

The BEACON

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

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Plans for 'green' building take center stage *SLC likely to morph into new SHE building*

BY MEGAN KRISANDA

Beacon Staff Writer

The year of the environment has dominated curricular and development conversations at Wilkes this year. And now, evolving plans for the university's first environmentally 'green' building are calling for faculty, students and staff to weigh in on the process.

Authorities acknowledge that initial planning has begun to add a Science, Health and Engineering (SHE) building to campus.

The building is to act as a "living laboratory" for students, according to Dr. Kenneth Klemow, professor of biology and geoenvironmental science.

"Students can conduct experiments on the building, monitor the use of electricity, production of water, the nature of gases coming out. Then students can try to manipulate certain things and create 'what-if' scenarios," said Klemow.

Klemow is part of a "programming team" involved in the early stages of planning the SHE building. "The team has evolved from an initial team we had over the summer in which we provided input to the consulting architects. We conducted a variety of site visits to different schools that have other green buildings on campus, or are planning them," said Klemow.

Currently, the team has offered presentations to the faculty of the departments that will be affected by the addition, such as Nesbitt School of Pharmacy and College of Science and Engineering.

The location of SHE building has been widely discussed. Some suggested tearing down and replacing all of Stark Learning Center (SLC), expanding it, or replacing some sections and leaving others. While early discussions placed the building on the southern edge of campus, currently the focus is on centralizing its location in an effort to "showcase" the finished product.



The Beacon/Allison Roth

Students work in one of SLC's aging laboratories. Once the SHE building is complete students will be able to monitor the building's energy usage.

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Technology thefts reported in Library, Capin

BY NICOLE FRAIL

Beacon Asst. News Editor

Over the past two and a half months, three vital pieces of technology have been removed from Wilkes University's campus. Between late November and mid January, two computers and one television were taken from the Farley Library and Capin Hall.

On November 19, a mini-Mac located on the first floor of the library was reported missing by a library employee after the keyboard was discovered unplugged and the plastic encasement empty. According to Gerald Rebo, manager of public safety, the monitor was left behind and the remaining cords for the connection were stolen at a later time.

"We never had a PC stolen before; it's the first time. But of course, the smaller these things get, the easier they are to walk out with," said Heidi Selecky, acting co-director of the Farley Library. "We were shocked to discover someone had gotten away with it."

Approximately two weeks later, a laptop was also taken from the library. According to Public Safety's incident report, on December 4, a Wilkes student borrowed a laptop from the circulation desk at ap-

proximately 11:00 a.m. The student was in possession of the laptop until around 9:30 p.m., when she left the library to get something to eat. The laptop was left in the media room, and when the student returned, it was gone. A library employee reported the laptop missing the following morning.

"We've had the laptops for four or five years and this is the first one we've lost," said Brian Sacolic, acting co-director of the Farley Library.

While the mini-Mac removed from the library in November has not yet been replaced by IT, the student in possession of the laptop when it was taken will be responsible for replacing the missing computer.

"The procedure is that they stop by the circulation desk, they sign a form, and they take their laptop. When you check out materials here at the library, you are responsible for them. The form the students sign, if you read the fine print, says 'I will take full responsibility for the loss, damage, etc. of the laptop'...

The student unfortunately will be responsible to recover the fair market price of the laptop. Fortunately, we did not have to charge her the full amount," said Sacolic.

The student who was in possession of the laptop when it was stolen declined to comment on the situation.

It is assumed by library staff and Public Safety officials that the people who took both the mini-mac and the laptop left the building through the front doors. While those who work at the circulation desk are trained to watch for suspicious activity and the gates at the entrance of the library are operational and will detect those items that are tagged, Selecky acknowledged that, "Nothing is fool-proof."

In order to eliminate future thefts, Wilkes' IT department is currently in the final stages of installing recording cameras in the library. While it's currently unknown where the cameras will

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Wilkes breaks internship records this semester with 141 and counting

BY AMY FUSCO
Beacon Staff Writer

Whether it involves aiding in the production of original television programming, figuring out the latest trends in the market, or sitting in on legal proceedings, Wilkes students can be found everywhere learning firsthand the ins and outs of the fields they plan to enter.

The number of student interns representing Wilkes University in the field has hit a record high this spring semester.

According to Sharon Castano, the Internship and Freshmen Coordinator for Student Development, the average number of students who obtain an internship for the spring semester is 100. This semester, the number increased to 141 student interns, which more than doubled the number from last fall.

"More students are signing up each day, so the number continues to grow," Castano stated. There are 25 students each for both business and communication studies majors who are leading the pack in interns. Both mechanical engineering and psychology, are not far behind with 17 interns respectively. Other majors such as criminology and history also have

students working for credit in their respective fields.

"[Wilkes University's] enrollment is increasing, so the number of students seeking internships will increase, too," Castano commented. She also believes that the second annual internship fair held last October impacted the turn out of interns this semester. There were 45 companies at the fair, each collecting resumes and some even interviewing on the spot. About 140 students participated in the internship fair and it is anticipated that this number will also grow at next semester's event already scheduled for October 23, 2008.

In addition to the success of the internship fair, Castano believes that many students wait for the semester before they graduate to have an internship because they are trying to fulfill their major's requirements. Furthermore, students will hear about other students' experiences while interning in the fall semester, which will lead them to seek similar experiences.

Dr. Deborah Tindell, an associate professor of psychology, is serving as an internship supervisor for two psychology major stu-

dents this semester. She believes that with the spring semester, the timing works out for many students. She explained that the internship fair and the psychology department's newsletter featuring an "Intern of the Month" section allow students to acknowledge that an internship program does exist at Wilkes University. "Part of it is by word-of-mouth and encouragement by faculty," Tindell added.

"[Through interning] I wanted to gain experience and apply the knowledge I've learned the last four years here at Wilkes," said Christopher Borgna, a senior psychology major and neurosciences minor, who is interning at the NeuroSensory Center of Eastern Pennsylvania. He added, "It's a lot easier setting up an internship at the fair because you are actually speaking to the people you may work with, which gives you the opportunity to better decide where you really would want to intern."

Marcus Magyar, a senior business administration major with a concentration in finance and a minor in economics, is interning with the online investment company, Scottrade, as a stockbroker intern. "I heard about the internships from

Sharon Castano in the co-op education department. She knew I was looking for a finance concentrated internship," explained Magyar. He believes that "the fair may have helped [increase the number of interns this semester] but it is a joint effort by all of Wilkes University professors and PPD programs, as they are always mentioning and encouraging opportunities to receive help from career services and the co-op offices."

Nicole Leader, a senior double major in sociology and political science, is interning at the Institute for Human Resources and Services Inc., a foster care/adoption agency located in Kingston. "I chose to

intern in the spring due to the fact that I feel that my schedule, which is normally jam packed... would allow me more time to spend at an internship," Leader states. For many students, it takes time and effort to plan for when they want to begin an internship.

According to the Wilkes University website a good place to start looking for an internship is to, "talk to your advisor for specific details about the program," and "consult with your advisor to decide if you are able to arrange a co-op or internship for your next semester."



Photo Courtesy Marketing Communications

Thanks in part to growing enrollment, word of mouth and internship fairs, Wilkes University has broken its internship record with 141 students currently engaging internships. Wilkes hopes to continue breaking its internship records by holding another internship fair on October 23, 2008. Pictured here are many of the record class of interns who are placed in a wide variety of organizations and businesses in the region.

The BEACON

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

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THEFT from FRONT PAGE

it's currently unknown where the cameras will be positioned, Sacolic expects to see several placed in the vicinity of the computers on the first floor. Rebo is hopeful that the cameras will be up by this summer.

"There's a difference between surveillance and recording. Surveillance implies that someone's on the opposite end watching. That's probably not going to be the case here," said Sacolic. "We want to keep the security measures in place based on the situation. We could lock things down and have air-tight security, but then it's a real hassle for the students to show off their bag and every other little thing... It's a balance between user friendly atmosphere and attitude with proper security in place without taking heavy duty, drastic security measures."

"We want the students to feel welcome here, and secure," added Selecky.

The most recent technological theft occurred the weekend before the spring semester began. Between Thursday, January 10, and Friday, January 14, a Panasonic 42-inch screen television was stolen from Capin Hall, Room 102. The television was purchased by the history department and, according to Rebo, had not been secured.

"We do have cameras in the rear of Capin for the greenway and I watched those tapes from the Thursday before to the Monday it was discovered. I watched those tapes and they didn't go out the back way," said Rebo. However, there are no cameras on the front porch of Capin.

There are no leads or suspects in what Rebo is calling "crimes of opportunity." Even though Wilkes University is a private institution, Farley Library is a public ac-

cess library and Capin Hall's doors are not locked during class time.

"We're a public access library and we have a community situation. It could be that students have a lot of gear these days - laptops, cell phones, iPods - and if someone wanted to take advantage of that, it wouldn't be a difficult thing to do," said Sacolic. "I just want to stress to the students that they have to be conscientious... You don't ever want to leave your laptop unattended or your equipment lying around."

Sacolic said that students are able to leave their belongings at the circulation desk if they have to leave the library for any reason and are planning to return.

"It's sorry to say, but whether it's students or the public, people do steal. It's a crime of opportunity... I think this university is going in the right direction with the technology. We're going to have quite [a few] cameras on campus once we're all done," said Rebo. Camera installation is an ongoing project that may be complete within two years.

Sacolic believes that the incidents with the mini-Mac and the laptop in the library may be coincidences. Rebo agrees; there is currently no evidence that any of the crimes, including the theft of the television in Capin, are linked.

Though no witnesses to the events have come forward, Rebo stressed the importance of reporting any crimes seen on campus. "Theft is the number one crime on college campuses... Help we get from the students, faculty or staff [is vital]. If you see something, call. The greatest information we can get is from the students, faculty and staff."



The Beacon/ Matt Gogas

A student borrows a laptop from an employee at the circulation desk in the Farley Library. A laptop and a min-mac desktop computer were stolen from the library within two weeks of each other. IT has agreed to place security cameras in the library to prevent future thefts. The cameras should be installed in time for next school year.

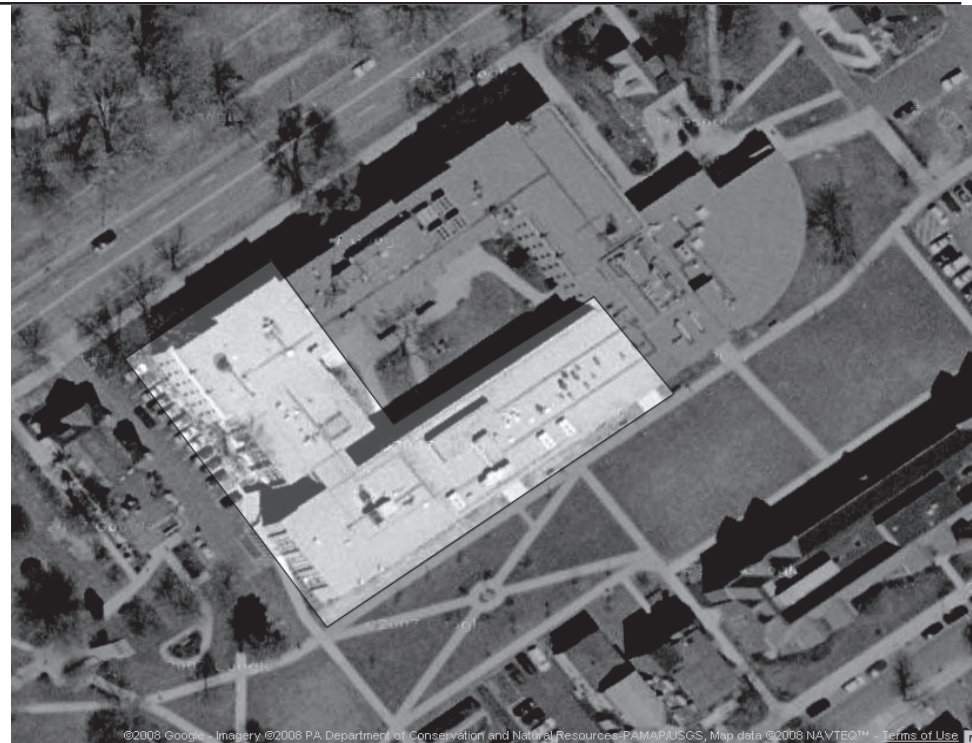


Photo Courtesy Google Earth

The highlighted portion of the Stark Learning Center is the portion that is being considered for renovation. The adaptations will be 'green' as part of the University's effort to become more eco-friendly. The building will also be a living lab. Students will be able to monitor energy usage throughout the building. The design phase will take up to 24 months because of the intricate details involved with attaching the new additions to the old sections of Stark.

SHE from FRONT PAGE

"What we're going to do is to take down part of Stark, the older part, the southern and eastern parts. And we are going to add another building to the northeastern corner of Stark. There is going to be some rearrangement within the building. Nursing will be coming in and joining us, and I think Nursing will be thrilled because their facilities are distributed around campus," said Klemow.

The building will be 'green' as part of the University's effort to become more eco-friendly. The building is intended to become LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified.

LEED is a national organization that reviews plans and implementation behind the construction of buildings and awards different levels of status depending on the 'green'-ness of the facility.

"We want to try and create a facility that minimizes both the energy footprint that the building will create and also the production of waste material. We are talking about putting in a green roof. We would create roofs in which we grow plants on them. We could deploy certain technologies such as solar panels to try to actually generate some electricity," said Klemow.

The planning stage is likely to

continue into spring semester through early summer.

"The next step would be the design phase. I don't know when it will start, but it could take anywhere from 18-24 months to design this building. After that, we go through the construction stage which could last anywhere from 12-24 months depending on how intricate things are, and if what will be involved to connect the addition to Stark," said John Pesta, director of capital projects and planning.

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News Analysis: *Beacon* Election Update

Making sense of the election, candidates and issues

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon News Editor

On Saturday, February 9, New York Senator Hillary Clinton appeared before a crowd looking defeated and tired after Illinois Senator Barack Obama was projected the winner in all of the states where a Democratic primary or caucus was held on that day.

Obama's most recent wins put him within 100 delegates of Clinton for the nomination.

Recently, Obama's burgeoning numbers at rallies, along with an uncanny ability to raise money, have helped him emerge as the party's "best candidate" according to several news sources. Some pundits have noted that Obama inspires voters in a way they haven't been since President John F. Kennedy.

Clinton, meanwhile, holds wins in important high delegate states like California and New York, and remains solid in her appeal to middle-aged women. Most acknowledge that the decision for the party nominee will likely not come until the convention, which means that the state of Pennsylvania, previously almost discounted as too late in the primary process to matter (in April), is now likely to be important to both remaining Democratic candidates.

On the Republican side of things Governor Mitt Romney withdrew from the race last week in a move that surprised some

party faithful,

Early in the week most news sources called McCain's nomination "inevitable." However, as Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee proved on Saturday, it isn't over yet. Huckabee won the majority of the states that held Republican contests on Saturday. This does not mean that he will pick up a lot of speed though. He still needs to win 90% of the remaining delegates to be the party's nominee.

The reason for Huckabee's win could be explained as backlash from Romney's exit from the race. Romney was widely hailed as the only viable "true" conservative because of his stance on abortion and illegal immigration. Now that he is out of the race those hardcore conservative voters look to the next best thing, Huckabee.

McCain's voting record dismays outspoken conservatives and media critics like Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter. They have predicted party defection if McCain gets the nod. McCain's record offers evidence that he has reached out to Democrats and taken a less than hard-line conservative stance on issues such as immigration.

Both Romney and McCain addressed the American Conservative Union's CPAC conference last week. Romney was the favorite among this crowd, despite his unpopular announcement that he would be stepping back from his presidential bid

in an effort to ensure a unified Republican party this summer.

A few hours later McCain greeted the same crowd. His appearance was quite different from Romney's, though. McCain was greeted with boos and Romney supporters remained in their seats with their arms folded in a show of solidarity.

The race for the presidential nominations for both parties may be further complicated by the announcement last week that Independent, Ralph Nader, has again formed an exploratory committee to examine another bid for the presidency in November. Nader, known to many as the "spoiler" in 2000, could win independent voters that both McCain and Obama have relied upon heavily to date.

So it is safe to say that this race is far from over.



Who's won what?

In the bid for the presidency in 2008, the primary and caucus season is now more than half finished. In *The Beacon's* ongoing effort to educate Wilkes voters, the following is summary of the state standings and winners to date.

Key:

C = Clinton

H = Huckabee

O = Obama

R = Romney

M = McCain

Alabama: H / O

Alaska: R / O

Arizona: M / C

Arkansas: H / C

California: M / C

Colorado: R / O

Connecticut: M / O

Delaware: M / O

District of Columbia: Feb. 12

Florida: M / C

Georgia: H / O

Hawaii: May 18 (R) / Feb. 18 (D)

Idaho: May 27 (R) / O

Illinois: M / O

Indiana: May 6

Iowa: H / O

Kansas: H / O

Kentucky: May 20

Louisiana: H / O

Maine: R / Feb. 10 (D)

Maryland: Feb. 12

Massachusetts: R / C

Michigan: R / C

Minnesota: R / O

Mississippi: March 11

Missouri: M / O

Montana: R / June 3 (D)

Nebraska: May 13 (R) / O

Nevada: R / C

New Hampshire: M / C

New Jersey: M / C

New Mexico: June 3 (R) / ? (D)

New York: M / C

North Carolina: May 6

North Dakota: R / O

Ohio: March 4

Oklahoma: M / C

Oregon: May 20

Pennsylvania: April 22

Rhode Island: March 4

South Carolina: M / O

South Dakota: June 3

Tennessee: H / C

Texas: March 4

Utah: R / O

Vermont: March 4

Virginia: Feb. 12

Washington: M / O

West Virginia: H / May 13 (D)

Wisconsin: Feb. 19

Wyoming: R / Mar. 8 (D)

Key:



Sen. Hillary Clinton



Gov. Mike Huckabee



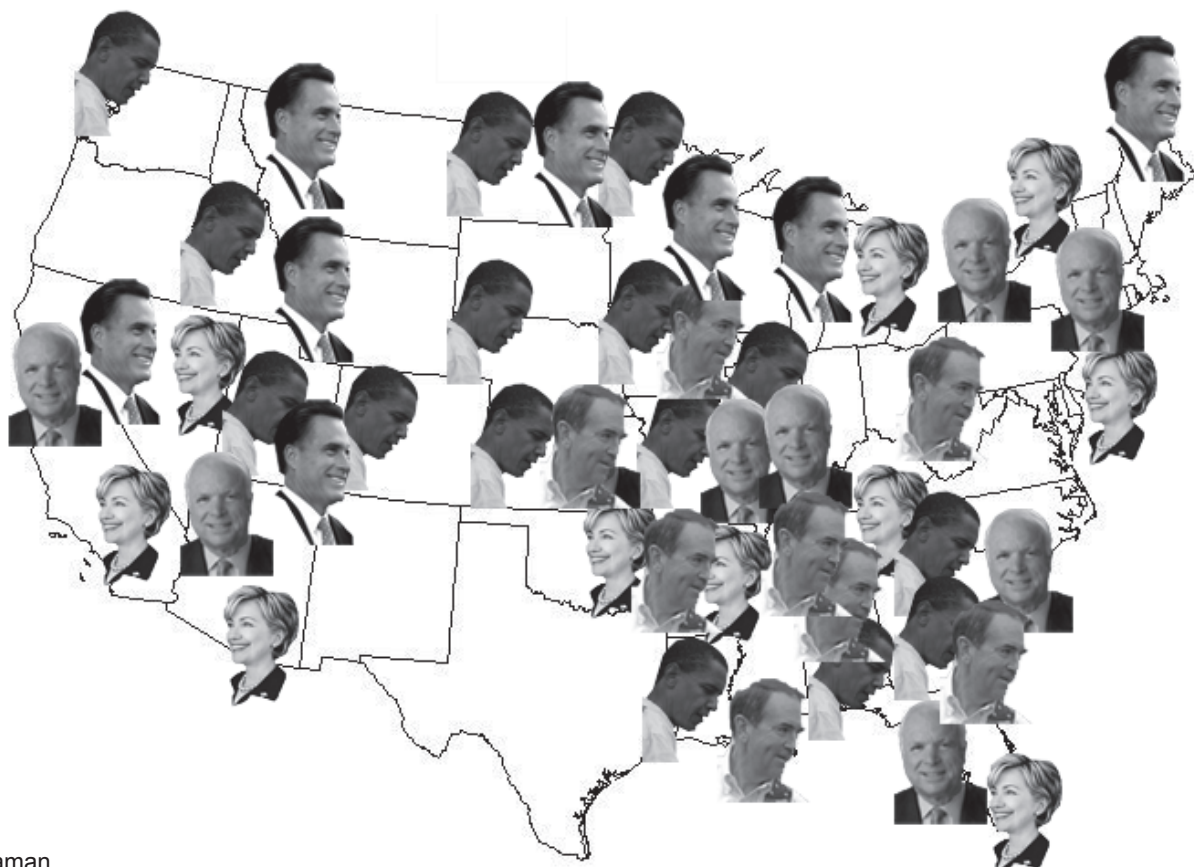
Sen. John McCain



Sen. Barack Obama



Gov. Mitt Romney



Beacon News Briefs

Local, National, and International News Snippets

Local

(WILKES-BARRE) Wilkes University's Marketing Club is accepting cell phone donations in any condition for the "Donate-a-Phone" campaign. Donations can be dropped off in Breiseth 214 until mid-February. All donations will benefit the Domestic Violence Center.

(HAZELTON) On Thursday, February 7, Mayor Lou Barletta announced that he is running for Congress. Barletta, who has received national attention due to his anti-illegal immigration approach, will run as a Republican in an effort to unseat 12-term Democratic Representative Paul Kanjorski.

(DAUPHIN COUNTY) Louis DeNaples, owner of Mount Airy Casino Resort, pled not guilty to charges of four counts of perjury on Wednesday, February 6. DeNaples is charged with lying to Harrisburg officials about having ties to organized crime and the Pennsylvania State Gaming Board in order to receive a gaming license to open the resort. DeNaples was released on his own recognizance and is awaiting his preliminary hearing.

National

(LOS ANGELES) On Saturday, February 10, union leaders announced they may have reached a tentative three-year deal with production companies to bring the Hollywood writer's strike closer to an end. With the possibility of the writers' strike ending this week, new episodes of late night talk shows, prime-time dramas, and events like the Oscars will return.

(HOUSTON) Plans to attach a \$2 billion dollar European science laboratory to the International Space Station were delayed due to a health issue concerning one of the members of Atlantis' crew. Due to privacy issues, the name of the astronaut and the extent of the

health problem were not been disclosed. The chairman of NASA's Space Management Team claim that the illness was not life threatening.

(WASHINGTON) After a bipartisan vote of 354 to 58 on Thursday, February 7, the House approved legislation to create a federal list of 136 of the wealthiest colleges in the US in order to stabilize costs of college tuition instead of raising them. The bill will raise the Pell grant's maximum amount from \$5,800 to \$9,000, a significant difference to needy students who apply for the award.

International

(TOKYO) When a Russian Air Force bomber violated Japanese air space on Saturday, February 10, Japan promptly launched 22 fighter jets and immediately contacted Moscow to protest. Three minutes after receiving warnings from the jets, the Russian Tupolev 95 left the air space. The Russian Air Force denied the incident.

(LONDON) Late Saturday, February 10, a fire tore through Camden Market, the center of London's alternative fashion scene and partially engulfed popular celebrity hot spot, Hawley Arms. More than 100 firefighters were on the scene to fight the blaze, but the cause of the flames at the tourist draw was still unknown Sunday morning.

(BARINAS, Venezuela) On Saturday, February 10, President Hugo Chavez announced that Venezuelan authorities are preparing for the release of Gloria Polanco, Luis Eladio Perez and Orlando Beltran, three hostages who were kidnapped in 2001 by Columbian rebels. The hostages are in supposed good condition and their families, who turned to Chavez for help in their safe return, are looking forward to their return home. Because there is no guarantee or time limit for the release, a date has yet to be set by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia.

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

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Steve Husted
Graphic Artist for "The Weekender"
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Kenya's heartache is Wilkes's challenge

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

Since December 27, 2007, Kenya has gone from one of the most stable, tourist rich countries on the African continent to one of the most violent and dangerous places in the world.

On that date, Kenya held its presidential election, and the outcome returned President Mwai Kibaki to power. Kibaki is known to have little concern for those in his country who suffer any sort of hardship or problems. He won over the more powerful and younger candidate Raila Odinga.

Odinga's supporters insist that the election was rigged and is therefore invalid. They also would rather see their country destroyed than be turned over to the leadership of Kibaki.

In outrage, teenagers armed with machetes, farmers armed with clubs, and others protested what they believed to be an unjust election and the promise of continued oppression. In one month, the death toll in the country has risen above 1,000, according to both BBC and Reuters reports. The United Nations reports that over one-half million people have been displaced and now face starvation and disease.

So, what should Americans do about this? What actions can we take to help the citizens of Kenya? Frankly we don't know.

After long editorial staff discussions about what should happen, we could not come to an agreement. For us to say that the United States should just wait and see what happens seems too isolationist. The fact is, America's action or inaction on any international crisis sends a signal to the rest of the world. And people are dying. It is irresponsible, perhaps even immoral, to stand by idly and say and do nothing.

On the other hand, how do we know that forcing one plan of action onto the country is the right thing for that country's own culture? If America weighs in on civil war, isn't it likely to impose Amer-

ican ideals and American culture upon a nation with its own unique cultural heritage and needs?

Barring Nobel Peace Prize-worthy plans for specific change in Kenya, *The Beacon* staff has thought of some things that will make the Wilkes University student body more culturally aware overall. Education is, after all, the first step toward action.

Suggestion #1: to Student Government. Please bring back Wilkes student free copies of the *New York Times* newspaper.

We are guided by the words of Joseph Pulitzer: "Put [a newspaper] before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."

While yes, students can learn about Kenya and other international challenges online, students also require the knowledge that a worldwide paper provides. The *New York Times* remains one of the most important sources of in-depth analysis and international news coverage in the world, and students who have access to it have the opportunity to engage in class discussion and casual conversation about issues more far-reaching than parking problems at Wilkes. It is that simple. If students have the paper sitting by the door in the Henry Student Center, they might pick it up and find something that interests them. There is just something about having a newspaper of that caliber in front of you that makes you feel more connected to the outside world.

Pennsylvania State University implemented a newspaper system for its students, and surveys show

that over half of the student population said they believed the program contributed to their ability to have a conversation. In addition students read the paper four times per week.

Suggestion #2: to all student organizations. Consider hosting as many diverse and culturally-based speakers as possible. If we can expose the student body to as many cultures as possible our student body cannot help but become more culturally aware.

But of course, there is no guarantee that 'if you build it, they will come.' It is also up to the student body, faculty and staff to make an effort to attend such events and actively engage. We encourage everyone on campus to set a personal goal to attend two cultural events per semester. This weekend, for example, Wilkes hosted a Chinese New Year celebration in the Henry Student Center. While the event will occur shortly after this issue is put to bed, our hope is for a good turn out.

Such events expose all students and faculty to people, customs and cultures different from their own.

Suggestion #3: to university administrators. Advancing a campus in its world literacy requires commitment of resources. If this campus is to produce future problem solvers who can address conflicts like the current one in Kenya, we need to send students to conferences, offer a variety of study abroad opportunities and help students afford them, and we need to open all major speaking engagements such as the Outstanding Leaders Forum and the Rosenn Lecture to students free of charge.

Suggestion #4 to all Wilkes community members. Cultivate

a climate of active listening and sensitivity on campus. One of the reasons that countries dissolve into violence and chaos is because communication channels break down. When they do, sensitivity to the plights of others evaporates.

While we are powerless to manufacture a new and effective means by which factions in Kenya can better communicate, we are capable of building good models right here that may be useful down the line.

On a very basic level, when you see another student in need, do not be afraid to lend them a hand. Maybe someday they will return the favor. Think about how you feel after someone, who does not expect anything in return, comes over to lend you a hand. It is like a natural high and you just feel good about people.

So, our solution to the violence in Kenya is really no solution at all that will touch the country directly--at least not right away.

While we do not advocate going into the country with force, or even simply dropping peacekeepers into the middle of the conflict, we leave the actual peace-brokering to ambassadors and NGOs with the sort of clout necessary to move change along quickly.

Instead, we focus on a local solution that acknowledges *we are the future* and that Kenya's current conflict will not be the last of its kind in our lifetime. Wilkes students, you are our solution. You are the best way to make a difference in the world. Become educated. Become informed. Acknowledge that it's a big world out there and we may well be its future peace-makers.

Beacon

Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus. Results are based on 35 responses.

The Beacon asked:

What country would you want to study abroad in?

- Greece-17%
- Japan-9%
- Peru-9%
- South Africa-0%
- China-9%
- New Zealand-22%
- Russia-0%
- Germany-13%
- France-4%
- Other-17%

Next Week's Question:

If Cupid's arrows had gone astray, who would be the worst Valentine's couple ever?

- Rosie O'Donnell & Donald Trump
- Miley Cyrus & R. Kelly
- Britney Spears & Dr. Phil
- Michael Jackson & The Jonas Brothers
- Pamela Anderson & Bill Gates
- Mary-Kate Olsen & a Cheeseburger
- Amy Winehouse & Prince William
- Tom Cruise and Elisabeth Hasselbeck
- Hugh Hefner & Betty White
- Cher & Mitt Romney

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



A Sight for Sore Eyes By Aleksander Lapinski

“Jukebox Hero” anything but heroic to music lovers

BY NICK PODOLAK
Beacon Editor-in-Chief

“You know, a bar offers all kinds of other things other than alcohol,” said Kurt Russell as Stuntman Mike in the 2007 flick *Death Proof*. “Women. Nacho Grande platters. The fellowship of some fascinating individuals...”

I would like to add one more thing to the Stuntman’s list...the juke box.

Originally a coin-operated phonograph in the 1920s, the jukebox gained massive popularity in the “Happy Days” generation of the 50s and 60s, spinning vinyl 45s on a bulky contraption that resembled a cross between R2D2 and a Cadillac.

In the compact disc era, patrons could now flip between album sleeves and seek the track they wished to play by reading the

listings on the back.

But in this tinny-sounding era of digital music, where MP3s and illegal downloading are all the rage, the good ‘ol Rock O-las and Wurlitzers are being replaced by these wall-mounted sentries known as TouchTunes.

TouchTunes is the first commercial digital-downloading jukebox, released in 1998, and contains over two million licensed tracks from all major and independent labels in its digital library.

Sounds almost too good to be true, right? Well, it most certainly is. After feeding



a dollar into the machine, the customer is granted two plays, (one less than the standard jukebox allows) and instead of flipping through the albums, the customer must drag his or her finger down a scrollbar marked A-Z to find the first letter of the artist’s name.

The only problem is, customers are only provided with one or two hits by each artist, and in order to search TouchTune’s vast library, they must feed another dollar into the machine.

To further complicate things, there is the ever-so-annoying Play Now feature, which means

that for another dollar, somebody can cut your songs off and start theirs. For example, let’s say I just dished out \$10 worth of AC/DC, and some idiot comes along and selects the whole Alvin and the Chipmunks Christmas album. For an extra buck, the Chipmunks fan can hit “Play Now,” and I’ll be lucky if I hear two of my songs before the night’s end. It’s a money making scam that has made playing tunes on the juke a competition.

The jukebox once gave a place character. People would actually go to a bar simply because it had a great jukebox, flipping through song after song only to find a gem to impress their friends (and clientele). Sadly, TouchTunes has ruined this whole musical experience, making it too expensive to be the “Jukebox Hero.”

And where is the Led Zeppelin?

“No Child Left Inside Fund” no solution to obesity issue

BY MARK CONGDON JR.
Beacon Opinion Editor

How would American children feel if their government forced them to play outside? How would they feel if after a long day of school and work American children were penalized by the government for playing video games and watching TV? How might American parents feel if the federal government implemented a special tax on televisions and video games in order to deter obesity and force their children to engage in more physical activity?

No, this is not the plot to a newly discovered George Orwell novel. According to a recent CNN.com article, a coalition of groups led by the Rio Grande chapter of the Sierra Club is lobbying the New Mexico legislature to pass a bill that would place a 1% sales tax on televisions, video games, and video game equipment. The tax revenue would be used for government sponsored outdoor education programs as a means of deterring children from sitting on the couch and to encourage them to be more athletic. The bill attempts to combat childhood obesity.

Some argue that if cigarettes and alcohol are taxed in order to deter people from engaging in unhealthy, even self-destructive behavior, then why not do the same for television, video games and equipment; it’s only fair, right?

Wrong. Taxing such items is likely to cause more of a financial burden on people who can afford it the least. Although it’s only a 1% tax, it adds up and money is tight. Moreover, the article reported that, “The tax could put New Mexico retailers at a disadvantage as they compete with online

stores and retailers that offer downloadable games.”

There are more prominent factors that contribute to obesity than children passively watching TV and playing video games. Irresponsible parenting and the lifestyles parents allow their kids to live are a big factor in the current obesity epidemic. The television and video game industries shouldn’t be punished for parents’ mistakes.

Ultimately, while childhood obesity and resulting health problems such as juvenile diabetes are at an all-time high in American society, it’s important to remember that America as a whole has never been fatter. We often need look no further than the parents of the children for whom this initiative is proposed to understand that obesity is a family problem. According to a recent CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) report, 22 states reported a prevalence of adult obesity (which is considered equal to or greater than 30 BMI) in 20-25% of their population.

As a child, I was obese, weighing around 155 pounds in the fifth grade. I didn’t play sports, not because I played video games or was lazy, but because I wasn’t good at them. I was constantly picked on and the bullying I endured caused me psychological problems during my elementary and middle school years. Because of these constant put-downs, I would eat food as a way to deal with my problems, and become even more overweight. The low self-esteem born of awkwardness and a lack of athletic aptitude led to the obesity. Or was it the other way around?

Although I am healthy and in shape now,

and could not care less what others think of me, having a tax like this wouldn’t have deterred me from watching TV or playing video games, and I wouldn’t have been any more motivated to play outside. What I needed was to adopt a more positive attitude. At the time, though, I didn’t feel as if I had a place to go to try to become more positive and deal with issues in ways other than eating food for comfort.

If the government taxes its people who choose a sedentary lifestyle, what’s next? Putting a tax on puppies because their owner won’t pick up their droppings when they walk in public?

Having a tax on these products and using the money to create outdoor social programs will not work, and there are other more effective solutions that could

help combat childhood obesity that are already available at our disposal. Existing alternatives include increasing the amount of time school students spend in physical education, eliminating unhealthy junk foods and beverages in schools, and including a healthy lifestyle curriculum into public schools’ health program.

More importantly however, there needs to be some type of an effective comfort zone space where students who struggle with their weight can go to get advice, be heard and get positive emotional encouragement and feedback, such as guidance counselors or school psychologist. If schools don’t have an effective guidance counseling program, that’s where the funds need to be redirected.

Here’s to you...

Mr. Really Loud Cell Phone Talker

BY GINO TROIANI
Staff Writer/Photographer

Here’s to you Mr. Really Loud Cell Phone Talker. Comparable to William Hung, we don’t want to, but we can’t help but listen. No matter where you are, we can always pick you out in a crowd. While the rest of us are trying to mind our own business, you never seem to have a problem breaking that awkward silence. Of course no one cares about your aunt Ruth, girlfriend, or dog Fluffy, but we can always count on you to inform us. Keep on keeping on!



Drawing By: Matt Vital

The Angry Rant: No Voter, No Cry

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

It's one of those years again. That's right, a leap year. A year that is going to be so busy that we actually need another day added to our calendars in order to fit everything in. Regardless of what the scientific community tells you, leap years don't exist to keep the calendars synchronized; instead, there is a far greater reason for the leap year:

The Presidential Election.

The genius who thought up the idea of the leap year did so in order to prevent us from losing a full day of our lives watching the election unfold on television, while we blissfully remain ignorant to the rest of the outside world. True story: A friend of mine actually missed the birth of his first child during the last election because he spent the entire night flipping back and forth between MSNBC and CNN, in a futile attempt to see which channel said the word "projected" more.

To be fair, though, his kid was pretty unspectacular. I mean, he is almost four-years-old and he can't even ride a bike yet. Weak.

Anyhow, now that Super Tuesday has come and gone, Americans are left with a limited selection of candidates from which to choose on the Presidential Menu. As the field diminishes with each passing day, options dwindle to nothing more than a garden salad and the smoked catfish.

After everything unfolded last week, we

were left with a clear front runner of the Republican party in John McCain, who proved that people over 70 really can live a normal life - not that there was really a debate over that.

On the other side of the political spectrum, the Democratic party narrowed its choice to Hillary "My husband was President, so I have experience by proxy" Clinton, and Barack "Hussein" Obama. That's actually his middle name, it's not a joke.

Others that suffered a crushing blow on Super Tuesday include Mitt Romney, who spent over \$30 million out of his own pocket to finance his campaign before dropping out of the race. What a shame, now he is only worth \$200 million.

Former Senator John Edwards ran a solid campaign, but he was forgotten faster than a Jodie Foster movie.

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee has made some headway during the primaries, but his campaign is all but a lost cause at this point, despite the fact that he had Chuck Norris as one of his main supporters. Many critics point to his foreign policy as his biggest weakness, but the truth is that his campaign slogan of "Chuck Norris IS the electoral college" turned a lot of people off after Norris would lie in wait outside of voting booths with the intent of roundhouse kicking anyone who voted for McCain.

All joking aside, this election is vitally

important to our nation, just like every election that preceded it. History could be made during this election, and with the impending recession looming around the corner, Americans have to be more involved in the process than ever.

However, we all know what's going to happen. There is going to be a large push for young voter turnout, akin to the "Vote or Die" campaign of 2004, and the same thing is going to happen: Nothing. Young people aren't going to vote, just like the last election and the election before that. Consider this: In four years, most college students are going to be entering the workforce in some capacity. Isn't it important to them (or yourself) what the state of the country is? How are taxes? What's the unemployment rate? Will the draft be reinstated? (The answer to that is no, but you get the point.)

One of my biggest pet peeves with people is when they complain when things don't go their way, notwithstanding the fact that they did nothing to help their own cause. The same thing can be said with the voters in this country. The last time that we had a voter turnout of over 60% was in 1968. However, those same people who don't vote will sit back and complain about the state of things.

But here's the thing: If you don't vote, you forfeit the right to complain.

It's true, if you don't participate in the political process, then why should you com-

plain? No one goes into a restaurant and says "surprise me," do they? That would be ridiculous.

Classic excuses:

But I don't like any of the candidates.

Last election, there were literally over ten people that you could have voted for. If you don't care for the Republican or the Democratic nominee, then vote for someone else. At least your voice will be heard.

But my vote doesn't make a difference!

True, one vote might not determine the election, but what if it did? That's the power that voters have.

But I'm too busy to pay attention to this stuff. sure you are. But you're not too busy to browse YouTube for hours, watch wrestling on cable television, or stare at the walls of your apartment or dorm room and complain that there's nothing to do in town.

But don't I have the right not to vote?

I suppose you do, but non-voters don't impact a vote.

Voting is a right that is given to most, something that other countries are fighting and dying for on a daily basis. It's a privilege more than anything else, and every single person in this country who is able to vote should be registered and in line come November.

That's it for this week, readers. And, as of last week, if you don't agree with me, then you're wrong.

For the first time, young voters actually hold power

BY LAUREN SALEM

Beacon Staff Writer

The last time this country has seen masses of young voters flocking to an election was in 1972, when the voting age was lowered to 18. Given the state of the nation at that point, there was certainly much for young people to care about and want to vote for (or against).

But after that high point in 1972, voting trends suggest that most people under the age of 30 quickly lost interest in presidential elections. Analysts have chalked this up to many factors, but mostly disillusionment with national leadership. But at the turn of the millenium, some polls indicated that young people were again beginning to re-engage and pay closer attention.

According to *Time* magazine, only 13% of voters 18-to-29-years-old paid attention to presidential campaigns in 2000, but that number increased to 42% in 2004, and has taken yet another leap to 74 % in 2008. In addition, 7 of 10 young voters said that they

pay closer attention to the presidential race than celebrity news or sports.

This year, presidential candidates have been working to woo young voters to caucuses and primaries through the use of new technologies provided by the internet as well as text messaging. Social networking and videos posted on YouTube have gotten young voters involved, which caused record-shattering youth turnouts in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaries. And somewhat unusual appeals have also surfaced. Amber Lee Ettinger, better known as "Obama Girl", has emerged as a YouTube and music video sensation with her musical tributes to Barack Obama called "I've Got a Crush on Obama" and "Super Obama Girl."

On the Republican side, Mike Huckabee won Iowa, because of his "young evangelicals," a part of his campaign called "Huck's Army," which netted 37 % of young voters. Young voters also helped John McCain win New Hampshire, and to some extent South Carolina.

Exit polls from South Carolina and Iowa

show that Obama received more than half of the youth vote, helping him to win both states. Last spring, Obama hired Hans Riemer, his youth vote director, which benefited Obama the most out of all the other candidates, according to an article posted by the *Morris Daily Herald*.

While Obama may have been the first among this year's candidates to reach out to young voters, others like Hillary Clinton quickly caught onto the trend and launched her "Students for Hillary" campaign at high schools and college campuses across California using her daughter, Chelsea, as the campaign's icon. Analysts attribute Clinton's strong showing on Super Tuesday, at least in part, to that effort.

According to a recent article in *The Buffalo News*, David Burstein, who has recently released a documentary called "18 in '08" said, "What these technologies are doing is they're giving young people an unprecedented amount of power and access to the political process."

While college students don't regularly watch the news, or read the newspaper,

their universal attachment to the internet ensures access to political appeals; they can catch a candidate's speeches and debates on YouTube. They also share their thoughts through social networking groups on sites like Facebook and Myspace, which bring people together and ultimately can receive billions of hits per day.

A study from last year at the Students' Public Interest Research Group, which works to turn out votes nationwide among college students, found that sending a text message asking students to vote a day before an election resulted in a 4 % increase in student turnout at the polls.

The tides appear to be turning, and just as Pennsylvania may matter in its primary to be held in April (at least on the Democratic side, as things are unlikely to shake out before then), young voters now appear to have a newfound power to sway the election.

Pay attention. Ask questions about the issues that matter to you. Vote. This year, for a change, it appears it may make a difference.

Valentine's Day targets lovers...and wallets

BY MARK CONGDON JR.
Beacon Opinion Editor

It's that time of year again when love is in the air and in romance all things are possible. Yes, February 14, Valentine's Day, happens this week. But how did this holiday get started and how is it observed today?

According to the History Channel, there are many legends to how this love-fest all began. HistoryChannel.com notes that St. Valentine's Day contains remnants of both ancient Roman and Christian traditions.

One of the most popular legends is that St. Valentine was actually the first to send a 'valentine' greeting. It is believed that while he was imprisoned because he refused to worship the Roman Gods, he fell in love with a young woman who would visit him.

It's alleged that before his death, he wrote her a letter and signed it, "From your Valentine," an expression that is still used today. While there is much folklore as to how and why Valentine's Day began, and we may never know the complete truth behind this holiday, the legends paint Valentine's character as a compassionate and romantic icon.

His idealized character is celebrated to this day, and millions of people all around the world express their love and affection to their sweethearts with cards, candy and gifts.

While, a popular American tradition, St. Valentine's Day is not exclusive to the United States. Dr. Anne Heineman Batory, professor of marketing in the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership is spending the semester in the United Kingdom and has also ob-

served cultural traditions for the holiday. "Valentine's Day is a holiday here as well -- the red lights and decorations have been up since early January. As in the USA, it is a big evening for dinners at pubs and restaurants (second only to Mother's Day). Flowers, always a big draw, are the gift of choice here. The flower markets are beautiful," she said.

Dr. Mary Beth Mullen, CSE Advising Coordinator for University College, explained that over the years, Valentine's Day has changed since she was an undergraduate student.

"When my husband and I started dating, it was 1975. We were in college, and if we went out to dinner it would be someplace inexpensive. We would also get each other a small gift because we were students without much money," Mullen said. "Now, we still get each other something small but stay in. Having an evening of quiet relaxation by the fireplace at home is how we like to celebrate Valentine's Day. Just spending time together is more important than going out," stated Mullen.

She added, "Today, I see numerous ads for diamonds and other jewelry; it's just excess. But there are more non-tangible ways to show your sweetheart you love them. Now, it's the bigger the gift, the more you love them, and it's not right!"

According to a recent Forbes.com article, the average Valentine's Day consumer will spend approximately \$120 on the holiday this year, up from last year's average of \$101. The article report-

ed that in total, American citizens will spend around \$16.9 billion on their lovers this year. Some of the biggest industries that profit financially from Valentine's Day are those that sell jewelry, candy, greeting cards and flowers.

In order to attract customers, Plumb Gold, a jewelry store located in the Wyoming Valley Mall, is having special promotions for the holiday for lovers, which appear to be working. Melissa Bacorn, the store

man-

ager of Plumb Gold, said, "Valentine's Day is one of our biggest holidays...Love is in the air, and it's fun time to work."

Valentine's Day is an especially lucrative holiday for florists. Rick Berry, the owner of McCarthy Flowers in downtown Wilkes-Barre, counts it as the biggest holiday for the shop.

"It's the largest holiday for us of the year, sales volume-wise. We've been here for 25 years...our customers know about the quality we provide," said Berry. "This year sales are up compared to years past...college students have been coming in more."

Many students appear to be enjoying the romantic atmosphere that Valentine's Day brings with it.

Mandy Petrosky, sophomore integrated media major, stated that she enjoys the holiday because, "I have a cute outfit picked out, and it's the only time of the year when you can get the candy conversation hearts."

"Valentine's Day is a special holiday because it's one of the only times of the year when it's acceptable to be a hopeless romantic...It's kind of corny, but it's fun



The Beacon/Christine Zavaskas

This Valentine's Day, consumers will spend about \$120 on their loved ones, up from last year's average of \$101.

to show your love in a more sentimental way," said Danielle Capone, sophomore nursing major.

When Petrosky was asked what she planned to get her sweetheart, she replied, "I like to make my Valentine's Day cards because I think it means a little more...I'm probably going to spend between \$30 and \$40 to make a Valentine's Day dinner."

Capone said that she plans to get her darling some "chocolates and a movie."

Regardless if St. Valentine's Day has evolved over the years, one thing is still for sure, believes Capone.

"Valentine's Day is a day that celebrates the love and appreciation you have for those you care about," she said. "Whether you plan to spend your Valentine's Day with friends, family or your significant other, it's nice to go out of your way to do something nice for someone you love."



The Beacon/Matt Gogas



The Beacon/Christine Zavaskas

Student of the Week: Mario DellaFortuna

BY CHRISTINE ZAVASKAS
Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

For one to four hours a week you will not find Mario DellaFortuna, a junior biology major with a minor in secondary education, playing sports, doing class work, or even spending time with his college friends. Instead, DellaFortuna is spending time with his "little brother," James.

DellaFortuna became a volunteer for the organization Big Brothers Big Sisters last October. According to the organization's website, www.bbbs.org, "Big Brothers Big Sisters matches children ages 6 through 18 with mentors in professionally supported one-to-one relationships." Volunteers then spend time with their "little" in order to provide an encouraging role model and friend.

In addition to this community service, DellaFortuna is also a member of the football team, the Education Committee Chair for Tri Beta (the biology honor society), and a member of Education Club. For his dedication to being a positive role model, *The Beacon* has chosen DellaFortuna as this week's Student of the Week. *The Beacon* sat down with him to find out more about his experiences as a "big brother."

The Beacon: How did you get involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters?

DellaFortuna: For one of my classes, Multicultural Education, we were encouraged to do community service. There was this big list of topics. Big Brother Big Sisters

was the first thing my friend and I saw and we knew right away we wanted to do it.

The Beacon: Why did you pick that community service?

DellaFortuna: I thought it would help me, because I want to be a teacher. Also, I grew up in a town that was similar to this. There were a lot of bad influences around, so I wanted to be a positive role model. Plus, my coach for football always stresses how he wants people to be part of the community and be those types of positive role models.

The Beacon: What kind of activities do you do with your "little brother"?

DellaFortuna: Last week, we actually went to the Penguins game. We've also played basketball and gone to the movies, stuff like that.

The Beacon: What have you learned from this experience?

DellaFortuna: I've learned skills that will help me deal with things when I become a teacher. Just talking with somebody younger than me on a regular, consistent basis helps me make sure I can connect with them.

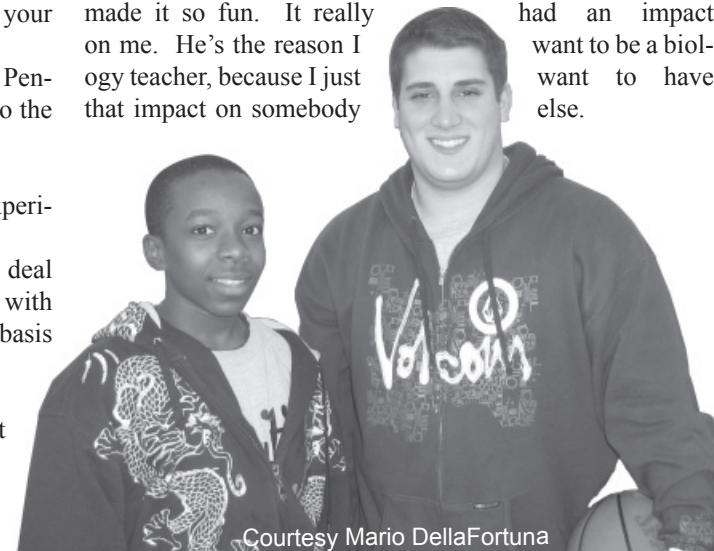
The Beacon: What is your most memorable moment with your "little brother"?

DellaFortuna: For his birthday, I got him a gift and he was really happy. It was nice to see his expression

because...I got him a basketball not even knowing that like a week earlier, his basketball had gotten run over by a car. So it worked out perfect and he was really happy. It was really nice.

The Beacon: Since Big Brothers Big Sisters is all about being a positive role model, who is your role model?

DellaFortuna: One of them was my high school biology teacher that I had my freshman year of high school. I always liked math and science better than English, and when I took biology with him as a freshman he just made it so fun. It really had an impact on me. He's the reason I want to be a biology teacher, because I just want to have that impact on somebody else.



Courtesy Mario DellaFortuna

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Summer African tour offers Wilkes community exotic experience

BY LAUREN SALEM

Beacon Staff Writer

The seats on the flight to East Africa are filling quickly, and only up to twenty-five people can experience the best trip of them all according to Dr. James Merryman, an anthropology professor at Wilkes University.

Merryman hosted a question-answer session in the Miller Room of the Henry Student Center on February 5 about a special summer excursion to Tanzania and Zanzibar he is sponsoring. Tom Kisura, the owner of the tour company, Safari Dreams, was also on hand to answer questions.

"I built this trip to Africa for all the people who hate packaged tours," Merryman said. "It combines a classic big game safari and a vacation on an exotic Indian Ocean island paradise."

From August 4-16, Merryman will lead a trip to Tanzania and Zanzibar in the eastern part of the continent. The trip will cost \$5,000 which includes all flights, camp reservations, and most meals.

The plane will arrive at Dar es Salaam, where the group will spend the night before flying for five hours out to Solous, Tanzania. For four days, Safari Dreams will guide safaris by foot, car, and boat.

"Few places allow people to walk on

foot," Kisura said. "Most tours are in the vehicles, but we will walk with a game scout [for protection]."

"This [walking] safari allows an intimate impression of the African bush and wildlife, which is unforgettable and brings you, closest to pristine nature," Merryman said.

During the game drive, people will be able to stand in the Safari car and see diverse animals up close through the pop-up roof. People will also see hippopotamuses up close during the boat safari in Solous, which has Africa's highest concentration of hippopotamus.

"Africa has spectacular national parks and reserves where we saw hippopotamuses, giraffes, elephants, and big cats," said Wilbur Hayes, who traveled with Merryman to Africa in 2002 and in 2006. "I was also paying attention to hyenas, jackals, crocodiles, storks, fish, eagles, mongooses, catfish, and even Army ants."

The tour continues from Solous to Ruaha where tour members will spend two days hiking and camping in the Ruaha National Park. They will camp in tented lodges that blend in to the wild, but will also be provided with comfortable accommodations like flushing toilets, showers, and sofas.

The last few days of the trip will be spent at Zanzibar Island where participants will first stay in the Tembo Hotel, which is one of many old Arab buildings downtown in

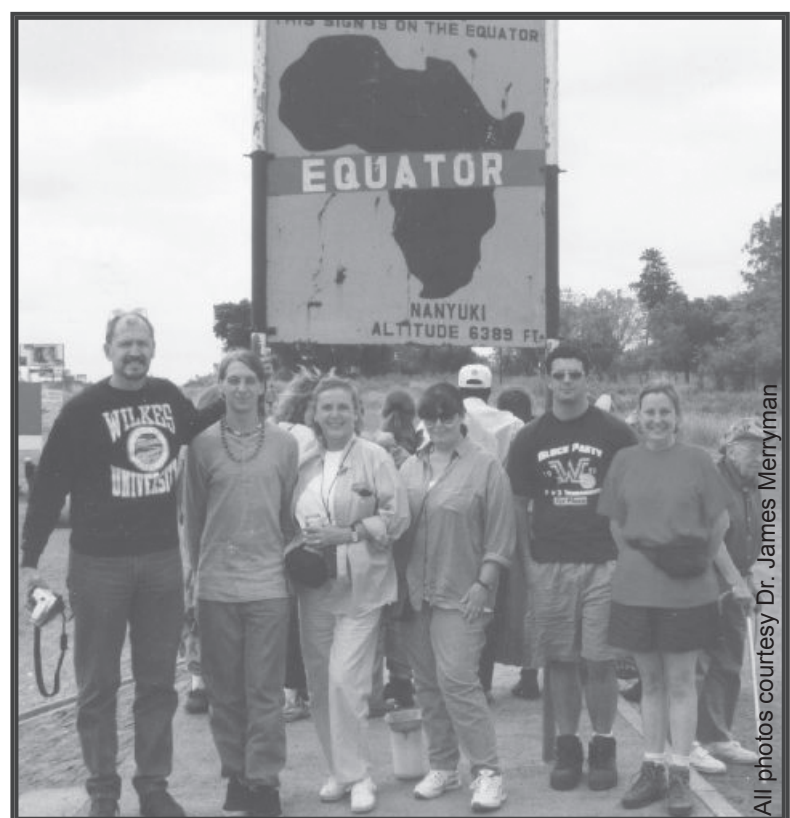
Stone Town.

"Zanzibar is famous for its building decorations and magnificent coral and fish," Kisura said.

On the way to the white sand beaches on the east coast, people will be able to stop at Jozani Forest and view the rare endemic Red Colobus monkey. While at the beach, they can snorkel or scuba dive in the ocean.

"The best part of the visit was having a tour guide

who could speak the local language and was familiar with the area and local customs," said Dr. Brian Redmond, an environmental engineering and earth sciences professor.



All photos courtesy Dr. James Merryman

Dr. James Merryman and a group of students pose in front of the equator on a previous trip to Africa.

"We share the earth with other cultures so it is important to be aware of how other people live in different environments."

Wilkes professor offers glimpse into African culture

BY LAUREN SALEM

Beacon Staff Writer

Hosting a 12-day trip to Africa is no big deal for anthropology professor Dr. James Merryman. After living there for 12 years, he has learned the intricacies of the culture and finds great fulfillment in sharing it with students.

Merryman worked for the Peace Corps

as an agricultural volunteer the first time he visited East Africa and was sent to the capital city of Nairobi where he helped set up small-scale dairy farms. This year marks the 40th anniversary of his first time in Africa, where he lived for twelve years and has led many trips since then.

During the first major drought in Kenya, which took place in the early 1970s, Merryman returned to Africa as a paid volunteer

to start teaching. Because of the dry conditions, many people lost their camels, so he started an irrigated agricultural project.

Camels and other dairy farm animals like cows and goats are important staples to the natives' diets, which mostly consist of warm milk, yogurt, cottage cheese, and meat.

"Everyone has to go there and see that once people could

live and live relatively well on so little," Merryman said.

The average African family uses five gallons of water a day for drinking, cooking, and washing their hands five times a day. During the day, the women walk for miles to collect a pile of firewood and find water to fill up their hand-carved, wooden jugs that weigh around 78 pounds and can carry five gallons of water.

"Tribal cultures are very family and community oriented, which aren't concepts that are alien to us, but it's something that we've moved away from as we became more urbanized," Merryman said.

After Merryman married, he took his wife back to Africa, where she and another volunteer started the first girls' high school in a Muslim area the size of Pennsylvania.

The first year the two-room school opened, 30 girls attended. Every year more girls attended and more rooms were added on, until enrollment reached 240 students. Eventually, another school had to be built to contain the overflow.

Boys and girls there are segregated not only in schools, but also during social activities like dances as well. The girls sing in

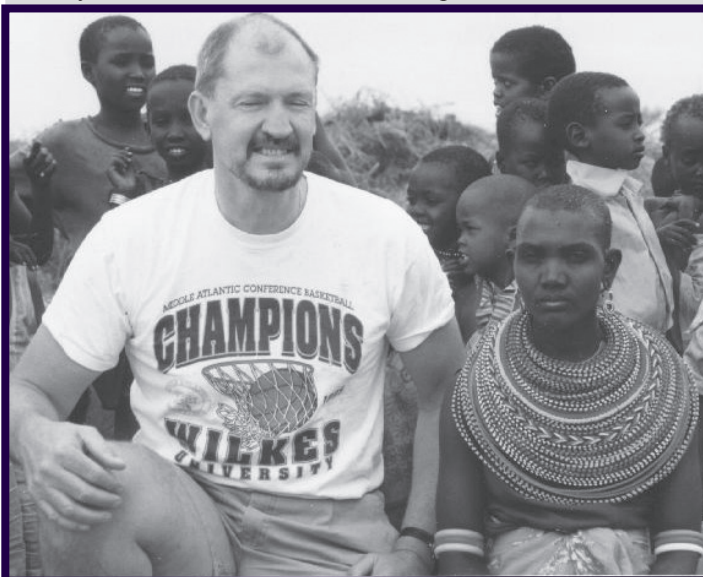
the chorus while the boys dance in a circle. During the dance, the boys would step in the middle of the circle to try to show off, and the girls would make up songs to flatter the boys.

"They can't say you're cute or a hunk," Merryman said. "It has to be indirect, like 'his grandfather has a thousand white camels and killed a hundred Ethiopians.'"

"We found the culture fascinating and the people were welcoming and hospital," Merryman said.

In the 1980s, Merryman lived in Somalia and did Arab land-development work like deforestation and working with Ethiopian refugees. He did a socio-economic study of all the people who lived over a 400 mile stretch of land and assessed how they would be affected by the government building a large dam on the most important river in the country for hydropower and irrigation.

"Just the music, spirituality, stories, cultural richness, and the diversity are wonderful gifts that shouldn't be ignored," Dr. Merryman said. "I liked it very much and my wife liked it, which is the reason why we kept going back."



LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT: TIGERS JAW

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon A&E Editor

If you frequent music venues outside of the bar scene, it's pretty impossible to miss Tigers Jaw.

At any given time the band seems to always have an upcoming show in the area--and for good reason. Tigers Jaw offers a crowd-pleasing set each and every time its members take the stage.

The band consists of Ben Walsh on guitar and vocals, Pat Brier on drums, Adam Milwee on guitar and vocals, Dennis Mishko on bass, and Brianna Collins on organ and vocals. Much of the music is somewhat mellow indie rock, but there's such a great amount of energy put into the songs that by the end of a performance the crowd is pushing each other over just to sing along the lyrics right near the stage. Recently *The Beacon* caught up with members of the band to talk about changes the band has undergone and the experiences of a "teen heartthrob sensation."

The Beacon: How long have you been a band and how have things progressed since the start?

Tigers Jaw: We started Tigers Jaw two years ago, and I think having so many lineup changes made it possible to keep trying new things.

The Beacon: What have been the lineup changes?

Tigers Jaw: Mike from Captain, We're Sinking! used to drum for us, as did Thomas from Louch when we went on tour last year. Ben also used to play drums, but after a few months moved to guitar and started writing a lot of our songs. Our friend Bob, who's in Election Day now (www.myspace.com/electionday2) used to play bass, and our friend Dan played organ before Brianna joined. DJ Getz has been with us since we started though, and really does a lot to help us out.

The Beacon: What's the story behind the band name?

Tigers Jaw: There isn't much of a story really. "Tigers Jaw" comes from a Microphones song, and I like that it doesn't have an apostrophe after "tigers" and that it isn't capitalized. Sometimes not capitalizing the name makes us look sloppy though, so we'll capitalize it for like...this interview.

The Beacon: Describe what your first show was like.

Tigers Jaw: Our first show was one that we put together with The Green Chair, My Dad is a Dinosaur, Kid Icarus, and Okay Paddy at a youth center in Scranton. We didn't have a bassist then, and I know that there were not that many people at the show, but that's all I really remember.

The Beacon: And what are your live shows like nowadays?

Tigers Jaw: Better than our first one...we've become good friends with Title Fight and Three Man Cannon, so we play a lot of our shows with them. They're writing some of the best songs now, and I think we take away more from them than any other bands. Our friends from The Mother/Daughter Team, who broke up a few months ago, started a new band and we're all looking forward to playing shows with them again.

The Beacon: What projects are you currently working on?

Tigers Jaw: Right now we have a full-length and a six song EP already recorded, and we're working on releasing those with our friend Mark, who has been helping us out a great deal lately. We're also going into a studio for the first time to record a full-length for Prison Jazz Records and a 7" for Flight Plan Records.

The Beacon: How would you describe your music to someone who has never heard you before?

Tigers Jaw: We sound exactly like Jewish War Veterans (www.myspace.com/jewish-warveterans)

The Beacon: Who writes the majority of your songs and what do you usually put into your lyrics in terms of subject matter and experiences?

Tigers Jaw: Ben and I write an equal amount of songs. Most of our songs are about girls and wrestling.

The Beacon: Which one of your songs is your favorite, and tell us why.

Tigers Jaw: I think all of our songs are equally terrible.

The Beacon: What in the world is the Age of the Fall website you have as your band website on your Myspace page (www.myspace.com/tigersjaw)?

Tigers Jaw: Age of the Fall is the best faction in professional wrestling today and everyone should know about them.

The Beacon: Tell us about your favorite show you've played.

Tigers Jaw: My favorite show was when Matt Walsh filled in on bass and put his cord through a flowerpot because he loves gardening so much.

The Beacon: Sum up your band in simply three words.

Tigers Jaw: Teen heartthrob sensation.



Picture courtesy Tigers Jaw

Arts YOUNiverse seeks to expand for folk artists

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS &

Beacon A&E Editor

ALISSA LINDNER

Beacon Assistant A&E Editor

Anyone who steps into Arts YOUNiverse at 156 South Franklin Street can see that it's expansive and accommodates many facets of the art world.

From dance to painting, from sculpture to jewelry creation, founder Kathleen Godwin has effectively created a true arts mosaic all under one roof.

However, Godwin is the first to acknowledge that while the former mansion does house a large cross section of the arts, it is not all encompassing. That is why Godwin has a new project in development stages. To put it simply, she "wants to have it all."

Godwin explained that she sees three types of art: fine art, healing art, and folk art. Despite the space provided by three floors of the mansion, Arts YOUNiverse is basically limited to fine art because there is not enough space to include it all. Godwin's next project is to accommodate folk artists and develop an entirely new location where she will offer a Folk Arts YOUNiverse.

Final plans have not been solidified, but Godwin is in the planning phase with the building owner of Randy's Paint, located on South Main Street. They have discussed having two floors available for Godwin's newest project where there will be available space for folk artists such as jewelers, wood carvers, weavers and potters to work on and sell their work.

The main idea is to develop something like a "mart atmosphere." The artists will have their work space but the areas will also be open for people to enter and shop, making it both a working and shopping environment. Godwin feels like folk art has a wider audience appeal than fine

art and the new building would be a successful endeavor.

While Godwin continues to work out the details with the business owner, her main concern is to find serious crafting and folk artists. She currently has numerous artists interested in the project, but she feels that there need to be 50 artists for the Arts YOUNiverse offshoot to succeed.

The current Arts YOUNiverse building has welcomed the public and local artists to its location in downtown Wilkes-Barre for approximately two and a half years, according to artist Maria Livrone. Her clay and glass-fused work is featured in a studio entitled "Potter's Eye."

Her work includes a range of brightly colored glass-fused jewelry, from necklaces to earrings featured in a gift shop. Livrone also teaches pottery classes at Arts YOUNiverse.

Livrone is not the only artist offering classes. Arts YOUNiverse, offers various classes ranging from dance,



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Arts YOUNiverse is located at 156 South Franklin Street, across from Breiseth Hall. It's only the first of multiple arts center that Godwin hopes to create in the community.

yoga and voice lessons to any type of painting. The fees for all classes vary by artist.

According to the Arts YOUNiverse website, the collaboration of artists was created because, "Shopping for the best artistic experience should be as easy as shopping for the best shoes, or freshest groceries." Arts YOUNiverse is open to the public and features activities for those of any age group.

The current Arts YOUNiverse space serves its purpose for now; however, the addition of the new space at Randy's Paint on South Main Street may allow for Godwin to come closer to achieving her dream of having it all.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, February 12

- "Beyond the Wall" poster sale at 10 a.m. in the SUB
- *The Passion of the Christ* showing at 6:30 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Grand Ballroom
- Every Avenue, Livingston, Automatic Loveletter and Black Tie Affair performing at 7 p.m. at Cafe Metropolis

Wednesday, February 13

- Lemongelli performing at 10 p.m. at the Woodlands
- Open Mic featuring Mike Vierling at the Jazz Cafe

Thursday, February 14

- "Passion at the Mansion" (yoga, dance, and pottery) at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Arts YOUNiverse
- Free Music Orchestra at the Jazz Cafe

Friday, February 15

- Musical Theater production, "The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd" at 8 p.m. in the Darte Center
- Star 69 performing at 10 p.m. at the Woodlands
- Zach Deputy performing at the Jazz Cafe

Saturday, February 16

- Benevento-Russo Duo performing at the Jazz Cafe
- Musical Theater production, "The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd" at 8 p.m. in the Darte Center
- The Menzingers, Static Radio, Three Man Cannon and Young Hearts performing at 8 p.m. at Cafe Metropolis
- Picture Perfect performing at 10 p.m. at the Woodlands

Sunday, February 17

- Musical Theater production, "The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd" at 2 p.m. in the Darte Center
- Trippin On Nothing performing at the Jazz Cafe

Monday, February 18

- Lenten Prayer Service being held at 6:30 in the Student Development Leadership Room

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BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

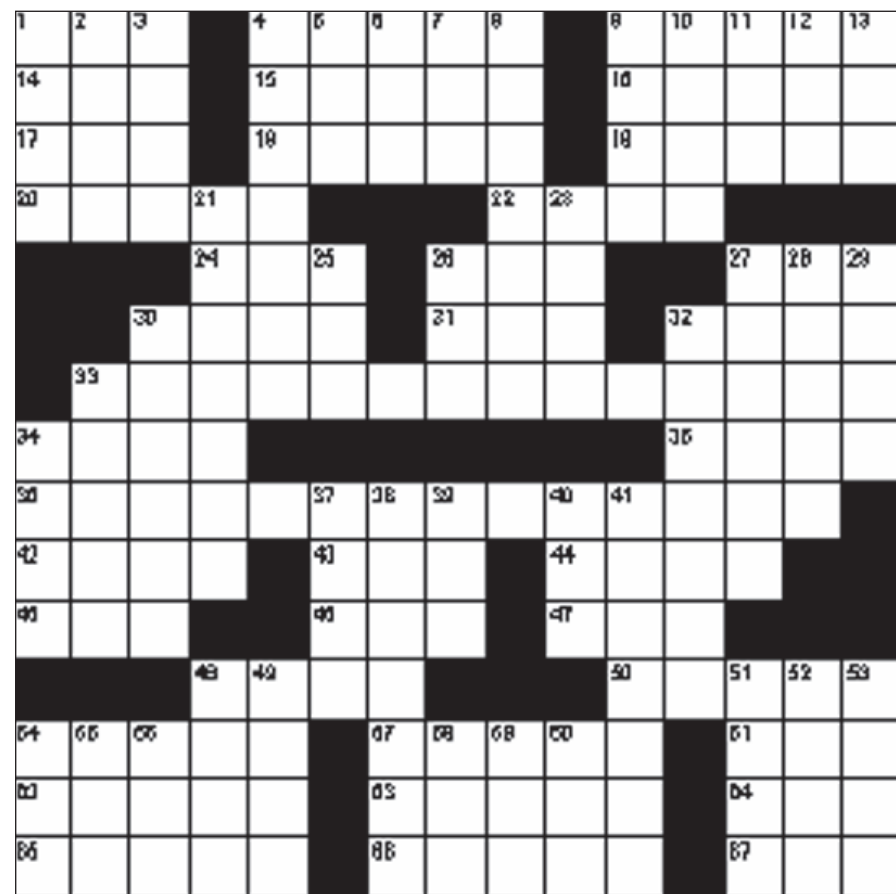
Beacon Staff Writer

ACROSS

- 1 Heads that are better
- 4 Silenced
- 9 Approximately
- 14 Tombstone letters
- 15 Oklahoma Indian nation
- 16 Tenant contract
- 17 Dwight Eisenhower nickname
- 18 Massive
- 19 Inquired
- 20 Very small (prefix)
- 22 Get attention quietly
- 24 Schedule abbreviation
- 26 New York clock setting
- 27 Tarzan partner
- 30 EPA concern
- 31 Grassy field
- 32 Regretted
- 33 Prolonged hiatus
- 34 Wing like
- 35 Comic book creator _____ Lee
- 36 Band coming to Wilkes 4/11/08
- 42 Musician Tori _____
- 43 Consumed
- 44 Fishing bait
- 45 Uncooked
- 46 It would contraction
- 47 Delay
- 48 Conceal from sight
- 50 Small Madagascan primate
- 54 Like a Rubik's puzzle
- 57 South Beach local
- 61 In the past
- 62 Shout of approval
- 63 Steamed rice dish
- 64 Sick
- 65 Alarm
- 66 Slightly intoxicated
- 67 Soap ingredient

DOWN

- 1 Clip the edges
- 2 Collaborative website
- 3 Oil countries grp.
- 4 Type of cocktail?
- 5 Canada neighbor
- 6 Paving material
- 7 Bacon sidekick
- 8 Like the abyss
- 9 Sorrowful exclamation
- 10 Highest quality
- 11 Acorn producer
- 12 Take advantage of
- 13 Bill & _____'s Excellent Adventure
- 21 Comments
- 23 Bayonet action
- 25 Era
- 26 Santa helper
- 27 _____ Anne's pretzels
- 28 Nut type
- 29 Adam's home
- 30 AKA Manatee
- 32 Surge again
- 33 Camel relative
- 34 Slightly open
- 37 Household servant
- 38 Try
- 39 Flanders first name
- 40 Pipe bend
- 41 Competent for something
- 48 Bee abode
- 49 Object of worship
- 51 Slow communication method
- 52 Hideous
- 53 Acting part
- 54 ABC rival
- 55 Psychic Geller
- 56 Happy hour establishment
- 58 Half of VI
- 59 Andes' kin
- 60 More in Spanish



Answers 2/05/08



Deadpeopleserver.com

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

Ever thought about a beloved, old TV show and wondered if your favorite character was still alive?

Or have you read a great book by an author who hasn't written in years and wondered if they were still kicking?

Well, there is now a website that can answer these questions.

Deadpeopleserver.com prides itself on not being the first to report a death, but on being the most accurate. Deadpeopleserver is a website dedicated to compiling information about dead political figures, authors, actors, singers, and other well known people. Each listing offers the date of birth, date of death, cause of death and a brief description of career highlights.

For example the listing for Marilyn Monroe looks like this : "Marilyn Monroe (actress) -- Dead. Suicide or accidental overdose. Died August 5, 1962. Born June 1, 1926. *Seven Year Itch*, *Some Like It Hot*, famously sang "Happy Birthday" to President Kennedy, married to Joe DiMaggio and Arthur Miller."

If you think that a website dedicated to dead people can't be entertaining, you're wrong. Deadpeopleserver has a section dedicated to people who aren't dead, just rumored to be dead. Take Jimmy Buffet's listing which reads: "Not dead, just chillin.'" Also, there is a list of obituary cliches and examples from real obituaries of the celebrities. Bob Hope's said, "Thanks for the memories..." Elvis Presley's notes: "Elvis has left the building." Frank Sinatra, even to the end, "Did it his way."

The only real problem I have with this site are that the search is kind of confusing. When you type in a name the search brings up random websites. I'd suggest searching by letter. Also, I am extremely creeped out by the section called "Spaced," which is dedicated to celebrities whose ashes have been scattered in space. It's just weird to know that there are people's cremated ashes floating around in space. Otherwise, I find this website to be really interesting.

Just randomly going through the years or searching by letter you can learn a lot about random people that you never knew. I give this site an M for Mighty Morbid.

Movie Review: *Strange Wilderness*

BY MKE WILLIAMS

Beacon Staff Writer

There are some movies that when someone asks how they were you can answer emphatically: "It was great," or "I want eight bucks and two hours of my life back."

When you can do this, the movie in question has either obviously succeeded or failed. However, every once in a while a movie hits the theaters that poses a predicament to anyone hoping to critique it. Every fiber of your inner movie critic screams out to let you know the film wasn't "good." But, it was funny enough that you just can't bring yourself to say it was "bad." But for movies such as this, more often than not, these are the films that find themselves with cult followings. Think about it. How many times do you hear somebody quote *Citizen Kane* (no offense to Orson Welles fanatics intended), and now think of how many times you've heard people quote *Super Troopers*. Strange, huh?

So, in the vein of *Half Baked*, *Grandma's Boy*, and *Waiting*, Adam Sandler's Happy Madison production company brings you *Strange Wilderness*. When nature show

host Peter Gaulke (Steve Zahn of *Saving Silverman*) finds out that his program, which he took over for his late father, is losing its grip on its coveted 3 a.m. time slot, and that he has only two weeks to turn things around before going off the air for good, he and his best friend/soundman Fred (Allen Covert of *Little Nicky*) must come up with something, and quick.

Luckily, an old friend of his father's has just the right thing to save the show; a picture of Big Foot and a map leading to exactly where it was taken. So, rather than using their remaining time to produce some quality nature documentaries, they do the rational thing: pile their crew, which includes Kevin Heffernan (*Super Troopers*' Farva), Justin Long (*Live Free or Die Hard*) and Jonah Hill (*SuperBad*), and head to South America to track down Sasquatch. As anticipated, wacky wilderness antics ensue.

The cast, made up of familiar faces, guarantees to cause a few "Hey it's that guy!"s from the audience, along with a good smattering of cameos, including Robert Patrick (*Terminator II: Judgment Day*) as a deranged jungle guide and Harry Hamlin (*Clash of the Titans*) as a

smug rival nature show host, add up to create an entertaining eighty seven minutes. However, the abundant laughs never rise above the level of stoner humor and gross out sight gags (not that there is anything wrong that), such as scenes depicting a stolen nitrous oxide tank rupturing inside of a mobile home turning it into a rave on wheels or an enraged mother turkey latches itself to a certain part of a male crew members anatomy.

Although it's produced by the typically family friendly Adam Sandler, this one is definitely not *Happy Gilmore*. With almost every scene jam packed with drug use, bad language and nudity, the film certainly earns its R rating. Overall, though the comic offensiveness of the film may sometimes overpower the audience with lewdness, it's still a very enjoyable film for anyone who can still appreciate some good, old fashioned American toilet humor. In true cult comedy fashion, this is a movie that audiences will either love or hate. There is no middle-ground. Just like almost every movie in this genre, *Strange Wilderness* is destined to follow the trail which was blazed by flicks such as *Anchorman* and *Super Troopers*, as it will be panned

by critics and will probably do poorly at the box office; however, the work of Steve Zahn and the rest of the gang will finally be fully appreciated once it is released on DVD and takes its rightful place in the low-brow hall of fame.

Grade: Now, C
Give it a few months, B+

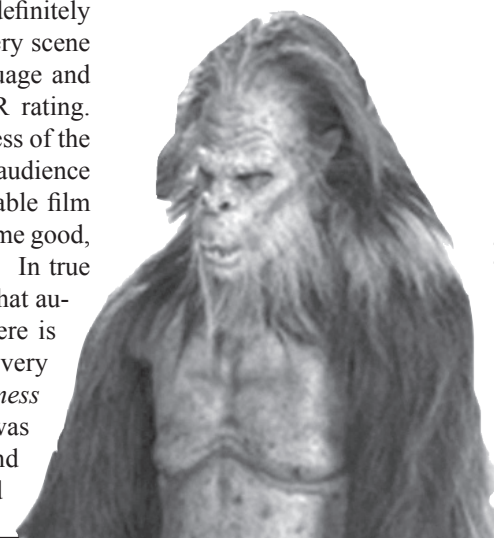


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Freedom Conference champs look to build upon 07's success

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

The Colonel's Season Comes To An End With A 4-2 Loss To Elizabethtown At NCAA Regional.

This cold headline lingered on the Wilkes website all off-season, a painful reminder of the baseball team's quick two and out performance in regional play last May, due in part to costly errors and untimely hitting.

However, with a promising pitching staff and the heart of last year's lineup back for 2008, the 2007 Freedom Conference champs (24-12) seemed upbeat as pitchers and catchers reported for a workout last week; the only remnant of last season were the calluses on their hands.

"We're gonna take it one step at a time, get back into the playoffs, and hopefully make another run at the league," said outfielder Kyle Follweiler.

Senior Corey Helfrich will lead the rotation after a successful return from Tommy John surgery in '05. "Helfrich" picked up six wins and fanned 28, though he admitted it would be nice to lower his 6.54 ERA.

"My ERA was nothing to shake a stick at, but I'd like to get it under three and a half," he said.

Brad Wozinski and Freedom Conference Tournament MVP Tom Buckler, who are both coming off outstanding performances in regionals, will help round out the rotation, while Follweiler will come in to close

from the outfield when needed.

"Despite the fact we probably could have won those two games because we pitched so well, we came up a little bit short. Hopefully, we'll get an opportunity to avenge that," said 2007 Freedom Conference Coach of the Year Joe Folek.

Unfortunately, the Colonels will have to make due without catcher Matt LoPresto, first baseman Justin Popovich, and reliever John Milius—who are no longer eligible to play.

"Those are big losses," Folek said. "Matt, Justin, and John each filled a valuable role on the team, and did it very well. 'Matty' and 'Pop' especially had tremendous post-seasons, so in order for us to be successful, somebody's going to have to step up and fill those positions."

Enter "Mr. Versatility," senior Chris Mayerski. "Mersk" (.302 average, 8 HR, 2 3B, 7 2B, 37 RBI) is capable of playing literally every position with grace, and while he still owns the hot corner, it's a safe bet that he'll be seeing some time behind the plate along with Andy Garafoli and Jordan Padams, as well as first base, where he'll figure into the mix with Mike Brennan and Brad Wozinski.

"Our four seniors, (Follweiler, Helfrich, Mayerski, and Wozinski) they're going to be the keys to the season. And those four guys we're going to put in as many positions as possible to help dictate the outcome



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Wilkes senior Anthony Giufredda practices at the UCOM on February 9. The Colonels open up their season on March 1-8 in the Cocoa Expo tournament in Florida. The home opener is March 11 against FDU-Fordham.

of the game," Folek said.

The Colonels will head for Cocoa Beach on March 2 for spring training as *The Bea-*

con keeps you updated on all of the latest news and developments to come out of the Sunshine State.

No. 19 Wilkes nips Elizabethtown in wrestling, 20-15

COURTESY OF JOHN SEITZINGER
Sports Information Director

The 19th-ranked Wilkes University wrestling team won the final two bouts to rally from a 15-11 deficit and score a 20-15 win over Elizabethtown College on Saturday afternoon. The win improved the Colonels to 18-7-1, while Elizabethtown saw their record fall to 5-9.

Wilkes won the first two bouts to jump on top 7-0. Shaun Farnham scored a 4-0 win over Marty Harnish at 125 pounds, and Ryan Wilson followed with a 13-5 major decision of Jarrod Cawley at 133 pounds to provide the Colonels with the lead.

Elizabethtown then won the next four bouts to go ahead. Drew Winegar was a 4-3 winner over Brandon Prentice at 141 pounds and Bud Croswell topped Erik Smith, 6-2, at 149 pounds to cut the Wilkes lead to 7-6. Jereme Heisey pulled out a 5-3 win over Adam Penberthy at 157 pounds and Mike Lussier was a 6-4 winner over James Histed at 165 pounds to give the Blue Jays a 12-7 lead.

At 174 pounds Wilkes' Frank Heffernan won by major decision, 10-2, over Paul Connor to make it 12-11. Elizabethtown's

Bill Meaney topped Shawn Bradley, 6-2, at 184 pounds to make it 15-11 in favor of the Blue Jays.

Wilkes remained in contention when Zach Pizarro scored a 7-1 win over Josh Herbert at 197 pounds to cut the lead to 15-14. Then,

in the final match of the day, the Colonels' Andrew Feldman was able to pin Elizabethtown's Mike Daub in 4:04 to give Wilkes the 20-15 victory.

Wrestling Results from from 02/09

- 125 – **Shaun Farnham** dec. Marty Harnish, 4-0 (3-0)
- 133 – **Ryan Wilson** maj. dec. Jarrod Cawley, 13-5 (7-0)
- 141 – Drew Winegar dec. Brandon Prentice, 4-3 (7-3)
- 149 – Bud Croswell dec. Erik Smith, 6-2 (7-6)
- 157 – Jereme Heisey dec. Adam Penberthy, 5-3 (7-9)
- 165 – Mike Lussier dec. James Histed, 6-4 (7-12)
- 174 – **Frank Heffernan** maj. dec. Paul Connor, 10-2 (11-12)
- 184 – Bill Meaney dec. Shawn Bradley, 6-2 (11-15)
- 197 – **Zach Pizarro** dec. Josh Herbert, 7-1 (14-15)
- 285 – **Andrew Feldman** pinned Mike Daub, 4:04 (20-15)

Wilkes' wrestlers are in **BOLD**

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Women fall short in close contest

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

When the Wilkes University women's basketball team returned to Freedom Conference action Saturday afternoon, they knew they needed to show improvement from the 47-point loss they suffered a week earlier at DeSales.

While the effort from the Lady Colonels was much improved this time week, the team still found themselves searching for answers in its aftermath.

Buoyed by 21 points from Moira Donohue, the Aggies of Delaware Valley College pulled away in the second half Saturday to post a 63-51 win over Wilkes. The Lady Colonels see their overall record slide to 1-20 overall. The team is still searching for its first conference victory after eight games.

Despite Delaware Valley opening the game on a 12-2 run, the Lady Colonels remained poised and slowly chipped away at the lead. Brittany Ely scored five straight points before the intermission to set the score at 28-25, and Kajija Bates would score inside to open the second half and bring Wilkes within one. Delaware Valley refused to fold, however, and embarked on a 12-3 run that gave the Aggies a lead they would not relinquish.

"We knew it would be a tough game coming in here," Donohue said after the game. "We were coming off a rough loss, and with one of our best players out, our

team knew Wilkes would give us a battle today."

Despite the big run, the Lady Colonels didn't fold early in the second half. Erin Schneider knocked down a 3-pointer to pull Wilkes to within eight points of the Aggies with 9:56 left. However, Delaware Valley would take advantage of several Wilkes turnovers and grab several key rebounds in the ensuing minutes to pull away with the win.

"We needed more intensity in the second half," Lady Colonels sophomore Ashley Matcarczyk said of the team's performance. "It was a great first period, but we need to put together a complete game to make real progress."

Despite enduring another painful defeat, Wilkes coach Rachel Emmerthal remained optimistic about her squad's continuing development and maturity. "Our girls played with tremendous intensity today, particularly on the offensive glass," Emmerthal said after the game. "We know we have a long way to go, but we've been making slow and steady improvement. The girls have kept working hard and making progress."

Katie Cappelloni led Wilkes with 12 points and seven rebounds, while Brittany Ely contributed nine points. The Lady Colonels will hit the road on Wednesday to take on Freedom Conference newcomer Manhattanville College on Wednesday night, before returning home to square off against Arcadia University in another conference clash this Saturday at 1 PM.



The Beacon/Matthew Gogas

Freshman Brittany Ely pulls up for a jump shot against Aggies guard Brittany Battinieri. Ely finished with nine points, three assists and three rebounds.

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GAME OF THE WEEK

NHL: Black and Gold Special



Pens, Bruins battle for conference standing

BY KEVIN REED

Beacon Correspondent

The road to the NHL playoffs is 82 games long, but this time of year each game becomes increasingly magnified in its importance. Jockeying for position, each team wants not only to qualify for the playoffs but also to put themselves in the most optimal situation once they begin. Such is the stage for these two Eastern Conference foes as the Pittsburgh Penguins play host to the Boston Bruins.

One major caveat of hockey in February is the inevitability of playing through injuries. Unfortunately, both teams are currently being forced to make due with depleted lineups. The Bruins come into this game with many of their offensive weapons on the shelf. Forwards Patrice Bergeron, Alexei Zhamnov, and Glen Murray are out of the lineup. Pittsburgh has been dealing with a rash of injuries, the most detrimental have been the high-ankle sprains of starting goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury and reigning league MVP and top scorer Sidney Crosby. Luckily, both teams have been supplemented with solid play from minor-league call-ups from Providence (Boston) and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (Pittsburgh).

The Penguins (30-19-5, 65pts, 2nd in Atlantic division, 5th in East) have been treading water in the standings since the injury of their captain, Sidney Crosby back on January 18. The team has been led offensively by second-year phenoms Evgeni

Malkin and Jordan Staal as well as forwards Ryan Malone, Petr Sykora, and Erik Christensen. On the blueline, Sergei Gonchar, Ryan Whitney, and Darryl Sydor lead by example with a sufficient mix of solid defense, opportunistic offensive ability, and experience to anchor a young team such as the Penguins.

The last line of defense belongs to the current starting netminder Ty Conklin. After beginning this season down the road at Wachovia Arena, Conklin has made been a savior for the Pens in goal since his call-up when Fleury went down with his injury in December, posting a 13-3-3 record and keeping the Penguins near the top of the Atlantic division.

The Bruins (28-21-5, 61pts, 3rd in Northeast division, 7th in East) are hanging by a thread to one of the final spots in a very tightly packed Eastern Conference playoff race. The aforementioned Patrice Bergeron, the Bruins best offensive talent, is still out after remaining ill effects of a hit from behind by Philadelphia Flyers defenseman Randy Jones earlier this season. Therefore, the spotlight has been shined on forwards Marc Savard, Marco Sturm, and sophomore star Phil Kessel.

The defensive corps is headed by the proverbial giant wearing #33, 6'9" 251 lb. Zdeno Chara. Not to mention being a stalwart against the opposition's best offensive attack, he is fairly handy standing in front of the net on power plays by screening opposing goaltenders as well as being an intimidating force to anyone brave enough to drop the gloves with him. Veteran defensemen Andrew Ference and Aaron Ward add depth to their blueline. Backstopping the Bruins is all-star goaltender Tim Thomas, who is on pace for a 30-win season, which is quite a feat in this era of the NHL.

The game-plan both teams decide to use will be fun to watch unfold. Expect the Bruins to send out Chara and Ference against Pittsburgh's top scoring line of Malkin, Sykora, and Malone. The Penguins will most likely rely on solid defensive

play by their 3rd and 4th lines as they do not possess a true "shutdown defenseman". The closest entity they have for that role are young defensemen Brooks Orpik and Rob Scuderi, both of whom are still trimming flaws from their game.



Potential "X-factors" for this game could be two players short of the country's legal drinking age. Boston boasts 19-year-old winger Milan Lucic, whose 6'4" frame and quick feet tend to put defenses on their heels more often than not. Yet another Wilkes-Barre/Scranton grad could help the parent Pens to victory, as 20-year-old defenseman Kris Letang's smooth style of play gives Pittsburgh an extra offensive punch, especially on the power play.

This game should not be a runaway on either side. The Bruins will try to play a good solid road game, take the crowd out of it early, and dictate the flow of play to their liking. Pittsburgh, on the other hand, will try to play responsible defense in front of Conklin and take advantage of turnovers in order to manufacture odd-man rushes and scoring chances the other way. Do not be surprised to see this match-up go into overtime or a shootout even though both teams will want to win in regulation time, assuring them two points in the standings while the other plays for another day.

The Pick:

Pittsburgh Penguins: 4

Boston Bruins: 2

Double Take

Steph examines the stats that truly matter...

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

The Boston Bruins v. The Pittsburgh Penguins...what?

I have never heard of those teams. In fact, I even doubted that they existed. After doing a little bit of research (I talked to my friend Jimmy - by the way, he is quite a character. He used to work for his Uncle Gary as a hot-tar roofer. He quit after a day because the fumes were making him hallucinate. He claims to have seen spoken to Patrick Stewart in a tar-induced trip. Too bad for him, I guess. William Shatner would have been better. Oops, it seems like I'm getting off track here. Back to the double take), I learned that these are both hockey teams. Hockey is a sport that I honestly know nothing about. Anything I might know, I learned on the TV show *Full House* because Uncle Joey played it.

I also had to ask what a bruin is. Apparently a bruin is a bear, a European bear. This slightly peeves me; The Boston Bruins are trying to be European bears. This just feeds into the common idea that we, Americans, want to be just like Europeans. We are boosting their egos by trying to be like their bears. For the sake of alliteration, Boston could have just been The Boston Bears, Beavers or Beatles. This is America; they should be a bit more patriotic.

And the Pittsburgh Penguins, when have you ever seen a penguin in the United States? Penguins in zoos don't even count; real penguins are just chillin' in the southern hemisphere. Why are teams having such a hard time finding American animals to be their mascots? I guess all the good ones are taken. There are already the Sharks, Islanders, Rangers and Avalanche in hockey and I guess they can't steal names from other sports.

I'd have to give this one to the Penguins. No one is getting a bigger head because of their mascot. They are also from Pennsylvania...I've got to support the home state and penguins are a lot cuter than bruins!



Athlete of the Week:

Katie Cappelloni

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Whenever any athletic team is faced with adversity such as injuries and long losing streaks, the squad often searches for a player to rally around and work with to build for better times. In the case of the Wilkes University women's basketball program, senior Katie Cappelloni has proven to be just that kind of leader.

A four-year performer on the hardwood for the Lady Colonels, Cappelloni has excelled in leading a young Wilkes squad both on and off the court. Through Saturday's contest against Delaware Valley, the Scranton native ranks first on the team in points per game (12.7), while ranking second in total points scored with 190. Cappelloni's finest hour of the season came in a non-conference game on February 4 when she poured in a career-high 27 points in a non-conference contest versus Richard Stockton.

Playing on a squad that features six freshmen and three sophomores, Cappelloni knew from the start of the campaign that she would be looked to by many players as a leader and role model. However, her experience became all the more vital when her fellow senior and close friend Lacey Andresen was lost for the season to a knee injury during a January 22 game against Manhattanville. The injury to Andresen came just a few games after Cappelloni returned to the lineup following recovery from a leg injury that caused her to miss multiple games earlier in the season.

"It was tough for all of us to see Lacey go down, but especially for me after we had played together for our whole careers at Wilkes," Cappelloni said. "Lacey has been here with us even after her injury and it's still great to have her on the sidelines working along with our team."

"Katie has been an outstanding player for us in all aspects this season," Wilkes head coach Rachel Emmerthal recently stated. "She's brought one hundred percent to every game and every practice. Even when we've taken her out to give her a rest, she'll be chomping at the bit to go right back in again."

While Cappelloni will not be able to enjoy a winning season or playoff trip in her final season on the court for the Lady Colonels, the senior sees a bright future ahead for her current teammates, and believes the squad has taken many steps forward a group this year.

"We're taking the rest of the season one game at a time, and we're looking to improve in every game," Cappelloni said. "We've got a young team this year, and I know these girls will grow up on the court more and more as they go along in their careers here."

Congratulations to Katie Cappelloni on being named *Beacon* Athlete of the Week!

Cappelloni Season Stats

Total points: 190

Rebounds per game: 5.4

3-point goals: 8

Free throw percentage:
.651

Minutes played: 466



The Beacon/Matthew Gogas

Senior basketball standout Katie Cappelloni reached a career milestone by scoring a career-high 27 points in a non-conference game versus Richard Stockton last week.

SOFTBALL



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Members of the Lady Colonels softball team participate in a youth softball clinic held by the team to benefit the program's spring break trip. The clinic takes place at UCOM and is held through the weekend of February 22-23.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

1

Number of regular season matches the Colonels wrestling squad has remaining. They take on King's College this Friday in the Marts Gym at 7 p.m.

26

Number of points scored by junior forward Steve Kline during the Colonels game against the Delaware Valley Aggies last Saturday. 26 is Kline's career-high.

48

Number of rebounds collected by the Lady Colonels during Saturday's game versus DelVal, the second highest total by the team this year. 61 was their season-high.

29.5

Average margin of victory for the Colonels basketball team last week in wins over Penn College and Delaware Valley.



The Beacon/Matthew Gogas

Colonels score triple digits in win over Aggies

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

If Saturday's game against Delaware Valley was any indication of how the Colonels will perform down the stretch, you're looking at a team that will be granted home court advantage at least during the first round of the conference playoffs.

The Colonels beat the brakes off the Aggies in an up-tempo contest 100-67, before an estimated 700 basketball fans in the Marts Gymnasium. Transition baskets and stingy defense were the key recipes for the Colonels who held the Aggies to just under 40 percent shooting and forced 18 turnovers while netting 60.7 percent from the field, their second highest shooting percentage of the season (The team's season high was

65 percent against Manhattanville on 1/22).

The win improves the Colonels to 12-8 overall and 6-2 in the MAC Freedom conference which puts the team third behind DeSales University and Manhattanville College in the conference.

The Colonels beat Manhattanville which puts Wilkes in control of the second seed currently. The only reason they trail Manhattanville is because the Valiants have played one more conference game than the Colonels. Both of the Colonels conference losses were to the DeSales Bulldogs.

The sloppy Aggies are 2-19, 0-9 in the conference. Delaware Valley was out-hustled throughout the entire contest. At halftime, the Colonels doubled the Aggies point total as the score stood 53-

26. If any adjustments were made to slow down the Colonels in the locker room, they certainly did not work. At one point during the second half, Del Val's Brian Hilinski missed a wide open lay-up from the right side and Aggies head coach, Denny Surovec, smacked his teeth, flapped his arms and asked, "Are you kidding me?" Yes coach, the entire game was a joke.

But that's largely due to how well the Colonels have been playing at home recently. They have won three of their last four at home, winning each game by more than 20 points.

"I know it's a young bunch, but we're catching on," said head coach Jerry Rickrode. "We are not one of the more veteran teams (in the conference) but we can be

dangerous."

Four Colonels reached double-figures including junior forward Steve Kline who led all scorers with a career-high 26 points by connecting on nine of his 11 attempts in 25 minutes played. Sophomore Tom Kresge followed with 20 points and made all but one attempt. He went 8-9 from the floor. Both Kresge and Kline hit both of their attempts from behind the three-point line.

As a team, the Colonels cashed in 10 of their 18 attempts from downtown including 8-14 in the first half. Junior guard Jason Seipt and senior forward Zack Van Dyke led the Aggies with 13 a piece.

The Colonels have three games left to play before the Freedom Conference playoffs. They go on the road Wednesday to face Man-

hattanville and come back home Saturday to face Arcadia University and King's College next Tuesday.

"We are in a strong position to make a run in the conference play-off," said freshman guard Chris DeRojas, leader of the Colonels scoring attack with 14.7 points per game. "I think we're ready."

Conference Standings

1. DeSales, 7-0
2. Manhattanville, 7-2
3. Wilkes, 6-2
4. King's, 6-3
5. Arcadia, 3-5
6. FDU-Florham, 1-7
7. Del. Val., 0-9