

The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Senior international studies major June Lor puts the finishing touches on the winning Eiffel Tower cake, built by Towers first floor. The cake was one of the winners of this year's Inter-Residence Hall cake challenge.

## Arts YOUNiverse hosts Embrace a Child in Tanzania

BY MIKE FILIPSKI  
Correspondent

Wilkes is giving the community a chance to support an orphaned African child, enjoy music and refreshments and learn about a fascinating culture, all in one night.

On Dec. 1, 2011, Zebra Communications, Wilkes University's student-run public relations agency and Downtown Arts will be hosting Embrace a Child in Tanzania, an event to benefit children orphaned due to AIDS in Tanzania.

Located at Arts YOUNiverse in Wilkes-Barre, the event will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature live entertainment, refreshments and immersion into a new culture. Admission to the event will be \$15, but those who bring a dish to share will be admitted for only \$10.

Performing at the event will be

the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble. Based in Camden, N.J. and founded in 1984, it has grown to become one of the largest African dance and drum ensembles in the U.S. They were chosen to represent the U.S. at the World Festival of Black Arts and Culture in Dakar, Senegal.

The Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble has been sanctioned the best of its kind by scholars, historians and African experts. The group is made up of stilt walkers, dancers and ground masqueraders, performing dance, song and drum pieces from many sections and cultures of Africa. Each performance by the group can be made up of anywhere between two to 69 performers. This is not their first appearance in the area, as they

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## Recent robbery poses little threat to Wilkes

BY BILL THOMAS  
Assistant News Editor

Despite reports of another robbery within walking distance of Wilkes University, it is doubtful that the campus community is in any danger, Public Safety manager Jerry Rebo said Wednesday afternoon.

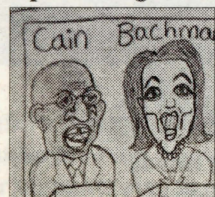
Around 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16, a man walked into

the Dollar General store on the corner of South Main Street and West Ross Street in Wilkes-Barre. Rebo said eyewitnesses described the man as "an African-American male wearing a dark hoodie over his head with a baseball cap, baggy jeans and tan boots."

According to Rebo, who has been in contact with the Wilkes-Barre Police Department, the man

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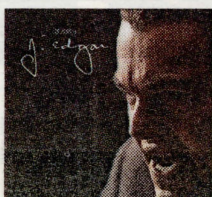
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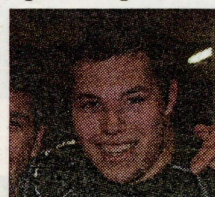
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Student grapples for charity

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## Beacon Briefs

BY AMANDA LEONARD  
News Editor

**FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE** - Wilkes University Health & Wellness Department is offering flu shots for \$20 payable by check made out to Wilkes University or cash. Vaccines will be given during regular office hours. A limited number of shots are available and will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the week and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays at Passan Hall.

**ELIE WIESEL PRIZE IN ETHICS ESSAY CONTEST 2012** - The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay contest is now in its 23rd year. Students are encouraged to write thought-provoking personal essays that raise questions, single out issues and are rational arguments for ethical action. The contest is open to undergraduate, full time, juniors and seniors. Students must apply and submit essays online, and receive online verification from their faculty sponsor. Any professor may act as a faculty sponsor and endorse the quality and authenticity of the student's work. Students must also upload a letter from the registrar or National Student Clearinghouse verifying enrollment. The deadline for submission is at 5 p.m. on Dec. 5. For more information, see the flier outside of the Interfaith Office at 204 Henry Student Center, or contact Caitlin Czeh at caitlin.czeh@wilkes.edu

**WEIGHT WATCHERS AT WORK** - The Health Services Office has had employee and student interest in continuing the Weight Watchers at Work Program for the spring semester. It will be held at the workplace at a convenient time. It would be a Weight Watchers meeting, with a weekly weigh in and a half hour meeting. The cost is

\$10 for each meeting. Weight Watchers has programs students can participate in for an eight week series and pay \$80 for a 10-week program paid in advance. If anyone would be interested in the program, call Health Services at Ext. 4730. to register for the Weight Watchers at Work program. A minimum of 15 participants is needed for the program.

**GLOBALIZE YOUR THANKSGIVING** - There are opportunities to invite one or two international students to your Thanksgiving dinner and to share an American holiday with someone from a foreign culture and learn about traditions and holidays from other countries. If interested, contact Georgia Costalas at the Center for Global Education and Diversity, at extension 7854 or email Georgia.costalas@wilkes.edu.

**STUDENTS GRADUATING IN MAY 2012** - Complete your diploma order and your cap and gown order forms for processing for May commencement. Forms are available at the student services center in UCOM, or online under the registrar forms area. Completed forms, signed by your advisor, are due back in the Student Services Center by Dec. 16. This paperwork is to be returned to the students services center along with an updated copy of your degree audit

**VOLUNTEER TO BE CONVERSATION PARTNER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT** - The Intensive English Program at Wilkes has created a conversation partner program. It's an opportunity for Wilkes University students to volunteer and be paired with an international student for the semester and to chat once a week. If interested in volunteering to be a conversation partner, email kimberly.niezgoda@wilkes.edu

**SIFE LET'S CAN HUNGER** - Wilkes University Students in Free Enterprise are collecting donations to buy canned goods for needy families during the holidays. They have put together a Thanksgiving basket that has everything a family would need and costs only ten dollars. Students and faculty are invited to purchase a basket for a family or donate any amount. Donations in the form of cash or canned food will be accepted Wednesday through Friday on the first floor of the Henry Student Center.

**'HOW TO CREATE A VISUAL WEB PORTFOLIO' WORKSHOP** - The Integrative Media and Art Department is offering free web portfolio workshops in Breiseth

Hall, Room 018. The remaining workshops will be held on Tuesday evenings: Nov. 22 and 29 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. After successful completion of the workshop and a feedback summary survey, all participants will receive a certificate of completion for professional development / teaching portfolio or resume. Workshops have a maximum capacity of 12 and are offered to the entire Wilkes Campus on a first-come basis. Pre-register up until 3 p.m. the day of the workshop online.

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## WING WARS WAGED IN SUB



Photo courtesy of Bill Amos

Students, such as senior business administration major Mark Siebel, enjoyed a free buffet of buffalo wings in the Henry Student Center on Friday, Nov. 18. The Off-Campus Council held its yearly Wing Wars event. Competing this year were Rodano's, Januzzi's, The Frog Pond, Tipsy Turtle and Anthracite Cafe. Each eatery provided both mild wings and a specialty flavor wing.

## BEACON

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### Meet the Staff



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# Three-time Pulitzer Prize winner warns of America's waning future

BY KIRSTIN COOK  
Editor-In-Chief

Thomas Friedman believes the world is flat.

At least, this is the metaphor "The New York Times" foreign affairs columnist applies to the state of instantaneous business connections made possible by advanced technology. Friedman said this impactful connectivity specifically impacts young generations emerging in the work force.

Friedman spoke on connectivity and other issues facing America at Wilkes' eighth annual Outstanding Leaders Forum on Nov. 16. The three-time Pulitzer prize winner presented at the F.M. Kirby Center on what he considered America's biggest challenges, and how to overcome them.

Friedman laid out many of the problems discussed in his latest book, "That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World We Invented and How We Can Come Back." He decided to co-write the book with Michael Mandelbaum after they noticed how their discussions on the world always shifted to America.

"We really concluded that it is really America's state, future, vigor and vitality: that really is the biggest foreign policy issue in the world," Friedman said.

Friedman described America as a tent pole that holds up and stabilizes the rest of the world. This impact that America has on the world led to Friedman's concern of what

would happen if the tent pole were to budge or break.

Friedman also addressed the idea that America's future is used up, which evolved from observations of a sense of resignation in Americans toward America's best days.

"Do we believe that about America? Not on your life," Friedman said. "But we do have to buckle up and get our act together to make sure that we do have that future, with the ability to pass on the American dream."

Despite the grim scenarios that Friedman and Mandelbaum analyze, Friedman considers them to be not pessimists, but more of "frustrated optimists." He expressed his view that there is still hope for America.

"Whenever we tell people the title of our book, 'That used to be us,' their first question is, 'does it have a happy ending?'" Friedman said. "We tell everybody it does, but we just don't know yet whether it's fiction or nonfiction. That's going to depend on us."

One problematic area that Friedman feels America must overcome is the issue of connectivity that gives employers global access to employees. Friedman said this revolution has developed in the last seven or eight years.

"The world really went from connected, to hyperconnected," Friedman said. "No one announced it, but it's actually the biggest thing happening in the world today, and it's affecting every school, every student, every teacher, and every employer and every workplace."

In this "flat" playing field, American youth

are placed as direct competitors with international talent.

In order to keep up with a rising global curve, Friedman emphasizes the quality of creativity in young graduates seeking employment.

"In this world, everyone is going to have to find their extra, their unique value composition that justifies why they should be hired," Friedman said.

After speaking to numerous employers, Friedman identified what they are looking for in new employees.

"What they all actually looking for are people that not only do their job, but invent, reinvent and re-engineer their job as they work," Friedman said.

He urged aspiring workers to think like an immigrant, an artisan and a waitress at Perkins Family Restaurant and Bakery. He said it is important to install an immigrant's hunger of new opportunities, the entrepreneurship of a waitress striving to be profitable despite limited resources and control and the pride that artisans have in carving their initials into their dedicated work.

"Whatever work you do, do it in a way

that at the end of the day you always want to carve your initials," Friedman said. "Do it in a way that you're always bringing something extra."

Jay Sidhu, member of the Wilkes board of trustees and founder of the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, praised Friedman's ability to comment on issues in a way that allows his audience to be aware of the problems as well as possible solutions.

"He is sought for his knowledge and understanding, especially of common sense leadership issues, of foreign affairs, the role and effect of globalizations, about terrorism, about climate change, and about all the issues we are facing in this world today," Sidhu said.

Friedman warned that if the issues facing America, such as with hyperconnectivity, are not resolved, America faces a decline that would be a "greater threat to our national security than anything Al-Qaeda does."

"We see a country with enormous potential, falling into the worst sort of decline," Friedman said, "slow decline."

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The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Before Thomas Friedman's lecture on Nov. 16., Friedman spoke to local high school students at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre. A question-and-answer session for students also took place.

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**SPORTS**  
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## ROBBERY

Continued from Front Page

reportedly claimed to have had a gun, although the store clerk did not see one. The man then allegedly stole a pair of Tonka toy trucks and, after demanding the store's money from the clerk, ran north on Barnum Place, behind Wilkes' Arnaud C. Marts Center and got into a green Chevy Impala that was parked alongside Cumberland Apartments on West Ross before taking off.

A similar robbery took place the day before, at the Family Dollar also on South Main Street.

Following reports of the Dollar General robbery on Wednesday, Public Safety sent a mass email to Wilkes students and staff, just after 11 a.m. The message informed recipients of the situation and warned them to call 911 if they were to see the man. A similar emergency notification text message was also issued. Anyone concerned about the incident was encouraged to contact the Public Safety office for more information.

Despite the precautions, Rebo said that, although Public Safety takes every possible threat seriously, he did not believe the robbery was likely to directly affect students or staff at Wilkes' campus.

"When someone's committed a robbery," Rebo said, "they usually already have a plan to get out and they're not going to be hanging around the area. There's always the threat of maybe somebody running into them, but this guy ran about 20 or 30 yards and then he got into the car and was gone."

In addition to the campus notifications, Rebo said Public Safety officers were sent to search the Marts Center for the man, as it was only later that Public Safety learned from Wilkes-Barre police that the man had already made his getaway. Likewise, Rebo said that, when he initially talked to Wilkes-Barre police, they were unsure if a weapon was involved or not. Thus, he said, Public Safety opted to to err on the side of caution and act as if there indeed was definitive proof of a weapon and that the man was still in the area.

Mark DeFrain, a Wilkes student currently studying middle school education with a concentration in math, agreed that the situation was unlikely to pose an immediate danger to the campus community. DeFrain

also said he appreciated Public Safety taking the precautions it did, however he admitted the notification email never reached him.

"I only go onto my Wilkes email once or twice a week," DeFrain said. "I probably wouldn't have even known

about (the robbery) if somebody else here hadn't told me about it."

Nevertheless, DeFrain said he was confident that Public Safety would be more than adequate in dealing with a more serious threat.

"Further emergency steps would have probably locked down the campus," Rebo said, explaining what Public Safety would

do in the event of a more imminent danger to students and staff. Rebo said that students and staff would be locked inside the campus buildings, with no one permitted in or out. However, he also pointed out that he could think of no instance where such precautions had been necessary.

Assuring that Wednesday situation was far from the most serious threat he's seen Public Safety deal with in the 11 years he's been a Wilkes employee, Rebo added that, in any situation deemed especially dangerous, Wilkes-Barre police would be contacted straightaway.

For anyone concerned about the fact that the man sought in the robberies remains on the loose, Rebo noted that he has been informed that police do indeed have a suspect they are currently investigating, and that it is believed the man responsible for the Dollar General is the same as that who robbed the Family Dollar a day earlier.

Regardless of a danger's immediacy, though, Rebo recommended students make an effort to maintain contact with Wilkes through the school's email and text message systems, stressing that the best precaution students can take at any time is to stay up-to-date and informed.

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Above is the Dollar General on South Main street that was robbed on Wednesday.

The Beacon/Tom Reilly



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# New Farley catalog is 'hell on wheels,' helps library hit record gate count

BY BILL THOMAS  
Assistant News Editor

In the month of October, more than 31,000 people passed through the doors of Wilkes University's Farley Library. Sure, a lot of those bodies were "repeat customers," but John Stachacz, the library dean, held that number is still an accurate indicator of how often members of the Wilkes campus community use the Farley's various services.

In fact, Stachacz said, that number is not only the highest it's ever been for Wilkes, but it's also one of the highest gate counts for any campus library in the area.

It seems that, even in this age of online encyclopedias, e-books and file sharing, students still have a reason to "check out" the library for their academic needs.

"This is an old building, but we're a very modern library," Stachacz said, chalking up the high gate count to the Farley's efforts to offer students the most up-to-date amenities possible.

One of the most substantial updates the Farley has made to its services is the new ENCORE catalog system, unveiled just last month. It's a change that Stachacz said was long overdue. In fact, one of the first things Stachacz wanted to do when first he became the Farley's dean was to finally get rid of the old system.

"We were the only library that had that system," Stachacz said. "I don't mean the only public university library; I mean the only library in Pennsylvania."

In the 2011 spring semester, Stachacz went before Student Government seeking supplementary funds to help make the system switch as productive as possible. The request was approved.

"What the gift from Student Government allowed us to do was purchase additional software packets to the system that otherwise we wouldn't have been able to get," Stachacz said.

Gisele Romanace, the Farley's computer

systems librarian who oversaw the switch, explained that one of those additions will soon allow students to access ENCORE via mobile devices such as smartphones and tablet computers.

Another benefit of ENCORE, Stachacz said, is that it is a cloud system. This means that, where the old system was powered by on-campus servers, this new one is primarily Web-based, with information stored on the off-site servers of Innovative Interfaces Inc. in California.

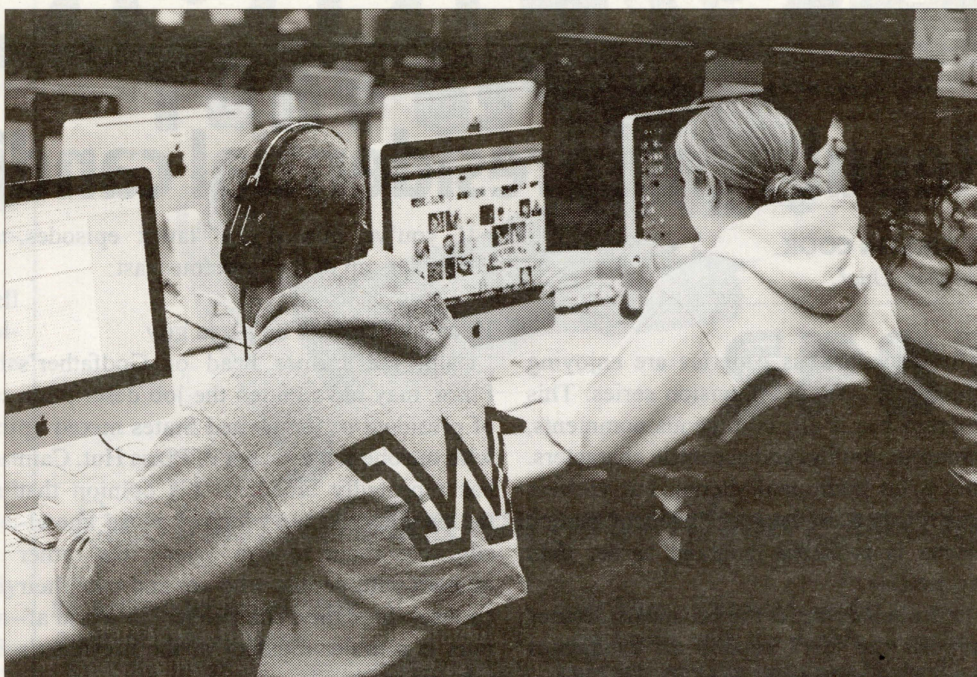
Stachacz said that this change was not only cheaper for Wilkes, but also safer, an idea hitting home that much harder in light of the flooding in September and IT problems it caused throughout campus.

Safer, sleeker, more powerful and more convenient, the ENCORE system has only been up and running for a short time, but Stachacz said he's already heard plenty of positive feedback. ENCORE seems to be quickly proving itself a massive improvement over the VTLS system which the library was using for the previous 25 years. That system, Stachacz said, was so out-of-date that it was actually cheaper for Wilkes to move on to a whole different system than to update the old one.

Illustrating just how obsolete the old catalog system was, Stachacz explained that, for example, if a student typed "The Taming of the Shrew" as a search, it would come back with no results, despite the fact that an entry for the Shakespearean classic is indeed in the system.

The reason for such misleading results? The old system wouldn't be able to find anything with the article "the" in front of it. A student in search of any book would not only have to know the title, but also the way it was filed in library records.

In comparison, the ENCORE system is based on more advanced, now commonplace search software. Now, students can enter "taming" and "shrew" into the search box as independent phrases, and, like a Google



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

**The Farley Library continues to attract students with its growing repertoire of resources, including the new web-based ENCORE catalog system.**

search, ENCORE will have no problem in bringing up all entries with those words in them.

This change, coincidentally, puts Wilkes in much a similar position as the 25-year reign of VTLS did. Once again, Wilkes' catalog exists alone at the extreme end of the quality spectrum.

"We are the only university in the area, outside the University of Scranton that has this system," Stachacz said. "We went, literally, from one of the most archaic systems to the gold standard."

Although Stachacz described the process of downloading more than 200,000 library records from the VTLS system and re-entering them into ENCORE as "a tremendous amount of work," Romanace said it all went surprisingly smoothly. She estimated that the migration period, in which Wilkes actively started transferring data from system to system, took about three months.

"The people from Innovative Interfaces told me this was one of the fastest migrations they've ever done," Stachacz added. "They usually take about a year."

In addition to the new catalog, the Farley Library also offers the Worldcat search system, which provides students access to items, through interlibrary loans, that they may not be able to find through the Farley alone. Stachacz remarked that the library is also working to put more databases and e-books at student fingertips.

"As we move more into a digital world, we have to keep thinking digitally," Stachacz said, stating again that the switch to ENCORE serves as one of the most exciting new additions to the library's resources.

"People don't think catalogs are sexy, but as an exploratory tool for information, this thing is hell on wheels," he said with a grin.

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## IT COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT FROM FACULTY, STUDENTS FOR POSSIBLE EMAIL SWITCH

With the success of the Farley Library's switch from its outdated, on-site server-stored VTLS catalog system to the new, cloud-based ENCORE system, Library Dean John Stachacz has been tapped to help Wilkes' IT Committee determine whether moving the school's email services to a cloud-based system like Google Gmail or Microsoft 365 (formerly "Microsoft Live").

Once again, Stachacz pointed to recent

flooding as a motivating factor in Wilkes' consideration of moving more toward the use of off-campus servers.

"There's a lot of benefits to that type of hosting," Matthew Koch, Wilkes' tech development director and Cloud Email Evaluation sub-committee co-chair said. "This is becoming increasingly popular with a lot of higher education institutions." Other advantages Koch cited include ease of access and cost effectiveness.

To fully explore the possibilities of such a switch, the subcommittee will seek input from students and faculty members, both on a broad scale through campus surveying and on a more focused, narrower scale through evaluation volunteers.

Koch admits that the sub-committee is emphasizing faculty input more so than that of students simply because, he said, students are more used to cloud-based email systems, whereas faculty members may not be.

The subcommittee plans to have a full analysis completed by the end of February, with a final recommendation, whether or not to move to full or partial cloud email, in March.

Stachacz and Koch said the sub-committee is still looking for students and faculty to help with the evaluation process, and said that interested parties should contact either Stachacz at 570-408-4254 or Koch at 570-408-4450.



# Republican presidential candidates are joke

BY KIRSTIN COOK  
Editor-in-Chief

Audiences across America are enjoying a hilarious comedy television series. This program has it all: outrageous comments, humorous conflict and eccentric characters. This is no traditional sitcom, but viewers have relished the laughs. President Barack Obama is probably laughing harder than anyone else.

This comedy act is the broadcast debates between the 2012 republican candidates running for president.

These debates, and the various media appearances that these candidates have made, are filled with mistakes, offensive comments and inconsistencies. Many of these characters are far too ridiculous to be seriously considered for the chief executive of our country. These candidates have become more like stars of the comedy shows that point out their embarrassments than legitimate political figures, as former head writer of "The Tonight Show" pointed out in The Kansas City Star.

"It's a theme park for variety show writers, this group is," said Andrew Nicholls. "You're looking for human foibles - and here you have ignorance, arrogance, stupidity and foolishness crammed into the smallest number of people."

If you've missed the latest episodes, here's a recap of the ludicrous cast:

## Herman Cain – The pizza guy

Cain, the former head of Godfather's Pizza, may have gotten the job description of president of the United States mixed up with the one for manager of Pizza Hut. Cain has repeatedly broadcast his opinion that the president is not required to be knowledgeable about foreign events, but rather interact with people who are and take their counsel. In reality, competency in world affairs is a major element of the president's job responsibilities.

Cain has used this viewpoint to compensate for moments when his embarrassing lack of awareness on foreign affairs shine, such as during his interview with Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. When asked about President Obama's decisions on Libya, he blanked, and responded with, "I got all this stuff twirling around in my head."

He also stated that he was against attacking Iran because it is too mountainous.

Cain uses his "9-9-9 Tourette's" to answer any other issues he is ignorant of. Unfortunately, this grand plan he has of 9 percent sales tax would be a death certificate for the American economy.

Not to mention the alleged sexual harassment charges pressed by three different women. The fact that anyone would consid-

er him as a competent leader of a country is embarrassing.

## Michele Bachmann – The ignorant historian

In Bachmann's history books, events are a little skewed from reality. The Minnesota congresswoman claimed that the first shots of the Revolutionary War were shot in New Hampshire when they were actually in Massachusetts, stated that the 1976 Swine Flu occurred under Democratic President Carter when it actually happened during Republican Gerald Ford's term and that John Quincy Adams was one of the Founding Fathers when he was not.

Bachmann's scientific knowledge is off just a little, too. She commented on the toxic gas carbon dioxide, saying there was not a single study to show it is harmful. She spews out misstatements with a disregard to research or fact-checking, repeating the stories of supporters as solid fact.

Even more disturbing are her offensive comments on sexual orientation and race. She labels homosexuality as a "disease" and a "sexual dysfunction" that must be cured, and has outright stated that cultures are not considered equal, showing clear bigotry and ignorance.

## Rick Perry – the forgetful executioner

In 55 seconds, Perry killed his chances of getting on the ballot for the presidency. During the Nov. 9 Republican debate, he began to list the three government agencies he would get rid of, but forgot the third one.

If forgetting a major portion of his campaign platform wasn't enough, he preceded to joke about his absentmindedness. These types of "oops" moments are not acceptable for the leader of our country.

The governor of Texas seemed to have eagerly embraced Texas' acceptance of the death penalty. Ever since Perry's term began in 2000, more than 200 prisoners have been executed, according to International Business Times.

He said he does not struggle with these executions, showing his lack of empathy for humanity regardless of opinions on the death penalty.

## BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. These poll results are based on 12 responses.

### Last week's question:

How do you follow celebrity news and gossip?

- Internet 33%
- TV 17%
- Magazine / tabloid 0%
- I don't follow celebrities 67%

### This week The Beacon asks:

Which candidate do you think should be the Republican nomination for the 2012 election?

- Herman Cain
- Michele Bachmann
- Rick Perry
- Mitt Romney
- Jon Huntsman
- Ron Paul
- Rick Santorum
- Newt Gingrich
- Other

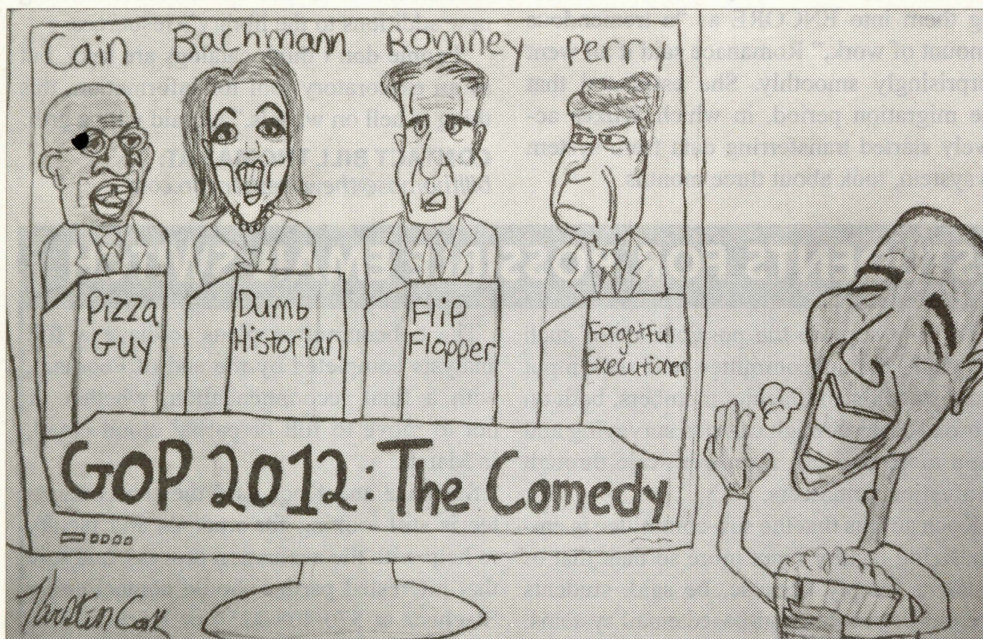
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The Beacon reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for length and content. Anonymous letters will not be published.



Cartoon by Kirstin Cook

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# GPS tracking violates the fourth amendment

BY CARLY YAMRUS  
Opinion Editor

George Orwell's fictional novel "1984" follows a character living in a society in which their government continuously monitors their every move. Screens are used to watch people as they carry on with their daily activities at all times of the day. The constant surveillance strips the society of its civil liberties and ultimately strengthens the government.

But Orwell's novel was strictly fiction, right? Surely our government would never violate our natural rights and freedoms like that.

Well, they are now. While our surveillance may not be as drastic as the two-way television screens in Orwell's novel, it's getting pretty close. And all because of those ever-so-popular electronic devices that 85 percent of Americans now own: the cell phone.

Whether you own a Smartphone, flip phone, keyboard or touch screen, the government is able to track your exact location through your service provider's satellite signals. The information from your phone is stored for quite some time- up to a year- by the cell phone company.

As long as your phone is turned on, your daily activities can be pieced together to reveal personal facts including habits, rela-

tionships and specific movements. The government can draw several conclusions by simply knowing where you are, who you're with and how much time you spend at a particular location.

Without probable cause or warrant, cell phone tracking violates the Fourth Amendment which protects against unreasonable search and seizure. The amendment states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause."

The use of GPS cell phone tracking clearly goes against this statement in that government can now watch you 24 hours a day in both public and private places.

While GPS tracking may be useful in certain situations, no technology should impede upon our constitutional rights as human beings. Technology has allowed every person's privacy to be invaded without their knowledge, let alone their consent. Many people are unaware that such advanced technology like this exists in the real world. Devices like these were once fictional products in action-packed spy movies.

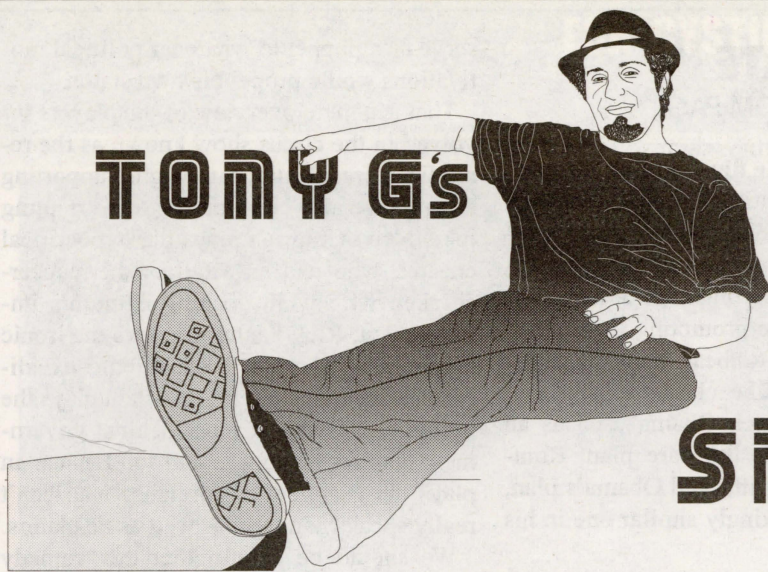
In today's world, some people may not see privacy as a real issue as they voluntarily "check-in" their location to Facebook

SEE GPS, Page 8



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

TONY G'S



SPOT

## Eyes that lie: shallow surgery to change eye color

BY ANTHONY GORECZNY  
Assistant Opinion Editor

How do you define beautiful?

Many definitions come to my mind, but I do not consider flawless, perfect, or other similar words to be synonyms for beautiful. Everyone sees beauty in their own way. Adopting the artificial and shallow projections proliferated by the media destroys the natural beauty a person is born with.

That being said, I recently read an article from CNET in which Gregg Homer claims he can change a person's eye color. This surgery, which turns eye color from brown to blue, supposedly takes 20 seconds.

I understand the advantages of cosmetic surgery, especially when recovering from disfiguring injuries. However, most applications of this specific surgery would be utterly vain.

The likelihood for abuse of this surgery is incredible. People will be lining up to change their eye color for no legitimate reason. Perhaps they are trying to get someone to notice them at the bar. Or maybe they just had a rough breakup and instead of a shopping spree or a bar crawl they decide to "go blue."

On the surface, it's about how you define yourself.

The true substance of a person dwells within, but you recognize a person based on their physical appearance. Though this appearance may change over time, there is something special about that appearance, especially a person's eyes. Many believe that the eyes are the windows into a person's soul. If you change your eyes you are hiding behind a curtain of insecurity.

When I made the switch to contacts I considered getting colored ones to make my

eyes blue. I decided against it, and I am very happy with the decision I made. My eyes are naturally hazel and I consider them an important part of my identity. I was once told by a friend that she loved my eyes. If I were wearing contacts or had surgery to change my eye color, I would have felt like I was deceiving her and that I was unworthy of her compliment.

Though this was just an interaction between friends, I imagine what would happen in a similar situation between lovers. How would you feel if you had done the surgery and then later received the same compliment from your significant other? Would you be able to deal with knowing your loved one is in love with a lie?

The greatest downside of this surgery is that it is utterly irreversible. The rationale behind this originates from the very method and theory behind the surgery. Brown eyes apparently have a layer of blue underneath them. Homer claims that the surgery will cause the layer of brown to dissipate over the course of two to three weeks and the patients will eventually become blue. The layer of brown cannot be replaced once it has been removed.

I am not suggesting that the government restrict who can receive this surgery; that would be an unprecedented restriction on personal freedom. I simply ask that you have the common sense and self-respect to avoid this procedure. There is no one else exactly like you on this planet. Why would you want to try and make yourself like somebody else?



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## CANDIDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

### Mitt Romney – The flip-flopping puppet

Romney has multiple masks to switch his political viewpoints when it is convenient for him. His view on gun control has switched from supporting control measures in 1994 and 2002 to promoting the Second Amendment right to bear arms in 2008. Of course, there's the classic example of "RomneyCare," which Obama used as an inspiration in his health care plan. Romney has incessantly attacked Obama's plan, while having a strikingly similar one in his record.

Romney tries to get away with this flip-flopping by being overly broad about his standings on issues. Having him as president would have the same effect as electing a rock to sit in the Oval Office. He would

serve as a puppet to whatever political motivations would propel his own status.

That is a mere overview of the players involved in the circus show known as the republican presidential campaign. Supporting actors have also contributed to the running joke. Newt Gingrich plays the hypocritical cheater, who had an affair on his cancer-stricken wife while leading Clinton's impeachment; Rick Santorum plays the ironic homophobe who has likened homosexuality to incest and adultery; Ron Paul plays the insane uncle who is more against government than for leading it; and Jon Huntsman plays the exaggerated foreigner who can't really speak Mandarin as well as he claims.

We should be careful that this comedy routine does not turn into a horror movie come November.

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## GPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

and other social networking sites. Someday their lack of privacy may get them into trouble.

All is well until someone uses your information against you.

Technology has made it very easy for information to be collected and distributed with a simple click of a mouse. Privacy should never be taken for granted.

The Obama Administration supports GPS tracking, saying they have a right to track as many people as they want, for as long as they want, and without any judicial supervision.

I understand that this is the digital age and that progress is critical to society, but when a dystopian novel starts to become a reality we should probably reanalyze the situation.

It's not just a book anymore ... it's real life. And Big Brother is watching you.

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The Beacon/Tom Reilly

# Native American children in foster care for profit

*Incentives offered to social service workers to take children from their homes*

**BY CATHRYN FREAR**  
Staff Writer

Although we are considered globally to be a relatively progressive and accepting country, there are still issues in the United States that tarnish this reputation.

How we handled Katrina, gay civil rights issues, giving bailouts to multibillion dollar companies while children starve in the street ... you get the picture.

One other issue is our decreasing native population. There are many historic events which have played a large role. One example is what can only be described as a genocide brought on by white Europeans when settling the Americas and the subsequent takeover of land and resources.

In case the murder of the vast majority of an entire race isn't enough, white Americans then decided the children should go to boarding school. A new generation of Americans,

known as social service workers, are now making it their civic duty to influence the current native population in a different way: foster care.

Yes, fostering children is an admirable act and it is important that children who need such a system have it at their disposal. Surely the foster parents have the best intentions in mind. However, some social service agents are looking at it a little differently. What they see is yet another opportunity to profit.

Incentives are being given out per child. The federal government is giving out money based on each state's need. When this incentive was put into place, the number of children being taken away from their families skyrocketed. This fact is absolutely daunting.

Sure, there should be some kind of reward for doing your job right. That reward is called a salary. There should not be a bonus incentive program in place to get social service officers to do what they are supposed to do.

Another problem the officers seem to have is finding just cause for children being taken away. According to a recent report by the National Public Radio, there are parents who are told their children are being taken for some reason or another and that reasoning never comes to fruition.

It's completely unfair for these officials to be using their power in such ways. Historically, American Indians have been relatively defenseless in comparison to non-natives.

This is no different.

Officers have options other than placing children with foster families. It is possible to instead place these children with other family members. But with that option, there is no monetary incentive. Doing the right thing for the sole purpose of making things right is not the motivation of all social service officers these days.

The Native American cultural norm is being misinterpreted as neglect. Because of this type of misunderstanding, all children in the native population have been labeled "special needs" by the United States federal government.

This means states receive an increased amount of money per child placed in foster care, meaning the incentive has also increased.

In one example, NPR reported on a woman in South Dakota whose children were taken from her because she was accused of using drugs. They told her she was going to be arrested.

She was never arrested, charges were never filed – those children were taken for no apparent reason whatsoever, then eventually returned with no explanation or apology.

Reform within the United States social service laws is necessary. The federal and state governments that are letting this happen should be ashamed. They have the ability and responsibility to do better.

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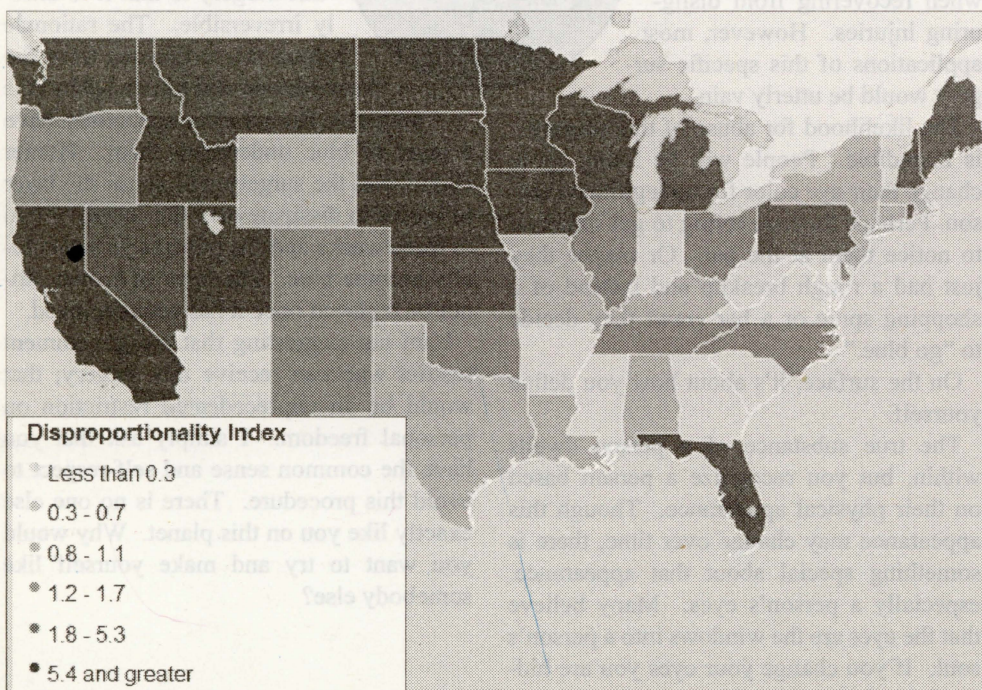


Photo by npr.org

This chart shows the disproportionate number of Native American children in foster care within the United States.



# Unimportant Questions with Important People

ERICA ACOSTA, NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

BY HOLLY BOYER  
Assistant Life Editor

## What is the importance of your position?

I advise and guide the minority groups on campus. My job involves creating awareness and inclusion of diversity through programming, like workshops and trips. I am also the advisor of the Multicultural Student Coalition.

## What is an interesting fact that people may not know about you?

I can't swim but I would love to learn how to swim. Also, I didn't learn English till third grade, even though I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY.

## What is the best and worst part about your job?

The best is interacting with students. The worst is you never know what kind of turnout you are going to have for your programs or trips.

## What do you like to do in your free time?

Dancing. I'm from the Dominican Republic, so especially (dancing) to Spanish music like merengue, cha-cha and salsa. When I'm not doing that I'm reading.

## What was your dream job when you were younger?

It was to be a registered nurse. I wanted to be a nurse so bad and have my own practice. But I am excited how it turned out, so no regrets here.

## What are you most excited about with the holidays coming up?

Family time, food, friends, music, I love it all.

## What made you get into this position?

It kind of picked me. My aunt knew about the position here so that's how I was introduced to it. But as an undergraduate I was so involved in clubs, it sort of crept up on me.

## If you could go anywhere on vacation where would you go and why?

Bora Bora. It's so beautiful and it seems so unreal to me. I would like to experience that.

## Where is the most interesting place you've traveled to?

I've been to Peru, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Spain. Spain was a lot of fun because I did study abroad there. It was a learning experience.



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Erica Acosta is originally from the Dominican Republic but has traveled to several countries including Peru, El Salvador and Spain.

## Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Graduating with a Ph.D. with a concentration in educational leadership, or something along those lines, but done before 10 years.

## What is No. 1 on your bucket list?

Skydiving. I want to feel the adrenaline of jumping out of the plane. We get so caught up in work that we don't get a chance to look at the big picture, and I feel like you can do that with skydiving.

## What drew you into Wilkes University other than the available position?

It's diversity, the diversity is definitely No.

1. The job is in the city and I'm a city girl. Also, the opportunity of growth in the position.

## What is your favorite home cooked meal?

Stew goat meat and yuca, which is a form of a veggie, almost like a potato.

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# Islamic and Saudi Interest clubs celebrate festival of sacrifice

BY HOLLY BOYER  
Assistant Life Editor

At a time when most students are preparing to make turkey and stuffing, students of the Muslim faith are sacrificing an animal to eat for the greater God.

Sunday, Nov. 6, was the celebration of the Islamic festival of Eid al-Adha. The holiday is also known as a "festival of sacrifice" because it is when families gather together and sacrifice an animal for the sake of God. It is something that is good to do but people don't necessarily have to do it.

On Monday, Nov. 21, the Islamic Interest Society and the Saudi Interest Club hosted

the Eid al-Adha Celebration at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Center Ballroom. The event featured a presentation about Eid and its value in Islamic countries. Arabic coffee and food was also served.

"All Muslims celebrate (Eid al-Adha)," says sophomore engineering management major Abdulaziz Alakeel who is also the treasurer of the Saudi Interest Club. "It's a family event, like Thanksgiving, everyone gathers all together."

Eid al-Adha starts in the early morning with a large breakfast of the meat of the animal that was sacrificed. During the evening family, friends and community members gather for a large dinner of that animal.

When it comes to the animal that is to be sacrificed, it can't be any animal. Typically an animal that is not too small.

"The most common animals that are sacrificed are sheep, camels and cows," Alakeel says.

The animal is divided into three parts. One part is given to those less fortunate, another part is given to neighbors and friends and the last part is for the family of those who sacrificed the animal.

The celebration falls on the 10th day Duhl-Hijja, which is the last month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

"Islamic holidays are not announced until the beginning of the year because they are

based on the lunar cycle," Campus Interfaith Coordinator Caitlin Czeh says.

Alakeel said this event provided a chance to learn about Saudi culture to attending.

"Because (the event) is from the SIC we're going to show some other stuff about Saudi Arabia, like posters and about the economy and technology," Alakeel says.

Alakeel said students were invited to attend the event and participate in the traditional greeting exchange of "Eid Mubarak" which means "Happy Eid."

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# Winter fashions to warm up and stay stylish in

BY MORGAN EVANS  
Correspondent

As colder temperatures roll in with the change of season, summer fashion staples are moving to the back of your closet for more weather appropriate clothing.

But who ever said one needs to sacrifice style to be warm?

This winter's fashion trends allow for one to be cozy and snug while being chic. This seasons must have item is faux fur.

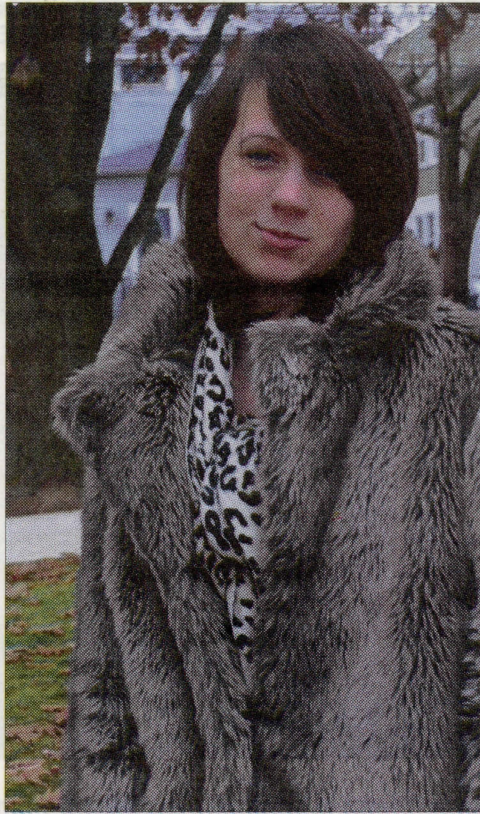
From runways to store shelves, faux fur can be worn on almost anything from coats to vests to boot covers.

"Anything fur is in this fall, it's in high demand. I am even ordering fur cell phone covers that will make the perfect accessory for any outfit," said Tanya Gilbert, owner of Park Avenue boutique in Kingston, Pa.

Other looks Gilbert says one will see in her store this winter are bigger accessories such as rings, purses, snakeskin accessories, flared jeans, any length leather or suede boots and high heels.

"The higher the heel, the better," Gilbert said, laughing.

Thick knits are a must have to battle the bitter elements of winter. They can be seen this season in alpine prints, cardigans and



All photos on page by Laura Preby  
**Sophomore electrical engineering major Alexandra Dini models the fur and print ensemble and Outrageous owner Maria Yurchison wears a print scarf in front of large accessories in the store.**

oversized cuts. But Gilbert cautions not to limit this trend to sweaters, but to also make sure you have thick knit scarves, hats and

socks to keep you warm.

Bold colors are in style this season and bring life to any ensemble. One way to trans-

form any drab winter outfit is with a pop of color from cold weather essentials such as hats and scarves.

If you want to be more daring try this trend in a monochromatic look, as seen on the runways.

Derive your outfit based on a single color hue base and extend it using its shades, tones and hints for a one color look.

Rice University student Kaitlin, a style blogger for "College Fashion", has posted the latest tips on dressing for cold weather. She says her No. 1 rule is that layers are your new best friend.

"Most buildings on campus will try to overcompensate for the chilly weather outside by cranking up the heat inside. It's a nice gesture, but if you're not wearing layers, you can end up sweating through your classes," she said.

She said layering in a casual way is easy: start with a tank or tee, add a cardigan or sweater and top it off with another jacket, scarf and/or a hat.

"You'll still look cute and will be comfortable no matter where you go," she said.

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## Scarves a fashionable way for all people to stay warm

BY DEVONI NOVAK  
A&E Editor

It's the season for bundling and cold weather presents the perfect opportunity to add a trendy accessory to your wardrobe. With a variety of textures, colors and patterns, scarves are appropriate for any gender and age group.

Scarves are a popular accent garment particularly among the Wilkes-Barre population.

Nour Elbattah, sophomore political science major, prefers colorful styles to create a dynamic look.

"I think scarves are a simple accessory that can really flare up any outfit," Elbattah says. She enjoys searching for scarves at American Eagle, Urban Outfitters and Top Shop.

Not only can scarves add pizzazz to one's apparel, they also create a unique element that can be worn in multiple ways to suit your taste.

For a layering effect, pick two scarves of contrasting solid colors and wear them loosely around the neck.

To create a look that's hippie chic, select a paisley print and tie the draping pieces in a knot for a comfortable length. If you're looking for warmth, choose a fluffy cotton scarf,



place it around the back of your neck after folding it in half, and then place the loose ends through the fold created loop. Wearing the scarf this way allows it to surround your entire neck for a wind proof fit.

Going formal? Wear a satin or sheer style that is big enough to reach around your shoulders as a wrap.

Molly McDonough, senior political science major, says warm and sensible scarves are her favorite.

"I like winter scarves that match my hat and gloves," McDonough says.

Although some may feel scarves are exclusively for women, they are also fashionably appropriate for men. When students were asked their opinion on men sporting the look, many had mixed feelings. For Ca-



**Senior biology major Michelle Wakeley and sophomore computer science major Angelo Blades model different ways to wear scarves.**

vaun DuBarry, junior English pre-law major, a scarf is necessary for the winter months.

"They keep you warm so they are fine," DuBarry said.

DuBarry shops for his scarves at Express, H&M and different places in NYC. Other men are unwilling to take the fashion risk even if it means staying warm.

When senior political science major Miles Humenansky was asked if he owned a scarf he bluntly replied, "No, I'm a guy. I don't need a scarf."

Men can make the style statement without being self-conscious. Scarves are multipurpose items that look great and serve practical means. Men's styles include plaid patterns, stripes and solid neutral colors.

For a clean cut, professional appearance, guys should select a wider scarf that reaches the waist, no folds or wrapping necessary.

To create an indie rocker façade, go with a thin material version and wear it around the neck bandanna style and don't fear the fringes.

Junior entrepreneurship major Nick Wesley prides himself on his high fashion wardrobe. With many statement pieces in his closet, he has a positive opinion on scarves as an accessory.

"I think scarves are a classic that have proved the test of time and will always be an accessory for both males and females," Wesley said.

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# Army of Colonels shows holiday spirit at city Christmas parade

BY ABBEY HADLEMAN  
Staff Writer

The streets were filled with Santa hats and lots of Christmas cheer as the "Army of Colonels" found its way to the entrance of the Wilkes-Barre Christmas Parade.

Christmas memorabilia flowing everywhere and the sounds of joyful holiday music playing for everyone to hear, it is safe to say anyone watching would be full of Christmas excitement.

On Nov. 19, the Wilkes-Barre Christmas Parade celebrations began in the Student Union Building at 3:30 p.m. with preparations, free T-shirts, hot chocolate and cookies.

At around 2 p.m. the participants from Wilkes lined up at the corner of South St. and South Main St. by University Towers. The parade started 3:15 p.m. with many city residents lining the streets to watch the parade.

"It took around fourteen hours to complete the fun, colorful mural float," said sophomore pre-pharmacy major, Julie Miller.

After the finishing touches were put on, the gingerbread house and candy mountain mural, accompanied by makeshift candy and lollipops, were picturesque. Alongside the



Courtesy of Marketing Communications

**The Wilkes Colonel gets his groove on with Associate Director of Marketing Gabrielle D'Amico. D'Amico, Kim Bower-Spence and the sophomore class with the help of Student Government organized the Army of Colonels walking in the parade.**

float constructed by Wilkes University Student Government and the sophomore class stood the Army of Colonel volunteers proud to be supporting their school and the city.

Wearing vast amounts of blue and gold they found themselves marching through the

city with balloons and signs.

For several years the University has hosted a Homecoming parade. However, after flood recovery efforts caused the cancellation of this year's parade, Wilkes was looking for a way to get itself back out into the com-

munity.

Director of Marketing Kimberly Bower-Spence said that, "in being involved in the parade we are showing we are part of the community."

For the university, the parade was a way of showing pride in being part of the community itself and also to be a good neighbor.

"The parade is a fun tradition for students to participate in," Bower-Spence said.

Being able to go out into the community and show support for the city of Wilkes-Barre and the university at the same time is something Bower-Spence said Wilkes looks for students to do often. She said, with the Colonel leading the army, there was no way for people to misinterpret the message they were trying to send.

"There is a great spirit about Wilkes," Bower-Spence said.

It is safe to say that after the Christmas Parade people see the spirit that not only the community holds, but that the many different groups inside of the community hold as well.

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# Friend's death inspires student to raise money for cystic fibrosis

BY CHRISTINE LEE  
Life Editor

Kevin Hopper was a freshman in high school when he met his good friend Amanda Hine.

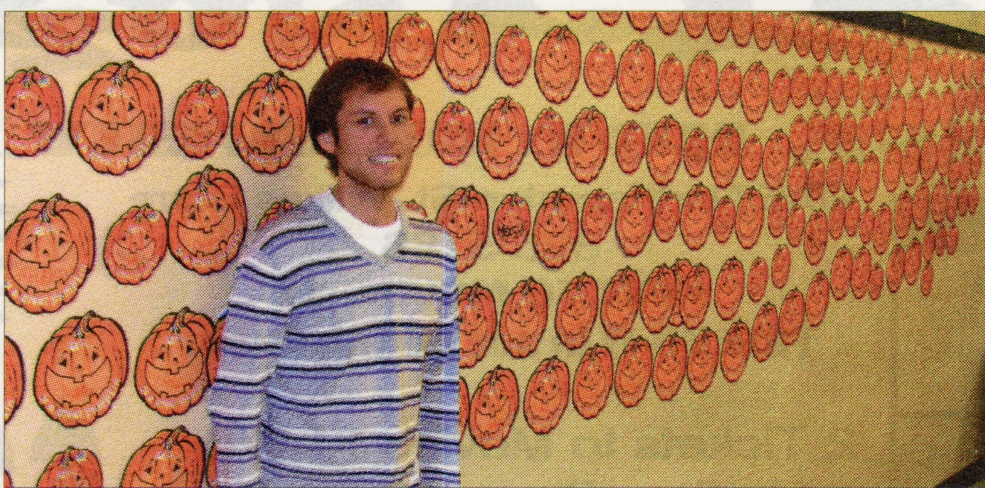
Hopper got to know Amanda through his involvement in his high school's music department. Since they were both in the high school band, they were set up to have homework together and go to band afterward. He also had another class with her.

"We instantly became friends because she just had such a great personality. She was a kind person," Hopper says.

Hopper, a senior business administration major and Student Government corresponding secretary, said he first learned about the inherited chronic disease cystic fibrosis in junior high school when a contestant on "The Real World" had it. He later learned that his friend Amanda had the condition when he noticed she was missing school a lot.

Despite the setbacks the disease caused, Hopper said Amanda was able to graduate high school and attend college for a time before her health began to decline.

According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

system of 70,000 people worldwide. It is caused by a defective gene whose protein product causes the body to produce unusually thick mucus that clogs the lungs and can lead to lung infections. It also obstructs the pancreas, stopping natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food.

The average lifespan of a person with the disease is 37.4 years and Hopper said Amanda was one of the fortunate people because of how relatively long she lived. She passed away in June at the age of 25.

The pumpkin fundraiser for the Cystic Fi-

brosis Foundation has been going on since Greg Castelli, a current P4 pharmacy major, came to Wilkes as a freshman. Hopper became involved in the fundraiser his first year of Student Government as a sophomore.

"Since (Greg) was still on Student Government then, he had asked for support from Student Government to do a donation request. However that year the donation request was not approved," Hopper said. "So we all went to the dorms and sold pumpkins door-to-door."

Last year Castelli left Student Government but came for a donation request that was not

approved again. Hopper said since Castelli was no longer on Student Government, he asked that a committee be formed to oversee the pumpkin selling. Hopper volunteered to step into oversee the pumpkin selling last year with Castelli.

"This year, since Greg is no longer on campus consistently, I stepped in to spearhead the committee as a whole," Hopper said.

Hopper became involved with the fundraising because of Amanda but her death this summer has made the cause more important to him.

"My connection with her was the reason I got involved my sophomore year with the cystic fibrosis fundraiser, but because of her passing away this summer it was very important that the cause be supported this year," Hopper said.

Because cystic fibrosis is a disorder that isn't seen from the outside, Hopper said it is important to be empathetic to everyone you meet. He hopes the fundraising efforts continue after he leaves Wilkes.

"I'm hoping in the future it's something that the person that is in my position on Student Government's executive board will continue."

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## WILKES UNIVERSITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

*Don't be sad, be glad!*

BY ALYSSA STENCAVAGE  
Staff Writer

The winter season is a chance to start fresh and play in the snow. But the change in weather and shorter days can make some feel a little depressed. This puts a damper on attitudes and makes everything seem dead and dull.

Even so, there have got to be ways to overcome the feeling of laziness and not wanting to do any ways, to lift our spirits, bring joy to our lives and smiles to our faces. Campus Counselor Susan Biskup offers some helpful tips for doing exactly that.

"I always tell people, make your environment sunny and bright. Open the blinds, sit close to the windows in the library and café," Biskup said. "Make an effort to get out as much as possible during the day and be in the natural light. Take a long walk, eat lunch at a park, exercise regularly."

Biskup says exercising to the point of breaking a sweat is important if one is feeling anxious or depressed.

She says one way to avoid feelings that bring people down is light therapy, also called phototherapy.

This is done by sitting a few feet away from a specialized light therapy box where one can be exposed to bright light. The light is supposed to mimic real light and create a change in brain chemicals that affect mood.

Cognitive behavioral therapy involves talking about the effects of seasonal depression to a counselor in order to boost moods and learning to change thoughts. This new behavior will in turn reflect better thoughts.

Regular therapy is also a good method. Furthermore, if symptoms are severe antidepressants or supplements recommended by a doctor are beneficial. Finally, Biskup recommends music therapy.

"Listen to music and instruments that are uplifting and soothing," Biskup says. "Listening to hard, loud music will only bring you down."

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## IRHC Cake Challenge



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

On Monday, Nov. 14, the Inter-Residence Hall Council hosted its annual Cake Challenge. The cakes were made by various residence halls, individuals and clubs. Above, pieces of one of the winning cakes, the Hollywood sign made by Towers second floor, are served off for tasting. This year's theme was landmarks and several other winning cakes included one of the above Hollywood sign and "Big Ben after a light snowfall," made by off-campus students.



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## Teri Granahan: From Wilkes University to career in comedy

### Comedian is due to perform along with Dave Russo this December

BY DOMINICK COSTANTINO  
Staff Writer

Teri Granahan graduated from Wilkes University with a degree in communication studies in 1994. She first tried to pursue a career in acting after graduating, but got involved with stand-up comedy because she didn't fit the Hollywood look.

She has been doing stand-up comedy since 2000 and has been having a lot of success with it. Granahan will be opening for fellow Wilkes grad Dave Russo at the Laugh till You Cry act on Dec. 8.

**Why did you pick Communication Studies as your major?** I originally wanted to go to school for theatre, but my father would not allow me to do so. I decided to go into communications because it was the closest thing to theater.

**What was your involvement while at Wilkes?** I had Dr. Bradford Kinney for a public speaking class, and he kept trying to get me to join the speech and debate team. I joined temporarily, but then quit. I think I only went on one meet.

The speech and debate team was a lot of work, and it felt like it was a whole other class. I did get involved in advertising for the newspaper thanks to my adviser, Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall.

**What advice would you give to current students?** Students should go to class and do their homework. They should take advantage of every practical experience that you can get while at Wilkes.

These experiences give you the advantage over people who did not have those opportunities. The extra work now pays off later.

**What did you do after graduating from Wilkes?** I moved to New York City. All through my schooling, I was the staunch C student. I was convinced that I was going to be an actress. Being an actress was my destiny. My thought was, "I'm going to be an entertainer, why should I pay attention."

When I got to New York City, I realized

that I was too short and not blonde enough to be an actress.

**When the dream of acting when down the drain, how did you get into stand-up comedy?** One of my friends told me that I should go do stand-up comedy and bring people with me to the comedy club. I started doing stand-up in 2000 and continued with

"My life filter is generally a humorous one. There is not much that happens in life that I don't ultimately "crack wise" on. The more traumatic a personal event is for me the more material can be sifted out of it."

TERI GRANAHAN,  
Comedian

it because I won competitions and I was actually good at it.

**What was one of the first awards you won?** In 2003, I won the Best New Talent award at New York Comedy Club. I think I won this competition because I didn't know I entered a competition. This was the first thing I ever won. I realized that maybe I am good at something and maybe this was a unique quality I had.

**What was the prize for winning the award in 2003?** I was invited to perform in a show because I won the award. When I went to perform for the show, I blanked throughout the entire performance and my jokes didn't work. I learned an important lesson from this experience: You have to run with cycles. Someday you are the best,

and other days someone else is the best. You just have to stick to your chosen goals and your designated path. I learned that I'm not always going to be on top.

**How did you and Dave Russo meet?** We were in some classes together while at Wilkes, but only knew each other to say 'hello'. I was at a comedy event years ago and we



reconnected.

From that point on, he has given me so many opportunities. I owe a lot of my success to Dave. Whenever he is close to this area, he brings me along to open for him. God bless him for that!

**How do men and women respond differently to humor?** I work hard to write material that has universal appeal. I tend to go with jokes that appeal to you whether you are a man or woman. Guys tend to perk up with jokes that are sexual in nature. Women like when I point that fact out.

**You are performing with Dave Russo at the Comedy Event at Wilkes on Dec. 8. Did you ever perform at Wilkes before?** I actually have performed at my alma mater before. The performance was in the Dorothy

Dickson Darte Center. It was a communications function and I opened for Dave Russo.

Every so often I pull out the old VHS from this event. Watching this now gives me a lot of inspiration because it makes me realize that I have what it takes and I even had it way back then.

Since Wilkes is my alma mater where I learned all about communications, it makes performing here even more special.

**What was your favorite venue that you performed at?** In 2010, I was the feature comic gal in the middle for a Dave Russo performance at Gotham Comedy Club. This comedy club is the one seen on Comedy Central. Before this point, I was only at the emcee point. This was finally a paid gig in New York City.

**Where do you get your material?** I get my material mainly from conversations that I have had where something organically funny came out of my mouth on a particular subject.

The art form comes in recreating that funny personal conversation into a joke format that wouldn't end with the line ... "I guess you had to be there." My life filter is generally a humorous one. There is not much that happens in life that I don't ultimately "crack wise" on. The more traumatic a personal event is for me the more material can be sifted out of it.

It is cathartic, to say the least. I have long been someone who could crack a joke in the middle of a good cry at a funeral just to lighten the situation up. OK, not really at a funeral.

**Where can we find more about your comedy or see you perform?** You can check out my website [www.terigcomedy.com](http://www.terigcomedy.com). I will also be opening for Dave Russo at the comedy event being held at Wilkes at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, in the ballroom. Dave and I will also be appearing on WBRE's PA Live! that day at 4 p.m.

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# Russo's comedy act will make you 'Laugh till You Cry'

BY COREY MARTIN  
Correspondent

Dave Russo, 1993 graduate of Wilkes University, will perform a comedy entitled "Laugh till You Cry," at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 8 in the ballroom of Henry Student Center to benefit departmental communications studies alumni and friends scholarship.

Russo graduated in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in communication studies. He was a dedicated wrestler in both his high school and college career and received a scholarship for wrestling to attend Wilkes.

Dave attributes Wilkes with helping him with many aspects in his life and comedy.

"I had a public speaking class and I had to an eight-to-ten minute speech about my upbringing and how I went to Wilkes," Russo said. "I took the humorous approach and got the third highest grade in the class, writing tarted to become easier for me, there's even a piece that I wrote at Wilkes from 1989 that I still use it in my acts."

He is a regular in the Boston comedy scene and has performed in Las Vegas and in some of the best clubs in New

York and Los Angeles. He has also made appearances on Comedy Central, NBC's Today Show and NBC's "Last Comic Standing."

In 2010, Dave began producing and hosting the Wicked Funny Comedy Tour, a comedy series on NESN's Dirty Water television station.

Russo will ring his witty style to Wilkes with jokes tailored to popular and localized topics.

Audience members will hear jokes about Mohegan Sun Casino, the phrase "heyna," and of course a few shots at Wilkes' local cross-town rival, King's College. Russo joked about King's, saying, "it's a tough school to get into, ya know...when it's locked."

Opening for the show is Terri Granahan, a 1994 graduate of Wilkes. Granahan, who won New York Comedy Club's "Best Talent" award in 2003, has opened for Russo before at Gotham's Comedy Club, which later aired on Comedy Central.

All the proceeds from tickets sales will benefit Department of Communication Studies Alumni and Friends scholarship and two of these scholarships will be given next year. The scholarship is given annually to a sophomore or junior who excels both inside and outside the

classroom.

"The need for financial aid is greater than it's ever been," said Zebra Communications adviser Jane Elmes-Crahall.

This is the third time Russo will be performing at his Alma Mater.

"I hadn't been back to Wilkes in a while and I wanted to go back to where it all began," he said. "With show business it's all about business, so I wanted to come back to Wilkes to do the show part."

Tickets for college students with a valid ID will be \$10 and \$20 for the public. They will be on sale on the first floor of the Henry Student Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The door for the show open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 8 in the second floor ballroom in the HSC.

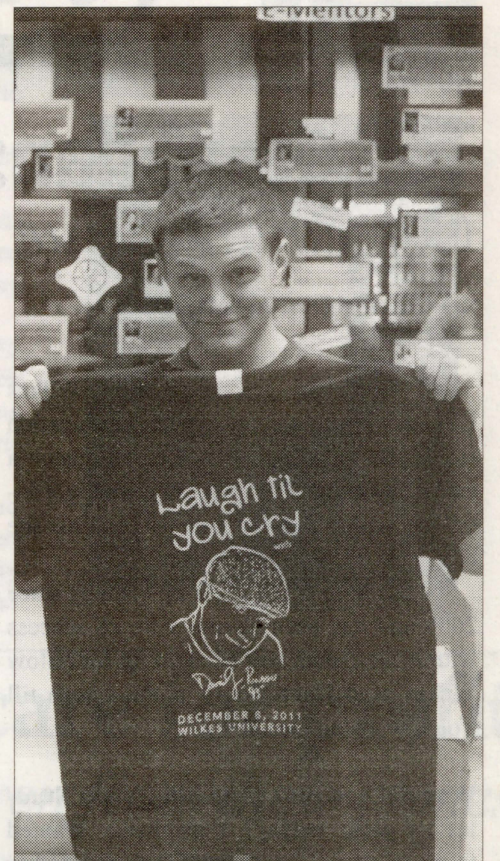
## "LAUGH TILL YOU CRY"

What: Dave Russo comedy show

Where: SUB ballroom

When: Dec. 8 @ 7:30

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Jonathan Bowman/The Beacon

Matty Gaines shows off a Dave Russo T-shirt that is free with ticket purchase for the Dave Russo comedy show Dec. 8 in the Henry Student Center.

# Programming Board creates new winter semiformal dance

BY KIRSTIN COOK  
Editor-in-Chief

For students worried about having to wait until Spring Fling for another campus dance, Programming Board is significantly reducing the wait by creating a new event this year.

The Snow Ball is PB's new winter semiformal dance to be held at Bentley's of NEPA from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2.

Jessica Short, president of PB, said the event offers students a chance to dress up and get into the holiday spirit a little early.

Short, elementary education junior who is overseeing the organization of the event, said PB hoped to make the event similar to the popular student government dances, the homecoming dance and spring fling, but added in a few elements to make the event stand out.

"Everybody's excited for it," Short said. "They like that it's going to be a little bit different, like the new location."

Another aspect that is different is the benefit of the event, since all ticket proceeds are going toward Toys for Tots. Also, PB is offering a green screen that students have the option to be photographed in front of with various backgrounds and props. Short said this is a variation on the usual photobooth at many dances.

"We want to have something a little different," Short said. "Same concept, because everyone loves having their picture taken."

John Sweeney, the small events chair on PB, said he's received positive feedback on the idea of a winter dance.

"It's definitely something there's an interest in and that we've never had before, so people are excited to see a student-run organization putting on something like this," Sweeney said.

Sweeney, accounting and business administration junior, said PB decided to hold the event in response to student feedback on the empty period between the homecoming dance and spring fling.

"After homecoming this year there was a lot of student feedback I heard that, 'it's a shame that there's nothing again until spring fling, that's such a long time away,'" Sweeney said.

Sweeney looked at other schools that held some type of winter dance and wondered if Wilkes could hold a similar event. He said it brings students something new to do.

PB has already exceeded the goal of 200 attendees, which was made possible through the use of social media and signage in the Henry Student Center to promote the dance.

Sweeney said they chose Bentley's of NEPA as a venue over Ramada, Genetti's and Woodlands because it offered the best pricing for the date of the event for its size.

"It was tough to choose a venue because there are a lot of options," Sweeney said. "But we wanted someplace that was big enough to accommodate as many students that wanted to attend, but that was also affordable."

He said the elegant location has other perks, as it is owned by a Wilkes alum, Jim Limongelli. This Wilkes connection led to some reduced rates for PB.

Another Wilkes connection is the DJ choice. Anthony Griseto, an entrepreneurship senior at Wilkes who played at fall fest will be DJing the event.

Students will dine on chicken marsala, roast round top beef, red pepper risotto or tilapia.

Sweeney said these meals cost between \$22 and \$25, despite the relatively inexpensive ticket cost of \$5.

Sweeney said the attendance rate and positive feedback indicates this year's Snow Ball dance will not be the last.

"I think at this point we can safely call this event a success, so I don't see why it wouldn't continue into the future," Sweeney said. "Feeling is enjoyment of a good story."

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# Dustin Black's sub-par script sinks Oscar bid for 'J. Edgar'

BY BILL THOMAS  
Assistant News Editor

For "J. Edgar," longtime Hollywood darling Leonardo DiCaprio smolders from under several layers of rubber and latex, resurrecting one of the most nebulous, morally ambiguous figures in American history: J. Edgar Hoover, the man who made the FBI what it is today.

In the director's chair is Clint Eastwood, while "Milk" screenwriter Dustin Lance Black tackles script duties. Can you say "Oscar-bait?"

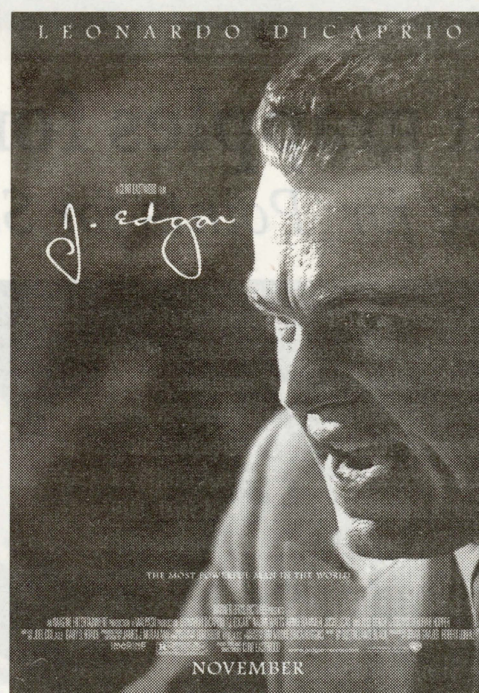
At first glance, "J. Edgar" seems to have all the makings of an award-worthy motion picture. But just because it follows the formula, that doesn't mean it's going to be a surefire stunner. While DiCaprio and Eastwood are as stellar as ever, neither one is contributing his best work here. Black, meanwhile, fares less well. In fact, if any one element is to blame for "J. Edgar's" shortcomings, his script is undoubtedly it.

That's not to say that Black's writing doesn't have its strengths. Foremost is his

depiction of Hoover as a socially inept, insecure mama's boy who refashions himself as a manly man of the sternest sort from within the shadow of a doting but repressive, monstrous matriarch. Obsessed with the secrets of others while hiding more than a few closeted skeletons of his own, the Hoover we are shown here sacrifices his very heart and soul for the sake of the nation and his own legend.

Now, I won't argue that "J. Edgar" is otherwise without flaw, either. Most notably, the prosthetic "old man" make-up effects look like the ones from those Jackass skits where they dress Johnny Knoxville up like a senior citizen and have him yell vulgarities at passersby. They're distracting to the point where even DiCaprio struggles to shine from beneath his mask of artificial wrinkles and airbrushed-on liver spots.

The biggest issue, however, remains Black's script. Most specifically problematic is his decision to adopt a non-linear structure despite the fact that he doesn't know how to use it.



While there's nothing wrong with a non-linear structure in and of itself, Black's script misappropriates the format in such a way

that it robs the film of any sense of emotional continuity or progression. Character arcs are chopped up, mixed around and smooshed together. Most opportunities for mystery or tension likewise go right down the crapper.

When a promise is made in one scene, the next scene anticlimactically flashes ahead a year or two so we can see the promise broken. The reaction isn't so much "How shocking. How sad." Rather, it's "Well, so much for that."

"J. Edgar" could have been a truly moving, masterful film. Instead, it comes across as a disappointing, muddled misstep. So close, but not close enough. As it is, "J. Edgar" isn't as important, insightful or powerful as it wants you to think it is, but that doesn't mean it isn't still worth a look.

While glaringly imperfect, "J. Edgar" remains a genuine work of moving, multidimensional art. As such, it definitely deserves both your time and respect. It just doesn't deserve an Oscar.

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## 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime'

BY ANNIE YOSKOSKI  
Staff Writer

"Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow." With a character description like that, the reader has to want to know more about this kid. Mark Haddon's "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime," is one of the oddest, yet best, books I have ever read.

The main character, Christopher has a form of autism extremely similar to Asperger syndrome, which makes social interactions very difficult but usually the person is also highly intelligent. Even though he is highly intelligent, he is still young.

Taking on the mystery of a murdered neighborhood pet, Christopher navigates adult topics and an adult city with high function, but the eyes of a child. This writing perspective had to be difficult for an adult to write from. Surprisingly the point of view didn't feel forced. I really felt like I was inside the mind of a high-functioning,

socially awkward kid who was barely in elementary school but crossing a big city by himself.

One of the funniest things about the book is Christopher's responses to adults. Someone would react to Christopher's journey with shock and ask how he got to their house, which was miles from his. Instead of saying something mundane, Christopher responds with something like "I took 72 steps down the street and made a left turn and then one 182 more steps..." then throws in something random like "I stopped to pet a gray cat and it was really fluffy."

Another main point of the book that I loved was how delicately the author handled Christopher's problem. Haddon alludes that Christopher knows he is different, but does not find it to be a bad thing -- and it isn't. Something like Asperger's syndrome has to be dealt with delicately and this book does that. It manages to be funny without making fun of the syndrome or anyone who has it. The true humor lies in the situations that Christopher gets himself into, which can happen to anyone.

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## TANZANIA

Continued from FRONT PAGE

have performed locally at the Wilkes-Barre Fine Arts Fiesta in May 2010.

At the event, Zebra will also be giving away an autographed copy of the 1974 album "It's Only Rock 'N' Roll" by The Rolling Stones. The 14th U.S. studio album by the band features such songs as "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," "Till the Next Goodbye," and the title-track, "It's Only Rock 'N' Roll." The album, which is framed and sealed behind glass, features the signatures of Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Bill Wyman and Charlie Watts. On the back of the album is the album's certificate of authenticity, and can be shipped if necessary.

The album, which went platinum in the U.S., was received generally positive by both critics and fans, being seen as a definite turning point for the band. Jon Landau of Rolling Stone stated, "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll" [is] one of the most intriguing and mysterious, as well as the darkest, of all Rolling Stones records."

Senior English major Liza Prokop, member of the "Embrace a Child" team, plans to go to Tanzania through Wilkes University to attempt to help the Tanzanian community firsthand.

"When I first heard about the Tanzania project, it really hit home after personally

## TANZANIA DINNER & SHOW

What: 'Embrace a Child in Tanzania' fundraiser  
Where: ArtsYOUiverse  
When: Dec. 1 @ 6 p.m.

knowing many people over the years impacted by HIV/AIDS," Prokop said. "It really is a local epidemic as well as a global epidemic. I felt that the trip would provide a life changing experience to contribute to a global health issue and see our campaign efforts in Tanzania take shape."

Evene Estwick, associate professor of communication studies at Wilkes, is co-coordinating the "Embrace a Child" project. She explained that the funds raised at this event will go directly to help pay for the living expenses and educational funds for particularly exceptional students who lost their parents to AIDS.

"The great thing about this is you actually know where your money is going, you know who you're sponsoring, it's not anonymous," Estwick said.

Admission to the event will be \$15, but those who bring a dish to share will be admitted for only \$10. Arts YOUiverse is located at 47 N. Franklin St. For ticket information, contact Zebra Communications at 570-408-4158.

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NOVEMBER 22, 2011

CONTACT EDITOR: phatnguyen@thewilkesbeacon.com

# Comm. student grapples for good cause

## Cochran raises money for 'Points for Salvation' charity

BY PHAT NGUYEN

Sports Editor

The world of Mixed Martial Arts is never far from Jake Cochran's mind. Even when watching "Animal Planet," he learned to tweak his guillotine choke to something similar to an "alligator's death roll."

An alligator will grab its prey using its jaw then roll several times still grabbing hold of its victim. The prey has no chance of survival.

Cochran hops over his opponents' backs and spins them while they're falling.

"It's a hell of a lot better, and you get people to tap a lot quicker," Cochran said. "I've heard people say, 'What is this guy doing? He just got airborne on a guillotine. That doesn't happen.'"

Cochran, a junior communication studies and sociology major, is now looking to use his MMA background to raise money for the Salvation Army.

Cochran is competing in the 2011 Grapplers Quest Worlds, Pro-Am World Championship Dec. 10 in Asbury Park, N.J., for the "Points for Salvation" campaign. For every point Cochran gets in the match, money will be donated to the campaign.

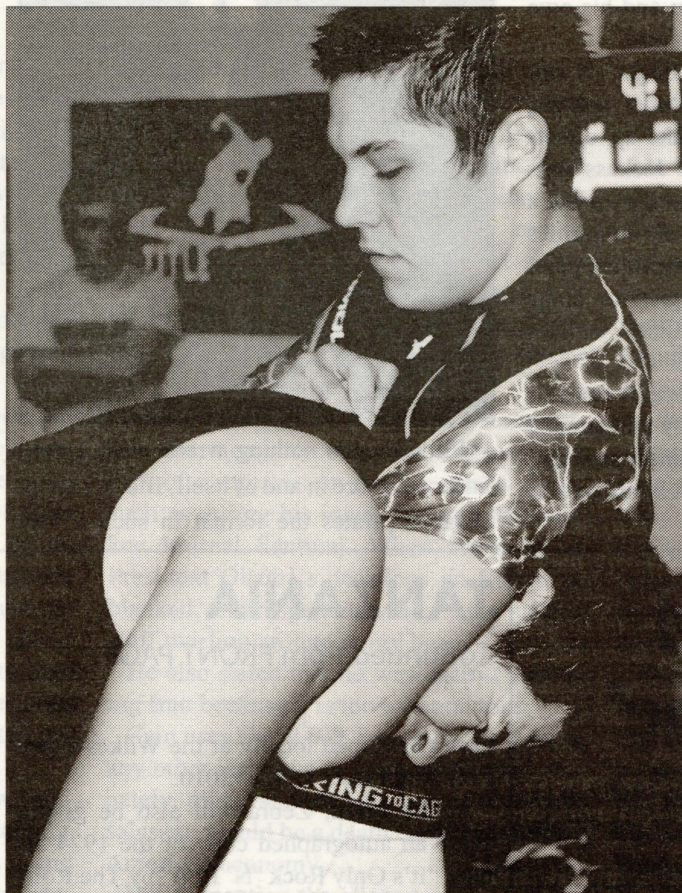
"I knew I did well in my last competition, so raising the money for the Salvation Army by using my talent was a no-brainer," Cochran said.

Similar to wrestling, a grappler gets points each time he puts his opponent in a hold or gets a takedown during the fight. Donations are made either per point or as a flat rate.

Grappler's Quest has the same rules as MMA with the exceptions of striking and slamming. Cochran found out the hard way during the national championships for the Cruiser weight division. During that championship match in the summer, he slammed his opponent and lost the match. While he was disqualified, the runner-up finish gave Cochran a second place national ranking in that weight division.

Cochran admits he likes the fact that he doesn't have a wrestling background, especially when he's facing wrestlers.

"Wrestlers do more clenching than I do," Cochran said. "A lot of these guys are hot-headed and come into the fight thinking, 'oh, I want to beat the hell out of



The Beacon/Phat Nguyen

**Jake Cochran perfects his choke hold on Omar Urena. Both students are training for the Dec. 10 Grappler's Quest.**

this guy.' They just shoot in and I sprawl them into the ground, then I just grab their neck and choke them out."

Cochran, who is president of the MMA Club at Wilkes, is also bringing along freshman mechanical engineering major Omar Urena to Grappler's Quest.

Urena, who is relatively new to the sport, was a wrestler in high school and joined MMA after deciding against wrestling at Wilkes.

"I've always liked combat sports, and I was really interested in the MMA program at Club Day," Urena said. "Since I wasn't going to wrestle, I was like, 'hey why not.'"

Having a wrestling background—or a lack thereof—is beneficial for both grapplers who are using it to their advantage.

"In wrestling we learned how to go for certain points to get our opponents down easily," Urena said. "That helps my transi-

tion to Jiu-Jitsu."

"He's so much better at throwing his weight, but I like not having a wrestling background, because people don't know how to prepare against me. It's harder to mimic me, but it's a lot harder to wrestle Omar who's throwing me around," Cochran said.

Cochran and Urena now train at the School of Combat Arts in Wilkes-Barre under Michael Gioe, an MMA expert who has been fighting for 26 years. Gioe, who is a very straight forward hands-on coach, noted how much they've both improved since coming to his dojo, training place.

"Their stand-up has improved significantly," Gioe said. "I could tell they've been training on their own for a while, but now with real coaching, I feel like I can make these guys into champions."

In addition to coach Gioe, both fighters are quick to point out each other's mistakes.

"I'll stop and tell him to try to do this and that. Sometimes we even do situational things where he goes on guard, and I try to score points off of him," Urena said.

Cochran agrees that this system balances things out perfectly.

"It works really well because we're both our biggest critics, but then we have each other to help out by saying, 'oh, you're doing your armbar wrong, you need to twist your legs.' He had to tell me to keep going for the angle since my legs are so long, and I was forcing it."

Cochran also works on his techniques outside of the School of Combat Arts by taking notes during Pay-Per-View matches.

**SEE COCHRAN, PAGE 18**

## The Penalty Box

BY JUSTIN FRANIAK

Assistant Sports Editor

The University of Oregon is on the forefront of uniform innovation. They have released tons of uniform combinations within the last few years making them one of the flashiest teams in America. But does looking good really make a team or individual play better?

With the recent fining of the Chicago Bear's Earl Bennett for wearing bright orange shoes, and the NFL cracking down on uniform violations, I asked around to get opinions on looking fancy while playing a sport.

Sophomore Education major and wrestler Phil Racciato gave his thoughts on looking good while on the mat.

"Look good, feel good, you are good," Racciato said.

Racciato usually sports his zip-up white and red wrestling shoes while on the mat. He said he liked them because they did not have any laces on them. He did, however, purchase them to make a fashion statement.

"Our singlets were green in high school," Racciato said. "My coach told me to buy red and white shoes so I'd look like the Italian flag. He wanted me to look like him back when he wrestled at Pen Argyl."

Being flashy has always been a trend in sports. We all remember track and field star Michael Johnson wearing his infamous solid gold shoes, or Alexander Ovechkin's neon laces. The fancy shoes trend transcends all levels of sports, whether you are a collegiate athlete, a professional, or an amateur.

These custom shoes always bring an intimidation factor to one's opponent. Junior Engineering Major Griffin Panicucci customized his shoes to his liking.

"I purposely cut the Asics symbol off the side of my shoes because it looked cooler," Panicucci said. "And I always wore colorful socks to stand out."

There is a unwritten rule in wrestling that if someone looks good that means they are good. Panicucci gave his thoughts on that.

"It's intimidating to wrestle someone who looks good," Panicucci said. "And all the good kids wear sweet kicks and socks."

Shoes aren't the only way to be flashy on the field or court. Uniforms have always

**SEE SHOES, PAGE 19**



## SCOREBOARD

### Wrestling

11/18 Elizabethtown W 39-3  
11/19 Red Dragon Invitational  
4th out of 11

### Men's B-Ball

11/15 PSU-Hazleton W 89-51  
11/18 Dickinson L 68-65  
11/19 PSU-Harrisburg W 79-68

### Women's B-Ball

11/15 PSU-Hazleton W 83-30  
11/17 Keystone W 59-56  
11/19 PSU-WB W 96-50

## WEEK AHEAD

### Wrestling

12/2 Messiah Invitational  
12/3 Messiah Invitational

### Men's B-Ball

11/22 Baptist Bible  
11/30 Misericordia

### Women's B-Ball

11/22 Marywood  
11/30 Misericordia

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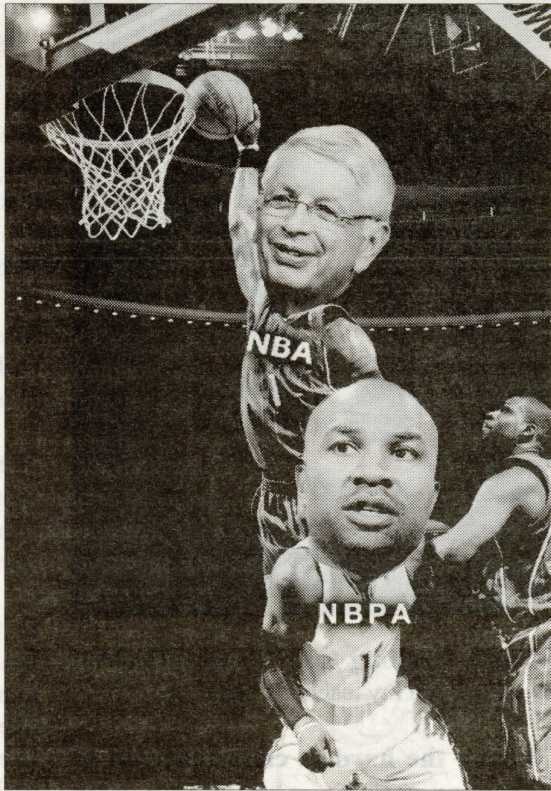


### Stop playing around

The NBA lockout has taken a turn for the worse as the players union left the last offer made by the owners on the table. The union has walked away and begun the decertification process in which the union will disband in order for the players to bring a class action lawsuit against the league in court. The lawsuit will be filed under anti-trust legislation, similar to what happened with the NFL, but the NFL and its union were not this far apart. Right now games are cancelled through Dec. 15 and as the two sides are no longer negotiating the likelihood of a season is slim to none. Personally, I never thought there was going to be a season this year there is simply too much separating the two sides.

Many people have come to blame the owners for locking out the players, let me inform you this is NOT the owners fault! If one wants to see a season and the NBA prosper, then you are on the owners' side. Yes it is billionaires vs. millionaires but in this instance the millionaires are bankrupting the billionaires. The revenue pie is split too much in favor of the players with them receiving 57 percent of the total revenue of the NBA. Meanwhile half the teams in the league are losing money, seven have been sold since 2006 and two of those have or will be relocating. According to Forbes, 5 NBA teams would lose less money than continue with no season (Nets, Bobcats, Nuggets, Magic and Pacers). Even teams like the Heat are only borderline profitable and they have three of the top players in the NBA. In the '09-10 season, 17 teams lost money. The only teams that seem to be profitable are the big market franchises like the Lakers, Bulls, Celtics and Knicks only due to the fact that they are each of the five largest cities in the country.

The players have a right to fight for what they think is fair but it's not fair they have to give back to their employers or risk the league failing and not be employed. Most have no college degrees and no other leagues to play in. Most European leagues are no better off and make significantly less. The players have no leverage. They are in a corner without a leg to stand on against a league that has teams better off not playing a season. The union should have accepted a deal at 51 percent that had a stricter cap and got rid of the mid-level exception, but they didn't. From here it only gets worse, the NHL will tell you that back in 04-05, and they were in the exact same boat, but they have not learned they just made the same mistakes over. Meanwhile the MLB just got a new deal done in less than a week and improved things for both sides.



**The Debate:**  
Whose to blame  
for the NBA  
lockout?

**The Buzz:**  
The NBA season is  
losing games, and  
its coming down  
to the wire if the  
season will  
happen.

**Results:**  
The NBA lockout  
continues.

To see and join the full  
debate visit:  
[thewilkesbeacon.com](http://thewilkesbeacon.com)

Justin Franiak  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR



### Think of the fans

Sports is about money. Everyone can see it during every broadcast. Super Bowl commercials run around a million dollars for one time slot. Sponsorships and product placement run rampant through any game. Money is a huge factor in sports, and the NBA is a prime example.

The owners are to blame for the current NBA lockout. With the proposal of the hard cap and revenue sharing the owners are showing their greed over the whole situation.

The owners are willing to sacrifice the entire season, but the players want to play. With almost half of the NBA franchises' in financial trouble, it's interesting to note that by not opening the doors to arenas, some NBA owners may actually lose less money.

The owners language during negotiations is not in good faith. Based on what we have heard, the ultimatums and extremes being thrown at the players is not helping the cause.

The owners are fully prepared to not have a season and consistently threatening to cancel games gives them extreme leverage over the players. The owners are in full command of the entire situation.

The owners need to realize that the players are the ones doing the actual work. The players deserve more of the revenue the teams are taking in. On the contrary the demands of the players also shows they are mostly in the game for the money. The owners have proposed a 50/50 split of revenue, but I am not sure if that ultimatum is fair.

I also believe that at some point the players will budge because of the realization that they are losing salary by the day. The owners will also realize that they are losing money, and ultimately fans.

With the NBA season not occurring hockey and college basketball are receiving more and more coverage. This coverage on major news outlets will eventually take NBA fans and convert them to college basketball fans. The fans should come first, but both sides are blind to the people who pay their tickets.

I also believe that players should be allowed to pursue other options. As much as some people may think they are greedy, they also play because they love the game. The owners are depriving the players of doing what they love, and now the players are pursuing other options.

I'd love to see Shaq wrestle at WrestleMania or see LeBron James play football. If the NBA has no season, things may get interesting.



## FLECK

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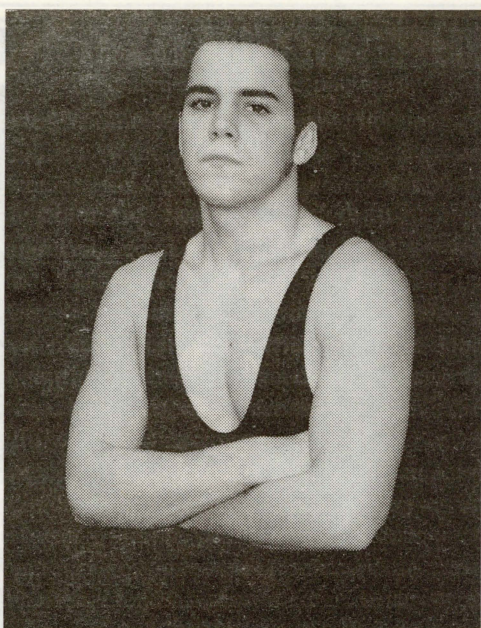
Probably more like my mom. She's the kind of person I am. Determined, quiet but once you get to know them, talkative.

**What are you doing over break, other than Thanksgiving dinner?** Probably go to the Easton-Pburg (Phillipsburg) football game. A lot of people go to that game. It's a huge rivalry. I want to hang out.

**With the Christmas season coming up, what's on your wish list?** Hopefully someone gets me a nice winter jacket. It's starting to get cold up here, so that would be nice.

**What's your favorite Christmas song?** "Jingle bell rock."

**What's been your favorite class at Wilkes so far?** My math 101 class. I'm doing the best in it.



**Who's teaching that?** (laughs) Couldn't even tell you my teacher's name.

**What's the hardest class that you've taken so far?** Chemistry. I have taken chemistry since my freshman year in high school. It's pretty tough, but I'm getting through it.

**Do you know who's teaching that?** Dr. Wignot.

**Do you have any guilty pleasures?** I like to eat ice cream. I know it's bad for my weight, but I eat it anyways because I love it so much.

**What's one thing about you that not a lot of people know about?** I am a sports fanatic. I like to follow every sport, football, basketball, baseball, college and professional level.

**Who do you like to cheer for?** My MLB team is the New York Mets, NFL is the Carolina Panthers and NBA is the Philadelphia 76ers.

**Is there any reason for liking those teams?** I like to pick a team who's a rival to my dad's team. He likes the Phillies, so I like the Mets. Panthers, I don't know why I like them. 76ers are the hometown team for basketball.

**Is there any tension between you and your dad when you guys watch sports**

**at home?** Definitely with baseball. That's definitely our favorite sport. It gets interesting when the Mets and Phillies are playing each other, and we want our teams to win. It's fun.

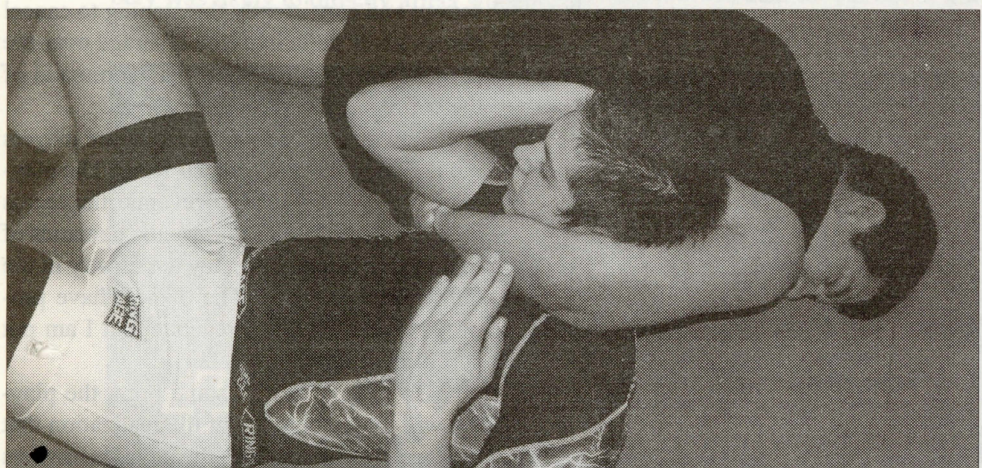
**Did you play any sports other than wrestling?** I played second base until 8th grade, but then I stopped to wrestle.

**Could you still turn a double play?** Maybe. I don't know. I'm a little rusty.

**Do you have any superstitions before matches?** I like to keep all the same stretches. Every time I go to the bathroom I like to use the same place and wash my hands in the same sink.

**There's not a certain number of times that have you wash your hands, is there?** (laughs) No, just location. It's just something I always have done.

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The Beacon/Phat Nguyen

**Cochran looks to improve his guard against Urena, who was a high school wrestler.**

## COCHRAN

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"I like to sit down and take notes on what I see during matches then I'll read my books on how to transition based on what I've seen," Cochran said. "I'm always working on techniques. I've literally sat and worked on the same things over and over to the point where people start asking me what I'm doing when I'm training. I just want it to be muscle memory."

Using his communication background Cochran began hosting a weekly MMA talk show which he says is starting to pick up a strong following. He's been contacted by people via Facebook to call in, and even promoters are looking to come talk

on his show.

With so much dedication into the sport, Cochran said he would one day love to pursue a future in MMA both as a fighter and eventually as a broadcaster. He feels he could outshine current host Joe Rogan.

"I would definitely take Joe Rogan's job and do it 10 times better," Cochran said. "I'd love to do play-by-play for the UFC. I want to stay in this business because I love it so much."

The Points for Salvation campaign is still accepting donations for the Dec. 10 fight. To sponsor Cochran, fill out a form at the information desk in the Henry Student Center, or contact Cochran at jason.cochran@wilkes.edu

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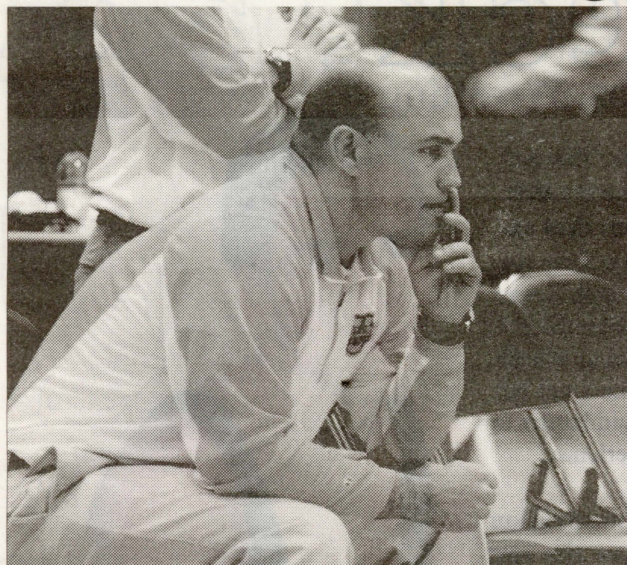
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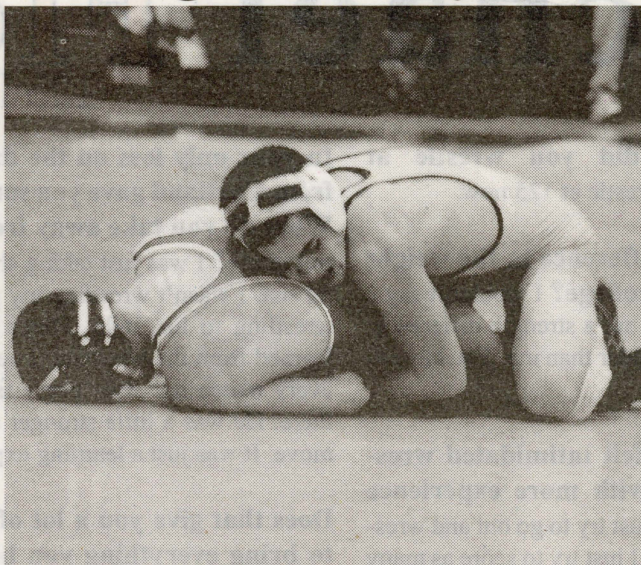
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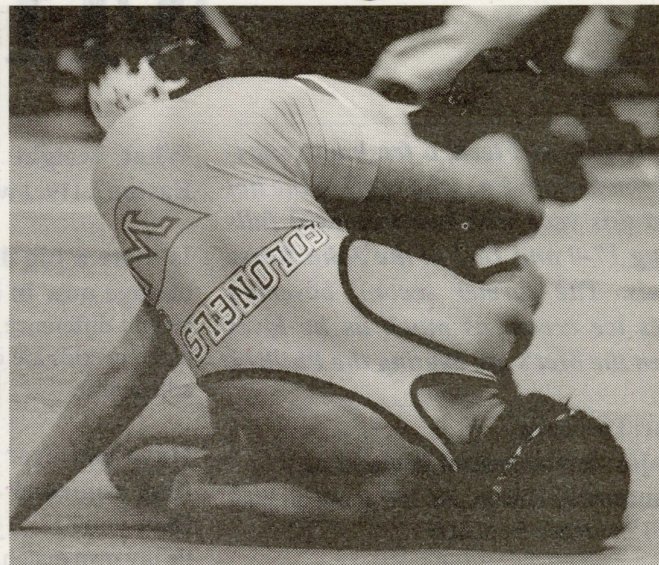
## Colonel wrestling avenges last year's loss in big fashion



Coach Jon Laudenslager (left) looks on his team battles Elizabethtown. The final score of the match was 39-3 as the Colonels racked up four pins en route to the Metro Conference win.



Freshman Michael Fleck (middle) works for nearfall points in his 125-pound bout. He won 11-9 beating Elizabethtown senior Will Bentley.



Sophomore Myzar Mendoza works for a takedown in his convincing win over Elizabethtown's Jordan Stepanchick. Medoza wound up pinning in under seven minutes.

## Wilkes posts near shutout, takes fourth at Oneonta

BY JUSTIN FRANIAK  
Asst. Sports Editor

Revenge was on the minds of the Wilkes wrestling team this past Friday night as they set out to avenge last year's heartbreaking loss to the Elizabethtown College Blue Jays. The Colonels succeeded in a big way, winning 39-3.

Sophomore Dave Oberrender started the night off the right way with his :59 pin at the 197-pound weight class, giving the Colonels a shot of momentum heading into the rest of the night.

The Colonels lone loss of night came next in the 285-pound class. Sophomore Michael Shannon dropped a close and exciting match to Elizabethtown freshman Jeremy Rieth 5-4, but it was no looking back for the grapplers as they would pull off eight consecutive wins to cap off the night.

Freshman Michael Fleck continued his impressive season with an 11-9 decision of E-Town Senior Will Bentley. Fleck used his patented "fireman's carry" to cruise to a victory in the 125-pound weight class.

Sophomore Myzar Mendoza and Senior Ryan Wilson kept the night rolling with a third period pin and a 2-1 decision respectively.

Returning All-American Anthony Dattolo kept his season perfect with a decision over the Blue Jay's Kody Rittenbaugh 5-1. The senior captain was

happy with everyone's performance on Friday night.

"It's nice to beat Elizabethtown that bad after last year," Dattolo said. "Because it shows how much we have improved."

Senior Matt Ellery stole the show with his last second takedown of Max Barsky in the 157-pound weight class. Not even a nice looking mustache could stop the Wilkes Senior from beating his opponents.

"It was pretty exciting being that there wasn't much time left," Ellery said. "There wasn't much going through my mind, just that I needed to score. I heard the coaches yell 30 seconds left and that's when I got the under hook and took my shot."

The packed crowd at the Marts Gymnasium went crazy after the exciting match, and the Colonels kept the ship straight by rattling off wins.

Senior Captain Ben Marich picked up his first win of the season in dominating fashion with a pin the first period at the 165-pound weight class. Dustin Stough gained a tough decision over the Blue Jay's Dylan Carmichael 5-4 at the 174-pound weight class.

Buddy Gouger wrapped the night off in a big way with a pinfall in just under seven minutes in the night's finale. Gouger got the slap of the mat when he overpowered Elizabethtown's Kyle Deeds.

The Colonels finished the night with four pins as they cruised to a dominating win of 39-9 in their home opener. The Colonels were also in action all day Saturday at SUNY-

Oneonta. The twelfth ranked Colonels finished fourth overall at the SUNY-Oneonta Red Dragon invitational.

Junior Nathan White finished second overall in the 165-pound weight class. White outscored his opponent 26-4 en route to his finals appearance. Senior Buddy Gouger also made it to the finals, using a pin and two decisions in the 184-pound weight class. Raymond Dungee also placed in the weight class claiming third place.

Heavyweight William Fletcher also finished as a runner-up at the tournament. he racked up two decisions along with a pinfall.

Freshman Lucas dise finished in sixth place. He rattled off three straight decisions and a pin in the loser's bracket on his way to his final consolation bout.

Senior Shane Everett placed third at 157 pounds. Everett knocked off the second seed to claim the bronze.

Also in the 157-pound bracket, sophomore Tyler Lauchaire and George Simms III finished in fifth and sixth place respectively.

Freshman 149 pounder Sean Lombardi also claimed a fifth place finish at the Red Dragon Invitational.

The Colonels next home match will be Dec. 10 as they welcome Muhlenberg, York and Delaware Valley to the Marts Gymnasium for a quad-meet.

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## SHOES

Continued from Page 16

held a place in my heart, and I like to see different variations throughout seasons, but unfortunately my teams usually come out looking hideous.

Uniforms have come and gone. A stone's throw away in Philadelphia there have been many uniform mishaps.

The Eagles throwbacks of light blue and yellow may have been one of the most horrendous get-ups this sport has seen.

The Sixer's recently retired black, gold, blue, red, magenta, etc. uniforms and tired rabbit mascot made them the laughing stock of the league. The Flyer's uniforms are such an ugly color combination that people love them.

With Reebok losing their merchandising contract with the NFL soon, and Nike taking over, we are bound to see new technologies arise on the gridiron.

Nike has proven that some sweet uniforms can really help a team win, until this past Saturday where No. 4 Oregon couldn't wear enough fancy uniforms to save them from a huge loss to USC.

Hopefully, Nike can create some new nostalgia with redesigned uniforms and give teams an extra boost of confidence. Because if the Eagles keep losing, they might as well looks good.

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Getting to know...

# Michael Fleck

125 lbs, Wrestling

BY PHAT NGUYEN  
Sports Editor

*Meet Michael Fleck, a freshman starter from Easton Pa., who is off to the hot start this year with two technical falls going 17-0 and 16-1 at the John Reese Duals. The former second baseman loves ice cream as much as he loves when the Met's are beating the Phillies.*

**Year:** Freshman

**Major:** Environmental Engineering

**Hometown:** Easton, Pa. It's about an hour and 15 minutes from here.

**What made you want to come to Wilkes?** The coaches really made it welcoming. Everyone on the team was really cool too. They made me feel really wanted. Also the academics were pretty good.

**What do you miss about Easton?** Probably the fanbase of wrestling team. Sometimes there would be 1,500 people at matches. That's the biggest thing that I miss though.

**1,500? Wow, wrestling must've really been a big deal.** Yeah, pretty much wrestling was the biggest sport. You were kind of like God around there if you wrestled.

**How did you do at states last year?** Last year I took third at states. I was pretty proud of myself.

**What weight did you wrestle at Easton?** 119. I wrestle at 125 now.

**Is there a big difference in the weight change now in college?** I wouldn't say a weight difference, but a strength difference, and how kids are older than me. You have to adjust to it.

**Have you ever felt intimidated wrestling someone with more experience than you?** No, I just try to go out and wrestle my own match. I just try to score as many points as possible. I try to do everything in my control.

**At the John Reese Duals, you had two technical falls winning 17-0 and 16-1 against some pretty good teams. How were you able to have so much success?** Well, just starting my team off right. It was great feeling to get that five point right off the bat. Getting that momentum swinging was huge. I think they fed off of that. That just made me feel accomplished. I like to think it spread throughout the team.

**Can you talk a little bit more about that first match?** I was up 14-0 after the first period. I just took him down and was dominating on top which is probably my best position. I just kept the ball rolling with the momentum going, and I kept scoring points. It was pretty.

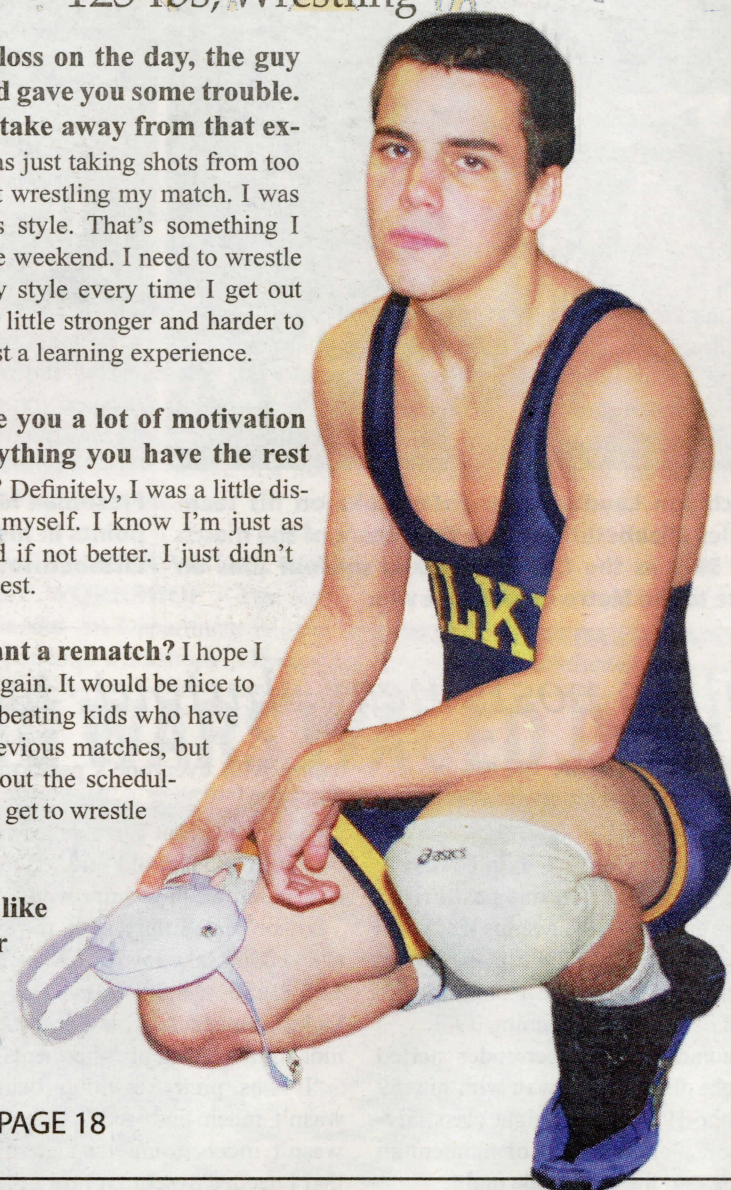
**In your only loss on the day, the guy from Cortland gave you some trouble. What do you take away from that experience?** I was just taking shots from too far out. I wasn't wrestling my match. I was wrestling to his style. That's something I learned from the weekend. I need to wrestle every match my style every time I get out there. He was a little stronger and harder to move. It was just a learning experience.

**Does that give you a lot of motivation to bring everything you have the rest of the season?** Definitely, I was a little disappointed with myself. I know I'm just as good as that kid if not better. I just didn't perform at my best.

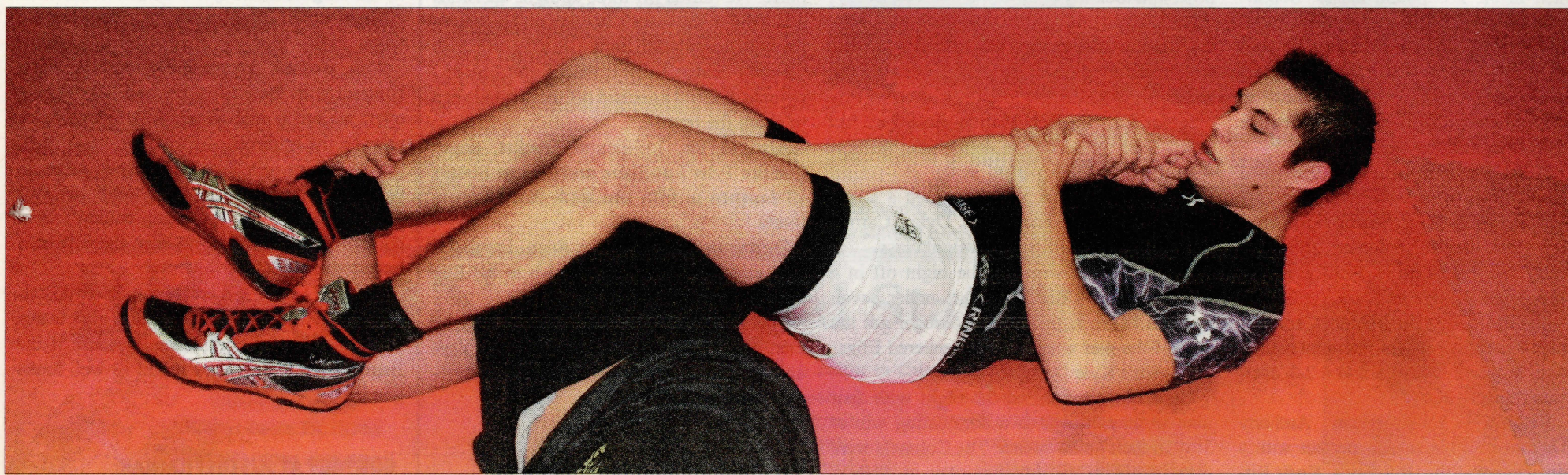
**Would you want a rematch?** I hope I get to face him again. It would be nice to beat him. I like beating kids who have beaten me in previous matches, but I'm not sure about the scheduling. Hopefully, I get to wrestle him.

**Are you more like your mom or dad?**

SEE FLECK, PAGE 18



SEE WHICH WILKES STUDENT IS CHOKING OUT PEOPLE FOR CHARITY, PAGE 16



For more information and pictures, check us out at: [thewilkesbeacon.com](http://thewilkesbeacon.com)