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Special Investigation

A black and white issue in shades of gray *An examination of race in the local community*

BY NICOLE FRAIL
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Editor's Note

After hearing complaints from Wilkes University students of color about treatment they have encountered at local businesses, *The Beacon* initiated an investigation into the role of race in local customer service.

"I went to CVS and was stopped at the door and told to put my school book bag down. And there were other people walking in [the store] with

their hand purses. The manager is the one that told us to do it. When that happened, I felt on the outside of society," said Paul Vaughan, senior criminology major and an African American.

The Beacon formed a team of six students - three Caucasian, one African American and two Hispanic - who became customers and prospective job seekers and tested policies and practices at local businesses. The following article reflects the issues that emerged alongside both positive and negative experiences.

No backpack policy

Nationally, the move to prohibit backpacks at large public gatherings, as well as in businesses, is gaining ground. In a post-9/11 world, erring to the side of caution has now become common practice, though

some businesses have also adopted no backpack policies in an effort to curb shoplifting and even trade secret theft.

Citing security reasons, some schools have moved to prohibit backpacks. For example, Tennessee State University has received criticism for requiring its own students to leave backpacks at the door in its cafeteria (ostensibly to cut down on food theft).

Locally, according to representatives at a variety of downtown businesses, policies about backpacks are up to the individual stores.

But are such policies uniformly enforced in a race-neutral manner? Based on a tip from a student who observed at a local business that white students were allowed to retain their personal belongings, while

See INVESTIGATION page 4

Memorial for Simonis dedicated at Wilkes

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Beacon News Editor

Friday, November 30, friends, family, classmates and Wilkes officials dedicated a bench in memory of Jake Simonis.

Simonis was killed on August 1, 2006 in a motorcycle accident outside of Evans Hall the summer before his junior year.

Immediately following his death, members of Simonis's class began raising money for the memorial through the raffle of sports tickets and memorabilia that were donated. From the raffle about \$1,300 was raised and given to the class.

Many of Simonis's friends and family spoke at the ceremony.

Simonis was known by many for his white Del Sol and his love of country music, and the fact that he "couldn't walk around campus without saying 'hi' to people he knew," according to close friend Laura Hanna.



The Beacon/ James Rosato

Fire destroys home on New Frederick St.



The Beacon/Jamie Gwynn

BY JAMIE GWYNN

Beacon Staff Writer

The fire that gutted 44 New Frederick St. and damaged the second floor of 42 New Frederick St. began at approximately 10:08 p.m. November 26, according to Wilkes-Barre Assistant Fire Chief Jim Clarke.

There was no one in the house at the time the fire began.

"One of the residents living next door heard what she thought was an explosion, and then she was checking her house and she saw flames..." said Police Sgt. Joseph Novak.

Rod Petrovich, who lives on New Frederick St., mentioned that the previous owner allegedly planned to sell the house after the health department shut down the building and that he is currently in a nursing home. "We were kind of figuring this [house] was going to go down. That's the way this neighborhood is."

When asked about the intentionality of the fire last Monday night, Clarke had no further details. The New Frederick St. fire is the fourth fire in the area within the past month under investigation.

Novak could not confirm if the four fires are related.

The BEACON

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

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SG Notes November 28, 2007

BY JAMIE GWYNN

Beacon Staff Writer

Treasurer's Report

All College: \$1,220.96

General: \$1,303.30

Special Projects: \$1,256

Spirit: \$815

Leadership: \$3,525.04

Conferences: \$9,500

Start-Up: \$600

Club Reports

The following clubs presented a report to SG.

Programming Board

Ultimate Frisbee

SAVE

History Club

New Business

Winter Weekend Theme - narrowed down to three main themes in no specific order: Movies, Occupation and Superheroes.

Survey System for Programming Board - motion passed to renew the system from programming board; takes care of a variety of surveying events for the University.

Student Government Meetings - next week is the last Student Government meeting of the semester.

Events

Winter Weekend - February 22-24

Internet2 opens new doors for Wilkes

BY CANDICE HALLIDAY

Beacon Staff Writer

Embarking on virtual field trips and videoconferencing from a desk at home are two of the many things users can do with Internet2.

In 2006, Wilkes officially became a member of internet2, a high speed internet connection providing all students and faculty with a broad range of beneficial internet tools. It allows the Wilkes community to make connections between what is going on here at Wilkes and at other schools around the nation.

According to Michael Salem, Chief Information Officer at Wilkes, "Wilkes has a connection with more than 45 research and educational networks across the globe."

With these connections, students and faculty have access to special databases, distance learning programs and current initiatives of member institutions. Wilkes is the first University in the Wyoming Valley to offer Internet2 services, but Wilkes receives its connection from the University of Scranton.

"This benefits their ability to do research, collaborate, and teach," explained Salem. Internet2's main goal is to

provide capabilities that are 3-5 years ahead of the commercial Internet. Like email and the World Wide Web, Internet2 designers hope to expand and capitalize on the possibilities of a broader internet.

Salem explained, "The fascinating thing about it is that it's invisible. You do not know you are using it when you are."

Aside from the web and e-mail, new technologies offered by internet2 allow people to network in a different way. It opens the gate to digital libraries, virtual laboratories, and independent distance learning. Schools can also receive equipment from other universities.

President Tim Gilmour explained, "My thought was that having such capacity would provide faculty and students access to a powerful tool to connect with colleagues across the nation. Internet2 is like the interstate highway network and provides more rapid transmission of very large messages. This includes two-way video transmission that requires significant, constant bandwidth that the internet cannot

provide."



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

A Wilkes University employee removes snow outside of Capin Hall on Sunday morning following the first snowfall of the season. The inclement weather resulted in Wilkes' postponement of the Masters of Business Administration weekend final examinations, which were set for Sunday afternoon. Despite last year's Valentine's Day storms, approximately 70 percent of PaHomePage.com visitors were not worried about the next winter storm on Sunday afternoon. AccuWeather predicted 2 to 4 inches of snow to fall before the storm was expected to switch to sleet and freezing rain Sunday afternoon and into the evening. On November 28, PennDOT released a new winter weather driving guide and online traveler information section in order to help drivers prepare for the 2007-2008 winter season. The new section includes traffic cameras, real-time weather conditions and advice on how to get your car ready for the winter conditions.

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A black and white...

INVESTIGATION from FRONT PAGE

students of color were not, *The Beacon* investigative team tested policy by dispatching two Caucasian reporters with backpacks into businesses, and mere moments later, sending a team of one African American reporter and one Hispanic reporter into the businesses, also armed with backpacks.

In all cases, the reporters made sure they passed by the front registers and employees and then browsed through the aisles for about five minutes before making a purchase.

The first business tested was Boscov's, located on Main St. just off Public Square on September 20 at approximately 11:30 a.m. Both teams of students wandered through the business with their backpacks on and neither group was approached by employees asking them to remove their backpacks.

However, the experience was different at the CVS on South Main St. When the team comprised of students of color entered the business with their backpacks, an employee immediately approached and asked them to remove their backpacks. The male employee said that by taking their backpacks off, it would be "easier for them to shop."

When the group of white students entered the location a few moments later, they passed by the same employee who had asked the first team to remove their backpacks, but this time, the Caucasian team was able to keep their backpacks on while they walked through the aisles. This incident occurred on September 27 at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Members of the investigative team spoke with local employees and were referred to the corporate headquarters for comment. Reporters attempted to contact CVS management at the corporate level on several occasions to ask about the policy and its enforcement; however, no messages were returned.

Other businesses tested included Rite Aid, Barnes & Noble, and Walgreens. In each of these cases, the teams of students were treated the same and all were allowed to retain their backpacks while shopping.

In none of the aforementioned local businesses is there a visible policy or sign that mandates customers remove backpacks before fully entering the store. In addition, in a search of the websites for each business, there are no stated policies regarding backpack removal. After *The Beacon* contacted the corporate offices of all businesses they were told that it is generally up to each individual store.

Employment applications

Team members also sought to garner employment applications at local businesses. In the case of CVS, RiteAid, and Walgreens the students were routinely referred to the national websites for application materials and told they needed to initiate the process there. There was no reported difference in the treatment of the students when they were referred to the websites for applications.

However, on September 20 at approximately 12:00 p.m. the African American reporter asked for an employment application at Boscov's. He was told by a Boscov's employee that the store was not hiring and was not given an application after asking for one.

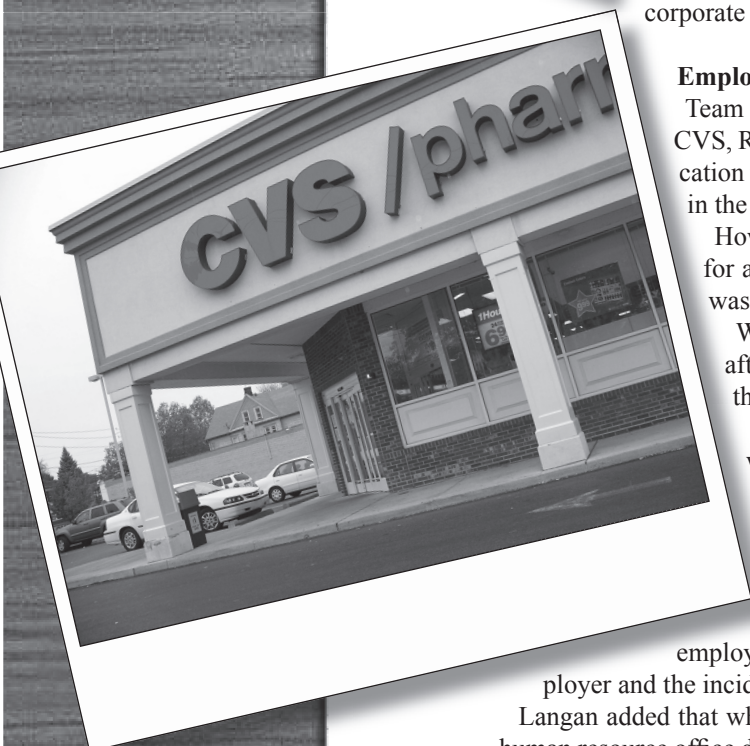
When a white male reporter asked for an application from the same female employee shortly after the first reporter was turned down, she said Boscov's was not currently hiring but told him that he should apply during the seasonal period and gave him an application.

A short time later a Hispanic female went to the same woman and experienced hesitation when asking for an application. When the female asked for the application, the woman told her, "Yes. We have applications but we are not taking them until late October- November. You might want to come then."

After much persistence, another employee of Boscov's urged the woman who had spoken to all three reporters to give the Hispanic female an application.

Laurie Langan, a representative from Boscov's, said that historically 17% of Boscov's employees have been minorities. Langan also mentioned that Boscov's is an equal opportunity employer and the incident involving the reporter of color with an application "will be dealt with."

Langan added that when a person comes into Boscov's asking for an application, they should be directed to the human resource office during the day, and she assured *The Beacon* that officials would reiterate the company's policies to their employees.



issue in shades of gray

Further evidence

Unfortunately there are no up-to-date statistics that illustrate the breakdown of ethnic population in the city of Wilkes-Barre; however *The Beacon* was able to obtain figures from the 2006 American Community Survey, which states that 5.3% of the total population of Luzerne County self-defined as being of race other than "white."

Also, Wilkes University's *Fact Book* for the 2007-2008 school year states that 10.9% of the total student population at Wilkes listed themselves as an ethnicity other than "Caucasian."

But the U.S. Census figures suggest that the nation as a whole, and NEPA specifically, will continue to see dramatic increases in ethnic minority populations in the workforce, schools, and suburban neighborhoods.

Ron Felton, NAACP local chapter president and long-time Wilkes-Barre resident, said that he predicted incidents like these occurring in the area. "I think there have been greater challenges for the majority community with the... influx of minorities in the city of Wilkes-Barre and surrounding areas. I knew as the number of minorities increased, there would be growing pains for them," he said.

Felton used an example from this year's Wilkes-Barre Christmas parade to illustrate that racism remains alive and well in the community. "There is racial tension. They [African-American students from Meyers High School Step Team] were invited to the annual Christmas parade. They were in the parade on November 17 and there were yells from bystanders using racial slurs... These young people were exposed to the words that we hoped to lay to rest."

Local police and school officials have acknowledged they are investigating the reported incidents.

Vaughan also recalled an incident when he encountered racial slurs.

"I was just walking [from A Plus on Academy Street] and two men opened their car windows and screamed out 'nigger' as they drove by. I was just thinking about what year it was and how long ago the word 'nigger' was accepted in society but it's nothing you can do about it," said Vaughan.

Several months ago, Felton and other local leaders held a public ceremony that officially aimed to "bury the n-word."

Taking action

Dr. Tim Gilmour, Wilkes University President and Chair of the Chamber of Business and Industry Board, said, "I don't think that anyone should accept mistreatment. That said, sometimes you need to be fairly sensible to what kind of confrontation you have. My feeling is that if I had [encountered] the situation, let's say, at CVS, I would bring it to the attention of the manager forthwith and say, 'is this your policy?' If it's not, the Chamber has a diversity committee and it certainly should be reported to the Chamber."

Dr. Maria Suarez, Special Assistant to the President for Multicultural and Community Affairs, also commented on what students can do when encountering these types of scenarios. "I would tell the student to first of all let us know. Part of our responsibility is to be an institution that serves this community."

Suarez also suggested that students should seek support from the university through the support offices or on campus student groups. "As a person of color I can say that when these things happen, it can affect the way you feel about yourself in a setting... and [let them] know that they are not alone..." she said. "It is important for [students] to participate in the activities that we have, because sharing those feelings of not feeling welcome or feeling that this is just a little bit different than where we came from, can by itself be comforting. So I encourage them to just seek us out..."

Jane Ashton, Director of Workforce Development for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, said that when the Chamber hears of incidents where discrimination is involved, they "have an internal discussion," she said. Then depending on the scenario they will choose their next course of action. One reason for this, Ashton said, is that "it is hard when the legal system is involved."

Ashton added that the Chamber tries to get local employers to "embrace diversity," and that the chamber was "key" in the formation of Luzerne County's Diversity Task Force.

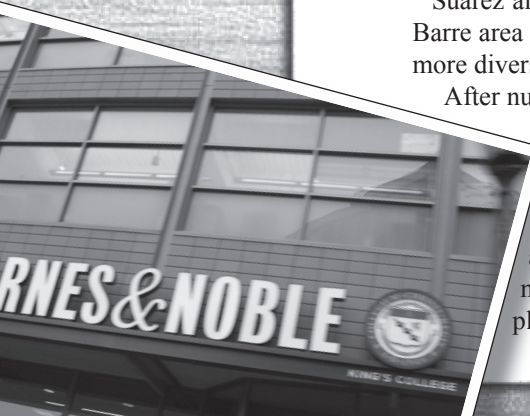
Suarez also noted that the community should want to be known as a welcoming place, because the way the Wilkes-Barre area is perceived by others affects its economic development. "This is a vibrant community that is actually much more diverse than people think," she said.

After numerous attempts to contact Wilkes-Barre Mayor Tom Leighton, he refused comment on the investigation.

In an area where only 5.3% of the population is not Caucasian, students are bound to run into individuals who do not treat them as equally as other people. Felton said the best thing for the students is to tell them what to expect.

"When you come into an area where you are the racial minority, don't be surprised if you meet people who are not as welcoming. There are a few good people, but then there are some knuckleheads. There are businesses that might focus on you because you stand out, and you're different, and that makes us a target in many places. And, if you feel that they're watching you, let them know that you know that they're watching."

* Valerie Martinez contributed to this story



Is online social networking all its “poked” up to be?

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

Over the past few years, there have been an alarming number of stories reporting that online social networks are where predators hide. As a result, parents limit the amount of exposure their kids have to cyberspace. Of course, any parent would be interested in protecting their child, but is preventing a child from visiting online social sites the right way to handle it?

According to Dr. Brendesha Tynes, a psychology professor at the University of Illinois, the answer is no. In fact, she argues that allowing adolescents to get involved in an online social network may offer benefits such as “enhancing cognitive skills and promoting positive social skills.”

But online social networks are not just for kids. An overwhelming majority of college students also actively engage in social sites such as MySpace, Friendster, and Facebook. One study conducted in California noted that 85% of college students have a Facebook

profile and 60% of them log into their account on a daily basis.

We contend that online social networks offer not only the opportunity to enhance social skills, but are also a way to create important connections that can lead to internships, jobs, and even advance academics. Yes, Facebook and MySpace can help users to locate the hot parties, but connection with others using these vehicles can also help the user find apartments for rent or buy a used textbook.

However, some caution is advisable, particularly as parents consider online social networks potential effects on younger teens and adolescents. While experts like Tynes have offered compelling arguments that online social networks can be beneficial, there are also vehement rebuttals among equally respected sources.

Of greatest concern is that, just as in all face-to-face social interactions, the reality is that people can be cruel and abusive to one another. This is especially true

among young people.

According to a recent CNN article, over 1,500 children between the ages of 10 and 15 were surveyed in a recent study and the results indicated that an alarming 34% of those surveyed said that they had been verbally harassed online at least one time in the past year.

How can social networks break down social ties? Well, in one disturbing case, online harassment led to a 13-year old's recent suicide. The teen, Megan Meir, engaged in cyber conversations with someone she believed to be her new 16-year old MySpace friend “Josh Evans.”

But inexplicably, “Josh” ended the cyber relationship after six weeks, telling Megan that he had heard she was “cruel” and didn’t want to be friends with her as a result. A distraught Megan committed suicide on October 16.

Following Megan’s death, her parents learned that “Josh Evans” had been fabricated by one of Megan’s girlfriends and her

girlfriend’s mother. Their intent was to find out what Megan would say about her friend online. In response to Megan’s death, the small town of Dardenne Prairie, Missouri, passed an ordinance making online harassment a misdemeanor violation punishable by a monetary fine and jail time.

Granted, the Missouri case is extreme, but it aptly illustrates that there is no clear answer to the “benefits or drawbacks” conversation on online social networks. As is the case for all social interaction, face-to-face, telephone conversation, non-verbal signals or written interaction, humans are just that, *human*.

This means that great leaps may well be made forward to advance individuals and groups. But it also means that abuses will occur and sometimes lead to tragedy. It is therefore necessary to be vigilant in our efforts to punish the abusers and celebrate those who are creative enough to advance us using this technology.

Should the drinking age be determined by age or maturity?

BY GINO TROIANI
Beacon Photo Staff

The other day I couldn’t help but overhear two students from Wilkes discussing the weekend they had out at a party. As I listened, one of the kids began telling a story about how he drank too much and spent the whole night throwing his guts up. I laughed to myself, but that’s not the funny part.

Instead of stopping there, this big shot kept talking about throwing up, and it almost seemed like he was actually trying to glorify his actions, acting as if everyone would be impressed with him. What? I’m sorry, did I miss something? Is it now cool to drink to the point that you throw up, and then brag about it?

Now I’m definitely not trying to condemn going out and having a good time. God knows that I do it just as much, if not more than the

average college kid.

But I get the impression that a large number of young adults are both uneducated and tremendously immature when they are thrown into a ‘party’ environment.

In America we grow up with the government and a majority of parents harping about how alcohol consumption is a big no-no for anyone under the age of 21.

To me, this silly law makes no sense to say that as soon as someone reaches a certain age, they are automatically mature, and the consumption of alcohol is magically accepted.

My perspective is that because the government and our culture has instated a drinking age, as soon as underage citizens get their hands on this forbidden potion that has been kept from them for so long, the majority of them act out and do not know how to pres-

ent themselves in a respectable and mature manner--much like the fool I overheard bragging about drinking too much.

The average European is exposed to beer, wine and hard liquor from a young age. The consumption of alcohol is publicly legal at the ripe age of 16 in many countries. It is not uncommon to see someone have a glass of wine at the dinner table regardless of their age.

Since alcoholic beverages are nothing more than just another drink in this culture, young adults grow up without the negative connotation that America stamps on alcohol, and instead are taught respect and moderation for the substance.

Growing up in a primar-

ily Italian family, alcohol wasn’t that big of a deal for me. If I wanted to sample a drink, I was allowed. Isn’t it logical that if we forbid young adults to do something, they are going to want to do it more?

In today’s society, I think the problem is that parents don’t want to be parents. They don’t realize that explaining about alcohol usage can be more beneficial than restricting their children while growing up.



Wilkes University students drinking on South Street.

Beacon

Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus. Results are based on 60 responses.

The Beacon asked:

Who has been the most dominant sports athlete or team in the past ten years?

- Tiger Woods-28%
- Jeff Gordon-3%
- Venus & Serena Williams-2%
- Michael Phelps-5%
- Roger Federer-5%
- Lance Armstrong-17%
- NY Yankees-13%
- LA Lakers-3%
- NE Patriots-13%
- Other-10%

Meat industry poses health risks to consumers & animals

BY LAUREN SALEM

Beacon Staff Writer

The meat sold in school lunches, purchased by consumers in grocery stores, and ordered from fast food restaurants comes from a massive rectangular, stories-high, gray building, with no windows called the slaughterhouse.

According to Eric Schlosser, author of the book *Fast Food Nation*, 5,000 cattle enter the slaughterhouse every day, never to see light again.

Prior to the "final journey," though, animals are kept in feedlots and exposed to unbearable weather conditions according to the article "Health" posted by the sustainableable.org. They are often closely packed together, have short ropes tied around their necks, and are forced to sit in their own manure receiving little sunlight or fresh air.

Such pre-slaughter practice has promoted the spread of disease, which makes meat industry highly dependent upon antibiotics.

The Union of Concerned Scientists estimated in the article "Health" that 4.5 million pounds of antibiotics are used in human medical treatments, while 24.6 million pounds are used in animal feed. Experts have suggested that the overuse of antibiotics in animal feed may be the cause of human drug resistance, among other things.

Systematic mutilations like de-beaking chickens and cutting off cow tails is another way meat industry maintain animal health.

Animals like cattle are fed high-calorie grain food as well as dead pigs, horses, and chickens to fatten the cattle while keeping the cost down according to Schlosser. Dairy cows are injected with rBGH, which is a growth hormone that causes the cattle to produce mass quantities of milk.

"Health" argued that the present methods of animal mistreatment result in poor quality meat. Crowded feed lots cause

animal stress, which lowers lactic acid in the muscles producing dark firm and dry meat (DFD). DFD meat has poor taste, dark coloration, short shelf life, an abnormally high pH value, and may carry bacteria and *E. coli* that cause food poisoning to humans.

The antibiotics given to animals do not treat diseases, because the bacterium becomes resistant to the antibiotics and according "Health," 14,000 American die every year from drug resistant infections. Growth hormone traces found in dairy products, which put people at greater risk for developing breast, colon, and prostate cancer, due to IGF-1 (a natural growth factor), are why growth hormones were banned in Canada.

The alternative to factory produced meat is all-natural meat from independent family farms, which is "meat with benefits" according to Kate Clancy, a

prevents diseases.

Family farmers permit their animals to carry out their natural behaviors in their natural environments and do not use antibiotics, growth hormones, or systematic

quality meat that is tender, flavorful, and less likely to carry harmful bacterium.

It's time the meat industry changes and sets higher standards for a better quality

of meat, and adapts a system that isn't as cruel as the current one. I urge consumers to contact federal representatives and senators and encourage them to pass laws that will help eliminate these problems.

In addition, consumers have a choice and can purchase meat that is specifically labeled "antibiotic-free," "organic," or "family farm raised."

If consumers take a stand and refuse

to purchase beef, pork, and poultry without such labels, the industry will

be forced to review its practices and make change.



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

This cow was saved and is now on a petting farm.

mutilations to promote animal health. This decreases animal stress resulting in better



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

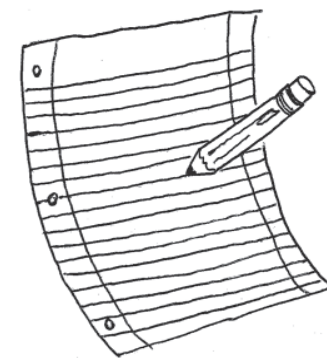
nutritionist who spoke to *Time* magazine.

Independent farmers feed their cattle grass, which is low in starch and what they naturally eat, instead of dead animals that transmit deadly diseases like BSE.

Grass fed meat is low in saturated fat and high in Omega-3 fatty acid, which is the healthy fat found in salmon that prevents heart disease and strengthens the immune system. It also contains linoleic acid, which prevents breast cancer and diabetes and is also high in vitamins A and E, which

What do YOU think?

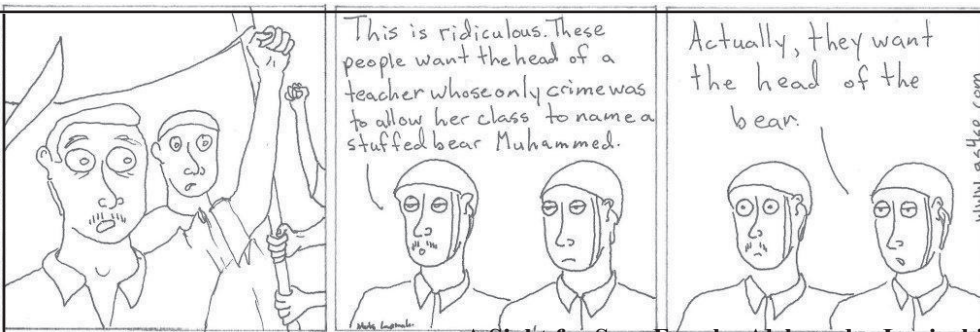
The Beacon wants your voice to be heard. Your Voices is the opportunity for students to voice their concern. If you want your voice to be heard, please contact *The Beacon* with the following information:



- 1 Contact information including your email address and a phone number where you can be reached
- 2 Your name, major, and year
- 3 Your opinion

thebeacon.oped@gmail.com

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



A Sight for Sore Eyes by Aleksander Lapinski

The Angry Rant: Ho-Ho-Holidays

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

It's Christmas time again, and you know what that means: Humane organizations peddling for money and volunteer work to help those who are "less fortunate." Whatever. You also hear people say that people need to put the "Christ" back in Christmas, because the real meaning of Christmas is lost in the materialism and mainstreaming of the holiday season. Fair enough, that's all well and good, and I'm all about things being real.

However, this season, I'm taking a different approach. I say let's put the 'Mas' back in Christmas. Mas, meaning "more" in Spanish, meaning: Let's put the more back in Christmas.

That's right, this season I'm all about the getting. More trees, more presents, less sentimental Christmas shows that the television networks try to cram down our throats, trying to teach us what the real meaning of Christmas is, despite hocking the very products that speak directly against the real meaning.

So this season, I'm foregoing the "It's not the getting... it's the giving" approach, and taking the "Give me that...and that...and that." Simple, right?

So, in honor of my recent loss of values and subsequent addiction to materialism, I present to you *My 2008 Christmas Wish List*.

1. **A Faberge Egg:** I don't know what they are or what their purpose is, I just want

to be able to say that I own one.

2. **A solid gold toilet:** I want a crapper that's constructed out of 24 carat gold, with Evian water in the tank and a diamond encrusted flushing handle. Also, the same guy who did K.I.T.T. on "Knight Rider" will provide the voice of the toilet, which will hurl insults at unsuspecting users: "Whoa, what did you eat?" or "You might want to get checked out!" or "So...you want to hang out sometime?"

3. **Maroon 5's *It Won't Be Soon Before Too Long*:** I don't really want this, I just needed a forum to say that Maroon 5 sucks. Seriously, Adam Levine sounds like Haley Joel Osment when he was going through puberty.

4. **Season five of "The Golden Girls" on DVD:** Oh yes, the season where Dorothy and Sophia enter a mother-daughter beauty pageant at Shady Pines. That one was hilarious! Don't judge me.

5. **Scarlett Johansson:** Yeah, you know what's up.

6. **The Godfather starring Christopher Walken:** How awesome would it be to see the greatest film of our time as a one-man show starring the greatest actor of our time? The answer: VERY awesome.

7. **Dane Cook's Vicious Circle on DVD:** You know...the version that was actually funny.

8. **A real version of Optimus Prime:** Honestly, how hard can it be to get a Peterbilt 379 truck to transform into a giant robot who is leading an army of other robots against another army of evil robots

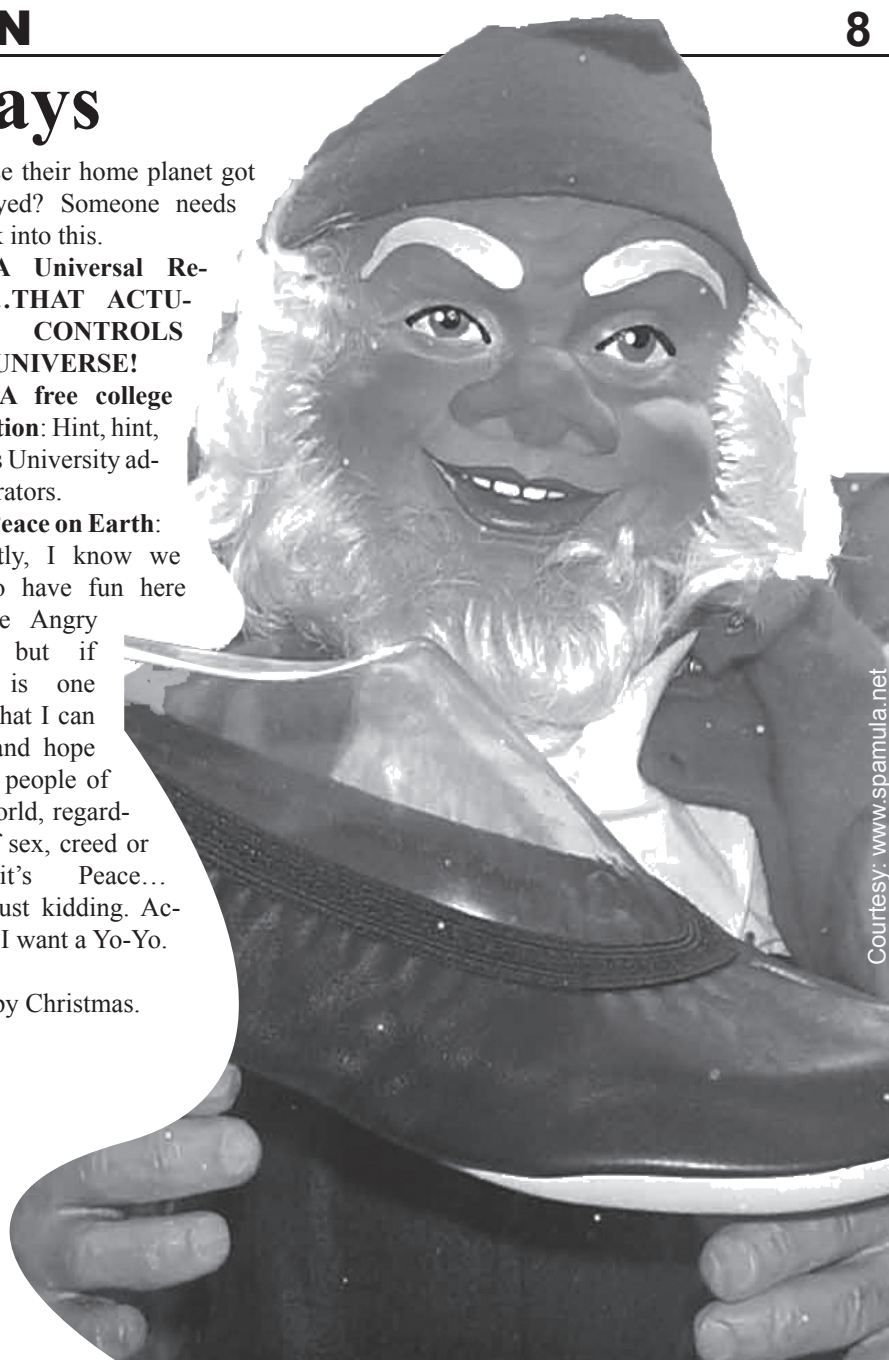
because their home planet got destroyed? Someone needs to look into this.

9. **A Universal Remote...THAT ACTUALLY CONTROLS THE UNIVERSE!**

10. **A free college education:** Hint, hint, Wilkes University administrators.

11. **Peace on Earth:** Honestly, I know we like to have fun here in The Angry Rant, but if there is one thing that I can wish and hope for all people of this world, regardless of sex, creed or race...it's Peace... HA! Just kidding. Actually, I want a Yo-Yo.

Happy Christmas.



Courtesy: www.spamula.net

What is your bumper telling people?

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

Ever since cars were invented, people have put stupid things on them to dress them up.

Drivers hang bandanas, leis, and fuzzy dice from their rear view mirrors. They stick mini football helmets and spherical smiley faces on their antenna. And some even put stickers on their windows that look like bullet holes or as though a baseball has been thrown through the glass.

But the thing that really bothers me most is bumper stickers. People put bizarre quotes, labels, offensive messages, and blatantly obvious statements on their bumpers, up the back sides of their cars and sometimes on the sides. Ah, a true testament to the mobile literate.

So what have we become proud to announce on our cars?

One type of bumper sticker that I see most

often is what I call the "useless statement" bumper sticker. For example, "War is not the answer" is a useless statement. Through such a bumper sticker, people articulate their lack of support for the war, and it's fine that they don't believe in war. That's their prerogative.

But such a message is simply preaching to the choir. A lot of people don't support the war, but a bumper sticker isn't going to change anything. George Bush isn't going to see that sticker and think, "Wow, that guy is right. I am going to outlaw war."

The next category of bumper sticker is what I call "the demands." If I read something on the back of someone's car, chances are that I'm not going to obey whatever the bumper sticker demands I do. One of my favorite demanding bumper stickers says, "Have a happy childhood." Really? I wasn't aware that I was in control of that. And I am an adult now. Chances are that any children in the vehicle are sitting in the back where

they can't see the stupid bumper sticker, nor are they able to read it if they could see it.

"Hang up and drive" is another stupid demand. I don't think that laws preventing driving and cell phone use actually stop people who drive and talk on their phones. Honestly, I think that listening to the radio in the car is just as bad. I know that every time I'm driving my car, I am blasting my music and singing at the top of my lungs, sometimes even doing a little car dancing. You never see a bumper sticker that says, "Stop singing and dancing and drive."

While bumper stickers that label the driver as "Vegan" or "Peacemonger" are non-threatening, when you see one that says "Insane," it is a cause for concern. If the person were actually insane, they probably wouldn't be driving. If they think that they are insane they probably shouldn't be driving.

Finally, there are the bumper stickers that no one should display on their vehicle. A

person with a sticker that says "Drugs lead nowhere, but it's the scenic route," is just begging to be pulled over on grounds of suspicion. If drivers are going to do drugs, that sounds like a personal problem and something that should probably be kept private, not announced on the back of a vehicle for police, children and any sane human being to read. "White trash" is another great example of something that should never be displayed on the back of a vehicle. Why would anyone be proud to be poor and uneducated? If that were the case for me, I would probably try to hide that as best as I could, not announce it.

Regardless, cars that are covered in bumper stickers just look trashy. It is just sad that people are willing to display their hatred, intolerance and stupidity on the back of their cars. Even though some bumper stickers are not bad, do the world a favor and refrain from displaying them. They only ruin the paint anyway.

Surviving the stresses of the end of semester crunch

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA
Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

For nearly four months, that physics textbook may have sat peacefully undisturbed on your desk, its plastic wrapping still intact. Or maybe it's holding up the wobbly side of your bed.

Whatever its function may have been, if you weren't using it to study throughout the semester, you're probably feeling a little panicky now. Finals week is fast approaching.

The official starting date for final exams is December 11, but students are already feeling the burden of a packed schedule. The last few weeks of the semester and finals week bring exams, papers, presentations, and more than a little stress.

"Stress is our response to any situation or event that requires adjustment or change," said Susan Biskup, a counselor at the Wilkes counseling center. "If we are not prepared to handle that adjustment physically, emotionally, psychologically, and behaviorally, we will affect the outcome. Such is the case with grades."

A survey of over 500 college students conducted by the Wrigley company in March found that nearly half the students reported feeling more stressed by finals than by choosing a major or by conflicts with friends or roommates. Forty-four percent of students consider themselves last-minute crammers, while only three percent said they never procrastinate during finals.

Finals week can be especially stressful to freshmen who are unaware of what to expect. The transition to a new school, new friends, and a new way of life can be stressful enough, and the addition of a week-long period of high-stakes exams only adds to it.

Woody Covington, a freshman elementary education major, said that he is not overly worried about his exams, but he is anxious to get through them. He believes they will be different from what he experienced in high school.

"Finals were like a large chapter test," he said. "I never stressed over them. I studied about a couple hours for each."

For his first experience with college finals, Covington plans to increase the time he spends studying to days rather than hours. He intends to study about two days for each final, depending on the amount of information he remembers for each course.

"I am worried about how hard my math final will be, because we learned so much new information in a short amount of time," Covington said. "My math final will be one of the tougher ones."

Procrastination and the following period of cramming can cause stress for students, which can subsequently make it difficult to keep their minds on task.

Biskup believes it is important for students to learn effective ways of managing stress, since stress is a necessary part of life.

"We cannot and would not want to eliminate all sources of stress, as that is what moves us forward," Biskup said. "Learning positive ways to cope with stress by employing effective physical, cognitive, and behavioral coping strategies is something we could take with us for the rest of our lives in various environments."

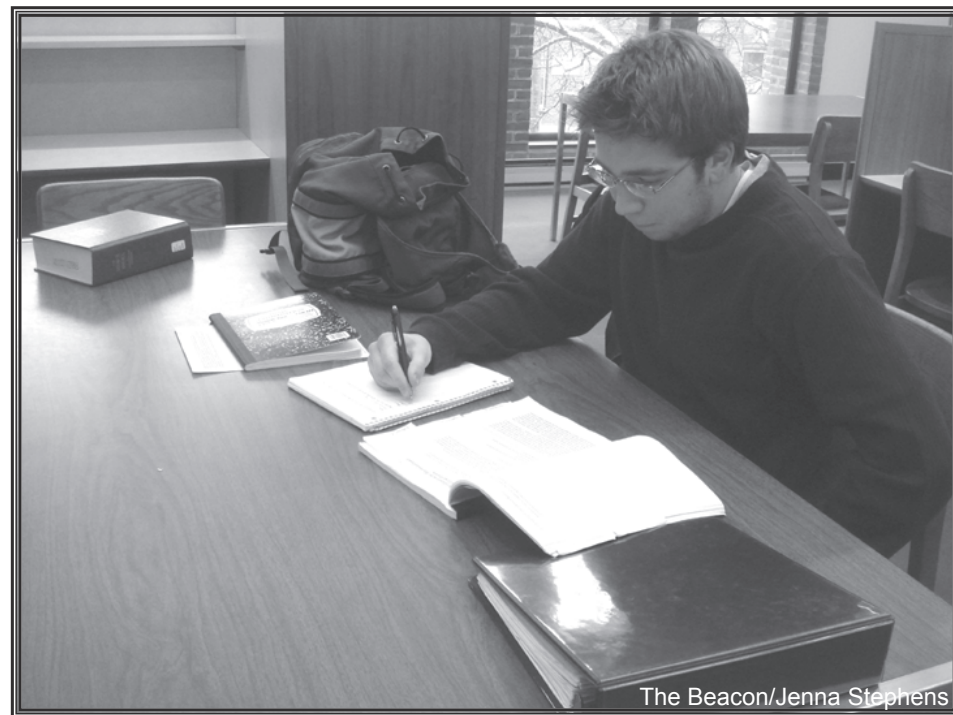
Positive ways students can deal with stress include relaxing breathing exercises, learning how to meditate, and employing a rational way of looking at problems. Students should set achievable goals and try to maintain a balance between academic, social, and work commitments.

During times of intense studying, students shouldn't be afraid to put the books down for awhile, get a change of scenery, and interact with friends.

"I usually manage my stress by just taking a break and chilling out," said Covington.

Physical exercise is also important because it can relax the body as well as the mind. Engaging in 30 minutes of enjoyable exercise a day can release tension and put students in a better frame of mind to hit the books.

Another way students can reduce stress is by getting the right amount of sleep. Biskup



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

Forty-four percent of college students admit cramming regularly for final exams, while only three percent say they never procrastinate.

said that most college students function best with nine hours of sleep, but the amount necessary is different for each person.

Covington intends to keep his sleep schedule as uninterrupted as possible, as not to add to the stress of finals week.

"I plan on getting the same amount as usual, about six to seven hours a night," he said.

However, getting too little sleep can make focusing on studying difficult. When exams loom near, many students choose last-minute studying over sleep, and end up pulling all-nighters.

Biskup acknowledged that it may not be realistic for students to get the recommended nine hours of sleep each night, especially during finals week. Instead, she said energy drinks and supplements are acceptable if used in moderation.

Naps can also be beneficial if they are not used as a mode of procrastination. Biskup recommends students nap less than an hour, so they can wake up reenergized without feeling groggy.

"I do not recommend taking a nap without setting an alarm because this can sabotage our study plans, leading to more stress if we end up sleeping much longer than planned," Biskup said. "Be aware of what has worked for you in the past and use those strategies."

Students can make the most out of study time by eating a balanced diet. When they

feel stressed and lack sleep, their bodies crave sugary, starchy foods like chips and candy.

"These foods give us more short-term energy, but they ultimately make us feel more tired," said Biskup.

Students can often be sucked into negative coping strategies that they believe to be beneficial. Negative strategies include smoking, using drugs, and partaking in other addictive behaviors.

One of the most popular--though detrimental--strategies is drinking alcohol to relieve stress. Although students drink to reduce stress and forget about problems, alcohol produces physiological stress in the body that mimics the response of other stressors.

"It is paradoxical to engage in an activity that produces effects similar to those we are trying to relieve," Biskup said. "They get the false impression that alcohol is relieving their stress, when in fact it is producing more stress on their bodies, impairing their ability to cope and study effectively."

The best way students can deal with the stress of finals week is to avoid negative coping strategies and employ positive behavior modifications and ways of thinking.

"Keep a sense of humor through it all," Biskup advised. "Remember that grades are important, but we are so much more than our grades."



Student of the Week: Melissa Bugdal

BY GERARD HETMAN
Beacon Staff Writer

When most students decide on an academic major and minor, their choices often tend to be in similar field of study. But for Wilkes junior Melissa Bugdal, her love of two decidedly different subject areas carried over to her college career.

Now, the English major (with a minor in biology) is putting her varied skill set to work around campus in a number of extracurricular activities.

In the English field, Bugdal was one of the founding staff members of "The Inkwell," the quarterly newsletter of the English department, which debuted last school year. In addition to serving as co-managing editor for the publication, she is also a writing mentor for English 101 classes at Wilkes. While working with the freshmen students in the classroom to improve their writing, she also works as a consultant in the writing center.

On the biology side, Bugdal has spent a chunk of time working as a research assistant with Dr. Michael Steele, professor of biology at Wilkes and an internationally-recognized expert on squirrels. She spent the better part of last summer working on a research team led by Steele to study squirrels in the Wilkes-Barre area.

In addition to her writing and research, Bugdal also serves as an orientation leader/e-mentor for incoming freshmen, and an ambassador for the English department.

For her ambitious slate of extracurricular activities, *The Beacon* chose Bugdal as this week's Student of the Week.

The Beacon: When you came to Wilkes, what made you want to study two subjects as different as English and biology?

Bugdal: I've always loved English; even from the time I was very young and would write short stories all the time. When I got to high school, I took an avid interest in science and biology, and I thought it would be neat to combine them in my college education and try to prepare myself for a career involving both subject areas

The Beacon: You were one of the founding staff members of the English department newsletter, "The Inkwell." How did you get involved with the publication right from the start?

Bugdal: Dr. Herbert-Leiter, one of our faculty advisers, approached me last year and told me about the concept. She said I may want to get involved, so I attended the first meeting, and I've been on board ever since. It's been a really neat process- all the staffers have learned a lot since the

beginning, and it's been a lot of fun along the way.

The Beacon: How has "The Inkwell" grown and developed since its start, and as co-managing editor, what exactly are your responsibilities for the publication?

Bugdal: The managing editors are responsible for making the final edits on pieces that are sent along to us by the copy editors before they are placed in the layouts prior to the publication of each issue. At first, we only published one issue per semester, but now we realize that we're capable of doing two issues per semester, so that is our current output.

The Beacon: On the science side, you've served as a research assistant to Dr. Mike Steele, an expert on squirrels. Can you give us some insight on that?

Bugdal: I first became involved with the research through one of Dr. Steele's classes, when he asked for some volunteers on a research project. My involvement grew a lot this last summer, when I



Courtesy Melissa Bugdal

worked on a project in the local area for the duration of my break. Our team is actually starting a new project next week, and over the summer we'll probably continue the research we started last summer. It's been a great way to work with the instructors and other students in a real-world setting.

The Beacon: Can you tell us some of the benefits for students of working on a project such as this?

Bugdal: It's a great way to get out into the community and meet new people, and get hands-on learning experience that isn't always possible in a classroom. It also helps greatly in learning how to manage your time and get all your work done as an undergraduate.

The Beacon: You talked earlier about being a writing mentor for English 101 students, what exactly do you do in that role?

Bugdal: I spend time in an English 101 class, where I work with the students in their classes to improve their writing. I also have designated hours that I spend in the writing center to meet with those students and help them one-on-one with their assignments. Since every student takes that class, it allows me to see a broad range of writing skills and help students of all skill levels improve their writing.

The Beacon: You also serve many incoming students as both an admissions ambassador and an e-mentor/orientation leader. How have you enjoyed working in those roles with both prospective and incoming students?

Bugdal: I really enjoy my time at Wilkes, and going back to my own days in those roles, it's really rewarding to be able to showcase the school to prospective students and their families, and to help incoming students adjust to life here on-campus in their first year.

The Beacon: In the future, what direction do you see yourself headed in after graduation?

Bugdal: I'm keeping my options open, so we'll see what happens further down the road. At this point though, I'd really like to look into some form of scientific writing and editing.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR
"COLLEGE BOOKSTORE" THIS WEEK!**

Barnes & Noble Wilkes-King's College Bookstore



"Live Acoustic Music"

Wednesday night in our café!

December 5th

6:30-8:30pm

"Dealers in Wares"

"Three Imaginary Boys"

Friday, November 2nd

7:30-10:30pm

Live Acoustic music



NEW ITEMS:

**3X5 PORCH FLAGS WITH MASCOT
IN FULL COLOR AND CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT!**

Don't forget to pick up a "Frequent Buyer Card" today!

Don't forget to use your **FLEX DOLLARS** anywhere in our store!


BARNES & NOBLE
COLLEGE BOOKSTORE

Students broaden perspectives in Yellowstone geologic investigation

BY ALISON WOODY

Beacon Lifestyles Editor

From June 16-27, six Wilkes University students had the opportunity to “work on one of the most potent volcanic centers on the planet,” Dr. Sid Halsor, professor of geology and leader of this specific research project, said recently.

The exotic destination that Halsor described is, of course, Yellowstone National Park. The group of students traveled to Bozeman, Montana, to survey and measure small shifts in the land surface as part of an annual study conducted by Eastern Illinois University.

Halsor explained, “The survey is conducted on an annual basis and is the type of survey used by geologists to monitor active volcanoes... Our team also explored the geology of Yellowstone by way of long hikes into the back country, including several ascents to the summits of high peaks.”

Yellowstone National Park became the world’s first national park in 1872. It spans an area of 3,472 square miles and is comprised of lakes, canyons, rivers and mountain ranges.

Halsor justified the importance of Yellowstone to this type of geologic research. “Yellowstone is the site of one of the largest super-volcanoes in the world and there is no reason not to expect that the past colossal eruptions will be repeated in the future,” he said.

The team from Wilkes led a high-precision global positioning system (GPS) to measure the movement of land in response to the passage of heat through the earth’s crust. According to Halsor, this is the same heat that drives geothermal features such as Old Faithful.

Students who participated on the research team expressed overwhelming enthusiasm about the experience. They also characterized the experience with such words as “amazing and unforgettable.”

Emil Helfer, senior environmental engineering major, described his first encounter with scenic Yellowstone. “The thing that really blew my mind was that when we landed [in Montana], we were at a startling altitude of over 5,000 feet. [The tallest mountain in our local region is barely 2,000 feet.] To see these huge mountains around you, and know that you’re already twice as high as you were back home, it was like ‘Wow!’”

“Getting to go to Yellowstone was an amazing experience. The area is so different from anything I have seen around here on the east coast. The mountains were so massive and the surrounding area is so flat that all you can see around you in the distance is these huge, dark-colored mountains,” added Helfer.

Drexel Siok, junior earth and environmental sciences major, said, “Having never left the east coast, I learned a lot about the western United States and its geology. I learned of the significance of Yellowstone and its impact over time. I had heard so much about Yellowstone and Old Faithful, but I never thought that I would actually get to visit them and... see parts of it that most tourists do not get to see.”

Helfer explained the students’ roles in the research. “We set up three GPS units running simultaneously to gain data over four hour intervals. We took the data and then packed up to move to the next location,” he said.

He added that the atmosphere of Yellowstone made the research fun, rather than tiring. “After doing this for two straight days, through the night and everything, you would imagine that the whole team would be rather tired. For me, though, it was like there was something in the air out there because, after a short nap, I was totally refreshed.”



Photo Courtesy Katie Ambrose

Six Wilkes University students traveled to Yellowstone National Park over summer break to research and monitor active volcanoes. Pictured from left to right are: Emil Helfer, Katie Ambrose, Dustin Biondi, Professor of Geology Sid Halsor, Jen Turney, Drexel Siok, and Joe Wilde. The annual survey measured small shifts in the land surface as part of an annual study conducted by Eastern Illionois University in conjunction with Wilkes.

Both students also understood that the benefits and knowledge they received as participants in this research would impact their studies upon their return.

“I benefited a lot from this experience, being an earth and environmental science major,” said Siok. “I was able to see how technology is being applied to [these] areas of geology. Being able to participate in this research project opened me up to an entire new field of geology and GPS.”

The research project was funded by a mentoring grant and Wilkes was granted special permission to study within the park, which is “extremely hard to get,” according to Helfer.

“Being selected to go out and work for this project is probably the best thing that has ever happened to me... The project itself is special because there is no one else attempting to study the yearly movements of Yellowstone National Park as we are,” added Helfer.

Halsor agreed that the students who went to Yellowstone were able to apply concepts they learned in their courses at Wilkes to one of North America’s premiere geologic localities.

“They learn how GPS technology is used to monitor active volcanic systems, which is an experience usually reserved for graduate level students,” said Halsor. “They also develop leadership skills while mentoring

other undergraduates during the survey.

“Furthermore, they got to experience the pristine wilderness and wildlife away from the crowds while hiking and climbing in the rugged backcountry,” Halsor added.

Helfer described the itinerary of one of those hikes. “The trail starts in the woods and after awhile turns into switchbacks, which seemed to last forever. Then, there would be a huge bolder field where you would have to make your own trail. Suddenly, you are then surrounded by snow... After we reached our final point, we would turn around and slide down the snow bank, where I would sit on the snow and push off, using an ice axe to slow my descent,” he said.

Siok acknowledged, “Although it was hectic at times, being able to participate in the survey was a lot of fun, especially with the constant threat of wildlife around every corner. I had an amazing time while at Yellowstone, not only participating in the research project, but with the other students that went... I will never be able to thank Dr. Halsor enough for giving me the opportunity to go to Yellowstone.”

Helfer added, “I learned so much about what can be accomplished with hard work and dedication to an idea. I was able to see things that I may never see again, things that a picture will never do justice and things that need to be preserved so that people a hundred years from now can go out and enjoy it themselves.”

SEASON'S BEATINGS

A simple offering of alternative holiday flicks

BY MIKE WILLIAMS

Beacon Staff Writer

Plug in the lights and decorate the tree, wrap the presents and hang the mistletoe, and make way for those flying reindeer and the jolly old fat man in the red suit. 'Tis the season, and with it comes all of the same old, beloved, tried and true holiday traditions that we hold so dear.

Just as we have become accustomed to all of the aforementioned Yuletide activities, there are some movies that have become so deeply engrained in holiday traditions, that the season just wouldn't be complete without them. How could we let the holidays go by without listening to that little kid talk about what happens to angels every time a bell rings? It just wouldn't be Christmas without seeing Ralphie walk down the steps, head hung low, in the "Pink Nightmare" bunny suit. And we can't forget to watch Clark Griswald trudging his family through the snow in order to find the perfect tree or a bathrobe clad Cousin Eddie emptying his RV's toilet into a storm drain and exclaiming to a stunned, yuppie neighbor "Merry Christmas! S***** was full!"

Yes, these films are certainly as important to the holidays as presents and eggnog; however, after watching them, year after year, viewers may be looking for something new, something with a little more action. Maybe a little dirty language? And hey, what about a little seasonal bloodshed? Well, if that's the case, maybe we can be of service, as *The Beacon* presents to you Season's Beatings:

1.) **Die Hard** - In this 80's action classic, hard as nails NYPD officer Lt. John McClane (Bruce Willis) is on a little holiday getaway to L.A. to visit his estranged wife and kids. But wouldn't you know it, as McClane attempts to reconcile with his wife (Bonnie Bedelia) at her office's Christmas bash, a group of heavily armed terrorists, led by the always awesome Alan Rickman, decide to crash the party. So, what's a guy to do?

Most people would sit back and hope that the LAPD can save the hostages and solve the situation with as little violence and bloodshed. Lucky for us, unlucky for the terrorists, Lt. McClane isn't most people. You'll forget the Ho, Ho, Ho's; this one will have you saying Yippee-Ki-Yay in no time.

2.) **The Ice Harvest** - It's an icy Christmas Eve, and all through the town of Wichita Falls not a creature is stirring, except for crooked mob lawyer Charlie (John Cusack) and sleazy pornographer Vic (Billy Bob Thornton). As freezing rain pours down in this hilarious mixture of black comedy and gritty crime drama, these two wanna-be criminals are in the midst of fleeing the town with \$2 million of the mafia's money. However, the combination of winter weather, slick roads and sleazy criminals may prove to be lethal, as it seems that everything and everyone, including each other, is out to try to take their loot and their lives. Who's lying? Who's cheating? Who's double-crossing who? And who will make it out of Wichita alive?

3.) **The Ref** - Everyone knows that the holidays can prove to be a little trying to everyone. However, for veteran burglar Gus (Dennis Leary), the term "Blue Christmas" will have a whole new meaning come New Years. After bungling a high profile Christmas Eve robbery of a wealthy estate, Gus must flee the scene of the crime, taking a bickering Connecticut couple, played by Kevin Spacey and Judy Davis, hostage in the process. Now, if Gus can just find his wheel-man partner, he can make it out of New England, loot in tow. Unfortunately for him, he has taken hostage the world's most dysfunctional family. As Gus waits for his chance to flee, he must play referee to the constant squabbling of the couple, their delinquent son, and their seemingly never ending stream of Christmas Eve guests, including a hilarious confrontation with Spacey's mother and a fight with a drunken local man dressed as Santa Clause.

4.) **Reindeer Games** - Car thief Rudy Duncan (Ben Affleck) is down on his luck. Its Christmas; he's alone and in jail. To make things worse, his cell mate and only friend Nick (James Frain) has just been shanked to death. However, as Rudy is set free only a few days before Dec. 25, he meets Ashley (Charlize Theron), his cell mate's pen pal sweetheart. So, deciding to assume Nick's identity, Rudy sweeps Ashley off her feet, as they check into a local motel, hoping to spend the holidays with one another. However, the two lovers XXX-mas love fest is soon interrupted by Ashley's

gun-running trucker older brother Gabe (Gary Sinise) and his all star gang of thugs (Donal Logue, Danny Trejo and Clarence Williams III), who, under the assumption that Rudy is actually his deceased cellmate, hope to force him to use his prior knowledge of an Indian casino in order to pull off a daring heist. And what better way to perpetrate a bloody casino stick up on Christmas Eve than doing it dressed as Santa Claus.

5.) **Santa's Slay** - Forget all the stories you've heard about jolly old St. Nick. It turns out that he's not happy and he's not jolly, in fact he's actually a demon who lost a bet to an angel, forcing him to spread joy and toys to the entire world for 1,000 years. However, when the bet is up, Santa, played by pro wrestler Bill Goldberg, returns to his evil ways, going on a bloody Christmas rampage, hoping to raise a little holiday hell. What more can we say?

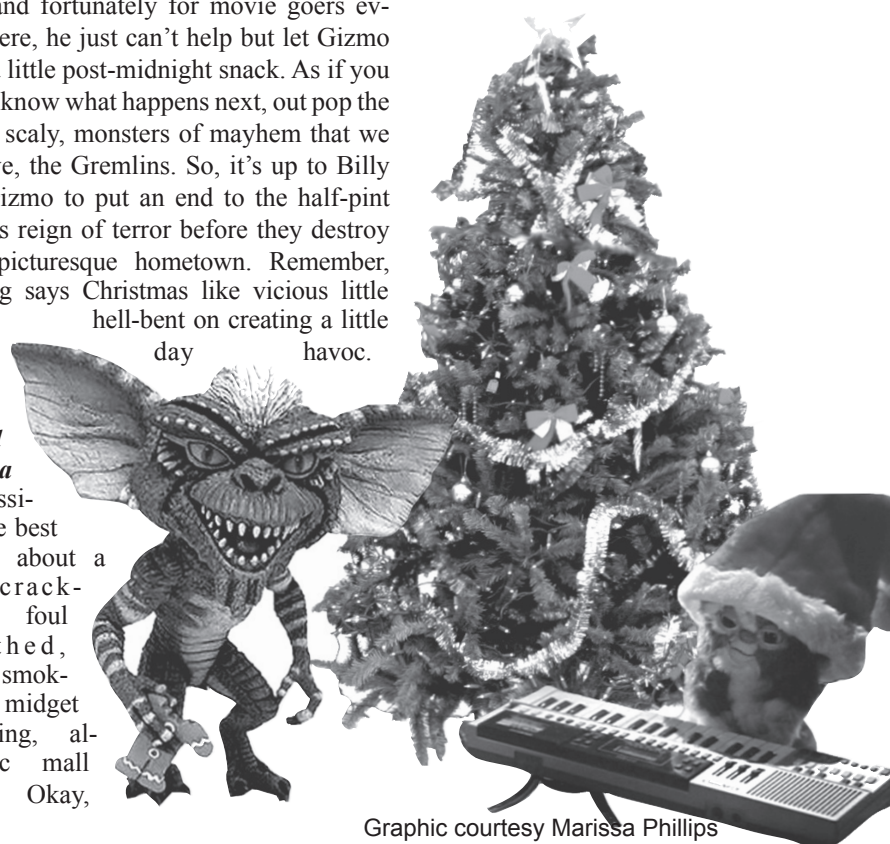
6) **Gremlins** - Don't feed them after midnight. Don't get them wet. No bright lights. If only Billy Peltzer (Zach Galligan) could follow these three simple rules he could have just enjoyed the holidays cuddled up with his cute new pet Mogwai, Gizmo, and his girlfriend, 80's babe Pheobe Cates (what could be more fun). But unfortunately for him, and fortunately for movie goers everywhere, he just can't help but let Gizmo have a little post-midnight snack. As if you didn't know what happens next, out pop the small, scaly, monsters of mayhem that we all love, the Gremlins. So, it's up to Billy and Gizmo to put an end to the half-pint horrors reign of terror before they destroy their picturesque hometown. Remember, nothing says Christmas like vicious little imps, hell-bent on creating a little holiday havoc.

7.) **Bad Santa** - Possibly the best movie about a safe-cracking, foul mouthed, chain smoking, midget punching, alcoholic mall Santa. Okay,

maybe it's the only movie about that, but that doesn't change the fact that Willie (Billy Bob Thornton) may be one of the funniest, and dirtiest, characters every committed to film. Willy, a professional safe cracker, and his pint-sized partner, Marcus the Elf (Tony Cox), have a sweet gig, finding work in department stores every holiday season, only to rob it blind on Christmas Eve. However, as this year's heist draws near, Willy finds himself questioning his career choice. Maybe it's the new love in his life (Lauren Graham), or the down on his luck little kid (Brett Kelly) who he has taken up residence under the guise of being the real Santa. Or maybe it's just the booze talking.

8.) **Black Christmas** - With this classic of Christmas carnage, you actually have two choices to pick from. Originally made in 1974, and then remade in 2006, this seasonal splatter fest tells the story of a house full of female college students, opting to stay on campus rather than going home for the holidays. Unfortunately, a killer is lurking in the shadows, planning on being much more naughty than nice. Simple formula:

Pretty young girls + psycho killer + Christmas Eve = Happy Holidays.



Graphic courtesy Marissa Phillips

Chorus to perform holiday favorites Friday

BY ALISSA LINDNER

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Not in the holiday spirit yet?

The Wilkes University Chorus and Chamber Singers will perform Christmas favorites at St. Stephens Episcopal Church on South Franklin Street, Friday December 7, at 7:30 p.m. in an effort to change all of that. A small reception at the church will follow and admission is free.

According to the Director of Choral Activities at Wilkes, Dr. Steven Thomas, the concert will feature a variety of Christmas themed music dating back to the 15th century. Some of the more popular titles include arrangements of "Silent Night," "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "White Christmas."

The chorus has been preparing the entire semester for the concert. The Chamber singers, which is a smaller, more selective group, has also been preparing; however, according to Dr. Thomas they perform more frequently.

Kaitlin Taber-Miller, a senior music theater major is the chorus manager. Her favorite performance pieces this semester include the arrangement of "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Little Tree," which features lyrics by e.e. cummings, and "Gaudete." She also commented

that the concert will feature common songs everyone will know alongside non-traditional pieces audience members may have never heard.

Taber-Miller is the primary communication link between the Thomas and the choral members. Both noted that any student is welcome to join chorus and auditions are held at the beginning of each semester. Chorus is considered a credit class; however a zero credit option is available for students already at 18 credits.

For those who do not usually attend choral events, the holiday concert may well be the experience that educates unfamiliar audiences best.

"It's especially good for people who are wondering whether they'd like to join chorus or not. Our concert is a really good preview of what material we'll cover and what rehearsals would be like," explained Taber-Miller.

"It's wonderful stuff. People may not realize they like it until they come. I hope students are looking for new experiences when in college. If they don't have experience in this, it might be something they are interested in," Thomas said.



The Beacon/Cara Koster

The Chorus and Chamber singers will deliver Christmas classics at their concert at St. Stephens Episcopal Church on December 7.

The Manuscript offers new format, strengthens content

BY MATTHEW GOGAS

Beacon Staff Writer

The Manuscript will unveil its fall edition on Tuesday December 4 at 11:00 a.m. to the Wilkes University campus. The unveiling will take place in the Sordoni Art Gallery.

The Manuscript is a literary publication that consists of art, photography, prose, and poetry. The English Department publishes an edition every semester here at Wilkes.

Over the years, there have been numerous changes to the publication with each edition. However, this semester's issue is a complete departure from anything that had been done with *The Manuscript* before. The pages were produced in a landscape format using Adobe InDesign, whereas all previous issues were laid out in a portrait format. The publication itself was actually hand bound with hemp as well. The motivation for using hemp is that it is a long lasting material and will hold up especially well as binding.

Though last semester's *Manuscript* was extremely successful, the editors really wanted to make this one better and correct some criticisms people had with it.

"We had some criticisms last year that it was too busy, so I took that into effect and I said let's do it with InDesign. So we did it on InDesign and it came out very professional, but we still had the artistic elements that we wanted, so we were happy with it and it ended up taking us much less time," said Kacy Muir, the executive editor and senior English major.

In addition to the design changes, editors aimed to enhance content. There was a much stricter screening process for what went into *The Manuscript* in this edition.

"It's a smaller issue than our last few issues and I like that. We were much more selective, we're always selective, but this semester we were highly selective. We have done a lot with the art submissions and how they are presented. We really wanted to tone it down," said Dr. Mischelle Anthony, Assistant Professor of English and advisor to *The Manuscript*.

This edition was arranged thematically as well, which was not evident in the last issue. It is arranged under the overarching theme "Industry versus Nature." There is a nature/nurture theme going throughout the publication. The pieces are arranged in a continuous order of positive and negative and ends on a positive note.

According to Muir, everyone had a great time working on it and is pleased with the way it turned out. Staff members are especially pleased that this issue took far less time than the last one to compile especially the executive editor.

"Last semester's *Manuscript* took us an incredibly long time. When I say there is blood, sweat, and tears, there literally is. I have cut myself so many times that there is blood on it. It was absolutely time consuming. This semester's edition however was not because we had learned. It's all about a lesson," said Muir.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, December 4

- Clay Aiken's Christmas in the Heartland at the Kirby Center at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 5
- Tim Reynolds performing at the Jazz Cafe at 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 6

- Murder Junkies, 21 Rounds, Corndogs and TBA performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- Wilkes University Jazz Orchestra concert at the Darte Center at 8 p.m.

Friday, December 7

- Northeastern PA Philharmonic at the Kirby Center at 7 p.m.
- Wilkes University Chorus and Wilkes University Chamber Singers Christmas performance at St. Stephens Church at 7:30 p.m.
- Unwed Sailor, This Will Destroy You, Strand of Oaks and Jewish War Veterans performing at Cafe Metropolis at 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 8

- Holiday Craft Fair at Arts Youniverse at 11 a.m.
- Dharma Talk: Eight Verses on Training the Mind at SLC 101 at 2 p.m.
- Book signing and Talk with Bathsheebea Monk - *Now You See It...Stories from Cokesville, PA* at the Tudor Bookshop at 2 p.m.
- The Graveyard Rumlbers, The Deadneks and TBA performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- Chelsea Handler performing at the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 9

- Holiday Craft Fair at Arts Youniverse at 12 p.m.
- Booksigning with Jim Rising, *Then Again I Could Be Wrong: The Book of Rants* at the Tudor Bookshop at 1 p.m.
- Book signing with David Fleming, *Breaker Boys: The NFL's Greatest Team and the Stolen 1925 Championship* at the Tudor Bookshop at 2 p.m.
- Wilkes University's Civic Band concert, location TBA at 8 p.m.
- Pull The Pin, Balance and Composure, Arden and TBA performing at Cafe Metropolis at 4 p.m.

Monday, December 10

- Monumental Slaughter, Jerk Reaction, By All Means and a Sixth Shot Ending performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- Driving East, Crash Romeo, I Am The Pilot and Springline Driver performing at Cafe Metropolis at 7 p.m.

FYF class competes in Gettysburg gaming convention

Original 'Oh Behave!' board game keeps players under lock and key

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon Managing Editor

Imagine being trapped inside an underwater lair, where the only means of escape entails navigating through 20 rooms, each with its own distinct puzzle to solve in order to advance to the next.

Now imagine that Scott Evil, son of Dr. Evil from *Austin Powers* fame, is the madman running this base, and the people trying to escape are Austin Powers characters. No, this is not the script for the latest Mike Myers shag fest; it's the premise behind a class project designed by Dr. Anthony Kapolka's freshman foundations class Constructed Pastimes, a board game entitled "Oh Behave! The Next Generation."

"Everybody took their own little room, built it, decorated it as such, and came up with a challenge that you have to do in the room," said freshman Michael Cignoli, member of the class.

The game, which is designed for six players divided into two teams of three, places characters such as Dr. Evil, Foxy Cleopatra, Mini Me, and of course, Mr. Powers in various modules around an underwater base. Each features its own unique puzzle to complete in order to receive a letter that will eventually contribute to a pass code at the game's end to evacuate the base.

"It's a race against time," Cignoli said noting that some of the rooms that include poisonous gas, or walls that close in, require its puzzles to be completed within a certain time frame, or players are knocked unconscious for two minutes. "In two minutes the other team can advance significantly," he said.



Students play 'Oh Behave!' in FYF class.

Cignoli's face appeared on an LCD television screen as Scott Evil, directing his captives on what and what not to do in order to escape each room without becoming toast.

After much play testing and tweaking, the class made a field trip and showcased Oh Behave! at the Fall In! 2007

gaming convention in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which attracts gamers from all around the world to play original games and buy gaming goodies like metal miniatures, scales, terrain, dice, markers, and even flying monkeys from *The Wizard of Oz*.

"You could easily spend three or four hours browsing. I had students who were hurrying me because they wanted to leave, and I was still shopping," Kapolka laughed.

Though the competition was stiff, Oh Behave! was generally well received.

"There was a lot of attention paid to the physical construction of our secret underwater base because it's unusual. Usually people will throw a green cloth down and they'll get little trees and get buildings, or if they're playing a naval game they'll throw a blue cloth down and then put some islands and some boats, but we had a physical building which attracted attention by just its appearance. And these are serious gamers," Kapolka said.

The freshmen who participated in the FYF class were able to conclude their first semester with not only a final product they could be proud of, but also a sense of team work.

"It was a learning experience," Cignoli said. "The goal of the project was to get everybody working together as a team...something that we hadn't done before."

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Kudracross

BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

Beacon Staff Writer

ACROSS

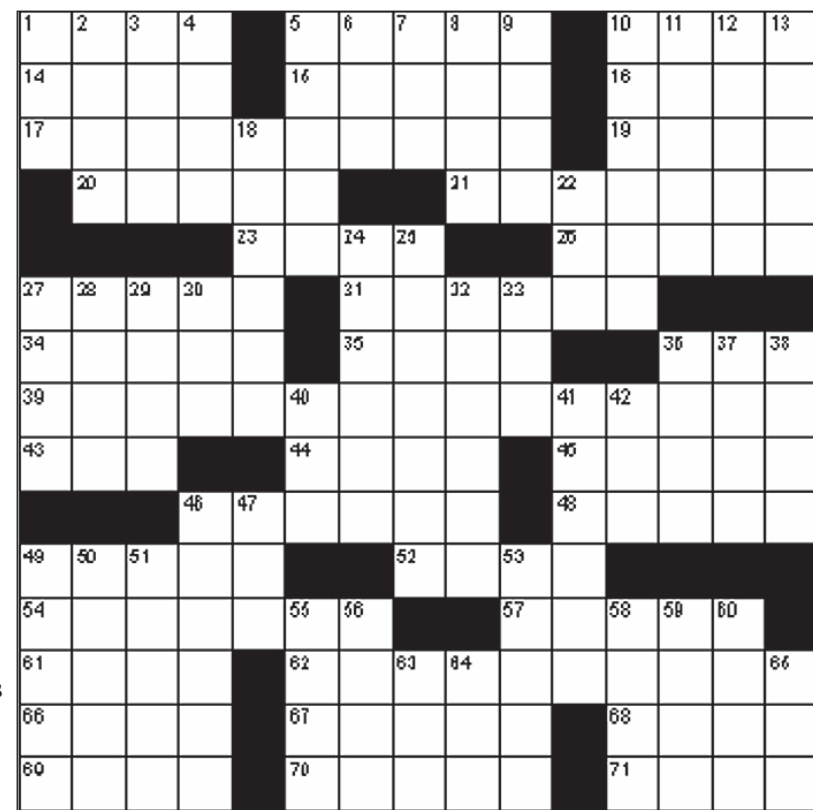
- 1 In the middle of
5 Secret hiding place
10 Fishing activity
14 Santa ____
15 Organism's specialty
16 Cowboy necessity
17 Builder for hire
19 Geometric term
20 Male bovine
21 Teacher item
23 Teenager's room
26 Shows the way
27 High energy wave
31 Oyster products
34 Defendant's excuse
35 Against
36 Watson's concern
39 Large cultivated plant collection
43 To place
44 Greek cheese
45 Friar's Club event
46 Affectionate gestures
48 Bottomless pit
49 Kitchen attire
52 Ticket piece
54 Camouflaged
57 Rice dish
61 Carry

- 62 Canadian province
66 Italian volcano
67 Operate a vehicle
68 Midwest product
69 Lawn starters
70 Shooter's sport
71 Meaningful sign

DOWN

- 1 Circle part
2 Sounds from the pasture
3 "Say it ____ so"
4 International ____ Line
5 Hunter trap
6 Repetitive movement
7 Play activity
8 Mall activity
9 Protagonist
10 Marsh birds
11 Blood conveyer
12 Andretti's concern
13 Shreds
18 Stay behind
22 Sick
24 Areas between words
25 Governing bodies
27 Babbles
28 Medicinal plant
29 Baseball glove
30 Business degree
32 Finally
33 Semi
36 WWII invasion

- 37 Lake monster
38 Aardvark's diet
40 Chancy things
41 Middle east language
42 Steal
46 Australian tree-dwellers
47 Rorschach's medium
49 Flu feelings
50 Greek philosopher
51 Ball-shaped
53 Sadden
55 Book supporters
56 Nerd
58 Crazy
59 Bohr's concern
60 "Ring of ____" Johnny Cash Song
63 Challenge
64 Intersects a st.
65 Columnist ____ Landers



PassiveAggressiveNotes.com

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

In a place I may or may not currently live, someone who shares a bathroom with me has less than adequate feminine hygiene.

It has bothered me all semester. Once, I was with my hairdresser, and the woman in the next chair said that perhaps I should place a basket with feminine hygiene products in the bathroom with a sign saying "feel free to use." She also said perhaps I should buy a book on the matter, and highlight the appropriate paragraphs. I could do that, but I guess that, and this whole introduction, would be considered passive aggressive.

PassiveAggressiveNotes.com is a fabulous web site that shows notes from, well, passive aggressive people. It seems that people take pictures of little notes, memos, and screen shots of e-mails, and send them into this blog-style web site.

You really have to see the notes. They're hilarious. Here are some examples.

(In a screen shot of an e-mail with the subject line "MY

LUNCH" sent to an entire office)

To the person who ate my sandwich today, the turkey was starting to rot and turn green, and the pepper-jack cheese was starting to form giant mold spores.

Hope you enjoyed!

(Taped to a door)

Hello-

I usually try to avoid intruding on my neighbor's personal lives, so I apologize in advance if this embarrasses you.

Since I've moved in to 3C, I've been woken up several times very early in the morning by you and your girlfriend having sex. I'm glad the two of you have such a great time together, but I'd appreciate it if you could keep the noise level to a minimum. I need my REM time!

Thanks,

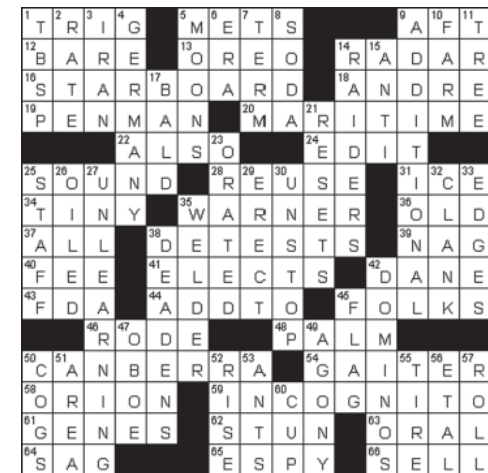
Nancy

So, as you can see, the site is humorous and very real. Send them pictures of passive aggres-

sive notes that *you* find. I heard awhile back on Ed2010 that they were looking for interns. Hmm. Oh, there I go being passive aggressive again.

I give this site an "A" for "Aggressively Passive Aggressive."

Answers: 11/20



Lady Colonels Endure Six-Game Skid

Injuries and inexperience makes winning tough for Lady Colonels

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

If there was any speculation as to whether or not the Lady Colonels would have a difficult time getting off to a hot start for the 2007-08 season, Saturday's road loss against Lebanon Valley answered those questions definitively.

The Lady Colonels have lost all of their first six games on the schedule, the teams' worst start since the 2005-06 season. During that season, the Lady Colonels started 1-5 and ended the season 6-19.

At the beginning of this season, the team started out with nine players on their roster, but played with eight due to injuries. The Lady Colonels have five freshmen on the team which makes trying to find their mojo even more difficult.

"We are working on our confidence right now because we're real young," said third-year head coach Rachel Emmerthal. "We make some of the simple mistakes, when once they get they get the experience and once they get going, they won't be making those mistakes."

After becoming accustomed to the players they have, while patiently waiting for the return of standout forward Lacey Andresen, another hurdle has been through into the mix.

Senior Katie Cappelloni recently suffered a stressed fracture on her left leg which left her inactive for the Lady Colonels match-up against Lebanon Valley. Prior to Cappelloni's injury, the 5'10 guard from Scranton (PA) led the team in scoring with 13.3 points per game, including a season-high 16 point performance on the road against Marywood University (PA) on November 20.

"With both our seniors out with injuries, we have two juniors, two sophomores and a bunch of freshmen," said Emmerthal. "We're young and sometimes it shows."

Last Saturday, the Lady Colonels were on fire throughout the first half and trailed by only four, 36-32, entering the locker room. During the first half, the team shot 56.5 percent from the floor. That would be the teams' best shooting percentage in a half through the first six games.

The Lady Colonels even enjoyed a 9-0 run led by junior Chelsey Gosse, which gave them a 24-22 lead. But thanks to a 6-0 run by the Lady Dutchmen, the Lady

Colonels were forced to enter the second half with a four-point deficit.

Following halftime, the Lady Colonels returned to the floor with a vengeance.

The team out-scored Lebanon Valley 10-5 to go up one point with 15:38 remaining in the second half but that would be the last lead they had.

Freshman guard Lori Lidlow from Toms River (NJ) scorched the Lady Colonels for 11 points during a 13-2 run by the Lady Dutchmen. Lebanon Valley went up by 10 with 11:26 remaining in the second half.

Freshman guard, Sam Lynam, scored a basket while earning a trip to the free throw line for a three point play. At this point, the Lady Colonels trailed by only seven.

Later in the half, three Lady Dutchmen scored field goals to complete another 6-0 run and the Lady Colonels saw the scoreboard read, 60-47.

Gosse, 5-11 forward from Allentown (PA), had a Kevin Garnett-like day from the floor with 21 points and 14 rebounds, including five offensive boards. Gosse shot 10-14 from the floor and knocked down her only three point attempt.

Lynam complimented Gosses' performance with 21 points of her own. Lynam netted eight of her 14 attempts while making 2-5 from downtown in 30 minutes played.

While Gosse and Lynam combined for 42 points, the rest of the team scored 18 points combined. Sophomores Nicole Quick and Ashley Makarczyk scored six a piece.

Overall, the Lady Colonels shot well from the floor. The team made 25 of their 48 attempts. They went four for nine from behind the three point line.

All season, the category that has killed the Lady Colonels chances of winning has been turnovers. Thus far, the team has committed 153 turnovers including 27 against Lebanon Valley leaving them with an average of 25 turnovers per game.

Even though they are struggling to win a game, the Lady Colonels were close enough to win three games but fell short by 10 or less.

"For the most part, we're concentrating on what the game plan was in the beginning and trying to complete that for a full forty minutes," said Emmerthal. "We're playing great blocks of minutes but we're not playing buzzer to buzzer. But this group is resilient. They're going to keep fighting. Right now, the biggest emphasis is starting the game where we want to finish the game."



The Beacon/James Rosato

Sam Lynam (21) and Chelsey Gosse run drills during practice last week. The Lady Colonels are 0-6 to start the season. In their next contest, they are on the road at Elmira College in New York on December 4 at 7p.m.

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Two Colonel wrestlers claim titles at RIT tournament

COURTESY OF JOHN SEITZINGER
Sports Information Director

Juniors Josh Pauling and Erik Smith won individual titles to lead 18th-ranked Wilkes University to a second-place finish at the Rochester Institute of Technology Wrestling Tournament on Saturday. The Colonels amassed 117 points to finish just behind team champion Rhode Island College (121.5). Williams College was third with 96 points.

Pauling, the third-seed at 133 pounds, posted an 8-4 win over Josh Wildes from Wesleyan College in his quarterfinal match. He advanced to the finals by topping #2 seed Aljamain Sterling from Morrisville, 10-5. In the final Pauling scored an 8-1 win by decision over top-seeded Adam Pizzurro from John Carroll.

Smith won all four of his matches to claim the 149-pound crown. Seeded fourth, he opened with a 4-2 victory over Charles Hoeg from Wesleyan in the opening round. In the second round he took on fifth-seeded Kevin Sutherland from Rhode Island, who came in to the tournament ranked eighth in Division III, and earned

a 2-0 win. Smith then took out the top-seed, Dan Mizener from John Carroll by a 2-0 count in the semifinals. Smith would earn the championship with a 10-0 major decision over Luke Baum from RIT in the championship match.

The second-seeded Heffernan gained entry into the final at 165 pounds with three straight he wins. He posted an 18-2 technical fall over Zach Feador from RIT and disposed of seventh-seeded Colin Boyle from the Coast Guard, 7-4, in the quarter finals. After scoring a 5-1 win over #3 seed Cameron Mills from Oswego in the semifinals, he lost a 7-2 verdict to the number-one seed and third-ranked wrestler in Division III, Gino Russo from Baldwin Wallace.

Shaun Farnham was the #2 seed at 125 pounds but suffered a 12-4 loss to eventual champion Rob Miller from Thiel in the quarter finals. He was able to bounce back to win four straight matches, including a 5-2 victory over Dan Bloom from Wesleyan in the third-place bout.

Adam Penberthy gave Wilkes a pair of place-winners at 149 pounds by finishing third. The number-seven seed won his first

three matches, including a 5-4 quarterfinal win over #2 seed Nic Miragliuolo from Williams. After losing to Baum in the semifinals, he topped Sutherland, 7-4 in the consolation semifinals and posted a 10-4 win over Mizener in the third-place match.

Justin Barowski was the number-two seed at 157 pounds, but had to settle for a fourth-place finish. Barowski won his initial three contest, including a 3-1 win in the quarter finals over seventh-seeded Zach Rolfe from Wesleyan. However, he suffered a tough 5-4 loss to the number-three seed, Mike Martini from Rhode Island in the semifinals. Barowski would bounce back to top Kyle Borne from Oswego, 12-3 in the consolation semifinals, but dropped an 8-5 decision to Nathan Klingensmith from Case Western Reserve in the third-place bout.

Third-seeded Zach Pizarro placed fifth at 197 pounds. Pizarro earned a berth in the semifinals with a 3-2 victory over #6 seed Joe Silverman from MIT in the quarter finals. He then dropped a 2-1 decision to #2 seed Kevin Davis from Rhode Island in the semifinals, and was beaten by a 7-4 count by eight-seeded Ray Moore from Rhode

Island in consolation semifinals. Pizarro would earn a 3-1 win over Scott Marhofer from John Carroll in the fifth-place match.

Josh Ballan was the number-two seed at 174 pounds, but he had to settle for a sixth-place finish. Ballan notched a win by fall in 5:16 over John Carroll's Travis Hammer in the opening round and posted a 5-3 win over Jared Teal from Oswego in the quarter finals. However, Ballan suffered an injury in that match and was forced to medical forfeit in his remaining bouts.

Release Date: Saturday, December 01, 2007



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| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

NBA Doubleheader

Boston looks to continue its run; Showdown in Texas

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Boston Celtics at Philadelphia 76ers

Just over a year ago, the Boston Celtics were well on their way to having one of the worst records (24-58) in the NBA, while the fans wondered, "Where did our beloved Celtics go?"

Several months later, the Celtics found themselves to be the front-runners of the Atlantic Division after making two blockbuster trades in which they received shooting guard Ray Allen and forward Kevin Garnett.

The trades worked out as expected, as the Celtics jumped out to a 13-2 record to start the season, easily shooting the team to the top of the division.

As promised, they are led by the trio of Garnett, Allen and Paul Pierce, who have helped the Celtics to an average of over 100 points per game, while holding their opponents to just over 90 points per game.

Pierce, who has been with the team since he was drafted in 1998, leads the team in scoring with 22.0 points per game, while Garnett's 20.1 and Allen's 20.1 rounds out an offense that has been great so far in the young season.

Also along for the ride are guard Rajon Rondo (8.3 PPG) and Center Kendrick Perkins (8.1 PPG) who have helped to supplement the big three with timely offense and defense.

The Celtics hope to continue their stellar run this week when they take on their division-rival Philadelphia 76ers, who are currently sitting on the bottom of the barrel, after a 5-10 start.

After trading Allen Iverson and buying out Chris Webber's contract last season, the 76ers were on their way to rebuilding a once great organization.

This season, however, might be another losing one in what seems like an uphill battle for the team.

After a 2-1 start to the season, Philadelphia would go on to lose five of its next 6 games, including a dramatic 100-98 overtime loss to the Golden State Warriors.

In Iverson's absence, 2004 first round

draft pick Andre Iguodala has stepped up to lead the team with 17.7 points per game and 5.5 assists per game, alongside guards Willie Green (11.7 PPG) and Andre Miller (14.8 PPG), while 6'11" center Samuel Dalembert leads the way with 8.1 rebounds per game.

Despite a solid defense and young talent, the 76ers still have one of the worst offenses in the conference, putting up 91.5 points per game, ranking them 12 out of 15 in the Eastern Conference.

Expect Boston to take control early, putting the game out of Philadelphia's reach by the third quarter.

The Pick:

Boston Celtics: 98

Philadelphia 76ers: 82

Dallas Mavericks at San Antonio Spurs

Last season, bad-boy billionaire Mark Cuban nearly had one of his dreams realized, as his Dallas Mavericks finished the season with a dominant 67-15 record, en route to winning the Southwest division. The Mavericks stormed into the playoffs as one of the favorites to win the NBA Finals, but were booted in the first round after losing in six games to the Cinderella-like Golden State Warriors.

It was a tough loss for Dallas, who one year earlier let a 2-0 series lead slip away in the finals against the Miami Heat, who would win four straight to win the series in six games.

Cuban and Co. would like to forget about the last two seasons, as they look to make the playoffs for the eighth straight season.

They will do so by rallying behind Dirk Nowitzki, as he looks to follow up his 2006-2007 MVP campaign with another impressive season. He is well on his way to doing that, as he leads his team in several categories, including scoring (21.1 PPG), rebounds (8.4 RPG), and assists (4.0 APG).

He is flanked by a solid supporting cast of role-players, including guard-forward Josh Howard and guard Jason Terry, both of whom were part of the past two playoff campaigns.

Howard is another cog in the Dallas of-

fense, as his 20.7 points per game is right behind Nowitzki, and his 6.8 rebounds per game rank him in the top three on the team.

Rounding out the offense is Jason Terry and Devin Harris, who are both averaging over 15.0 points per game so far this season, while logging over 30 minutes per game.

The Mavericks are going to need all the help they can get from Nowitzki and the rest, as they are going to have to keep pace with the high-scoring San Antonio Spurs, who are averaging just over 101 points per game this season.

The defending NBA champions, who made quick work of the Cleveland Cavaliers in last years finals, are helmed by the three-headed monster of Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, and finals MVP Tony Parker.

The Spurs, who have won three NBA titles in the last four years, are looking to make it two in a row, and have so far made quick work of their opponents so far by jumping out to an impressive 14-3 start.

They are led by team captain Tim Duncan, whose arrival in 1997 would signal the beginning of the greatest ERA in team history. So far this season, Duncan is averaging 18.5 points per game, behind Parker and Ginobili, and his 9.3 rebounds per game are leading the team.

Behind Duncan is Tony Parker, who is capitalizing on his finals MVP award by leading the team with 20.3 points and 7.0 assists per game, while also leading the team in beautiful wives, as his bride Eva Longoria cheers him on during the games.

Rounding out the offense is Argentina-born Manu Ginobili and his 19.9 points per game, ranking just above Duncan and just below Parker for the team lead.

It is going to prove to be a high-scoring contest, as both offenses are nearly even in points per game this season, with a slight edge going to Dallas.

In the end, San Antonio's defense is going to come out ahead, as they are allowing over five points less per game than Dallas.

The Pick:

San Antonio Spurs: 102

Dallas Mavericks: 96

*Statistics are current through 11/30

Double Take

Steph examines the stats that truly matter...

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

This week we have a double header. Well, I'm not really sure why they call it a double header.

I mean it's not like they are working together because two heads are better than one. They are still trying to beat each other, so the term "double header" is kind of stupid. Anyway, all that "double header" means to me is that I need to pick two winning teams instead of one.

Hmm, this week let's play a game called, "Pick the winning teams for this week by re-arranging letters to spell different words." Let me tell you, this sounded like a good idea at the time but it did take me about 45 minutes to find words in these team names.

First up we have the San Antonio Spurs and the Dallas Mavericks. I have never heard of the Mavericks and I'm not sure what one is, but that is not the point. Arranging the letters in San Antonio Spurs, I came up with "Santa no soup, sir." I did leave out the N but I couldn't figure out what else to do with it, so I find that perfectly acceptable. Dallas Mavericks turned into "Vac skills are mad." By saying "vac" I either mean vacation or vacuuming. Either way the Mavericks take this round, they have mad skills while the Spurs are just trying to boss around the jolly, big man.

The other game I have to choose a winner for is the Boston Celtics and the Philadelphia 76ers. I was super excited to make the word *Beacon* out of Boston Celtics but the two other words are what kill the team. "Beacon is lost" is not exactly the way to win there, Celtics. Things got tough when I got to the 76ers. I mean there is a number in the name. I had to stretch this one a bit and I came up with "I hhid 76 real apples." I added the extra H to "hid" because I didn't want to throw away another letter. So the 76ers win this one because they did not say anything negative about *The Beacon*.

With that said, the Mavericks and the 76ers are my picks for the winners this week. And just in case you were wondering yes, I realize that I have officially found the worst way to pick a winning team. Well, there's always next time.

Athlete of the Week:

Chris Gulla

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

After battling in the most intense game so far this season, the Colonels nearly fell short two points in front of 600 fans at home to Susquehanna University during the closing seconds. But the sophomore guard from Berlin (NJ), Chris Gulla, had other plans.

The Colonels trailed by two after Crusaders guard, Bryan Majors, cashed in a pair free throws. With only 15 seconds remaining, head coach Jerry Rickrode signaled a time-out to the three men in zebra-print shirts.

In the huddle, Rickrode designed a play that was intended for Gulla to come off a screen at the top of the three point line to either tie the game or pop in jump-shot to win by one.

The buzzer went off for the Colonels to return to the floor. The once ecstatic fans in the student section, went nervously silent hoping the Colonels would respond.

After in bounding the ball, the play intended for Gulla faltered because the Crusaders denied him the ball, which forced senior guard Matt Gould to pull up for a the three pointer.

"I thought it was good once it went up but it ended up popping out," said Gulla. "I went in for the offensive rebound, got the ball and was able to make the layup to put the game into overtime."

"When I saw it hit the back off the rim and Gulla flying in for the rebound, I knew there was enough time for him to get a good shot off," said Gould. "When he made it, I was excited."

Gulla darted in from the right side with four second remaining on the clock. The ball bounced off the rim and into his hands for the game-tying basket. The Crusaders desperately launched a shot from half court but to no avail. After-

wards, he turned to the hundreds of fans screaming in relief and let out a roar of his own as his teammates patted his head to get ready for overtime.

"It felt great, man. Everybody was going crazy. It was good," said Gulla. The Colonels finished off the Crusaders in overtime 74-72 after junior forward Steve Kline muscled his way to a game-winning lay-up with 0.4 remaining on the clock.

"I knew we were going to win in overtime because there was so much momentum going our way," said Gulla.

Had it not been for Gullas' hustle on the offensive glass, the Colonels might have fallen to a 2-1 record, but instead, they're undefeated through three.

Gulla finished the game last Tuesday with a career high 19 points on a 5-8 shooting day. He went 7-11 from the free throw line along with hitting two out of three from downtown. He also snatched seven rebounds and played 40 out of the total 45 minutes.

But prior to the game, his mind wasn't focused on completing a memorable offensive game but rather shutting down senior Josh Robinson, a former division I player.

"I went into the game knowing that I had to stop him," said Gulla. "I wasn't worrying about being on the (offensive) end, because I know my teammates could make plays. My main role was to shut him down."

Robinson scored 22 points after shooting 5-8 from the floor and 4-8 from the arc. Last year the Colonels played the Crusaders on the road and Robinson netted 24 points on the Colonels.

As for Gulla, he approached defending Robinson relatively well considering he's a sophomore.

After the Colonels win over the Crusaders, Gulla is now the sixth leading scorer on the team averaging exactly 10 points per contest.



The Beacon/James Rosato

After a career day against the Crusaders, sophomore Chris Gulla was all smiles. Gulla finished with 19 points including a game tying basket at the end of regulation.

SOCCKER

Wilkes men's and women's soccer earn accolades

The Wilkes University men's and women's soccer teams have been awarded the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Team Academic Award.

The award is presented to any team that maintains a grade point average of 3.00 or better on a 4.00 scale during the year. The list of teams includes NCAA Division I members, NCAA Division II members and NCAA Division III members.

The women's soccer team posted a 3.45 grade point average to rank 43rd among 295 women's teams that garnered the honor. The Lady Colonels grade point average is the 14th highest among Division III schools that were selected.

The men's team fashioned a grade point average of 3.12 to also earn the honor. The Colonels were one of 111 men's teams from throughout the country that achieved the award. The men's team fashioned a grade point average of 3.12 to also earn the honor. The Colonels were one of 111 men's teams from throughout the country that achieved the award.

The Colonels also had three players earn honorable mention NSCAA/adidas College Men's Scholar All-East Region accolades. The list includes 2007 graduates Bryan Riley and Matt Foreman, and current Wilkes senior Jimmy Thomas.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

5

Number of players who scored double figures in the Colonels home win over Susquehanna last Tuesday. Gulla, Kline, Kresge, Gould and Gabriel all scored 11 or more.

21

Number of points apiece scored by junior Chelsey Gosse and freshman Sam Lynam in the Lady Colonels loss to Lebanon Valley on Saturday. Gosse also grabbed 14 rebounds.

293

Number of career wins by Colonels basketball head coach Jerry Rickrode through 16 years. Rickrode holds the Division III record for the fastest coach to reach 200 wins.

56

Days remaining until the next Beacon issue is released. Remember to check wilkes.edu for your latest sports coverage. Happy Holidays from The Beacon Sports Staff!



The Beacon/James Rosato

A Lay-Up to Remember

Colonels Cruise Past Crusaders with 0.2 left in OT

BY CARLTON HOLMES
Beacon Sports Editor

Even though last Tuesday's home game against Susquehanna was only the third of the season for the Colonels, it certainly felt as if the playoffs started a little early this year.

Over 600 fans filled the Marts Gym to watch both teams collide in a much anticipated non-conference bout. Lucky for them, every second was worth the price of admission.

After sophomore guard Chris Gulla rescued the Colonels from their first loss of the season by snatching an offensive rebound and kissing a layup off the glass at the end of regula-

tion, the team entered overtime with a swagger that sent the Crusaders home in style.

During the final seconds of overtime, senior guard Matt Gould made one of two free throws that would put the Colonels up by two. Consequently, the Crusaders called a time-out with 29 seconds remaining in overtime.

Susquehanna's senior guard, Josh Robinson, drove down the right side of the Colonels 2-3 zone to hit teammate Hunter McKain on a pass for a chip shot. McKain capitalized on the opportunity to tie the game at 72.

The Colonels inbounded the ball with 19 seconds on the clock

without any desire to call a time-out of their own to set up a play. Instead, they pushed the ball down the floor, passed it to junior Steve Kline standing on the block and the rest was history.

Kline held the ball for a couple seconds before making his move. Surrounded by two Crusaders, Kline would sneak his way past one, while bombarding over the other to cash in the lay-up that would put the Colonels up 74-72 with 0.2 seconds remaining.

"I had to get the shot up quick," said Kline. "Matty (Gould) got me the ball in the post and I knew I had to get the shot up. And then, it was the game-winner from there

As head coach of the Dallas Mavericks, Avery Johnson would say, the entire game was a "dog fight."

Both teams were in double penalty foul situations early in the second half, at approximately the 11:00 mark. The Crusaders were charged with over 32 fouls as they saw their record drop to 3-2. The Colonels committed 22.

In a seesaw battle that went right down to the wire, there were over 10 lead changes in the game.

Five Colonels scored double figures. Gulla led all scorers with 19. Gould and Kline each had 12 while last year's MAC Rookie of the Year, Tom Kresge, scored 16 on six of 18 shooting. Sophomore

Anthony Gabriel contributed with 11 off the bench.

Crusaders' guard Josh Robinson led all scorers with 22 points.

"I think this (game) was a gut check, because they're (Susquehanna) very talented," said head coach Jerry Rickrode. "It's good to be able to play a close game like that and pull it out."

For the second consecutive season, the Colonels and Crusaders fought all the way to the closing seconds. Last year, the Colonels visited the Crusaders in front of 650 fans and left with a 87-86 victory to improve to 3-1.

The Colonels return to action tomorrow on the road against William Paterson (NJ).