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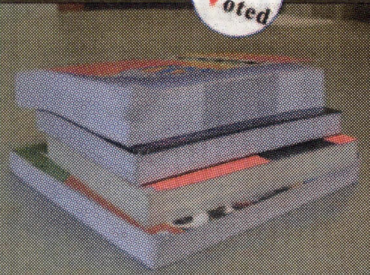


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Volume 65 Issue 8

THE BEACON

Observing the election



Non-reader nation

Americans not reading
as much, Page 6



'God'-ly performance

Wilkes theater presents
"Godspell," Page 9



New looks for old halls

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Many causes behind lack of
student participation in this
year's election,
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Presidential policies have major
impact on youth of America,
Page 13



Courtesy of Jeremy Tobin

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Lack of interest in politics reason for student political inactivity

By Christine Lee
News Editor

Although hyped as “historically close” in the media, this year’s presidential election does not seem to be inspiring action among college students, as evident by the lack of signs and other materials for different candidates on campus.

In a survey of 15 students, 12 said they do not support a candidate running for president, 13 said they would not get politically involved on campus and 13 said they would not actively endorse President Obama or Gov. Romney on campus if given the chance.

The most commonly cited reasons for not getting involved politically is that students were busy, they were not “big political people” or the election was a worthless activity.

Wilkes political science professors Tom Baldino and Kyle Kreider agree the lack of interest in politics from college students is not unusual.

Kreider thinks the reason there aren’t any campaign literature for any political parties on campus is because students don’t care as much as other age cohorts. He also explained young voters’ level of apathy is higher, which is partly caused by a negative perspective on politics.

“They don’t care because they think that politicians are a bunch of liars, they’re a bunch of snake-oil fails, so they kind of see both the Republican and Democratic parties as corrupt and the candidates are simply a reflection of that corruption,” Kreider said. “They’re apathetic but they’re also very cynical and I think that cynicism works its way into non participation.”

Kreider said when students are cynical of politicians in general it leads to a decline in voting for college students, particularly when they think that Obama did not deliver on his campaign promises of 2008.

Baldino said campaign literature was present all over the place during the 2008 election because students were energized and both campaigns were spending time getting the vote in Pennsylvania on TV and in-person. This year both campaigns decided not to put as much focus on Pennsylvania.

“We don’t see much on campus now but we don’t also in Pennsylvania see very many

campaign ads because both candidates and their campaigns decided Pennsylvania wasn’t in play,” Baldino said. “The Democrats were perceived as having locked up the state so we’re not seeing Democratic campaign ads. Romney pulled his money out so we’re not seeing his ads and that trickles down to affect everything else.”

Baldino said if the top of the ticket isn’t spending a lot of time in the state, there isn’t any reason for anyone else to do so as well.

Kreider said part of what explains that the survey results are not abnormal, and there are several other factors that explain this. For a long time people thought of voting as a civic duty, a responsibility as an American citizen. He said the younger generations have strayed from this classification compared to older generations.

“For a number of reasons they don’t think of voting as a duty and so they just participate at much lower rates than older Americans,” Kreider said.

Junior criminology and sociology major Paige Kulsa isn’t sure which candidate to endorse and an opportunity to get politically involved would give her a better idea of the candidates running.

“I want to get more knowledge of each candidate’s side,” Kulsa said.

Kulsa said she isn’t fully aware of what the candidates stand for because each of them has good viewpoints of some things and others have views she doesn’t agree with.

Sophomore environmental engineering major Corbin Shermin doesn’t endorse any candidate running for president and said he was never interested in understanding politics.

“I’ve never really had time to get into it, it just never clicked for me,” Sherman said. “Looking at their platforms I couldn’t really side with either.”

Kreider said the life stage that 18- to 21-year-olds are at determines how they vote. Because many people that age are away at college, they are responsible to change voter registration and many don’t think they have the time to think about getting the absentee ballot done.

“You simply have a lot of college students who do not change their voter registration, are not home on Election Day because they’re in college and have never filled out an absentee ballot. In order to vote absentee you need to think about voting six weeks before the elec-



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Above, Romney’s headquarters on Main Street is one place where students can go to make their voice count. However, Wilkes students have been lacking in interest toward this year’s election.

tion,” Kreider said. “I think a lot of college students, even if they are registered where they’re living in college, they get busy with school-work and other sorts of things so it’s simply more work to vote.”

Baldino said the prominent time that students were fully engaged in a presidential election was 1972, followed by 2008, both of which were unusual in terms of activity level. He said some students don’t see the political system doing anything important for them and use that opinion as a reason for them not getting engaged in politics.

“I hear this from students all the time: ‘I don’t see what the government does for me,’ ‘I don’t understand what government does’ and the other line is ‘I think government should be doing more but government doesn’t respond to the needs of students or of young people in general,’ but that gets into the circular argument that elected officials use is that elected which is elected officials will tell young people ‘we don’t act on your interests because you don’t vote,’” Baldino said. “They don’t vote, and therefore they’re not going to get any attention. If they voted, elected officials will respond.”

Baldino said in 1972, the Vietnam War was still going on and a lot of students were politi-

cally active outside of government protesting, so a lot of them voted against Richard Nixon at that time. The 18-25 population was the least politically active until 2008, in which the participation rate among all voter ages increased.

Baldino also said the expectation is students won’t vote in as high numbers as in 2008 because they are disappointed with President Obama’s policies and initiatives.

“Some of these young people are disillusioned, they worked for Obama, they voted for Obama and they don’t think he delivered for them,” Baldino said.

Wilkes has established chapters of both the College Democrats and Republicans. The College Republicans are currently active while the Democrats club is dormant.

College Democrats adviser Jim Merryman explained that the issues of the campaign four years ago energized students to want to be involved with the club. Now there aren’t as many issues for students to get excited over.

“It’s like OK, we know all about that, what is there to get excited about other than a poor economy,” Merryman said. “It’s hard to get stirred up about the current state of affairs.”

See Politics, Page 4

THE BEACON

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Students spend Fall Break at local animal Shelter

Alyssa Stencavage, Asst. Life Editor
October 16, 2012

Some students spent their fall break cleaning stalls and pens, washing bowls and tubs for larger animals, sweeping the barn, cleaning the refrigerator, ... READ MORE »

News



Wilkes faculty members react to presidential debates

Shawn Caroy, Staff Writer

With the 2012 Election Day weeks away, the pressure is on for national

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Professor publishes book on ecotourism in Costa Rica

By Christine Lee
News Editor

Pura vida. That is the expression that comes to mind when one thinks of Costa Rica. It's rainforests and beaches have in recent times been a popular choice of vacationers the world over.

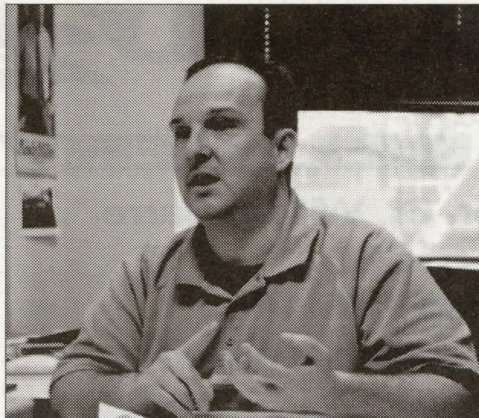
This vacation spot is the topic of a new book by assistant professor of political science Andrew Miller entitled, "Ecotourism Development in Costa Rica: The Search for Oro Verde."

The book examines the use of ecotourism as an economic development strategy in Costa Rica and its applicability to other Latin American countries.

Having traveled to Costa Rica on several occasions, Miller had been interested in unique development initiatives and how they have affected a country's economy.

"I had been interested in non-traditional development strategies because if you look at the economic development in Latin America, many of the things they've tried haven't worked, and so I think if you look at Costa Rica and the fact that they've achieved a much higher average income than people in their region, you start to then look at the reasons behind that," Miller said. "I was really drawn to this particular topic because of the success in Costa Rica and the fact that the development plans in other states have not been nearly as successful."

Ecotourism, a form of tourism that involves visiting natural areas, as a development strategy is distinctive. In order for it to



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Assistant professor of political science Andrew Miller focuses on tourism in Costa Rica in his newest book.

succeed, it must preserve the natural environment, but it also must do so in a way that does not preclude growth in other sectors of the country's economy. The book examines how the successful pursuit of foreign direct investment combined with Costa Rica's biodiversity and its attractiveness as a tourism destination is important to understanding the success of the Costa Rican economy.

"What makes ecotourism interesting is that people go some place to see something different," Miller said. "Ecotourism seeks to put some of this money back into the environment so it can basically be utilized as an income-generating activity but one that's non-destructive."

Miller said ecotourism is interesting because

it seeks to preserve what people go to see on vacation, such as Costa Rica's rainforests, animals and volcanoes.

"I think that there can be an economic development path that makes money off the environment without destroying it," Miller said.

In addition to taking students to Costa Rica this spring for Alternative Spring Break for the fourth year in a row, Miller will also offer a summer class during the first summer session in Costa Rica that will spend two weeks in the town of El Coco, partnering with the chamber of commerce to help boost their ecotourism industry such as sustainability projects, translating brochures and making sure maps are correct.

Miller also has another book coming out this summer entitled "Globalization, Neoliberalism and Ecotourism Development," which will examine the applicability of the Costa Rican model of economic development to Panama, Belize and Nicaragua.

Senior psychology major Chelsey Schoch will be getting her first taste of Costa Rica during Alternative Spring Break this year. She is excited about experiencing a different culture and understanding other people.

"It's really exciting to be able to go to another country and be able to meet with people that are from another culture and see their perspective," Schoch said. "I'm a psychology major so it's kind of our job to understand other people as best as we can so I think it's really important for me to do something like this in order to help other people as best I can."

Schoch hopes to completely immerse herself into the Costa Rican culture and gain a better understanding about the fair trade business.

She also hopes to gain a better appreciation of coffee.

"I hate coffee right now so I'm hoping that by the end of this I'll be able to at least be able to drink a cup of coffee 'cause it's going to be the coffee business fair trade we'll be learning about," Schoch said.

Senior history major Alex Madaya traveled to Costa Rica last year for Alternative Spring Break and said there were so many amazing things there. She also said she gained a better appreciation for the United States' infrastructure.

"We put our recyclables on a curb and it is picked up and taken away and it's not even something we have to think about. We go to the grocery store and we buy food that comes from a farm that we don't even think about," Madaya said. "With Costa Rica it's a little bit different. With the recycling project, those were people who volunteered to pick the recyclables out of the garbage or we worked on a coffee plantation and it took me two hours to pick one basket of coffee cherries where that would have paid me about \$2."

Madaya said she has an appreciation for the U.S. economy and infrastructure as the result of her experiences in Costa Rica. She would recommend it to any students "in a heartbeat."

"Costa Rica is beautiful, the people there are so welcoming, they welcome you into their homes, they feed you dinner every night and you bond with everyone on the trip so I would absolutely without a doubt recommend it to anybody who wants to apply," Madaya said.

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Politics

Continued from Page 2

Merryman also cites a lack of campus leadership and the exciting causes as some of the reasons for the College Democrats not being active. He said it has been hard getting students interested in the group.

"Our former president graduated, as did a number of very active students, so it's a question of finding that core of politically active students who can rally the troops," Merryman said.

College Republicans president Ian Foley said the club has been active in organizing a watch party for the first presidential debate that was open to all members of campus, along with organizing several voter registration and absentee ballot drives and volunteering at the Romney campaign headquarters.

Foley said the group has gained five to six freshmen, including one who is serving as the group's secretary. He expects younger membership to continue into next year.

"I'm just glad we've been able to remain a force on campus," Foley said.

Merryman said sees no reason why both groups can't exist at the same time.

Baldino, Kreider, Merryman and Foley all stress the importance of students getting involved and voting.

"I would say it is important for college stu-



The Beacon/Laura Preby

Pictured is the Obama campaign headquarters on Main Street in Wilkes-Barre.

dents to get involved in every election," Baldino said. "Government does have an impact on your life, you may not see it directly as a young voter but it has an impact on your life."

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Wilkes University Television Program Guide

Channel 97: Service Electric Cable

Monday November 5, 2012

6pm Rosenn Lecture Dillon-Dau
7:00pm Spotlight
7:30pm As You Like It
Classic Arts Showcase

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012

12:00pm Wilkes Now
6pm Spotlight
6:30pm Det. Stores
7:00pm I Enjoy Being A Girl
7:30pm Wilkes Now
8:00pm Rosenn Lecture-Lec Zanny
9:17pm Classic Arts Showcase

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012

6:00pm Spotlight
6:30pm An American In Normandy
7:30pm Wilkes Now

8:00pm Wy. Val. Media
8:30pm Kirby Lecture-Tom Zasky
Classical Arts Showcase

Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012

6:00pm Spotlight-April 8
6:30pm Ax Of Murder
7:30pm Wilkes Now
8:00pm Kirby Lecture Lawrence Reed
9:00pm Philadelphia 2000
Classical Arts Showcase

Friday, Nov. 9, 2012

6:00pm Wilkes On Wednesday
6:30pm Reveille To Taps
7:30pm Wilkes Now
8:00pm Generation X
Classical Arts Showcase

Stachacz's new role helps out IT

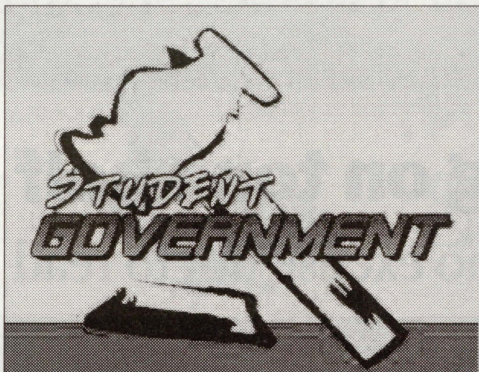
By Shawn Carey
Staff Writer

Called to order at 5:58 p.m.

All college: \$2,660
Conferences: \$700
General funds: \$6,313.35
Leadership: \$600
Spirit: \$873.34
Student Government total: \$11,146.69

An update from library Dean John Stachacz was given to the Student Government board. Stachacz said he has assumed an additional role on campus, and that is dean of Information Technology Services. He said his office will remain in the library, but will now have to two administrative roles to fill. He said that he is hoping to get IT Services more responsive and able to help students even more. He said if anyone has any questions to please contact him.

Representatives from Nursing Student Organization were present at the meeting. The NSO is an organization that represents nursing students here on campus. Three student representatives are requesting funds for a conference in Philadelphia regarding first-aid and



nursing. They are requesting \$1,500 from SG in order to attend the conference. There are 16 people registered for the trip.

There are several campus events coming up in the next two months. Council of Clubs will be held on Nov. 6. Wing Wars has been rescheduled to Nov. 19. The Inter-Residence Hall Council Study Break party will be on Dec. 10. The SG Retreat has been scheduled for Nov. 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Steele earns Bullard Fellow

Mike Steele's acorn research interest lands him spot at Harvard for 2012-13 academic year

By Haley Adam
Correspondent

Wilkes biology professor and H. Fenner Chair of Research Biology, Michael Steele, was appointed a Bullard Fellow at Harvard for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Steele's research interests focus on how acorn characteristics influence how, why and where animals move acorn seeds and how the behavioral decisions they make, in turn, influence oak seeding establishment.

"My research examines the close ecological and evolutionary relationship between the oaks, their fruit, acorns and the animals that disperse acorns, primarily squirrels, other rodents and jays," Steele said.

The fellowship will allow Steele to spend about a year conducting research at the Harvard Forest in Massachusetts, which is about 3,500 acres. In past research publications, Steele has focused on the subject of oak dispersal and oak-animal interactions. He went to the Harvard Forest to research more on the

topic at hand. Since arriving at Wilkes 23 years ago, this had been an ongoing focus of much of Steele's research.

Steele will be working alongside several internationally renowned forest ecologists, and a "small army" of very competent post doctorates, doctoral students, staff and technicians. He is given complete freedom in his research and study.

"On the one hand, it is at times intimidating to be surrounded by so many leaders in the field, but it's also energizing and inspiring," he said.

Established in 1962, the Charles Bullard Fellowship program was created to support the study and advanced research of individuals likely to make important contributions as scholars or administrators in forest ecology. Steele has made important contributions, and will continue to make more under this fellowship.

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New River Common statue



The Beacon/Laura Preby
On Thursday, Nov. 1,
"The Ribbon" was finally unveiled at the Millenium Circle Portal at the River Common. The sculpture, designed by Mark Boyer Dryfoos and built by Ray Preby, is the first piece of public art on the River Common. "The Ribbon," expected to take six months to build, was finally completed after two years. This 2-ton, 27-foot high sculpture (30-feet high if you include the base and post) is a gift to the community from Millennium Circle members and The Luzerne Foundation. The Millenium Circle fund of The Luzerne Foundation was created to give assistance when need is displayed in the community.

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Americans should put reading on top shelf

With e-books and lending libraries, there is no excuse not to read

By The Beacon Editorial Staff

Americans read all the time when it comes to Facebook posts, Twitter and Instagram captions all across the country.

The issue is, not many of these “reading” sessions are longer than the amount of time it takes to read 140 characters. When is the last time that an American adult read an actual book not required by some form of school?

A report released this year by the National Endowment for the Arts says that only 43 percent of American adults read a book that could be classified as literature in the past year. While that is a significant increase from previous years (the lowest being 14 percent in 2007), this has been attributed to the rise in cultural cache and significance regarding certain book series such as Suzanne Collins’ “The Hunger Games” and E.L. James’ “Fifty Shades of Grey”.

Many people will use the standard excuses of “I don’t have time,” “It’s too expensive” or even “I’m too tired” to avoid reading. The problem is that these excuses can be nullified rather quickly.

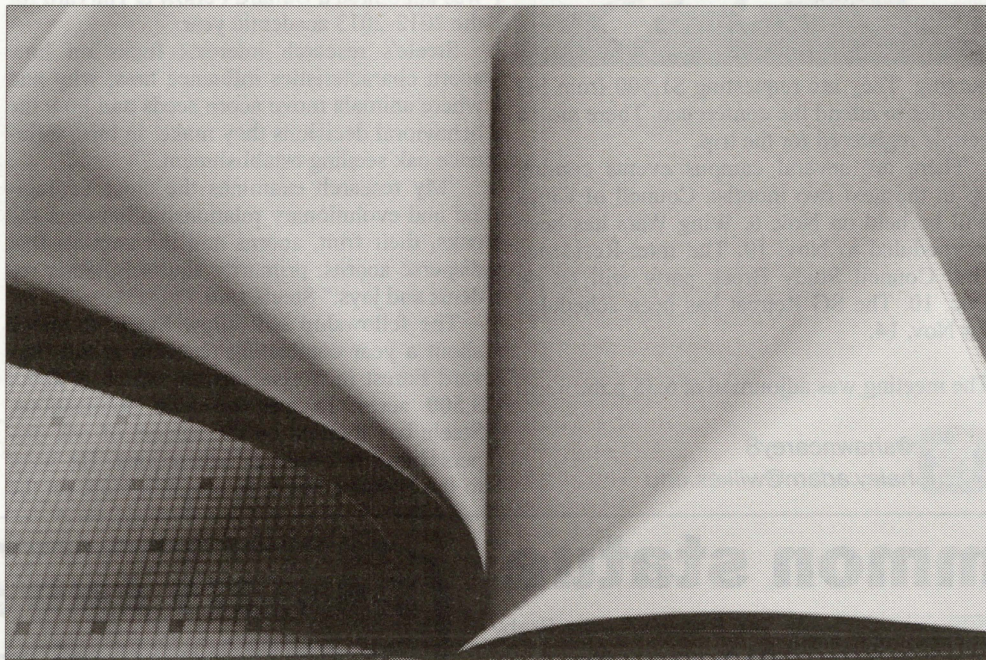
Amazon’s Kindle and Barnes & Noble’s Nook are two of the world’s best seller e-readers. Both boast about fast downloading speeds, Wi-Fi connections, small size and minimal weight. These devices are not only conducive to reading, but owners can download certain applications, a moderate amount of music and a number of games.

For those tech-savvy people with an iPad instead of the Kindle or Nook, the application iBooks serves the same purpose. Many books can be downloaded and stored, becoming transferable among all Apple devices you own.

Those who complain about having to carry around the device (the lightest Kindle weighing less 13.9 ounces) also no longer have a scapegoat. Smartphones like iPhone and Android both have Kindle and Nook applications that will wirelessly sync to your device at home. This way, on the way to work, readers can read five pages of a book, and then return home and open their actual e-reader device to the exact same spot that they left off during their commute.

These innovations in e-reader and smartphone technology eliminate the need for thousands of books on a shelf, taking up space in one’s home, car, bag or office.

The second issue people tend to complain about is cost. A brand new, hardcover book will set a reader back approximately \$20, sometimes more. For that \$20, the person may never pick up the book again, leaving it to



The Beacon/Laura Preby

According to the National Endowment for the Arts, only 43 percent of Americans have read at least one literature-classified book this year. But with the creation of innovative reading technology, there really is no excuse not to read.

gather dust and take up space on a shelf.

The good news is, this problem has also been solved. E-readers like Kindle now institute a “Lending Library,” where you can rent books for no charge for a certain amount of time. If you do not finish the book, readers can always re-rent the title. The time amount a reader has (usually 30 days) starts only when he or she starts the book, ensuring that the amount of time a reader gets with the book is fair.

In addition to the “Lending Library,” many classics can be downloaded free of charge from computers, Kindles, Nooks, iBooks and other programs. There are even sites on the Internet dedicated solely to providing free books to readers.

The last option isn’t new by any means, but it still works. Going to the local library in your town is still an option. Library cards are usually free or a very small amount of money and the cards are good for life. This way someone can take out books and read them relatively at his or her leisure.

“This is a much better option than an e-reader for some. A lot of people still like having the feeling of the pages between their fingers, the smell of books ... it’s also inexpensive,” Librarian Jeanne Pearlman of the Osterhout Library said.

There is generally a large divide between people who pursue higher education compared

to those who stop at high school when it comes to reading and literacy rates. According to Suite 101, a site that publishes NEA reports, those who continue to focus on reading can increase their success in life.

“There have long been correlations recognized between reading and literacy rates and their impact on educational and financial success. Indeed, some have posited that the very nature of democracy in an increasingly complex and technologically advanced society is at risk if we lack educated, adaptive, logical thinkers. And while reading alone cannot guarantee flexible, energetic minds, the absence of such a fundamental cornerstone of thought development and information gathering harkens towards sobering predictions of intellectual decline.”

Reading can transport someone to another time and place by exciting the mind and giving the reader a break from reality. Even if a book isn’t required by school, pick up a good fiction and lose yourself.

For reading recommendations, look for The Book Report in the Beacon Blogs.



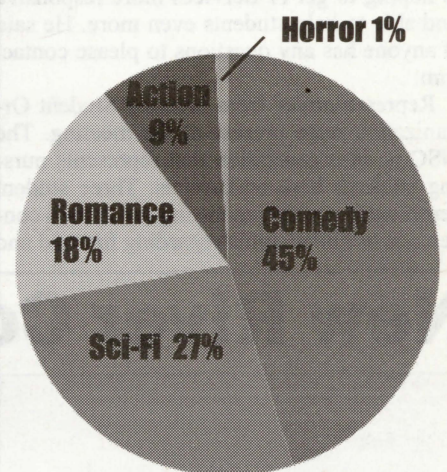
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BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. These poll results are based on 11 responses.

Last week’s question:

What is your favorite movie genre?



This week’s question:

How many books have you read in the past six months? (excluding textbooks)

- 0 books
- 1-3 books
- 4-6 books
- 6+ books

Cast your vote online at:
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carly.yamrus@wilkes.edu

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

Increase awareness for lesser-known health concerns

By Carly Yamrus

Opinion Editor

October has come and gone, and Breast Cancer Awareness Month campaign has come to a close. As a supporter of the issue, I am very glad people use this month to increase awareness of this devastating illness.

Although it is important to continue to fund and acknowledge breast cancer, I think by this point we are decently "aware" that it is a problem and should focus on other issues that we recognize as serious threats to health and safety.

That being said, I have compiled a list of several diseases and health risks or days of importance that people are hardly aware of:

The month of January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. Cervical cancer affects approximately 11,000 to 13,000 women a year, and is directly related to Human Papillomavirus.

There are more than 100 types of HPV, with two specific high-risk types: HPV-16 and HPV-18. HPV is said to be the most common sexually transmitted disease. Nearly 80 percent of women by the age of 50 will contract some type of HPV.

The majority of these strains only last about two years. Those who do not detect the HPV early have a greater chance of getting cervical cancer. Safe sex and routine check-ups can help lower your chances of contracting HPV or cervical cancer.

February 14th is National Donor Day. According to organdonor.gov, there are currently over 116,000 people in need and waiting for an organ. Each day, 18 people will die waiting for a match.

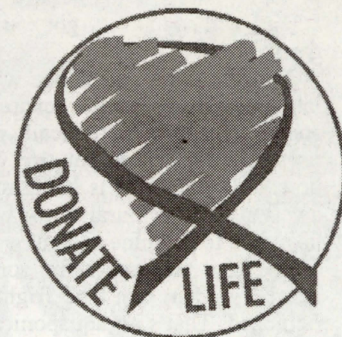
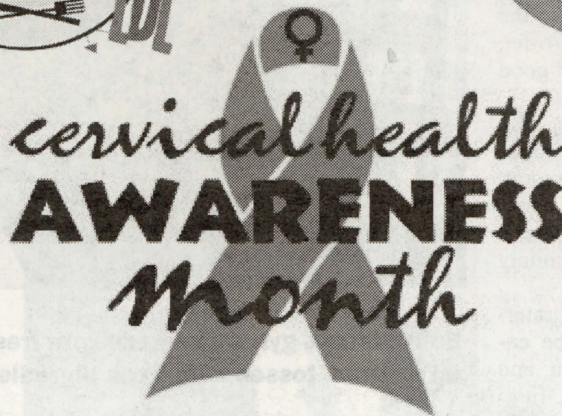
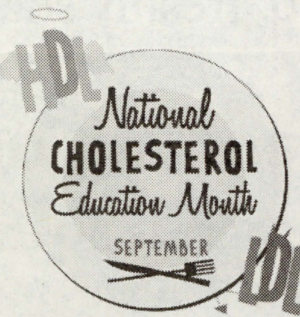
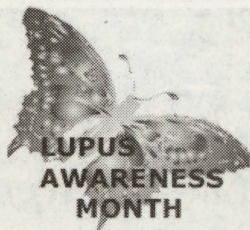
By becoming an organ donor, you can help people recover from trauma, bone damage, spinal injuries, burns, hearing impairment and vision loss. One donor can help save up to eight lives. You can register in your state to become an organ donor today at organdonor.gov.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Focusdriven.org (the advocates for cell-free driving) stated that cell phones are a factor in one of four vehicle crashes. In 2009, about 448,000 people were injured in cell-phone related accidents while 5,474 people were killed.

Cell phones require the brain to multitask, which diminishes the brain's capacity by 37 percent to collect and process information necessary for safe driving. Texting while driving is 100 percent preventable, yet it causes over 100 thousand crashes and thousands of deaths every year. Don't drive distracted.

The month of May is Lupus Awareness Month. Lupus is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease that affects various areas of the body including the skin, joints, blood, and kidneys. Antibodies that are supposed to attack foreign bodies instead attack healthy tissue causing inflammation, pain and damage to parts of the body.

Lupus is a genetic disease and cannot be passed to another person. Women ages 14 to 44 are the most likely to get lupus, as well as women of color. However, men, women and



Cervical cancer, lupus, bullying, distracted driving and cholesterol are just a few health concerns that should have increased awareness.

children can also have the disease.

September is National Cholesterol Education Month. More than 65 million Americans are affected by high cholesterol. High cholesterol increases your risk for heart disease and the chances of having a heart attack. Cholesterol, which is a waxy fat-like substance found in the body, can build up in the arteries if there is excess. Maintaining a healthy diet, exercising and not smoking can decrease your chances of having high cholesterol. Have your cholesterol levels checked every five years.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. The definition of bullying according to stopbullying.org is, "unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance." There are three types of bullying. Verbal; saying or writing mean things, social; ruining someone's reputation or relationship, and physical; hurting another person's body or personal belongings.

Bullying usually takes place during or after school hours, such as at school or on the bus, as well as on the Internet. Bullying can have a lasting effect on the victims. Kids who are bullied often have anxiety or depression, loss of appetite, sleep, and interest in activities. Bullying is often linked to suicide. Talking about and understanding bullying can help prevent it in the future.

I do hope this article has educated you on at least one issue that you were truly unaware of. These issues may not get nearly as much publicity as breast cancer receives but they exist and are important none the less. Please take the time to educate yourself on other national health observances at healthfinder.gov.



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Sponsored by the Center for Global Education and Diversity and The Beacon newspaper

Food Critic: In search of the perfect gyro, Part 2

Are Euro Bistro's ingredient-packed, freshly shaved, pita wrapped gyros the area's best?

By Nicholas Wesley
Correspondent

Does Euro bistro have the best gyro in Wilkes-Barre? To quote the dude, "that's just like, your opinion, man." Despite that first sentence, I will not subject this piece to open biasness, before I have even tried all of the limited options Wilkes-Barre has to offer. What I will say is they got some damn good gyros.

The first thing you notice when you walk into Euro Bistro on the square is the atmosphere. This is an aesthetically pleasing joint, not the place where you are worried about how legit your food is going to be. There is a very well done mural on the wall, definitely take time to examine and enjoy it.

You also may see some sort of extraterrestrial garden; don't be frightened, be enlightened. That's an aquaponics garden, and thanks to Enactus club here at Wilkes, Euro Bistro is able to offer freshly grown, in-house produce on their already superior products. Definitely a big plus in my book.

Now enough with the environment, how's the chow? Hold on, let's set up the experience a little more. So you go up to order, if you are lucky, you are greeted by the owner, Ivan or his dad Emil, two interesting characters. I will not say more about these folks, but if the food doesn't bring you back (which I doubt), you may find yourself stopping in for some good conversation.

But seriously! How is the GYRO! Well, they are good. They have a choice of chicken, lamb and beef. All are delicious. They pre-



The Beacon/Laura Preby

Euro Bistro's gyros are made with freshly shaved and slow roasted beef, chicken or lamb, tossed with fresh ingredients in a panini pressed wrap or pita.

pare the meat early in the morning, slicing it into thin wafers and putting it on a skew. Then letting it roast, slooowly. They slice to order, on your choice of pita bread or tortilla.

Then they have you choose your toppings, olives, peppers, tomatos, spring mix lettuce, they have more than eight choices (the exact number evades me, but it's enough). You guide Ivan through this journey of toppings, but then the sauce. The Tzatziki sauce (that's the yogurt sauce on a gyro for you noobs) is very good, a nice and tangy complement to the dish, and the hot sauce adds this special kick.

My recommendation is to add Tzatziki, and a lil' bit of hot. It gives it that kick, that is

promptly extinguished by the Tzatziki, giving a nice complex variety of flavors.

After this dish is rolled into the pita or tortilla, mind you, this is not standard protocol in the gyro world, they will toss it into a panini press, to give it a compact warm finish.

Now he will add a chunk of sauce to the top, don't be alarmed, and whatever you do, DON'T BITE RIGHT INTO IT. I don't want to sound overbearing and tell you how to eat your food, but I feel you should be warned that the best way to eat this is by chomping on the side and returning to the Tahiti volcano side periodically throughout the dish.

A quick side note before I cap this baby:

They have many other options of delicious meals. Their paninis are fantastic; Emil bakes the bread in house, the pizza is also a solid slice. There are plenty of vegetarian options, such as baked falafel, their fantastic mac and cheese and the soups of the day, plus they got a salad bar.

Back to the reason were here, how was it? Overall they use a nontraditional approach to the gyro, in the monotonized Greco-American sense of the word. They push for the tortilla which is good but the pita is always overflowing with ingredients, making for a messy lunch.

Nevermind the mess, how was the taste? It is a very good eats, the meat is freshly prepared and it shows! They clearly put a lot of care into creating this and never substitute quality. Their base ingredients are superior to anything you'd find at those eerily similar gyro joints plaguing any medium to large city.

With care and grace your food is prepared in front of you, no room for question, no possibility of spit. Cost-wise the food is very fair priced, 5-8 buck gets you full.

My recommendation is don't take my word for it, try it for yourself. This is a great place to have a lunch, if you go there enough, you will notice regulars of an almost cult-like following. This is definitely a place that will stay in Wilkes-Barre. Give it a try.

Email me @ nicholas.wesley@wilkes.edu and tell me what you thought about it, along with recommendation for other local staples.



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Benefits of re-electing President Obama

drastically outweigh replacing with Romney

By Austin Loukas
Assistant Photo Editor

There seems to be three things that upset people about our president.

The first and most obvious reason to not be satisfied with President Obama is his failure to fully repair or reverse America's high deficit and unemployment numbers.

The failure to close Guantanamo Bay is, I believe, another one of Obama's large failures.

The third disappointment I have in our commander-in-chief is his failure to abolish the Bush tax cuts.

Obama has made the United States internationally popular again. He has ended the war in Iraq and brought many of our troops home. The war in Afghanistan is in the process of ending. America has the best relationship with Russia since the second World War.

Obama has also successfully held off Iran as a nuclear threat by effectively using sanctions. Obama's face is seen on T-shirts around

the world because he is seen as a symbol of progress and hope.

Other countries now see the United States as having humbleness instead of hubris. This is a change for which Republicans, Democrats and Ron Paul fans especially should all be thankful.

Many people complain about the Affordable Health Care Act because they do not understand what it is. To me, "Obamacare" does two great things. First and most importantly, it requires health care companies to cover individuals with pre-existing conditions.

Before Obamacare, if a doctor found a small hole in your heart with the potential to be fatal that the doctor says you have probably had since birth, you would not receive health insurance and you would most likely be forced into debt.

Obamacare also lets us traditional college-aged students stay on our parent's health insurance policy until we're 26. This means that if you graduate from Wilkes and you can't find a job with benefits, your health is still safe.

Obama also cares about middle-class fami-

lies. Over the last four years, Obama has fought hard to give the middle-class tax cuts. I believe that the middle class is truly the heart of capitalism; if the middle class fails, all classes suffer.

Mitt Romney is not only planning on maintaining the Bush tax cuts, he is also planning on stripping health care coverage of pre-existing conditions.

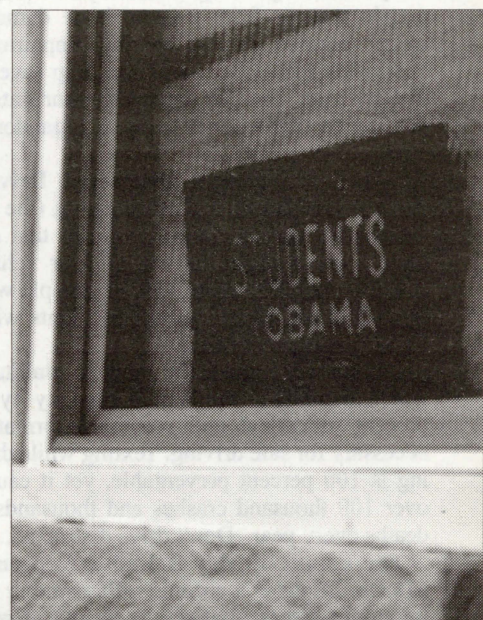
Perhaps the most disturbing part about Mitt Romney is his inability to maintain an opinion on health care, social security, international affairs, religion, taxes, abortion and the validity of math.

It seems that for this election, people are not voting for Mitt Romney because they like Mitt Romney, but rather because they dislike Obama. If you are one of these individuals, I urge you to weigh the costs and benefits of our current president. I believe you will find that the benefits drastically outweigh the costs.



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The Beacon/Austin Loukas

Although Obama failed to restore America's economy, he successfully ended the war in Iraq, made health care affordable and fought for middle-class tax cuts.

Wilkes musical lifts spirits



Courtesy of Teresa Fallon

Those don't look like apostles! Updating the Gospel of St. Matthew for a modern age, "Godspell" blends biblical parables with modern pop music.

By Nicole Zukowski
Staff Writer

A timeless tale combines with contemporary style this weekend, when "Godspell" takes center stage at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts as the latest production of Wilkes University's Performing Arts Department.

"Godspell" presents the Gospel of St. Matthew in an unconventional way: Jesus Christ joins a group and together they spread the word of God by re-enacting biblical parables to the background of pop, rock and rap music.

Starring as Jesus is Cassidy Conroy, a junior theater arts major. Conroy — who attended Nativity B.V.M. High School, a Roman Catholic school in Pottsville, Pa. — noted that, yes, filling the part was somewhat daunting, but his own faith helped him tremendously.

"I could find the same morals to relate back to the part," he said in reference to his religious background.

Though tackling such a weighty figure as Jesus Christ was a challenge for Conroy, the actor has good faith behind him.

"I think he is going to do a good job," Naomi Baker said. "He has the right balance of humility because he's not really an egotistical performer, and I think that's going to work right for this part."

Baker, an associate professor of performing arts at Wilkes, is directing "Godspell," with musical direction by adjunct music instructor Ken

McGraw and choreography by adjunct faculty member Sean Harris.

Like Conroy, Baker said her religious background helped her connect with the script. Nevertheless, Baker asserted that audiences don't have to be religious to find "Godspell" entertaining.

"I would encourage the audience to look beneath the surface to the growing relationship and how the stories affect the characters behaviors," she said. "(Godspell) has got great stories in it, it's got music in it and whether you actually believe in Christianity or not doesn't affect your enjoyment of the show"

"Godspell", Baker said, offers a high energy and an assortment of musical numbers — by "Wicked" composer Stephen Schwartz — brought to life by the cast expressing immense enthusiasm and flamboyance through their characters.

"A lot of it is their creation, I just guided them," she said. "It's the same basic idea, but with just a little twist, our own little twist."

"Godspell" will run in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9 and 10, at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m., then again on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16 and 17, at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and Wilkes alumni, \$5 for students and seniors and free for current Wilkes students with valid school ID.



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Emotions alight in 'fire dance'

By Jennifer Villa
Correspondent

It's known as a "fire dance."

With its smooth, eloquent style, the style of Indian dance called Bharata Natuam focuses on fluid body movements in steps and hand gestures. The graceful flow and strength behind each gesture expresses the personification of fire throughout the body.

This semester, Wilkes University is offering classes in Bharata Natuam for both beginner-level and experienced dancers.

"The classical Indian dance is most like American ballet," Sujata Nair-Mulloth, the instructor of the course, said. "It's a whole new set of movement vocabulary that could be used in anything you do."

Nair-Mulloth is not only an instructor; she is also a choreographer and performer herself. The movement vocabulary she teaches in the class not only allows further flexibility in dance, but also can be utilized for the improvement of everyday living.

Being comfortable with the body's physical abilities brings an inner comfort psychologically, Nair-Mulloth said.

The entire class consists of nine dances, all performed to fulfill one of the nine categories of Bharata Natyam inspired by emotions and moods like love, wonder and tranquility.

By challenging the body to learn the intricate steps, movements and gestures, students in the class learn about the style and rhythmic

base of classical Indian dance combinations.

"You really need to be concentrated and focused to get the repetition and movements," Leah Thomas said.

Fifteen-year-old Thomas is a student a Scranton Preparatory School taking the beginner Indian dance course at Wilkes for dual enrollment. Dual enrollment allows students to obtain a head start by receiving college credit for taking university courses while still in high school.

Thomas said that, although the class is challenging, she has already been able to apply some of the skills and lessons she's learned to her personal life outside the class.

"The class helped me learn to focus more in school," she said, offering an example.

In addition to the physical training and discipline the class offers, there is also an element of multicultural education to the course. Bharata Natuam originated in South India, where inspiration was taken from sculptures from ancient temples.

The name Bharata is a combination of "Bha" for "Bhavam," representing facial expression, "Ra" for "Ragam," meaning melody and "Ta" for "Talem," expressing beat pattern. The second part of the name, "Natyam," means dance.

"I learned more about my culture," Thomas, who is of Indian descent herself, said. "It was really nice to explore different ethnicities."



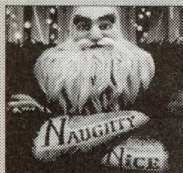
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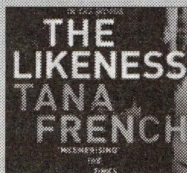
The Beacon/Tauri Philip

Sujata Nair-Mulloth teaches Bharata Natuam in her classical Indian dance class, educating students of all ages, ethnicities and experience levels.

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"The Likeness," by Tana French



THE GRAVEYARD SHTICK
with Jake Cochran
Dealing with loss

Administration reacts quickly to wrath of Hurricane Sandy

By Abbey Haldeman
Assistant News Editor

With threats of flooding once again approaching the Wilkes community, campus authorities had to find ways to keep students safe.

Hurricane Sandy approached the Wilkes-Barre region this past weekend, as it did much of the East Coast. Fortunately, Wilkes and the surrounding area went untouched by the category one hurricane dubbed "Frankenstorm."

"Wilkes University weathered the recent storms caused by Hurricane Sandy with no damage," President Patrick Leahy said in an email to faculty, staff and students. "Our campus was indeed fortunate to avoid significant problems."

And, although the university made it through, it wasn't without preparations for what may have been a repeat of what happened last year.

On Sunday, Oct. 28, the Emergency Preparedness Team, which includes Leahy, all the vice presidents, facilities, student affairs and residence life, met and discussed the weather conditions approaching. Together, they decided that it would be advantageous to close campus Monday, Oct. 29, and Tuesday, Oct. 30, due to the worst of the storm being predicted to hit some time late Monday afternoon. Students were not told to leave campus, as there was no mandatory evacuation put into place by the governor and Wilkes-Barre city officials.

Vice President of Student Affairs Paul Adams said the team as a whole wanted to find a way to keep students safe and a way of doing so was by saying the university was closing, which would lead to several of them going home prior to the worst of the storm.

Resident assistants were given the direction to meet with their residents and give them the proper information regarding what was going on at the moment and how future issues would be handled.

"Keeping track of the students that were on campus was one of the biggest concerns for Residence Life," Director of Residence Life Elizabeth Swantek said. "Making sure that (students) understood that it could be a severe situation."

For those students who remained on campus, they went under a state of low occupancy. Rules under low occupancy included no guests permitted into the residence halls, checking in and out with RA's at all times and letting one's RA know if you were to leave campus.

The city of Wilkes-Barre issued a curfew for 9 p.m. Monday night. Students who had to be out of their residence halls during that time were only able to walk through campus if escorted by a public safety officer.

With the threat of power loss, university officials had to come up with a course of action.

"We always worry about the river, but we



were able to have some predictions that indicated that, it probably wasn't going to be our biggest problem," Adams said. "We are probably most concerned about losing power on campus."

In the case that the power would go, due to predictions of a longer period of darkness, students would be moved from their residence halls to buildings on campus that have generators. This including the Marts gym, University Center on Main, Evans and Roth halls and the Student Union Building.

Students were issued front door keys to their buildings in the event that they would not have swipe card access. They were also given a list of things to bring with them if they were to relocate and encouraged to keep their cell phones and laptops fully charged.

"We had a good game plan with the help of our colleges," Swantek said.

During the duration of the low occupancy period, most things continued as normal.

"All of our RA's remained on campus, so technically, the halls weren't closed, they were still open, food services was operational, the fitness center had hours for students, the library had hours," Assistant Director of Residence Life Danielle Kern said. "So, the halls weren't closed, all of the RA's remained on campus so that students didn't have to evacuate the residents halls that they live in."

When the emergency preparedness team met again on Tuesday afternoon they determined that the worst of the storm had passed and it would OK for everything to open back up again.

Wilkes weathered the storm, although other places were not as lucky. Several students had families that were affected by the storm. Relief efforts are being made by the university to help those in need.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by this historic storm," Leahy said. "Members of the Wilkes community struggling with its effects remain in our thoughts."



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Snapped trees in Bloomsbury, NJ and Moscow. Above right, the river front in Wilkes-Barre after the storm, Cohen science center damage, cleaning crew picking up leaves from a storm drain.

Hurricane damage leaves direct impact on students

By Kirstin Cook
Editor-in-Chief

Mikel Hartsough watched nervously as ocean water seeped up the stairs of his house. As the rain pounded his city relentlessly, the flooding slowly and steadily crept higher. The sounds of roaring wind and his dogs barking in fright only added to the intensity.

"It was a little intense seeing the water rise above your steps," the senior communication studies major said. "It's definitely odd."

Hartsough was at his home in Ocean City, N.J. when Hurricane Sandy struck. While Wilkes-Barre avoided the brunt of the storm, many students like Hartsough were affected when the storm hit their hometowns.

Hartsough was unable to leave the city until Wednesday because of closed bridges. By the time he left, and even the following day, he did not have power at his house.

While there was no damage detected to his house, Hartsough observed a great deal of destruction to the physical properties of his oceanside community, as well as the resulting impact on their economy. He said the local businesses typically stay open until Christmas, but many of them were forced to close early due to the damage of their storefronts.

"There's no point in refurbishing, reopening and whatnot," Hartsough said. "I know that'll affect the business in the area."

He said the most destructive time was when the storm started up again at night. Many residents were wrongly informed that the worst had passed.

"The second half, when the eye had passed, was actually much worse in Ocean City," Hartsough said. "That's when most of the damage was done."

Besides damage to businesses, he said the major impact was on the Boardwalk, piers and beaches.

"The beaches are not even in existence any more. It's weird."

He said the hardest part was seeing the damage to the Boardwalk, an icon that strikes up memories of childhood and vacations for many students.

"The thing that was significant as far as growing up there was just seeing the Boardwalk in kind of shambles," Hartsough said. "It was the worst I've ever seen it."

Hartsough is just one example of a Wilkes student living in the path of the destruction. According to the Wilkes Fact Book,

253 students from New Jersey were enrolled at Wilkes in 2011.

Kyle Wolfe said this connection to the affected locations is a reason to help out the victims of the storm. That's why he started the Wilkes Cares campaign to raise relief money.

"A lot of our students are from the areas that got hit by the hurricane," Wolfe said. "So I feel like showing them that even though we're in Northeastern Pennsylvania that we still care about their homes and where they're from."

The campaign is a T-shirt sale with all pro-



ceeds going to an undetermined grassroots organization that is aiding hurricane victims.

Wolfe, a senior communication studies major, said he decided to pursue the T-shirt sales despite having no personal connection to New Jersey and having only visited the Jersey shore once. He said it creates an easy way for the Wilkes community to provide aid.


"I saw there was a need and a lot of people need help," Wolfe said.

He said the feedback to the fundraiser was nothing but positive, and the numbers speak for themselves: There were 137 pre-orders made for the shirts in less than 24 hours.

T-shirts cost \$10 for Small to XL and \$12 for 2XL and larger. There are four designs and four colors to choose from. Pre-order can be made in the Student Union Building from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, through Thursday or by emailing kyle.wolfe1@wilkes.edu.

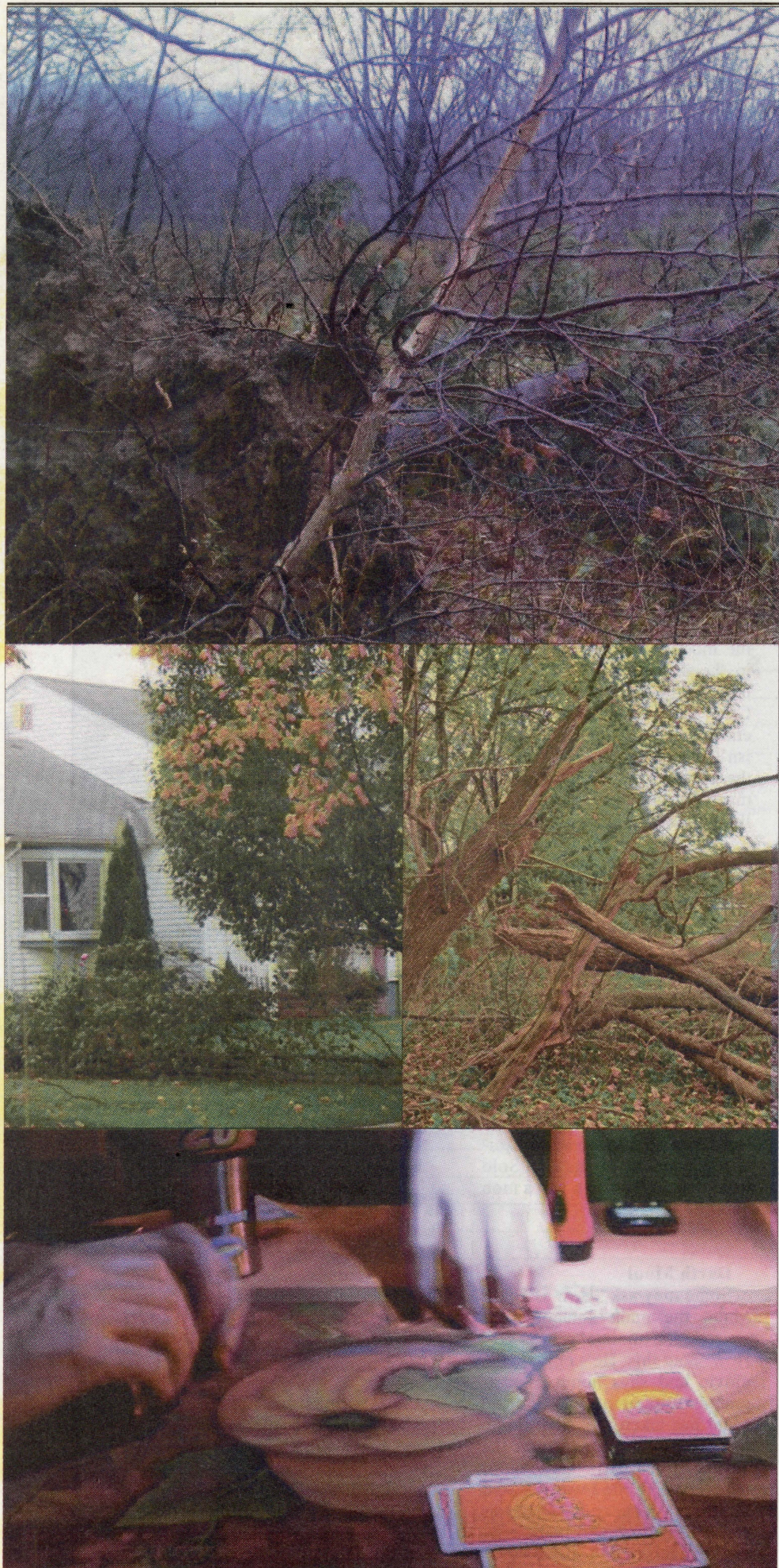
Wolfe said enough orders could make a big difference.

"Wilkes University is a small school in Pennsylvania, but we can still do big things."

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kirstin.cook@wilkes.edu

Photos courtesy of:

James Daly
David Lee
Ron Lee
Austin Loukas
Rosie Singalewitch



Above, snapped trees in Bloomsbury and Avenel, NJ and Moscow. Above bottom, playing cards in Avenel, NJ by flashlight. Right, a house in New Jersey lit by candles following a power outage.

THE 101

Every issue, A&E Editor Bill Thomas and Assistant A&E Editor Jake Cochran indulge their vanity and give a thoroughly biased crash-course in whatever madness happens to be dwelling in their warped minds. Their views do not reflect those of The Beacon, its staff or Wilkes University. Blah blah blah. This week, Jake Cochran is boosting his midichlorian count in...

A Galaxy Far, Far Away

By Jake Cochran
Assistant A&E Editor

Every group or fan base has its own little nuances and things that are accepted, cherished or even worshiped. However, "Star Wars" is one of those things that just goes above and beyond most, its fans rivaling even the Kiss Army in their devotion to something that seems trivial to most outsiders.

At almost every comic book convention, film convention or other large gathering of those of the more nerdy persuasion there will without a doubt be some variation of a Stormtrooper and/or Darth Vader. Even Mickey Mouse has gotten in on the act, with no less iconic and all-American an institution than Walt Disney Co. recently indoctrinating tales of "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away" into its entertainment empire. This is something that can be counted on almost as definite as the sun rising, but the question is why? Why "Star Wars"?

It could be that the series has spanned generations of nerd-dom: Father nerds that somehow managed to bring little nerds into the world, raised these little nerds to love "Star Wars." Those little nerds got brought up playing with ancient relics like Luke Skywalker's original X-Wing and reenacting battles between "Ben" Kenobi and Darth Vader, and the father finally being able to assert his fatherhood over the child in an all-too-cliché fashion.

But that old, almost legendary phrase uttered deep inside the bowels of Cloud City never did

stop echoing. It has been used in so much more than a "Star Wars" context, and has never stopped being relevant. If someone says "Lukkkkkk, I am yourrrrrr faathurrr" into an old desktop fan, everyone will get the reference. Even if the actual line is "No, I am your father." You get the point.

But what is even more amazing about the series is the way that it refuses to stop reinventing itself, somewhat to the disdain of some fans. It will constantly be updated with "better" special effects and sound. It has been a constant work-in-progress with the addition of completely new scenes on practically every re-release.

While these new scenes are not always welcome additions by the hardcore fans, they eventually learn to embrace them, although some things like the case of the Mos Eisley Cantina and whether Greedo or Han shot first give new life to the series and keep the series only a page or two away from the front of most Internet discussion message boards.

Furthermore, the expanded universe is literally always expanding, with graphic novels and the animated TV series "The Clone Wars" continuing to bring the series to new generations. To keep up with all the material out there for the series would be an incredible task, and this is why it the franchise receives so much enthusiasm from its fans.

If someone is baffled by a character like a Boba Fett or even an old Jedi like Kit Fisto, just going online and typing in their name in a Google search reveals page after page after page of results. Whether in the form of licensed books or fan fiction or even just aimless speculation, there is a wealth of material out there.

The casual fan may be thinking, "Well, big deal." What some people don't realize is, for example, in the three original movies Boba Fett appears in, he's probably on screen for a total of, like, an hour. Tops. He barely makes any real impact. Nevertheless, people will spend upward of \$500 to get the full Mandalorian Battle Armor suit so they can look just like him.

That fact alone shows how devoted "Star Wars" fans are and, honestly, after sitting for a long time thinking this over, it seems the reason cannot be pinned down to one exact thing. However, the fact that the series is so expansive and inclusive that any part of the series can be important definitely helps.

More important is that the series has constantly reinvented itself. Most recently, with the advent of extremely customizable and interactive video games like "Star Wars: The Old Republic" and "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed," the fans feel they are making an impact on the series for years to come by creating new characters. Every new generation of fans feels like they are the most important generation of fans.

As the "Star Wars" franchise continues to grow and evolve, it seems that will eternally be proven true.

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CHEAT SHEET

Small Fries in a Big Universe

This is a list of characters that appear on screen with minimal screen time, or in just one movie, but somehow they have managed to become marquee characters in the series for one reason or another. It shows how expansive the "Star Wars" universe is and how even the smallest elements of it can become integral parts of an ever-evolving mythos.

Jango Fett

Often replicated but never duplicated. Except once, literally. Jango Fett is the "father" of Boba Fett. And by "father" I mean "host." Boba is an exact clone of Jango Fett. Jango is also one of the most feared bounty hunters in the universe and he himself is alone the basis from which all Clone Troopers and Stormtroopers were clone. So, while Jango isn't the most important cat on the block, he literally was the muse for an entire army. After a little gene manipulation, that is.

Boba Fett

Just like his "father," Boba was a notorious bounty hunter but has been in literally three times the amount of movies his father has been in. In other words, three movies. Just three. Despite this, he has become hugely popular. We first see this future serial killer on Kamino as a little boy and it's easy to notice his training has already started. But when he truly comes to fruition is when he brings Han Solo to Jabba the Hutt to pay a mob debt.

Darth Maul

Some may ask "How is Darth Maul, the main antagonist of Episode I, a minimal character?" How 'bout this: He's only in one movie and says about a paragraph of dialogue. So, shut up. Maul has taken the tribal tattoo to a new pinnacle as it was the advent of that particular style of ink when Episode I was released in 1999. I wonder if Maul was created today, would he be covered in anchors and sparrows?

Greedo

Greedo was never that big a deal up until one day when George Lucas randomly decided that Han Solo should be acting in self-defense when he killed the otherwise insignificant alien, rather than being a general badass. This made millions of nerds learn his name to defend the fact that he was supposed to be a "victim" of the scruffy nerf herder, making him a more hotly debated topic than Roe v. Wade.

Jabba the Hutt

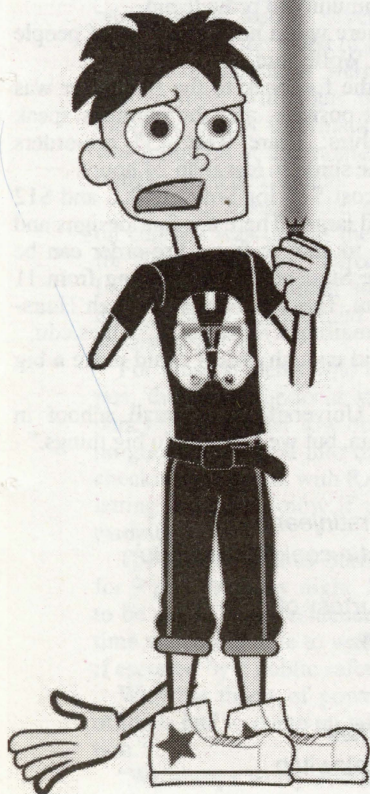
Jabba is consistent with his appearances through the franchise but, honestly, he isn't exactly that important until "Return of the Jedi," wherein Jabba only becomes a main character for a brief 30 minutes before croaking. While he becomes a perfectly hatable villain in that time he creates something else the "Star Wars" fan base cherishes: Gold-bikini slave Leia. Thanks, Jabba.

Ewoks

These lovable teddy bears are as cute as they are deadly. In fact, these furry fellas are apparently the reason the empire supposedly crumbles. Apparently, the whole galaxy's fate was to be decided on an unimportant moon of Endor.

Jar Jar Binks

This is the opposite of a beloved character. Rarely has any character been met with such hate and disdain. Jar Jar is beyond the pin cushion for the series; he is the bane of the series' existence, and this writer thinks wrongfully so. Let the hate mail begin.



Nov. 6, 2012


**Make Gourmet Ramen
Online Exclusive**

Contact editor: anne.yoskoski@wilkes.edu

Election Day: What it means for college students

By Anne Yoskoski
Life Editor

Depending on the result of the 2012 presidential election, policies that impact lives of college students may change.

Both Barack Obama and Mitt Romney have not only differing parties, but differing views on several key issues that affect the college aged population. Depending on who wins the election, many key policies voters feel strongly about will be put in place or stopped.

According to ProCon.org, an organization that takes political candidates and lists their opinions taken from debates and speeches regarding certain topics, there are 75 issues that voters should take into consideration. The issues picked out for this article are specifically related to the college aged voter.

Although it should be taken into consideration that these policies may reflect the ideas and values of their respective political parties rather than the candidates themselves, the candidates individual responses do shed a light on their political leanings and which issues they are willing to fight for.

When it comes to abortion and the question of whether or not it should remain a legal practice in the United States, Obama supports a woman's right to ownership over her body. As it stands now, Romney is against abortion. Romney has not said what he will do, if anything, to the abortion laws if elected.

The idea of lowering the drinking age to 18 instead of the usual 21 has been floated around, and the results are mixed. Obama is against this, but Romney has not commented either way.

Capital punishment has been debated for decades, and surprisingly, both Obama and Romney are pro death penalty. No matter which man is elected into office, it doesn't seem as if the death penalty will be debated at all.

The federal deficit, the amount hovering at

around \$16,266,170,704,733.51, could possibly be lowered by raising taxes. If Obama is re-elected for a second term, there is a great possibility that Americans will have to pay more to cover the government's debt. Romney is against this, not wanting to raise taxes for anyone. Not raising taxes on anyone includes the 1 percent of wealthiest people in America. Obama has said that these people should be taxed more, and that the Occupy Wall Street movement that they are targeted by was a good thing for Americans, while Romney thinks it is a damaging force.

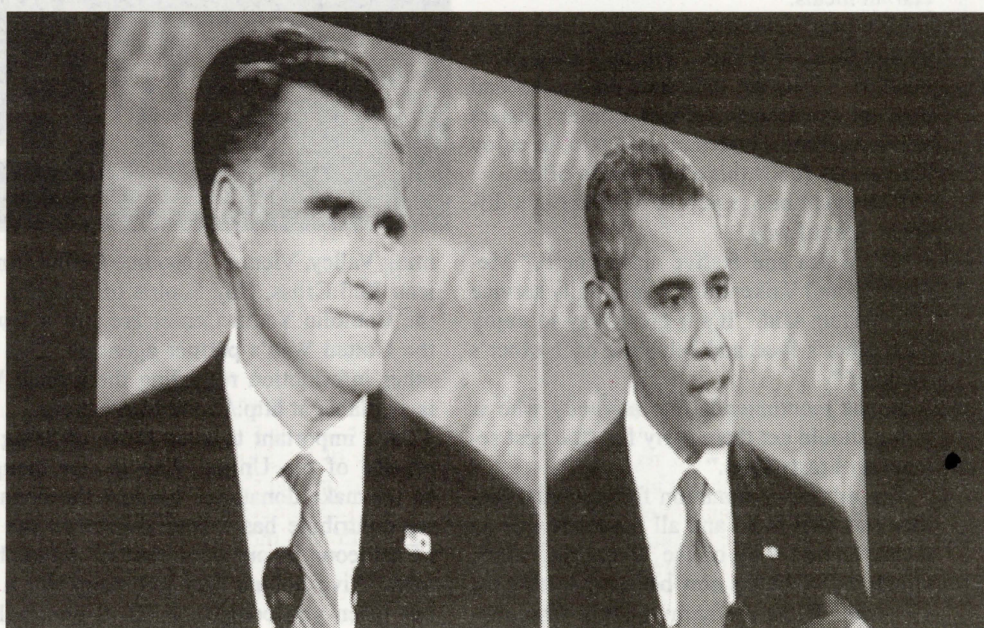
When it comes to outsourcing jobs to other countries instead of providing our own people with jobs, both men think that this is damaging to the country and the economy.

One of the most important issues to college age students is financial aid in education.

When asked if the federal government should increase direct financial aid (loans/grants/debt relief) for college students, Obama has said he is in favor of increasing financial aid. Romney has not stated a clear opinion on this, but the Republican Party has voiced that they do not see this as a major issue. What would happen if a Republican were in office would be based more on the candidate himself rather than the party at large.

One issue that has been especially prevalent in Pennsylvania lately is the voter ID law. Should voters be required to show photo identification in order to vote? Obama says no, and Romney says yes. For college-aged students this should not be an issue, as a college identification card is accepted as a valid form of ID as long as it has an expiration date.

Another issue that has raised a lot of controversy is the March 2012 federal health care reform laws, commonly called "Obamacare." Obama is still standing behind his policies, but Romney wants to repeal certain aspects of the bill. There are pros and cons to "Obamacare"; one pro being that students can stay on their parent's health care until they are 26 years old. Romney has voiced no opposition to this. The only part Romney has voiced an issue with



Courtesy of Jeremy Tobin

The main presidential candidates discuss issues related to college students during a televised debate, which was screened in the ballroom.

publicly is the possible mandate that everyone should be required to have health care.

Another issue close to many people of the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area is immigration. Obama does not believe that local law enforcement should be allowed to enforce federal immigration laws, while Romney supports empowering local law enforcement to apply federal law. Both Romney and Obama support the continued construction of a physical barrier between the U.S. and Mexico. Both men are also in favor of E-Verify, the federal government's electronic employment verification system as a mandatory procedure for all employers.

The issue of gay marriage and adoption is split between parties. Gay marriage is supported by Obama, but not by Romney. Adoption seems to be unclear for the republicans, as they have made no clear statement through Romney.

Marijuana as a medical option should still be upheld in another Obama term, but possibly repealed if Romney wins.

Requiring mandatory national service in the form of a draft or required civil service is something that comes up in every election. Both candidates are against the draft policy.

Issues of embryonic stem cell research funding by the government also splits the two can-

didates, Romney not approving and Obama supporting the cause.

Although the two candidates in this year's election are very different people, they do agree on some things. Many of the issues that are important to college aged students are set to stay in place or be changed, and many students have opinions on that.

President of Wilkes' College Republicans, Ian Foley said, "It comes down to two different paths, a re-election of President Obama would continue the failed policies of the past four years and our future will be mortgaged to pay for it. A Mitt Romney presidency means we will have a proven job creator, who in his career as a public servant has actually worked across the aisle with members of the other party."

A local campus democrat, Jennifer Alban said, "Obama should win. He has done well the past four years. People just need to give him more of a chance. Another year and the country will be in a different place."

Whatever your opinion, no matter what party seems to have better answers, the important thing is to be informed and get to a polling station to cast your vote.



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November Native American Heritage Month

November is National Native American Heritage Month, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, COPD Awareness month, National Novel Writing Month, Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, American Diabetes Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, Crohn's & Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month, National Pomegranate Month in the United States, International Drum Month, National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month and Epilepsy Awareness Month



A Taste of the world at Wilkes for students and faculty

By Alyssa Stencavage
Assistant Life Editor

Every year an event is held at Wilkes that features a range of foods, including specialty dishes such as gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian meals.

This year's cultural food fest, also known as the Taste of Wilkes, will be taking place on Nov. 15 in the ballroom on the second floor of the Henry Student Center. Tasters will have from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to enjoy the various foods this event has to offer.

This event brings people together in a different sort of way.

"It's a fun and festive atmosphere," Megan (Boone) Valkenburg, community service coordinator said. "It's a great way to enjoy each other's food and celebrate each other's cooking."

Boone recommends that anybody who is going should get there early for "the best selection of tasty food."

The minimum donation for students, faculty and staff is \$5 and all proceeds will go to the United Way of the Wyoming Valley, which the event has now been supporting for 19 years. There are many people who support this organization to provide the essential resources our community needs.

The Children's Service Center of Wyo-

United Way



oming Valley, Victims Resource Center, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America and the Catholic Youth Center are just a few of the United Way's partner agencies. This and other information regarding the United Way is available at <http://unitedwaywb.org>.

"It's important to keep those utilizing the service of the United Way in our thoughts as we make donations, because the donation we contribute has a true impact on the life of someone in our community," Valkenburg said. "Five dollars may not seem like a lot, but when you compile it all, it goes a long way for those who utilize the services."

The goal of this year's fundraising theme, "Thanks-for-giving," is to remind families of

how fortunate they are to be able to spend this time of year together.

The cooking that is the driving force behind the Taste of Wilkes fundraisers has been going on for about 10 years, and United Way also cooks and submits recipes, which will be sold for \$5 per recipe book.

All are invited to submit a favorite recipe for this year's edition of the Taste of Wilkes cookbook. Recipes must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 9.

"It's neat to see how many different types of cultures and people are represented by the foods that people make," Valkenburg said.

However, this year is the 20th anniversary of Taste of Wilkes, which will mark the end of

"It's neat to see how many different types of cultures and people are represented by the foods that people make."

- Megan Boone Valkenburg,
Community Service Coordinator

the university's United Way campaign.

Departments and individuals are encouraged to support the event by contributing a themed basket for the silent auction. The deadline for basket donations and registration to cook for Taste of Wilkes is Monday, Nov. 12.

To register or for more information, contact Valkenburg at megan.boone@wilkes.edu

Faculty bringing classes should also contact Valkenburg for information about a group discount.

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THE WORD AT WILKES: What is your weirdest Thanksgiving Tradition?



Brittany Budman

**Sophomore
Psych Major**

"We mudbog."



**Kristen
Lopatofsky**

**Sophomore
Bio Major**

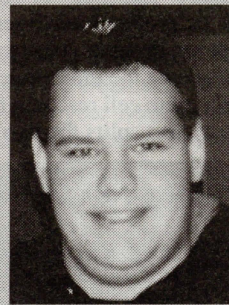
"We make Jello cake."



Marissa Kotar

**Sophomore
Pre-Pharm
Major**

"We watch a Christmas movie."



Ryan Weber

**Senior
Electrical
Engineering
Major**

"We watch football and eat cranberry sauce."

Comedy Night keeps students laughing, relieves their stress

By Holly Boyer
Staff Writer

As a part of the weekly Thursday night events that the Programming Board hosts, they decided to have a comedy night this past Nov. 2. This event had three Wilkes student entertainers as well as a professional comedian performing.

The student comedians were Jaleel Sterling, Cartier Scott and Matt Gaines to open the show.

"I thought the MCs did a phenomenal job," Gaines, a communication studies major, said. "Jaleel and Cartier are absolutely hilarious and are great at pepping up a crowd."

Gaines, who enjoys the thrill of making people laugh, gets excited at the opportunity to test out his jokes and delivery to the students on campus. He tries to talk as much about the school and its surrounding landmarks to give the audience something they can appreciate.

"Matt Gaines was one of my favorites because he can make you laugh just by him laughing and he made a lot of relatable jokes," Programming Board President Jess Short said.

After the student entertainers performed, they finished the show with Ian Fidance, who is a professional comedian. Fidance works

well with college crowds. He went through the college experience and he remembers all of the stupid and silly things that typical college students do.

"Ian was absolutely hilarious, his jokes and delivery are remarkable," Gaines said. "He is a great inspiration to me, and I am truly envious of his talents as a comedian. He gives me something to shoot for."

The event was clearly a successful turnout by the looks of the packed lounge in the Henry Student Union Building.

"It was really impressive, I think we had about 200 people in the lounge, which was phenomenal," Short said.

Although many more students attended this comedy night compared to past ones, the comedy events are always usually a big hit on campus.

"A comedy night is definitely a nice stress reliever," Short said. "Especially if it's some of the students 'cause you know them and they often say things that can be relatable."



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Renovations scheduled to Weckesser, Bedford halls

By Anthony Bartoli
Correspondent

Renovations to Weckesser and Bedford halls are scheduled to begin soon, and President Leahy's office will move to Weckesser Hall following the renovations.

Weckesser Hall is one of "the marquis buildings on campus," as Vice President of Finance and General Counsel Loren Prescott calls it.

"Weckesser Hall is one the largest and maybe most visible," Prescott said. "It certainly is in a key location in the central part of campus."

It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

When you walk into Weckesser Hall, you are greeted with a chandelier that hangs from a 24-foot chain, an old elevator (which still works), a beautiful grand staircase and exquisite detail everywhere you look.

From 1914 to 1916, Charles H.P. Gilbert of New York constructed the home of Frederick J. Weckesser. "The Castle," as it was previously known, originally had a ballroom on the third floor, where School of Business classes are now located.

Wilkes acquired the mansion in 1956 after Anna Weckesser passed away. From 1964 to 67, the hall was used as a female dorm.

Prescott says that Weckesser Hall hasn't undergone a major renovation in about 20 years. Along with just general upgrades to the

building, there are more reasons why the renovations are taking place.

"The other reason is that our new president, Patrick Leahy, very much wants his office and the presence of the president's office to be in the central part of the campus."

The president's office is located on the edge of campus in the University Center on Main building.

"It is an important part of the university's commitment to the community to have a presence on South Main Street," Prescott said, "but his (Leahy's) feeling is that the president's office belongs in the heart of the campus."

The move from UCOM to Weckesser Hall means that the president, along with his cabinet, will move their offices to Weckesser as well.

The renovations to Weckesser are only to make the building suitable for office space for President Leahy and his staff.

"This is not a major, expensive renovation. There will be some painting done, and I think some of the floors are going to be refinished. Just a basic facelift for a building that needed it," Prescott said.

The renovations to Weckesser do not have a final price because the university is still in the process of pricing all of the work that needs to be done to the building.

Another reason why there is no final price or budget for the renovations to Weckesser Hall is because Wilkes decided to push the renovations back until after Homecoming.

Prescott said the university is only in the second week of the project.

"Our hope is that we can have the president and his staff in the building by the first of December," he said. "In other words, we are hoping that the renovation work will go quickly. However, we also recognize that there are some uncertainties associated with that work, and it might be that we have to delay it until the holiday."

Changes will be made to Bedford Hall as well.

Bedford Hall, which in 1967 was known as the "new building on campus," was 1878 by Bruce Price. The home, the former residence of attorney Paul Bedford and his wife, was given to Wilkes University in November 1967, after Bradford had passed away.

The home was designed in High Victorian Gothic style. The home is said to be the earli-



The Beacon/Austin Loukas
Historic Weckesser Hall will soon be home to President Leahy.

est of Bruce Price's homes still in existence. (Wilkes.edu)

Paul Kaspriskie, Wilkes University project manager, is in charge of overseeing the construction projects.

"We are moving the art department to Bedford Hall," Kaspriskie said.

The art department was in Bedford Hall originally, and then moved out several years ago," Kaspriskie said, "Now they've decided to go back to Bedford Hall."

"The first floor and second floor are going to get a facelift. We are going to create some classroom space, and some studio space on the first floor. The printing press will be located on the first floor, too."

Offices and a classroom/studio will be added on the second floor.

The university is also going to provide handicapped access to the building, which will include a wheelchair lift at the side entrance to the building.

"The renovations are due to start any time now, we are just putting together the final pieces."

Kaspriskie said the renovations should be completed during the holiday break.

Renovations to both Bedford and Weckesser halls are scheduled to begin within the coming weeks, and to be completed by start of the spring 2013 semester.

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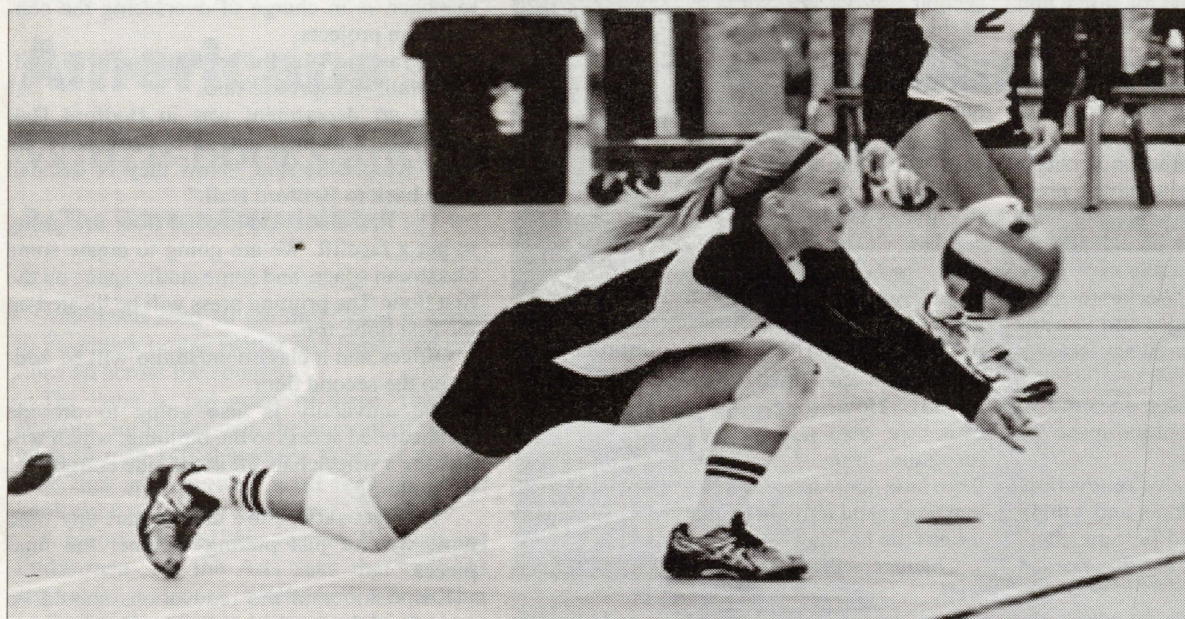


**CUSTOM
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APPAREL**



Nov. 6, 2012

Contact editor: frank.passalacqua@wilkes.edu



Photos courtesy of Sports Information

Brittany Williams had 13 digs against DeSales, a season-high on Nov. 2.

Playoff run leaves volleyball team hopeful for next season

By Frank Passalacqua
Sports Editor

As the Lady Colonels volleyball team closes the season at 9-16, it moves to 4-3 in league play and clinched the third playoff spot in the Freedom Conference Tournament.

By defying the odds and making the playoffs for the first time since 2009, Coach Joseph Czopek reflected on the season and looked forward to what the future holds for the Lady Colonels.

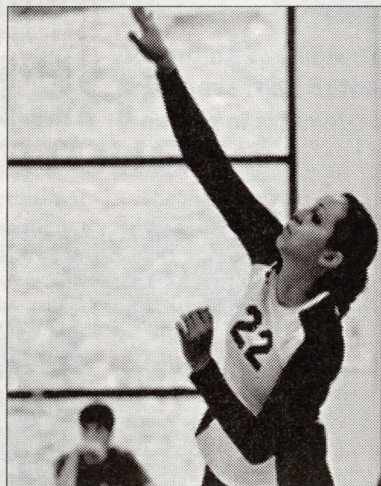
"This season definitely turned out better than anticipated," Czopek said. "We were ranked sixth in the Freedom Conference in the pre-season poll and fought our way to a third-place finish."

"Going into the playoffs this weekend is a challenge due to the setbacks the storm caused. We hope to regain our momentum that carried us through the FDU match and play at that level against DeSales."

Standout junior Casey Bohan agreed the season has been a fun journey.

"This season turned out to be so much better than anything I had ever expected," Bohan said. "Our team is small, but the amount of heart we play with is unable to be matched in size. Going into our first playoff game, we are the underdog."

"No one in the conference ex-



Casey Bohan at the net.

pected us to make playoffs at all, let alone take the third seat," she said. "We're just going to play with everything we've got, and hope to come out on top. We've got nothing to lose, and the world to gain."

Bohan earned First-Team All-Freedom Conference and recorded a team-best and Freedom-best 406 kills for an average of 4.37 kills per-game. She is also second in the Freedom with 0.76 blocks per-set.

Unfortunately, when the Lady Colonels took the court against the No. 2 seed DeSales University, they were swept 0-3 in the Freedom Conference semifinals at Muhlenberg College. This ended the team's sea-

son and hopes for a championship.

Bohan led Wilkes with match-high 17 kills, five digs and one solo block. Teammates Paige Trusty followed with 13 kills and two assists, Megan Powers also recorded 32 assists, while Erin Nothstein finished with a team-high 23 digs on the night.

Czopek said the team can only improve and has an entire year to build off what hindered them.

"The outlook for this team is a continuing to grow as we will not graduate anyone this coming spring," Czopek said. "All eight players are returning, and we hope to bring in some recruits that can help improve the offensive side of our game."

"Our defense was spectacular this season," he said, "and I can only see the program growing from here on out."

The Freedom Conference Championship was played Nov. 4 with DeSales facing Eastern University for the title.

Volleyball falls to DeSales

The Wilkes University volleyball team saw its magical postseason run come to an end falling in straight sets 3-0 against No. 2 seed DeSales University Friday night in the Freedom Conference semifinals at Muhlenberg College.

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Expectations high for wrestling team

By Grant Rogers
Correspondent

The Wilkes wrestling team has high expectations as it is ranked No. 13 in the country heading into this season and looking to top their last year's 19-4 record.

"We will be looking to win the new NCAA East regional as the format for qualifying for the NCAA has changed," head coach Jon Laudenslager said. "We would like to get at least two more guys to the NCAA National Tournament than last year and certainly get somebody new wrestling on the big stage in the NCAA finals as Anthony Dattolo was last year."

The Colonels return seven starters to the mat this season including sophomore 125-pounder Michael Fleck, who last season set a school record for most wins in a season in posting his 37-9 mark.

Also returning for the Colonels is junior 133-pounder Myzar Mendoza who went 28-8 last season and is ranked No. 7 in the preseason polls.

Wrestling kicked off its season at the King's College Monarch Invitational Nov. 3. The team won two

individual titles and finished in second place, posting 137 points to trail SUNY Cortland with 147 points. Thirteen Colonels finished in the top six or better in their respective weight classes.

"Some of the more competitive teams that will be at King's this week are York, Cortland, Roger Williams," Laudenslager said.

Next week the Colonels wrestle Cortland, Centenary and Johns Hopkins. Cortland and Centenary are ranked No. 7 and No. 8 in country and Hopkins is No. 19. The Colonels face six ranked teams in dual meets these teams include Cortland, Centenary, Johns Hopkins, Wesleyan (20) and The College of New Jersey (26).

"It's another year with a lot of ranked opponents throughout the schedule and a few tournaments where we will have the opportunity to send multiple wrestlers to the mat," Laudenslager said.

The Wilkes wrestling team returns home on Nov. 10 to host the John Reese Duals.

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Golf ends with 1-3 record, finishes 7th in conference

By Stephanie Hahn
Correspondent

Having only three matches this season, the Colonels may have not finished with the most ideal record, but they didn't lose by much.

Finishing second in the King's-Scranton tri-match, Wilkes shot a 338, but the University of Scranton beat Wilkes and King's shooting 308.

Jeremy Nolt and Michael Daubert both shot seven over par.

Wilkes met Scranton again for a match-up but Scranton came out on top again, 302-362. Wilkes also fell in home debut to Misericordia shooting a 386 but it wasn't enough Misericordia shot a 335.

The Colonels' last match was cancelled due to weather. Wilkes then went on to Hershey for the championship where they placed

seventh.

In the first round, the Colonels shot a total of 364 round two of the event they shot a total of 371.

Anthony Gagliostro placed 24th by shooting 94 in round two and a combined total of 176 in the contest. Daubert placed 28th in the contest having a team low in round two of 85 and a total of 180 in the two days.

"We may have not won the championships but we are very proud of how we finished and maybe next year we can do better," junior Daubert said.

Wilkes golf team is looking to improve even more next year and place better in the championships.

Having a lot of returning talent will help the Colonels do better next year and through using the off-season to practice and get further next season. The Colonels hope to finish with all wins next season.



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SCOREBOARD

Football

11/3 Delaware Valley - L 7-23

W-Soccer

11/2 Eastern - L shootout 4-5

Season Record - 11-4-4

M-Soccer

Season Record - 5-10-2

Volleyball

11/2 DeSales - L 0-3

Season Record - 9-16-0

Field Hockey

Season Record - 8-9-0

WEEK AHEAD

Cross Country

11/10 NCAA Regionals

Football

11/10 vs. King's

M-Basketball

11/16 vs. Penn State Hazleton

W-Basketball

11/15 vs. Shenandoah

Women's soccer team: 'Win or go home'

By Matt Ciampaglio
Correspondent

This year's Wilkes women's soccer team are in a "win or go home" situation as they head into the playoffs to face Eastern University on Nov. 2. The Colonels are 11-4-3 as they head into the playoffs with very high hopes.

The Colonels have already faced Eastern this year when they played them on the road in an intense game which ended up in a 0-0 tie. That tie appears to have given the Lady Colonels a lot of confidence as they head into this monumental game.

"The girls know they can play with Eastern, along with the rest of the teams in the playoffs," said assistant coach Becky Barritt. "We tied them on the road and we felt like we should've won that game. Now that we'll be at home we definitely feel like we have the advantage."

The Colonels have been led this whole season by their leading scorers Alicia Roberts and Katy Fissel. Roberts and Fissel have been responsible for a combined 15 goals thus far.

What has also made this year such a successful one for the Lady Colonels has been its tremendous defense. It has set a new record for most shutouts in a single season.

The Colonels have gotten better every year



Photo Courtesy of Sports Information

Brooke Edwards had three assists in the game over King's on Oct. 27.

the past three years. They went 6-11-2 in 2010 and 8-6-3 in 2011, and look to add a playoff victory to their resume this year as well. Whatever happens in the playoffs, the Colonels truly feel like they have succeeded in many of their goals this year.

"These girls have really earned all of the success they have had this season," coach Barritt said. "It's been their dedication, selfless-

ness, and team play that has made this season a special one, no matter what happens in the playoffs. Going 11-4-3 while also finishing second in the conference and making the playoffs as well is something they should definitely be proud of."

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Rossi

Continued from Page 20

What made you decide your major?

My favorite subject in high school was chemistry, and I knew I wanted to do something involving health care. However, I'm pretty freaked out by blood so I knew I couldn't be a doctor, so I did some research and decided I wanted to be a pharmacist.

What do you plan to do with your career one day?

I would love to be a veterinary pharmacist. I love animals so it would be the perfect job for me.

How do you balance school work and athletics?

I actually find that during the season I don't procrastinate as much as in the off-season because I know I have to manage my time. Also my coach is very flexible if I need to take a day off of practice every once in a while to study for a big test.

Preferable racket brand?

I just got a Wilson for my birthday, and I am in love with it.

Who is your favorite pro tennis player?

Novak Djokovic is my favorite male tennis player and Maria Sharapova is definitely my favorite female. She's been my idol since I was little.

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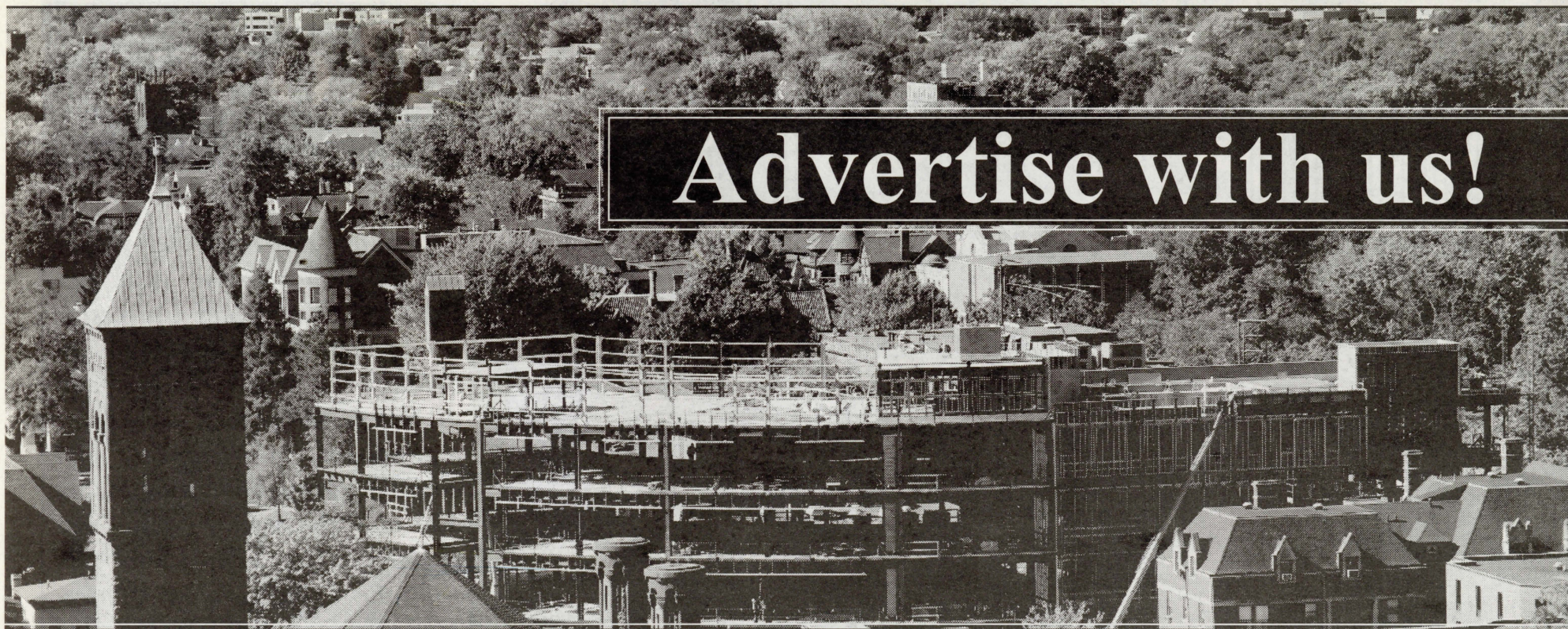

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Getting to know...

Amanda Rossi

Junior tennis player

BY FRANK PASSALACQUA
Sports Editor

Amanda Rossi, tennis player and pharmacy major, is in her junior year at Wilkes University. While attending Parkland High School, Rossi was the recipient of the Jean German award for enthusiasm, sportsmanship and courage throughout the season. She also competed in states her junior year of high school and won the Lehigh Valley Conference and won MACs in the sixth singles bracket this past fall. •

How old were you when you first started playing tennis?

I got my first racquet when I was about 8 but I choose to play soccer instead. I didn't start taking tennis seriously until around seventh grade.

How is tennis in college different from when you played in high school?

For the most part, the girls in college are more consistent than the girls I played in high school.

What makes you give it your all from week to week?

I have a great team and great coaches who always push me to be my best. I would never want to let any of them down.

What is one moment you'll never forget on the court?

I will never forget winning MACs this past fall. It was the first time I made it all the way to the finals and finally winning was such a great feeling.

Describe your pre-match ritual.

I always listen to music before matches. It keeps me focused and calm.

What are you better at, forehand or backhand, accuracy or power?

My backhand is better than my forehand and my game is more about accuracy than power.

What made you first start playing?

Both of my parents play, so they got me my first racquet for Christmas when I was about 8. My dad has been my tennis coach since I started playing.

What is your favorite feeling when you step on the court?

I feel as if nothing else matters, all the stress of school and everything else takes a back seat.

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