

FY '10 and '11 budget session held

Wilkes still struggling to balance deficit

BY CATHRYN FREAR
Assistant News Editor

On Thursday, February 11, Petra Carver, vice president of finance and support operations, held a budget update session for the Wilkes community about the immediate financial future of the University. It was followed by a question and answer session.

According to Carver, 2010 is projected to end in a deficit of \$2.2 million because of a shortfall in undergraduate tuition revenue and part-time tuition revenue. There was also some over-expenditure on the part of financial aid.

Every year, the goal for the University is to end the fiscal year



The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

Petra Carver met with interested Wilkes community members to discuss the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years, giving a presentation and answering their questions.

Among the revenue received is a Department of Education grant that is guaranteed for this year and cutbacks will be used in 2011.

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Potential study partnership with Australian college in works

Campion College to give Wilkes students a study abroad experience

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
News Editor

The Center for Global Education and Diversity, in cooperation with Campion College in Australia, plans to create a study abroad partnership for students, as well as a separate teaching program for faculty members.

Dr. Paul Abela, deputy registrar from Campion College, visited Wilkes University on Tuesday, February 9 to speak with students and faculty about the program that

Campion has to offer.

Campion is a small liberal arts college located about 35 minutes from Sydney and 10 minutes from the Parramatta, which is another business district in Australia. Campion is Australia's first liberal arts college and it was founded in 2006. Currently, the college has 100 students and eight faculty members.

The study abroad partnership has not yet been finalized, but Dr. Godlove Fonjiweng, director of the Center for Global Education and

Diversity, is hopeful that it will soon be approved.

About 15 students and 15 faculty members came to hear Abela speak about Campion and the type of programs the college has to offer to Wilkes students and faculty members.

Students studying abroad can live in a dorm, live in shared houses or live with an Australian family. On campus, Campion has facilities that include a library, gym

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PA governor to deliver spring commencement address

Rendell chosen to address graduates

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Online Editor

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, governor of Pennsylvania, will offer the spring commencement address at Mohegan Sun Arena on May 22, says Vicki Mayk, associate director for marketing communications at Wilkes.

Dr. Paul Adams, vice president for student affairs, said Rendell has visited Wilkes many times in the past.

"He's been a great friend to Wilkes and a great supporter of Northeastern PA," said Adams.

"I think [he's] an interesting choice. I don't know how well [he] will be received since he couldn't

pass the budget bill, but – I don't know – it will be interesting," said Erin Sweet, senior class representative on student government.

Gary Miller, a spokesman for Rendell, said Wilkes is currently one of two commencement addresses the Governor has agreed to give.

Adams says that Rendell's name has been kicked around in the past for the address, but it has never worked out.

"Governor Rendell has been on our list for the past few years," said Adams. "Timing is always an issue in the selection. Since this is the last opportunity we have to honor Governor Rendell while he's in office, we invited him for

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The Beacon Archives/ Allison Roth

Rendell has delivered several addresses at Wilkes campus throughout his term in office.

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Plague of poor rhetoric

Students have become accustomed to using the word "like" and "um" in their speech which causes problems entering job market.

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Black History Month

Dr. Stringer integrates Black History Month facts into her classes to help students better understand this month-long celebration.

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Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues showcased at Wilkes this past weekend. The spotlight shined on the women in the Congo.

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College athletic coaches are responsible for helping their students achieve success beyond their sport.

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Beacon Briefs

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

News Editor

ONLINE WRITING CENTER – The Online Writing Center (OWC) is open for submissions for spring 2010. The OWC consultations are similar to the consultations done in the Writing Center in the Alden Learning Commons in the Farley Library. Papers are read and sent back to the writer within 48 hours. Submissions can be made by going to <http://wilkes.edu/pages/766.asp>.

PINK OUT – The Women's Basketball Team will be playing King's College at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 20. The team will be selling "pink out" T-shirts for \$10 and the profits will be donated to the fight against breast cancer. Shirts can be purchased through any member of the team or

coaching staff until February 12. For names of the players, visit www.gowilkesu.com.

MOCK GRAD SCHOOL TESTING – Career Services will host Princeton Review test prep services on Saturday, February 27 in Breiseth Hall at 9 a.m. for students interested in taking mock GRE's, GMAT, LSAT, or MCAT. Students must email careers@wilkes.edu or call 570-408-4060 with name, test desired, major, year and cell number to attend. The tests are approximately three to five hours and the GRE and GMAT tests are computer administered. All students must arrive at Breiseth Hall, first floor by 8:55 a.m. No walk-ins or late arrivals will be accommodated.

TREC AWARDS – The Teaching Recognition and Effectiveness Committee (TREC)

is now accepting nominations from faculty for the Carpenter Award, the Outstanding New Faculty Award, the Part-time Teaching Award, the Academic Support Award, the Multiculturalism Award and the Interdisciplinary Award. The Carpenter Award nominations are due February 19 and the other awards are due March 19. More information for the criteria of each award can be found at <http://course.wilkes.edu/trec/>.

RELAY FOR LIFE – Registration has begun for Relay for Life. Students interested in forming a team and signing-up can contact Bethany Sharpless at bethany.sharpless@wilkes.edu. Relay for Life will be held on April 24 through April 25.

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP – Campus Counseling will host a

Stress Management Workshop today, February 16 at 11:15 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. in the Health and Wellness Service Center on the first floor of Passan Hall. Susan Biskup, M.A., NCC, will lead the informative session about how to handle and cope with stress. Pizza will be offered to students who attend. For more information, contact Susan Biskup at susan.biskup@wilkes.edu.

Win an award? Hear about an important event? If you think it's newsworthy, send it in! Email jacqueline.lukas@wilkes.edu or cathryn.frear@wilkes.edu with your tip.

SAT-optional still a long shot for Wilkes applicants

Admissions still discussing pros and cons of nixing the test scores

BY KIRSTIN COOK

Assistant A & E Editor

The Wilkes University Admissions Department is considering eliminating the SAT scores requirement from the application process, though according to enrollment administration doing so is merely a possibility at this point in time.

In Spring 2007, the Admissions Department began exploring the idea of making SAT scores optional for application to the university.

After much debate and consideration by the Admissions Department, the plan for making SAT scores optional for incoming freshmen is still in the preliminary stages. The concept has been sent to the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, but

there is little evidence that it has any potential of becoming an official proposal.

Melanie Mickelson, vice president for enrollment services, said, "The committee itself has not yet made a decision as to whether or not they even wish to propose a policy. They're still in the research stages."

Mickelson describes evaluating the option of removing SAT scores as being a tedious process that has been ongoing over the last three years.

"For the past three years, the Admissions and Financial Aid committee has been discussing this conceptually. Where they are right now is, they are looking at policies of other institutions, looking at the rationale behind such a policy. Then, the committee, after they've done their research, will conclude as to whether or not they wish to

propose a policy."

According to Mickelson, if the committee decides that it would be effective to eliminate SAT scores, the proposal would still have to pass a faculty vote.

Mickelson said that switching SAT scores to optional in the near future is "an extremely remote possibility." Amy Patton, acting director of admissions, also said that this transition is "nowhere close to being a possibility."

There are many schools that have already converted to SAT-optional, and Wilkes has noticed this trend.

"Some schools have shown a very positive change from it," Mickelson said, "Drew University is probably one of the best examples that's shown. They increased their application pool. They increased their

diversity. They really garnered all of the results from it that they wanted to get."

However, there have also been questionable consequences from this change that the committee has been monitoring. "Other schools, I think, are still evaluating the impact of it. King's College went SAT-optional a few years ago, and they're still evaluating whether or not they got the benefits they wanted," said Mickelson.

There is indication that this change may not occur at all. Mickelson said, "There's been a lot of concern that we are not ready for such a policy. The largest faculty argument is that it will lower admission standards."

The objective of this switch would not be to lower standards for incoming freshmen.

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Meet the Staff



Gino Troiani
Managing Editor

RENDELL

Continued from FRONT PAGE

May. President Gilmour wrote a letter to the Governor inviting him to speak.”

The 66-year-old Democratic governor is completing his second term in office, and has had a lengthy career in national and Pennsylvania politics.

He was first elected to the office of governor in 2002, and reelected in 2006. He was the mayor of Philadelphia from 1992

to 1999, and the city’s District Attorney from 1978 to 1985. Rendell also served as the General Chairman for the Democratic National Committee during the 2000 presidential election.

He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Villanova Law School.

According to Mayk, the speaker is chosen by the Honorary Degree Committee. The committee is comprised of President Tim Gilmour; Dr. Reynold Verret, Wilkes’ provost; Dr. Paul Adams, vice president for student affairs; Dr. Elizabeth Slaughter, rep-

resentative from the board of trustees; and Dr. Bernard Graham, dean of the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing.

Mayk says the committee solicits suggestions from the campus community for honorary degree recipients in the fall.

“This call for nominations doesn’t stipulate that it is a call for suggestions for commencement speakers, since the University sometimes awards honorary degrees at commencement to honor individuals who are not speaking,” said Mayk.

“Governor Rendell will be the only hon-

orary degree recipient at this year’s ceremony,” said Adams. “He will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.”

“The University will recognize individuals who have attained achievements of extraordinary and lasting distinction,” said the selection committee in the call for honorary degree nominations last semester. “In all cases they should have a demonstrated record of accomplishment consonant with the ideals of the University.”

The committee also said they prefer to identify native Pennsylvanians for contributions that they have made to the state.

People from different walks of life have earned the honor including Marlee Matlin, American actress; Bill Cosby, American comedian; Janet Reno, former U.S. Attorney General; and John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie, American jazz icon.

In total, Wilkes has awarded approximately 100 people with honorary degrees throughout the institution’s history.

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Commencement Speakers Throughout Wilkes’ History

June 8, 1939 – Paul Swain Havens, president of Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa., delivered the 5th commencement address for Bucknell Junior College.

June 3, 1957 - Eric Johnson, president of the Motion Picture Association and special envoy of President Eisenhower, delivered the address for Wilkes College.

June 11, 1962 – James E. Webb, the second chief administrator of NASA, delivered the commencement address for Wilkes College.

May 15, 1999 – Janet Reno, former U.S. Attorney General, delivered the commencement address for Wilkes University.

May 21, 2005 – Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. delivered the commencement address for Wilkes University. Kennedy is an attorney, author and environmental activist.

May 22, 2010 - Edward G. Rendell, governor of Pennsylvania, is scheduled to deliver the commencement address for Wilkes University.

AUSTRALIA

Continued from FRONT PAGE

and sporting facilities. In order to qualify, students must have a GPA of 2.75 or higher.

Abela pointed out that by studying at Campion, students will be immersed in Australian culture because there are not many students from other cultures at Campion.

Campion is offering two different types of study abroad programs for students. According to Fonjweng, these programs will be offered during summer semesters if the program is accepted by both Wilkes and Campion.

The first type of program is for a full semester, which will encompass a full class schedule and living on campus or with an Australian family. This program is about the cost of a semester at Wilkes University, but Campion offers a wide range of scholarships that are available to students.

The second study abroad program is about three weeks. It will include two weeks of in-classroom learning and then one week of travel into the Australian Outback to learn about and to help the aboriginal culture of Australia. This study program will be a three credit course and costs about \$4,000.

Students will have to pay for their flight and bring their own spending money.

Abela emphasized the “work hard, play hard” attitude in Australia, but also talked about the lessons that students will take with them for the rest of their lives.

“I think there is value in an Australian

study abroad experience,” said Abela. “It’s not all parties and games.”

Both Abela and Fonjweng emphasized the importance of field trips. Abela said that there are many opportunities to travel throughout Australia. Abela talked about students traveling to big cities like Sydney and the Parramatta, as well as the Australian Outback.

Currently, Fonjweng is hoping that faculty members from Wilkes University will teach classes at Campion in their field of expertise.

The faculty teaching program’s logistics are a little less clear. For faculty members going to Campion College from Wilkes University, there is no set class or curriculum that they must teach. Currently, according to Abela and Fonjweng, faculty can teach whichever subject they would like to teach, and students can take it as an elective.

In addition, being that Campion is a liberal arts college, there are not many science or math classes offered to students. Therefore, science and math professors can teach their area of expertise as an elective course, as well.

Faculty members who decide to teach abroad will have an office, library resources and a full meal plan. “We are still in the early stages of development,” said Abela.

Fonjweng said that, through this project, he hopes to get more faculty members involved in the study abroad experience to attract the attention of a greater number of students.

“When faculty [members] become inter-



The Beacon/Jacqueline Lukas

Dr. Paul Abela, deputy registrar of Campion College in Australia, spoke with Wilkes students about the college and its’ study abroad options. He also spoke with faculty about teaching classes at Campion.

ested in study abroad, they can then also urge their students in classes and give advisement sessions to go abroad,” said Fonjweng. “So this project is an attempt to get faculty more involved in study abroad, with the main goal of getting our students [to study abroad].”

Fonjweng continued to say that many students from Wilkes have not traveled, so to encourage students to study abroad can be quite difficult.

Dr. James Merryman, professor of sociology and anthropology, attended the faculty meeting to hear Abela’s presentation. Merryman takes students on trips almost every spring break and summer. This summer, he will be traveling to Australia and plans to stop by Campion.

“While I’m [in Australia] I will go visit [Campion College near] Sydney and so I’ll have a much better feel for it by seeing the campus first hand and meeting faculty,” said Merryman. “So I expect to be positively impressed and I would be very much in favor of encouraging Wilkes students to go there.”

Merryman, who calls himself a world-traveler, has learned many life lessons about the value of a study abroad experience. “It’s important to gain a different perspective of the U.S. and a different perspective of yourself, as a world citizen and not just an American,” said Merryman.

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Robotics club seeking constitution approval

BY CATHRYN FREAR

Assistant News Editor

As a way to remember their late professor, Dr. Matthew Zukowski, some engineering students on campus have decided to try to revive the robotics club.

Mr. Hisham A. Abu-Nabaa, an engineering instructor and the advisor to the club, persuaded some of his students to start the club back up.

"Our teacher, Dr. Nabaa, encouraged us to start the club up last semester when we took one of his robotics classes," said James Spickard, a junior electrical engineering major. "We realized [the lab] was such a spectacular room, with all of the different robotics stuff in there. It's one of the most impressive labs on campus and is only used one day a week for that semester."

So, they decided that they would put the lab room to some use by reforming the robotics club. They could then take advantage of it while bringing back a unique club. The club has been inactive for years, but no one ever withdrew its club-status. However, the only issue with Student Government from granting

club status was that the constitution had been lost somewhere along the way.

Spickard went to work writing up a new constitution and submitted it to Student Govern-

ment, however.

"That gives us basically a two-month head start on the competition," said Gabos.

Though members don't have to be engi-

"We want to give the students the opportunity for hands-on learning. It's hard to understand robotics without actually doing it."

- Santino Gabos, junior electrical engineering major

ment for review and what he and the other robotics club supporters hope will be approval.

"We want to give the students the opportunity for hands-on learning. It's hard to understand robotics without actually doing it," said Santino Gabos, also a junior electrical engineering major.

"Building a robot would look great on a resume, especially in engineering," said Spickard.

Another thing the robotics club wishes to do is compete in tournaments, such as Battle Bots. Specifically, Battle Bots starts in April, so even with approval, they will have to wait until next year. This does not bother potential

neering majors to join, another big part of the robotics club would be allowing students to finish projects. "For anyone who didn't finish their [ongoing] projects in class, they get to finish them during the club. They can also start a project in the club and take it over to the class," said Spickard.

According to Gabos, one of the ways this club would benefit engineering majors is with their required senior project. The robots students build in the club can potentially be used as senior projects.

The club had its first meeting last Tuesday and already has gained a good number of members.

"Right now, we have 25 people on the email list. People seem excited. There were students stopping me in the hall saying 'Make sure you put me on the email list' if they couldn't make it to our meeting," said Spickard.

Clubs on Wilkes' campus are required to do some sort of community outreach. The robotics club plans on hosting some information sessions and demos for elementary and high school students in the area. There are some other things that they would like to do for charity, as well. According to Gabos, they would like to host charity competitions and appliance drives.

"We were thinking of maybe hosting an appliance drive. People could just bring in their old appliances that they're not using so that we can donate them to people in need," said Spickard.

For students interested in attending a meeting or joining robotics club, they meet Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the SLC, Room 238.

Student Government will vote on their constitution's approval this Wednesday, February 17, at its weekly meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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BUDGET

Continued from FRONT PAGE

next year. This year, Wilkes will receive about one million dollars.

However, even with that grant, Wilkes would still be short approximately another one million dollars. The University plans on holding and not going forward with all of its current uncommitted Capital Projects expenses in order to save some money and bridge some of the financial gap.

“Tom Messinger [executive director of campus support services] and I have looked at our Capital Projects’ funds and believe there is enough there to cover the remaining million,” said Carver. Capital Projects includes basic maintenance of electricity, plumbing, windows, etc. on campus such as the renovation of the library basement and the elevator replacement in University Towers.

Carver went on to say that she believes that this will take care of the rest of the deficit and will bring Wilkes back to a neutral position for 2010. She made clear that any Capital Projects that are seen as being in immediate need of being taken care of will not be ignored, no matter the financial situation.

All of these ideas to balance the budget are currently just proposals. They will have to go through a Finance Committee vote at their board meeting on March 26.

Carver also spoke about the future and what the University’s plans are for 2011. “Just as last year and the year before, 2011’s financial situation was extremely challenging,” said Carver. After receiving all of the initial funding requests, there was a \$4.8 million deficit gap that needed to be filled.

“That posed some unique challenges for

SAT

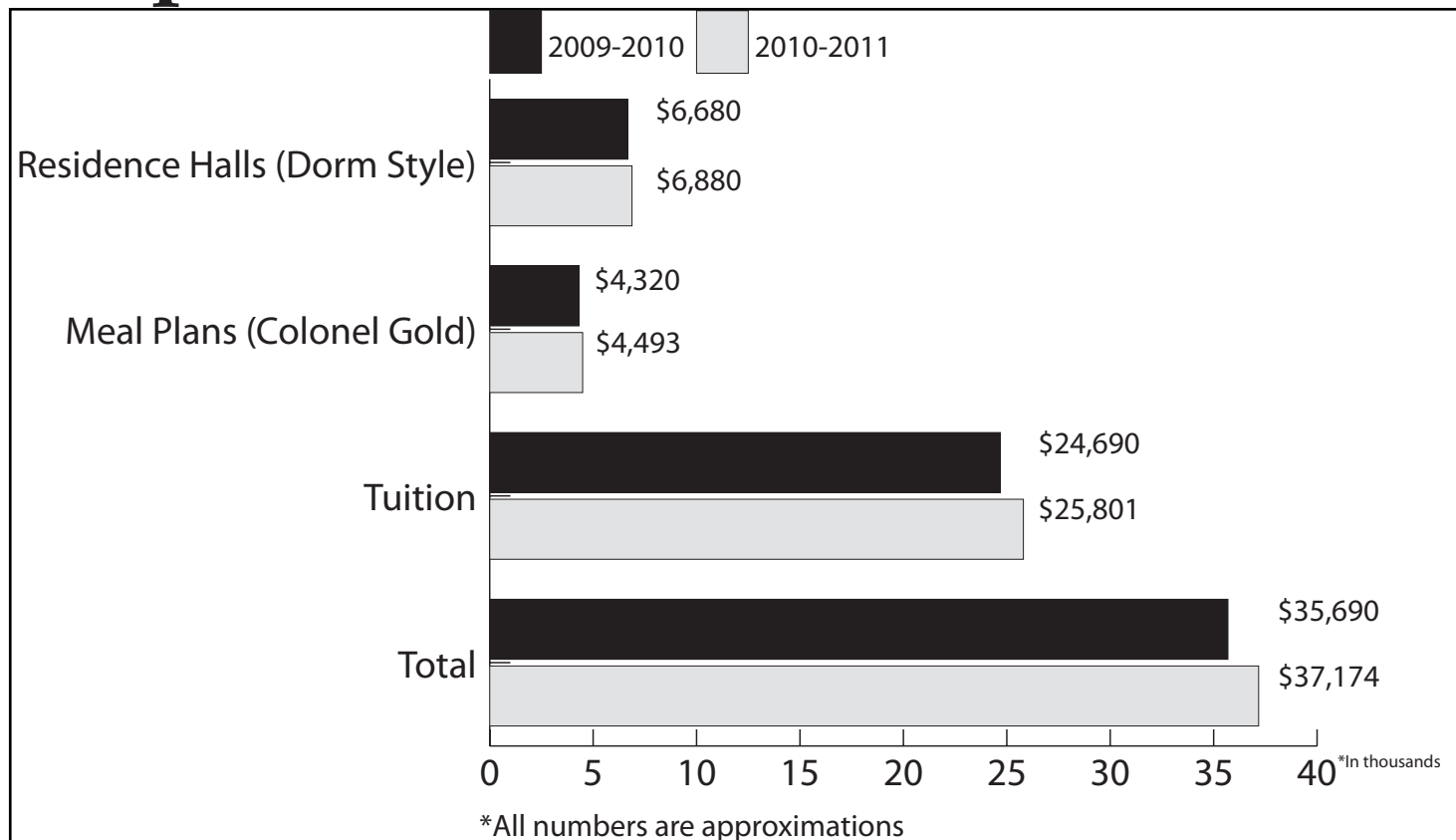
Continued from PAGE 2

The objective of this switch would not be to lower standards for incoming freshmen, but rather to remove the exaggerated importance of the test from the judgment of student performance.

“From a student’s perspective, I think they are extremely emphasized...to the point where there’s quite an industry around SAT prep, retaking the SAT, coaching for SAT, all of that,” Mickelson said.

Mickelson believes that the SAT is a useful tool in analyzing specific abilities and is more accurate for some categories of students than others. She finds that with students in the school of science and engineering and the school of pharmacy and nursing

Proposed FY 2010-’11 increases



The Beacon/ Andrew Seaman

Campus costs are on the rise to fill in the deficit gap. Among the expences increasing are residence halls (3%), meal plans (4%), and tuition (4.5%).

us,” said Carver. “Because of the gap that we had to bridge, we had to go back and revise some of the initial assumptions that went into the budget.”

At first, student cost increases were going to be lower than currently planned. However, an increase was necessary to fill the deficit gap and balance the budget. Meal plans, room and board and tuition increases are currently planned to be put into the 2011 budget.

Financial aid was also affected by the

deficit. The biggest thing affected was the freshman financial aid discount rate, which went to 46.3 percent. Along with this, Capital Projects will be scaled back again.

Though there has not been a final decision made, there is expected to be a two percent salary increase for the University’s employees. Those making over \$110,000 will not see an increase in their pay and distribution of the increase otherwise has yet to be determined.

The last three years, according to Carver,

have been difficult. “After this third year of struggling to get the budget back into balance, it has become clear to all of us that we need to look at the University as a whole to determine how we bring this into balance,” said Carver.

For anyone interested in attending, there will be another budget update session this Wednesday, February 17 at 2 p.m. in Marts 214.

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American Red Cross Blood Drive



The Beacon/ Tom Reilly

A worker from the American Red Cross prepares a Wilkes student to give blood. The Red Cross administered a blood drive on Tuesday, February 9 and it was open to the entire Wilkes community.

there is a correlation between their math SAT scores and their performance. With other students, however, the test results are not so accurate.

“There are certain categories of students that our own research shows, at Wilkes, the SAT is not predictive of their success here. Students who are conditionally admitted, students of color, students who have an undeclared major, their success here doesn’t have a correlation to their SAT score,” said Mickelson.

According to Mickelson, Wilkes must take into consideration many facets of applicant academic potential, not just the SAT results. “I think that we waded into dangerous waters when we make a student no more than a SAT score,” she said.

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FEBRUARY 16, 2010

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"Hi, I'm like, here for my job interview."

Our generation's overuse of the word "like" and other rhetorical incorrectness

BY THE BEACON

Editorial Board

Something has happened to our generation. No, it is not considered a stuttering problem, and no, we are not constantly comparing things to one another. Yet, we continually overuse the words "like" and "um."

Glossophobia, or fear of public speaking, is derived from the Greek language: "glossa" meaning "tongue" and "phobos" meaning "fear." The fear of speaking in public is extremely common, and is ranked higher than that of the fear of flying, fear of illness, fear of terrorism, and often the fear of death, according to national surveys. Free of public speaking is a serious problem in this country, specifically our generation. In older generations, it is rare to find them using filler words and other wrong uses of "like." Using filler words has become a national phenomenon tolerated and accepted in our daily language.

The majority of us are guilty of this, but it is getting worse and worse. Perhaps some of us prefer speaking like a bubbly teenager from the 1995 film "Clueless," but most of us do not. It is not socially acceptable to litter your sentences with the words "like" or "um" and never has been. Media is supposed to reflect society, not the other way around.

Here we are, however, in college years later and we are still speaking incorrectly. Some of us are embarking on graduation and entering the "real world," soon to be going to job interviews and following career paths that will inevitably involve communication between clients and presenting big ideas at important business meetings.

When we get there, will our incorrect slang be accepted when our generation rules the business world, or will it one day be beaten out of us? Will we continue to be coddled by some of the older generations who will let it slide?

These days, we are using "like" in sen-

tences that are unnecessary and do not make sense when we are sharing dialogue or speaking in public. For example, "I'm sorry I was, um, late. The traffic was like, awful."

In this scenario, traffic is either awful or it is not. Nothing can be "like, awful." Also, the word "um" is used when someone is stalling in a speech and it clearly displays a lack of confidence. How can we be confident in ourselves if cannot be confident in our own speech?

It may stem from insecurity of speaking in public, but in order for our embarking generation to strive in a tough job market or to be taken seriously, we must speak correctly or else our credibility is diminished.

We are all free thinking individuals and we all have the power to change. Professors, start deducting credit from students' grades. Students, call your friends out for poor rhetoric - even try to call yourselves out. The sooner we can identify the problem, the sooner we can solve it.

BEACON POLL

The *Beacon* poll is unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. The poll was based on 7 responses.

Last week's question:

Do you agree with the Supreme Court giving for-profit corporations First Amendment rights?

- Yes 14%
- No 86%

This week, *The Beacon* asks:

Do you think the current generation of college students overuses the words "like" and "um"?

- Yes
- No

Cast your vote online at:
www.wilkesbeacon.com

Going green or cutting costs?

BY TREVOR HIRSH

Correspondent

Green technology, green marketing, green grocery bags, even green parenting...blah. Today's latest fad in the business world is going green.

Everyone is doing it to stay on the edge of competition and appeal to customers. Surely, as a disclaimer, I feel going green is crucial for helping our world both today and tomorrow. Resources are scarce and that is not going to change anytime soon.

I feel that we need to adopt sustainable and newer means of using energy and creating new resources to help future generations and ourselves.

With that said, I feel it is important to point out that many businesses are using "going green" to selfishly conceal their cost cutting, not for the environment, but for themselves.

We know it is possible. Think of previous years with Enron, the \$19 billion dollar Madoff scandal, CEOs taking hefty bonuses that helped put us in a recession, etc. Ethical

practices are rarely followed in business from what it seems.

Some examples of these fake "going green" tactics can be found in some companies that turn off the majority of their lights on certain days. Another example can be found in most companies with "paperless" invoices, documents, tickets, etc. If I go online to buy tickets through major ticket sales companies and order tickets, they will e-mail me the tickets to "go green," and then tack on a convenience fee for that. The only problem is that I still have to print out the ticket anyway to get into a show. Therefore, we end up using the same amount of paper, I pay a convenience fee (for what I have no idea), and the ticket company saves some money.

Now, think about Wilkes' "green" actions. I remember the cafeteria used to have coffee cups everyone took on the go and loved. They are now nowhere to be found. Why? Going green.

Although they reduce our carbon footprint, I feel like the cafeteria really just got rid of them because they were increasing

expenses since so many people used them daily. I guess we will never really know the answer to that.

I also had a bunch of teachers that used to e-mail their students important reading materials to save on paper. The teachers figured we would all read it on the computer and be done with it: a noble idea. Nevertheless, my classmates and I would just end up printing them out anyway, because we wanted to be able to read them more easily, more conveniently, and bring the materials to class. Therefore, this used the same amount of paper and did not help the environment at all.

Cutting costs by "going green" just seems to be a rising trend anywhere you look.

Clearly, I am not saying going green is a bad thing; it is necessary and needs to happen more. However, it seems like most companies use it as an excuse to cut their costs without facing criticism. Are they really trying to "go green" or are they just cutting costs.

You decide. And keep a watchful eye on these "going green" efforts; make sure these companies are doing it for the right reason.



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Several businesses like Wal-Mart have been making the effort to "go green" by using recycleable bags or eliminating paper consumption. Some people feel this is merely an attempt to cut cost down.

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All aboard for repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

BY KAYLA MATTIOLI
Correspondent

There is a lot of controversy going on right now pertaining to the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," or DADT, policy. For those who don't know, DADT was put in place in 1993 as a compromise to allow homosexuals to serve in the military barring that they never actually tell anyone they are gay or engage in any sort of homosexual act.

You may be asking what dangers homosexuals pose to the U.S. Military. Well specifically, "it would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability."

I'm sorry. I was under the impression that beggars weren't allowed to be choosers. The military is constantly looking for people to sign up and fight to protect our country. Gosh forbid we have to reinstate the draft because DADT caused thousands of perfectly willing and capable homosexual soldiers to be dishonorably discharged.

Lucky for us, nobody is talking about reinstating the draft. They are however discussing the repeal of DADT. This was a campaign promise of President Obama's, one many gay rights activists thought he may have forgotten about among all the economic and healthcare hullabaloo. He did manage to mention his support of repealing the policy in his recent State of the Union speech but has otherwise avoided answering questions on the subject.

It does however, seem that many officials think it is time for the military to stop its nonsense and allow their gay soldiers to live happily ever after. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen is on board along with the President, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and 57 percent of Americans.

So it seems just about everyone is ready to get it done. Everyone except John McCain. He believes that the repeal of DADT would be a "mistake." His reasoning is the old "if it's not broken, don't fix it." An old aphorism from an old man. McCain had previously been in favor of a repeal during his Presidential campaign but has more recently taken up the role of advocate for DADT. Sometimes campaign promises are just words I guess.

The point is, times have changed. I can't even remember the last time I met a person without a gay friend or family member. I can't remember the last time I met a person who disliked someone else because they were gay. We have different views than our parents and our grandparents and the John McCains of the world. Opinions of what is right and wrong have been evolving for generations because historically, the world evolves. So, let's move on from such petty arguments and focus on the big picture. Being gay does not affect a person's ability to take orders, fire a gun, or wear camouflage.

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The Beacon/Tom Reilly

The abundant use of Adderall by students who are not prescribed the drug by their doctors poses serious health risks and the possibility of death.

The
Observatory

Adderall is not a substitute for laziness and procrastination

BY MATTHEW GOGAS

Opinion Editor

Hey kids! Do you want to get those good grades you always dreamed of? Do you want to finish all of your assignments and still have time to get together with your friends to have fun? Well then, put the time and effort in to your studies and you will. Adderall is not a safe alternative to studying and completing your assignments ahead of time.

For those of you who are completely oblivious to the study habits of Wilkes students, Adderall is one of the most popular drugs on campus. Students take it to stay up all night and study for exams they have the next day, complete assignments, or to make drinking alcohol more interesting. You may call me a liar, but I have made my observations on the subject. It cannot be proven or disproven because who is really going to admit to taking drugs that are not prescribed to them to keep up on their studies? Not many.

The official FDA indications for Adderall use are: treatment of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Narcolepsy. According to the Adderall medical guide, some of the side effects include: sudden death in patients who have heart problems or heart defects, high blood pressure and heart rate, seizures, psychosis, stomach ache, insomnia, weight loss, mood swings, and dizziness. Even people who have these disorders still experience side effects and these side effects are unnecessary for people who are not taking the drug to treat these disorders. Why would you risk a heart attack, mental disorders, seizures, and all of the other side

effects if you do not have to?

Another problem that Adderall poses is addiction. The chemical make up of Adderall includes a mixture of amphetamines. According to Dr. Russell Barkley, one of the foremost authorities on ADHD, Adderall and cocaine share similar properties. Both are stimulants and both contain amphetamines. While Adderall is safer because it gradually increases dopamine levels in the brain, whereas snorting cocaine is instantly released into the blood stream increasing dopamine levels, they both pose serious health risks and are both addictive. So why not just use cocaine? It gets the job done quicker. I am obviously being sarcastic. Do not start using cocaine, please.

This is not just a problem at Wilkes University either. Students in college all over the United States misuse Adderall as a study or party drug. A study performed by Rutgers University has shown that 75.4 percent of college students find use of non-prescribed Adderall socially acceptable.

Students, faculty, administration, hear me out. We cannot lurk down every dark alley for drug deals and prevent prescription users of Adderall from peddling their drugs for cash, but we can get educated on the risks to prevent misuse. And I understand that it is easier to take drugs than to put effort into studying, but college is not easy. If it was, everyone would go to college. Dependency on drugs will only hurt you in the long run. And it could kill you, so depend on yourselves instead.

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Natural meds can provide a safer alternative

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO
Assistant Opinion Editor

Our sweet planet Earth has kindly provided us with herbs for thousands, perhaps millions of years – herbs that when combined and consumed correctly can provide treatment for nearly any illness known to man.

When used medicinally, natural herbs can be just as effective, if not more effective, than pharmaceutical medications. I am not saying that pharmaceutical medicines should be outright ignored; I am merely suggesting that one should consider natural alternatives when treating an ailment.

I have witnessed firsthand that herbal medications can produce better results than pharmaceuticals in treating physical ailments. A close family member of mine suffered from basal joint arthritis, or more simply, a condition in which the cartilage between her thumb and wrist had degraded leaving bone rubbing against bone, causing painful inflammation and restricted movement of the thumb.

At 40 years old, she had the hands of a 60-year-old and the only permanent solution would be surgery. Thanks to an herbal supplement containing Pyrazine, an organic compound, the intense pain was not only relieved, but the cartilage actually grew back.

While taking a pharmaceutical medication, she was having negative side effects so she switched to natural medicine and the side effects disappeared. The pharmaceutical medication could have cured her ailment as the natural medication did, but I think most of us would prefer not to suffer from harmful side effects.

Many physicians condemn the use of natural medicines, claiming that

herbs are nothing but foul-smelling placebos. Looking back, I can safely say that 100 percent of the doctors I have visited have suggested I steer clear of natural medicines, even for symptoms as minor as nasal congestion. The main concern of physicians seems to be that herbal medicines are not regulated or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Since natural medicines are not regulated or approved by the FDA, many are concerned about their contents, and rightly so; however, research shows that a consumer of natural medicine has a much lower chance of experiencing dangerous side effects than one using pharmaceutical medication. An article published in The Journal of the American Medical Association entitled “Is US Health Really the Best in the World?” reports that every year one in 125 Americans prescribed pharmaceutical medication requires hospitalization due to a negative reaction to the medicine. On the other hand, the article claims that only one in every 200,964 is hospitalized due to adverse reactions to a natural supplement. The fact that pharmaceutical medicines are more widely used than herbal remedies certainly factors into that number, but one in 125 is still quite frightening to me.

Though many are skeptical about use of natural medicines, I have seen that herbs can be equal to or even better than pharmaceuticals in treating illnesses. The next time you are prescribed medication, do some quick research on natural cures. You may find a much better result in treating an illness.

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iPad cannot live up to the hype

BY BRYAN CALABRO
Correspondent

Credit should be given where credit is due, especially when it comes to Apple. They have made an abundance of great products when it comes to external music devices, ranging from the iPod Classic, to the now current iTouch. Apple has now prepared us for something new, something big, something that will change our lives... an oversized iPod Touch.

Yes, that is what the iPad is. At a beginning price of \$500 (16 GB Model), one would think that it is a bit preposterous.

I would have to agree; the iPad may not be worth the asking price.

Picture this: it is a bright sunny Sunday morning, the day after you bought your iPad. You wake up, make yourself a hot cup of coffee and go outside. You take out your iPad, set it on a table and start reading the newspaper online. Your neighbor starts cutting the grass feverishly in the bright sun; the noise is so annoying, you need music to drown out the sound. Sorry, but that's not allowed because your iPad does not support multitasking; you cannot listen to music and read the newspaper at the same time.

Here are a few other examples that demonstrate why the iPad may not be a logical buy.

First, picture this scenario. My mom is at work and has called to tell me that she is having a really bad day.

I decide that I want to cheer her up with a picture of my beautiful face. Oh, sorry mom. I can't send a photo. No built in camera on my iPad.

Now imagine I'm sitting the in library, working hard on a class project using my iPad and I suddenly realize that I've just run out of disk space on my iPad. Without freeing up some space, I won't be able to save my many hours of work. So, I figure that I will just stick my flash drive in the

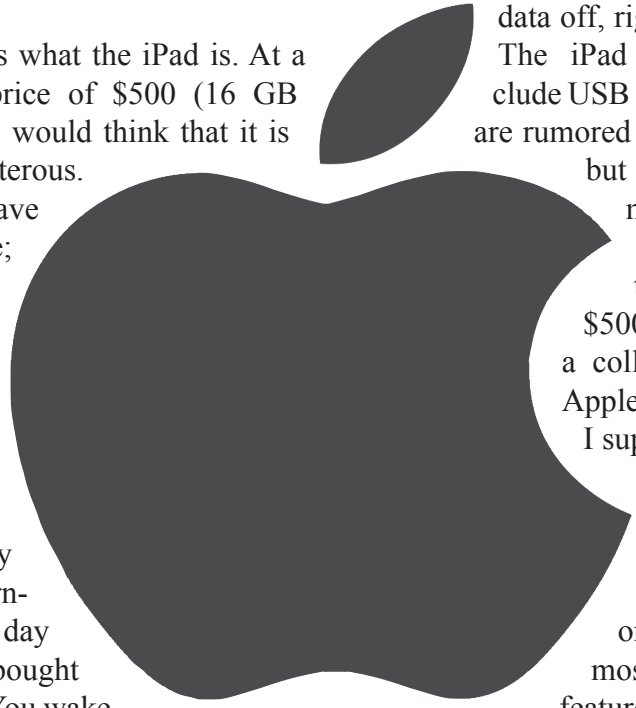
USB port and take some data off, right? Wrong. The iPad doesn't include USB drives. There are rumored attachments,

but they cost more money on top of that hefty \$500 tag. I am a college student, Apple. Where am I supposed to get this money?

Finally, the iPad has left out one of the most important features for viewing content on the Web these days--Adobe Flash. According to The New York Times, Flash is one of the world's most ubiquitous applications, appearing on 98 percent of all computers. In fact, 70 percent of online gaming sites require it to play.

So, you make the decision. Should you go out and buy the first generation iPad just for Apple to re-release an updated second generation iPad in a year with all the features they “casually” left out?

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FEBRUARY 16, 2010

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Students & teachers celebrate Black History Month

BY RUTH WHISPELL

Assistant Life Editor

Hidden in the shadows of February's more popular holidays, such as Valentine's Day and President's Day, Black History Month uses February to focus on the accomplishments of a people who shaped this nation.

According to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's Web site [ASALH], Carter G. Woodson is the man credited for establishing Black History Month.

In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of African American Life and History [ASALH].

Negro History Week correlated with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, who was a leader of the abolitionist movement and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976 Negro History Week was expanded to include the entire month of February; therefore, becoming Black History Month.

Dr. Ebonie L. Cunningham Stringer, assistant professor of sociology and criminology at Wilkes, celebrates Black History Month by sharing a Black History fact with each of the courses she teaches throughout February.

For example, Stringer told her Juvenile Delinquency class a story about a 14-year-old boy from Chicago named Emmett Till. Stringer explained that Till was visiting his relatives in Money, Mississippi, during

the summer of 1955. During a trip to a local store with his cousins to purchase some candy, Till was accused of whistling at one of the store owners, who just happened to be a white woman.

One night while Till was sleeping two of the woman's male relatives came into Till's grandfather's home and took him from his bed in the middle of the night; Till was never seen alive again. Eventually, Till's body was found at the bottom of a river with a cotton gin tied to his neck. He had been tortured and shot in the head at close range.

"Till has been called the 'sacrificial lamb' since his death sparked outrage in African American communities and helped to move the Civil Rights Movement forward," said Stringer. "His story is relevant to juvenile delinquency because it is an example of how seemingly innocent childhood pranks can have enormous consequences for youth who don't fully comprehend the significance of their actions."

Stringer explained that because Till was raised in the North, he wasn't familiarized with the South's racial culture and had no idea that his infantile behavior would cost him his life.

Some of Stringer's students have shared her feelings and ideas even before she im-

plemented "The Black History Fact of the Day."

One of her past students, Yasmine Solomon, sophomore criminology major said, "I feel that it is an important month to honor African Americans who have made great accomplishments. However, the history should be taught, celebrated and remembered year round."

Stringer is also making more of a conscious effort to include a multicultural perspective to her lessons.

"There are many marginalized groups such as women, religious minorities, sexual minorities and persons with disabilities whose voices need to emerge in the Wilkes curriculum with more regularity across disciplines," she said. "Real multicultural transformation as demonstrated through inclusiveness and cross-cultural understanding can happen in the classroom, one student at a time."

Although Stringer has always celebrated Black History Month, it's only recently, during this semester, that she began to implement what she calls "The Black History Fact of the Day" into each of her courses' daily lessons.

Since she began teaching at Wilkes and living in Wilkes-Barre, Stringer has done a

lot of work to enhance diversity at both an institutional and community level.

According to Stringer, it is important to allow time and space to honor the experiences, contributions and accomplishments of African Americans.

"After all, Black History is really American History," said Stringer. "America as we know it culturally, economically, politically and otherwise would be much different had people of African descent not played pivotal roles in the making of America."

Stringer also explained that the celebration of Black History Month around the Wilkes Campus is important to African American students who make up one of the largest minority groups on campus.

"I feel that Wilkes should offer classes geared towards African American history because it is a very important topic as well as any other subject," said Solomon. "Most students do not know much history about African Americans because they are not taught in schools. In my high school, there were no lessons that discussed any topics related to African Americans. So, for Wilkes or other universities to offer classes, it would give students an opportunity to learn some history that they were never taught before."

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**GREAT MOMENTS
IN
BLACK HISTORY**

The African Free School in New York City was the first free school for blacks. It was started by the abolitionist group the New York Manumission Society in 1787.

Bessie Coleman (1893-1926) was the first licensed black pilot in the world. She received aviation instruction in France.

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) was the first black to be honored on a U.S. stamp in 1940.

Robert L. Johnson (1946-), founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET) is the first black billionaire.

Minnie Jocelyn Lee Elders (1933-) was the first black and the second woman to serve as the United States Surgeon General. Her term lasted for 15 months (1993 - 1994).

Maya Angelou's (1928 -) autobiographical, "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings" is the first non-fiction work by an black woman to make the best-seller list.

Richard Theodore Greener (1844 - 1922) was the first black graduate from Harvard in 1870. He started out at Oberlin college, the first American college to admit blacks and went on to become a lawyer.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), founded by Richard Allen (1760 - 1831), became the first national black church in the United States in 1816.

Charles Henry Turner (1867-1923), a zoologist and educator, was the first person to discover that insects can hear.

Nathaniel Adams Cole ("Nat King Cole") (1919 - 1965), a singer, song writer and pianist, was the first black to host a national television program, The Nat King Cole Show, in 1956.

The banjo originated in Africa and up until the 1800s was considered an instrument only played by blacks.

Black History Month originated in 1926 by Carter Godwin Woodson as Negro History Week. The month of February was chosen in honor of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, who were both born in that month.

These, and many more facts, are courtesy of The Biography Channel. Each fact focuses on a historically significant individual or event in black history. Visit www.biography.com for more.

College Days

Dr. Foote balances his schooling with his fraternity life

BY LEEANN SEARFOSS

Life Editor

The old adage is “do as I say, not as I do.” This statement seems to hold true for Dr. Edward Foote, chair and professor of pharmacy practice. Well, for Foote it is more like “do as I say, not as I did.”

Foote tried to strike a balance between his academics and social life while at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science; however, he found himself doing many things he now warns his students not to do.

“I partied, but I also studied,” said Foote.

As a pharmacy major at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Foote tried to acclimate himself to his new surroundings.

“I’m originally from up here, well, German, PA,” said Foote. “I am the youngest of ten, so it was always said that if you could go local, you went local. My siblings teased me that I found a school far away so I could move away.”

Foote went from being the youngest in a family of twelve people to being one of eight men to dorm at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

“We lived eight guys together. I got put in with a very diverse group of people,” stated Foote. “We were freshmen and had to go out and grocery shop. It was really good, because we learned about budgeting.”

He was a self-proclaimed introvert in high school and felt he needed to break out of that shell in college. Taking full advantage of the diverse group of peers with which he was put, Foote tackled academics head on but found time to become a frat brother.

“I like to think I had a good balance. For me it was about creating some friendships and getting to know people that I just didn’t know before,” said Foote.

While in high school, Foote said he hung out with “the scholastic people,” but reached out to different groupings of indi-

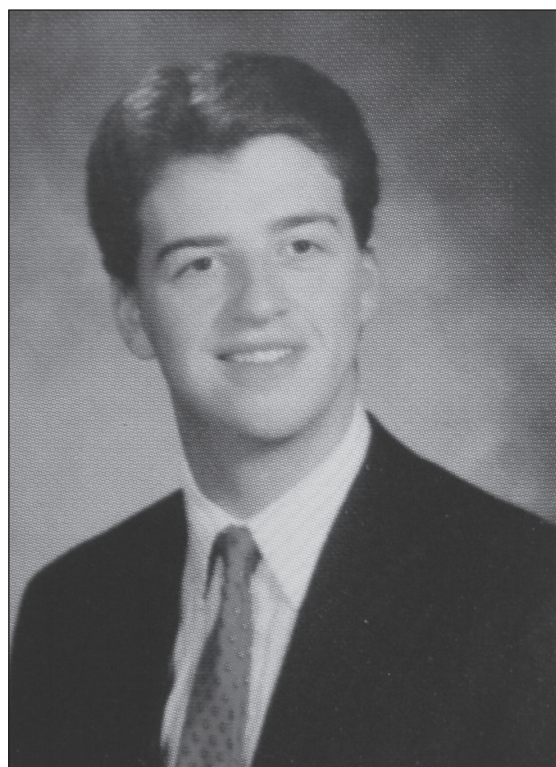


Photo courtesy of Dr. Foote

Dr. Edward Foote poses for his graduation picture in 1987. Dr. Foote spent his time in college balancing academics and social life.

viduals through rushing a fraternity.

“I joined because my roommates were doing it. It was kind of a group effort. Next thing I know, I was the president,” stated Foote.

While academia came easily for this introvert, Foote does point to butterfingers as

a struggle of his in school.

“My friends would have a field day with me in chemistry lab, because I was always dropping beakers or breaking this or that. That’s how I knew I couldn’t be a chemist,” stated Foote.

Foote found lifelong friends and met his future wife while at school.

“It was graduation day, and she asked me out at a frat party,” said Foote. Her brother was one of my best friends in school. Now he’s my brother-in-law.”

Foote balanced more than just schoolwork with frat life, which he referred to as Animal House, at times. Foote also needed to balance friends, as he found himself stuck between the studious crowd and the partiers.

“One of my roommates in school wanted to be a dentist or a physician,” said Foote. He was very serious. So, when he was studying I thought ‘I should be studying.’ But I wanted to be a good student.”

In the times he was not studying, Foote was the head of a fraternity on campus that he believes is very traditional. Foote believes his leadership role in the fraternity helped shape his future.

Foote points to this “transformational” time of his life as one he would not go back and repeat. Between the classes and the partying at the frat house, Foote struck a balance in his collegiate life. Foote looks back with “no regrets.”

“Well, maybe I should have dated more,” said Foote.

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Student of the Week: Alyssa Fusaro

BY MARJORIE WHISPELL

Correspondent

Alyssa Fusaro, a junior communication studies major at Wilkes, is one of the student representatives who echoes the voices of the numerous students of Wilkes in the Strategic Planning Committee.



The Beacon/ Allison Roth

Fusaro is one of the student representatives on the Strategic Planning Committee.

“The Strategic Planning Committee...is a team of hand-picked faculty, staff and stu-

dents that have developed a vision for the future of the university,” said Fusaro.

The committee is creating a vision of 2015 that explains where the university wants to be in five years, Fusaro explained.

One of Fusaro’s personal goals for the future of Wilkes is to help the undergraduate student population of Wilkes. She hopes to achieve her goals by making the transfer into Wilkes from other schools easier for transfer students.

“Even though my transfer went easy there are some people I know whose did not,” said Fusaro. She would also like to see things happen with the e-mentor, adult learner relationship programs and online classes and programs.

Fusaro got involved with the Strategic Planning Committee because she loves to ask questions and get feedback, and because she would also like to see new things happen around the university, and wants to be a part of it.

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

Fusaro: That is so hard to answer, hopefully my gospel album becomes a hit, but mostly comfortably situated in my own business.

The Beacon: Describe yourself in three words.

Fusaro: Caring, motivated and fun.

The Beacon: Finish the sentence: “My friends would be surprised to know...”

Fusaro: That I am a softy.

In his own words, Foote disrupts class:

“It was [pharmacy] law class. Like 200 kids. I sat by my bunch of friends. I never goofed around, but I was talking in class. I had stopped. The guy who is now my brother-in-law started talking to the same girl. The professor, who was a lawyer, teaching pharmacy law, goes “You! Get out.” I left immediately. I was mortified.”

”

Wilkes University's Health & Wellness Corner

The Health & Wellness Corner is a weekly feature in The Beacon. Students who ask questions will remain anonymous. All questions will be answered by Health Services staff.

Q. I am worried about a friend of mine who seems depressed. He's not interested in spending time with our group of friends and often seems to isolate himself in his room. How would I know if he is contemplating suicide?

A. Many people who plan or attempt suicide tend to give some clue or warning sign to people around them.

Some warning signs include hopelessness, rage, uncontrolled anger, seeking revenge, acting reckless or engaging in risky activities without thinking, feeling trapped, increased alcohol or drug use, withdrawing from friends, family, society, anxiety, agitation, poor appetite, inability to sleep or sleeping all the time, dramatic mood changes and/or expressing no reason for living or no sense of purpose in life.

Those who plan to commit suicide are usually willing to live, but are unable to find another way to cope with their thoughts and feelings. Almost all college students who die by suicide are suffering from an emotional disorder, most often depression.

Other emotional problems that can increase the risk for suicide are anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, substance abuse and eating disorders. It is important to listen for any hints at suicide such as "I am not sure I want to be here" or "I don't want to live anymore."

Listen for direct suicidal statements such as "I wish I were dead." Watch for behaviors like preoccupation with death, making final arrangements, or talking about giving away their possessions. Remember that suicide can be prevented by intervening, talking with the person and referring him for help to counseling.

If you fear for your friend's life, don't be afraid to make the call to counseling on that person's behalf and encourage the person to see a counselor letting him know that you will be there to support him.

Q. I have noticed for the last week I have been urinating frequently, some days worse than others. Today I noticed that my urine looked pink and it burns at the end of urinating. I never had a urinary tract infection and was wondering if this is what it could be?

A. You certainly seem to be exhibiting symptoms of a urinary tract infection (UTI), which include burning on urination, frequent urination, increased urge to urinate, low back pain, low fever, blood in urine or bad smelling urine.

The cause is from bacteria that reaches the bladder from another part of the body. Women are particularly at greater risk because they have a shorter urethra that is close proximity to the perirectal area making bacteria easier to colonize. Increased sexual activity, excessive exercise, poorly ventilated undergarments, sitting in water with bath salts or bubbles and holding urine for excessive lengths of time can increase risk of UTI.

If you have any of these symptoms go to

the Health and Wellness Center to confirm the diagnosis and if positive treatment will be a course of antibiotics.

Things you may do to prevent UTI's include, urinating within 15 minutes of intercourse, drink plenty of water, take showers instead of tub baths and seek prompt medical treatment for UTI's.

Do you have a question for the Health and Wellness Corner? Email your questions to, susan.biskup@wilkes.edu, and you may see your question in next weeks Health and Wellness Corner. Your privacy will be protected.

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Wilkes student balances school work with personal struggle

MELANIE THOMAS

Correspondent

Some students struggle with balancing school work and extracurricular activities. Having to handle being an athlete or a member of a club or organization on top of a course load can be daunting for many students.

Melanie Ward, a sophomore accounting major at Wilkes, performs a rare balancing act of her own, while living day-to-day with muscular dystrophy.

Melanie was born with one of the rarest forms of muscular dystrophy, which has inhibited her ability to physically function like a typical college student. Muscular dystrophy causes a weakness in Melanie's muscles, making it difficult for her to move around like a normal college-aged person.

One of the biggest differences between Melanie and many other students here at Wilkes is the simple task of getting to school.

"A normal student can get up at 7:50 a.m. and get to an 8:00 a.m. class. I have to get up at 6:30 in order to get to a 9:00 a.m. class," Melanie said.

Because of the challenges associated with her muscular dystrophy, Melanie is perpetually late for back-to-back classes.

"I usually have to stop back here in the lounge on the second floor in Breiseth in order to get the materials I need for my next class," said Melanie. "If I have the first class in Breiseth and the next class in Stark Learning Center, I never make it on time."

Melanie's mother, Helen Ward, accompanies her every day to school. From helping her organize materials to aiding her in and out of buildings, Melanie's mother is a valuable asset to her success as a student.

Due to the progression of muscular dystrophy and having no muscle strength in her hands, Melanie is unable to lift her own books, copy and take notes quickly. She is also pitch tone deaf, and has no up-down or side-to-side movement of her eyes. She can only see with one eye at a time.

According to Helen Ward, doctors felt Melanie would not thrive in life because of

the complications she was born with. As a result of this diagnosis, she received a tracheotomy ["trached"] to repair her airways, and she is now vented and can breathe on her own. Doctors vented and "trached" Melanie by placing an air vent and tube into her trachea to allow her to breathe without wasting much energy.

"She is a wonderful listener and retains information exceptionally," said Helen.

Despite being a full term baby, Melanie was met with a slew of frustrating circumstances in the first years of her life.

Helen explains that, "the trache and air vent were crucial to her survival."

Physical struggles are not the only issue Melanie must deal with due to the nature of her muscular dystrophy. It is very important for Melanie to sanitize her surroundings, because if she were to catch a cold, she may have to be hospitalized to prevent further repercussions.

"I sanitize everything. When I get sick I get it ten times worse than the next person," said Melanie.

Melanie carries much of her own equip-

ment and school supplies to protect herself from bacteria. Instead of carrying around a backpack or bag for her school materials, she rides on a motorized scooter equipped with an air vent, a portable lab board, and book magnifiers.

Melanie explains that these preventative measures are absolutely necessary in order for her to be able to attend Wilkes.

"I complained to a maintenance man because there are no Clorox Wipes anywhere in the computer lab. I use those all the time," she said.

Mark Allen, dean of student affairs, has been an advocate for Melanie and is very accommodative to her special circumstances while attending Wilkes.

"Most of the administrators have been helpful and lenient as far as allowing me to come to school with Melanie to take care of the needs that she has while here," stated Helen Ward.

The most inspiring thing that Melanie offers to others is that, among all the difficulties she faces, she still keeps an extremely positive attitude about herself and her future.

Melanie's advice to other students is to "get up off your butt and do something with your life. You might not be here tomorrow."

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Photo courtesy of Melanie Ward
Ward, is an accounting major with special needs. She was born with one of the rarest forms of muscular dystrophy.

Dorm Recipes

Buffalo Chicken Wing Dip by Stephen Gruver

Stephen Gruver, a P1 pharmacy major at Wilkes, made this tasty buffalo chicken wing dip to enjoy while watching the Super Bowl. Gruver explains that the dip is delicious and easy to make.

Ingredients:

1 can chicken [large size]
1 8 oz. brick cream cheese
1/2 cup blue cheese dressing
1/4 cup cayenne pepper sauce
1 pkg. shredded Monterrey Jack cheese
celery sticks, crackers or corn chips

Directions:

1. Melt cream cheese over medium-low heat. Once cream cheese is creamy, add blue cheese, hot sauce, and chicken.
2. Remove from heat, and fold in 1/2 pkg. of shredded cheese.
3. Pour into square 8x8 oven-safe dish. Top with remaining cheese. Bake at 350°F until cheese is melted and bubbly.
4. Serve with celery sticks, crackers or corn chips.



Photo courtesy of Stephen Gruver

Gruver made Buffalo Chicken Wing Dip for everyone to enjoy during the Super Bowl last weekend.

Dorm Recipes

Mapo Tofu by Tianjin Xiaoyu-Yang & Hong Lei Liu

Tianjin Xiaoyu-Yang, known as Franz to his friends, is a 24 year-old from China. Hong Lei Liu is a 23 year-old from Beijing. Yang and Liu are both students in the Intensive English Program at Wilkes. Mapo Tofu is a common entrée in Chinese culture.

Ingredients:

Oil [Enough to coat the pan]
1 Green onion, chopped into small slices
1 chili pepper
1 lb tofu, cut into 1 in square blocks
1 bowl boiled water
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon soy sauce

Directions:

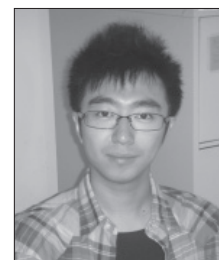
1. Heat oil for about 30 seconds on a high flame. Then add the green onion and chili pepper and cook until the aroma comes out.
2. Next add tofu and stir fry for 1 minute.
3. Pour in enough boiled water to cover

the tofu then add 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon soy sauce.

4. Cook on a medium flame for 2 minutes then a high flame for 1 minute, until the water is absorbed. During cooking, stir fry every 30 seconds.

5. Garnish with chopped green onion, and enjoy.

Mapo Tofu should be cooked the same day and served immediately after cooking.



The Beacon/Archives

Xiaoyu-Yang [featured above] and Lei Liu said Mapo Tofu is a popular entree in China.

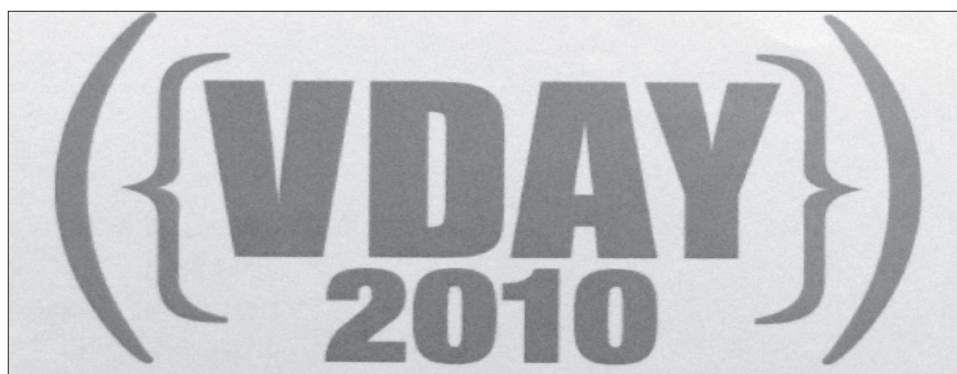


2010 Vagina Monologues provides uplifting performance

BY ASHLEY FILIPEK
 Correspondent

This year's production of the *Vagina Monologues* was a great success yet again. When I arrived at the event, I saw that there were not enough chairs to accommodate the amount of guests that arrived for the show this past weekend. The lights dimmed and the women of the *Vagina Monologues* entered the stage to a roaring applause. Director Angela D'Alessandro, a junior pharmacy major, asked the audience to prepare themselves and embrace the emotional rollercoaster that the evening would present.

There were two new additions to the monologues this year. Sabrina Hannon, a senior double majoring in English and women's studies, performed a chilling monologue in which she conveyed the plight of a severely abused Native American woman from South Dakota. The Victim's Resource Center was at the event promoting awareness of abuse, and the addition of the mono-



This logo for VDAY is globally known to raise awareness of violence against women. It was inspired by the *Vagina Monologues*, written by Eve Ensler. She is also releasing a new novel, *I Am an Emotional Creature*.

logue seemed quite fitting.

Abby Kasprenski, a junior pre-medical and biology major, and Morgan Thomas, a junior pharmacy major, delivered a monologue that was the partial inspiration for Eve Ensler's new novel *I Am an Emotional Creature*. Ensler, author of the *Vagina Monologues*, gives voice to women around the world who suffer from torment and

The Beacon/Tom Reilly

abuse nearly every day in her new novel. This particular monologue was about a 17-year-old woman who survived two years of rape, abuse and a pregnancy as a man's sexual slave. It gave a voice to the young woman and her detailed instructions for surviving such a situation.

I think we were all waiting for a few of the monologues to come along. My boyfriend

smiled with excitement saying, "She performed this one last year," as Ariel Miller, a junior elementary education major with a minor in theatre, approached the microphone. Miller's rendition of "Reclaiming C**t" was perfection. Justine Adams, a sophomore psychology major minoring in dance and women's studies, took on the role of the "Angry Vagina" with surprising ease. The monologue was barely audible with the laughter that filled the ballroom. The room waited with bated breath as Kyriel Manzo, a junior English major with a minor in education, approached the microphone. Manzo moaned (yes, moaned) for her orgasmic monologue in front of the room with great enthusiasm and variety, to say the least.

As a senior, I thank Wilkes for allowing me to enjoy four years of wonderful performances. This show helped Ensler give women one ultimate message: you are not alone.

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The Wolfman fails to frighten with stereotypical plot

BY KIRSTIN COOK
 Assistant A&E Editor

Editor's Note: This review may contain spoilers.

If you are looking for a remake of the typical werewolf classic with a predictable plot, then this movie is for you. *The Wolfman*, which premiered in theaters February 12, offers no surprises for the viewer.

The film, set in 1891 in the grim town of Blackmoor, England, properly develops the sensations of the werewolf legend. According to *The New York Times*, the movie is a remake of the 1941 original by the same title.

The movie begins when Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) returns to his family estate after receiving word of his brother's death. Upon arrival, Lawrence is re-united with his mysterious father Sir John Talbot (Anthony Hopkins), whom he has not spoken to in years. He also meets with his brother's grieving fiancé, Gwen Conliffe (Emily Blunt), who encourages him to find out the cause of his brother's death.

As we learn more about Lawrence, we find that he suffers from a troubled past. He

witnessed his mother's death when he was a child, and shortly after was sent to an asylum by his father to cope with the traumatic experience.

The legend of the werewolf is introduced in a usual manner. Lawrence eavesdrops on a group of men exchanging horror stories about the beast at a local bar, a scene plagiarized from every old-fashioned horror flick.

While searching for the cause of his brother's death, Lawrence sets out on an irrational voyage into the forest after a rampant werewolf. Not surprisingly, he quickly becomes a victim and is infected with the curse of the werewolf.

The simple storyline continues to unravel as Lawrence struggles with his affliction. He makes his first transformation into a werewolf and brutally attacks the villagers.

When he transforms back into a human, Lawrence looks upon his destruction appalled, and is soon captured. He is locked into an asylum and given a disturbing treatment for his so-called delusions. The treatment proves to be worthless and he escapes, running wild while causing damage and death throughout the town.

The remainder of the plot focuses on Lawrence's continued vengeance, his mis-

understood embodiment of a monster, and a tacky love between Lawrence and his dead brother's fiancé, who ignorantly wishes to save Lawrence from his curse.

The simple and predictable plot is explainable through the fact that the remake contains the same storyline as the 1941 original, according to *The New York Times*. The modern version attempts to make the story more exciting by adding more tension during trivial events, yet this only makes the movie appear overdramatic.

Building suspense was one area the movie excelled at, with appropriate backdrop, lighting, and music. However, this thrilling sensation is ruined when it peaks at something trivial, such as when the character slips on a step, or a door shuts menacingly. A werewolf jumps out to recreate the element of surprise, yet the moment has already passed prematurely.

The director, Joe Johnston, was clearly under the impression that gore equals fear. The entire movie is filled with endless images of mauled body parts and blood. These gory instances include beheading, impalement and dismemberment. This tasteless imagery succeeds at making audience members nauseous, not fearful.

There are several pointless characters

developed throughout the film. The town inspector, Abberline (Hugo Weaving), is introduced as a seemingly insightful and resourceful character. However, after each werewolf attack he consistently arrives to gape uselessly into the distance. I would have preferred to see him attempt to accomplish anything helpful regarding the attacks.

The only impressive part of the movie was the scene where Lawrence is in the asylum. This portion displays an interpretation of Lawrence's mental instability through a usual context, but while using intriguing cinematography. The scene develops Lawrence's delusions in an abstract manner, mixing his reality with fiction within complex flashbacks.

If you are willing to accept the simplicity and flaws within the storyline, *The Wolfman* is a classic adaptation of the enduring werewolf legend. However, don't expect it to give you goose bumps when the full moon rises.

Rating: 2/5

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Restaurant Review: Damenti's

BY GINO TROIANI

Managing Editor

Do you often find yourself searching for new and interesting places to share with that special someone while breaking up the monotony of conventional restaurants? If so, look no further. After one night at Damenti's, you'll leave wondering how you went your whole life without dining at this wonderful restaurant.

Damenti's, located on South Mountain Boulevard in Mountain Top, has been in business for over 33 years, and it is no wonder why, offering a warm homey atmosphere with a sophisticated touch.

The restaurant is constructed out of an old house that sits on the side of a steep hill. Inside, the off-white walls and dark green baseboards help reflect the dim lighting, which creates a calm and peaceful atmosphere. The original architecture also adds to the experience, offering a secure and familiar feeling, sort of like the one you get at

grandma's house.

In conjunction with their layout, Damenti's menu is on point, featuring more than 20 appetizers, 70 entrees, a tasty selection of homemade desserts and a long list of elegant wines to top it all off.

The current owners, Kevin and Helen McDonald, have traveled the world and studied various types of food that add to the restaurant's diverse menu. The couple has studied under and been awarded certificates by Marcella Hazan, Bologna, Italy; Ken Hom, Hong Kong; and L'Ecole de Cordon Bleu in Denver, Colorado.

The appetizers' prices were all between \$9-\$12, while entrees such as steak, chops and chicken ranged from \$24-\$42, and veal \$29 and up.

A unique characteristic about Damenti's is selection. Damenti's offers a total of nine sides to accompany your meal; spinach, acorn squash with cream spinach, mashed potatoes (regular/garlic), steak fries, salad, broccoli, applesauce, and cranberry sauce.

SEE DAMENTI'S, Page 15

THE DEEVOQUIP!

BY DAVID LEWIS

Staff Writer

Use the clue provided in order to decipher the meaning of the puzzle. The clue represents a letter that can be used to guess what other letters within each word are. Through the process of elimination and knowledge of vocabulary, solving the puzzle depends upon how well you can deduce the possibility of one letter equaling another. Once you assign a letter to equal another, the letter cannot be changed for the remaining letters in the puzzle. Good Luck!

KL S GMKRZBAX GSA GSQGM RAFBZJAKS, QMFA

WMJBTYA'Q RAFBZJAKS IF SITF QJ GSQGM S

GMKRZBAX

This week's clue: S=A & G=C

Last week's answer: If an apple's center is its "core," then the apple of one's eye must have transcendental abilities!

Bea

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DAMENTI'S

Continued from PAGE 15

I decided to go with chicken scampi over pasta with sides of steak fries and salad, which was accompanied by a large warm basket of fluffy white bread, all for around \$25.

The salad was covered in Damenti's house dressing, which is a combination of oil and vinegar mixed with "dry creamy" bleu cheese. Although the taste was unfamiliar at first, I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Next, on to the main course. The server brought out a generous portion of chicken scampi over pasta along with a plate full of steak fries. The chicken was cooked just right, tender and juicy, and covered in a rich, flavorful scampi sauce--definitely enough to fill your stomach and then some. In addition, the fries were tasty and cooked to the perfect texture, not too hard, not too soft.

For dessert, I chose the homemade chocolate peanut butter cake and ice cream. One mouthful of the cake and a scoop of the peanut butter ice cream made my taste buds tingle with its full and savory taste. The only drawback was that I would have liked

to see a larger portion, but overall the dessert was a hit.

After polishing off my meal, I took a stroll down the hill to the restaurant's very own "ice bar," which was carved early last month.

The colorfully lit sub zero structure stood approximately eight feet high, 12 feet wide and 40 feet long and featured carvings of pirates, skulls, treasure chests, swords and even a giant ice throne for people to sit on.

The actual "ice bar" featured a selection of five bottled beers at \$5 each, hot chocolate and coffee both at \$2.50, and the restaurant's home made specialty, "grog," a \$5 drink which resembled spiked fruit punch.

Overall, the food was phenomenal, the service top-notch, and I had an amazing time. Although Damenti's is probably not an everyday dining option for the average college student, I would recommend it to anyone interested in trying something new and unique.

Rating: 4.5/5

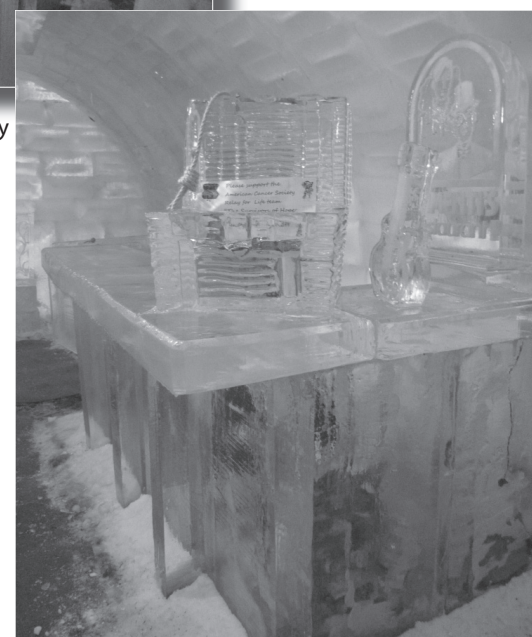
CONTACT GINO TROIANI AT:

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The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Left: The bartender stands behind the ice bar wearing appropriate attire--a heavy duty coat and warm pants. The ice bar was a cool and unique get-away, however it's not recommended hanging out too long without proper attire. It does get cold! Not visible in this photo are all of the mesmerizing and colorful lights of pink, green, and blue that shine through the ice figurines.



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Right: Kevin McDonald, co-owner of the restaurant, built all of the ice sculptures at Damenti's in a week. McDonald is also a competitive ice carver. This ice treasure chest is one of his ice creations and is for collecting donations to the American Cancer Society.

What's Happening Around Wilkes

BY KRISTEN KARPINSKI

Staff Writer

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Women's Book Club: *Hinda Feet on High Places* @ Barnes and Noble – 11 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Pink Floyd Experience @ FM Kirby Center - \$25+ - 7:30 p.m.
Tonight Until Feb. 20th – "Wonder of the World" @ King's College Theater - \$5 – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Men's Book Club: *What Kind of Man Was Joseph...* @ Barnes and Noble – 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

All Weekend Long

Monster Jam @ Mohegan Sun Arena - \$18+ - TIMES VARY

Friday, February 19, 2010

Clarence Spady Band @ River Street Jazz Café, Plains – 8 p.m.

And The Moneynotes @ Vintage Theater, Scranton - \$6 – 8 p.m.

Friday Night Live Music @ Barnes and Noble – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Tonight Until February 28th – Theater Production: "The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee" @ Dorothy Dickson Dart Center – Fri./Sat. 8 p.m. Sun 2 p.m. – Free for Wilkes students!

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Blizzard of Flies, Black Friday Massacre, Church, Swamp Vulture @ Café Metro – \$7 – 8 p.m.

Tom Petty Appreciation Band @ River Street Jazz Café, Plains - \$8 – 10 p.m.
Elvis: Love Me Tender @ Scranton Cultural Center - \$29+ - 8 p.m.

Monday, February 22, 2010

Women's Book Club: *Hinda Feet on High Places* @ Barnes and Noble – 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
"Taikoza" - Japanese music and dance group featuring thunderous rhythms of ancestral Japanese Taiko drums and bamboo flutes @ Luzerne County Community College – 7 p.m. – Tickets required – contact: jclark@luzerne.edu

Last week's winners of a Wilkes Hooded Sweatshirt: Anne Marie Smith, Kelly Hummel; and \$20 to Rodano's: Susan Frank, Rachel Zucosky

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****Drop forms off at The Beacon office in Conyngham Hall or at the desk in the Student Union by Friday, February 19, by noon.****

One form per person. The winner will be announced in next week's issue.

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EMAIL: _____

MYSTERY WORDS: _____

FEBRUARY 16, 2010

CONTACT US: wilkesbeacon.sports@gmail.com

Stressing academics, responsibility as a coach

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Assistant Sports Editor

****Editor's Note:** This is the first installment of a three-part series that focuses on the lives of three different Wilkes University coaches. It details the roles that they play in the lives of their student athletes, the rewards and struggles they face while coaching, and the personal responsibilities they must juggle between their work and home life.

The Life and Responsibilities of a College Coach
PART 1

The values that sports help to instill in people - teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship, to name a few - are all beneficial to society as a whole, and help to make individuals well-rounded. Perhaps no one is as integral to this process

as the coaches behind the sport. They are responsible for mentoring young people, shaping them into better individuals and team players.

At Wilkes University, coaches do just as much mentoring, if not more, than the faculty. And while their main goal is to produce winning teams, most will tell you that they're more concerned about their student-athletes.

For coaches Jerry Rickrode, head coach of the men's basketball team, Christopher Leicht, head coach of both the men's and women's tennis teams, and Lisa Rizzo, the head coach of the women's volleyball team—who have 48 years of coaching experience between them—academics always come first.

"I'm a stickler," began Coach Jerry Rickrode while talking about the emphasis he places on academics. "We check all the time to see if our guys are in class; the professors get a real kick out of it, and usually call me if a player is late or slacking off on his work. Our team had a 3.36 GPA last year, which is almost a Dean's List GPA."

Rickrode, a husband and father of two, has coached men's basketball at the collegiate level for 25 years. He has a career mark of 318-130, a .709 winning percentage that is among the best all-time in NCAA Division III history for coaches with at least five years of experience. He also holds the Division III record for being the fastest coach to reach the 200-win plateau, an accomplishment he managed in just his first

249 games.

His players know he means business when it comes to their studies. "He works well with his players to make sure that they're able to fairly balance their schoolwork and work on the court," said Christopher Hopkins, a junior communications studies major and former player on the Wilkes men's basketball team. "They're equally important to him and it really shows in his handling of his players."

Christopher Leicht understands Rickrode's sentiment. His tennis teams have received Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-American Academic honors nine times, and he has guided many individual players towards becoming All-Conference and All-American academic achievers.

Leicht, who admitted to being "outnumbered" by his wife and three daughters, has a combined record of 163-50 as the coach of both the men's and women's tennis teams at Wilkes. He has been coaching for 11 years at both the collegiate and high school levels; at his alma mater, Danville Area High School, he led the boy's team to a 57-4 overall record during his three-year tenure.

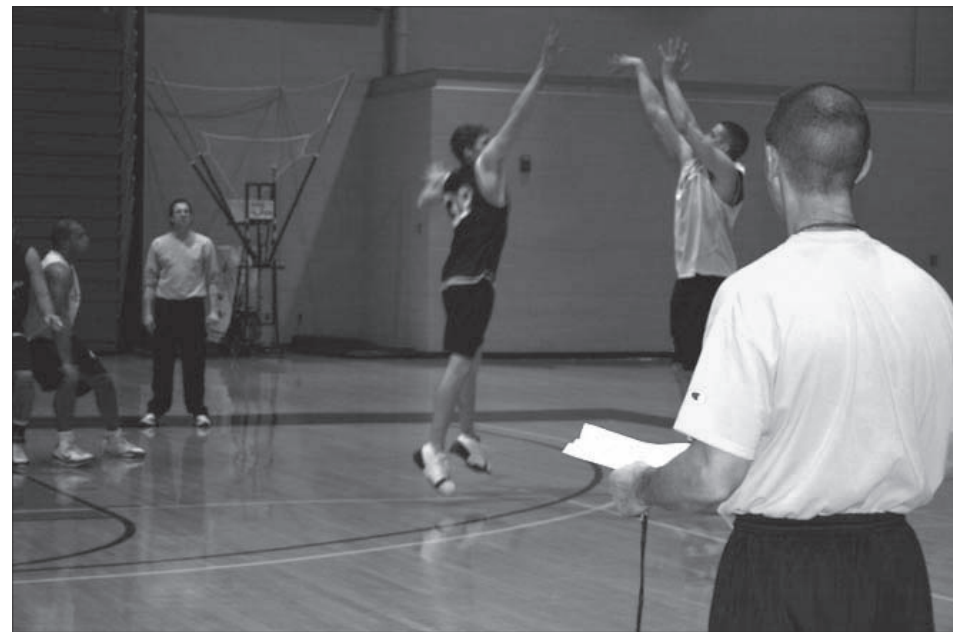
"For me, it's always been, 'If my athletes perform well on the court, but poorly off of it, then what have I helped them with?'" said Leicht. "There is nothing wrong with having enthusiasm for your particular sport, but it can't be allowed to get in the way of [academics]."

"Coach Leicht does a great job of balancing the athletic success of the team with academics," said Ali McDonald, a fifth-year pharmacy major and former player on the women's tennis team. "I was worried that I would have trouble with playing sports while in pharmacy school, but he understood that academics were my first priority."

Lisa Rizzo agreed with both of her colleagues, as she recognizes the soft touch necessary to manage her players.

"It's difficult to ask your young players to dedicate so much time across different activities," she began. "They're adults who work, go to class, and have other responsibilities outside of whatever it is you coach. You have to sometimes judge when's the right time to give them an off day and when it's alright to push them. They need to do well in class and that's something I stress and hope all coaches stress."

Rizzo, a twelve-year coaching veteran who also has experience at the high school and collegiate levels, has just begun estab-



The Beacon/Allison Roth

Jerry Rickrode (furthest right), the head coach of the men's basketball team, looks on during a practice drill.

lishing herself at Wilkes after accepting the position of head coach of the women's volleyball team last summer.

The three also emphasized the importance of their athletes having balance in their lives, something they appreciate seeing in addition to their academic and athletic successes.

"At larger Division I schools, the athletes are totally consumed with their sports and their classes - that's it," said Leicht. "Here, they're participating in a much wider scope of activities. You have to keep them free to pursue their interests and schedules, which I like because it prepares them for after college."

Rizzo enjoys watching her student-athletes develop over what she describes as their "formative years."

"It's a comfort to know that the sense of teamwork and responsibility [that they garner] through athletics will probably help them in their careers down the line," she said.

In some instances, they have even stepped out of the traditional coach-athlete relationship when the time called for it.

"I've helped many players put together resumes," added Rizzo. "We even had a clinic on how to change a car tire," she said with a laugh.

Coaches can help affect the way that student athletes carry themselves, and the three coaches were quick to confirm the point.

Rickrode values players who are honest and serve as positive role models, admitting

that the challenge is making sure you get a team that "[...] gets the unique, right fit where there's a really good chemistry."

"I tell the guys, 'Don't say something second-hand, go to the source and talk with them about [the issue],' he said, elaborating on how he tries to create cohesive teams. "I think people respect honesty and people that come forth and confront things head-to-head. I try telling my guys that anonymous stuff, all that kind of [talk], is for cowards."

"My girls hear it from me," affirmed Rizzo. "I always tell them that when they're in their Wilkes gear, they are representing the school [...] I always ask them to be responsible and set good examples; being a part of a team here is a privilege, not a right."

"With me, I try and set the example myself," said Leicht. "I think most athletes would say that they're most connected to their coach, in terms of serving as a mentor, while they are at school, and because of this I always try to set a good example for them. I always tell them to take pride in what it is they do, while making friends, memories; I stress that they do their best in all areas while being responsible and working hard," he concluded.

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****Check back next week for Part II in the series, which discusses the struggles and rewards of coaching.**

Athlete Spotlight: Anthony Gabriel

BY JUSTIN JONES

Correspondent

Anthony Gabriel's days as a member of the Wilkes Men's Basketball team are quickly winding down. With that in the back of his mind, the senior from Mechanicsburg, PA, plays every minute of the game like it is his last, because he knows at the end of this season, it very might well be.

Gabriel's grit and determination to get the ball to the hoop or fight for every last rebound rebound in the past few games has not only shown his love for the game, but has also earned him The Freedom Conference Player of the Week award, as well as this week's Athlete Spotlight.

"It's definitely an honor," said Gabriel, who earned the award after recording a double-double with 26 points and 12 rebounds, bringing back the Colonels from a deficit against Manhattanville. He also poured in 16 points on six shots with 4 rebounds and 5 assists against Misericordia the game before that.

Gabriel doesn't take all the credit for this accomplishment. Showing what a true team



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Anthony Gabriel, pictured on the right, has come on strong in his senior season for the Colonels. In addition to being named this week's athlete spotlight, Gabriel was also named Freedom Conference Player of the Week.

player is all about, he attributes his play of late to the play of the entire team.

"Our defensive level has raised and it opens up a lot more opportunities for myself and our whole team."

When asked what was going through his

mind while he heated up the court, he put it quite simply.

"I was aggressive out there and wasn't going to let defenders stop me from getting to the rim," said Gabriel. "It also didn't hurt having two all conference players on my

side."

The two players Gabriel alluded to are senior Tom Kresge, who leads the team in scoring, and last week's Athlete Spotlight, junior Chris DeRojas.

"I feel the play of Tom, Chris, and I can raise the level our team plays at because we have been around for 3 and 4 years and have been through this before," said Gabriel.

As the season continues, Gabriel believes his athleticism will help him continue to play at the height of his ability, but he wants to work on lowering his turnovers, something which has been bothering him at times throughout the season.

What Gabriel really cares about however, is making the playoffs. DeRojas similarly stated last week that his individual goals took a back seat to his greater hopes of making it to the playoffs. Gabriel's situation is different because unlike DeRojas, he doesn't have a "next year." This is it for Gabriel and he plans to make the most of it.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/13 vs. Delaware Valley 55-72 L

WRESTLING

2/12 vs Kings 27-9 W

WBS PENGUINS

2/10 @ Norfolk 3-5 L

2/12 vs. Binhamton 3-2 W (Shootout)

2/13 vs. Hershey 7:05pm 5-0 W

2/14 @ Adirondack 3pm

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

2/10 vs. Islanders 3-1 W

2/12 vs. Rangers 2-3 L (OT)

2/14 vs. Predators

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

2/8 vs. Devils 3-2 W

2/10 @ Devils 3-2 W (OT)

2/12 vs. Canadiens 2-3 L

2/13 @ Canadiens 6-2 W

WEEK AHEAD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2/18 @ Eastern 8pm

2/20 vs Kings 3pm

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/18 @ Eastern 6pm

2/13 vs. Kings 1pm

WRESTLING

2/21 @ Metropolitan Conference Champ.

WBS PENGUINS

2/17 vs. Albany 7:05pm

2/20 @ Lowell 7:00pm

2/21 @ Manchester 3:00pm

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FACE OFF



How young is too young in college recruiting?

Sills just the latest in long line of premature touting



Sports Editor
ANTHONY DORUNDA

Imagine your seventh grade self for a second right now. You're probably flirting with the cute girls in your class, still playing hide and seek, and are elated about that stubble growing under your arms.

Now imagine you're David Sills, the 13-year-old Delaware football prodigy who decided he's ready to take his skills to USC after. No that's not a misprint, he's 13, and has decided exactly where he wants to continue his playing days...five years from now. And it's Steve Clarkson, the guy who said Jimmy Clausen was the "LeBron James of football," saying this kid is the real deal. I respect his opinion, the guy was molded some of the best, but you honestly think, as a skinny eighth grader, that this kid is *THAT* good? Jimmy Clausen was no LeBron James. He was good, but not nearly what you said bud.

I don't have the slightest clue where I will be in five years, but this kid, who's in the beginning stages of puberty, knows? And he thinks he has the tool set to cruise over to an elite football program? This irks me. A lot.

This isn't the first time, just the latest time. We remember Chris Leak, yes? The quarterback who led Florida to a National Championship his senior year? Well, long before he became a Gator legend, even before he led his Independence High North Carolina team to three state championships, he was offered a scholarship as an eighth grader by Wake Forest, who was coached by current Indianapolis Colts head coach Jim Caldwell. It was also recently that the younger brother of Eric Berry decided to take his eighth grade skill package to Tennessee. Ironically it was Lane Kiffin, who now coaches at Sills destination, USC, who was coaching Tennessee at the time. That's weird. Way to get ahead on the class of 2015.

This has happened a lot in basketball in the past (see OJ Mayo, LeBron James, etc).

Recruiting needs to be observed on a case-by-case basis



Assistant Sports Editor
DANIEL KAUTZ

You can imagine my trepidation at having to actually defend Lane Kiffin's recruiting of a 13-year-old quarterback "prospect" (forgive the quotation marks, but I hesitate to call any athlete not yet through puberty a legitimate prospect).

Indeed, David Sills, the stud seventh grade quarterback of Red Lion Christian Academy in Bear, Delaware, gave a verbal commitment to the USC coach on February 7 in a move that has only intensified a national debate on recruiting tactics.

Critics argue that children should not be made the target of national recruiting sweeps. The arguments are that it adds intense pressure to their lives of these young adolescents, and is potentially damaging to their emotional development as they grow older.

"It's a bit reminiscent of how the Eastern bloc countries used to control the Olympics," said Mark Saxon of ESPNLosAngeles.com, in a recent column. "Identify an athletic kid with sturdy legs; get him or her expert instruction in an academy; and voilà, you've got a gold-medal ski jumper six

years later. Never mind that the kid had to live a regimented life away from his family and friends."

While Saxon's comment expresses a valid, albeit dire, opinion, who is to say that the process is such an evil? Indeed, it is easy to look at a 13-year-old through the lens of the national media and say that he is being manipulated by the shadowy overlords of college football, but whoreally knows what's best for him?

"I really don't care what people say about me," Sills said. "When people say something negative about me I just take it and work harder because it makes me want to push harder and train harder and prove them wrong. I just take whatever they say negative and turn it into a positive."

"For the people that don't like kids getting recruited early, if it was their kid, what would they do? Would they hold them back?" Sills' father asked.

"The way I look at it is if David was a phenomenal mathematician and I held him back, wouldn't that be wrong? If he was a great piano player or a gifted child actor and I held him back, wouldn't that be wrong?" said Sills' father. "There are a lot of things that people don't put a negative stigmatism to because they're considered prodigies [...] David has been recognized as a decent

Football is different. Who knows how this lanky kid's body is going to fill out. Will he grow? Will his arm get any stronger? Will he even still be playing football? What if he decides to take up cricket instead? The point is, how are "experts" supposed to know how good a kid will be before they have even stepped foot in a high school game, let alone a division one college game?

Not to mention, have you seen the dudes this kid is throwing to? They look like the USC receivers now. Check out his highlight tape, some of the catches his teammates are making are pretty ridiculous.

I recently saw a basketball recruiting database grading the nation's top fifth graders. Really? How could anyone possibly know, in a country of 300 million occupants, who the best fifth graders are?

Kids aren't ready for that. You cannot predict how a kid will pan out. He's going to be under the microscope now; if he makes the slightest mistake, it's going to be everywhere. That's not what kids who are barely teenagers need.

athlete and I'm allowing him to fulfill whatever opportunities that he can. [...] There's no pressure, there's gentle encouragement. He's the one that always says, 'dad let's go to the gym and let's throw.' It's what he enjoys doing. If he ever got to a point where he doesn't love what he does I told him to stop."

While I have my own reservations regarding the recruiting of young teens around the country, people must understand that everyone's circumstances are different. A popular argument is that a young athlete anointed as the next superstar could possibly lose his or her drive; what if athletes lacking in motivation or confidence receive a word of encouragement from a coach, and decide to reinvest themselves in their sport(s)? What if an athlete from a poorer background receives early praise and is offered a scholarship that would allow him or her to go on to higher education? An early scholarship offer could help direct an adolescent towards a future previously impossible.

Though I ultimately side with Mr. Dorunda on this issue, I do believe that there is room for debate. Thirteen year old David Sills is in love with the game of football, and can throw a football better than I can; can't we let him make his own decisions with his parent's guidance?

THE KIDS IN AMERICA

Men's Olympic ice hockey team is short on experience, big on talent

BY MICHAEL CIGNOLI

Assistant Online Editor

A youthful United States team will begin its quest for a gold medal in men's ice hockey when it takes on Switzerland today at 3:00 p.m.

The Americans, who have an average age of slightly over 26, feature just three players who have previous Olympic experience.

The proverbial changing of the guard comes on the heels of a disappointing eighth-place finish at the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy. U.S.A. general manager Brian Burke chose to go with an internationally inexperienced yet talented team for the Vancouver Olympics, rather than field a squad of aging veterans.

Captain Jamie Langenbrunner will lead the up-and-comers into Vancouver. Langenbrunner was a logical choice for captain, as he holds the same honor for his National Hockey League team and skated for the United States at the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Center Chris Drury and defenseman Brian

UNITED STATES ROSTER

Goalies (NHL Team, Age)

Ryan Miller (Sabres, 29)
Jonathan Quick (Kings, 21)
Tim Thomas (Bruins, 35)

Defensemen (NHL Team, Age)

Tim Gleason (Hurricanes, 27)
Erik Johnson (Blues, 21)
Jack Johnson (Kings, 23)
Brooks Orpik (Penguins, 29)
Brian Rafalski (Red Wings, 36)
Ryan Suter (Predators, 25)
Ryan Whitney (Ducks, 26)

Forwards (NHL Team, Age)

David Backes (Blues, 25)
Dustin Brown (Kings, 25)
Ryan Callahan (Rangers, 24)
Chris Drury (Rangers, 33)
Patrick Kane (Blackhawks, 21)
Ryan Kesler (Canucks, 25)
Phil Kessel (Maple Leafs, 22)
Jamie Langenbrunner (Devils, 34)
Ryan Malone (Lightning, 30)
Zach Parise (Devils, 25)
Joe Pavelski (Sharks, 25)
Bobby Ryan (Ducks, 22)
Paul Stastny (Avalanche, 24)

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 16
USA vs. Switzerland 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 18
USA vs. Norway 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 21
Canada vs. USA 7:40 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24
Elimination Games Begin

Saturday, February 27
Bronze Medal Game 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 28
Gold Medal Game 3:15 p.m.

Ryan Suter were all first-round selections in their respective drafts.

Should they falter, goaltenders Ryan Miller, Tim Thomas, and Jonathan Quick are more than capable of stealing games for their country.

Through February 10th, no NHL goalie had won more games than Quick (34). Miller's .931 save percentage is tops in the NHL, and Thomas was awarded the Vezina Trophy last season for being the best goalie in the NHL.

Though the United States has the depth and talent required to win Olympic gold, it won't be easy. The Americans are faced with the daunting task of going for the gold in a country that eats, sleeps, and breathes ice hockey.

The Canadian squad is equally as talented as the red, white & blue, plus it will have home-ice advantage. For that reason alone, Canada has to be considered the tournament favorite.

But if a group of American college kids beat the Soviets in 1980, why can't a group of American NHLers beat the Canadians in 2010?

Rafalski are the other two Americans with previous Olympic experience. At age 36, Rafalski is also the team's oldest player.

While those three players will be called upon to mentor the team, the United States has plenty of young guns that can lead by example.

The Americans boast a trio of former top-

five draft picks in Patrick Kane, Bobby Ryan, and Phil Kessel. All three of those players are under the age of 22 and scored a combined 187 points in the NHL last season.

That's just the tip of the iceberg.

Defensemen Brooks Orpik, Ryan Whitney, Jack Johnson, Erik Johnson, Tim Gleason, and

The Competition

GROUP A

Canada

Olympic Appearances: 20

Olympic Medals: 13 (7G, 4S, 2B)

Player to Watch: After being left off the 2006 Turin team, Pittsburgh center Sidney Crosby will make his Olympic debut in Vancouver.

2010 Outlook: The only team with home-ice advantage, anything but a gold medal will be a disappointment for the Canadians.

Norway

Olympic Appearances: 9

Olympic Medals: None

Player to Watch: Detroit defenseman Ole-Kristian Tollefsen's 163 NHL games are the most amongst Norwegian players.

2010 Outlook: Stranger things have happened, but it's unlikely that Norway will prove to be much of a threat to the powerhouses.

Switzerland

Olympic Appearances: 14

Olympic Medals: 2 (2B)

Player to Watch: Goaltender Jonas Hiller (Anaheim) has shown he can steal games in the NHL – can he do the same in Vancouver?

2010 Outlook: Not the most talented team, but if Hiller is on top of his game, they could pull off an upset or two.

United States

Olympic Appearances: 20

Olympic Medals: 10 (2G, 7S, 1B)

Player to Watch: Center Ryan Kesler knows Vancouver well. As a member of the Canucks, it's the city where he plays his NHL games.

2010 Outlook: This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Miracle On Ice. The 2010 squad needs to channel some of that magic to beat Canada.

GROUP B

Czech Republic

Olympic Appearances: 4

Olympic Medals: 2 (1G, 1B)

Player to Watch: Jaromir Jagr scored 1,599 points during a 17-year NHL career before joining Russia's Avangard Omsk in 2008.

2010 Outlook: The offense is there, but the Czechs aren't strong on defense. They'll go as far as their goaltenders carry them.

Latvia

Olympic Appearances: 3

Olympic Medals: None

Player to Watch: Wing Kaspars Daugavins was in Wilkes-Barre on Friday, skating for the AHL's Binghamton Senators.

2010 Outlook: Things don't look good. Latvia doesn't have a lot of NHL experience and is competing in the tournament's toughest group.

Russia

Olympic Appearances: 4

Olympic Medals: 2 (1S, 1B)

Player to Watch: As a 20-year-old in the 2006 Olympics, Alexander Ovechkin scored five goals, including the one that eliminated Canada.

2010 Outlook: The Russians have a dynamic one-two punch with Ovechkin and Evgeni Malkin. Look for them to do some damage.

Slovakia

Olympic Appearances: 4

Olympic Medals: None

Player to Watch: At 6'9", defenseman Zdeno Chara is the tallest player to ever play in the NHL. He anchors Slovakia's defense.

2010 Outlook: Slovakia's best Olympic finish came in 2006, when it placed fifth. The team can definitely improve on that in 2010.

GROUP C

Belarus

Olympic Appearances: 2

Olympic Medals: None

Player to Watch: Winger Konstantin Koltsov spent parts of three seasons with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

2010 Outlook: With so many other great teams competing in Vancouver, Belarus is going to need some luck if it wants to go far.

Finland

Olympic Appearances: 14

Olympic Medals: 4 (2S, 2B)

Player to Watch: The pesky Jarkko Ruutu is a great agitator and is known to get opponents off of their games.

2010 Outlook: Finland won the silver medal at the 2006 Olympics and has the talent to pull off a similar finish in Vancouver.

Germany

Olympic Appearances: 12

Olympic Medals: 1 (1B)

Player to Watch: Christian Ehrhoff is the team's most talented defenseman. As a Canuck, he plays his NHL games in Vancouver.

2010 Outlook: Germany hasn't medaled in men's hockey since 1932 and it is unlikely that the nation will break that streak in 2010.

Sweden

Olympic Appearances: 20

Olympic Medals: 8 (2G, 2S, 4B)

Player to Watch: Goalie Henrik Lundqvist (New York Rangers) backstopped the Swedes to a Gold Medal in 2006.

2010 Outlook: It certainly has the talent to repeat, but can Sweden overcome Canada's home-ice advantage? Only time will tell.

LAX LACKS NUMBERS

Team set to start season with just 12 girls on roster

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA

Sports Editor

Last year, the women's lacrosse had a monumental season that culminated in the school's first winning record in the sport's short history. This year, the team is struggling to simply field a full team.

With preseason practices well underway, there are just 12 players on the team's roster, a far cry from the 18 from last year, and only enough to fill out a starting lineup – with no substitutions.

Of those who have quit, roughly 20 players still attend Wilkes. That group includes last year's captains Kat Edwards, Analicia Jost, and Shannon McDonald, as well as the team's top two scorers, forwards Brittney Hodnik and Melissa Polchinski, who combined for 208 of the team's 357 points.

The sudden exodus has raised questions about why so many players are leaving the program.

Although a concrete reasoning for the substantial drop-off is inconclusive, there are varying explanations all across the board.

"There are many reasons for the lack of numbers," said athletic director Addy Malatesta. "Retention is always an issue; although this is a drastic drop, it's a cycle. Class schedules, heart, philosophical differences, and coaching are all possible reasons."

According to both Malatesta and head coach Kammie Towie, one of the biggest challenges for the program is the lack of high school lacrosse in the area. With so few high schools offering lacrosse locally, recruiting is a tough obstacle.

Malatesta said it's hard for a program like Wilkes to build a solid foundation because the program is so young and there have been three different coaches in eight years.

"Unfortunately there's this level of frustration that's created this dark cloud, and it seems like it has caused a domino effect," said Malatesta. "It used to be fashionable to play a sport with your friends, now it's fashionable to leave with your friends and that's kind of scary."

Sophomore Carissa Clark agreed, citing an instance where one girl quit and three followed her immediately after.

"It was as if one of them was not on the team, then none of them could be," commented Clark. "A lot of us who have stayed aren't very happy with the girls who decided to leave. They left us when we needed them, they were part of the team and it makes it very hard to reunite as a team again."

Towie stated that many past and recent recruits joined the team because they could see themselves playing at Wilkes University.

Hodnik, a senior who left the team "because of coaching more than anything else," sees it differently.

"On my recruiting trip people were telling me how fun it was going to be and to come

comments, which are reviewed with the coach, but they are anonymous, and it's no more than any other sport gets."

Malatesta feels that the commitment, in some cases, becomes too much, and athletes make a choice to walk away because it is not as meaningful as it once was.

"A lack of love for the game was never part of leaving," said McDonald. "There were a lot of issues going on in with the team behind the scenes."

According to both Towie and Malatesta, the struggling economy combined with rigorous academic schedules is partly to blame. With the country suffering from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, many athletes are taking jobs to help suppress the financial burden of the college education.

"I think a lot of student athletes are obtaining work study or part-time jobs," said Malatesta. "Parents are having a tougher time making ends meet; if you can alleviate some of the burden I can understand that."

"Some students may not have a problem managing academics, a job, a team sport, and a social life," said Towie. "For some it just becomes a pyramid of priorities with the team sport cascading to the bottom."

Towie ensures that she balances practices around students' academic schedules, even arranging study halls assuring players time to devote to their schoolwork.

"Sometimes this just isn't enough and girls feel overwhelmed and leave the team, to focus on academics," said

Towie.

Despite the dwindling numbers, recruiting efforts have not slowed down. As of press time, close to 30 potential athletes have been on campus for recruiting tours. Towie has also hung posters around the school, advertising for women to come out for the team. According to McDonald, players who have left the team have also been contacted via email by the coaching staff, inviting them back to the team for the upcoming season.

As for the players still on the team, they are moving forward, looking ahead to the upcoming season, and sticking together with the few players they have left.

"It may or may not be a hard season, but we will make the best of it," said Clark. "We all made a pact to stick together through it no matter what."

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The Beacon/Archives

Britney Hodnik looks on as Melissa Polchinski attacks the goal last year. Both players, who were 1-2 in scoring last season, have left the team.

here," said Hodnik. "I didn't think that division three lacrosse was going to be this stressful, this much time, and this much of a hassle."

McDonald also left the team due to difficulties with the coaching.

"The main reason I left was due to the fact that there was no respect for the coaching staff," said McDonald. "Many returning girls had issues with the specific coaching staff... They didn't believe in the coaching tactics or their morals."

Malatesta, however, does not feel coaching is the main issue. Players are given the opportunity to disclose their unhappiness with the program through the player response surveys. These forms are similar to the Student Response Surveys (SRS Forms) filled out by students to leave comments regarding their classes.

"Not everyone is going to be satisfied," said Malatesta. "It's an opportunity to write and vent about anything. We have seen negative

BY THE NUMBERS

19

Number of former lacrosse players that still attend Wilkes. Included in that are the team's two leading scorers from a year ago.

12

Numbers of players still on the team. Also the number of players needed on the field at one time.

3

Team captains the lacrosse team had last year. All of them were underclassman, and none have returned for the upcoming season.

32

Number of days until the Lady Colonels take the field for the first time this season versus Manhattanville, as of press time.

