

The BEACON

Wilkes University Wilkes-Barre, PA

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW
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Campus Newspapers Missing

Student Affairs investigates leads

Editorial Note: This week was a difficult one for those of us on the editorial staff of The Beacon. It is not often that an organization that reports the news becomes part of the news. It is a position in which no journalist or news organization wishes to be, because the primary goal for most news outlets is objectivity and distance in news coverage. Despite this, The Beacon is part of this week's news and is forced to deal with the delicate task of reporting about itself. As a staff, we've done so to the best of our journalistic ability, following the code of ethics of this newspaper and of the journalism profession. In our effort to remain as objective as possible, we consciously assigned this story to a consistent Beacon reporter who has limited connection to those involved.

BY JULIE MELF
Beacon Asst. News Editor

The Office of Student Affairs is investigating the disappearance of several hundred *Beacons* last week, after a *Beacon* staff member discovered a surveillance tape suggesting a Student Government (SG) member is responsible.

On Tuesday afternoon, *The Beacon's* Editor-in-Chief, Gabe LeDonne, noticed copies of *The Beacon* were missing at a majority of distribution drop off sites and immediately attempted to discover their whereabouts.

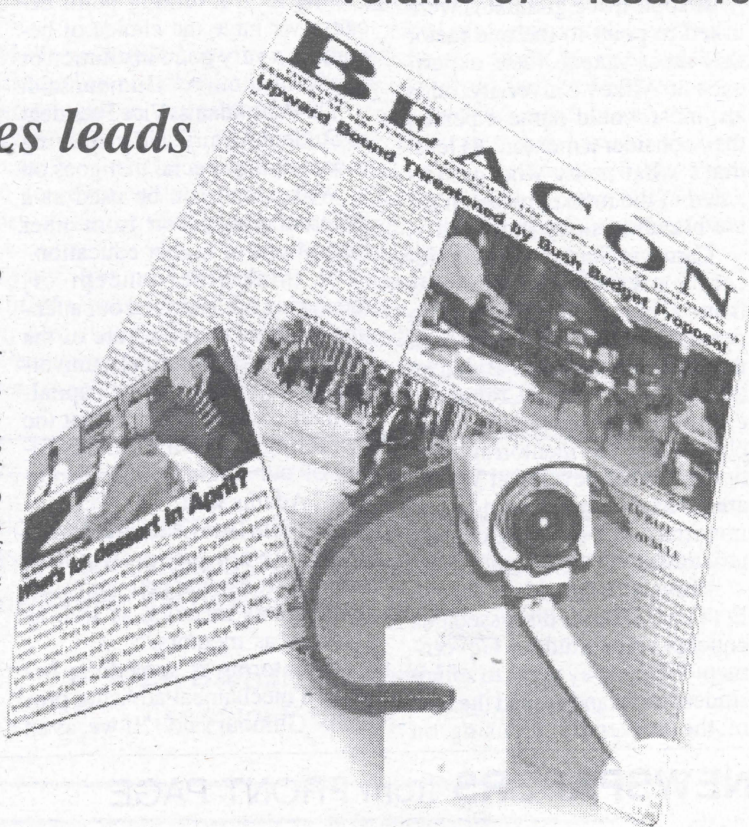
During his investigation, LeDonne noticed a camera was located near Rifkin Café, one of the distribution drop-off sites for the paper. He immediately turned

to the Office of Public Safety to find out if footage from that camera existed.

"On the tape, I saw a member of Student Government walking into the picture carrying, I'd say, about a dozen *Beacons* picking one off of the couch, walking over to the computer area...picking up several from around there and as [the SG member is] walking out of the picture, dumping them into the trash in the corner of Rifkin Café," LeDonne said.

Without revealing any specifics, Chris Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services did confirm that such a videotape does exist

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109th Field Artillery Homecoming



The Beacon/Kristin Kile

Members of the 109th Field Artillery Alpha Battery returned home on Saturday after a year at war. Hundreds of family, friends and community members lined the streets with American flags and signs welcoming home the troops. Supporters then gathered at the Kingston Armory where the troops were dismissed and reunited with their families.

Here, supporters waived flags as the troops make their way to the Kingston Armory.

See more on Page 4

Raucus Winter Weekend causes damage

BY KRISTIN KILE
Beacon News Editor

Wilkes-Barre police and Wilkes University Public Safety officers were out in full force February 11-13, which proved the rowdiest few days of the academic year to date: Winter Weekend.

Chris Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services said there were incidents that occurred over that weekend, but could not directly relate them exclusively to Winter Weekend. He said there were upwards of eight arrests off campus involving alcohol.

"I do know there were numerous arrests made off campus for alcohol violations, probably more so than on a typical weekend.

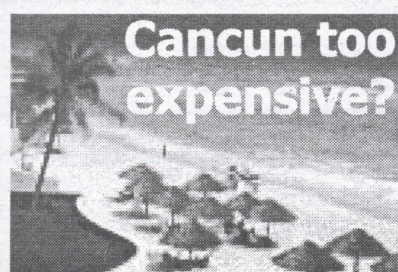
It would be safe to say that... parties that occurred around Winter Weekend contributed to the increase in arrests for public drunkenness, underage drinking," Bailey said.

Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President of Student Affairs said there are certain weekends that cause heightened social activity such as Homecoming and Winter Weekend. Because of the increased social activity, negative attention has been drawn to students.

"The activities of the weekend have drawn the attention of the authorities as well as the neighbors...the university, and it

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Cancun too expensive?



GRAFFITI ART 13

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Running for heat



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New Wilkes brand focuses on long-standing identity: mentoring

BY KRISTIN KILE

Beacon News Editor

If soon-to-be graduates were asked to point to the one factor that most shaped their experience at Wilkes University, odds are most would name a person they consider a mentor. At least that's what many who participated in the market research for the branding study indicated.

Carnegie Communications recently presented its findings from a months-long study on perceptions and attitudes about the Wilkes experience. Based on this study, Carnegie Communications representatives concluded that the mentoring relationships that develop at Wilkes are one of its most unique and important self-defining characteristics.

University President Joseph E. (Tim) Gilmour discussed this concept with Student Government Wednesday night to solicit student input and spread the idea of the university focusing on

mentoring.

"We're at a turning point because we have the choice of becoming a very good institution or a great institution," Gilmour said.

Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President of Student Affairs said mentoring is something special that goes on at Wilkes and can be used as a differentiating factor from other institutions of higher education.

"I think [the concept of] mentoring has captured our attention because of the nature of the Wilkes education...[it's] a university strength that can be capitalized on. So my sense is that the mentoring will be the primary focus of our strategy into the future," Adams said.

Gilmour said the mentoring process is not just professor to student. It can happen with staff members as mentors, as well as students as mentors.

"Mentoring is something beyond a mechanical advising process," Gilmour said. "If we, as an

organization, really focus on it, I think the undergraduate experience will be more involved."

Gilmour said there are already numerous departments on campus that have actively implemented mentoring. The Sidhu School of Business, biology, nursing, and athletics are just a few of the examples Gilmour said have focused mentoring processes in place.

Gilmour said he wants the university to be noted as having "a world class mentoring program." He said Adams has hired several advising coordinators and is working to create a comprehensive goal for the program.

Adams said there will also be some formal opportunities for students to experience mentoring. However, the most important thing is to create a culture that welcomes mentoring and allows it to develop.

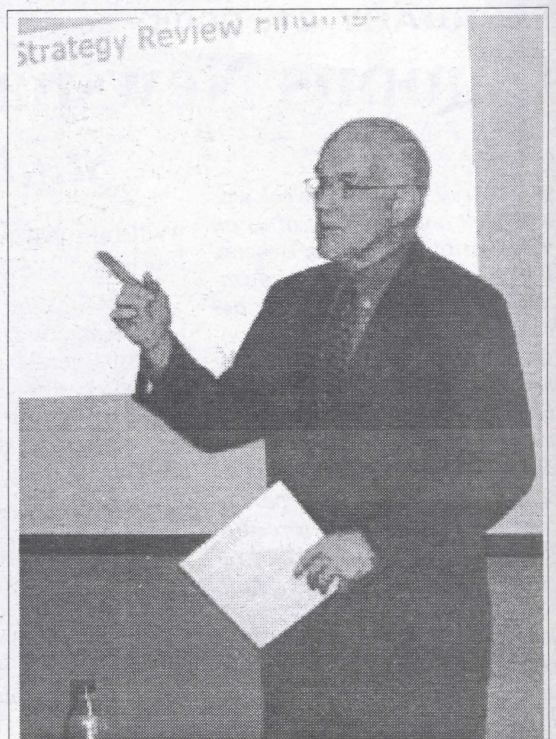
"I think what we really need to do is create an environment at

Wilkes that's fertile for mentoring to occur and set the stage and create circumstances and opportunities that allows these things to happen fairly naturally," Adams said.

Gilmour said that the reason why most students are retained at an institution is because they find a connection with someone on campus. Students are looking for an institution that gives them something they want.

Adams said that each student's idea of a mentorship is different because everyone has a different background and experiences. He said they are still learning about mentoring and will soon have systems instituted within the university that create a

rich environment for mentoring. "What we want to make sure is if there are young people who are particularly drawn to mentoring and desire that kind of relationship we can provide that," Adams said.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel
University President Joseph E. (Tim) Gilmour spoke to SG on Wednesday.

NEWSPAPERS from FRONT PAGE

and that it is a crucial piece of evidence in this investigation.

"The recording was instrumental, probably key, in terms of determining who perpetrated the removal of *The Beacons* on a wide scale basis from the student union and the information was provided to Student Affairs," said Bailey.

Student Affairs officials are currently in the process of investigating the incident but due to privacy laws cannot reveal the specifics regarding the investigation.

"Right now we're in the middle of investigating all of the facts surrounding this and will likely come to a quick and happy conclusion at what looks to be a very unfortunate incident," said Mark Allen, Dean of Students.

Vice President of SG Julia Buss was unaware of the incident and hopes a member of SG was not involved.

"I have not heard anything about the incident or who might be responsible for it, but I would hate to think that someone from the Student Government organization was involved in the matter," said Buss.

When asked whether or not he was aware that *Beacons* had disappeared, SG President T. Mick Jenkins had "no comment" and

declined to be questioned further.

Midday Tuesday, *Beacon* staff members noticed that there were no *Beacons* available around campus.

"Usually we don't run out that quickly... They were also missing from basically all the classroom buildings that students have access to, and they were still there at all of the office buildings like Chase Hall and the [Annette Evans] Alumni House and Weckesser Hall," said LeDonne.

Other members of the Wilkes community also noticed their disappearance.

"Usually [*The Beacon*] is on the ledge of Breiseth and Stark or in the SUB and I couldn't find any...usually they're everywhere on Mondays and it's Friday and I haven't seen any yet. I find it kind of odd," said Cara Cacioppo, sophomore business major.

While no motive(s) for the newspapers' disappearance has been uncovered, several members of *The Beacon* received or heard criticisms for a photo caption that ran on the Op/Ed pages entitled, "What's for dessert in April?" Critics argued that the photo caption unfairly poked fun at SG.

"[I became] very suspicious [about the missing newspapers] considering some of the feedback

I had gotten both Monday and Tuesday about the issue regarding a specific part of the paper," said LeDonne.

Senior Class President Liz Roveda was among those SG members who was offended by the photo caption.

"Why waste the space in *The Beacon* for a comment that lasted maybe not even two minutes ... but for the most part I thought it was a real jab in the back," Roveda said.

However, there were other members of Student Government who didn't seem too offended by the comments.

"I personally think that it's a right for you guys to put that in *The Beacon* because it's something that our students are paying for... so I don't see why it's making fun of Student Government because they're only telling it like it is," said Katie Morton, senior class secretary.

As of Friday at 2:30 p.m. the Office of Student Affairs said that no updates were available in the ongoing investigation.

In order not to affect the outcome of this investigation *The Beacon* has decided not to name the individual who appears in the videotape.

The BEACON

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Courtesy: Associated Press

Catholic Bishops: Over 1,000 New Claims of Abuse

WASHINGTON, DC-The nation's Roman Catholic bishops said Friday that over the last year they received 1,092 new allegations of sexual abuse against at least 756 Catholic priests and deacons.

Half of the accused priests over the past year had been previously accused of abuse, said Kathleen McChesney, executive director of the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Most of the alleged incidents occurred decades ago: 72 percent of the priests were either dead, defrocked or removed from public ministry before the newest allegations were received, McChesney said.

Bush Signs Class-action Bill Into Law

WASHINGTON, DC-President Bush wasted no time in signing a bill that he says will curtail multimillion-dollar class-action lawsuits against companies.

The first legislative triumph of Bush's second term is a historic step toward "breaking one of the main shackles holding back our economy and America's work force -- lawsuit abuse," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Illinois.

The House approved the bill by a 279-149 vote Thursday as businesses finally saw success after a decade of efforts to reduce their legal liability from cases where a single person or a small group can represent the interests in court of many thousands of people.

While businesses failed to get the measure to apply to suits already in the courts, Bush offered immediate help by signing the bill Friday.

Crash Test Dummies Inventor Dies

MARINA DEL REY, CALIF.-Samuel W. Alderson, the inventor of crash test dummies that are used to make cars, parachutes and other devices safer, has died. He was 90.

Alderson died February 11 at home of complications from myelofibrosis, a bone marrow disorder, his son Jeremy said.

He grew up tinkering in his father's custom sheet-metal shop, worked on various military technology and by 1952 had formed Alderson Research Labs.

The company made anthropomorphic dummies for use by the military and NASA in testing ejection seats and parachutes. The dummies were built to approximate the weight and density of humans and hold data-gathering instruments.

Teen Arrested for Senior Prank

READING-A Berks County honor student apprehended on his school roof in a gorilla mask left county prison Wednesday after a judge reduced his bail for the senior prank that led to a school lockdown.

Matthew Pattison, 18, was charged Tuesday with reckless endangerment, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and criminal trespass.

Judge Jeffrey Sprecher on Wednesday reduced Pattison's bail to \$50,000. District Judge Gail Greth had set bail at \$300,000.

Police said Pattison donned a gorilla mask and a sheepskin shawl and climbed onto the roof of Oley Valley High School to peer down into classroom windows. The stunt brought dozens of police, the FBI, bomb-sniffing dogs and helicopters to the rural Oley Township school.

Woman Pleads No Contest for Taking Infant During House Fire

PHILADELPHIA- A woman pleaded no contest Wednesday to charges she kidnapped a baby during a 1997 house fire and raised the girl as her own for six years.

Prosecutors have said that 42-year-old Carolyn Correa, desperate for a baby of her own after suffering a miscarriage, conspired to set the blaze and steal the 10-day-old child from her crib.

Correa pleaded no contest to kidnapping, interfering with parental custody and conspiracy and could get 25 to 50 years in prison.

The baby disappeared after a fire at the Philadelphia home of her mother, Luzaida Cuevas. Fire investigators found no human remains on the torched second floor and concluded the blaze had consumed Delimar Vera in her crib. They also ruled the fire accidental.

Standards tightened under No Child Left Behind Act

BY RYAN DIPPRE
Beacon Staff Writer

The No Child Left Behind Act has resulted in large-scale quality-control movements in teacher education programs across the country.

President George W. Bush has pushed this Act because some students do not have the necessary skills for their grade level and low test scores.

"The No Child Left Behind Act mandated highly qualified teachers," said Dr. Barbara Bellucci, Assistant Professor of Education. "The Pennsylvania Department of Education moved quickly to respond to

as a person is able to meet the qualifications, he or she is eligible to enter the TEP.

No Child Left Behind is also aiming to increase the education level of teachers who are already in the school systems.

"Once students graduate with their Level I certificates, they have six years to make up twenty-four credits and three years of satisfactory teaching experience, which would give them Level II certification," Bellucci said.

"Those who were certified before 2000," she added, "have until July of 2005 to get their credit. The result is the Big Group-teachers trying to finish their credit before July." Enrollment in graduate teaching

The No Child Left Behind Act mandated highly qualified teachers. The Pennsylvania Department of Education moved quickly to respond to the new policy.

Dr. Barbara Bellucci
Assistant Professor of Education

the new policy."

Wilkes University has complied with both state and federal mandates and raised the bar on the Teacher Education Program (TEP) entrance policies. The Teacher Education Program Handbook notes the higher GPA requirements for the TEP. Beginning with the freshmen classes of 2001-2002, minimum GPA requirements began to steadily rise and leveled off at a 3.0 for the 2003 freshman class.

"We've raised our standards to a pretty high level," Bellucci said. "Unlike other majors, such as pharmacy, we don't have a limited number of seats available."

Since there is no cap on the number of students allowed in the program, as long

classes at Wilkes have grown dramatically as a result of this.

The No Child Left Behind Act has sparked heated debate throughout the world of education. The effects the Act have had on classrooms are being analyzed across the country, and many teachers have various opinions about it.

"No Child Left Behind leaves every child behind," Wilkes graduate Krystal Ferguson-Kopa said.

The debate continues to rage on that front, but in terms of teacher education it has received relatively little criticism. "I think that it's important to have highly-educated people instructing our young," Bellucci said.

Student Government Notes

SG voted 25-3-1 to allocate \$3,500 to send five SG members to Villanova University for a conference on February 12 and 13. The cost includes hotel, transportation, food, and registration at \$260 per person.

The Psychology club submitted a fund request for \$1,274.46 to attend the Eastern Psychological Association Conference in Boston, Massachusetts on March 10-13. Ten students are planned to attend with two

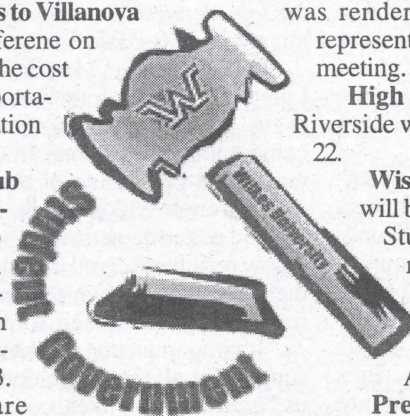
student presenting research. No decision was rendered because no students representing the club attended the meeting.

High School Leadership with Riverside will be tomorrow, February 22.

Wise Crackers Comedy Show will be February 27 in the Henry Student Center Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor.

Spring Fling will be held April 1 at the Waterfront. The theme is Alice in Wonderland.

President Joseph E. (Tim) Gilmour spoke to SG about mentoring.



Local colleges come together to build a future

BY KEVIN FITZSIMMONS

Beacon Staff Writer

Members of Habitat for Humanity believe that local college students want to build more than their futures -- they want to build houses.

The Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity (WVHFH) has proposed that students from Wilkes University, King's College, LCCC, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, and College Misericordia work together to refurbish a house.

Lillian Cohen, executive director for the WVHFH is excited about this innovative idea. "This will be the first time that we are using college students for everything," she said.

Students will be charged with the task of making a property in the Parsons section of Wilkes-Barre livable. In addition to internal renovations such as sanding, painting, plumbing and dealing with electrical issues, students will be in charge of publicity matters and fund raising.

"In the midst of this, student leaders are emerging, and they're really getting to share ideas and brainstorm and have ownership of this project, which is really what was envisioned for this type

of a build," Ann Loyek, coordinator for the office of community service said.

One organizational meeting was held on January 27, which attracted approximately 25 students and staff members from various local colleges. The purpose of the meeting was to gauge interest and get the ball rolling.

Wilkes University junior elementary education major Nicole Chismar was in attendance. She's worked with Habitat for Humanity before, but never in this capacity.

"I'm really excited about the Habitat

[project]. I think it's awesome because it's our house," Chismar said.

The WVHFH has worked

with each of the colleges individually before, but never on a collective basis. The decision to use college students exclusively on a project was not a difficult one.

"They [the WVHFH] are very encouraged by the energy college students bring," Loyek said.

Cohen agrees, saying sometimes there is such a large overflow of students that there is no place to put them. "College students have continued to be a great resource for Habitat," Cohen said.

A recent Wilkes basketball game served as the launch pad for an adopt-a-brick fundraiser. Spectators were invited to purchase a brick with their name on it for a dollar. Those dollars add up quickly, and the event helped raise over \$200. Students involved from other schools are also working to raise money for the project.

"I feel you can really change things if you're involved in the community and you're out there doing service," Chismar said.

The project is still in the planning stages, and students are encouraged to get involved.

"Don't hesitate and definitely do it. Even just for one day to try it and if you don't like it, you don't have to come back," Chismar said. "It'll be a good experience."

Professionals and expert volunteers may be on hand to help students in certain areas, but students still hold responsibility for this project.

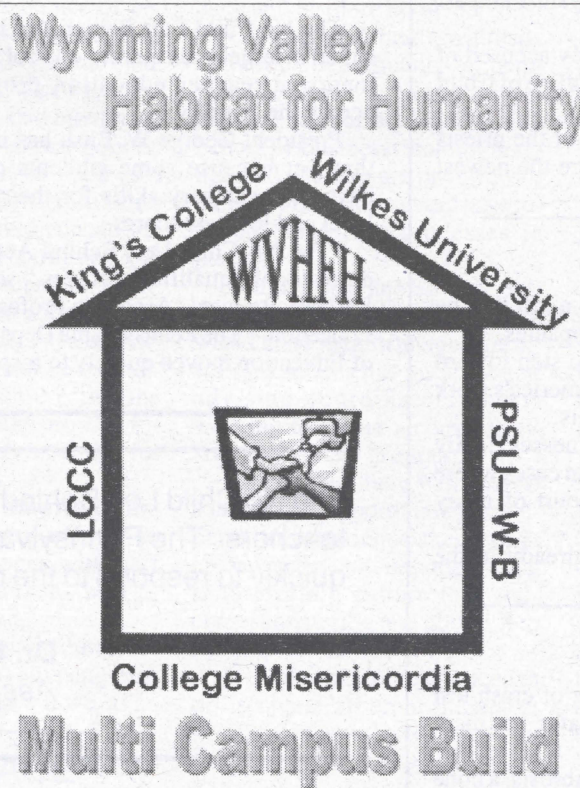
"How cool that would be for students who after graduation, 10 years maybe, come back to visit and drive by the house and say, 'we did that,'" Loyek said.

Through Habitat, homeowners are expected to put work into a project as well, which means students will get to work side by side with the person they are helping.

"The thing that excites me the most is that it's going to go to a family that really needs it," Chismar said. "You'll kind of get to know who you're helping."

"This is great community building -- a win for everybody," Cohen said.

Interested students can stop in the Community Service office on the second floor of the Henry Student Center, e-mail service@wilkes.edu or call 408-5909 for more information.



Courtesy Ann Loyek

Soldiers receive warm 'welcome home'

BY KRISTIN KILE & LINDSEY WOTANIS

Beacon News Editor & Beacon Managing Editor

There's no place like home... especially for the soldiers in the 109th Field Artillery's Alpha Battery.

On Saturday, February 19, 125 soldiers returned to the Kingston Armory from Fort Dix, New Jersey after their tour of duty in Iraq and were greeted along the way by proud and supportive families, friends, and communities.

Crowds lined the streets of downtown Wilkes-Barre with flags from the Healing Field in support of the troops. One of those supporters was King's College student and member for the Air Force ROTC, Shawn Partington.

Partington was previously enlisted in the Air Force and knows how important it is for not only family support, but community support as well. He said people lining the streets in support of the troops as they came home shows how much the community cares for them, regardless if they are family or not.

"I think it's a great thing and I hope the crowds don't get smaller

with each time that more troops come home. I hope that the hometown pride stays as high as it has been for the Nanticoke and also [Saturday] for the Kingston Armory," Partington said.

Students in Air Force and Army ROTC from Wilkes University, King's College and the University of Scranton lined the Market Street Bridge in salute of the returning troops. Major James Garcia with Wilkes University's Air Force ROTC program recognized the importance of events such as this one. "It [the homecoming welcome] illustrates the connections, the ties, between the soldiers and our community," said Garcia.

Wilkes-Barre Mayor Tom Leighton's office, along with folks at the 109th, organized the welcome home celebration. In addition to the procession of the soldiers through Wilkes-Barre, local fire and police departments, whose fellow members served in Iraq with the 109th, also drove the parade route in support of their soldiers.

"It's important that we show our support for all they have done for us," said Lore Majikes, coordinator of special events at City Hall. "These people have put their lives on the line for us, not only pro-

tecting our freedom but helping others who couldn't defend their own freedoms over in Iraq."

Before the event, Majikes predicted that there would not be "a dry eye in the crowd" as the soldiers returned to meet their families after a long but successful tour in Iraq. As the procession made its way through Public Square and down Market Street to the Armory, cheers broke out and many wiped tears from their eyes. The troops received a warm welcome home after a long 14 months of war.

Following the procession through the streets of Wilkes-Barre, soldiers and their families gathered for the soldiers' final order, "Dismissed," at the Kingston Armory on Market Street. Commanding Officers and Mayor Tom Leighton spoke to the troops and thanked them for what they have done for the country.

One Officer reminded the troops that even though they are

not in war, there are still dangers and to be careful while driving because it has been a long time since they have been behind the wheel. This was an eerie reminder of the death of Sgt. Christopher Davis in a car crash just miles from home nine days after he returned from his duty in Iraq with 109th Field Artillery's Bravo Battery

based out of Nanticoke.

As the troops were dismissed, family members and friends ran to their loved ones to welcome them home. Majikes said several other local celebrations were planned to continue throughout the day at fire departments throughout the area.



The Beacon/Kristin Kile

As soldiers were dismissed, family members ran to see their loved ones who have fought in the War on Terror over in Iraq. A homecoming celebration and parade welcomed the soldiers home.

WEEKEND from FRONT PAGE

causes all of us to increase our vigilance. The result of that will be increased attention...over the course of the next several weekends. So students should in every way expect...as a consequence of last weekend's activity that they will only have created a situation that will bring more attention," Adams said.

In addition to alcohol violations, property destruction is also of concern on Winter Weekend. As far as vandalism on campus, Bailey said there were not any major problems. A broken couch was reported in the Henry Student Center and some trash was thrown on the ground. Adams said that no incidents reported on campus were directly related to any Winter Weekend team or official Winter Weekend activities.

"Unfortunately from time to time we do have random acts that result in destruction of property. It's always regrettable and it's always something we work to minimize. I don't think any of us could necessarily make a direct relationship to Winter Weekend," Adams said.

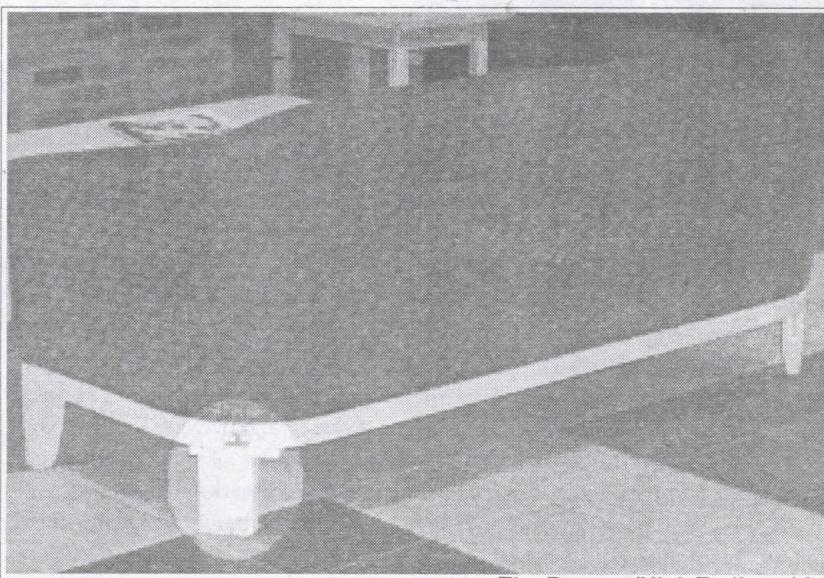
One act of vandalism that did occur was the soft serve ice cream machine in the cafeteria on the third floor of the HSC was left on all night. Bailey said luckily the machine was not full, but it did make a mess and one of the belts on the machine needed to be replaced.

This is not the first time an incident has happened in the cafeteria after hours. Other

weekends students have been caught in the kitchen after hours. Bailey said the major problem is that right now they do not have the ability to stop the elevator from going to the third floor after hours. Public Safety is currently in the process of reconfiguring the elevators so that students are not able to gain access to the third floor when the cafeteria is not open. No mention was made of how the stairwells will be sealed.

"Hopefully with the additional security changes, we hope that students would behave like adults," Bailey said. "It's not a generalization of the student body, we're talking about...one or two students out of the whole student body do this kind of damage, but everybody pays for it."

Bailey does not think the vandalism on campus is done maliciously; students just have the opportunity. He said 99% of students on campus don't approve of the vandalism that happens on campus. However, if they witness vandalism and do not re-



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski
The couch seen above was broken during Winter Weekend and has since been repaired. Chris Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services said the couches receive a lot of wear and tear because of their location.

versity some other way," Bailey said.

Bailey said that 90% of vandalism is caused because of alcohol consumption. Students' inhabitations are lowered and they get out of control. He said if a student is of legal age it is their right to consume alcohol, but it comes with responsibility.

"I would hate to see anything done in terms of restriction to Winter Weekend because a few students can't behave themselves," Bailey said.

Adams said he does not see Winter Weekend jeopardized in the future.

"Our role in trying to diminish that problem behavior is to protect young people and make sure that

they can live through this safely and responsibly, as we should," Adams said.

Bailey urges students who witness vandalism on campus to call the Wilkes University anonymous tip line at 408-CARE. Bailey said they will keep the identity anonymous so there is no retaliation against the witness.

port it, they are only hurting themselves. If no one can be attributed to the incident, no one can be charged.

"I just wish the student body understood when people vandalize the Student Center or any university property, they're only hurting the student body because it just means that money has to be used that could be used for the betterment of the uni-

Students need to know the law when it comes to drinking

BY JEREMY ZUCKERO

Beacon Staff Writer

Alcohol is a major topic of concern for both university administrators and students-and for five Wilkes students who were treated for alcohol poisoning last year, the issue became all that much more personal.

On Tuesday, February 22 at 9:00 p.m., Wilkes University Health Services and Public Safety will present a "Know the Law" talk in the Grand Ballroom on the second floor of the Henry Student Center. The goal of the presentation will be to teach students about how the use or abuse of alcohol can affect them legally.

Gail Holby, Coordinator of Health and Wellness Promotion has played a big part on campus when it comes to alcohol education. Holby and her office hosted Alcohol Awareness Week. During the week, students are taught about the dangers of alcohol through speakers and booths set up on the first floor of the HSC. Students also took a stance on alcohol awareness by participating in the Alcohol Awareness Walk from the greenway to Kirby Park.

To continue the campaign of alcohol awareness Holby is helping to facilitate the "Know the Law" presentation.

"The purpose of 'Know the Law' is to inform students of the dangers of drinking and the legal ramifications if they are caught drinking underage or driving under the influence," Holby said.

To add weight to the information presented, members of the local police departments will be in attendance.

"Local police officers, as well as public safety officers will take part in the presentation," said Holby.

Many students do not know what can happen to them if they are caught drinking underage. Gerald Rebo, Manager of Patrol Operations of Public Safety will take part in the presentation. He will speak about the problems that alcohol can cause among college students.

"Most students are not aware of the laws regarding underage drinking and the long-term effects it can have on their future. This will be a great opportunity to inform them," Rebo said. "I will inform them (the students) of some of the (national) statistics on college drinking, how it (the statistics) pertains to injuries, sex crimes, vandalism, and alcohol poisoning."

The health and safety of Wilkes students is of primary concern to both Public Safety and Health Services. According to Rebo, "There were five cases of alcohol poisoning last year here."

The purpose of this presentation is not to teach that drinking alcohol is wrong, but rather that college students should obey the law and remain safe. "We're not trying to tell you (students) not to drink... (but) if you do drink, drink responsibly because you will be held accountable for your actions," Rebo said.

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Opinion

FEBRUARY 21, 2005

Aretha had it right: Respect integral to community

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

Aretha sang about it, and our "formative" years are spent learning to practice it: *respect*.

Although it may mean different things to different people, it still holds as one of the most important American values we possess. Whether it is respect for an elder, a peer, history, or someone else's space it's expected in civilized society, and when it is absent, it's clear and sometimes shocking.

We can argue about what respect really means. It ranges from something that has to be earned to something that we are simply expected to have towards others. What does it mean to have respect for our U.S. President, for example? If we disagree with a specific policy or action, is it more respectful to articulate that position, or to stay silent? During the 2004 campaign, and certainly throughout the Iraq war, a wide variety of responses to that question suggest that definitions of respect vary considerably.

It is this ambiguity that allows for interpretation and ultimately differences in opinion on what it means to be respectful. Therefore, many of us try to follow what we feel are societal norms regarding respect of others and our surroundings.

Respect is not only an attitude that we must have for each other, but for our surroundings as well. Our environment is just as deserving of respect as our fellow humans, basically because we all depend upon it. We don't live in plastic bubbles. We share space. And nowhere is the lack of respect more evident than in our surroundings here at Wilkes. Our campus can be quite beautiful sometimes. The view of the greenway on a sunny day in the middle of spring, for example, can make the observer smile, but a closer look can show the wear and tear that we are contributing to our shared physical environment. During Winter

Weekend, we heard stories and saw evidence of overturned trashcans, carelessly discarded items like cups, food wrappers, and cans. Property, both on and off campus, was damaged.

We have sidewalks at Wilkes, but many of us choose not to use them; instead we walk through the grass creating worn paths and muddy furrows. Granted, some of the paths created offer a quicker way from one place to another, but the fact remains that the sidewalks were put there for a reason and by ignoring them we are ruining the natural beauty of our shared space.

A trip up I-81, on the Cross-

Valley, or even a walking tour of Public Square indicates that we aren't the only disrespectful folks in the area, however. Graffiti covers the sides of empty buildings, trash pockmarks the ditches, and windows in buildings like the Sterling Hotel are broken out. On more than one occasion, vandals have stood on the hill behind the Ralston Field parking lot and tossed rocks and parked cars, smashing windshields and denting hoods.

What's important to remember is that the degradation of the property around us reflects on our character; whether such disrepair happens through purposeful actions of destruction, or merely through

careless neglect, it still says a lot about who we are as a community—and as a campus.

If we really want to promote the pride we have in our school and community, it will be our actions that speak louder than our words. Who we are and what we stand for is largely conveyed by what we do, and how we do it.

Therefore how we choose to act becomes an antenna of sorts to who we really are and how we really feel. Our disrespect of something as simple as a sidewalk lends us to affect our greater picture of our sphere of existing and what our disrespect of it says about us.

YOUR VOICES...

Dear Editor,

As Vice President of Student Government, I am writing you to express my concerns about *The Beacon's* recent decision to focus on the negatives within our university. My concerns stem from several articles, and lack thereof, that have been published within *The Beacon* the past few weeks. First, I begin with the op-ed "What's for dessert in April?" I am disappointed that this article published without showing any positive side to the Student Government meeting that took place.

During that meeting, Student Government voted to donate \$500 to the Vagina Monologues. Instead of focusing on that, you have chosen to make Student Government look petty and unimportant. Secondly, I am disappointed in the lack of coverage of Winter Weekend. As the chairperson, I am disgusted to find only a picture spread, and a front-page article concerning the conflict with the weekend and the debate tournament. This article did nothing but state that while the events did overlap, that there was no harm to either event because of it. What about coverage of the many positive things that came out of Winter Weekend?

There were 15 teams that participated, and this year, more freshmen than ever took place in the events. We donated 960 cans of food to Reach, and are making a \$500 donation to the Victim's Resource Center in the name of the winning team. Recently, *The Beacon* has turned its eyes to controversy, rather than reporting the positive news around campus. I would hope that in future weeks, we as students might see this change. As the major media source on campus, you are in the prime position for promoting school pride.

Sincerely,
Julia Buss
Student Government Vice President
Winter Weekend Chair

The Beacon

Mission Statement and Code of Ethics

Mission:

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

Code of Ethics:

- **The Beacon* shall maintain fairness and balance, always allowing all parties to weigh in on issues covered by the staff
- **The Beacon* shall produce and publish only original and accurate material
- **The Beacon* respects the views and opinions of both its readers and writers, encouraging new ideas and opinions that will spark discussions among the campus community
- **The Beacon* staff shall show respect for sources - calling within business hours to set up appointments and being respectful throughout contact with sources, especially during the interview
- **The Beacon* shall represent its sources fairly and accurately in all articles
- *As a separate news entity, *The Beacon's* content shall not be influenced by the University or by our sponsors
- **The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for grammar, spelling, and word length all Letters to the Editor, though always maintaining the voice and stance of the author
- **The Beacon* shall publish any misrepresentations or errors to its public in a timely fashion

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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 43 responses.

The Beacon asked:

If money were no issue and you could travel anywhere for a week, which of these adventures would you take?

- 26% The moon--exploration expedition
- 12% Egypt--archaeological dig
- 14% Australian outback--wildlife study
- 9% Kenya--for a wildlife safari
- 21% Hawaii--exploring volcanoes
- 2% Amazon rain forest--study poison dart frogs
- 9% Deep sea diving in the Pacific Ocean
- 7% North Pole--glacier cave exploration

Next week's question is:

With spring break around the corner, how would you spend your ideal week off?

- Catch up on missed sleep
- Work to earn money
- Get ahead on school work
- Take an exotic vacation to the beach
- Spend time with family and friends
- Read a novel you've been meaning to get to
- Take a few day trips
- Volunteer for community service
- Zone out in front of the t.v. or Xbox

Visit www.wilkesbeacon.com to cast your vote. Results will be published in next week's issue of *The Beacon*.

Relationships 101 in full swing at some universities

BY CURRAN DOBSON

Beacon Staff Writer

All of us want to be loved. However, how many of us truly believe that we need to be taught to love the right way? Love is not like biology or calculus. There are no formulas to learn or theories to remember. Right?

Wrong. For students at various colleges and universities across the nation, a new class is being offered: Relationships 101. Sitting in class to learn about relationships and how to love someone may seem an odd academic discipline. How would one be graded? Would the teacher expect you to successfully start and remain in a relationship? Would the students who received the A grades be those students who had dated around, or would the A's go to students healthily immersed in long-term relationships?

These classes do not focus on students' individual lives and relationships. Instead, students and teachers study research describing divorce rates and what men and women respectively want out of a relationship.

In today's world, it is more

necessary than ever to send students into the world with skills to communicate and interact with people of the opposite sex. With divorces seeming to take place more often than marriages and men and women striving to get ahead in professions, we could all use a few hours each week to reflect on what's really important: loving one another.

Students are taught skills necessary to anyone who wants a meaningful and respectful relationship with someone. These skills include listening in an appropriate way so that the other person feels as if you care to hear what they have to say.

This new course also presents some tough questions for students, such as how the division of responsibilities will be broken down in their future homes. Who will be responsible for raising the children? Who will work outside of the home? How will the family's income be split or shared? For college students, the time to consider these questions may seem a long way off. However, these answers will define their future lives and are not as far off as they may seem.

These courses broaden students' perspectives to include the

outlook of the opposite sex in relationships as well. Wouldn't all women love to pick apart a guy's brain and understand how it works? Men say just as often that women are a mystery. This course proposes to undertake this huge misunderstanding and correct it by presenting to students the crucial aspects of a relationship for both men and women.

Most importantly, this course emphasizes to students that relationships are just as crucial, if not more crucial, than money and success and wealth. The Relationships 101 course provides students with an opportunity to gain skills that will foster and facilitate their interaction with others and allows them to see the importance of other people in our lives.

Although studying the research, theories, and applications of specific courses within a major, such as engineering, is crucial to getting a job, studying how to interact and "love" someone may be just as important. The relationships we form with one another in our lifetime are what we will have left after we come home from work or retire for good. Although it is a relatively new idea to teach people how to love, it is a necessary and important skill for us all to learn.

Perspective in Perspective

BY GABE LEDONNE

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

It's easy to get caught up in emotion. It's how most stupid things happen.

Take, for example, a man in Scottsdale, Arizona who drove his Hummer around a road barricade and into a flooded road--this despite repeated warnings from police and fellow motorists.

His reasoning: he got caught up in the idea that "Hummers are made to float." He thought he could "show them" by barreling his super-SUV through. Because of his clouded judgment, he will be the first person to be charged under Arizona's "stupid motorist law."

And, while we who were not in his state of mind can easily see how stupid such a decision was, we also have the luxury of perspective in this situation. You have to take into consideration that this man thought a wet Hummer would be very cool. He got caught up in the moment.

All of us, I think, at one time or another, has been in a similar mental situation where we have hung ourselves up on an idea and disregarded our better judgment.

This week, for example, I got very, very angry when I discovered that someone(s) selfishly had taken nearly all of *The Beacon* newspapers from campus. The person(s) seemingly took them to save face from something he/she/they didn't like in the issue.

I wanted to wring necks. I wanted heads to roll. I was just about as furious as a non-mafia Sicilian gets.

I got caught up in the moment.

Luckily, I did not do anything as ridiculous as drive my car into the Susquehanna. But at that moment, doing something stupid would have felt pretty good.

After a few days, my anger subsided, and was replaced by a much less aggressive disappointment. I realized that I probably felt much like the person(s) who threw our newspapers away. He/she/they were angry at something in the paper and wanted to do something that would make them feel a little bit

better. Apparently, that meant confiscating *The Beacon*.

By Thursday of last week, I began to try to put things into perspective. Sure, that issue represented a lot of hard work by me and the rest of my staff, and it is disappointing when that hard work suddenly is all in vain. It was our costliest issue of the year, and putting out full color takes a good deal of extra time. Perhaps more importantly, there were good stories in last week's issue--and few people on campus actually saw them before the papers disappeared. The disappearance of the newspapers illustrated disregard for the First Amendment and for people of the Wilkes community. Yes, I was pretty disappointed.

But it is also ridiculous to think that the loss of the papers was something more important than it was.

It was, for example, not something irreplaceable like a person--a parent, a sibling, a friend. It was a newspaper.

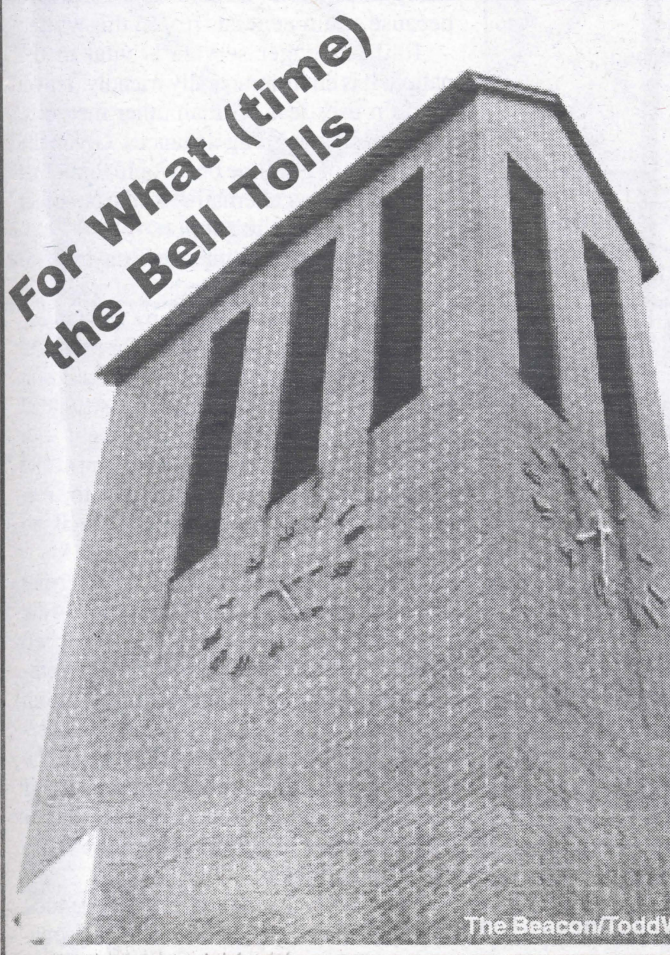
On Wednesday night, I found out that my best friend's brother had passed away. The news forced things into fairly harsh perspective. It made me realize that missing newspapers, idiotic actions by unhappy readers, and yes even wet Hummers seem very petty.

Still, it takes time to gain perspective. And while it took me a few days, it could take much longer for others. I would imagine that the Arizona man with a wet Hummer and a citation is still brooding over his situation.

It is also helpful, I think, to realize when we are in the heat of a moment that we are, in fact, in the heat of a moment. In other words, learning to take a moment to just breathe before we act or speak is an invaluable skill--one we could all benefit from if we practiced it more.

It is important to keep in mind that the heat of the moment eventually cools, and more often than not, fades behind the moments of the next hour, or day, or week.

What really matters are those people and things that endure beyond "moments" in our lives. They are the steady and constant parts of our days. They are the bases with which we are able to put everything else into perspective.



For What (time)
the Bell Tolls

Have you heard...

For about the past two weeks the Charles N. Burns Alumni Tower and Carillon has sprung back to life chiming on the hour. Unfortunately, as this picture shows, the clock tower is still confused as to what time it really is.

The Beacon/Todd Weibel

A call to arms and socially responsible snobbery

You can't teach an evil super-corporation new tricks, but you can change your shopping habits

BY MATT ZEBROWSKI
Beacon Asst. Op-Ed Editor

After a few months of negotiations for the terms of their first contract, the Quebec Wal-Mart workers who somehow managed to get the company to allow them to unionize are out of work.

After negotiations turned sour a few weeks ago, the Wal-Mart corporation announced that they would be closing the Quebec store in May. No one really seems to be all that surprised. I know I'm not. Maybe I'm just already prejudiced about this whole Wal-Mart business, but I was more shocked when I heard that they were entering into contract negotiations in the first place. Wal-Mart doesn't exactly have a history of being union-friendly.

What surprises me even more, though, is that people still bother with Wal-Mart in the first place. The more that company does, the harder it is for those of us who don't spend money at Wal-Mart to talk about it without getting up on a soapbox and screaming

"What's wrong with you people?" at the rest of you. I mean, I love cheap things as much as anyone else, but a few years ago I just hit a point where I could no longer suspend disbelief and think that saving a few pennies on my chapstick was really worth supporting the corporate equivalent of Jason Vorhees.

The thing is, I'm sitting here at my computer as I type this with a dialogue going on in my head asking me why exactly I'm doing it. I doubt I could say anything about Wal-Mart that anybody reading this wouldn't know, and I really doubt I'm going to change any minds. I'm well aware that you're all probably just going to think I'm a jerk for yelling at you for where you buy your groceries. And your magazines. And your prescriptions. And your contact lens cleaner. And most everything else, really. In fact, I wouldn't doubt it if you thought I was enough of a jerk to actually completely write me off if we ever met in person. So, as far as that goes, it looks like I've worked myself up into a bit of existential self-doubt here. Why bother?

But, after about an hour of sulking after

writing that last paragraph, I realize that maybe self-doubt is the problem. Specifically, the self-doubt about our ability to define ourselves in ways that really count. I don't think that anyone wants to see any attempts that Wal-Mart employees make to unionize get shot down. No one wants to see small, independent local businesses go under. No one wants to support a corporation that gives training on how to collect unemployment (to their, um, employed employees) because they just don't pay enough for people to get by otherwise. So quit kidding yourselves. By supporting Wal-Mart, you shoppers are making sure that all those things are exactly what happens.

It's a classic example of no one wanting to be the first to take the plunge. Everyone is comfortable on the couch eating their potato chips and pork rinds, and there's a sort of unspoken consensus that once one person chooses to acknowledge the fire alarm and the smoke in the background, eventually they're all going to have to move.

I'm not saying that if you personally stop shopping at Wal-Mart the corpora-

tion would reform its business practices immediately. In fact, so many people shop there that it would probably take millions more of us to even get the Wal-Mart powers-that-be to notice that something was going on. But, refusing to shop at a business establishment whose practices you do not agree with is a great way to make a statement.

When you consider all the money that we spend on clothing at the Gap, or wherever else we buy the mass-produced threads that somehow define us personally as unique individuals, a few extra bucks for groceries on top of that isn't that much. And, unlike the t-shirt with the already distressed screenprinting, not supporting retailers that engage in grossly irresponsible business practices makes a point that actually counts for something.

So, give it a shot. Or, you can just write all this off as condescending elitist drivel. Please don't do that, though. The fact of the matter is, the view up here from the top is really great, but I am a little lonely.

Bush's one-track mind looks to scrap Amtrak

BY NICK ZMIJEWSKI
Beacon Photo Editor

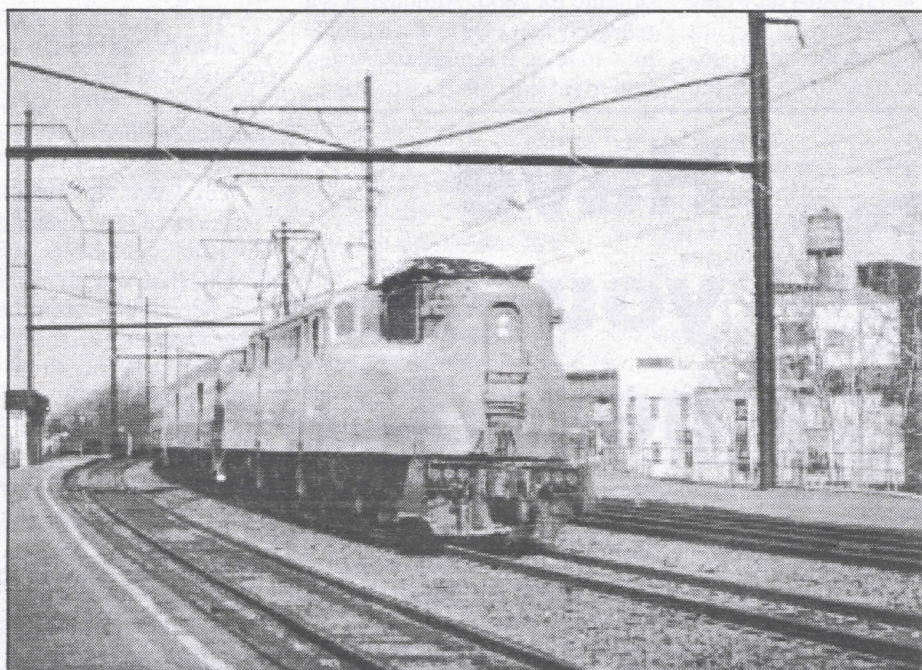
The federal budget proposed for the upcoming year had one particularly conspicuous item missing: funding for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, better known as Amtrak.

Since 1971, the government has operated intercity (or city-to-city) passenger service. But the government operates such passenger rail service at a deficit—the service regularly loses money. In fact, based on how it is currently funded and managed, there is no way to make money on it.

Despite the fact that the federal government has largely acknowledged this inability to turn profit for several decades, President Bush is trying to condemn it to immediate bankruptcy. Amtrak has tried handling mail and express packages, but the revenue earned was offset by increased costs. There is no private company stupid enough to try and take over the whole of the system and they would probably be hard pressed to find one to take over the Washington D.C. to Boston corridor that actually comes close to breaking even.

The only possible place Amtrak can make money is here in the northeast, and even then Amtrak's infrastructure is shared with regional commuter networks.

We have to ask the question: why can't Amtrak make money? Buses and planes



Courtesy of Richard Zmijewski
An Amtrak GG-1 headed towards Philadelphia from Elizabeth, New Jersey.

do. The answer to that is very simple: the government spends massive amounts of money on highways and subsidizing private airlines. Yet no one questions the need to pay for these services. Intrastate passenger service, in the form of commuter railroads, is still getting federal funding. Amtrak appears to be the proverbial scapegoat for President Bush, who would rather spend the money on blowing up some country in the Eastern hemi-

sphere.

This controversy is nothing new. Amtrak has been fighting for fiscal survival for the last few years in the Congressional budget process, always being given far less than what was requested. Every year there have been threats of shutdown. States have been providing an ever-increasing part of Amtrak's budget in order to maintain service with federal budgetary shortfalls. Now, faced with an aging infra-

structure that is more prone to failure than ever due to a lack of funding for maintenance, running a successful agency is virtually impossible. Delays have abounded because equipment has frozen this winter.

Rail passenger service is vital to the nation. It is environmentally friendly. Travel by train uses less oil than other methods, particularly over long distances. Given the rising cost of gasoline one would think that a viable, cheaper alternative would be something worthwhile to support.

Thousands of people every day choose rail as their preferred method of travel. In the rest of the world travel by train is encouraged. European countries, for example, run first class services that are on time with proper equipment. Amtrak has struggled with bare bones funding and fought with unsupportive lawmakers at every turn. The lawmakers claim low ridership as the reason that funding should be cut. Well, no wonder.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year. For the past few years this day has stretched Amtrak to the breaking point, with the company resorting to leasing equipment from commuter rail agencies to handle the overflow. But just think what your delay on the highway or at the airport would be like if these trains did not run. Since September 11 the number of people using Amtrak has risen consistently.

We simply cannot afford to overlook this important part of national infrastructure.

FEATURES

FEBRUARY 21, 2005

9

A look at recent grads: Tiffany Leptuck

BY DONNA TALARICO
Beacon Staff Writer

Paternity tests. Homicides. Robberies. An evidence lab. This is not an episode of *CSI*- it's all in a day's work for Wilkes alum, Tiffany Leptuck.

To most, DNA is just something we learn (and forget) about in biology class, or watch crime scene scientists search for in order to crack a case. We know it is what we are made of, but for the layman, that's pretty much it.

However, Leptuck, '04, has made a career out of the acronym for deoxyribonucleic acid. After majoring in biology at Wilkes, the Swoyersville native is now employed as a DNA analyst by Bode Technology Group, a private forensic lab, in northern Virginia.

"We do testing for sexual assaults, homicides, robbery

elaborating further.

Leptuck always knew she wanted to work with forensics, but first intended to get into forensic psychology.

"I originally applied (to Wilkes) as a psychology major, but then switched after I took and really enjoyed AP biology class in high school. I liked forensics at the time, but more emphasis was being placed on biology than psychology," she said, noting that she kept psychology as a minor.

To prepare for her career in forensic science, Leptuck spent three and a half years doing independent research with biology professor Dr. William Terzaghi. This research, she says, is

the lab running smoothly- albeit noisily- and trained many newer students," he said.

Terzaghi added that Leptuck was not only active in the classrooms and the labs, but also pivotal in the success of campus science organizations, as she held various leadership roles in the biology club, worked as a teaching assistant in introductory biology and helped with outreach programs like Adventures in Science. According to Terzaghi, all these achievements and more play a role in her success.

"Things that make Tiffany so successful in her career are: Motivation-she knew from the moment she enrolled at Wilkes that she wanted a career in DNA forensics; Work ethic-Tiffany works hard to achieve her goals; Organization-She uses her time very efficiently and therefore accomplishes a lot each day; Integrity-Tiffany is a very honest person, so you can trust her work and what she says; and Care-She is very careful in her procedures; therefore, her experiments usually work," he said.

So, is working in a forensics lab just like the television shows?

"It's similar to *CSI*, but testing doesn't happen that fast, and sometimes you have to run a sample a few times to get results," she said.

Tiffany offers advice to students interested in a similar path.

"Carry your studies as far as you can. Get a master's degree in forensics, biology or chemistry, and you'll be able to get a job at more places. Apply to as many places as you can, even if you keep getting rejected. It may take a while, but it is a full-time job to find a full-time job," she said.

what started her on the entire DNA fingerprinting road. Terzaghi was impressed by her work ethic and commitment to her studies.

"(Tiffany) worked in my laboratory throughout her Wilkes career doing independent research during the academic year, and working as a paid technician over the summers. She personally extracted 1,000 DNA samples and ran over 10,000 PCR reactions. She was a natural leader and kept

Spring Break on a Budget 10
Eating Disorder Screening 11

Tell Us...

Junior communication studies major, Alicia Vieselmeyer, scoured the campus, asking random students...

How do you beat the winter blues?



Ashley McBrearty,
junior, biology major
"Go bowling."

Ashley Joslin,
junior, biology major

"Make it a point to get some sun."



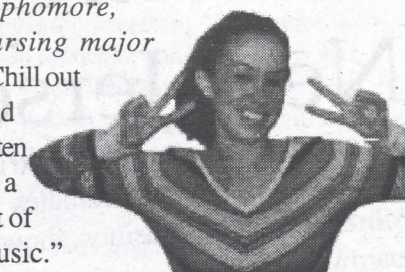
Michael Ferriero,
sophomore, business administration major

"I like the snow, so I don't really get the blues."



Erika Barletta,
sophomore, nursing major

"Chill out and listen to a lot of music."



Julie Gilbert, junior, business administration/marketing major
"Talk with friends who are in warm places."

-Salon at 419-

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Cancun too expensive?

Day trips offer alternative to costly island vacations

BY DONNATALARICO
Beacon Staff Writer

Destination: N

Distance from campus: 126.08 miles
Travel time: 2 hours, 14 minutes

Points of interest: What isn't? Chinatown, Greenwich Village, Statue of Liberty, Times Square, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Broadway

More information:

Various Wilkes organizations offer annual trips into the Big Apple. Some professors often arrange field trips to various places in the city.

There are shows, shopping, art, culture, music, food, more shopping and even the chance to bump into a celebrity on the street. If you hang around Times Square long enough, you may even just get pulled in to be a studio audience member for a talk show taped in the area. (Or--if you plan ahead, you could get tickets to a talk show or sitcom.)

For the touristy type, there are ferries to see the Statue of Liberty as well as countless double-decker buses that will for a low fare, tour people around various points of the five boroughs, pointing out attractions and where scenes from this movie or that movie was filmed.

For the artsy type, there are many museums, but arguably the most popular is the Metropolitan Museum of Art. If you are afraid to drive in the city, Martz Bus has several daily runs into the city. Save on gas, parking, and frustration and call for rates.

Double Whammy

Extend the day trip idea and plan to make a weekend or a few day event of your travels

- Hit the Poconos on the way to New York City
- Hit Philly on the way to Atlantic City

Destination: Atlantic City, New Jersey

Distance from campus: 174.66 miles

Travel time: 2 hours, 58 minutes

Points of interest: Casinos, shows, boardwalk

More information: www.atlanticcitynj.com

The spaces of the Monopoly board come alive in this coastal city. Sure, the beach is not one that travelers can sprawl out on this time of year. But, the casinos are nice and warm, and offer free drinks to those of legal age as long as slots or tables are being played.

In addition to the casinos, there are always concerts and shows to attend. And, the boardwalk's shops are usually open year-round, so delightful break-the-diet foods (like NJ delicacy fried porkroll) and saltwater taffy are available. It's not Vegas, but the town does sparkle at night, and it's open 24/7, so if this is a spontaneous trip, you'll always be on time!

Destination:

Distance from campus: about 30 miles

Travel time: about 30 minutes

Points of interest: Various ski areas, shopping, Jim Thorpe (historic city), white water rafting, natural areas like Boulder Field, Bushkill Falls and Delaware Water Gap National Park.

More information: www.800poconos.com or www.carboncounty.com

Dubbed the honeymoon capital of the world, this nature-filled area is more than just a playground for newlyweds shacking up in villas with heart-shaped bathtubs.

There is something to do every season of the year. In the late winter, Wilkes students can trek to the ski slopes at Big Boulder, Jack Frost, Alpine Mountain, Shawnee Mountain, Blue Mountain and Camelback to ski, snowboard or tube. In fact, Big Boulder and Jack Frost are having a beach theme weekend the March 5-6 (Cancun, sort-of).

A day trip to the historic downtown of Jim Thorpe could be fun, too. According to Bob Uguccioni, Executive Director of the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, Inc., "Jim Thorpe is one of the Pocono Mountains' favorite hidden treasures. With its great history, outdoor adventure, shopping, and culture there is truly something for everyone."

The Pocono Mountains

Destination: Philly

Distance from campus: 113.57 miles

Travel time: 1 hour, 55 minutes

Points of interest: Independence National Historic Park (Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, etc.), South Street district, Philadelphia Zoo, Rocky statue, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Chinatown and more.

More information: www.nps.gov/inde/visit.html, www.phillyfriend.com

When we think of Philly, we naturally associate ideas of freedom, independence, liberty... and cheesesteaks. A tourist cannot leave Philly without all of the above.

Independence National Historical Park includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Constitution Hall, the Betsy Ross House and other buildings where our forefathers spent time penning historic documents. Also in the park is City Tavern, an 18th century style bar and restaurant where the ghosts of Ben Franklin and John Hancock are maybe still hanging out.

There is also the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Franklin Institute (which has a planetarium and omnimax theater) and the Philadelphia Zoo, which offers a great admission price for the off-season.

But not only is the city rich in history, it is also rich in pop culture, with plenty of theater and concert venues to see both emerging and national musical acts. South Street is dotted with unique shops and quite the club scene. There is also Dave and Busters, a huge arcade complex, somewhat geared toward adults. Philly's Chinatown offers Burmese, Vietnamese, Japanese and Thai cuisine. But of course, the city is more known for its cheesesteaks.

Psi Chi tackles eating disorders on campus

BY JAMIE BABBITT
Beacon Features Editor

Most college-age students can admit to engaging in some form of weight control, whether it be watching food intake, hitting the gym in between classes, or embarking on a strict diet such as Atkins or South Beach.

But when does a person's eating habits become dangerous and possibly life threatening?

The psychology honors society, Psi Chi,

either letting them know that their responses indicated no presence of an eating disorder or referring them to campus counseling for further testing and to begin treatment.

If students feel uncomfortable discussing such a personal topic with a stranger, the screening is also available anonymously online at <http://course.wilkes.edu/psichi>. At this site, students can also screen for depression and anxiety, and alcohol abuse.

The eating disorder screening will cover the three most common eating disorders: anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and binge eating disorder.

According to Screening For Mental Health, the program sponsoring the screening at Wilkes University, "the mortality rate associated with anorexia nervosa is 12 times higher than the death rate associated with all causes of death for females 15-24 years old."

Although eating disorders are most commonly associated with females, males are also affected. According to Screening For Mental Health,

"an estimated 10-15% of people with anorexia or bulimia are male." It is also noted that men are less likely to seek help because of the perception that eating disorders are "women's diseases."

Bohlander believes this is a very serious problem among college age students and feels strongly about helping students get help before it is too late because he actually lost a student to the disease.

"The reason we're so interested in it here in the psych department is because we had a student last year who died from complications relating to an eating disorder that she struggled with for many years," he said. Bohlander hopes the screening will allow students to realize they have a problem and get help.

Eating disorders do a great deal of dam-

Warning signs of anorexia nervosa

- Skips meals
- Constantly talks about dieting
- Fears "junk foods"
- Eats mostly fruits and vegetables
- Talks about needing to lose weight despite thinness
- Noticeable weight loss
- Previously overweight
- Dizzy/fainting spells
- Amenorrhea (cessation of menstrual cycle)
- Appears to be cold even when room temperature is comfortable
- Perfectionist/over-reacts to criticism
- Does not adapt well to new situations
- Few close friends

Information adapted from Capital Region Association for Eating Disorders

Warning signs of bulimia nervosa

- Binges
- Frequent meal skipping/expresses feelings of guilt after eating
- Noticeable fluctuations in weight
- Swollen glands/"chipmunk" face
- Scars or open sores on knuckles
- Mouth sores, bad breath, cracked lips
- Negative self-image, withdrawal from friends and activities
- Substance abuse: drugs/alcohol

Information adapted from Capital Region Association for Eating Disorders

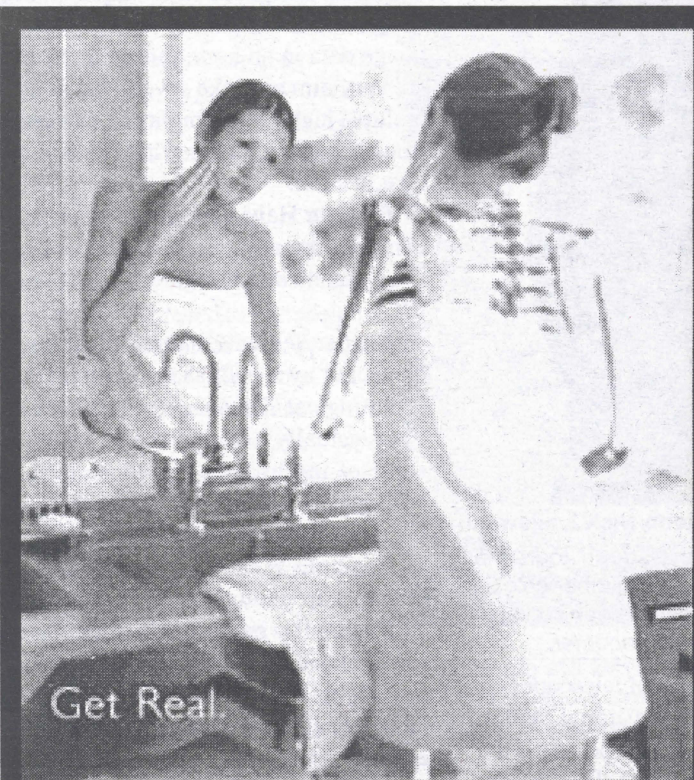


Photo courtesy of National Eating Disorders Association

This image is part of the National Eating Disorders Association's ad campaign for National Eating Disorders Week, which is February 27-March 5. The campaign is an effort to get the truth out to the world about eating disorders.

is providing students with a self-screening to detect any patterns or behaviors that may indicate a possible eating disorder.

Mandy Harlan, secretary of Psi Chi and junior psychology major said the purpose of the screening is to make the campus community aware of eating disorders through literature and videos. "It can also help people that may have a disorder, think they might, or give people information to help a friend that might have a problem," she said.

The screening will take place on March 1 in the Henry Student Center Atrium from 11AM-1PM. Dr. Robert Bohlander, professor of psychology, will sit down with students and go over a paper and pencil questionnaire form that they have filled out. He will discuss the results with the students,

age to the body. According to cnn.com, anorexia causes heart disease, hormonal changes, imbalance of minerals and electrolytes, nerve damage, blood disorders, and digestive problems.

Bulimia causes teeth and gum problems, low potassium levels, digestive problems, behavioral and emotional problems, and abuse of medications.

Binge eating disorder causes high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol levels, heart disease, type-2 diabetes, and gallbladder disease.

If left untreated, eating disorders can eventually lead to death.

Bohlander says that friends can help friends realize they have a problem and support them in their efforts to get help. Usually close friends or family members are the ones that can pick up that something is wrong.

If someone is worried about a friend, the best thing they could do is to indicate their concern and steer them to assistance, according to Bohlander. If they deny the

problem or refuse to get help, he suggests sitting down with a group of friends to talk about the situation. "It is worse not to act than to irritate your friend," he said.

While he admits that you can't force anyone to get help if they are unwilling, there are many services available on campus and in the community to get help.

Campus counseling, located in Evans Hall, is available for students to discuss possible eating disorders. According to counselor Megan Broderick, the counselors screen patients and then refer them to a professional to begin treatment.

"Unfortunately we don't really see a whole lot of eating disorder patients just because in eating disorders the denial factor is extremely high, especially for anorexics... Our role is to generally reach out, provide them a place to talk... also we refer out," said Broderick.

Bohlander suggests calling the area help line to get information on where self-help is available. The number is 829-1341 and every call is anonymous.

Fields looks to the stars for inspiration

BY KACYMUIR

Beacon Correspondent

Dr. Darin Fields is the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Wilkes University, but in his spare time you're more likely to find him capturing the brilliance of the galaxy through his telescope.

Recently *The Beacon* had a chance to sit down and talk to Dr. Fields about how his passion for astrophotography has defined his view of the galaxy from a whole new perspective.

Beacon: What is astrophotography?

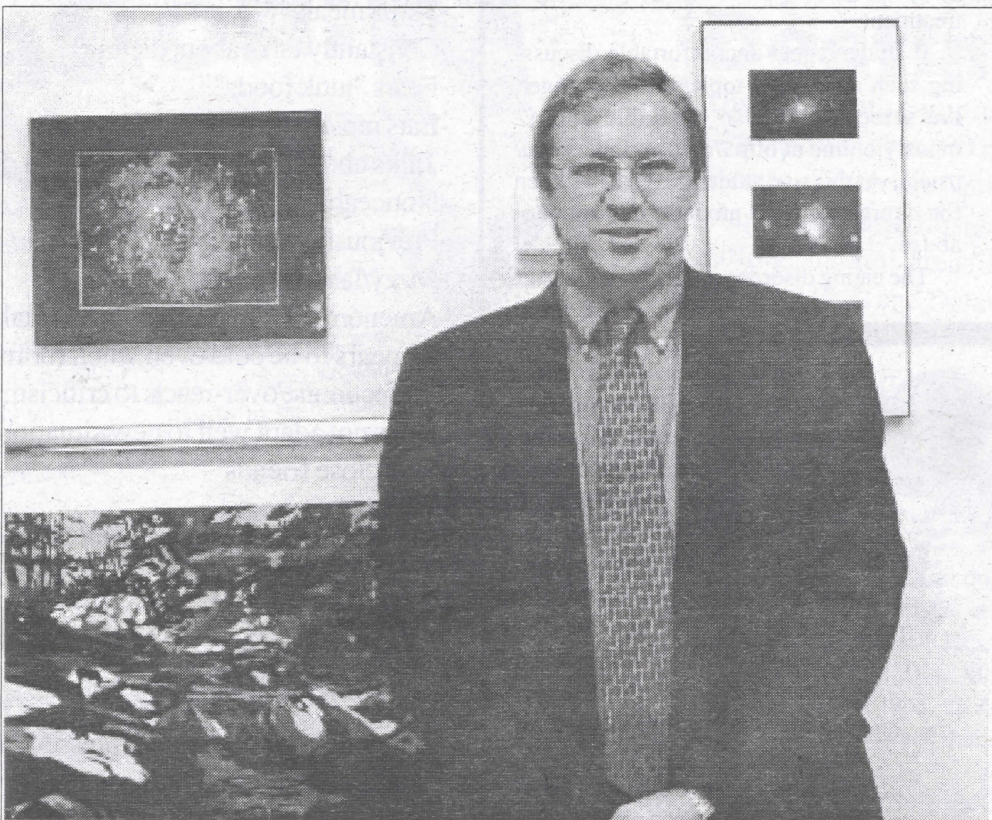
Fields: It is the imaging of objects in space: astronomical objects either in our galaxy or other galaxies outside of our own. So it's any kind of imaging that includes film, photography, and as well as CCD imaging, [which is] ... just a digital camera basically. Lots of people have digital cameras but it is just a more sophisticated version that does imaging.

Beacon: How did you get into astrophotography?

Fields: Well, I have always been interested in astronomy and wanted to be an astronomer when I was a little kid growing up in Arizona, which is one of the astronomy capitals of the world. Then, probably about eight or nine years ago, I renewed my interest in it here in Pennsylvania and decided to buy a telescope and just incrementally got into gazing at the stars and taking pictures.

Beacon: Is this a hobby or another profession?

Fields: Well it's not something you can make any real money at. I mean there are people who take astrophotography and sell [images] as prints, but no one is getting rich doing it. Most of the people do it for just the sheer joy of it as a hobby, like me.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Dr. Darin Fields poses in front of some of his photos. Fields is an astrophotographer, someone who photographs astronomical objects in our galaxy as well as in other galaxies with the use of a telescope and a hi-tech digital camera. Fields has recently been contacted by a publisher and his photos will appear in the book *The Amateur Astronomer*.

Beacon: What exactly makes a good photo?

Fields: If it is an astro-image there is a whole mountain of technical details that have to be there for it to be a quality image. The telescope has to move precisely with the sky and that is a very difficult thing to have happen. You have to acquire enough data on the image for it to show up in terms of color, texture, and detail.

Beacon: What sort of equipment is used for astro-imaging?

Fields: I use a variety of telescopes on what is called a German Equatorial Mount. This mount moves the telescope across the sky at exactly the same rate the stars are moving. I also use special CCD cameras built particularly for astro-imaging.

Beacon: Where do you take these pictures?

Fields: I have an observatory in my yard and that is where I do all of my imaging. You can't do film around here, or expose it because there is too much light pollution.

But you can do CCD imaging which is less sensitive to light pollution. Light pollution is the enemy of astrophotographers and unfortunately it is getting worse.

Beacon: Is there a lot of time involved when taking the pictures?

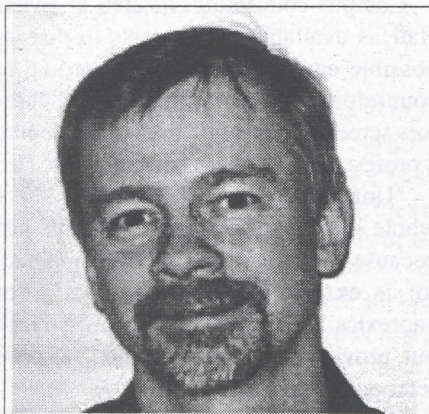
Fields: Yes, and it's all at night! [laughs]... and you have to stay up all night. But it depends on the object; some things that are bright you can get a lot of image data in an hour, other things that are very dim can take several hours and multiple nights. One might call that laborious but when that is what floats your boat, it's fun.

Beacon: Have you submitted or been contacted by any scientific or space-related organizations regarding your photos?

Fields: Yes, as a matter of fact I was contacted by a publisher in Britain that is putting out *The Amateur Astronomer*. They actually asked if they could use some of my images, and those images will appear in that book which has just been recently published.

Beacon: What do you enjoy most about astrophotography?

Fields: It is increasingly difficult so I like that because it is a continuous challenge. Hobbies that you master in no time tend to lose interest. But this is one hobby that you can spend the rest of your life getting better at... When you are having a rough day and you go and sit in your observatory at night and you are capturing light that is eight million years older than you, it puts things in perspective. It is always connecting you to the universe and that is cosmic. That is something everyone should experience once in their lives.



The Beacon/Mike Lennon

John E. Smelcer, winner of the 2004 James Jones First Novel Fellowship.

James Jones First Novel winner to read at Wilkes

BY SARAH HERBERT

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

The Humanities Department of Wilkes University and the James Jones Literary Society have named John E. Smelcer as the 2004 winner of the James Jones First Novel Fellowship. Smelcer submitted a novel titled *The Trap*. The novel is about an Indian trapper who gets caught in one of his own traps during the coldest days of winter in Alaska.

Smelcer addresses the culture of Na-

tive Americans in Alaska, which is something he can relate to. He is not only a native Alaskan, but also a federally enrolled American Indian.

In addition to this award, Smelcer has also served as the Executive Director of his tribe's Heritage and Culture Foundation, and has won other awards including the Western Writers of America Award for Poetry and the Kessler Poetry Prize. He is also the associate publisher and poetry editor of the literary magazine *Rosebud*.

Among his other published works are *In the Shadows of Mountains*, *The Raven and the Totem* and *A Cycle of Myths*. Twenty six of his books have been published in addition to publications in over 300 periodicals and anthologies.

Smelcer will be awarded \$6,000 and Henry Holt, Inc. will publish his novel later this year. He will read from his award-winning novel *The Trap* on February 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kirby Salon. Students and faculty are encouraged to attend.

BY SARAH
Beacon Asst.

Graffiti c
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Graffiti:

Modern form of artistic expression for youth

BY SARAH HERBERT
Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Graffiti can be found in nearly every city. The small town of Wilkes-Barre is no exception. Abandoned buildings and concrete walls are covered with colorful symbols and letters.

For the most part, society connects graffiti, especially "tagging," with gangs. A tag is a cryptic name used by the artist to identify his/herself. However, tagging was not always a gang inspired act.

According to the History of Graffiti website <http://www.daveyd.com/historyofgraf.html>, the origins of underground art can be traced to Philadelphia. Political activists voiced their opinions through the use of graffiti in the 1960s.

Graffiti then spread to Manhattan in the 1970s and became prevalent especially in the subway systems. The practice of public graffiti was widely associated with the growing hip hop culture, particularly in New York. Artists began to seek public credit for work, not unlike the signatures painters have used on works of art for centuries, and "tagging" was born. The subway cars in New York City became a favorite place to display tags.

Soon, certain tags became established and easily recognizable causing a competition among taggers in the five boroughs.

The goal of the competition, fueled by famous tagger "Taki 183," was to display the artist's tag in as many places as possible, and as many times as possible.

Taki 183 was able to do so in seemingly impossible places and countless times. Thanks to this celebrity, the popularity of this form of art was increasing and demanded a higher standard of creativity.

According to Jam 2 Dis website, "While

work for upwards \$10,000-\$20,000."

The History of Graffiti website notes that in order to make a tag unique, writers began developing different fonts. Block letters and bubble letters became popular. Symbols, like crowns, were integrated into tags to establish a sort of ranking among

tion of the art form.

Many people today think that this is the best outlet for graffiti artists. One of those people is Wilkes junior English major/art minor Jennifer Trate. "Graffiti is positive if it's done in the right place...I don't think vandalism is good; to me it's just disgusting," said Trate.

In the late 1970s, cities like Manhattan were prime areas for taggers to leave their mark due to a lack of funding for the maintenance of the transit system. In the early 1980s, larger cities began to make eliminating graffiti their top priority.

Due to the difficulty associated with gaining access to train cars, many writers quit tagging. Others remained faithful to their art and stopped at nothing to leave a tag.

Because it was so difficult to leave a tag, writers became very territorial of their work. Cross-out wars broke out among the writers as a result.

Society was not particularly receptive to graffiti, but taggers could not be stopped.

Today, taggers still struggle with stereotypes and graffiti is rarely viewed as art. Some groups, like Art Crimes (www.graffiti.org), are striving to create legal public spaces for writers to display their art.

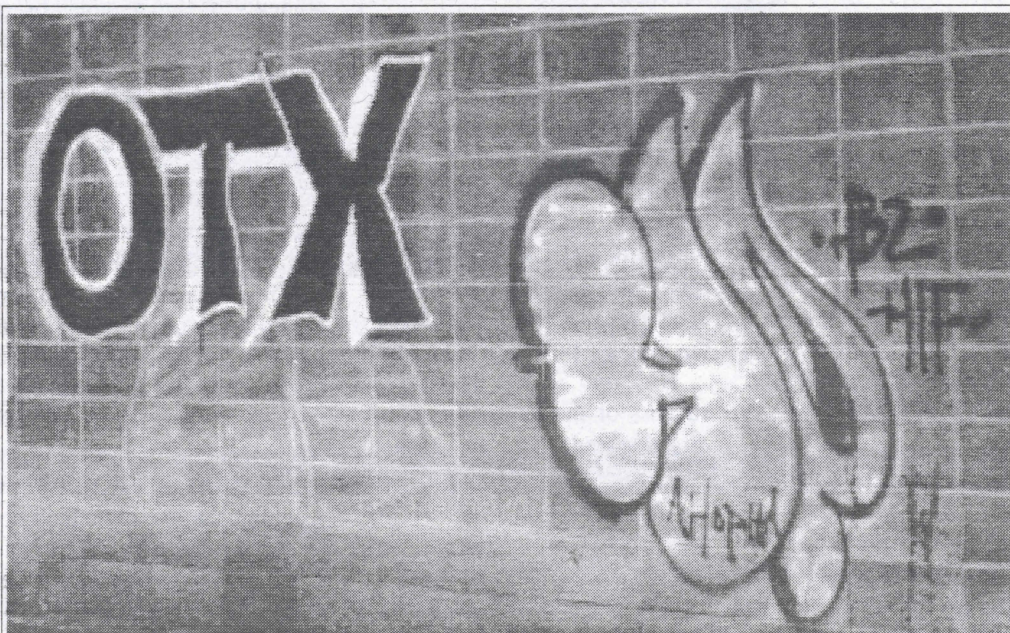
Ronald Bernier, director of the Sordoni Art Gallery, does not think this movement would be effective.

According to Bernier, the thrill of tagging has much to do with the illegality of the act. "Publicly or officially sanctioned space for them, in many way, undercuts the energy of it and the original point of it," said Bernier.

Bernier said that most people who consider themselves anonymous writers would shy away from such sanctioned places because graffiti is "meant to be an expression of a kind of dissatisfaction."

"Street graffiti has a whole different set of implications from gallery graffiti. Street graffiti has a lot more to do with social issues," said Kramer.

Graffiti is still socially unacceptable and considered inappropriate. However, taggers will likely continue to use the street and other public places to address the social issues that are important to them.



The Beacon/Sarah Herbert

Taggers are still leaving their marks on large walls and abandoned buildings. Graffiti remains a popular outlet of expression for today's youth. Similar tags can be found throughout downtown Wilkes-Barre.

most taggers are simply interested in seeing their name in as many places as possible and as visibly as possible, some taggers are more contented to find secluded warehouse walls where they can practice their pieces. Some of these taggers are able to sell twelve foot canvases of their

the writers.

Taggers began to alter their tools as well. Spray paint nozzles were altered to maximize or minimize the width of the spray. Thicker letters meant more attention and the more recognizable a tag the better.

More is involved in this form of expression than a can of paint. Wilkes University senior English major/art minor Brittany Kramer recognizes the determination and skill of taggers. "It's a whole set of skills that are required to do graffiti art. You have to be quick, you have to be able to do it in the dark, you have to have all of your supplies with you, and you have to gain access to where you want to do it" said Kramer.

Graffiti spread beyond the streets and subways. The History of Graffiti website also acknowledged that in 1972, a sociology student named Hugo Martinez founded the United Graffiti Artists (UGA). The UGA scouted the subways for the best tags, and displayed the writers' work in an actual gallery. This took graffiti into a formal setting that demanded public recogni-

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Out to the Movies: *Hide and Seek*

BY ALISON SHERRY
Beacon Staff Writer

"Come out, come out wherever you are" is the eerie phrase you may never want to hear again after seeing *Hide and Seek* directed by John Polson (director of *Swimfan*). Childhood games and imaginary friends have never been psychologically horrifying!

After the suicide of his wife, David Calloway (Robert DeNiro) is in need of a fresh start, so he packs up his young distraught daughter Emily (Dakota Fanning), and moves to upstate New York.

Attempting to mingle with the locals, which include Elisabeth Shue, Melissa Leo, and Robert John Burke, David finds that Emily's strange, aloof behavior is only getting worse. She begins to constantly mention her imaginary friend, "Charlie." At first, David dismisses his daughter's childhood fantasies as just that, but he is soon driven to the brink of insanity when vicious and mysterious occurrences start happening around the house and Emily blames "Charlie" for each of the incidents.

As a psychological thriller, *Hide and Seek* director plays on tension effectively and makes sure that audience members have just the right number of opportu-

nities to jump in their seats. Most scenes offer just the right balance of eeriness while still remaining entertaining. Robert De Niro plays a twist if you are used to his movies such as *Meet the Parents* or *Meet the Fockers*. In this role, he hearkens back to some of his earlier more serious method roles like those he played in *Raging Bull* and *Good Fellas*, though his characters in those films are much tougher. In *Hide and Seek* audiences see DeNiro in a complex, serious role with an edge.

Finally, it's important to note the talents of young Dakota Fanning. As she has already proven in the past with movies like *I Am Sam*, this 11-year old girl will most assuredly be the star of every

movie she plays in and will not be just another Hollywood child star has-been. Her *Hide and Seek* role is compelling as simultaneously innocent and potentially dark. Many adults have tried and failed to balance that sort of complexity, but Fanning pulls it off like a pro.

Hide and Seek is the surprise success of the year. Its acting, directing, and writing are excellent and it's definitely a scare.

This movie is rated R and receives 4 kernels.

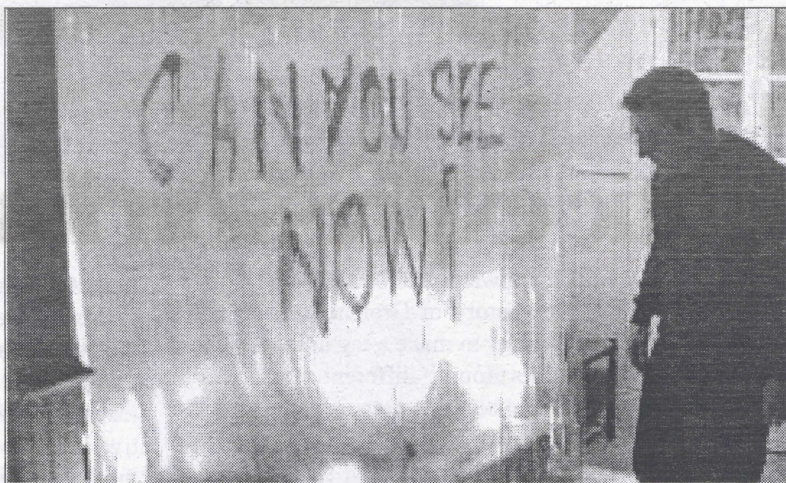


Photo courtesy of www.moviesonline.ca

David Calloway (Robert DeNiro) encounters the work of his daughter's imaginary friend Charlie in the new thriller *Hide and Seek*.

Building bridges ... with bridge

BY MYLES RUMBEL
Beacon Staff Writer

Q2- Both vulnerable, you hold: Spade A J 5; Heart K J 5; Diamond A J 5; Club Q 10 6 4

Your right-hand opponent opens one no trump. What action do you take?

Rev. Kenneth McCrea and his wife Katherine McCrea hope to teach students the answer to that strategic question and others. The couple aims to entice college students to learn and play bridge weekly at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) at 60 South River Street.

"We know it's a lot different than when we went [to college], but we know students still need something to fill their time," said Kenneth McCrea.

The McCreas have been playing bridge since college. Kenneth said that for him, bridge had been "recreation and diversion from studies." The McCreas have maintained a passion for the game for many years. They also enjoy teaching the inexperienced how to play bridge, and hope to have more college students join them. While the main goal for such a partnership is to advance the game and help young people learn, perhaps the best fringe benefit is that the games can build

cross-generational relationships.

According to Encylpedia.com, the game of bridge most likely originated in the Middle East in the 1800s. Bridge became popular in India followed by Great Britain and the United States. Bridge is played by four people divided into two sets of partners. All 52 cards of a standard deck are used for bridge.

"We have had some students [join us] occasionally and we'd like a lot more," Kenneth explained. Because the JCC is located on River Street between King's College and Wilkes University, the place is within easy walking distance of both, and that is one draw, the McCreas believe.

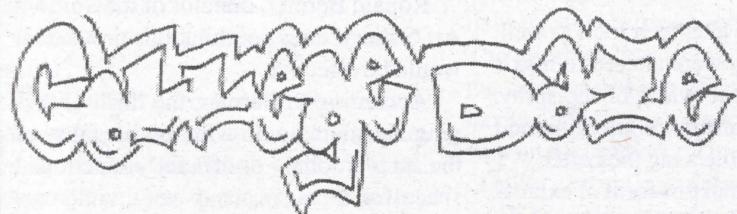
However, according to the McCreas, a lot of the original students they began playing with two years ago have moved on, so the couple hopes to spark new interest among local college students by getting the word out.

Katherine also explained that there are good reasons to play bridge. "There have been studies that indicate bridge helps keep your brain sharp," she said.

Kenneth had his own reasons for why young people should take up bridge. "It's something challenging intellectually. Something to take up spare time." In addition, there are also social connections - one can meet a lot of people through bridge.

Kenneth also noted that bridge is a competitive sport. "There's always that challenge," he remarked. In addition, bridge clubs have sectional, regional and national events. This year's national bridge tournament for the American Contract Bridge League is to be held in Pittsburgh.

Anyone interested in learning to play bridge can contact the Rev. Kenneth McCrea or Katherine McCrea at the JCC (570) 824-4646. Currently, bridge play is on Wednesday nights and Tuesday afternoons. However, if there is interest the McCreas have no problem scheduling other times to play.



BY JASON NICKLE

There is no friggin' Easy Button! It's only a commercial... Dang!

AHHHH

JR'S

All female cast to perform *Vagina Monologues*

BY JACLYN FRANCESE
Beacon Correspondent

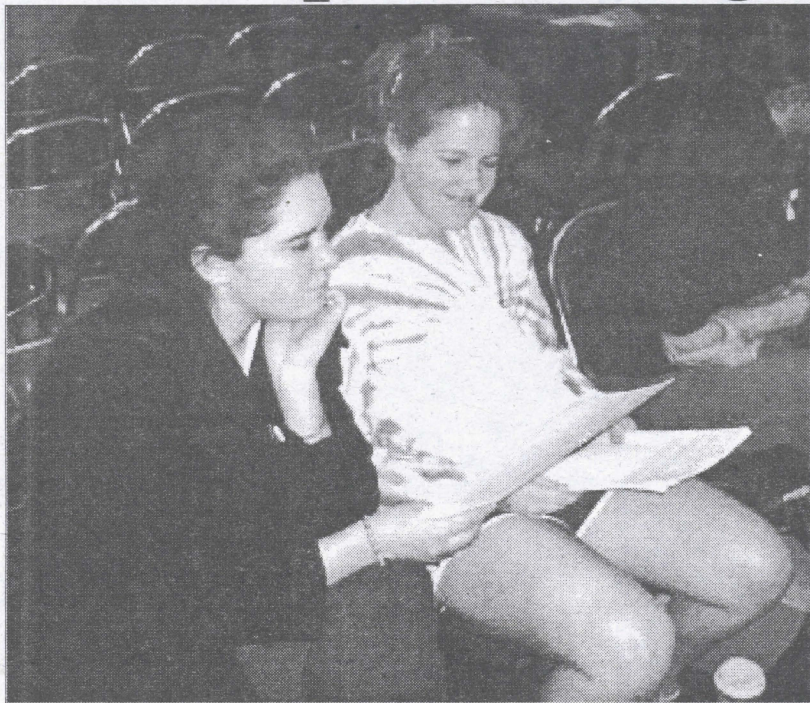
For the past three years, an all female cast has performed *The Vagina Monologues*. This year, they will do it again.

The Vagina Monologues, written by Eve Ensler, is a readers' theater piece that encourages awareness of sexuality, domestic abuse, and rape.

Dr. Mischelle Anthony, Assistant Professor of English, is directing this year's performance. Anthony has been involved with domestic violence control in her home state of Oklahoma.

"The entire play is so powerful," said Anthony.

Vicky White and Meagan Brown, both junior English and communications studies majors, are co-directing this year's performance. The two have tried to emphasize the positive aspects



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Shannon Curtin and Alicia Cain, both Wilkes University students, rehearsed their pieces for the *Vagina Monologues* on February 8, 2005. Two performances will be given this weekend.

of the performance.

"We've done some things differently as far as PR and advertising the show. We've tried to do it in a classier manner so that people wouldn't be turned off to the performances," said Brown.

A new piece, titled "They beat the girl out of my boy...or so they tried," has been added to the script. The piece is performed by five females, three of whom are professors, and addresses transgender issues.

When the *Vagina Monologues* has been performed nationally, the pieces

are read by women of all ages ranging from ten to ninety.

"It's great to see that the monologues not only appeal to younger women but also to professionals and women older than the average college woman," said Brown.

Everyone involved hopes the performance will convey a message of human compassion to the audience. "The play is meant to send out the message that we are all human beings and should be able to share our equality on a gut level through laughter, tears and understanding," said Anthony.

The Vagina Monologues will be performed in the Grand Ballroom of the Henry Student Center on February 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. Admission will be \$5 for Wilkes students and \$10 for the public. Ten percent of the proceeds will go to national organizations, and the other ninety percent will go to domestic violence organizations and the Women's Resource Center.

For more information about the *Vagina Monologues* visit www.vday.org.

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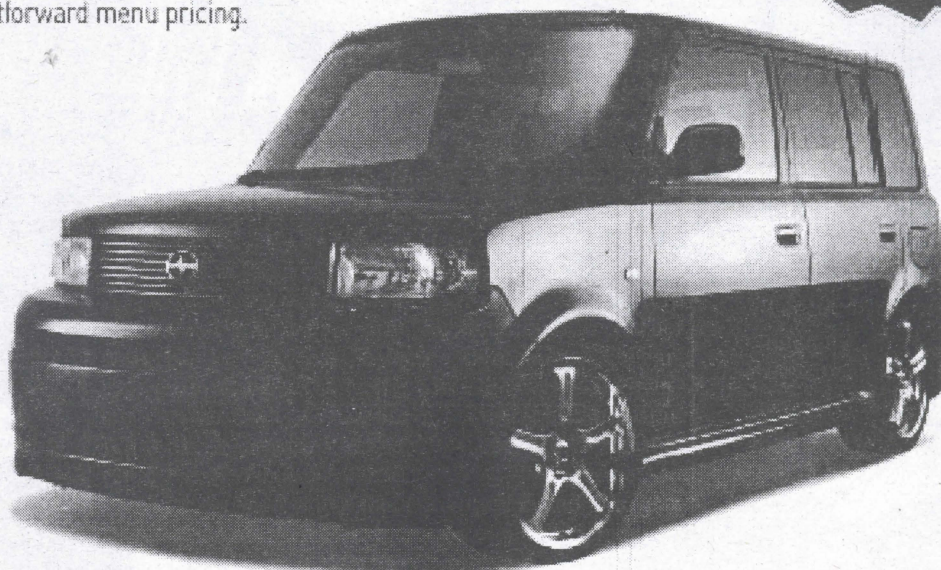
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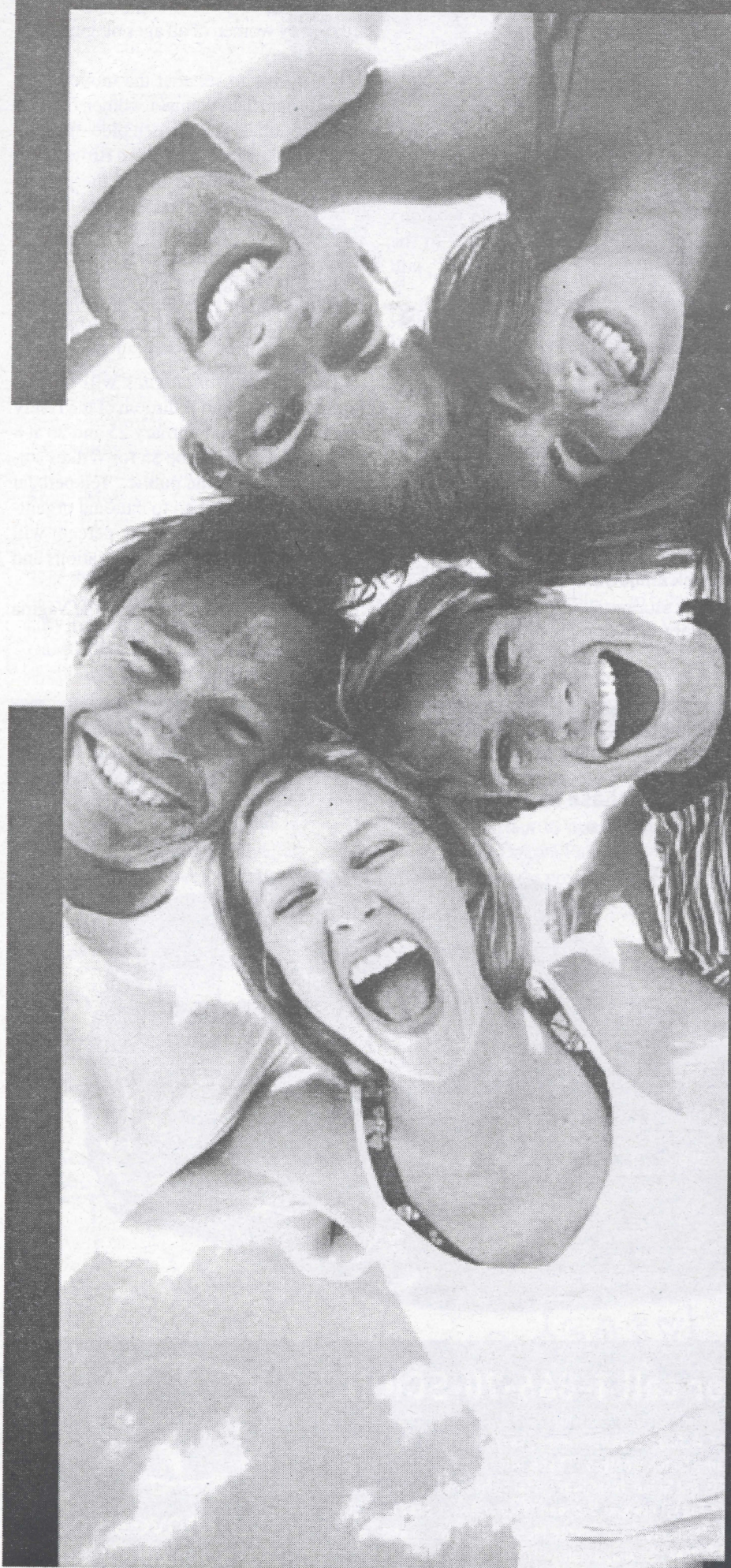
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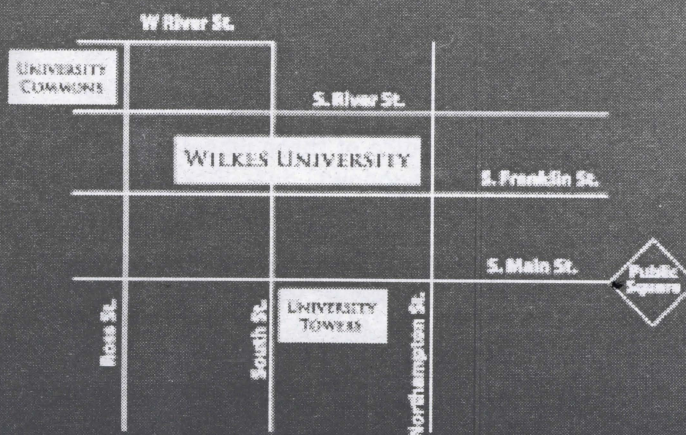
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FEBRUARY 21, 2005

SPORTS

17

Wilkes' Mayer earns trip to Nationals claiming wrestling title

Senior 125-pound standout posts win by major decision to advance to NCAA Division III Championships

COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Wilkes University senior 125-pound wrestler Jeremy Mayer has advanced to his first NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament by virtue of winning the individual title at the Middle Atlantic Conference Championships on Saturday in Wilkes University's Marts Center.

Mayer's performance helped Wilkes to a fifth-place finish in the team standings with 87.5 points. Delaware Valley College claimed their fourth straight conference title with 175 points. Lycoming College was second with 131.5 points, while Messiah College finished third with 117 points.

Mayer, along with the nine other weight class winners and two wild card entries, will advance to the NCAA Tournament which will be held on March 4-5 at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Mayer, seeded second in the MAC field, opened with a 6-1 win by decision over Pete Achilles from Elizabethtown College. After pinning Lycoming College's Nick Mascellino in 4:01 in the semi-final round, Mayer took on top-seeded Mike Weston from Delaware Valley in the final.

Weston jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead

less than a minute into the bout. However, Mayer stormed back to cut the lead to 10-9 after one period. Mayer then took control, scoring 11 unanswered points with vari-

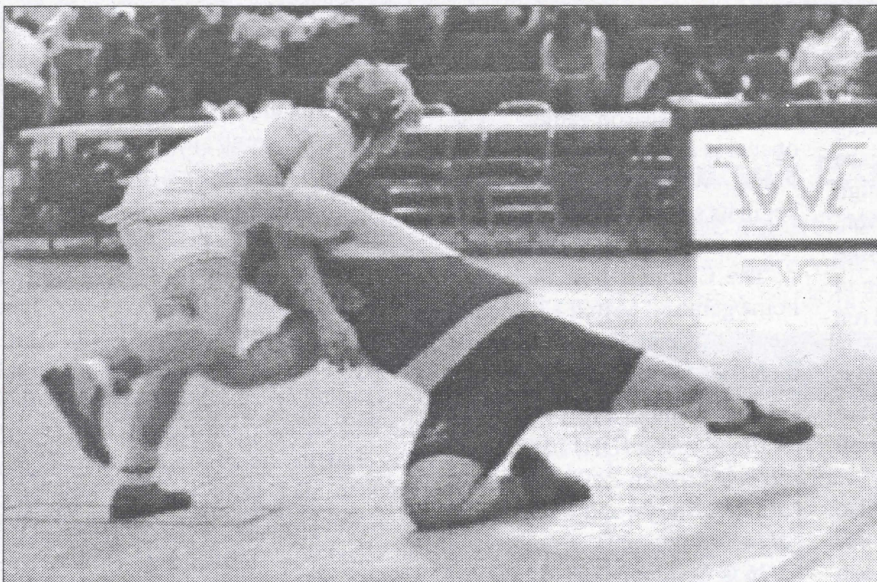
ship match he suffered a loss by pin to second-seeded Jamall Johnson from Delaware Valley in 3:19.

Sophomore Kyle Lenio bounced back from a tough 5-2 loss to Derek Crane from Lycoming in the semi-finals at 174 to claim third-place. Lenio topped Estrom Montesino from Albright by fall in 2:19 and pinned Tony Valenti from Messiah in 1:50 to claim third. Lenio was also awarded the Ken Ober Award for Most Fall in the Least Time after registering three victories by fall in 5:54.

Senior Jon Neyerling was a third-place finisher at 184 pounds for Wilkes. The third-seeded Neyerlin fell to second-seeded Tim Pentz from Messiah, 7-6, in the semi-finals. He then notched a 5-4 win over Scranton's Trevor Needham, before knocking off Matt Miller from Lycoming, 5-2, to finish third.

Sophomore heavyweight Matt Carey

was also third in his weight class. Carey moved into the semi-finals where he lost by fall to Delaware Valley's Mike Moore in 6:56. Carey fought back to win his final two bouts to claim third place. He pinned Paul Mazzei from Elizabethtown in just 43 seconds and topped Jim Bishop from King's College, 5-3.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

The Colonels' Matt Carey wrestles with Jim Bishop of King's College in Saturday's MAC Wrestling Championships that took place here at Wilkes. The Colonels took 5th place in the match.

ous tilts and takedowns to earn a 20-10 major decision.

Wilkes sophomore Brandon Kelly came up short in his bid to win the 197-pound title. Kelly, who was seeded first, advanced to the championships bout with an 11-3 major decision over Lycoming's Kevin Colton Craig. However, in the champion-

ship match he suffered a loss by pin to second-seeded Jamall Johnson from Delaware Valley in 3:19.

Sophomore heavyweight Matt Carey

FINAL MATCH WINNERS FOR WILKES UNIVERSITY

125

1st - Jeremy Mayer (WU) maj. dec. Mike Weston (DVC), 20-10

141

5th - Eric Snyder (LC) pinned Joe Yutko (WU), 1:16

165

5th - Steve Tatum (US) dec. Tom Leggio (WU), 2-0

174

3rd - Kyle Lenio (WU) pinned Tony Valenti (MC), 1:50

184

3rd - Jon Neyerlin (WU) dec. Matt Miller (LC), 5-2

197

1st - Jamall Johnson (DVC) pinned Brandon Kelly (WU), 3:19

285

3rd - Matt Carey (WU) dec. Jim Bishop (KC), 5-3

Trichilo earns Melberger Award as Division III Player Of The Year

COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

Brett Trichilo, Wilkes University senior running back, was named the 2004 recipient of the Melberger Award. The award, sponsored by Diversified Information Technologies, and presented in conjunction with the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Touchdown Club, is presented to the outstanding Division-III college football player of the year.

Trichilo is the only two-time recipient of the Melberger. The award is named in honor of Clifford K. Melberger, a member of the board of directors of the Touchdown Club and chairman of Diversified Information Technologies, an international business information management and processing firm headquartered in Scranton.

Statistically during the 2004 season, Trichilo led the MAC in rushing yards with 1,685; led the MAC averaging 168.5 rushing yards per game; set a new Wilkes and MAC career rushing record with 5,837 yards; set new Wilkes and MAC touchdown and points record with 64 TDs and

384 points; and, new Wilkes and MAC records with 63 rushing touchdowns. Also during the 2004 season, Trichilo moved into fourth place on the all-time Division III rushing list with 5,837 yards; moved into fourth place on the all-time Division III rushing list for yards per game with 162.1; tied for 12th place on the all-time Division III touchdowns list with 64; tied for 12th place on the all-time Division III points per game list averaging 10.7 points; tied for 12th on the all-time Division III scoring list with 384 points; and, set a new Wilkes single-game record with 316 rushing yards in a win over Susquehanna.

"It is indeed a privilege to present this award to Brett Trichilo, the first-ever, two-time recipient of the Melberger Award," commented Cliff Melberger during the luncheon ceremony. "This young man's individual achievements during the 2004 season, coupled with his equally outstanding achievements during the 2003 season, distinguish Brett from his competition and

make him a natural choice for earning this award."

The award finalists, selected by representatives from the Touchdown Club's board of directors, were chosen from the athletes identified as a Player of the Week or Most Valuable Player from the 28 Division-III football conferences across the nation. The award winner was determined by ballots cast by the club's board of directors.

As the recipient of the Melberger Award, Trichilo receives a trophy designed as a replica of an old-style leather football helmet crafted out of anthracite coal and mounted on a solid coal base. The award's sculptor is Frank Magdalinski of Anthracite Coal Craft in Plains, PA.



The Beacon/Todd Welbel

Brett Trichilo runs down the field during a game in the 2004 season. Trichilo recently won the Melberger Award for Division III Player of the Year.

Trichilo, a member of the 2005 graduating class at Wilkes, is a mechanical engineering major. He is active in the Wilkes community and is a member of the Wilkes Football Highway Clean-up Committee, the Reading is Fundamental Program, and the Student Ambassador Program.

Colonels look to take the mound with strength

But baseball season opener delayed until March

NEAL SANTOSKI
Beacon Correspondent

After setting a new school record for wins last season with 28, the Wilkes University baseball team looks to another promising season.

Last year the Colonels made it to the Mid Atlantic Conference (MAC) finals but lost to DeSales University in a close game 2-1. The Colonels also went to the ECAC tournament the week later and lost to Gwynedd-Mercy 5-2.

"We met all our goals for the season except for winning the MAC," said head baseball coach Joe Folek.

Though the Colonels lost good pitching in Mike Spotts and Matt Midkiff when they graduated last year, the team still appears to have depth for the 2005 season. "We are looking at a good staff and for our juniors to

lead the way for the pitchers," Folek said.

This year's starting rotation looks good with Mike Toomey, Barak Gohn, Kevin Konschak, and Jared Ferrell all solid pitchers looking for a starting spot. "After our games in Saint Mary's, Florida and pre-season games, we will have a better idea of everybody's role," said pitching coach Jerry Bavit. This year the Colonels have an unusually high number of left-handers at seven.

In the bullpen, closer Mike Quinn returns after appearing in 22 games last year. His earned run average (ERA) was a 1.93 while striking out 21 hitters. Others who will be help out in the bullpen are Seth Tratthen, John Milius, Ferrell and Justin Popovich.

The infield and outfield also look very experienced, with co-captains Tyler Trutt and Josh

Turel, and Steve Imdorf leading the way in both offense and defense. Last year Trutt led the team in steals making 17 out of 20 attempts.

Though a three game opener was scheduled for last weekend with St. Mary's College, the games were cancelled due to inclement weather, which is not unusual for early spring season games. "The opener is always important," said Folek. Wilkes will now wait to begin its season in Florida March 4-12.

The Colonels host their first home game on March 13, against Keuka. Listed below is the rest of their March Schedule.

3/18 @ Muhlenberg 3:00pm
3/19 vs. Vassar (DH) 12:00pm
3/20 @ Lincoln 12:00pm
3/22 vs. Marywood 3:00pm
3/24 @ Scranton 3:00pm
3/26 @ Scranton (DH) 12:00pm

Colonels claim playoff berth with 64-61 win at Drew

COURTESY SPORTS
INFORMATION

Wilkes University used some clutch free throw shooting in the final minute to hold off Drew University, 64-61, in a Freedom Conference men's basketball game on Saturday afternoon.

The win improves the Colonels to 15-9 overall and 8-6 in the conference. The victory, coupled with DeSales' win at Lycoming on Saturday, helped Wilkes earn the fourth-seed for the conference playoffs. Wilkes will travel to DeSales for a semi-final game on Wednesday.

Trailing 28-24 at intermission, the Colonels would quickly take the lead in the second stanza. Back-to-back three-pointers by John Yanniello and Chris Shovlin provided Wilkes with a 45-34 lead with 13:28 left in the game.

Drew would continue to fight

their way back, tying the game at 50-50 on a layup by Bob Carella with 4:41 remaining. After a Matt Gould layup gave Wilkes a 52-50 advantage, Craig Clemente converted a three-point play to put Drew on top 53-50 with 2:27 left.

Shovlin responded for Wilkes by sandwiching a pair of jumpers around a Gould free throw that gave the Colonels the lead for good, 57-53, with 1:33 remaining. Drew would close to within 58-56 on a Clemente basket inside with 28 ticks left. But, Gould, Shovlin, and Mike Constantine would each hit two charity tosses in the remaining time to held fend off the Rangers rally.

Shovlin had a game-high 20 points to lead four Wilkes players in double-figures. Constantine cashed in 13 tallies. Evan Walters contributed 12 points and five rebounds, while Yanniello had 11 points.

This Week at Rifkin Cafe



Buffalo Chicken Wrap

SERVED WITH CHIPS, PICKLE
AND 24 OZ FOUNTAIN
SODA FOR ONLY

\$4.59

Saturday 8:00 - Midnight

WUBNIGHT

Awesome DJ, Dancing
Great Food, Special
Drink Prices



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COLONEL'S CLIPBOARD

SPORTS BRIEFS

WEEKLY RECAP

MEN'S BASKETBALL

School	Conf			League		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
King's	11	3	.786	20	5	.826
DeSales	11	3	.786	19	6	.739
Scranton	10	4	.714	19	5	.773
Lycoming	8	6	.571	17	8	.696
Wilkes	8	6	.571	15	9	.636
FDU-Florham	4	10	.286	10	15	.391
Delaware Valley	4	10	.286	9	16	.391
Drew	0	14	.000	2	23	.087

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

School	Conf			League		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Scranton	14	0	1.000	24	1	.955
King's	12	2	.857	22	3	.913
DeSales	10	4	.714	19	6	.739
Drew	6	8	.429	14	11	.522
FDU-Florham	6	8	.429	14	11	.591
Delaware Valley	4	10	.286	12	12	.524
Lycoming	3	11	.214	7	17	.286
Wilkes	1	13	.071	4	21	.182

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2/15 Lycoming 68 Wilkes 67 (OT)
2/20 Wilkes 64 Drew 61

BASEBALL

2/20 Wilkes @ St. Mary's (PPD.)
2/21 Wilkes @ St. Mary's (PPD.)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/15 Lycoming 62 Wilkes 57
2/17 Delaware Valley 76 Wilkes 57
2/20 Drew 67 Wilkes 48

WRESTLING

Team Scoring

1. Delaware Valley (DVC) - 175.0
2. Lycoming (LC) - 131.5
3. Messiah (MC) - 117.0
4. King's (KC) - 95.0
5. Wilkes (WU) - 87.5
6. Elizabethtown (EC) - 46.5
7. Scranton (US) - 40.5
8. Albright (AC) - 23.5

THE WEEK AHEAD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Freedom Conference Semi-Finals
2/23 Wilkes @ DeSales @ 7:00 PM

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: JEREMY MAYER, WRESTLING

RICH HANNICK
Beacon Staff Writer

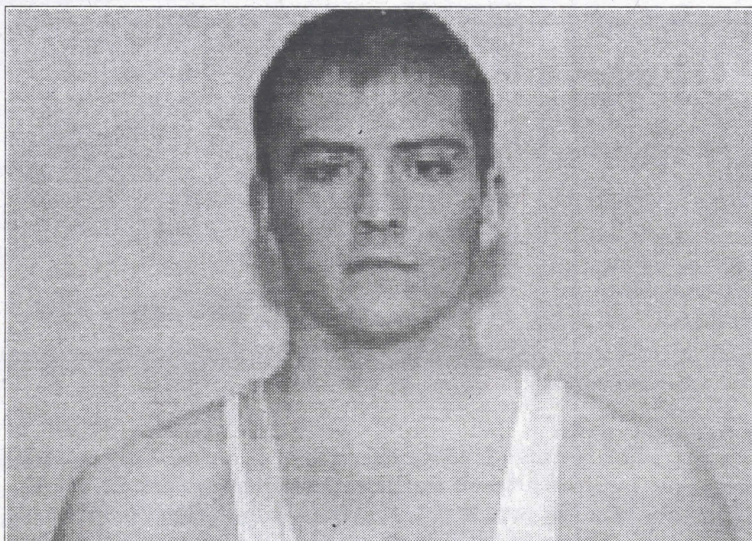
Most five-year-old children are interested in Leggos and Sesame Street. Jeremy Mayer was not one of these children. Instead, Mayer was interested in full nelsons, and grappling techniques.

Mayer, a senior history major, has posted a 22-12 record in his senior year, wrestling in the 125-pound weight class. Mayer came out of high school in the 103-pound weight class, but through weight training he has established himself in his current weight class.

Coach Jon Laudenslager said, "He's a decent size 125-pounder."

Laudenslager praises Mayer for his outstanding work ethic. "If the match was thirty-five minutes he would wrestle all

thirty five at the same pace." Mayer has great enthusiasm and energy for the sport. His coach knows he can put Mayer up against anybody because he will not back down. "It doesn't matter if you're a national champ or junior varsity player, he will scrap with anyone," said Mayer's coach.



Courtesy of Sports Information

Wilkes wrestling standout, Jeremy Mayer who placed first at the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championships on Saturday here at Wilkes, heads to the NCAA National Championships where he will put his skills up against some of the other leading wrestling in the country.

Mayer, who wrestled in the 2005 Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) Wrestling Championships this past weekend, expressed his wishes about what the outcome of the tournament would be. Most of all he wanted to place first.

"I've wanted to win the MAC's since I was a freshman." Mayer was also expecting a number two seed before the event began.

Going into the tournament, Mayer felt that Mike Weston from Delaware Valley would be his biggest challenge. Mayer's ideal situation would be to wrestle Weston in the finals to break the 2-2 series tie they currently have.

At the MAC tournament this weekend Mayer's hope became a reality. He took the number two seed in to this weekend's events. He finished first in the 125-pound weight class, and earned a birth in the NCAA National Championship tournament.

He even got the opportunity of wrestling longtime rival Mike Weston in the final. Look for results in next week's issue about how Mayer placed in Nationals.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

5

Place that the Wilkes wrestling team took at the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championships this past Saturday.

15

Total number of wins that the men's basketball team had during the 2004-2005 regular season.

12

Rebounds grabbed by Karyn Perestam in the Lady Colonels' final regular season game at Drew on Saturday.

20

Points scored by Chris Shovlin in the Colonels' final regular season win over Drew University on Saturday, 64-61.

RUNNING FOR HEAT:

Wilkes running club raising money for needy Families

RYAN DIPPRE

Beacon Staff Writer

The members of the Running Club have decided to help needy families by doing what they do best: running a whole lot further than any other reasonable person would consider.

At 6:30 a.m. on February 26, members of the club will begin a relay that will not end until they reach their goal of 100 miles. "We're doing it to help the needy families of Wilkes-Barre with the recent increase in fuel prices," said Running Club member Jared Shayka.

The money earned from the Relay for Heat will be donated to the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), a company designed to help families in difficult financial situations to pay for fuel. The money will be sent to CEO once it is collected at the conclusion of the run.

The Relay for Heat was organized by Dr. Will Terzaghi, an Associate Professor in the Wilkes University biology department. "His goal is to get twenty runners to participate," said Shayka, a junior pharmacy major. "If we get twenty people to join, then people only have to run five miles a piece."

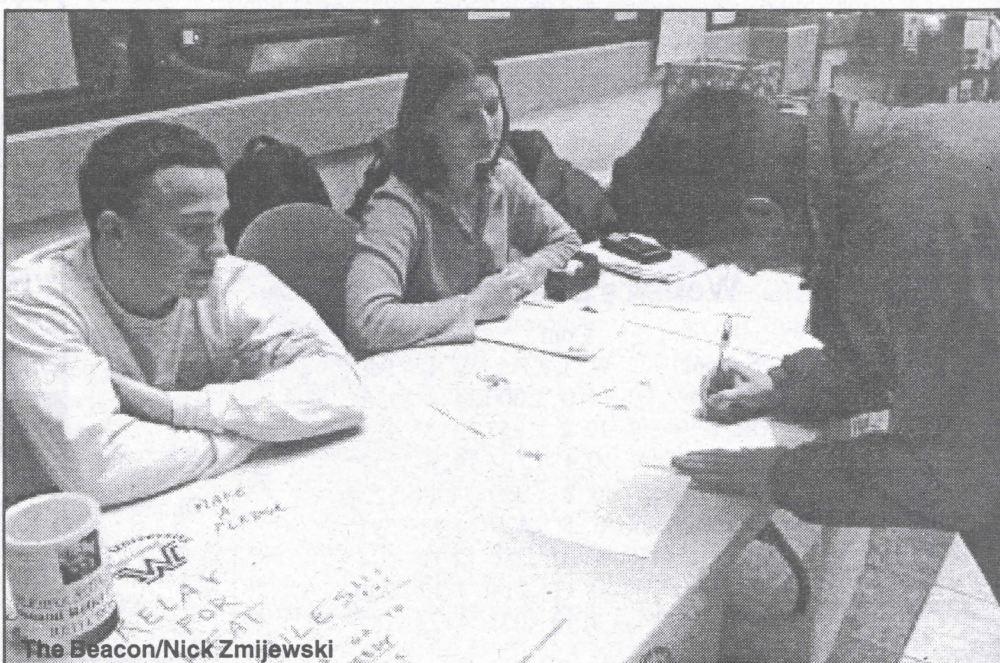
The ease of the run will depend on the

condition of the runners, according to Shayka. "The Running Club doesn't always log that many miles per week, so some of our more experienced runners might just treat it like a training day, while others will struggle a little bit more," he said.

The goal is to average eight minute miles in order to complete the task in twelve hours. "We aren't making any promises, though," said Shayka. The relay is currently slated to end at around 7:00 p.m.

The Relay for Heat is currently accepting pledges during club hours on Tuesday and Thursday. "We had 34 signatures on Tuesday, and 17 so far today," said sophomore Darlene Chaykosky at around 12:30 p.m. on Thursday. "We are accepting any amount of pledge money in any way they want to pledge," added Chaykosky, a pharmacy major.

Chaykosky outlined two different ways of pledging for the run: "You can either donate a flat pledge, or donate a certain amount of money per mile. The money donated ranges from \$2 to \$20 so far."



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Members of the Wilkes Running Club at a table in the Henry Student Center having students sign up for the Run for Heat race which will take place at 6:30 AM on February 26th.

The Relay for Heat runners will be accepting both pledges and runners for the remainder of the week. They currently have 17 runners signed up, and more are welcome. The Relay will be collecting do-

nations in the Henry Student Center during club hours on Tuesday and Thursday. Anyone wishing to donate or run can contact Jared Shayka at Shayka2002@hotmail.com for details.

Campus Calendar

MONDAY (2/21)

* Recital Performance by students Alanna Bath, soprano; Stephen Benscoter, piano; Elizabeth Rish, piano. 7 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, S. Franklin St., W-B, free admission

TUESDAY (2/22)

"Know the Law," Tuesday, February 22 at 9:00 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom.

WEDNESDAY (2/23)

*Student Government meeting 5:30 p.m. Marts Center

*Public reading, John Smelcer, 2004 winner of the James Jones First Novel Fellowship, from his prize-winning novel at 7:30 p.m. in the Kirby Salon.

THURSDAY (2/24)

*Movie Matinee 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Commuter Lounge; sponsored by Commuter Council

FRIDAY (2/25)

*Carnival 8 p.m. DDD; free with Wilkes ID, other students/senior citizens \$5, general admission \$15

*Commuter Lock-in 8 p.m., Commuter Lounge -- Sign up by 2/23 to attend

*Dave Coulier, Comedian with Melvin Bender a.k.a. M, 9 p.m. Marts Center, students \$5, public \$10

*Vagina Monologues 7:30 p.m. HSC Ballroom, students \$5, public \$10

*Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program 9:30 a.m. -

*Plan your weekend! with Student Development, visit <http://www.wilkes.edu/studentdev/weekend.asp>

SATURDAY (2/26)

1:30 p.m. Breiseth Hall 108; free

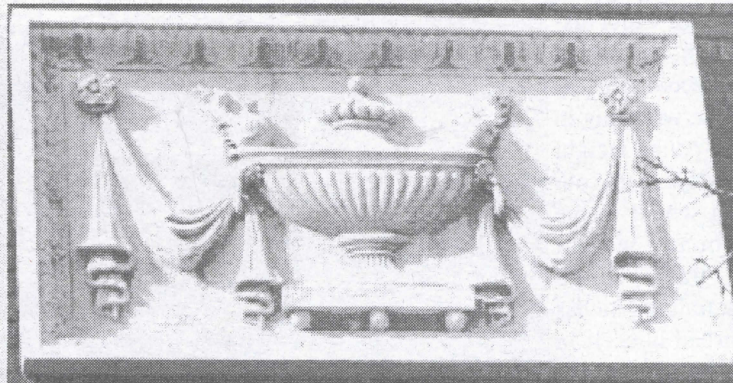
*Vagina Monologues 7:30 p.m. HSC Ballroom, \$5 students, \$10 public

*Play Carnival 8 p.m. DDD; free with Wilkes ID, other students/senior citizens \$5, general admission \$15

SUNDAY (2/27)

*Play Carnival 2 p.m. DDD; free with Wilkes ID, other students/senior citizens \$5, general admission \$15

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH!



This photo was taken somewhere on Wilkes University's Campus. When you find it, email us the answer at: wilkesbeacon@hotmail.com. Be sure to put "Campus Picture" as the subject heading, as well as your name, phone number, and either campus mailbox or mailing address in the body text. A random winner will be picked from the correct responses and will receive a \$10 cash prize, courtesy of Programming Board.

Congratulations to John Mishanski who correctly identified last week's photo which was of the "facets" sculpture hanging on the Stark Learning Center.