz from Bloomberg reported that Starbucks lost about 9 percent of its market share, which translates to about \$11 billion.

We don't have a concrete amount for McDonald's yet; however, the CEO released a report on Monday saying the ongoing tensions in the Middle East are putting a dent in its business. Upon the news release, investors' shares dropped by about 3.7 percent.

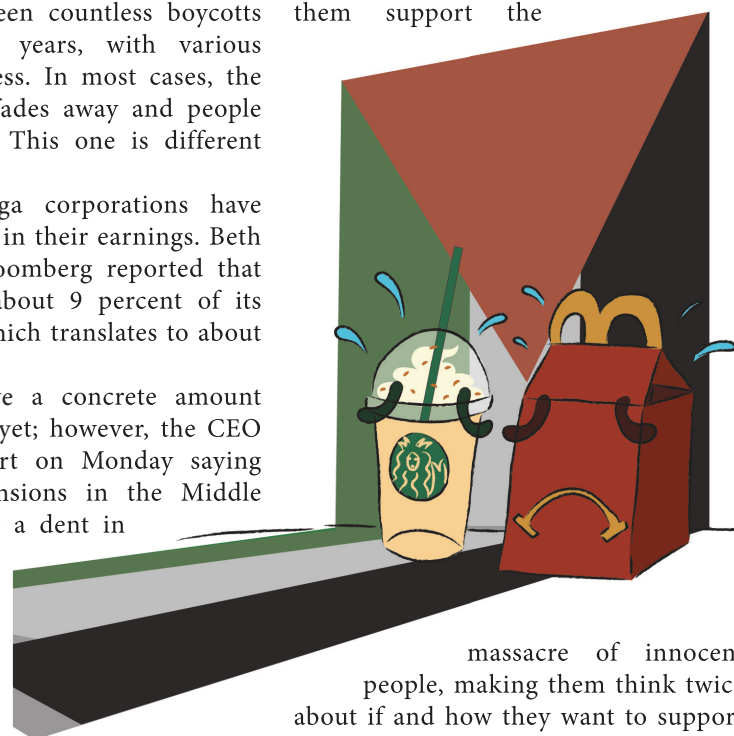
With all that being said, what is the future of the boycott looking like? I usually try to avoid getting ahead of myself in these articles, however, this is an exception.

We the people have successfully been able to scare these two large and

powerful corporations. They now know that they're not invincible and that their actions have consequences.

I can see the boycott expanding out to other companies, affecting the likes of Burger King and Kraft, two other brands that have shown direct support for Israel.

This can also show other companies that we are not willing to sit and watch them support the



massacre of innocent people, making them think twice about if and how they want to support Israel.

I truly believe that if we continue fighting back, we can make things a little easier for Palestine and its people. Don't forget, free Palestine.

Graphic by Laura De Lora

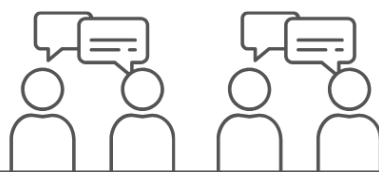
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# This week's wrap on rap: A review of recent rap singles

## *Lil Yachty, Kid Cudi, Don Toliver and more*

By Logan Colonna

Opinion Staff Writer

As February kicks off, we have multiple singles that have been released from bigger artists like Logic, Lil Yachty, Kid Cudi and more.

Today, I'm going to go over the singles that I've listened to this week, good or bad.

### "Fear" - Logic

The first single from this week that was on my radar was Logic's "Fear." I was excited for this single simply because it's used as the lead single to Logic's most anticipated album yet, "Ultra 85."

As we dive into the track, sonically we hear what we usually hear from him, but it sounds a lot more upbeat than usual. His performance here is great as there's a lot of switches on his delivery and flow.

My favorite part about the track is the cheerful keyboard chords along with other instruments being played. The production really brings this song altogether.

Halfway in, the beat slows down and allows Logic to get a little melodic as we saw him do at the end of his last studio album, "College Park." Here, we saw Logic wanting to branch out from rap, not wanting to be tied down artistically. This single is a continuation of this.

We even hear Logic talking about not suppressing himself anymore and becoming the person he truly wants to be by getting rid of his fears of judgment. I love both this single's message and the overall sound of it.

### "A Cold Sunday" - Lil Yachty

We also received a surprise drop from Lil Yachty. He released the rest of a snippet from his "Verses Im Proud of" series from his TikTok. "A Cold Sunday" dives into his outlook on his success he's had since his reinsurance from his album last year. He then ends the track stating that he'll die for the respect of his music, pretty much signifying that he's not going

anywhere soon and is here to stay.

The song is a short two-minutes, but showcases one of the best performances I've seen from him. From the amazing, catchy delivery that he adopts to the smooth, "oldie" instrumental that he raps over, everything from this song is certainly something to be proud of.

### "Black Ops" - Kid Cudi ft. Denzel Curry

Kicking it off with Kid Cudi's "Black Ops" is a video game sounding instrumental. I don't know how to explain it exactly apart from saying it's a little "pixel-y." Much of what is here is strongly related to his album he just released last month, "INSANO."

The track also showcases a feature from noneotherthanDenzelCurry. I've been wanting to hear more from him ever since his near-perfect 2022 record, "Melt My Eyez See Your Future."

Denzel steers away from his usual, gritty sound and opts in for more of a lighter tone. While he is still rapping like he normally does, the flow and delivery we see on this track is really floaty and bubbly. While the track was really good,

I just wish it was marketed well. Before the day of, I had no idea the song came out.

Unrelated to the actual song, Kid Cudi teased a deluxe version of "INSANO" which will be offering 18 new tracks, practically acting as a whole new album, so stay tuned for that within the year (hopefully).

### "Bandit" - Don Toliver

Next, we have the highly anticipated track from Don Toliver, "Bandit." The song samples Tame Impala's "One More Hour" and builds itself around the track quite a lot.

In fact, the entire instrumental is just one section from the song being chopped over and over again into itself. As fans heard this song previewed at multiple concerts from

Birmingham and more, they all loved it from that point.

Sonically, the song has hard-hitting 808s and showcases Don rapping like his life depended on it.

He's not entirely known for his rapping, compared to his R&B-inspired tracks, so it's nice to see him polish it off once in a while.

I do wish Don had more than just a single verse on this track, but I still enjoyed what I heard nonetheless.

### "Point Em Out" - That Mexican OT & DaBaby

Eight months after his breakout single debuted, "Johnny Dang," That Mexican OT dropped a song with DaBaby titled, "Point Em Out." I really wanted this song to be stellar, but it's everything but that if I'm being transparent.

To begin, the production is really uninspiring as it's the most boring trap beat I've heard in a long time. It's just a piano along with 808s, and that's pretty much it.

To add on, Both OT's and DaBaby's verses are even more boring than the instrumental. OT has the better verse and vocals easily, but it doesn't really match with the production. He was known for having a Western voice, while this song has the least Western-sounding beat.

DaBaby comes in with the same flow he's used from 2019. It's really getting tiring to hear the same thing from him for the hundredth time in the row now.

This song had a lot of potential with the collaboration between the two but missed the mark by a lot.

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# Sports

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## Stars Shine At Super Bowl LVIII

*Chiefs dethrone the 49ers as Patrick Mahomes wins SuperBowl MVP for the third time.*

**By Adam Grundt**  
Asst. Sports Editor

Taylor Swift.  
Patrick Mahomes.  
Travis Kelce.  
Usher.

As the stars were shining in Las Vegas for Super Bowl LVIII, the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers in the “big game” to repeat as champions.

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes led the Chiefs to a 25-22 victory over the 49ers behind 333 yards passing, two passing touchdowns, and 66 rushing yards.

Mahomes was named the game’s most valuable player after his performance in the game. After a slow first half, Mahomes turned it up in the second half and put on a veteran-like performance to secure his status as the best quarterback in the National Football League.

Mahomes fought off a slow start by connecting with Marquez Valdez-Scantling for a touchdown early in the third quarter. He only turned up to the intensity from there, as he led the Chiefs down the field in overtime to save their season. He connected with wide receiver Mecole Hardman for a game-winning touchdown that allowed the Chiefs to become Super Bowl champions.

Travis Kelce was Mahomes’s favorite target of the night. He connected with Kelce for nine receptions and 93 receiving yards.

Pop superstar Taylor Swift was in attendance after playing a sold-out show in Tokyo just a few days prior. The broadcast repeatedly showed Swift in her seat alongside other members of the music industry. Swift flew across

the globe from Japan back to the States in order to be there to support her boyfriend, Travis Kelce. She was spotted sitting in a suite with Kelce’s mom, and brother Jason, and fellow star Ice Spice.

Kelce embraced Swift following his third Super Bowl victory.

Usher performed in this year’s halftime show, and his ability to perform was on display. Through dance moves and his outstanding voice, he performed hit songs such as “Yeah!”, “My Boo”, and “U Got It Bad”, and brought out fellow music legends Alicia Keys, Lil Jon and Ludacris.

San Francisco quarterback Brock Purdy had a stellar outing in his first Super Bowl appearance. He threw for 255 yards passing and a touchdown, but that wasn’t enough to dethrone the Chiefs’ dynasty.

49ers kicker Jake Moody drained a 55-yard field goal in the second quarter. At the time, it was the longest field goal in Super Bowl history. Shortly after, in the second half, Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker broke Moody’s shortly-held record and hit a 57-

yard field goal. By the end of the game, Butker finished with four field goals and Moody hit three.

The 49ers were dealt with some injuries suffered by players throughout the game. Star linebacker Dre Greenlaw, tight end George Kittle, and wide receiver Deebo

Samuel were all dealing with injuries that either caused them to play hurt or have to be removed from the game.

Next year, Super Bowl LIX will be held on Feb 9. The game will be held at the Caesar’s Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**FINAL SCORE**  
February 11, 2024

Kansas City Chiefs	San Francisco 49ers
25	22

MVP HIGHLIGHT  
**PATRICK MAHOMES**



# Wilkes men's lacrosse team ready for action

By Ava Tureen

Sports Writer

As a new season approaches, the men's lacrosse team is ready for action this spring.

The team's first game is Feb. 25 against Manhattanville College. It is the team's first season in the Landmark conference. This is a more challenging conference than the MAC conference they were in before but they feel up to the competition.

This season, the lacrosse team welcomes seven first-year athletes to the team. Owen Peters is one of those athletes, and is from Oreland PA. Peters also has family ties to Wilkes University; his mother played for the women's field hockey team and because of that, he felt strongly about being an athlete at Wilkes as well.

"What made me want to play Wilkes lacrosse had a lot to do with my mom and her legacy," Peters said. "She is in the hall of fame for field hockey."

Last season the team won four games and lost 13.

Colby Opromolla is a senior from Patterson, N.Y. Opromolla had a major impact on the four games the team did win. Last season he threw 61 shots and made 18 goals and 18 assists. Colby's shot percentage has gone up over .100 from the 2022 season to the 2023 season.

Michael Rauch is a sophomore on the team from Jackson N.J. Rauch plays as a defensive/ long stick midfielder for the team. Last season he picked up 48 ground balls and had 20 turnovers during his freshman season. Rauch loves playing lacrosse and values the relationships he's made by being a part of the team.

"Going into my 13th straight year of playing lacrosse I'm happy that I am still able to find people that are just as enthusiastic about a sport as me," Rauch said. "These bonds extend both on and off the field, whether we are clashing heads on the field or making time to hang out while

studying for school or just to have fun."

Joey Marino is a senior from Swedesboro, N.J. He is the starting goalie for this season and was also for the 2023 season. During the 2023 season, Marino had 236 saves and played over 900 minutes. Last season, he also won Conference Player of the Week: MAC Freedom Defensive Player of the Week. Joey hopes to beat save records this season.

"This season my goals would be earning conference honors at the end of the season and breaking one of the program save records," Marino said..

Marino is determined to have an all around better season and become a more cohesive team.

"I hope to be more of a leader to help our defense be more efficient and also be more consistent in games," he added.

Dillion Kadis is a graduate student on the team from Mcsherrystown, PA. His position for the team was Attack. During his 2022 and 2023 season he was consistent, staying at 38 and 39 shots on goal in 2022 and 2023. He scored 13 goals last season and 10 assists.

One of the four games the team won last season was against Manhattanville with a score of 11-9. The last game they played was against King's College, where they defeated them 11-9. During the King's game, they had 39 ground balls and had 26 turnovers. They hope to play another great game against King's College this season.

The team had a few game highs including the 46 turnovers against Neumann University. During their win against Rosemont they had a high of 15 points and 10 assists. They picked up 48 ground balls during their Utica game last season.

They are training hard on and off the field hoping to have an efficient and consistent season.

The Colonels open their home season at Schmidt Stadium against Utica on March 2.

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# A way-too-early MLB season prediction

By Adam Grundt  
Asst. Sports Editor

As winter slowly turns to spring and players start reporting to spring training, the MLB season is right around the corner.

Teams have spent a large sum of money on contracts in the offseason in order to better their chances at a World Series title. One team in particular seems to be the favorite to win the "Fall Classic" this season.

After locking in two Japanese superstars, the Los Angeles Dodgers seem to be the favorites to win the World Series during the preseason. Two-way phenom Shohei Ohtani and the Dodgers agreed to a contract that will pay him \$700 million over the next 20 years in total. His contract is only for 10 years of playing time, and most of the money is deferred. He will be paid \$68 million every July 1 from 2034-2043.

In addition, the Dodgers also signed star pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto. He is a three-time Eiji Sawamura award winner (the best pitcher in

Nippon Professional Baseball in Japan, equivalent to the MLB's Cy Young Award) and a three-time winner of the Pacific League's MVP award. The Los Angeles Dodgers signed him to a 12-year contract worth \$325 million in December.

In addition to these groundbreaking contracts, a seismic trade was completed this offseason between the San Diego Padres and New York Yankees this offseason.

Superstar outfielder Juan Soto will call Yankee Stadium home for the 2023 season. As one of the best outfielders in the game of baseball coming off an all-star caliber season with San Diego, Soto hit .275 with an on-base percentage of .412. He led the MLB in walks last season with 132, and hit 35 home runs and drove in 109 runs.

The Atlanta Braves are another team set to compete in the 2024 season. Ronald Acuña Jr., one of if not the best outfielder in the game of baseball, is coming off a career season where he stole 73 bases. A player in the Major Leagues had not stolen more than 70 bases in a season since 2009. In 2023,

he was the National League's most valuable player. Playing alongside one of the best pitching staffs in Major League Baseball and fellow stars Austin Riley and Ozzie Albies, the Braves are certainly one of the league's best teams and will certainly make noise this October.

Throughout the offseason, teams and players have worked tirelessly to better themselves and their organizations.

Some teams are in pursuit of chasing a World Series championship, while others are sitting back and going through a rebuilding phase. The Texas Rangers, who were crowned champions in 2023, are looking to beat the "championship hangover" and repeat as World Series champions in 2024.

Many experts believe the Texas Rangers have what it takes to repeat as champions of the fall classic.

Corey Seager, who was the most valuable player in the World Series last season, is poised to have a stellar season in 2024. A player who has had trouble staying healthy throughout the

course of his career, will undoubtedly be one of the best shortstops and overall players in baseball if he is to remain off of the disabled list in 2025.

The Baltimore Orioles had a breakout season in 2023, and have improved the area in which they struggled with during that season. Corbin Burnes, one of the best pitchers in baseball, was recently acquired by the Orioles in a trade with the Milwaukee Brewers. With Burnes on the mound and players like Adley Rutschman and Gunnar Henderson playing behind him, Baltimore will certainly be the team to beat in the American League East division.

As always, there is a lot of speculation on who will win the World Series as pitchers and catchers begin to report to Spring Training. Major League Baseball has the longest season of all of the "Big 4" sports leagues, and often expectations change as the season progresses.

Baseball will be a fascinating sport to watch during the days of this upcoming summer.

*The Beacon is looking for sports writers for the  
Spring 2024 semester.*

**If you are interested in sports writing,  
editing, photography or graphics contact  
Adam Grundt at [adam.grundt@wilkes.edu](mailto:adam.grundt@wilkes.edu)**



# Athlete of the Week

## Jordan Ferry

First Year, Center, Women's Ice Hockey

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

Ferry earned a total of 5 points after facing cross-town rival King's College and Hilbert College. She had a total of 3 goals and 2 assists to help to Colonel's secure 3 wins.

**Major: Mechanical Engineering**  
**Hometown: Bohemia, NY**

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

Clinching playoffs

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

New York Islanders

***What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?***

CrossFit

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

The culture that surrounds our athletic department, it's filled with love and support.

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

Mighty Ducks

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

Basketball

***What has been your favorite sports memory overall?***

When my youth coach pulled our goalie in overtime. We ended up winning and making it to states.

***What is your favorite post-game meal?***

Cheeseburger

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

It's really exciting to be chosen as athlete of the week, but our wins this week were a team effort and I couldn't have done it without them.

The Beacon//Samantha Mullen

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

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Asst. Sports Editor



# Athlete of the Week

## Trent Fisher

### Senior, Men's Basketball, Center

#### ***The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week***

Fisher hit a milestone of 1,000 career points and 100 blocks as a Colonel. He helped his team securing wins against the last three Landmark Conference game by averaging 17.5 points, 12.5 rebounds, 4.5 assists, and shooting 71.4%.

**Major:** Sports Management  
**Hometown:** Sellersville, PA

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

Scoring 1,000 points for my career in front of my family and friends.

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

My favorite team is the Philadelphia 76ers.

#### ***What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?***

Go golfing with my teammates and friends.

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

Living and being with my teammates each and everyday.

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

Remember The Titans

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

Golf or baseball

#### ***What has been your favorite sports memory overall?***

Plauong for a 6A State Championship my junior year of high school

#### ***What is your favorite post-game meal?***

Chicken wings and fries

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

It's a great honor and I appreciate being recognized for this opportunity.

*Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Assistant Sports Editor*

The Beacon/Sam Mullen

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





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