



# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

"The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow."

## WUPB hosts "Wilkestoperfest," a Wilkes twist on Oktoberfest



Students, wearing accessories, pose in the photobooth.  
Photos by Shannon Slominski



Students on the Greenway eat sausage and pretzels with beer cheese, among other traditional Oktoberfest foods, with root beer floats in beer steins. ...*Wilkestoperfest cont. on p.12*



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MSC hosts pumpkin carving on the greenway, page 10



"Terrifier": The people's new favorite killer clown franchise, page 16



Athletes of the Week, pages 22 and 23

# News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Emma Broda: [emma.broda@wilkes.edu](mailto:emma.broda@wilkes.edu)

## Student Government notes: Oct. 16 weekly meeting

By Kayla Bicskei  
News Staff Writer

After a two-week break during Fall recess, Student Government met for its seventh meeting of the Fall 2024 semester on Oct. 16. This meeting addressed Wilkes Dining Services events, constitution update reports, conference reports, the analysis of an internal survey, and committee work.

The Student Government Treasurer began the meeting by reporting the updated Student Government budget of \$35,526.

The Wilkes University Dining Services General Manager, Pat McGoff, returned for another report on upcoming events hosted by the department and feedback requests.

McGoff explained the two upcoming events that the department is hosting. On Oct. 29, students can participate in Pumpkin Decorating Night during the dinner hours of the Dining Hall.

On Oct. 31, Dining Services will be hosting its first Dining Style dinner. During this dinner, a small group of students will be served a multiple-course meal cooked by an outsourced chef. An invitation will be sent to students for the event and the first to sign up will be picked. The amount of students picked for the event will increase after the first Dining Style Dinner event.

McGoff is also asking for student feedback about on-campus dining through an Aramark survey. The survey is anonymous and accessible through posters in the Dining Hall.

The Multicultural Student Coalition presented next for its week one of two reported updates to its constitution.

The coalition presented changes to its logo, grammar modifications, and adapted requirements of each Executive Board position. Changes to the constitution also reflect their emphasis on career opportunities alongside academic success, the bi-weekly published coalition newspaper, and new General Board requirements.

The Multicultural Student Coalition will return next week for its week two of two reporting of constitutional updates.

Wilkes University's American Corps representative, Rodney Gibson, introduced himself and his mission to Student Government. Gibson is a member of a three-year project

on campus to help students feel comfortable ordering or picking up food from the Colonel Cupboard.

If any student needs or wants help with getting food, hygienic supplies, or cleaning supplies from the Colonel Cupboard, then they can email Gibson on his Wilkes University email or visit him in his office across from the Colonel Cupboard pantry.

The Student Government President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary presented their experience at the 2024 National Student Government Summit.

The Executive Board members attended the four-day conference alongside the Student Government representatives of 40 other universities. During the first three days of the convention, they participated in lectures and groups. On the fourth day, the representatives explored the surrounding city.

The Wilkes University Student Government representatives collectively attended over 20 lectures and groups. The events covered a wide variety of topics, including communicating responsibilities, self-care as student leaders, how to connect with the student body, and representation of all students.

After reporting the knowledge they gained from the lectures and groups they attended, the Student Government representatives



presented their key takeaways from the conference they hope to implement in Wilkes University's Student Government.

The new implementations include hosting a Student Government open house so all students can see what Student

Government does, reaching out to all demographics of students to ask instead of assuming what they want, and engaging with campus leadership.

After her conference presentation, the Student Government President remained at the front of the room to discuss the results of the internal Student Government General Board Survey.

The anonymous survey asked General Board members for their feedback on the efficiency, likeability, and requirements of Student Government. The President worked through the feedback with Executive and General Board members so they could decide what to change and what to maintain.

The official business of the seventh weekly meeting of the Fall 2024 semester concluded with committee work for the upcoming 2024 Fall Event and the 2025 Spring Casino Week.

The Student Government Executive Board held its private weekly meeting before the General Board meeting. During this meeting, the club reports of the Veterans Council, Animal Welfare Club, Ultimate Frisbee Team, Psychology Club, Gold Bar Club, and Chemistry Club were voted to be approved.

Student Government will meet again on Oct. 23.

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### Upcoming Events: 2024 Fall Semester

- October**
- 24 - Sound Showdown
  - 28-31 - Freak Week
  - 30 - Diwali Celebration Coffee Hour
- November**
- 1 - Day of the Dead Celebration
  - 2 - Diversity & Leadership Conference
  - 7 - Lucas Zelnick Comedy Show

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: [emma.broda@wilkes.edu](mailto:emma.broda@wilkes.edu)



# Hot Wings and Hot Seats with Wilkes College Democrats

*Eddie Day Pashinski, Megan Kocher, Fern Leard visit campus*

**By Leah Smith**  
Asst. Opinion Editor

On Oct. 15, the Wilkes College Democrats hosted a Hot Wings and Hot Seats event, inspired by the popular internet show, "Hot Ones."

The event's namesake hosts celebrities, athletes, politicians and more. The host and the guest eat wings with an increasingly higher level of heat on the scoville unit.

The Wilkes event began at 7:30 p.m., and attendees were welcome to pizza, wings and drinks as they gathered to watch three Democratic Pennsylvania House of Representatives candidates answer questions while trying their luck with spicy hot wings.

Sophomore Jezelle Pagan and first-year student Riley Ahart, were just two students who attended the event.

"I wanted to come here tonight to learn more about the candidates," said Ahart.

"We don't really know much about the candidates outside of the Presidential runners, so I wanted to come here and learn more about their beliefs."

Democratic candidates Fern Leard, Eddie Day Pashinski and Megan Kocher took the table and answered questions given by both the audience and Wilkes Democrat Club VP, John Sudol. The candidates answered questions varying from politics to everyday hobbies.

One of the major questions asked that night was how the candidates felt about young people not voting. Twenty-five-year-old candidate Megan Kocher said that she is worried about young people not voting and understands that there is a divide among Gen Z's motivation to vote.

She adds that she noticed this even more as she was graduating from college during the pandemic.

Pashinski added onto her statement by saying, "You are the future... your power is your vote."

Both candidates are former Wilkes students.

Questions also revolved around the youth vote and volunteering. Most candidates were asked how it was for them to knock on doors and take phone calls and while there were some comedic answers such as Leard's encounter with a group of teenagers driving around town to meet her, the candidates as well as the event runners wanted the attendees to know how important it is to volunteer and to vote.

Even the more leisurely questions were educational in finding out more about the candidates.

When Sudol asked Leard what she would change about her college experience, she said that she could not afford to go to college.

Pashinski answered by referring to his time as a music teacher.

The candidates were also asked about their favorite hobbies and it was revealed that Kocher has three rescue dogs, Leard is a mother who fought to make a bill pertaining to her children with lymphedema, and Pashinski mentioned being a part of a band.

The event runners and club members urge more people to volunteer and to go on their website to sign up for volunteer opportunities: [https://www.mobilize.us/2024pavictory/event/726670/?followup\\_modal\\_context=email\\_post\\_shift\\_future\\_timeslots\\_other\\_events](https://www.mobilize.us/2024pavictory/event/726670/?followup_modal_context=email_post_shift_future_timeslots_other_events).

Photo by Leah Smith



College Democrats recently held a Hot Wings and Hot Seats event to help better educate students about voting and the candidates themselves. Political guests conquered the wings with ease and were able to answer all of the questions given to them without needing a carton of milk.

# That's So Honors: The importance of securing an internship

**By Morgan Steiner**  
*Contributing Writer*

An internship experience is a very important opportunity for students.

For some, it decides a future career. For others, it is a rejection of a path they thought they were interested in.

Either way, most students will pursue an internship of some sort during their time at Wilkes. While your future job might not require you to regularly use calculus, statistics and probability, Jordan Chepalonis, a junior honors student majoring in mathematics, recently put all three of these disciplines to work at her summer internship.

Chepalonis worked in the State Filings & Regulatory Compliance Department at GUARD. GUARD, or Berkshire Hathaway Insurance Company, is located on Public Square.

Chepalonis discovered GUARD through one of the Career Development

Center's Career Fairs, which provide opportunities for students to engage with potential employers. Though she didn't attend the Career Fair, Chepalonis says she researched the company on her own before applying but still utilized campus resources to prepare her application.

"The Career Center advertised several internships that I considered before applying for mine. HPSC also hosted resumes and other workshops to help prepare for the application process."

HPSC, or the Honors Program Student Committee, regularly hosts academic events focused on helping students prepare for future classes, co-curricular opportunities and postgraduate life. Last semester, the HPSC hosted a Resume Building Workshop in conjunction with the Career Development Center, where students learned about resume formatting and heard tips about making themselves stand out at an interview.

Though Chepalonis' department may

seem intimidating, she loved the work. Chepalonis was responsible for assisting with audits, attending inter-departmental meetings and creating algorithms.

Because so much work is independent, she was able to work in a hybrid model, spending two days at home and three days in the office, something she said was much different than her friends' internship experiences.

Her job didn't end when school began.

"At the end of the summer, I was asked if I would like to continue working during the semester, so I am still with them for 10 hours a week."

Chepalonis shared that she enjoys the connections she's made at GUARD and is hopeful that she will be offered a full-time position upon graduation.

Chepalonis also shared that her internship opportunity was incredibly valuable, providing a real-world application to what she's been learning for the past few years.

"Opportunities like this are important because you get to learn what you are looking for in a job when you graduate," she said. "You also get to experience what it is like to work in an office and see what others do on a day-to-day basis."

Using Wilkes University resources, Jordan Chepalonis was able to find an internship that was perfect for her.

Her advice?

"I would say don't be afraid to apply for an internship and that it is okay to be nervous at first. One day everything will just click, and you will feel like you are in the right place."

Chepalonis, who continues to work for GUARD, feels that she is in the right place.

The Career Development Center hosts events, including Career Fairs, several times a semester.

Follow them on Instagram @wilkesccdi or head to the building behind the SUB to find out more.

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# NEWS WRITERS

Build your resume with writing experience.

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# The immigration issue: Do immigrants commit more crimes?

## *This is how young Luzerne County voters feel*

**By Sydney Allabaugh**  
Editor-in-Chief

Immigration has emerged as a key issue for voters in this election. In a 2024 Gallup poll, Americans were most likely to state immigration as the most important problem facing this country, even over the issues of inflation, poverty, racism, crime and healthcare, with many believing an influx of immigrants is a crisis in the United States.

From 2000 to 2022, the lawful immigrant population in the U.S. has grown steadily from 24.1 million to 36.9 million, according to Pew Research Center. In addition to the 36.9 million lawful immigrants, it was estimated that there were about 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. in 2022. Most of the nation's immigrants have lived in four states: California, Texas, Florida and New York.

In Luzerne County, there are about 33,768 foreign-born individuals, which equates to about 10 percent of the county's population, according to 2024 U.S. Census data provided by Teri Ooms, president and CEO of the data analysis, research and consulting organization The Institute.

With a relatively low foreign-born population locally, some young local citizens do not find immigration or border security to be key issues that impact their lives or their election decisions.

"I think that gun violence, women's rights to bodily autonomy and the huge gap between the rich and the poor are far more important issues than the amount of people who enter the country," Wilkes University student Jason Oshman said. "The only time in my life I have had to think about immigration is when other people say it's an issue."

Other young locals consider immigration, particularly unauthorized immigration, to be a problem due to the belief that it causes an increase in crime.

King's College alum Shaun Gurnari said that migrant crime is a problem that

can be seen in the news every day and in constant clips on social media.

"Most of the people causing the crime are not here legally," he said.

Wilkes University student Maddie Belk, however, does not believe there is a significant correlation between immigration and crime.

"I feel like there are far more criminals born and raised in the United States than migrants coming into the country," she said. "Most of the people trying to get into the country are just looking for better lives and not looking to cause crime."

Ooms confirmed that these cultures come here for a better life, primarily to escape violence and poverty in their countries.

Although she did not have data to determine if a migrant influx leads to more crime locally, she said that local foreign-born communities live in high levels of poverty, which could correlate with increased crime rates.

"More crime is the result of abject poverty regardless of a person's race, ethnicity or citizenship," Ooms said. "We do have abject poverty in over 20 percent of Luzerne County households."

National research on migrant crime is limited, though studies have shown immigrants generally do not commit crimes at higher rates than native-born Americans.

Charis Kubrin, criminology professor at the University of California, Irvine, conducted a meta-analysis of more than 50 studies on the link between immigration and crime between 1994 and 2014 and found no significant relationship between the two.

The Cato Institute think tank found in multiple studies between 2019 and 2021 that immigrants commit less crimes than native-born citizens. In 2024, they found that unauthorized immigrants have lower conviction and arrest rates for homicide, sex crimes, theft and other crimes.

There seems to be a lack of evidence that immigrants commit more

crimes and some evidence that they commit fewer crimes, yet the fear of immigrants, particularly unauthorized immigrants, remains prominent, which has contributed to both presidential candidates, especially Former President Donald Trump, deciding to take a more stringent stance on immigration and border security.

"Certainly, when we all read the headlines about Venezuelan gangs such as Tren de Aragua, it's easy to feel uneasy and unprotected," Wilkes University student John Sudol said.

Sudol acknowledges that migrant crime is a problem, but he takes issue with fearmongering and misinformation.

"However, these threats, now especially more than ever, feel watered-down when we look at the most recent racist right-wing migrant propaganda about Haitians in Ohio," Sudol said. "After seeing how damaging such rhetoric caused, I truly believe everyone needs to take several steps back from the border discussion."

Although they are commonly seen as threatening, Ooms said that foreign-born populations are generally vulnerable. In Luzerne County, they struggle with poverty, language barriers and a lack of recognition for their credentials, among other issues.

"The immigrant community appears to live in fear here and do not trust most organizations, people and institutions because of discriminatory experiences," Ooms said.

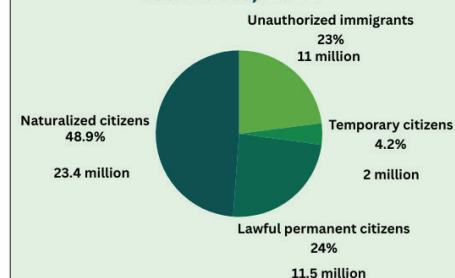
A perceived correlation between immigration and crime is just one of the reasons why immigration is considered to be a major problem this election.

"I see reports of them stealing jobs and doing them for less while other citizens aren't able to get them," Gurnari said.

This is a common argument against immigration, according to the Cato Institute. Other common arguments are that immigrants will increase crowding and abuse the welfare state, though the Cato Institute argues that there is evidence that counters these claims.

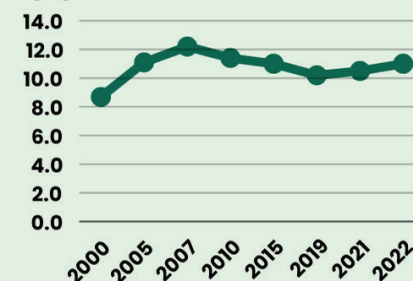
## Immigration Statistics

### Foreign-born population estimates, 2022



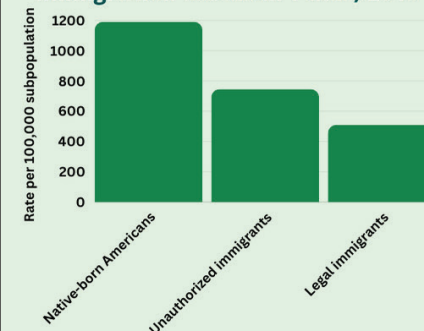
Source: Pew Research Center

### Unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. in millions



Source: Pew Research Center

### Criminal conviction rates by immigration status in Texas, 2019



Source: CATO Institute

**% who say the large number of migrants seeking to enter at the border with Mexico is leading to \_\_\_\_\_ in the U.S.**

**57% More crime**

**39% Not much impact on crime**

**3% Less crime**

Source: Pew Research Center



# Wilkes ranks among the top universities nationally

By Emma Broda  
News Editor

This month, various reports ranking top universities in the United States were released and once again included Wilkes among them. Rankings came from the U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges, Washington Monthly magazine, the Princeton Review, Niche, and the 2024 CollegeNet Social Mobility Index.

The U.S. News and World Report ranked Wilkes 288 out of the 436 national universities recognized in their report. Wilkes is also ranked at 181 among the 433 universities listed on the ranking for Top Performers on Social Mobility.

This means that they are very successful in enrolling and graduating students given Pell Grants.

Wilkes was recognized for its performance on social mobility by the CollegeNet 2024 Social Mobility Index as well. They are ranked 402 out of the 1,205 universities listed.

Wilkes was ranked by the U.S. News and World Report among top universities for their undergraduate engineering program and nursing program.

They are ranked 455 out of the 686 universities listed for their undergraduate nursing program. For engineering, Wilkes ranked 223 out of the 286 on the list.

"I think the program is run very well by the professors," said Anthony Antonette, a senior electrical engineering major.

"It's nice to be recognized and it is really interesting to be recognized for this knowing our school is commonly known for its pharmacy program."

Washington Monthly magazine ranked Wilkes 275 out of the 438 included in their top national universities list. They also ranked Wilkes among their Best Bang for the Buck Colleges in the Northeast at 312 out of the 376 universities listed.

The Princeton Review includes the university on their list of Best Colleges in the Mid-Atlantic region from their 2025 Best Colleges: Region by Region list.

Niche ranks universities in many different categories, some of which include Most Diverse Colleges in America, Best Value Colleges in America, and Colleges with the Best Professors in America.

Wilkes was ranked 749 out of 1,495

for most diverse, 799 out of 1,462 for best value, and 358 out of 1,503 for best professors.

Niche also ranked Wilkes among universities in Pennsylvania for Colleges with Best Professors, Colleges with Best Academics, Most Diverse Colleges, and Best Value Colleges all in Pennsylvania. The university ranked 19 out of 103 for best professors, 36 out of 104 for best academics, and 41 out of 103 for most diverse, and 47 out of 103 for best value.

William Wolfgang, junior data science major, talked about how he felt regarding Wilkes' recent rankings.

"...it is really awesome to be recognized because it's an opinion shared by a good number of people I know that it is a really nice local school.

"I think that the opportunities here really can help you to reach for what you want to achieve and it is something that rankings don't often reflect."

Photos by Sydney Allabaugh





# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Editor-in-Chief Sydney Allabaugh at [sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu](mailto:sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu)

## Retired Wilkes professor to hold book signing

From a Wilkes University news release

Thomas Baldino, retired professor of political science at Wilkes University, and co-author Paula Holoviak, professor of philosophy and government at Kutztown University, will hold a book signing and Q&A for their book, *Pennsylvania Government and Politics*, at 2 p.m. on Oct. 27, at the Barnes & Noble in the Arena Hub Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township.



**Holoviak**

The book, published by Penn State University Press, covers a period of more than 300 years of political history in the Commonwealth. The book examines Pennsylvania's culture and geography, interactions between office holders and the media, the creation and enforcement of laws and political upheaval resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 presidential election.

Readers can also find practical appendices and interviews with

current and past office holders, bureaucrats, party leaders and political journalists. *Pennsylvania Government and Politics* serves as a helpful reference for high school and college students, professionals, journalists or anyone interested in learning about politics in the state.

"We believed that a book like ours was needed not only to educate students but also the public," Baldino said.

The book also fills a publication gap. When Baldino and Holoviak started the project eight years ago, the last comprehensive book written about Pennsylvania's government was published in 1933.

"Pennsylvania has a long and storied history in the development of democracy in the United States," said Holoviak. "The Commonwealth continues to be



**Dr. Thomas Baldino, retired professor of political science, will host a book signing at 2 p.m. on Oct. 27, at the Barnes & Noble in the Arena Hub Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township.**

a vital contributor to the U.S. economy and the ongoing dialogue on the future of American politics."

At the Barnes & Noble event, Baldino and Holoviak will present insights gained during the research and writing process, answer questions from the audience and sign copies of

*Pennsylvania Government and Politics*. They'll also share their optimistic view of state politics in the face of recent upheaval.

"As one of America's first colonies, Pennsylvania has survived many challenges and has always emerged stronger.

## Have an event you'd like us to cover?

Email [kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu](mailto:kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu) or [sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu](mailto:sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu)



- Sydney Allabaugh:**  
A Struggle - The Garden

**Stephen Youkoski:**  
Should've Said No - Taylor Swift

**Megan Davis:**  
Night of Fireworks - Xdinary Heroes

**Emma Broda:**  
All-Nighter - Bad Bad Hats
- Sam Mullen:**  
Sounds of Someday - Radio Company

**Adam Grundt:**  
Love Somebody - Morgan Wallen

**Leah Smith:**  
A Work of Art - Ice Nine Kills

**Zach Paraway:**  
Moonlight on the River - Mac DeMarco

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Check out this week's bops!

# PROGRAMMING BOARD EVENTS

FALL 2024

<b>Techno Bingo</b>	8/29	<b>Sound Showdown</b>	10/24
<b>Field Day</b>	9/5	<b>Freak Week</b>	10/28-10/31
<b>Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?</b>	9/12	<b>Comedian</b>	11/7
<b>Fiesta</b>	9/19	<b>Chillax Bingo</b>	11/14
<b>Giveaway #1</b>	9/26	<b>Giveaway #2</b>	11/21
<b>Blockbuster Bingo</b>	10/3	<b>White Elephant Bingo</b>	12/5
<b>Wilkestober Fest</b>	10/17		

EVENTS. EVERY. THURSDAY.





## Peace. Inclusion. Equity.

SATURDAY, NOV. 2, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.,  
HENRY STUDENT CENTER

Join us for the 7th Annual  
Student Diversity and Leadership  
Conference at Wilkes University!

The conference will offer workshops centered around our theme of peace, inclusion, and equity with speakers from around the area who will share their expertise. We will also offer a resume workshop and coffee hour. A certificate of completion will be given at the end of the conference.

**Interested in telling the stories of campus life?**

**The Beacon's Life, Arts and Entertainment section  
is looking for photographers and writers!**

**Email [kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu](mailto:kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu) for more information.**



# Multicultural Student Coalition hosts pumpkin carving on the greenway



From left, Assetou Xango, graduate residence director, Residence Life; and students E. Alexis and Starr Sandt work on their pumpkin creations.



Students gathered on the greenway to carve pumpkins and enjoy hot cocoa during MSC's fall event.



# Crossword

*Do you know the answers to these election clues?*

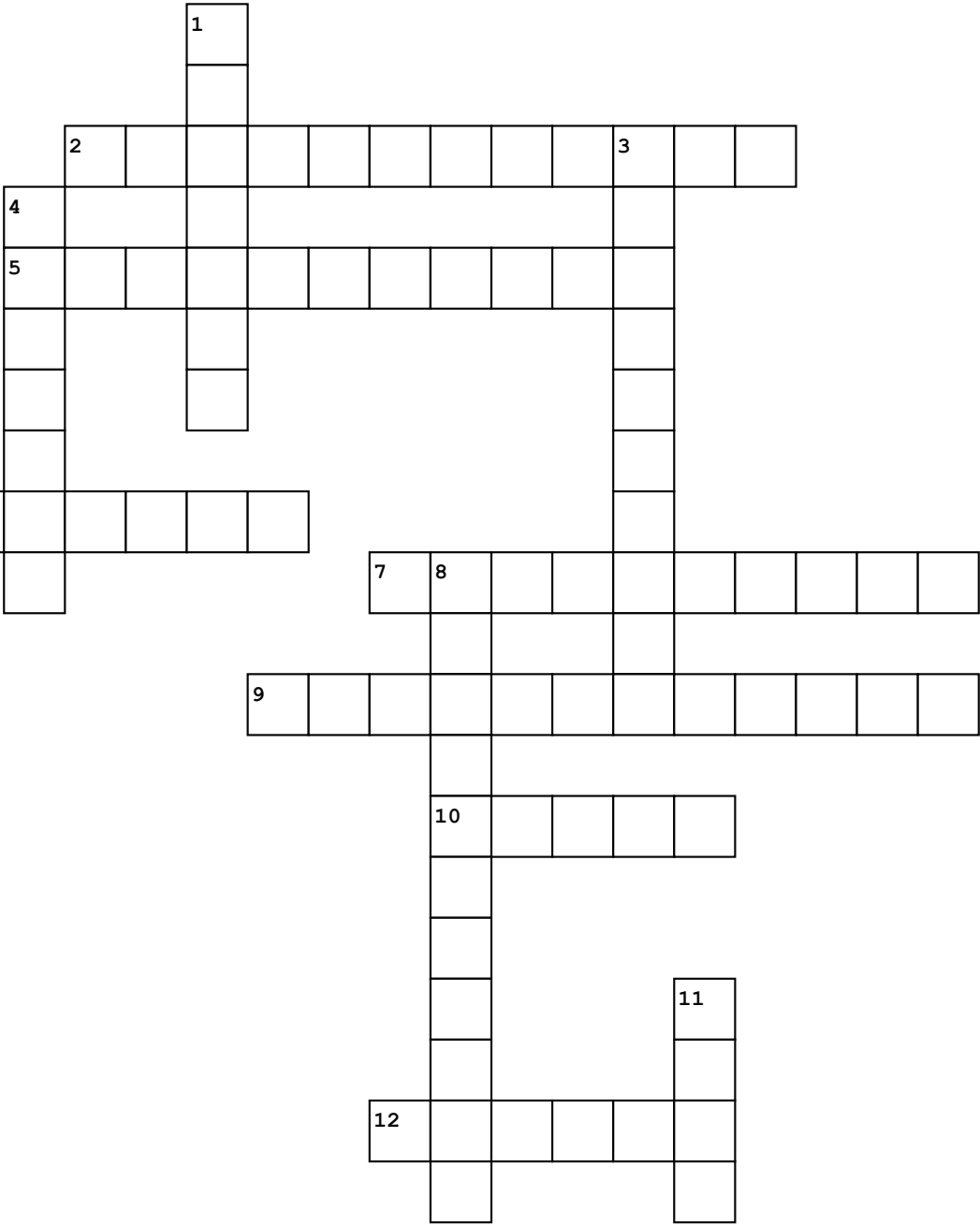
## U.S. Election Crossword

**Across**

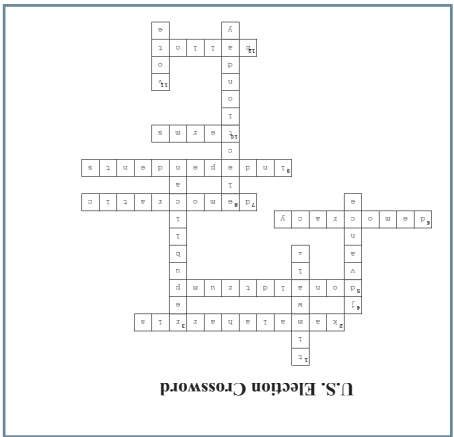
- 2. Democratic presidential nominee
- 5. Republican presidential nominee
- 6. Government by the people
- 7. The current U.S. president is from the \_\_\_\_ Party.
- 9. There are two major political parties, but most Americans are registered as \_\_\_\_.
- 10. Presidents can serve two four-year \_\_\_\_.
- 12. October 29 is the last day to request a mail-in

**Down**

- 1. Democratic vice presidential nominee
- 3. An elephant is the symbol of the \_\_\_\_ Party.
- 4. Republican vice presidential nominee
- 8. November 5
- 11. When U.S. citizens turn 18, they can register to \_\_\_\_.



**Answer Key:**



# WILKESTOBER FEST

PHOTOS BY EMMA BRODA



**OBLIGATORY  
SUNSET PIG!**



PAGE DESIGN BY LARA MULLEN









# Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact assistant opinion editors: [leah.smith@wilkes.edu](mailto:leah.smith@wilkes.edu) or [logan.colonna@wilkes.edu](mailto:logan.colonna@wilkes.edu).

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## Our Voice

Each week, The Beacon's editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

# Metal is a highly overlooked music genre

Metal.

Heavy metal.

Screamo.

The genre comes in many forms and many names, but the bottom line is that the metal music genre as a whole is highly overlooked by the general public.

The metal scene never really hit the stratosphere in terms of pop culture until around the 70s/80s with the popularization of what is now called "hair metal" or "glam metal," featuring bands such as Twisted Sister and Motley Crue. Although they aren't as heavy as the metal bands of today are, these bands shifted the music zeitgeist.

Heavier bands existed during this time as well, becoming more prevalent in the late-80s and early-90s, such as Metallica and Slayer. Bands like these would be known as "thrash metal" or "speed metal" given by the band's pace.

One of the most popular sub-genres currently is metalcore, where bands blend other genres along with traditional metal sound. The genre is often compared to the 90s/early 2000s sub-genre "nu-metal," which also gained much popularity due to blending hip-hop and metal elements.

Metalcore gained its fame since it is an evolution of not only metal but also music as a whole. The blending of genres allows more creativity and avenues for bands to discover,

since they don't need to follow the traditional rules of "thrash metal" or "hair metal."

Social media, specifically TikTok, has been a leading force for the popularity of metalcore by advertising bands such as Sleep Token and Bad Omens.

Hardcore metal fans and newcomers soon join on the bandwagon and start posting songs and segments featuring the bands. This starts to branch out onto the platform and put metalcore into the stratosphere. So if metalcore and metal as a whole is so popular among the social media realm, how come it is still underrated among the general public?

Most people generalize metal music as just "screamo" music and therefore don't really give metal music its fair share. This doesn't come as a surprise since many people who have this opinion typically only listen to whatever is popular on the radio, or if they do listen to music with some heavy elements, it's usually rock bands that are also radio-friendly like Green Day and Foo Fighters.

Not to say that those bands are bad or that the people who denounce metal are bad, but it is simply unfair that people who criticize metal music and label it as "screamo" are devaluing the substance that metal has.

Metal music has been the king of controversy in the music scene, with the "satanic panic" in the 80s. During the panic, parents protested against metal bands and

artists, saying children who listened to metal music were turning into devil worshippers.

The forced censorship and general audience dislike of metal music only drives people to engage in the genre more and is why so many people gravitate towards it.

Metal music features lyrics and sounds that feel entirely different from any other genre.

Many songs feature lyrics describing issues of mental health or problems with the modern day. These songs are filled with strong emotions which is why many metal artists feature "gutturals" or screams as it's become known as because those screams emphasize the emotions the band is describing.

Even when a metal song isn't talking about societal issues, the loud musical elements speak to the listener because it can be a reflection of how they're feeling and be an escape from the scary reality they're living in.

That being said, it is understandable that not everyone enjoys it due to the sound and confusing amount of sub-genres, but that shouldn't devalue the genre. Not everyone likes all genres of music but that doesn't make any of them discredited because they are all influential in their own way.

Metal music deserves to be looked at better by the world because it is a genre that's been around for so long and a genre that has evolved into great heights and continues to shake the music scene with each new release.

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# Why Wilkes should look to add a Republican Club

**By Zach Paraway**  
*Sports Editor*

Election years tend to bring out both the best and worst in people.

It is very common to see friends and especially family battle over the idea of what we should do as a nation. These fights are always billed as the “fight of our lives” or “the most important election,” and as someone who has been able to remember every election since 2012, the term gets overused.

Despite my disdain for much of what politics is today, I do understand and recognize the importance within our American system. It is important that we use our right to not only vote, but to also express our opinions and beliefs in our country.

This brings us to today and on our Wilkes campus where we see these ideas being practiced. New to our campus this year is the College Democrats Club, so far

having events to watch political events, such as debates.

Before we continue, I would like to congratulate the club and its members for coming together and not only hosting but educating others on information that they may or may not have known. This is what we as a student body should expect from our clubs, and we should be happy that this club is doing as such, regardless of political affiliation.

Now, in saying that, the creation of this club does create a question and the potential for something else to be created as well. With the creation of the Democratic club, I ask that a Republican club should be created as well.

Before I go on and explain, I should say that I am an independent and do not have any opinions or feelings against either political party. I have issues, likes and dislikes for both parties and I try not to get biased when looking at the two.

A Republican club used to exist on this

campus before, but the club was disbanded and future political clubs were not seen as something possible on this campus. The new democratic club here has shown what a political club can do here when the hope for the club is to inform and bring people together.

It is obvious that not everyone on this campus is a Democrat, and there are many other political affiliations that people identify with. The creation of an alternative club for people of other political ideologies allows for secondary ideas on this campus and allows for the community as a whole to understand another perspective that we often, as young people, do not see.

It is important to have that second perspective in order to understand where both sides come from. Go on social media for five seconds or just under any comment section. You will see what happens when the uninformed and the uneducated share their opinion, usually spreading hate off the back of their party.

This is due to many factors, one being that the media today allows for one to only see what they want to see and not having to hear nor understand any other perspectives.

If someone were to create a Republican club, it should be done and held respectfully. That is the backbone of this proposal that I am trying to portray as we do not want to have groups who hate each other because of who they are.

As someone who is very burned out and tired by the election process, this is the one thing I want to see from this process, not caring much who gets elected. Regardless of your side of the political aisle, we can all agree that we want to gain understanding about others and to gain knowledge of our world.

It's a rude and cruel world out there, and the least we can do is make it so that we are all educated about what both sides mean and to be able to have a positive conversation.

# The Icebox: Are you Mario Partying the correct way?

**By “Freeze”**  
*Opinion Staff Writer*

If you didn't know, the latest installment of the Mario Party franchise has just been released. It's called the “Jamboree,” reflective of its ambitious nature of including several dozen minigames and more playable characters than ever before.

For decades, Mario Party has been considered one of the most played party games of all time. There seems to be a little bit of something for everyone and it was made for the family.

As a new season of Mario Party adventuring begins, it is important that you don't get left behind. If you've ever played any of the previous games, you probably know that the primary gamemode focuses on a board game with items and minigames. Minigames help players obtain coins in order to acquire stars, which are the win condition for the game. Depending on the board that you and your friends choose, there can be a lot of other factors that change the luck and progression of the overall game.

If you've played Mario Party or even

Mario Kart you are probably familiar with the idea that it “destroys relationships” as both are heavily focused on sabotaging your opponent. Items are the primary method of putting others down so that you can get ahead. For example, a switch item can be used to swap places with your opponent on the board, and a Chain Chomp Bell can be used to move the location of the current star. Even when playing minigames, a player can strategically sabotage their opponent so that they do worse.

The results of the minigames are certainly important. A lot of players who are serious about winning will practice the minigames ahead of time so they know how to effectively beat their opponents. Some minigames require a free-for-all, others in teams of two or even a one-versus-three format. Certain minigames have a coin-collecting element to inflate the pockets of all players and raise the stakes even more. If you're truly evil, you can sabotage your teammates if the risk of losing isn't harmful.

Typically, a star costs 20 coins and must be found on the board. The idea is to traverse the board and reach the star as fast as possible to

obtain it. Once a star has been taken, a new one appears elsewhere on the map.

Now the question is, are you partying right? While some people may enjoy this game for what it is, there will always be that one person who thinks in the fourth-dimension and absolutely must obtain victory at all costs. The glory of strategizing a game like Mario Party is unique because part of the victory is entirely up to chance and the game decides to be unfair.

Speaking of odds, they do not always have to be against you, the one who wants to win more than anything. For example, there is nothing stopping you from obtaining a custom dice block from the shop and then deliberately rolling next turn to a dueling space. Suddenly, you find yourself challenging another player. Possibly the one you fear is going to take your spot on the throne in a 1-on-1 where the stakes are your coin balances. You can certainly alter the results of the game with just one extra minigame round against a specific player.

Another option is to not let anyone get stars and to do absolutely whatever it takes to play keep-away. This can be done by

repeatedly using the Chain Chomp Whistle, purposefully triggering the board events or constantly teleporting random players. Although such techniques can bite you back, they are very useful once you've already obtained the lead.

Take note of bonus stars at the end of a game. Players who use the most items, obtain the most coins and win the most minigames are all candidates for receiving bonus stars. That means performance and tactfulness really do matter more than just pure luck on the board.

The bottom line is to really think about your approach to a new game against your friends by considering your current position in the rankings. A lot of players focus too much on “doing their own thing” when instead they can be focusing on sabotaging others to minimize effort into obtaining more stars. Generally, this principle works well in board games and card games alike. The efforts of oneself are not as fruitful as the efforts of destroying others.

I would not recommend these tactics in real life situations, unless you plan to become a supervillain one day.

# “Terrifier”: The people’s new favorite killer clown franchise

## *The success of the newest installment “Terrifier 3”*

**By Leah Smith**  
Asst. Opinion Editor

“Terrifier 3” is a splatter-horror masterpiece that captures some of the most depraved and disturbing content ever shot on screen in the past decade.

The film has been doing outstanding numbers in the box office by making \$18.3 million, beating out its other clown competitor, “Joker: Folie A Deux” in a landslide with that film only making \$7 million. As well as overall audience and critic enjoyment, “Terrifier 3” has an 88% audience score, with “Joker: Folie A Deux” only having a 32% on Rotten Tomatoes.

“Terrifier 3” has both audiences and critics raving, most particularly about the film’s obscene and graphic violence. The marketing of this film adds onto the film’s splattery spectacle by saying

many viewers have fainted and fell ill during screenings, itching the curiosity of moviegoers and daring them to see the film.

This isn’t the first time that the “Terrifier” series has been the talk of the town, the series has always been a cult favorite, but only recently has the general public begun to hop on Art the Clown’s bloody bandwagon and embrace his mayhem.

The “Terrifier” franchise has gained much infamy ever since the first one debuted in 2016. Although it wasn’t the major commercial success that the series is now, word of mouth circled around which gained more interest from audiences.

The series is known for its depravity and heavy graphic violence but also for its low budget quality since these films aren’t produced by major studios.

Both of these qualities divide the general audience due to the franchise’s priority of shock value over story. Many audiences also turn away from this series due to its poor acting, writing, etc. Despite its poor budget beginnings, the “Terrifier” series never gave up from one-upping itself with each entry and that’s when people began to take notice of the series when “Terrifier 2” debuted in 2022.

“Terrifier 2” is the reason why this series is a household name. Although the

first one had people talking, the film was still incredibly niche due to its limited release in theaters. “Terrifier 2” improved not only its theatrical releases but everything else that the first one was criticized for.

Critics and audiences claimed that the first one had no story, but in this one the story follows the movie’s final girl, Sienna Shaw, and her rivalry with Art the Clown.

The directing has also improved since there are multiple locations and sequences in this film unlike the first one, which is likely due to director Damien Leone’s budget going from \$35,000 to \$250,000.

This film was an absolute success in terms of both audience engagement and box office success. More people were on board with what the series is about and the movie made \$15.74 million at the box office.

It comes to no surprise that “Terrifier 3” is doing as well as it is and will continue to dominate the box office for a while. Many people love this series and for good reason because not only is each entry an insane and disturbing watch, but it can be darkly fun to see what kind of chaos Art the Clown is planning.

David Howard Thornton is the soul of this series and why Art the Clown works the way he does. He’s on the same level as Robert Englund as Freddy Kruger due to his exceptional performance and iconography.

The story of this series, particularly this newest entry, is also very intriguing. Lauren LaVera puts on a strong performance as Sienna Shaw and displays an accurate portrayal of someone dealing with PTSD and survivor’s guilt. Shaw is put through the ringer in both “Terrifier 2” and the newest film, but she doesn’t give up which can be inspiring to audiences, which is why she’s highly regarded as one of the best final girls in horror film history.

The series is extremely controversial, which is also one of the many reasons why it is so successful. The controversy doesn’t only stem from the franchise’s gory kills, but from the victims and particularly in the new one, the Christmas setting. Churches and people online have called the newest entry “satanic” and that people who go to see this film are mentally-ill. Fans are constantly berated by these people which only motivate them to see the film more out of spite.

This is interesting because other Christmas-themed horror films have been put through the same critique such as “Silent Night, Deadly Night,” which was actually pulled from theaters on its second theatrical week due to protests from parents claiming the film “ruined the innocence of Christmas.”

The “Terrifier” franchise is without a doubt one of the most iconic and most successful horror movie franchises in the past decade. Also, a huge win for the independent film industry since “Terrifier 3” hit number one in America with only a \$2 million budget.

Whether you like the series or not, there’s no doubting the impact it has on popular culture with fans embracing its disturbing traits and how the franchise’s nay-sayers are repeating film history by claiming it as satanic.

The series is a relic of horror by homaging classic slasher and splatter films, while also setting itself apart from the classics by having its own iconic antagonist, creatively gruesome kills and a story that is so twisted and engaging that no other series has done before.

The “Terrifier” series will definitely leave a mark in cinema history. With “Terrifier 4” currently being in the works, it won’t be surprising that when that film debuts, it’ll be a huge success just like its predecessors.



Graphic by Laura De Lora



# Are movies leaving theaters too soon after release?

**By Shawn Carey**  
Opinion Staff Writer

I love movies. Not just as an art form, but as an experience. I am, of course, referring to the act of going to the theater.

Movie theaters offer something really special. A sense of grandeur. For approximately two hours, you, your friends and a handful of strangers get to live a different story and discover a different world.

Theaters are a celebration of the arts and all the people who help create our favorite stories.

With that being said, the future of movie theaters is looking somewhat bleak.

Traditionally, the theatrical window for a new movie release has been several weeks to several months, usually 40 to 50 days. After a movie's theatrical run, there's usually a three or so month wait for its home release.

If you are a regular theater goer, you've probably noticed that these time periods have changed. As of recently, the theatrical window for new releases have been shrinking.

Let's use "Transformers One" as an example. Paramount's newest installment in the ever-so-popular series started its theatrical run in the United States on Sept 20. The film's digital streaming release is planned for Oct. 19, not even a month after release.

"Transformers One" isn't the only movie this has happened to. "Late Night with the Devil," "Longlegs," "Joker 2" and "The Wild Robot" all received shortened theatrical runs. They also received digital releases immediately after, killing any chance they might have at major success.

While I've only listed a few, this shortened run has affected almost every release in the

last year. One of the worst parts about all this is that we don't know why this is happening. Film studios are staying silent on the matter.

I've taken it upon myself to look into this matter and see if I could pinpoint a specific reason behind the shortened release window.

First thing first, let's look at what films are following this trend, or rather, what films aren't.

"Deadpool and Wolverine," "Inside Out 2" and "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" are seemingly the only movies that haven't been affected by the shortened release schedule, staying in theaters for months.

As you probably noticed, they all share something in common. They are all sequels. To be clear, they're sequels to nostalgic movies.

It seems like new and original movies get a shorter release window. Meanwhile, these large franchises get the traditional releases.

These major studios are killing off new franchises before they even have the chance to start. They're focusing more on already established series, series that they know will make them money. This is, in essence, anti-art. They're focusing on the past while ignoring the future.

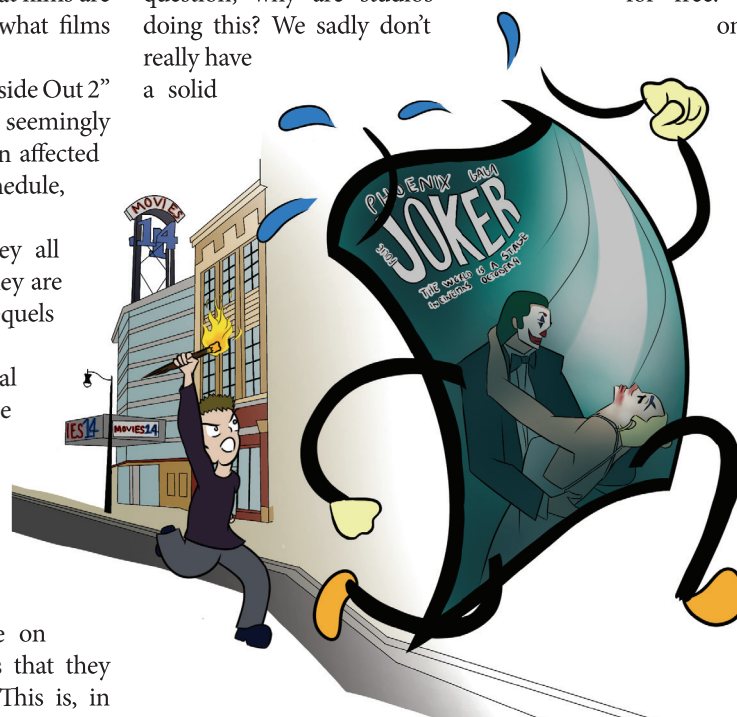
What I think makes this even worse is that the new franchises are often dumped on streaming platforms immediately after their theatrical run. It's one thing to release a movie on online store fronts, it's a whole other thing to put it on streaming.

Apple TV, Google Play and Amazon Prime require you to purchase the movie, as if it was a Blue-Ray. The movie is still making a profit, even after it's removed from

theaters.

Meanwhile, a movie doesn't really gain anything from being put on a streaming service. Sure, it's getting more people to watch it. That, however, doesn't net the filmmakers any revenue.

This leads us to asking the question, why are studios doing this? We sadly don't really have a solid



answer, just speculation.

The most popular belief is that the studios lack faith in their products. They believe that their new IPs aren't going to make any profit, causing them to want to pull them from the theaters early. From a business perspective, I honestly can't see why they would do this.

Why spend millions of dollars on a movie just to give it a three-week run? Does the studio expect to make all of its money back in under a month? Unless you're Marvel or

Star Wars, you can't really expect that level of success.

There's also the idea that it's a scheme to drive people to the studio's streaming service. General audiences are being given two choices. Drive up to the theater and pay for a ticket, or wait three weeks and watch it for \*free.\* You can probably assume which one is more popular.

Now, what does this mean for theaters?

The most obvious impact is loss in revenue, which can potentially cause some theaters to close down. There's also the possibility that in the future more movies are going to receive a straight to streaming release, cutting theaters out of the equation entirely.

The most likely scenario, however, is the idea that theaters are going to move away from movies and become a general entertainment center. This is something that we can already see taking shape. As of September, theater chains from across the nation have joined forces to invest over two billion dollars into becoming "multiplexes."

As a movie fan, it truly hurts to see the current state of things. I believe that every movie deserves a chance at making it big. Right now, theaters need our support more than ever. If there's a movie that you're even a slight bit interested in, please see it in theaters.

Don't let movie-going become a dying art.

Graphic by Laura De Lora

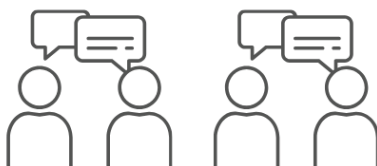
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Politics, culture, social issues

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# A review of Ye's "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy"

## *An analysis of lyrics, performance, production, features*

By Logan Colonna

Asst. Opinion Editor

If you know of Ye, formally Kanye West, whatsoever, odds are you know about his 2009 record, "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy." The album follows Ye's self-imposed exile as he headed to Hawaii to produce and record each song for the album.

Before going into the review, I think it's important to throw out that Ye needed the album to do well artistically in order for the media to not outcast him forever. With this, Ye grouped up only the best names in the music industry for this record.

Right in the very beginning of the album on "Dark Fantasy," we see Ye's return to excellence with his witty lyrics like "How you say broke in Spanish? Me no hablo." Truly no performance from Ye on the album is anything less than great.

My personal favorite tracks are "Devil In A New Dress," "POWER" and "Lost In The World." All three tracks include some of Ye's best as we get each verse from him.

A s



for "DIAND" the mood that is set from both Ye's verse and the production literally made me cry while relistening to the track.

"POWER" was Ye's first time breaking his silence ever since his situation at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. Many thought he would've apologized in some way, but he did the complete opposite and defended himself against his critics who tried to take him down.

As an impressive stat on the record, Ye went on to say in an interview that "POWER" took up 5,000 man-hours to complete. This kind of dedication towards music is what I personally miss nowadays, even from Ye with his newest records with both Vultures 1 and 2.

Lastly, on "Lost In The World," we get a verse from Ye that actually began as a poem to his now ex-wife Kim Kardashian using the lines, "You're my devil, you're my angel. You're my heaven, you're my hell," to weirdly rope her in. As the song progresses, we get a number of pre-choruses and choruses voiced by Ye that bring the track as well as the album altogether as he sets himself free from the sins of his past.

Next up, we have the collaborating artists on the album. The feature list this time around is absolutely stacked with the likes of JAY-Z, Kid Cudi, Pusha T, Rick Ross and so many more. Some key standouts on this record are Rihanna's chorus on "All Of The Lights," literally everyone on "Monster," which

holds Nicki Minaj's best verse to date, Rick Ross's beautiful addition to "Devil In A New Dress," and finally Pusha T on the legendary track, "Runaway."

Rihanna brings the entire song together and matches the grand production that is heard throughout the whole track on "All Of The Lights."

As for "Monster," there is not a single stale moment in the seven-minute song. As stated before, Nicki raps like the rent is due and truly shows how she is a "monster" on the mic with her amazing flow and lyrics.

Now for my favorite feature on the album, Rick Ross. After hearing the most ethereal verse from Ye, Rick Ross adds to it even more with his inclusion. In his verse, he boasts on how he has it all money-wise; however, he still finds himself lonely even if he is successful financially. His verse was so good that he even took it upon himself to release a music video for it. In all reality, I do think that the instrumental helps him a bit here, but the verse is still one of his best nonetheless.

Lastly, we have Pusha T's inclusion on "Runaway." This is what Pusha had to say about the making of his verse for the track as per a *Clipse* consigliere, "But I wrote 'Runaway' four times—and what he does not know to this day is that I was going through a relationship scandal in my life."

He said, "So this man is asking me to write a song about a relationship and to say that I'm the biggest douchebag ever. He's telling me, 'Yo, you need to be more douchebag. We need more douchebag!' I didn't want to say to him, 'Dog, I don't know if I even have douchebag in me right now. I've been jammed up, and it's hard for me to even tap into that part, because I'm remorseful.'"

With this in mind, it makes Pusha's verse that much more impactful. With both his and Ye's verse, we get the two removing all of the glamor from things such as money, sex, drugs and more. With this, easily one of Ye's most

powerful tracks was created.

As no surprise, the features as a whole are near-perfect to me.

As for the production, I love each and every one of the tracks just for their production alone. Some of my favorites are "Devil In A New Dress," "Runaway," "Lost In The World" and "POWER."

As for "DIAND," the track created the perfect sample from Smokey Robinson's "Will You Love Me Tomorrow?" The pitched-up vocals are looped throughout the track, creating a soft atmosphere for Ye and Rick Ross to rap over.

"Runaway" gets its iconic loop of "look at ya's" by being sampled by Rick James's "Mary Jane" as well as its drum line from The Backyard Heavies and their 1971 track "Expo '83." These samples paired up with a fantastic synth throughout the entire track makes the song great.

Next, "Lost In the World" offers an incredible sample of Bon Iver's "Woods," which is simply the song but pitched up a couple times as well as being layered on itself. Yet again, creating an atmosphere worth listening to. On top of this, a booming drumline is added into the equation.

Lastly, the most-streamed song on the album, "POWER." The song offers an instrumental that's meant to be played in stadiums. From the heavy hitting drums, to the assortment of other instruments, the song just yells out "loud."

While these are just my favorite instrumentals, the entire tracklist holds songs that are worth listening to simply for their production. This makes the production on the album perfect.

After all is said and done, I absolutely love this album. It was the first album from Ye I ever heard when I was first getting into the genre of hip hop. Out of all of Ye's albums, this is my second favorite, with 2009's "Graduation" coming out on top just barely.

"My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" gets a 9.5 out of 10.

Graphic by Lara Mullen



# Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editor: zachary.paraway@wilkes.edu

## Wilkes soccer weekly round-up: Oct. 16 and 19

**By Andrew Mashallsay**  
Sports/News Staff Writer

It was a week full of action for Wilkes sports, with most of the action taking place on the soccer pitch. With one match for each of the two teams on Oct. 16 and 19, there were goals galore and a good amount of action.

The matchweek began on Oct. 16, with the women's team at home at Bruggeworth against the University of Scranton and the men's team on the road in Scranton to face off against the Royals.

Looking to continue the momentum from the Senior Day's comeback win against Drew, the women's team hoped to upset the 22nd ranked team in the nation, the Royals. The match started off with the Colonels kicking off, but quickly, Scranton showed that they were going to be the formidable opponent they have proven to be this season.

Less than five minutes into the match, the Royals capitalized on a counter attacking chance with Morgan Griffin scoring the opener for Scranton past first-year goalkeeper Delaney Yurics. Yurics made her eighth start of the year after senior goalkeeper Amanda Lee was out due to injury.

Overall, Yurics faced 26 shots in total, with 12 on goal and nine saves in the 0-3 loss to the Royals. The Colonels amassed just one shot total during the game, being an off-target attempt at goal by junior defender Madison Straub.

After going down 0-3, the Wilkes defense was strong for the rest of the match and continued to battle it out until the final whistle.

For the men's team it was a tough matchup against the Royals away from home. Looking to turn things around after an eight match losing streak that dated back to a loss on Sept. 17, the Colonels hoped to get back on track in

the latter stage of the season.

Unfortunately, things did not go in favor of the Colonels. A 0-7 loss against the Royals saw Wilkes' losing streak drag on to nine games, with just four goals scored in the past month.

Scranton opened the scoring early on, with Ciaran Carr finding the back of the net in the sixth minute. By the 23rd minute, the Colonels found themselves down 0-4.

By the 74th minute, the Royals had scored their seventh goal of the match to make it 0-7. Carr ended up with two goals on the night, bringing his total for the season up to six.

With 11 shots in the game, the Colonels had three on target. Senior Xavier Guerreiro having two of them and junior Will Wagstaff having the third.

Sophomore goalkeeper Matthew Conti played 23 minutes in the first half, making two saves and conceding four goals. First-year goalkeeper Owen Heale played the remainder of the game, making three saves and conceding three goals.

The match week concluded with a doubleheader on Oct. 19 against Elizabethtown College. The women's team took the pitch first in their final home game of the 2024 season.

A close match throughout, the Colonels fell to the Blue Jays, 2-1. Starting the scoring off within less than five minutes was Elizabethtown's Jenna Hoffmann. In the first half, the Colonels had a bit of trouble trying to cut through the Blue Jay defense.

About 20 minutes into the second half, the Blue Jays extended their lead to make it 2-0, when forward Kayla Myer found the back of the net. Just a few minutes later after the second Elizabethtown goal, sophomore Jess Shea scored off of a corner taken by first year player Elena Krajain.

Throughout the rest of the second half, the Colonels had a few opportunities to find the leveler, but were denied by goalkeeper Adrience McGallicher, who eventually ended up with four saves. Amanda Lee, back in goal for the Colonels made six saves in the 2-1 loss.

After the two matches during the past week, the Colonels' record fell to 4-8-3 overall, with a conference record of 1-3-2.

After the conclusion of the first game, the men's team took the field in their second to last home game of the season taking on a Blue Jay team which had two of their last five matches.

Scoreless through the first half, the match was physical, with fouls being traded back and forth by the two teams. Three yellow cards were issued during the match as the physicality continued.

For the Blue Jay offense, however, they proved to be a team that thrived on applying pressure. The pressure

eventually led to Elizabethtown taking a 1-0 lead in the second half.

Pedro Vincent eventually scored the opening goal in the 76th minute for the Blue Jays. Before the goal was scored, the Colonels successfully blocked three shots in less than 10 seconds.

Overall, the Colonels amassed just two shots overall, with one of them being on target. Sophomore Giovanni Mazzola had the lone shot on goal. Goalkeeper Matthew Conti ended the game with seven saves overall.

After the week, the Colonels' record falls to 3-13-1, with a Landmark record of 0-6-0.

The Colonels are back in action on Wednesday, when both teams will face off against Lycoming College. The men's team is back at Bruggeworth field to face the Warriors at home, while the women's team is away in Williamsport, Pa.



**Sophomore Matthew Conti takes the ball out of goal during a 1-0 loss to Elizabethtown**

Photo by Steve Finkernagel

# Wilkes University cross country season begins to wrap up

**Lexi McHugh**  
Sports Writer

The Wilkes University men's and women's cross country teams have been making impressive strides this season as they navigate through a series of competitive meets. Both teams have shown significant improvement, with athletes setting personal bests and securing strong finishes in recent races.

The women's team had three meets this season, one of its most recent meets taking place at Lock Haven University on Sept. 28.

First-year student Ava Bailor had a phenomenal run finishing 18th overall with a time of 25:12.1. First-year Mikayla Miller finished 72nd overall with a time of 27:15.9, right behind her was senior Regan Metz who placed 79th overall finishing at 27:41.5.

Senior Courtney Negra placed 100th with a time of 28:41.2, junior Mara Adams placed 103rd with a time of 28:53.8, and sophomore Brooklyn Donia placed 126th with a time of 32:38.8.

The Colonels ended up placing 12th out of 15th teams and finished the six-kilometer race with 279 points. The team's best finish on the season as a whole came back during the Cougar Classic on Sept. 6.

The team finished second out of six teams for the event.

The men's team also had three meets this season, with one of its most recent meets taking place at Lock Haven University on Sept. 28.

First-year student Aiden Graff finished at the very top of the scoring sheet with a time of 26:48.9. Junior Caleb Edwards finished 20th with a time of 27:28.5 and first-year Jack Thompson was right behind him coming in 21st with a time of 27:29.2.

Senior Connor Anascavage came in 114th with a time of 30:34.3. Junior Zachary Spurrier came in 117th place with a time of 30:42.9. Sophomore Justin Ashman placed 154th with a time of 32:44.2.

The Colonels ended up placing seventh out of 18 teams and finished the eight kilometer race with 209 points and three runners inside the top 25. The teams best finish on the season as a whole also came during the Cougar Classic on Sept. 6.

The team also finished second out of six teams for the event, matching the women.

Both teams' most recent meet took

place last Saturday at the Aubrey Shenk Invitational, hosted by Gettysburg College.

The men did not score in the 8k race, but did have highlights to build on.

Thompson ran a season-best 26:10.8, finishing in 16th place. Spurrier also had a personal best with a 29:20.5, while Graff had a 26:58.5.

The women placed 19th in their event, coming with a score of 544.

Bailor led the Colonels with a time of 24:59.5 for 86th place, followed by Miller with a time of 27:39.1. Negra, Metz, and Donia also ran, with times of 28:03.2, 28:19.3, and 31:58.4, respectively.

Both teams now look forward to the Landmark Conference Championship race scheduled for Nov. 2 at 11 a.m., the event to be held at Elizabethtown College.



**CROSS  
COUNTRY**

**Aug 30th, TBA** *Dallas, PA*

*Misericordia Invitational*

**Sep 14th, TBA** *Dallas, PA*

*Cougar Classic*

**Sep 28th, TBA** *Lock Haven, PA*

*Lock Haven University*

**Oct 25th, TBA** *Lebanon, PA*

*Landmark Preview:  
Lebanon Valley College*

**Nov 2nd, TBA** *Lebanon, PA*

*Landmark Conference  
Championships*

**Nov 16th, TBA**

*NCAA Mid  
Atlantic  
Regional*

*Lock Haven, PA*

**ALL AWAY**



# Women's ice hockey eager to get back on the ice

**By Adam Grunt**  
Asst. Sports Editor

The Wilkes women's ice hockey team is eager to get back onto the ice after a successful 2023-24 season.

Last season, the team finished 18-7-2 during the regular season, and concluded their season in the United Collegiate Hockey Conference Quarterfinals. The team joins the men's in making the jump to the MAC after playing in the UCHC since the teams formation in 2018. The team joins the MAC after the school left the conference last year for all sports. The team went 11-1-1 against MAC teams last year.

This year, the team, recently voted as the best team in the MAC according to the preseason rankings, is looking to continue the successes from last season by working hard in preseason practices.

"So far practices have been great," said junior defender Anneke Bouma.

"The team has been bonding and there's been great chemistry on the ice. As a junior, I'm so excited to see what this year's team will accomplish. All the players have been doing great so far and all have individual valuable skills."

Head coach David LaBaff is entering his third season at the helm of the women's ice hockey program in 2024-25, and is excited for what's to come in the upcoming season.

"Our practices have been sharp, fast-paced, and fiercely competitive," LaBaff said.

"It's tough to single out individual standouts because the depth of talent across our lineup is exceptional. Every player, from the net out, has been pushing hard, and that collective effort is something we are eager to see translate into game situations."

That depth of talent is certainly going to be something to watch this season, as the team returns sophomore forward

Haylee Bouchard, who tallied 37 points in 27 games with the Colonels last season. In addition, Bouma tallied the second most points among those on the Colonels' defense last season with 10.

"I think our team will push each other to play the best we can and work harder and smarter than our opponents," said Bouma.

"We have our goals set for winning and toning our plays and skills. There will be ups and downs but the team will rise to the challenge."

All in all, the Colonels are preparing for a better result to their season, and hopefully one that ends in a championship. The team fell to Nazareth University in the UCHC semifinals last season, and looks to return to the playoffs this season and capture a championship.

The team, which is always diverse, welcomes first-year players from several different nations this season, including China, Canada and Slovakia, as well as a

graduate student who hails from Finland.

The chemistry being built within the team certainly exceeds the language barrier, as the team has one thing in mind: a championship.

"Our expectation every day is to show up with a relentless compete level, unwavering attention to detail, and a commitment to building elite habits both on and off the ice," said Coach LaBaff. "We set the bar high for ourselves, but our focus is internal – on our team's growth, execution, and unity – rather than getting caught up in outside noise or distractions."

The Colonels will kick off their season at the Utica University Kickoff Tournament in Utica, N.Y. on Nov. 1 when they take on Elmira College.

For more information on the women's ice hockey team as well as the rest of the athletic teams at Wilkes, please visit [gowilkesu.com](http://gowilkesu.com).

# Women's volleyball continues season competition

**By Ava Tureen**  
Sports Writer

The Women's Volleyball team has been in season since Aug. 30, and it has faced a variety of challenges. The team is currently 4-14 overall, but the season isn't over yet.

On Oct. 18, the team faced Lycoming College and lost 3-0. While Lycoming won all three sets, it wasn't an easy victory. Sierra Hines, a middle hitter in her final season, recorded three kills, two aces and two blocks during the match. Jenna Baron, another middle hitter and a junior, contributed five kills and two aces.

A kill is defined as successfully hitting the ball over the net and onto the opposing team's floor, while an ace is a serve that lands on the opponent's floor without being touched.

The team's latest win was a clean sweep against Marywood University. Wilkes competes in the Landmark Conference, while Marywood is in the Atlantic East.

Alex Cassel, the team captain and a senior setter from Mount Joy, Pa., was instrumental in the victory against Marywood, posting 22 assists, three blocks, and two aces.

Rachel Anderson, a sophomore setter from Canmore, Canada, also played a key role with four assists and two aces.

Kendra Kalp, a sophomore outside hitter from Somerset, Pa., had seven kills and 11 digs during the Marywood match.

Digs occur when a defensive player gets low to the ground to prevent the ball from touching the floor. Effective digging is essential for a successful defense.

This season, the team welcomed assistant coach Aly Yordy, a former player who returned to help the team improve. This is Yordy's first year coaching, and she describes the transition as challenging yet positive.

"It was really difficult at first not being able to play with all my old teammates, but it has gotten easier as the season has

progressed," Yordy said.

"This 2024 season has been challenging in the Landmark Conference, and I can see how I can help from the sidelines more than I did while playing the past couple of years."

While it's common for players to transition into coaching, the process can be complex. For Yordy, balancing the roles of friend and coach has been particularly challenging.

"There is a different level of respect between a teammate and a coach, and I have had to build that new bond with my former teammates. It's hard to give constructive criticism to the upperclassmen, but with the first-years,

I feel more comfortable helping them openly."

Despite the challenges, the team remains optimistic as it moves forward in the season, focusing on building strong relationships. After Yordy's first year coaching, she looks forward to helping future classes succeed.

The Colonels will look to continue to fight in their last couple games. Their next match is on Oct. 25, the women's volleyball team will compete against the University of Scranton at 7 p.m. in Scranton. Their next home match is against Goucher College on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.



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**[www.thewilkesbeacon.com](http://www.thewilkesbeacon.com)**



# Athlete of the Week

## Sarah Eliff

### Senior, Forward, Women's Soccer



#### ***The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week***

Eliff helped the Colonels to a massive win over Juniata College with one goal and one assist. She scored the tying goal from a penalty shot. One minute later, Eliff served a corner to Madison Sttraub for the game-winning goal.

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Hometown:** Owings, MD

#### **What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?**

My favorite memory I think is ringing the bell after every home game win. It's always a fun moment to come together as a team

#### **What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?**

The US Women's national soccer team

#### **What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?**

Hanging out with my friends and trying new places together. We end up taking trips to Pour more often than not for a much needed Chai or coffee.

#### **What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?**

The balance of school and sport. The professors and coaches are always supportive. They will work with me so that I can get the most out of both sides because there's an understanding that both my education and sport are most important to me

#### **What sports movie is your go-to**

#### **for movie night?**

My go-to sports movie is The Replacements

#### **If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?**

I would want to play lacrosse or possible basketball. I played when I was younger. Lacrosse is a sport I always wanted to try but never did besides just playing around for fun with a friend who did

#### **What has been your favorite sports memory overall?**

Playing over in Bermuda for a tournament and beating their U18 national team when I was in middle school. We played "We Are the Champions" on the bus ride home and has so much fun.

#### **What is your favorite post-game meal?**

Chicken Parmesan sub. Any Italian food really is just a go-to meal post game

#### **How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?**

I'm honoured to be recongnized. It's walsys nice to be recognized individually but I feel it is a great reflection of this team since I couldn't have done it alone without all of their hard work, dedication and support

The Beacon//Samantha Mullen

*Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."*



# Athlete of the Week

## Donell MacKey-Woodson

### Senior, Cornerback, Football

#### ***The Beacon:* Male Athlete of the Week**

MacKey-Woodson secured a hat-trick of interceptions against Lycoming College. With two of those being returned for touchdowns. He totaled 145 yards on his three picks, one of which was a 98-yard trip to the endzone.

**Major:** History; **Minor:** Sports Management

**Hometown:** Hartford, CT

**What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?**

Game-winning pick six against St. John Fisher and celebrating it with my teammates and the Wilkes community

**What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?**

Pittsburgh Steelers

**What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?**

Watching Animal Planet and Nat Geo Wild

**What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?**

Building a brotherhood with my teams and coaches. Having an amazing support system from my teachers, administrators and the Wilkes community. It is a great feeling

**What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?**

Coach Carter

**If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?**

Basketball

**What has been your favorite sports memory overall?**

Having three interceptions versus Lycoming College and returning for two touchdowns!

**What is your favorite post-game meal?**

New China Chinese Food

**How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?**

It's a great feeling to be selected and an amazing accomplishment to have. The preparation the team goes through every week resulted in my performance this past weekend. Our Scout Team puts on an amazing performance week in and week out. Without them, my performance would not be the same!

*Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Assistant Sports Editor*

The Beacon/Sam Mullen

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