

SG considers changes to campus culture clubs

BY KIRSTIN COOK
News Editor

Student Government is discussing changes with the cultural groups on campus that would make Multicultural Student Coalition an umbrella entity over individual cultural groups.

All cultural and religious based groups were invited to attend a private meeting on Feb. 3 to discuss the possible changes with SG and MSC. Groups present included Interfaith, Christian Fellowship Club, Indian Cultural Association and Wilkes African Student Association.

SG President Ben Beidel said this development would allow MSC to work together with similar groups

that have corresponding missions to increase diversity at Wilkes.

"The thought process is we'll be able to expand our diversity on campus in a sense by taking these clubs and putting them in the MSC umbrella," Beidel said.

Beidel, a senior pharmacy major, said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the position of the cultural groups on campus and find out if they like the idea of sub-sets. He said details still have to be determined, such as if the currently independent clubs would still receive the \$300 club funds, whether the current MSC budget would be increased and what groups would go under MSC.

SEE MSC, Page 3



The Beacon/Michael Cignoli

This South Main Street building could become a minimum security, for-profit corrections facility.

S. Main St. building could become home of convicts

BY MICHAEL CIGNOLI
Editor-in-Chief

A building less than 200 feet from the Wilkes University campus could become the home of more than 100 convicted criminals.

Terry Davis of Keystone Correctional Services wants to purchase the majority ownership of 199-203 S. Main St., located just steps from University Towers, and operate a work release program out of the building.

Currently, the property houses Crossing Over, a 50-bed transition-

al care facility that primarily helps homeless men get their lives back on track.

If the Wilkes-Barre zoning board approves a proposed expansion project and Davis gets a contract with Luzerne County, the facility would become a 130-bed, minimum-security, for-profit community corrections facility.

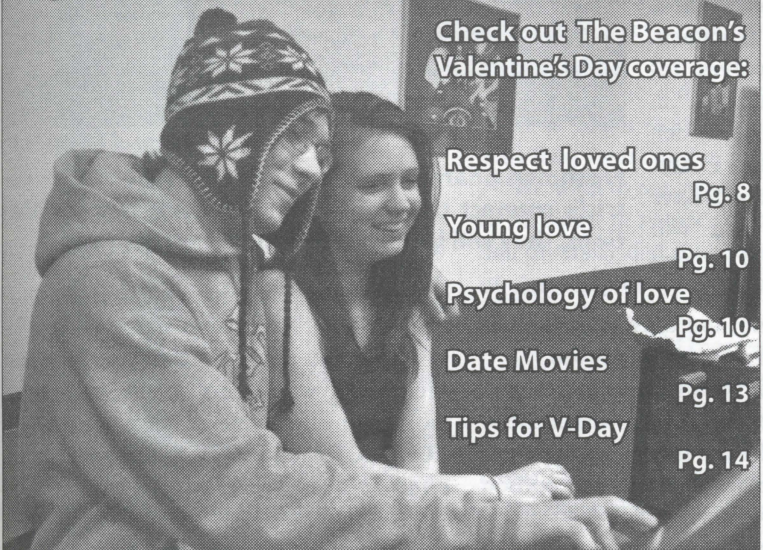
"It's a way to take somebody that's made a mistake – and sometimes they go to jail for that mistake – but when they get out of jail, to reintegrate them into the community by having them live in a

place where they're supervised, but given freedom in order to get back into the normal environment of the community," said Davis, who has nearly 40 years of experience in criminal justice.

Because Keystone Correctional Services is a private company, Davis has some leeway when it comes to choosing the kinds of inmates he'll accept into his work release program. He said he will not accommodate criminals with a history of violence or sexual predators.

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR...



The Beacon/Laura Preby

Matt Manganiello and girlfriend Ali Dini play a game in the SUB.

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Safer space shuttles

NASA is having safer space shuttles developed that will hopefully help in averting possible disasters.

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Spring is on the way?

Punxsutawney Phil predicts an early spring, while local weathermen suggest otherwise.

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Art center seeks students

Arts YOUiverse is now accepting artwork from students for display in their gallery.

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The trouble with Twitter

Is Twitter a distraction or a useful resource for athletes?

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Established 1936
PA Newspaper
Association Member

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

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Beacon Briefs

BY AMANDA LEONARD
Assistant News Editor

SEXUAL JEOPARDY- The Bacchus Club is sponsoring the program from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. The event is designed to educate students about sexual issues and concepts. Students, staff and faculty are invited to participate in four teams with four participants per team. Contact Health Services at 408-4730 to register.

WILKES VIDEO CONTEST - The marketing communications department invites entries for the 2011 Wilkes Video Contest. Participants

are asked to create a video that expresses life at Wilkes University through the eyes of current students. The two entries judged as the best overall video essays will win cash prizes and will be placed on Wilkes University's YouTube page and promoted to incoming students. For more details, visit www.wilkes.edu/video contest. The "Intent to Compete" form must be submitted by Feb. 11.

EDUCATION FORUM SERIES - The Education Forum Series presents "Changing Role of Schools Libraries in the 21st Century" with keynote speaker Neil Grimes, secondary school librarian at Coughlin High School. The lecture will be at 4:30 p.m., Feb. 15 in Marts 214. All are invited to attend.

RED CROSS RUN- The second annual American Red Cross Run will be held on March 26. All proceeds benefit the Blood Services Program at the Wyoming Valley Chapter. Participants may pre-register individually for \$15 or \$20 the day of the race. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the race starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Northeastern Regional Blood Center in the Hanover Industrial Park. For more information, contact Amy George at 823-7161, ext. 322.

AUDITIONS FOR COLONEL - Wilkes University is seeking highly energetic, motivated and reliable students to represent the university as The Colonel at various events through the current spring semester and the

2011-12 academic year. Students should be available approximately 10-15 hours per week, including evenings and weekends. An annual scholarship is awarded. Contact Melissa Howells at 408-4645 or at melissa.howells@wilkes.edu for details.

DAFFODIL DAYS - The Daffodil Days campaign in the Wyoming Valley is scheduled for March 14-20. The event is aimed at contributing to the American Cancer Society. Orders for daffodils are being taken from Feb. 1-17. Contact Megan Boone at megan.boone@wilkes.edu or Janice Broyan at janice.broyan@wilkes.edu.

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Wilkes sets priority to have Wi-Fi campus by May

BY ANGELO BLADES
Staff Writer

If everything goes according to plan, incoming freshmen can cross Ethernet cords off their back-to-school shopping lists.

Wilkes should have campuswide Wi-Fi access by May, according to Chief Information Officer Gloria Barlow.

"I am highly optimistic the majority of it will be finished before spring break," Barlow said.

She explained that the only obstacle is installation of necessary infrastructure.

Students in dorms are currently facing difficulties receiving Wi-Fi signal from weak, outside hardware. To combat this, Barlow said that they will not only replace old hardware in locations such as Breiseth Hall and the Farley Library, but also new hardware within individual dorms.

This renovation has been slowed due to the winter weather conditions, but the staff overseeing this venture are optimistic.

"These things are a bit of a process to find the right solution," Barlow said.

For current freshman Tori Sallo, a pharmacy major, the news is a godsend.

"I am clumsy enough as it is," Sallo said. "Having an Ethernet cord tied around me, something expensive is bound to break."

Barlow is also the head of the Information Technology committee at Wilkes. She has used her position to steer the task of providing Wilkes with campus-wide Wi-Fi.

After being stuck on the back burner for years, the implementation of Wi-Fi access has emerged as one of Wilkes' top priorities.

"It is a really important priority this year," Barlow said.

The old plan for Internet access included using both Wilkes-Barre's FrontierCitywide access and Wilkes' limited Wi-Fi access, and that plan encountered several problems.

One problem is the number of service set identifiers (SSID) on campus. SSID is the name of the connection to which a wireless enabled device connects. Barlow said the multitude of connections is making students confused by the SSID choice.

Another problem was the accessibility

of these connections from the dorms. Students in the dorms are trying to access signals coming from other buildings. Because of obstacles, such as thick brick walls, the signals from these outside SSIDs are weak and inefficient.

There is a solution to these problems, Barlow explained. This solution involves installing new hardware in the individual dorms, which has already begun in Evans. The new hardware will have stronger signals, and will not have to transmit through dorm brick walls.

The dorms are not the only buildings on campus to be receiving new hardware.

"All the academic buildings except for part of Stark will be getting Wi-Fi," said Barlow.

The exclusion of Stark is because of potential plans for the SHE building. The portion

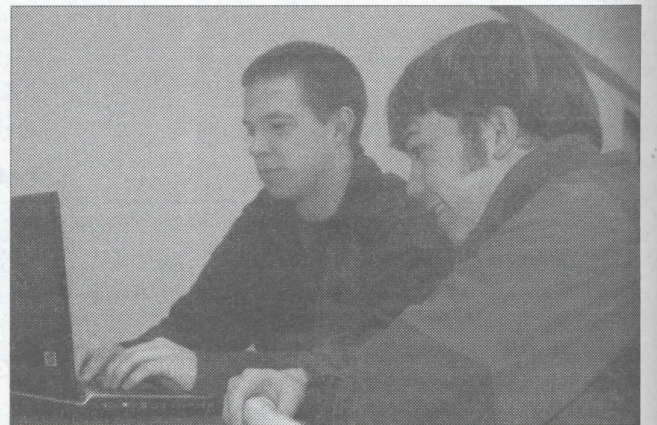


Photo courtesy of Allison Roth

Freshmen pharmacy majors Tyler Young and Nick Patricia connect to Wi-Fi in the SUB. With new installations, they will be able to connect from their dorms.

of the building that may possibly be demolished will not have hardware installed in it.

There is no plan to cancel subscription to FrontierCitywide. This service will remain mostly for off campus access.

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Meet the Staff



Christine Lee
Life Editor

MSC

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Because both ICA and SIC are already at club status and receive the appropriate funds, Beidel said there might be conflict involved with making them sub-sets, which may require funds to go through MSC.

"As far as a discussion goes, there may be some contention, which what do you expect, you're trying to change things, people don't always like change," Beidel said.

Regardless of difficulties that may arise, Beidel feels that this adjustment would be an improved operation and would help campus cultural groups function more easily.

"I think in the near future I foresee some growing pains, we're going to struggle to kind of find a place for it, but in the view of SG and I believe also in the view of MSC, this is a more sustainable way to go about this," Beidel said.

Beidel explained that growing pains would be the result of the independent cultural groups adjusting to being organized under MSC.

"Let's say we don't give them \$300 and it's straight to MSC and everything has to go through MSC, you can see that that change from having funding to going to a democratic body kind of is going to create a little bit of contention," Beidel said.

One issue that has brought about this possible change is the duplication of organizations on campus trying to reach the same goal.

"We have MSC, whose mission and vision is to promote diversity on campus, and we also have these clubs that are trying to do the same thing," Beidel said.

Dean Mark Allen, adviser of SG, said that cooperation among the groups would be a good way to avoid similar events and create more unique activities.

"It's not to provide another layer of bureaucracy but to make sure people are supporting each others' activities and we don't have duplication of the same types of events, so the spirit behind it seems to be very good," Allen said.

One reason for this consideration is the past failures of individual clubs, which Beidel said would have access to a greater pool of funds, more interest and other resources through MSC.

"I would have to say that we've seen a lot of cultural clubs start and then fail," Beidel said.

Beidel cited the Wilkes University Step-pers Association as a group that faced difficulties from a lack of interest. However, it was unclear whether this group would fall under the MSC mission to increase diversity.

Another group that Beidel said was strug-

gling is SIC. The group is currently in the negative financially, which he said they could find solutions to through MSC.

"They don't know how to manage a budget. I could see them being a part of MSC, helping them with their financial issues, giving them somebody who is maybe a little more skilled at handling the budget," Beidel said.

Allen agreed that smaller clubs would have more access to resources.

"I think SG and certainly student affairs would be supportive of making sure that when events happen, they're well-funded, they're well advertised and they're not in conflict with anyone else's programming, and that's where some of this perhaps reorganization might be helpful," Allen said.

An event that Beidel said "catalyzed" this discussion was the club proposal from the Wilkes African Student Association at the SG meeting on Jan. 26. SG members were concerned that WASA, which hoped to hold an African fashion show and other events similar to those put on by MSC, would overlap with MSC. However, ICA and SIC are already clubs, which created a dilemma.

The first individual cultural group, ICA, was created three years ago, which Beidel described to be a pilot program that was a success. However, Beidel said that subsequent clubs did not have such a positive outcome.

Beidel said that another influence to this development was the addition of MSC to the SG voting board last year.

"That kind of made cultural changes as far as SG is concerned, giving MSC more power, showing that we really want diversity on campus and we'll support it, that's kind of another change that brought this about," Beidel said.

Allen said he did not want this consideration to make students hesitant to want to start their own cultural group.

"We want to encourage all students' voices to be heard in respect to cultural awareness and diversity and by no means is this a way of deterring or discouraging that activity," Allen said.

Kevin Hopper, SG corresponding secretary who organized the discussion meeting, said he got a positive response from the cultural group presidents. Hopper, a junior business major, is waiting for them to talk with their members and decide if it is the right move for them.

Beidel said that before any changes are made, the idea must go to the SG board and be decided upon.

"Until the general board votes on it, nothing has occurred," Beidel said.

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The Beacon/Bryan Calabro

Saud Alsubaie, a criminology major, and Ali Alsubaie, English major, spend time in their dorm room. Both students are from Saudi Arabia. The possible reorganization of MSC aims to promote diversity and support ethnic students such as Saud and Ali.

Cultural groups consider results of MSC sub-sets

BY KIRSTIN COOK
News Editor

Cultural groups on campus met with student government and multicultural student coalition on February 3 to discuss the possibility of reorganizing diversity groups on campus.

Silvia Silvi, a junior pharmacy major and president of Islamic cultural association, said that she was hesitant about the idea at first.

"At first we were a bit reluctant, because we thought that would mean the individual groups themselves would be dissolved," Silvi said. "But according to what they're planning, it's not about dissolving the group, it's just reorganizing it."

Silvi met with ICA members before the meeting to discuss the possible change. She said they were supportive of the idea as long as the operation of ICA could remain the same.

"They're only concerned on whether or not we would still be able to operate as we have been doing, which, according to MSC and SG, none of that would really change," Silvi said.

Shadae Gates, president of MSC, said that this consideration has been an idea for a while now. She said the process of requesting funds from a democratic body would not change for cultural groups.

"It's not that we're trying to say that they're not important enough to be a club, but just like they're under SG, now they'll be under MSC, so it's no different," Gates said.

Gates, who is a junior political science, criminology and international studies major, felt that this change would provide more opportunities to students.

"I think it's good because MSC is not just a club, it's a coalition, so what we do is expand diversity across campus as a whole," Gates said.

Gates said that the individual cultural clubs already request money from MSC when their club funds run out.

"Every event that they have held, it wasn't enough to put on their event, so they always come to MSC anyways, we still give them money," Gates said.

Silvi said that, even though ICA would no longer be receiving the \$300 club budget from SG, the group would still receive money from MSC for which they would be responsible.

Even though the group has not run into difficulties from a lack of interest, Silvi said that the reorganization would help to promote both groups and bring more people together.

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Student Dev's new program aims to build leadership

BY AMANDA LEONARD
Assistant News Editor

Student Development is launching a new program that aims at building an individual's leadership abilities through hands-on workshops and personalized mentoring.

Any Wilkes student can sign up for "Passport to Leadership," which Student Development plans to run from late February through early May.

Every student that registers for the program will be assigned to work with a mentor, who will help students reflect on each of the workshops they have been through and help them probe into their own leadership style, while tailoring the program to meet the student's unique needs or interests.

After meeting with his or her assigned mentor, students will take tests measuring needs and interests and the program will be personally adapted to mold to the student's interests.

Philip Ruthkosky, associate dean of student development, emphasized the importance of reflecting and focusing on a student's strengths in a program such as this.

"The core of the program is strength assessment testing, it is built up on the idea

of learning about your strengths and then capitalizing on them to achieve your goals," Ruthkosky said.

Built around informative training sessions and online leadership assessment, "Passport to Leadership" is designed to give students the skills needed to resolve common challenges they may face in a leadership, academic or professional role.

At the end of the program, the same assessment test is administered in-order to compare their strengths from the start of the program.

"There will be a constant, continual reflection," Ruthkosky said, "At the end of the program, students should not only be able to answer what they have learned, but also what they have learned about themselves, as well as their strengths and weaknesses."

Melissa Howells, coordinator of Student Development, mentioned a booklet that each student will be given to help facilitate students' reflection and self-awareness.

"We came up with the booklet idea to give a checklist so students can keep track of where they are in the program, write reflection notes and keep it to refer to at anytime," Howells said.

There is no application process for the pro-

gram. Any interested students are welcome to go directly to the leadership development room to get an overview of the program and decide if it fits with one's academic schedule. After the initial conversation, the student will be assigned a mentor and later take the assessment tests.

For those who are busier but still wish to participate, there are many opportunities to still partake in the program, even with a heavy course load. There are online programs that can be done at a student's convenience and one can also pick from a list of various programs that will fit his or her schedule better.

The workshops and sessions have been designed for the student in mind. Those offered are designed to appeal to everyone. The sessions range from leadership programs to experiential programs. A diversity component is also integrated, as well as two additional programs that are left up to the discussion of the students.

In general, Student Development is trying to incorporate any programs that are already in existence on campus. If there is a specific community event that a student would like to attend or participate in, his or her mentor would discuss it with them on a personal

basis and figure out if it would be beneficial and pertinent to the program.

"There are so many opportunities in the community and on Wilkes campus that we'd like to see students get involved with as much as they could and get the most from it," Howells said.

So far, more than 20 students have signed up. The future success of the program will be determined by the feedback.

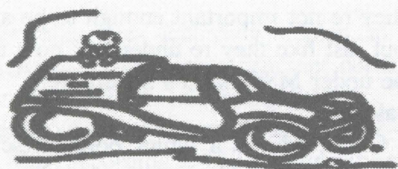
"This program was designed to be a small cohort," Ruthkosky said, "if it grows to a larger extent, we will have to reassess how we deliver it and possibly break it up into different sessions so that students will be in a smaller learning environment."

Depending on feedback and expressed interest, the program may be offered throughout the entire academic year.

"Ultimately, at the end of the program, the student will develop his or her own leadership statement," said Howells.

To sign up for the program, one can email Student Development at studentdev@wilkes.edu or contact the office of Student Development at 1-800-WILKESU ext. 4645.

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CONVICTS

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Members of Wilkes-Barre's Downtown Residents Association are upset about the proposal, saying the opening of a downtown community corrections facility created a headache for nearby Hazleton.

"We think there is significant risk to Wilkes students as well as students from Holy Redeemer and St. Nicholas schools," DRA member Nancy Sanderson said. "It is a facility that does not belong on Main Street."

Apart from the obvious concerns about the possibility of increased crime in downtown Wilkes-Barre, Sanderson added that she's heard from Hazleton residents about an auxiliary level of problems emerging from the opening of MinSec, a 170-bed facility that has been in downtown Hazleton since 2008.

For one, Sanderson said Wilkes-Barre would be shooting itself in the foot if it approves the zoning request. Not only would property values decrease, but the numerous improvements the downtown has made in the past few years would effectively be nullified. People wouldn't want to move into a neighborhood that hosts a minimum security prison, she said.

"There are consequences that you can't

even begin to be proactive on," Sanderson said. "To pass the zoning without really understanding all of those consequences is premature."

MinSec, which is not affiliated with Keystone Correctional Services, has been the source of numerous complaints and has led a state representative to call for its contract to be terminated.

In January, a MinSec resident was accused of stealing items from a church while people attended religious services. It was the latest in a string of crimes that led many in Hazleton to question whether allowing the facility to open was ever a good idea.

During her campaign for state representative, Tarah Toohill publicly called for MinSec's state contract to be terminated and the facility to be put on lockdown "until its administrators figured out a way to control the problems that are continually arising."

Now that she has been elected, Toohill, who represents Hazleton and the rest of Pennsylvania's 116th District, is examining regulations that apply to all of Pennsylvania's dozens of privately owned community corrections facilities.

"Convicted criminals from the facilities come out on the streets unsupervised and have been involved in robbing banks, thefts and homicides," Toohill said.

Not on his watch, said Davis, who also op-

erates a facility in West Hanover, Dauphin County.

"My facilities, you can't just walk out," he said. "All the doors are locked, all the doors are secure, all the windows are secure. ... The only time you get to go out is if you're going to an approved site where you're supposed to go to."

Approved sites can include drug treatment centers or an individual's job, Davis said.

"If a guy is going to be out of my building I want to know what time he's going out, where he's going, who he's going to be with and he has to be back at a certain time," he added. "Period."

Toohill urged Wilkes-Barre to be careful before allowing the sale to go through.

"All I can speak to is the facility in Hazleton, which is run by a different company," Toohill said. "This facility does not belong in a downtown setting and it definitely does not belong on Main Street. It does not belong in a place where there are restaurants, college kids and elementary schools."

Davis laughed at that claim and said the facility would bring "great potential employees" to downtown businesses. His program is centered on building an individual's self esteem and getting them a job so that they can become productive members of society.

Residents of the West Hanover facility frequently perform community service and the program has been so successful that the township just unanimously granted Davis approval to install 100 additional beds at the location.

Wilkes President Tim Gilmour said the safety of students is "of paramount concern" to his administration. He plans on meeting with Davis at some point in the near future to ensure that the facility will not operate like MinSec.

Gilmour said if he is convinced that Wilkes' new neighbors won't pose a security risk, he will not oppose Crossing Over's renovation and sale.

"The difficult balance for an institution like Wilkes is being very concerned about

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Thursday, Feb. 10 – 7 p.m.

Terry Davis will hold a forum for concerned citizens at the First Presbyterian Church, Franklin and Northampton streets.

Wednesday, Feb. 16 – 4:30 p.m.

Davis will present to the Wilkes-Barre zoning board, which meets in City Hall at Market and Washington streets.

the safety of its students," Gilmour said. "We will have to be sure that they are safe. I think that a facility like that can accomplish that if it's properly designed and run."

"The other half of it is that we have to care about larger society. People in the position of these people who will be coming to this facility if it comes to pass really deserve a chance. Life is full of these conflicts and I think if we find that the facility is going to be well run and it's going to be safe. ... I don't think it will be any different than the current facility."

However, as a parent of a college student herself, Sanderson said she couldn't imagine parents would be comfortable writing tuition checks to a university that essentially borders a facility like the one Davis is proposing.

"If I were director of admissions at Wilkes, this would be my biggest nightmare," she said.

Davis will make a presentation to the Wilkes-Barre zoning board during its next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 4:30 p.m. Meetings, which are held in city council chambers on the fourth floor of City Hall, are open to the public.

He plans to hold a forum for concerned citizens at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, in the lounge of the First Presbyterian Church, located directly across from the YMCA at Franklin and Northampton streets.

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SG Notes: Feb. 3, 2011

BY EMMA ZIMMERMAN
Correspondent

Winter Weekend – A decision was made on the Winter Weekend budget proposed to SG last week. The proposed budget went from \$4,962 to \$4,692. A total of \$3,220 went toward the free T-shirts and lanyards that will be handed out to students in attendance.

The T-shirts and lanyards will be handed out on Friday and Saturday respectively to hopefully entice students who aren't participating on a team to still get involved in Winter Weekend. This is a new format and a

trial run to see if Winter Weekend should be continued next year.

Eleven teams have signed up for the event. A motion was made to allocate \$5,000 for Winter Weekend.

Discussion – Why allocate \$5,000 when the budget is only \$4,692?

Amended motion to allocate \$4,700 for Winter Weekend.

Motion passed 17 – 0 – 1. (18 absent)

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Terror advisory system will benefit Americans

BY THE BEACON
Editorial Board

On Jan. 27, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security made a decision to remove the outdated, vague color-coded terror alert system.

The alert system will be replaced a system providing notifications that specifically describe the current threat and information on how we as American citizens can take action.

The Beacon feels that the Department of Homeland Security's decision to create a more specific terror alert system will reduce panic and confusion while providing Americans with increased feelings of security and peace of mind.

The color-coded terror advisory scale, formally known as the Homeland Security Advisory System, was introduced on March 12, 2002 by Tom Ridge.

Ridge was the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security at the time. Unfortunately, the system was put together haphazardly as a response to the Sept. 11 attacks and has remained that way since.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-3 created the system to inform the entire country as to the United States' current risk of terror attacks. While an ingenious idea, the vagueness of the system sent many

Americans into panic, as the exact details of the threat were not immediately released to the public – Americans were only told whether the risk of terror attacks was low, guarded, elevated, high or severe.

Also, many have begun to disregard the system altogether, being that the nationwide threat has been at yellow or "elevated" since August 2005, excluding domestic and international flights, which are orange or "high."

According to the Department of Homeland Security's official website, HSPD-3 states that the purpose of the alert system is "to create a common vocabulary, context, and structure for an ongoing national discussion about the nature of the threats that confront the homeland and the appropriate measures that should be taken in response."

Unfortunately, the "national discussion" seemed to remain ongoing until long after the threat level was released, and during that time, Americans were left to worry about what an "elevated" or "high" risk of attack actually meant.

In a speech made at George Washington University, Janet Napolitano, the current Secretary of Homeland Security, announced that the new terror advisory scale, the National Terrorism Advisory System, will be implemented in April of this year.

"Under the new, two-tiered system, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to

issue formal, detailed alerts regarding information about a specific or credible terrorist threat," Napolitano said in the speech.

The key words Napolitano used are "specific" and "credible." Even though people may panic once this information is released, they will know exactly what they are panicking about, rather than being forced to panic in confusion.

Napolitano also said the system will have specific end dates for alerts, unlike the current system which has been displaying the same alert for six years. An end date will prevent people from growing tired of the system or ignoring the system outright.

According to the Department of Homeland Security's website, under the NTAS, the details of apparent threats and how citizens can take action will be released through the media and even social media channels, such as Facebook and Twitter. Releasing this information through social media channels, more college-age Americans are likely to pay attention to the specifics of possible threats and become involved, as many college-age Americans do not watch the news or read daily newspapers.

The Beacon feels that the NTAS will transcend the current terror advisory system in its capabilities to reduce panic and involve the American public in the effort against terrorism.

BEACON POLL

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

Last week's question:

Would you benefit from Wi-Fi connectivity at Wilkes?

- Yes 100%
- No 0%

This week's question:

Does the current terror alert system affect your life?

- Yes
- No

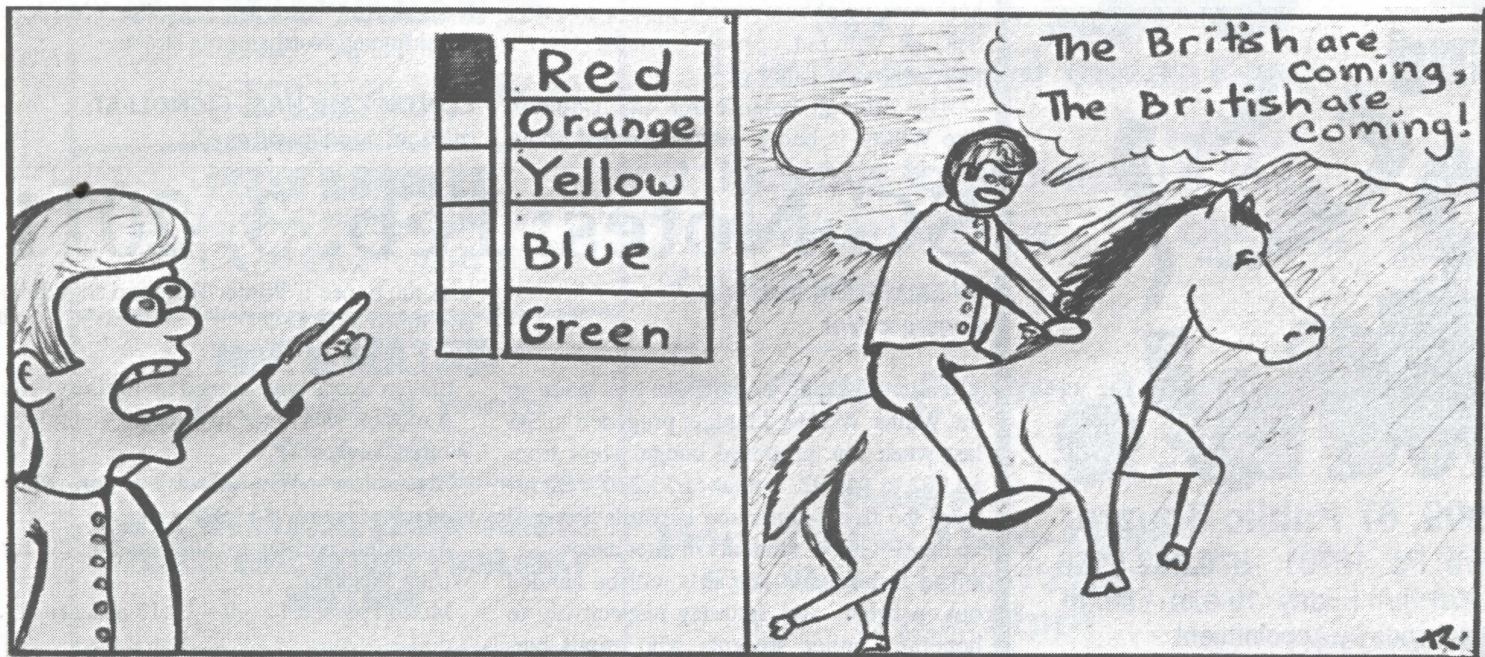
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Cartoon by Thomas Reilly

Violence is not effective for modern political movements

BY CATHRYN FREAR
Assistant Opinion Editor

There has been dramatic opposition to the current political administration in recent years, something which generally happens when anyone new steps into office. In light of recent events, however, it is important for people to keep their heads on straight.

Shootings like the one in Arizona show us that people obviously feel strongly about certain things. However, resorting to violence has a tendency to not do your cause a whole lot of good. Instead, it paints you as a crazy person and gives even many of those on your side of a certain political issue a lack of confidence in you, to say the least.

There are other ways to sort out issues without resorting to senseless and barbaric violence. Yes, that's right folks; there are ways to get a message across without involving murder. Surely you would not have understood that without reading this, right? Wrong. Sounds silly doesn't it? But it happens all the time.

It sounds silly because it's pointless to kill people in these situations. As aforementioned, you paint your own picture of yourself as a loon to the public. And if you want political change, you don't do it by being viewed as seemingly insane.

Look at great leaders of political movements in the past. They were generally great speakers. Martin Luther King Jr., for example, got people to follow him by spouting out facts about injustices that were pressed upon people of color in this nation at that time.

Though you may be upset about something, patience is necessary. If you have an important cause, you need to state your case to get others behind you. Killing someone isn't usually the most helpful thing in getting an audience to actually listen either, unless you are a 16th century monarch.

And you are not.

Our First Amendment gives us the right to peaceable assembly. That means protests and demonstrations. The only really tricky thing there is that sometimes you need a permit. But that is a more effective way to get your message out there, regardless of what it may be.

You know what else changes things? Voting. Who would have thought, right? If the person or thing you don't want wins, you know what you can do? Vote again the next time an election comes around. Elections are really quite endless.

Oscar Wilde once said, "It often happens that the real tragedies of life occur in such an inartistic manner that they hurt us by their crude violence, their absolute incoherence, their absurd want of meaning, their entire lack of style."

He was saying exactly what I'm telling you now, which is the old adage "violence is never the answer."

Maybe it sounds corny, but we really would all be much better off if we just gave peace a chance.

For once.

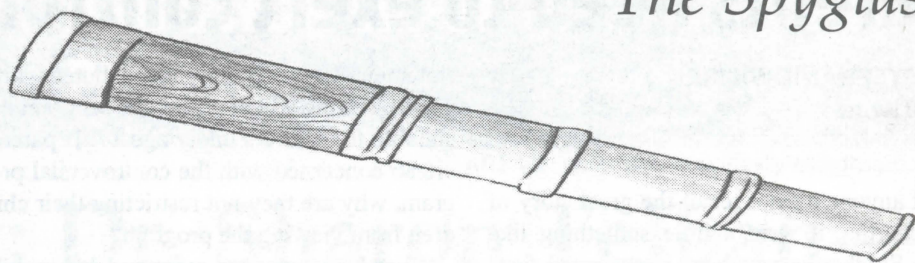
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The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

Pictured above is the Republican office on Main Street in downtown Wilkes-Barre. There is also a Democratic office nearby. Political affiliation should not cause one to be violent. Opinions can coexist without sparking anger and aggression.

The Spyglass



One giant leap ahead for the safety of space travel

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO
Opinion Editor

Technology has been advancing at such an alarming rate that we can now watch television in cars and play video games with only our bodies as controllers.

While technological advances in entertainment are nice to see, focus should also be directed toward improving the safety of marvelous technological works that already exist.

NASA has recently announced that new spaceships are being developed that are safer than space shuttles currently in use. After major disasters such as the disasters that struck the Columbia and Challenger, I am glad to see the advance of technology widening to include safety in human space travel.

Even though human space flight may never truly be safe, it is nice to see that measures are being taken to improve the safety conditions of space travel.

Jan. 28 marked the 25th anniversary of the Challenger disaster, which was one of the most significant events of the 1980s. The Challenger explosion caused the entire nation to grieve.

According to NASA's official website, the space shuttle exploded just 73 seconds after takeoff and all seven crew members were killed, including a teacher.

The Challenger disaster was certainly a tragic event, yet space shuttles have not yet been made significantly safer for travel, which was confirmed by the Columbia disaster in 2003.

Bearing unfortunate coincidental parallels to the Challenger disaster, the entire crew of seven was killed.

Thankfully, NASA has come to a point where it is willing to spend large amounts of money to improve the safety conditions of human space travel.

NASA has set high safety standards for

the new private-sector spaceships currently being developed. NASA has announced that it will be paying hundreds of millions of dollars to private partners for the development of safer spaceships.

Sending humans into space has always been risky, and since complete removal of the risks of space travel are impossible, NASA wishes to reduce these risks as much as possible.

According to NASA's official website, in total, 132 manned space shuttles have been launched, two of which faced tragic disaster.

These statistics show that the risk of death due to a space shuttle disaster is 1-in-66. NASA's risk assessment, however, states that the risk of loss of life through space travel is 1-in-100, which still is not significantly better than 1-in-66.

In a statement released in a set of draft requirements for the new space shuttles being developed, NASA claims that it wishes to change the odds of risk of crew loss to 1-in-1,000.

Unfortunately, high demands have been placed on companies that are developing these new shuttles, such as SpaceX. NASA has provided SpaceX with specific requirements for developing the new space shuttles.

Also, SpaceX is unsure of the cost of building these shuttles, as even though they are being given large sums of money, they may end up spending more money than they are receiving.

Even though safer space shuttles are still being considered and developed, it may be a while until these safer space shuttles are readily available.

I feel, however, that improving the safety of space travel is important in continuing humanity's exploration of the seemingly endless sky.

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Parents need to exert control over what their children watch

BY STEPHANIE WILKIE
Staff Writer

If anyone cannot recall the great story of Siddhartha, it went a little something like this: Siddhartha was born into a royal family and lived a sheltered life as a prince. Siddhartha's father was determined to keep all those bad and suffering-causing distractions, such as death and violence, away from his noble son. One day, Siddhartha ran away, turned into an alley and he was faced with a poor and dying elderly man. Siddhartha was determined from this point on to rid all suffering in the world.

Now, this tale may be an extreme analogy to what an average child encounters, but when considered carefully, the comparison is very eerie. Most parents will attempt to hide any "bad" television shows from their children, just as Siddhartha's father attempted to hide something as natural as death from his own son.

According to the Parents Television Council, the MTV's new hit, "Skins," is "the most dangerous program that has ever been foisted on your children!" The show is filled with sex, drugs and more drugs. But how is this different from any other television show? And will restricting all children's access to such TV shows really make them more responsible adults?

It seems almost impossible for a parent to monitor their child's television habits when the child has access to a television at all times of the day. The controversy of "Skins" began before the show even aired, when the Parents Television Council made their now-famous

statement. However, the show debuted with a TV-MA rating which deems the program not suitable for viewers under age 17. If parents are so concerned with the controversial program, why are they not restricting their children from viewing the program?

When I was younger, mom and dad prohibited "Beavis and Butthead" from our tubes, but as soon as they left the room, the program went right back on. Although the shows have ratings and specific airtimes for a reason, parents should take it as their responsibility to be more active in their children's lives. Allowing freedom only enables children to have easier access to such "bad" material.

Furthermore, there are much worse television shows than "Skins" that children watch daily. Take "Teen Mom" for instance. This show takes viewers into a world where teen pregnancy disrupts young girls' education and family lives.

What puts the icing on this "babycake" is the fact that this show is labeled reality TV. So, rather than watching a show that does not even display any sexual content, but alludes to it, children are watching the "real" effects of having sex and how these teen moms seem to make teen pregnancy look so easy.

Parents may as well prohibit the whole MTV and Cartoon Network channels. "Jersey Shore" displays more excessive drinking and addictions to "getting smooched."

Cartoon Network used to be a safe-haven for young viewers. The channel now airs many terrible shows which can all be found on Adult Swim. For instance, "Metalocalypse" is centered around death and "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" has a character die every episode. Even a channel which used to

be geared toward children cannot be trusted.

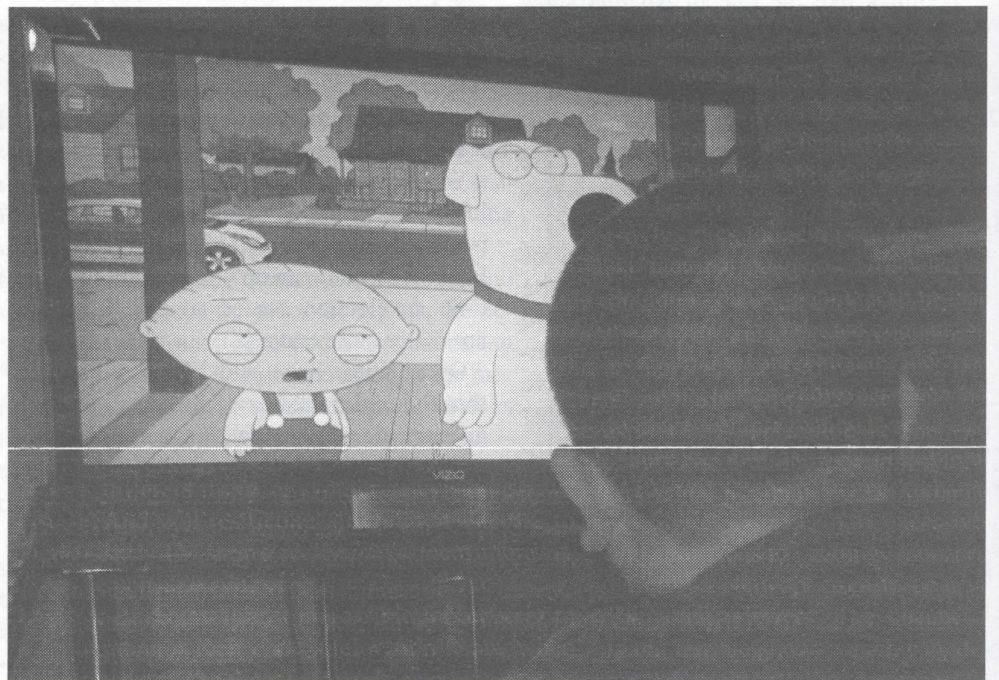
But is prohibiting children from all television really going to promote safer and healthier young citizens? Exposing children to harmful lifestyles can result in children realizing the dangers in society and how to avoid them. Children who are suppressed from such material are more likely to seek lives full of "adventure" and ways to "escape."

Like Siddhartha, sheltering children from sex, drugs and pregnancy will leave the youth in shock at the realities of the world and may pressure them into becoming rebellious or in to be put in danger. Overall, parents should

decide which television programs are "bad" for their children and monitor their children's behavior, but let their children experience and be exposed to somewhat conservative programs so children are not sheltered and pressured into dangerous lifestyles.

The Parent Television Council should take a closer look at the variety of television programs that promote much worse lifestyles than "Skins" and give this entertaining and enlightening show a chance.

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The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

The "Family Guy" theme song mentions "violence in movies and sex on TV." Parents aren't keeping their children from these types of television content.

Treat a romantic relationship like a friendship

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
Editor-in-Chief

Having a significant other takes time, effort, trust, understanding and respect. These are the exact same qualities of a having and maintaining a friendship. Treating your significant other the same way that you would treat a friend is extremely important in maintaining a relationship.

Firstly, any good relationship is based on friendship. People with successful relationships that turn into something more long-term or a marriage are often friends first, before any sense of a romantic spark.

In a friendship that's just starting to get off the ground, two people often find out how compatible they are, if they enjoy each other's company and if they enjoy similar

activities or hobbies. It is important to note that if two people were to just jump into a relationship, they would have to figure all of those things out during the relationship, not beforehand, which could cause arguments or disagreements.

But during the relationship with your significant other, it is important to still treat him or her like a friend regardless of the romantic relationship you two may share. For example, it is easy to begin relying on your boyfriend/girlfriend more often than you would a friend, but it is necessary to keep your boyfriend or girlfriend's feelings in mind when asking for favors during your relationship.

In addition, it is important to note that disagreements will occur naturally over time because of differences in upbringing and

other parts of each person's life. Resolve these issues and disagreements as you would with any of your friends. Instead of raising your voice to your significant other, think things through logically and talk with him or her as you would if you were talking to a friend.

According to www.healthyplace.com, America's Mental Health Channel, a healthy relationship has a few different layers, including "Appreciate yourself and your partner," "Make and keep clear agreements" and "Spend some quality time together." These all ring true not only in relationships, but friendships as well. Spending quality time with people is one of the most effective ways to build a healthy relationship. Making time for your significant other is so important because, in the life of a busy college student,

many other things can get in the way. Taking time out of a busy schedule to spend time with a boyfriend or girlfriend speaks volumes.

There are numerous ways to determine if you have a healthy relationship with someone. Today, there are thousands of healthy dating tips online, relationship blogs and websites like www.healthyplace.com that give lists for healthy relationships.

So whether it's Valentine's Day, or any other day of the year, take the time to spend it with someone you care about and keep building a healthy relationship by always treating your significant other like a great friend, as well as your romantic partner.

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FEBRUARY 8, 2011

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— Chatting with faculty: Dr. Sharon Telban —

BY LAURA PREBY
Staff Photographer

Dr. Sharon Telban, a retired professor at Wilkes, can't seem to let go of the university just yet. After retirement, Telban decided to stay at Wilkes to teach several classes, which is her passion. After attending Wilkes part-time while working as a registered nurse, she continued her education at both Wilkes and Penn State, eventually earning her doctoral degree in higher education with a minor in nursing.

In addition to her love of teaching, Dr. Telban loves to travel and serve as a Pulpit Supply at her church, which means she fills in when the minister is away. Since her retirement, Telban has been doing this, as well as becoming a supporter of the Going Red for Heart Disease campaign. She resides in Moosic, Pa. with her two cats Lily and Rascal.

The Beacon: What is your position at Wilkes?

Telban: Right now, I'm a professor emeritus, meaning I retired last year but I've been teaching courses. This semester I'm teaching the Contemporary Issues in Nursing class.

The Beacon: How long were you teaching at Wilkes before you retired?

Telban: Thirty-five years, which is a phenomenal amount of time.

The Beacon: Where are you originally from and what brought you here?

Telban: I started my nursing career at Pittston Hospital School of Nursing. Then I got a bachelor's degree at Wilkes and then got a Master's for nursing at Penn State and one at Wilkes in education. My area of expertise is genetologic nursing, which is caring for old people. Then I got a doctorate in higher education with a minor in nursing at Penn State. I went to school a long time. I was working at Wilkes while I was collecting the master's degree and the doctorate.

The Beacon: What were you like in college?

Telban: I was a part-time student for a long time because I worked as a registered nurse and so, while I was in my bachelor's program, I would say I was pretty dedicated to getting things done. But as a part-time stu-



The Beacon/ Laura Preby

Dr. Sharon Telban enjoys traveling and serving as Pulpit Supply in her church.

dent, you rarely participate in college activities, so I used to go to the plays, concerts and that kind of stuff, but I certainly wasn't in them. You have a different perspective when you're a part-time student because you're working too, so you're torn between the two.

The Beacon: What do you do in your spare time?

Telban: I like to travel, I like to read and I like to shop.

The Beacon: Are you married?

Telban: No, I'm not, never was.

The Beacon: Who would be your dream Valentine's Day date?

Telban: He might as well be rich and famous, right? That's a hard question. He should be mature, rich would be nice, considerate, handsome wouldn't be too bad, and well-read, somebody you could have a conversation with.

The Beacon: What would your ideal Valentine's Day date be like?

Telban: Maybe a nice restaurant with candles, soft music, and dancing, that would be nice. Maybe someplace exotic like the Four Seasons (Hotel) in New York. But to go there, I would have to have somebody rich, so they'd be tied together.

The Beacon: If you were on a deserted island, what three things would you take with you?

Telban: A stack of books, a pitcher of fruity drinks, and somebody to talk to.

The Beacon: Describe yourself in three words.

Telban: Curious, spiritual, and interested.

The Beacon: What's your favorite kind of music?

Telban: I like a lot of music. I like soft rock, I like some kinds of jazz, (and) I like classical.

The Beacon: What's your favorite thing about being a teacher at Wilkes?

Telban: I like working with students because they bring freshness to it. Every group is different from the group before it so it keeps your mind active and keeps you thinking and changing, keeping up with things. It keeps you out of a rut.

The Beacon: What do your students think of you?

Telban: Some, that I talk too much. Some, that I'm interesting. They always know that I'm concerned about them and that I'm interested in them as individuals. Also, that I'm approachable. All of those things.

The Beacon: What goals do you have for the future?

Telban: To live a long time. I would like to travel, see new things, and learn new things.

The Beacon: What is your favorite color?

Telban: Purple.

The Beacon: What are your favorite and least favorite things about the winter?

Telban: Well, slippery roads are my least favorite thing. My favorite thing is the snow. I guess I'm crazy, but I love to watch it snow. I like that part of the winter. I don't like being shut in because the roads are bad. If I didn't like the winter, I probably wouldn't live in the northeast because you can't escape the winter.

The Beacon: Have you always lived in this area?

Telban: I haven't always lived in this area but I've always lived in Pennsylvania. I lived down on the Philadelphia mainline for quite some time.

The Beacon: What is your favorite movie and why?

Telban: I just saw "The King's Speech". It was excellent. It has absolutely no action in it — it's all dialogue and character. The acting is wonderful and they stick to their story. I just thought it was a very well done, well put together movie.

The Beacon: If you could have one wish come true, what would it be?

Telban: I would have enough resources to live comfortably and do all the things I like to do.

If I won the lottery, I would give millions to Wilkes... the \$300,000,000 kind of lottery. They could build a building and name it after me. I would share it — I want enough to share, not just to hoard.

The Beacon: Tell us a random fact about yourself.

Telban: I appreciate living in this life. I enjoy being with my friends and my cats more than anything.

The Beacon: What words of advice do you have for students?

Telban: Work hard, take advantage of all the things that you can learn and keep learning while you're practicing. Because nursing is a practice profession, you have to keep up-to-date and keep moving forward. Take advantage of what you could get out of college.

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Students chime in on concept of 'young love'

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

Everyone has heard the statements made about love: Love is blind, ignorant, bliss, insane, makes you do crazy things, sometimes horrible things. But the question that remains is whether there is such a thing as young love.

As this generation welcomes and envelops every new form of media and opportunity that is in no comparison to what youth had 20 years ago, it is hard to understand what exactly love is.

Kids are dating at younger ages than what was ever permitted before.

Many have scorned the idea of young love with the rebuttal that youth can only experience puppy love, or an infatuation with another person.

Mark Atillio, a freshman pharmacy major at Wilkes, agreed that today's youth can experience love.

He has been in a relationship with his girlfriend for three and a half years.

"Even if (a relationship) doesn't work out, it's probably the healthiest thing kids can do as oppose to just avoiding it completely," he said.

Atillio quoted Robin Williams when he stated that "when it comes to dating, men only have enough room for one thing, and that's their sex organ."

"The younger generation is getting exposed to a lot, trying to devote their blood to the wrong place," Atillio said. "That's the distinction to make."



The Beacon/Laura Preby

Freshmen Jill Grasso and Pat Lello hold hands as they walk down the Greenway.

Many younger kids have experienced the act of love only to suffer heartbreak, de-

pression and anxiety. With all of the consequences of love, it's hard to remember why

anyone would want it in the first place.

"Since I've started dating (my girlfriend), I've got a wider view on reality – but I take it day by day," Atillio added. "I am terribly rational but I am having a very good time in my relationship and certainly am in love."

Justine Adams, a junior psychology major, offered her idea about young love stating that although young love does exist, it's not necessarily needed.

"Our generation is far too dependent on relationships for happiness, but for love to be real at any age, you must love yourself first and be where you want to be in your life; otherwise it won't work," she said.

Kristy Ordile, a senior business major, currently works at "All About Singles" as a matchmaker. Working day to day with helping people find love, Ordile agreed that puppy love is reserved to younger kids, most likely in their elementary years, but it is not impossible to find the love at such a young age.

"Yes, we are an immature generation, but what I tell my clients is if you can love yourself, you can love others," Ordile said. "It doesn't matter the age, you can still find that sense of security and trust, which ultimately leads to love and happiness. I match clients every day from the ages of 21 to 85. I think that this generation might have a harder time finding love, but it doesn't mean it's impossible."

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Explaining the science and psychology of love

BY DEVONI NOVAK
Staff Writer

Famous love stories like Romeo and Juliet, Penelope and Odysseus, and Tristan and Isolde provide a notion of fated love and that two individuals are meant to be together. However, love is more psychological than that. Scientists would say love is an emotion that is developed to ensure reproduction of the human species.

People fall in and out of love all the time because it is an emotion that psychologically takes time to build. There are three stages of falling in love: lust, attraction and attachment.

All three stages of romantic love involve a different area of the brain and the release of a different chemical. The first of the three stages is lust.

When one begins to see another as unique or special, love begins to develop. Over time the intensity grows. Flaws are overlooked while positive characteristics are obsessed over. Loves struck couples begin to feel a sense of euphoria along with high energy levels, sleeplessness and mood swings.

Lust is driven by the sex hormones estrogen and testosterone. During this stage both men and women have higher levels of brain activity, particularly in the hypothalamus and the amygdale of the brain. This stage is followed by attraction.

Attraction is the stage where infatuation sets in. Couples in this stage experience amplified energy and concentrate more on their partner. Three main neurotransmitters, adrenaline, dopamine and serotonin, are involved in attraction.

Serotonin is the only neurotransmitter of

the three that is not produced in excess and production during attraction is also hindered. Dr. Donatella Marazziti, a psychologist at the University of Pisa found that couples who had been romantically involved for less than six months had a serotonin level equal to those with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, which may explain why newly-involved couples find themselves thinking about each other so frequently.

The last of the three love stages is attachment. Lovers in this stage most commonly feel separation anxiety, nest building and mutual territory defense. Attachment is the stage that seals the bond of a lasting courtship.

The law of attraction proposes that opposites attract however, what couples have in common maintains the relationship, according to Wilkes psychology associate profes-

sor Dr. Edward Schicatano. "It is commonalities that will allow you to endure."

Theory says that sex creates attachment while frequent sex intensifies it. This phenomenon occurs because both men and women produce the hormone oxytocin during sex. Oxytocin production strengthens intimacy and causes the couple to feel a sense of heightened closeness. Oxytocin also creates the bond a mother has for her child because it is released upon giving birth.

The other attachment hormone, vasopressin, is produced after sex. This chemical also psychologically reinforces a relationship. This chemical is possibly the reason humans have such intense pair bonds and why we engage in more sex than necessary for reproduction.

SEE PSYCH, Page 12

ASB Stick-Em-Up 2011



The Beacon/Melissa Polchinski

Alternative Spring Break held its annual Stick-Em-Up event on Feb. 3 where students are stuck to plywood planks with duct tape. Whitney Storms, who is going to Kentucky on the ASB trip, is being "stuck-up" for \$1 for an arm's length of tape.

Chinese New Year brings a different time for families

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

For many Americans, the beginning of a new year is a chance to start fresh and create a new resolution. While in China, the New Year's holiday, marked this year on Feb. 3, is a markedly different occasion that still maintains some aspects of its American counterpart.

In China, people are given seven days off to travel home to their families; schoolchildren get 11 days off to celebrate. Families utilize these days by visiting relatives and giving gifts, the most popular of which is lucky money. Lucky money is not actual currency, but it is given as a traditional gift.

"(We) say happy New Year to our families and (they) give us lucky money," said Xin Lin, a graduate student in education from Datong in Shanxi Province, China. "Some people will put this lucky money in a red envelope."

The color red is a significant part of Chinese New Year because it is good luck and fends off Nian, a mythological beast the Chinese fear because of his hunger for their food.

"We think (red) is (a) very good color and Nian is very afraid (of) this color so at that time in the new year in China we put red paper on the door," said Wenjie Li, another graduate student in education from Huai in Hunan Province, China. "We wear red (clothing) and we put (the paper) in the op-

posite (direction) in the home."

Other decorations believed to bring luck include handmade red ornaments, Chinese poetry written in calligraphy, fireworks and the Chinese Dragon Long. Chinese New Year is a time for families to get together and celebrate with dumplings and a New Year's special on television.

"The family member(s) come together, have dinner, and at night (they watch) television (to celebrate) the New Year and the family members sit together and make dumplings," said Li.

Families stay up all night celebrating the first night of Chinese New Year but Li says that the following day is for families to visit relatives.

"We get up very early and we got to (our) grandparents or relatives to say Happy New Year to (our) family member(s)," she said. "It's a very traditional way (to ring in) the first day of (the new) year."

The holiday is celebrated during the winter months because it is a time when Chinese families don't have to work and can instead see one other, but for Chinese students the celebration is very different when they are in the United States and far from their families.

"We can make dumplings, and I call my friends in (the area) and tell them (to) come to my apartment and we make dumplings together and after that we just eat dumplings and enjoy the good food," Li said.

"Because here we don't have a lot of Chinese students, we are kind of a family together."

Lin also said he had a party with friends where they made and ate dumplings, which are the most common type of food consumed on this holiday.

"Two kinds, lamb and pork, depends (on) what you like. Different people make (them differently)," said Lin. "Traditionally we have dumplings and some spring rolls."

Different families consume different kinds of foods for the holiday, including fish, mandarin oranges, noodles, fish salad, taro cakes, and bakka, a dried meat slice. The fish represents success during the holiday.

The most common symbol of Chinese New Year is the calendar. Each year has a particular animal and it rotates on a 12 year cycle. This year, 2011, is the year of the rabbit. But despite these differences, 'Gong xi fa cai,' or 'Happy New Year' has the same meaning for people of both cultures.

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Wilkes University's Health & Wellness Corner

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

Q: If I have been diagnosed with HPV (human papilloavirus), will I have a greater risk of developing cervical cancer?

A: HPV is a common virus that is spread easily by skin-to-skin contact during unprotected sexual activity with another person. There are many types of HPV, some can cause changes on a women's cervix that can lead to cervical cancer and other types can cause genital warts.

HPV usually has no symptoms and for some it may cause cervical cancers but

there is no way to know which people who get HPV will go on to develop cancer or other health problems.

Cervical cancer is very preventable if found early and is highly treatable.

There are several ways that people can lower their can of getting HPV:

* Vaccines are now available for both females and males for some of the most common HPV. These vaccines are a series of three shots and are most effective before a person becomes sexually active.

* For those who choose to be sexually active, condoms may lower the risk of HPV. HPV can infect areas that are not covered by a condom, so condoms don't FULLY protect against HPV.

* People can lower their chances of get-

ting HPV by being in a faithful relationship, with one partner, limiting their number of sex partners and choosing a partner who has had no or few prior partners.

* If you are sexually active, it is VERY IMPORTANT to get regular pap smears as directed by your health care provider.

Do you have a question for the Health & Wellness Corner? E-mail your questions to wellness.services@wilkes.edu, and you may see your question in next week's Wellness Corner. Your privacy will be protected. You can reach those working at Health Services at 570-408-4730 or by visiting their office on the first floor of Passan Hall.

Spring not expected soon, despite groundhog predictions

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

This year's annual celebration of Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, Pa. ended with Punxsutawney Phil not seeing his shadow, traditionally meaning that an early spring is around the corner. But despite this year's prediction, the recent influx of winter storms is making students doubt whether spring is to be expected after all.

"It seems like it's been snowing a lot more compared to last year and the temperatures seem to be a lot colder," said John Jansov, a sophomore biology major.

An explanation for the recent change in winter weather can be attributed to the weather phenomenon La Niña, which normally gives Pennsylvania a warmer and drier winter and is the counterpart to El Niño. La Niña has not been the case, this year according to WBRE meteorologist Dave Skutnik.

"It's been the exact opposite and all that does is tell us, well, there's really no exact science to predicting the weather, especially really long term (weather)," Skutnik said, "Even though (a) pattern sets up that you

think it's going to be warm, it winds up being cold."

This year's La Niña phenomenon could bring wild swings of weather where there can be a couple of days in 50s and 60s but then all of a sudden two days later it could be in the teens and 20s.

"I don't think it's been different," said Laurinette Williams, a freshman biology major. "It's winter, it's expected, you just gear up for it."

Unfortunately, people who would hate the cold and snow may have to suffer again, as Skutnik predicts that we may not be seeing the last of the winter weather yet.

"I'm looking for at least the possibility for a bigger storm toward the end of (this) week, that is what I like to call a pattern-buster," Skutnik said. "That big storm is a good thing because after that big storm leaves is when we can get the warmer, nicer, quieter weather pattern."

For now, students are dealing with the snow as best as they can by being prepared, thinking positive and taking advantage of any warm weather that comes through. But lots of winter weather means that traveling will be a hassle.



The Beacon/Laura Preb

Even though famed groundhog Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early Spring, local weather experts believe that more snow will hit Wilkes-Barre this February.

"You have to travel back home on the weekends and stuff and if the conditions are bad, bad driving," Jansov said. "Just try to find windows when the weather is good and so if it's not snowing during a certain time of day I try to go home during that time."

"Driving is scary in this weather," Williams said. "(Wearing) snow boots and very warm clothing (helps)."

Despite the groundhog's predictions of an early spring for 2011, Skutnik predicts that the earliest signs of spring for Northeastern Pennsylvania may not appear until at least March, although that may not be such the case this year.

"There are signs that the pattern (of air) over the country is (going to) change pretty significantly right around Valentine's Day and I think starting that week of Valentine's Day into the last week of February we'll actually see some warm weather. I wouldn't be surprised if there a few 50 degree days thrown in there in the second half of February," Skutnik said.

Unfortunately, the problem that occurs when there is warm weather that early in the year is that the cold weather can come back when it is expected to be warm in March and

into April. During that time you can have days that are a dreary 30 degrees and 40 degrees when it is supposed to be in the 50s or on some days into the 60s, meaning that spring can go away for a while.

"I think the second half of February actually does look warmer (and) probably the more interesting thing about that is what gets us into that warmer pattern," Skutnik said. "A lot of times when you see a cold, wintery, stormy pattern like we've been in since the beginning of the year you'll see a huge storm somewhere in the eastern part of the country that literally marks the pattern switch, you get this huge storm and you go from wintery pattern to a much warmer pattern."

This means that the big storm that has hit Chicago and other major cities last week could hit this region towards the end of this week. Although Punxsutawney Phil has predicted that spring will come early this year, spring will not come until April from a meteorological perspective. From the looks of it, Wilkes University will have to be dealing with more snow this February.

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PSYCH

Continued from Page 10

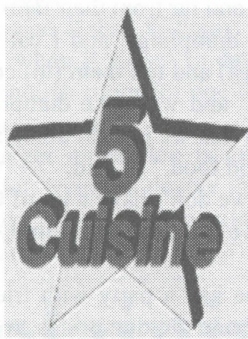
"Human attachment is associated with the above mammalian traits, as well as feelings of calm, security, social comfort, and emotional union with a long term mate," said Helen Fisher, a biological anthropology professor at Rutgers University.

Love is an unpredictable and impermanent instinctive emotion. One's outlook

on love does not vary according to age, gender or sexual orientation. Although some are able to fall in love more often or more intensely than others this does not correlate with any demographic. Love has the power to enrich life; however, one must not seek love to become happy.

"You cannot depend on someone else to make you happy, you have to be happy first," Schicatanano said.

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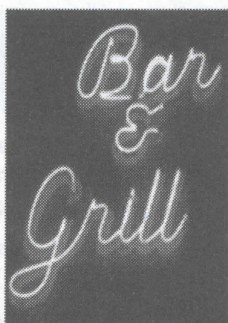
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FEBRUARY 8, 2011

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Valentine's Day movies to watch with your loved one

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching, so in honor of the 'red holiday,' *The Beacon* has put together a movie list of romantic movies to watch with your significant other. Some will make you laugh, while others will make you cry and most - if not all - will have you cuddling up next to your sweetheart with a scented candle of love burning in the background.

"The Notebook"

Starring Rachel McAdams and Ryan Gosling, this sappy romantic film about past experiences and unforgotten love will bring a tear to even the strongest of heart. McAdams and Gosling play two young lovers who come from different lifestyles. Their onscreen chemistry is so realistic and believable, that it makes for a believable story. However, despite all odds, the duo is able to find deep in their hearts that they belong with each other. As an added bonus, their kiss scenes will give you goosebumps. Based on author Nicholas Sparks novel of the same name, either read it, watch it or do both. No one can avoid this story.

"When Harry Met Sally"

Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal star in an older but equally entertaining romantic comedy about friends who fall in love. Ryan and Crystal are relatively young in this film, which makes the film so adorable. Both sexes will enjoy this one.

"Pride and Prejudice"

Centering around Jane Austen's beloved novel, whether you watch the original with Colin Firth or the latest edition with Kiera Knightley, this movie should be watched with a night in with the girlfriends. Guys won't make it past the title credits.

"Pretty Woman"

Starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, this movie is the queen of movie montages. Let's not forget the very catchy eponymous theme song.

"Valentine's Day"

Although rather cliché and predictable at times, the film offers man candy all over the place and guys get to see the famous "J" actresses of Hollywood as the it stars Jessica Alba, Jessica Biel and Jennifer Garner. Queen Latifah, Anne Hathaway, Ashton Kutcher, Bradley Cooper, Julia Roberts, Eric Dane,

Patrick Dempsey, Taylor Swift, Emma Roberts and many others round out the all-star cast. If you don't have high expectations, check this movie out.

"The Proposal"

Although this film was only released last year, it is a movie for both sexes. Starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds, the film centers on a pretend marriage in an attempt to keep Bullock's character from being deported. Both guys and girls will enjoy watching Bullock and Reynolds hate each other and then love each other. Plus, Betty White brings her golden comedy to the film.

"Casablanca"

"Here's looking at you, kid!" Is there anything more to say about this classic? This film still tops the charts on most romantically believable. Filmed in 1941, this is most likely one of most romantic films of all time.

"Shakespeare in Love"

Starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Geoffrey Rush, Ben Affleck, Lady Judi Dench and Colin Firth, this Oscar winner is a beautiful spin on Shakespeare. But it also offers hints of comedy - quite different from Shakespeare's own dreary tales of dreaded love.

"Overboard"

Starring the once "it" couple Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell, "Overboard" might not be everyone's favorite romantic comedy, but it doesn't hurt to watch the pair in action. Their chemistry is on key, and Hawn, once a queen of comedy - offers her acting skills to an overall cute and loveable film.

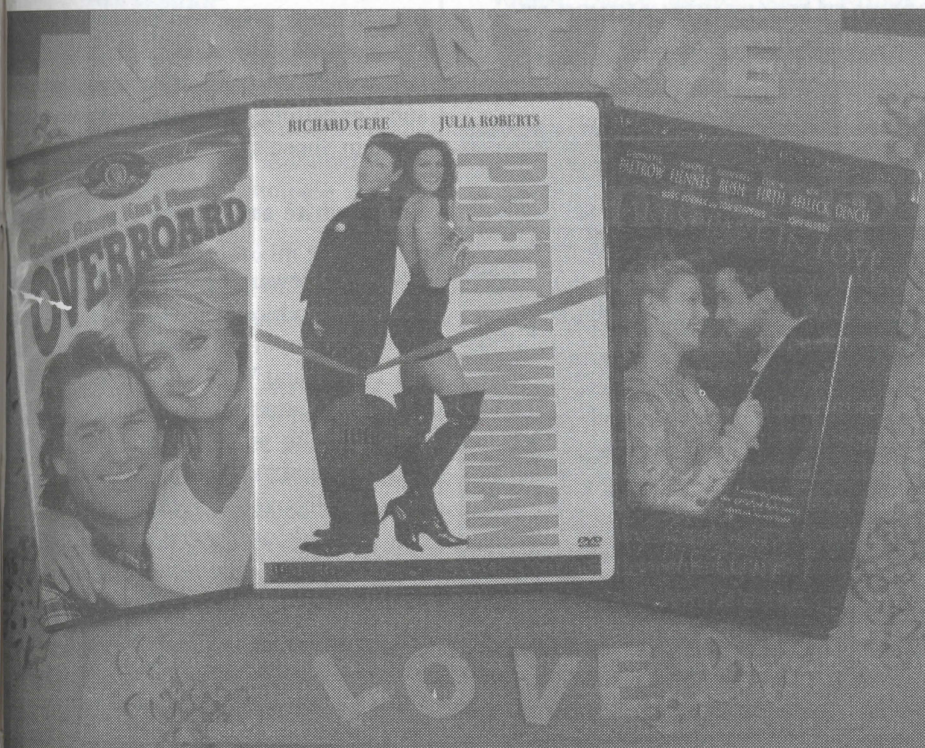
"Dirty Dancing"

This romantic classic stars pre-nose job Jennifer Grey alongside Patrick Swayze in one of the classic '80s movies. They're dancing and it's dirty - it's entertaining, and if that doesn't appeal to you, the final dance scene will put "High School Musical" to shame.

"P.S. I Love You"

This film stars Hilary Swank and Gerald Butler. Truly one of the saddest movies on the list, but a story about a widowed wife who discovers her husband has left her letters after he dies, is truly inspirational. The plot is unique and poetic, and offers a message that will have you grabbing for the tissues.

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The Beacon/Jonathan Bowman



The Beacon/Jonathan Bowman

Pictured above are the romantic comedies "Overboard," "Pretty Woman" and "Shakespeare in Love."

These eight films are ideal for Valentine's Day or any other date night.

Students won't have too go far for February 14 Cards, roses, dinner, and a movie; all affordable in Wilkes-Barre

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

Valentine's Day might be one of the most romantic (and expensive) days of the year, but for cash-strapped students on a budget, Wilkes-Barre has just about everything you need to make your Valentine's day special without breaking the bank. Depending on how much you want to spend, most of the restaurants and florists are in walking distance.

The Card

Hallmark, located in the Wyoming Valley Mall, is the hot spot for buying cards for every occasion. Whether you want a humorous card, or just something that says something beautiful - this is the place to go. If this is too expensive for students, there's always Walgreens, Rite-Aid, and CVS. Singing cards are always fun.

The Flowers

Nothing else says I love you like flowers. McCarthy Flowers has two close locations. One on 43 E. South St., Wilkes-Barre, and the other on 308 Kidder St., Wilkes-Barre. Prices for a vase of flowers are \$40 and up. But for individual roses, prices are relatively cheap. For more information, visit mccarthyflowers.com or call 1-800-4-FLO-RAL.

Ketler Florist and Greenhouse is located at

1205 S. Main St. in Wilkes-Barre. Although a little more expensive than McCarthy Flowers, if you want to splurge on your partner - this is the place to go. Prices range from \$60 and up. For more information, visit ketler-florist.com or call 570-823-3716.

The Dinner

Katana, "The Authentic Japanese Restaurant," located on 43 S. Main Street, in the heart of Wilkes-Barre offers the perfect atmosphere for a Valentine's Day date night at a decently affordable price. Their menu offers sushi, hibachi, dinner specials, and a variety of Japanese entrees. For a special hibachi dinner, be sure to make reservations. For more information, visit katanawb.com or call 570-825-9080.

If you have a little bit more of an ethnic taste bud, Thai Thai offers a massive variety of authentic Thai cooked to order selections. Spicy curry, basil fried rice, and duck salad are just a few of the tasty dishes on the menu. For more information, visit thai-thai-restaurant.exteen.com or call 570-824-9599.

As one of the busiest bars around, Bart and Urby's, offers affordable meals and drinks. Urby's is located at 119 S. Main St. Wilkes-Barre, and hosts wing night every Monday night. Coincidentally, Valentine's Day falls on a Monday this year.

The Movie

If you are only able to spend two hours together and are not looking to spend a lot,

the movies are a great place to do that. Students can get \$3 tickets in the Henry Student Center at select times, and there are plenty of movies to see that will hold both you and your partner's interest.

"No Strings Attached" stars Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher in a story that seems very cliché but their chemistry is cute, and the film provides a few laughs that make it worth seeing. The film is rated R for adult humor, language and sexual content.

"Blue Valentine" was nominated for an Oscar as well as the central actors in the film, Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams. This one will have most girls reaching for the tissues and holding their boyfriend's hand. Also rated R for sexual content and language, the story seems similar, but it is intense and it delivers a realistic message for both men and women about the ups and downs of relationships.

For all those anti-Valentine's day enthusiasts, "The Dilemma," is playing in theaters. Starring Vince Vaughn, Kevin James, Channing Tatum and Winona Ryder, this is sure to be a crowd pleaser for all those students who want to keep their mind off the day of love and focus on just "loving" your friends.

For more information about show times and ratings, visit rctheaters.com.

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Celebrity Chatter

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

Britney Spears back on the charts

Britney Spears' new song, "Hold It Against Me," debuted at No. 1 its first week. We are counting down the days for her music video which apparently will display old-school Britney, the dance fiend. According to Perez Hilton, Spears music video will be released on Feb. 18. The album, titled "Femme Fatale," will be released on March 15 to many fans dismay, but that won't stop the queen of pop. Spears also plans on making several interviews, photo shoots, and television performances. Keep up the good work Brit!

Charlie Sheen's addictions may shut down show

CBS won't give up Charlie Sheen without a fight. Sources close to the star say he doesn't think he has a problem, while the network insists that the "show must go on," despite the fact that shooting revolves around whether Sheen is sober on particular days of shooting. The real problem is filming stops, what will become of the No. 1 sitcom on television? Millions of dollars will be lost, advertisers will get mad, and I'm betting a made-for-TV movie will be made in Sheen's honor.

Snow white and riding hood get dark

Kristen Stewart is being considered to play the role of princess Snow White in a darker, eerier version of the classic fairytale. Charlize Theron and Viggo Mortensen are said to already be attached to the film. That's not the only film to rip off a beloved bedtime story and make it dreary. "Little Red Riding Hood" will be released in theaters in the next few months and the trailer alone will give you the chills. Amanda Seyfried will star as Red Riding Hood. So I'm guessing there will be no singing and smiling bunnies in either of these movies, although we all know Seyfried and Stewart can sing.

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Katana is located in downtown Wilkes-Barre and offers different hibachi dinner combinations and sushi entrees.



The Beacon/ Molly Kurlandski
Hallmark offers cards with both romantic and funny sayings such as the one pictured above.

ZerCross

"Happy Valentine's Day"

BY ASHLEY ZERFOSS
Correspondent

Across

Down

1. Roses are red, violets are blue...
5. Get her a box of...
6. The O in XOXO
8. The X in XOXO
10. Last minute gift of choice
12. A man's better half
13. *gasp!* He went to...
14. The month of Valentine's Day
18. A girl's better half

2. Will you be...?
3. Be my....
4. Greek God of Desire
7. Your high school...
9. Emperor Claudius II outlawed this
10. Sugary sweet, and often heart-shaped
11. Put a little love in your...
14. Lilies, orchids, and everything in between
15. A woman's better half
16. Affection or adoration
17. Every kiss begins with

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Arts YOUNiverse offers Wilkes-Barre assortment of artwork

BY DEVONI NOVAK
Correspondent

Inside a large, historic church on Franklin Street lies a place where community members of all ages can participate in and admire the arts.

Located on 47 N. Franklin St. in Wilkes-Barre, Arts YOUNiverse offers an array of classes, galleries, and studios in which the community can engage.

Arts YOUNiverse was created by Kathleen Godwin almost six years ago. Godwin envisioned a place where art could be affordably appreciated by the community on a daily basis. Godwin wished for art to be more dominant in peoples' lives for all age groups and the creation of Arts YOUNiverse has accomplished just that.

As the Arts YOUNiverse homepage states, "Participation in the arts helps us each to give form to thought, to truly express our emotions through dance, painting, poetry, to truly discover ourselves."

The result of Godwin's vision is a community oriented center where both visual and performing arts can be practiced and

valued. Dance, theater, poetry writing and painting are just a few of the wide selection of classes that are offered at Arts YOUNiverse.

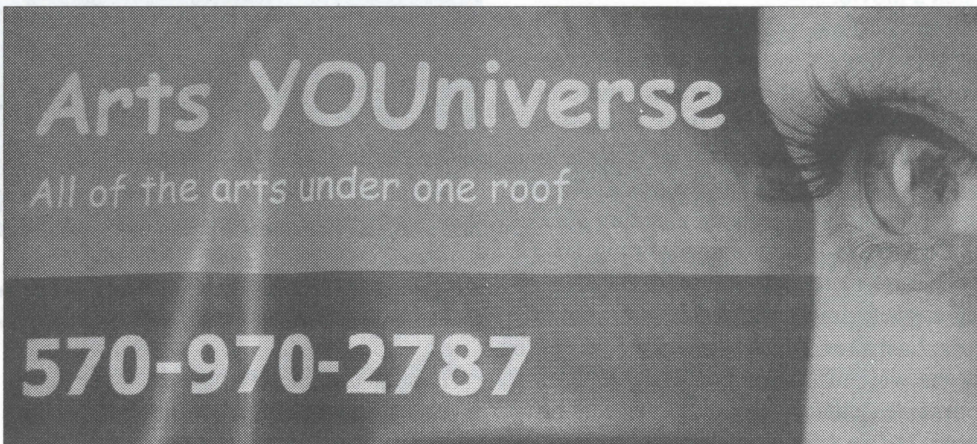
Arts YOUNiverse is now reaching to the college communities for a younger perspective on art. Coordinators are seeking local artists including Wilkes University and King's College students who would like to display their work.

"(Arts YOUNiverse) asks for students to submit their work every spring semester. I always encourage my students to do so," said Sara Pisarchick-Rech, an assistant art professor at Wilkes.

Gwen Harleman, an arts coordinator for the visual arts studio at Arts YOUNiverse, is hopeful that more Wilkes and King's students will come and take advantage of the activities Arts YOUNiverse has to offer.

"Use of the building is really used to the maximum," Harleman said.

Not only does the organization offer classes but it also has a gallery for those who wish to merely observe the work of an artist. The gallery displays the artwork of 35-40 different artists who choose to express themselves through a variety of



The Beacon Archives/Kirstin Cook

Arts YOUNiverse has a variety of art classes for all ages. Located on 47 North Franklin Street Wilkes-Barre, classes range from pottery to fencing. They are now accepting art from both Wilkes and Kings students, to be displayed in their art gallery.

forms. Artwork may range from sculptures to paintings. However, artists must be mindful that their work is tasteful and will not offend children or parents.

The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., depending on scheduled classes. For all who are interested in viewing the artwork admission is free. Every third Friday of the month

community members may come in for an open reception to meet the artist if they so wish.

For more information, students can visit their website at www.artsyouniverse.com.

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A WINNING STREAK

Two student-athletes celebrating three years together

BY CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS
Sports Editor

A student-athlete's life can be very hectic, with practices, games, classes and homework often making it difficult for some to find time for themselves.

But two Wilkes University juniors are not only able to find time to fulfill the busy schedule of a student-athlete, but they are able to make time for each other.

Kendall Hinze, a pharmacy major and forward on the basketball team, and Brianna Edgar, a psychology major and defensive specialist on the volleyball team, have been dating since freshman year. The duo has been able to balance the commitments of being student-athletes and relationships since.

"It's usually all about the scheduling," Hinze said. "Sports and classes you have to do at a certain time, but then whenever we have homework, we try and do it together. We always save weekend nights for stuff to do together, too. We'll go out for dinner or catch a movie."

With Edgar's volleyball played in the fall and Hinze's basketball in the winter, it would seem like it would create more of a scheduling conflict with their seasons being apart. However, with separate seasons, the two are able to find time to attend each other's games and cheer one another on.

"He's really good about getting to all my home games," Edgar said. "He was a big support during the Arthur program this year. Last year, I even remember he drove all the way out to a non-conference spring tournament that really didn't mean anything, but he still took away a Saturday to come see me."

Hinze's favorite moment of Edgar's sporting career came at this tournament, when he said Edgar made two great diving digs within seconds of each other.

"I was really impressed at how fast she was able to react to both spikes," he recalled. "Her team wound up getting that point. It was really impressive."

Edgar, who has watched her boyfriend grow as a basketball player and individual during the past three years, was really impressed with the performance Hinze has put on this season.



The Beacon/Melissa Polchinski
Brianna Edgar and Kendall Hinze have been able to balance the schedule of a student athlete and still find time for each other.

"I think the coolest part is to see how much of a leader he's become with being named captain this year as a junior," Edgar said. "His whole junior year so far has been a lot of fun to watch."

Hinze explained the Edgar has become a diehard fan of the Colonels basketball team and tries to make it to any game that she can to watch the team.

Coming into Wilkes their freshman years, both Hinze and Edgar admittedly knew very little of each other's sports. After three years of dating, however, they've grown much more knowledgeable of what is going on down each of their courts. Now, they can even offer each other advice after the games.

Edgar explained that before college, she had seen her brother play all throughout middle school, but never could pick up on all of the rules and strategies. However, three years of dating Hinze has changed that.

"I used to just think it was dribble, dribble, shoot," Edgar said. "Dating Kendall, I've learned so much about the sport now."

Hinze said he even goes to her for advice on how he played after games.

"She's become an expert now, watching not only all my games, but even the NBA and NCAA on TV every night. She's usually

SEE STREAK, Page 17

The Skinny Post

BY PHAT NGUYEN
Assistant Sports Editor

With all the talk of athlete's use of twitter, I thought I might highlight some of the bigger stories in the sport on twitter.

I meant to write a little section defending arguably one of the world's strongest diabetic athletes, but first, let me explain to everyone the difference between being hurt and being injured. It's a decision that the training and medical staff have to make, not the quarterback. In fact, it was coach Lovie Smith's decision to sit the injured Jay Cutler.

I also find it interesting that the "players" making comments in the press are those who could not/did not get to the title game. And on top of all this Martz's offensive scheme leaves the QB very exposed. The numbers will speak volumes for you.

Cutler led the league in times sacked at 57 including postseason play and his toughness is being questioned? He played his NFL career with diabetes and didn't know until after the 2008 season. Come on man! Cut Culter some slack.

Here's another reason why I love Twitter. I feel that Adam Scheffer said it best with his hash tag for trending topics with "Twitter's where it's at."

"Player rip Jay Cutler on Twitter. Packers complain about team picture on Twitter. Hasselbeck-Cromartie feud on Twitter. #Twitterswhereitsat"

That said, here are a few I found enjoyable: "People are saying that I'm taking beard-enhancing drugs, but I'm not," said Brett Keisel via Twitter.

Hasselbeck tweeted, "Somebody ask Cromartie if he knows what CBA stands for," then deleted it.

Cromartie quickly responded to Hasselbeck saying "hey Matt if u have something to say be a man about it. Don't erase it. I will smash ur face in."

In other news, Lil Wayne, who is from New Orleans, is not a bandwagon Cheeshead! I was digging around and found an ESPN blog written by Wayne in 2008 praising the success of Aaron Rodgers. So kudos to you Lil Wayne, even though your lyrics are cheesy, you have written a great fight song for the Packer Nation. In case you were wondering, he is also a fan of the Red Sox, the Lakers and the Boston Bruins.

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TCNJ drops Wrestling

Loss snaps Colonels' five-game streak

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA
Special Projects Editor

It was a heavyweight tilt on the mat Friday, February 4 in the Arnaud C. Marts Center as No. 15 Wilkes University played host to No. 14 TCNJ. TCNJ came in with a record of 17-1 and was looking to extend their 13-match winning streak. The Colonels on the other hand, were attempting to stretch their own winning streak to six matches.

But even with a surplus of foam fingers and the largest crowd of the season on hand, TCNJ, taking advantage of an early 12-0 lead, was too much for the shorthanded Colonels, holding off a Wilkes rally for a 24-18 victory.

"We just got off to a bad start," said Wilkes head coach John Laudenslager. "We wrestled ok, and we still had some chances to win but we had an injury right off the bat to one of our best kids, a kid we thought would win on paper who was wrestling his best match in a while before his injury."

"We needed to win 125 and 157...we win those two, we win the match."

Freshman sensation Myzar Mendoza went

down clutching his shoulder in the third period of his match at the 125-pound weight class, forcing an injury default and giving the Lions an early 6-0 lead. Mendoza, who came into the match with a 25-6 record, was taken from the match in an ambulance and did not return.

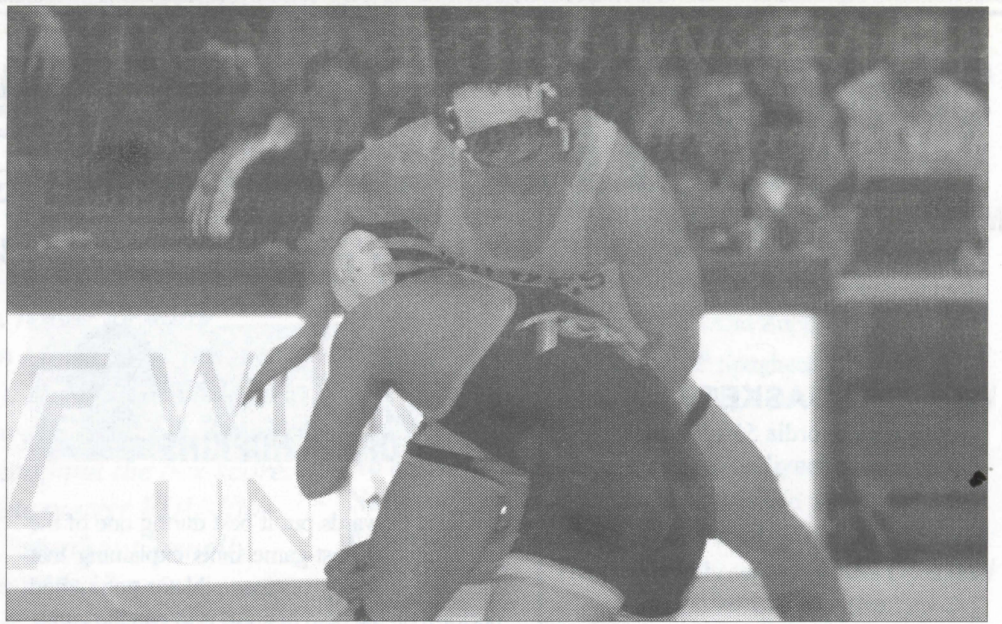
TCNJ's Dan Herr then pinned Mark Uliano in 1:58 to give the Lions a quick 12-0 lead. Wilkes' Ryan Wilson would get the Colonels on the board with a 9-5 decision at the 141-pound class. Sixth-ranked Anthony Dattolo would continue the momentum shift with a huge 3-2 decision in the 149-pound class.

"Being down 12-0 that quickly hurt and took the crowd out of it early," Laudenslager said. "We got stuck at 133 and it was hard to come back from that kind of deficit."

After Shane Everett took the loss in a 5-2 decision, Nathan White got the Colonels back on the board with a 6-2 decision at 157, pulling them to within six, 15-9.

After back-to-back losses, Matt Transue earned a victory at 197 in 35 seconds, pinning TCNJ's Jeff Furbish. Transue, a freshman, continued his terrific season with the victory.

"My basic move is in neutral, and I just had



The Beacon/Melissa Polchinski

Ryan Wilson makes his move on his opponent during Wilkes' match on Friday.

the mindset to do this move at this time, and it just worked out that it came out as quick as it did," Transue said. "Sometimes it doesn't happen and sometimes it doesn't, this time it did."

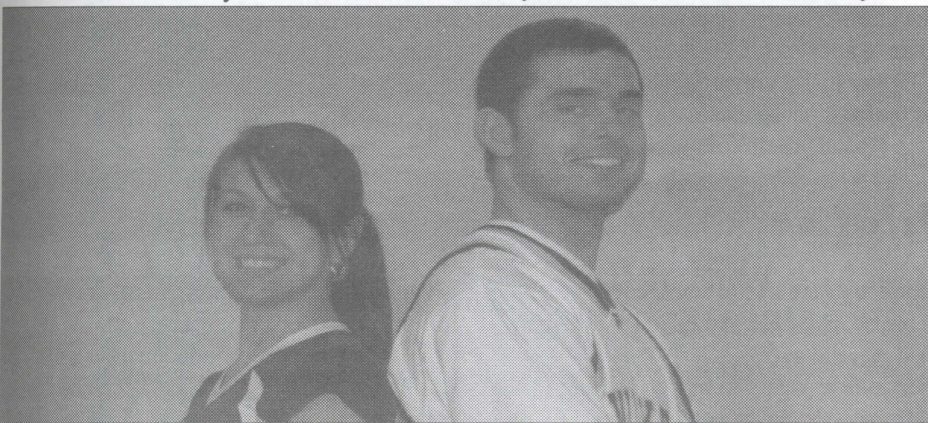
With the loss, the Colonels dropped to 15-8-1 on the season, including a 2-5 mark against top-30 teams.

"It's good that we get time after these matches to go back and figure out what we need to improve on so come conference time we have

identified our problems and improved on them," White said. "Hopefully we make the adjustments we need to get those wins."

"We know what the best kids and the best teams have, and we're one of those teams," Laudenslager said. "We didn't do it tonight. We know we are pretty equal, it just depends on who has the better night, and it just wasn't us tonight."

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The Beacon/Melissa Polchinski

Edgar and Hinze always try to find time to make the trips to each other's games.

STREAK

Continued from Page 16

pretty good with offering advice, too, without telling me I flat out stunk," Hinze joked.

Edgar added that Hinze is still picking up all of the details when it comes to her sport, joking that he knows when to cheer.

"He doesn't know everything about volleyball," Edgar said. "So he usually just sticks to 'nice dig' or 'awesome set,' but it's still nice to hear after games. He's definitely picking up more and more though."

As two collegiate athletes, it would only seem natural for their competitive spirits to come out against each other. Both agreed that in Hinze's case, it does slip out a little bit more.

"When we play something just like ping pong, he can get very competitive. We tried playing one-on-one this summer and I got head butted unintentionally," Edgar teased.

Hinze laughed, saying he is trying to tone it down when playing Edgar, as opposed to the school rival, King's College.

Moving forward, the couple will have the spring season to look forward to, a time when they'll have more time to spend with each other because of the off-season. However, even with the busy schedule that comes with being a student athlete in season, these two individuals are always able to make their relationship work, together.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

2/2 vs. Misericordia 77-64 W
2/5 @ Manhattanville 66-47 W

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/2 vs. Misericordia 55-69 L
2/5 @ Manhattanville 72-84 L

WRESTLING

2/2 vs. Scranton 46-3 W
2/4 vs. TCNJ 18-24 L

WEEK AHEAD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2/9 vs. Eastern 8 p.m.
2/12 vs. Delaware Valley 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/9 vs. Eastern 6 p.m.
2/12 vs. Delaware Valley 1 p.m.

WRESTLING

2/8 Elizabethtown 7 p.m.
2/11 @ Ithaca 7 p.m.

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FACE OFF

Should athletes be allowed to use Twitter?

"You play to win the game."



Sports Editor
CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS

Herm Edwards put it best during one of the most famous post-game rants explaining that the solid and only purpose athletes go out and perform on the field or court is to win the game. Nothing more and nothing less. There should be no worries about individual statistics, worrying about contact extensions or any other outside distractions.

Today, eight years after that infamous tirade by the Jets coach, Twitter created a whole new level of outside distraction for these athletes who's should purpose is to go out every game and win. "Tweets" by these multi-million dollar athletes allow them to reach out to their fan base and give minute by minute detail on everything that they are doing in their lives outside of the sport.

With technology we have now, these athletes are able to access Twitter on their smart phones, iPods, locker room computers, and anywhere else they might desire to tell their fans of the lat-

est book they read or of the great sandwich they just made for themselves.

Now I don't know about the rest of you sports fans out there, but I couldn't care less about the traffic Ochocinco is stuck in on his way to the movies. All I really care about is what they do on the field and only anything off the field that may affect their ability on it.

"Watching Paranormal Activity 2 in my hotel, I'm trying to anticipate when things will happen but it's not working, I keep jumping!!!" Ochocinco said on his Twitter account, @ochocinco

As excited as I was to read about Chad Ochocinco watching Paranormal Activity 2, I just don't think it's quite news worthy enough to be posted on the web. It may seem like a small thing that I'm picking on, but in the bigger sense let's take a look at the athletes who are on Twitter. Most of the athletes are the attention-hungry ones, who, for the most part, are not the winners we were watching Sunday. It's the same for the other sports as well.

Okay, now I understand athletes are people just like us and to ask them to not use something like Twitter might not be fair, but the least that these professional sports can do is to ban it during the season. There's no need for athletes to

get caught up in tweeting while they should be worrying about winning their next game. Some sports have taken the first step in this and have banned tweeting during games, but in my opinion that's not enough. It should be banned for the entire season.

Let's just look at the incident that occurred just a few weeks ago, when Jay Cutler, the quarterback of the Chicago Bears was knocked out of the NFC championship game with what we would learn later to be a torn MCL, a very serious injury. Several athletes, the most talked about being Maurice Jones-Drew, running back for the Jacksonville Jaguars, bashed Cutler for not toughening up and playing for his team. This is not a statement that should be posted on something like Twitter. If Jones-Drew and the other athletes really felt that strongly about Cutler, they could have said it to the media, where they might have thought twice before saying it in the first place.

So, I think we need to take a long look at this and think to ourselves, do we really need to hear about athletes going to Outback Steakhouse for dinner? All Twitter has become is just another outside distraction for athletes, one that for the good of the game should be banned.

Sweet Tweets for Athletes



Assistant Sports Editor
PHAT NGUYEN

I am 100% for the use of Twitter for professional athletes, just not during games. I love everything there is to know about sports, so to me at least, Twitter just seems so awesome that these guys actually share their moments of success that we just witness either live on T.V. or at the game with us, their beloved fans. League officials from all sports should make tweeting legal under most circumstances, because it might actually help their leagues gain new fans.

I feel that Twitter allows for the freedom of speech that we are all entitled to as Americans. At the same time, it lets athletes build a fan base in a personal way without having to be there in person. It's outside of the press conference, so the tweeting athletes can feel comfortable almost like they're chatting or texting with their friends. Instead of being asked a

question, they are free to comment on anything they please, like "Just landed in Dallas where's a good place to eat?"

If an athlete wants to tell something to the world, they can do it themselves using a mobile device or computer. Remember, most athletes are traveling when they're not playing the actual games. I think in this new age everyone is looking for a short escape and these social networks are easy ways to reconnect with their friends around the league and fans who were at their games. Often times, you will find athletes giving shout outs to the fans after big matches and especially at home games.

Can you imagine if Wilt Chamberlain tweeted after scoring 100 points in a game? He might've said something like "just dropped 100 in a game, no big deal." That moment would have been re-tweeted and posted everywhere in sports news. He would easily gain thousands of hits on his account, promoting the heck out of his jersey sales.

Another thing I love about athletes on Twitter is that pretty much anyone who is anyone in sports has one. Don't believe me? Check out

tweeting-athletes.com, which is a website that has links to every major sport down to their team and/or respective individual player. Does it still sound sketchy? Ok, only "certified" accounts are used on that site so you know you are talking to the real pro.

On the other hand, I'm sure we are all aware of some of the negative media on athletes using Twitter. There are many who are using Twitter for charitable events such as Jeremy Affeldt of the San Francisco Giants, who is using Twitter for a charity he helps with called Not for Sale. Lance Armstrong tweeted to his 2.7 million followers urging them to donate to Haiti, and still he uses his Twitter to promote Livestrong.

Personally, I also use Twitter for news. I follow ESPN analysts Eric Karabell, Adam Schefter and Stephania Bell, who all keep me updated on injuries before I start my fantasy teams every week. I probably wouldn't be half as good at fantasy sports if it weren't for all those little details those analysts give.

All in all, I feel that Twitter should not only be allowed for all professional athletes, but encouraged under the right means.

Getting to know...

Whitney Connolly

Forward, Women's Basketball

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA
Special Projects Editor

Meet Whitney Connolly, junior forward/guard/do-it-all star from Liberty, Pa. (no, not the one near Allentown). During the Lady Colonels two wins last week, Connolly's name could be found all throughout the box score.

In a 63-59 victory over FDU-Flo-rham last Saturday, Connolly cashed in with 13 points, seven rebounds, six steals and three assists – sealing the victory with two late free throws. In a victory over Cedar Crest, Connolly scored 14 points and added four assists, two steals and a block.

Age: 20... almost 21

Major: Accounting

Where are you from?

Liberty, but you're not going to know where it is.

Like Bethlehem? Nope. The small Liberty out by Mansfield. Except out even further. Everybody thinks it's the one in Bethlehem.

Nicknames? The team calls me "The Beast," but I don't know why. That's what my water bottle says.

Favorite teams? I honestly don't have any favorite teams except for the Lakers. Any other sport I just watch to watch.

Why the Lakers? I like Kobe, he's my favorite player.

Favorite part of Wilkes University: Probably basketball because I don't like going to classes.

Well that kind of negates my next question of who's your favorite professor. Professor (Cynthia) Chisarick.

Why Dr. Chisarick? Because she asks about your personal life all the time.

Favorite Restaurant: Olive Garden.

The OG, huh? I love their food. Chicken Alfredo, it's my favorite.

Unlimited bread sticks? Yep. And Zuppa soup.

Favorite home-cooked meal? Spaghetti and sausage.

Any pre-game rituals? Not really, I just make sure I come in and shoot before every game.

No superstitions? Nope, I don't do superstitions.

Not even the same socks? No, I like to wash my clothes.

Favorite movie of all time? And please, don't say "The Notebook." That's probably what I would have said. But probably "Love and Basketball."

Favorite actress? Jennifer Anniston. I like all her movies, and I like her.

Let's be honest, teams see Wilkes on the schedule and chalk it up as an easy win. How do you get motivated everyday to come out and play as the underdog?

That's what we have said the whole season. We don't have anything to lose because they all think they're going to beat us. And they all goof around during warm-ups, so that kind of makes us the underdogs, and we want to prove them wrong.

Secret skill you have no one or only very few people know about? When I was younger I did gymnastics from when I was three years old until I was in sixth grade. When I went into seventh grade I did competitive cheerleading. Not like school cheerleading.

Like "Bring It On" cheerleading? Yeah, like that. We went to Florida for nationals and then I quit because I couldn't do high school sports and cheerleading at the same time.

How does that work? You don't cheer for anyone, you just compete against other cheerleaders.

I my spare time, I love to I just like to be outside pretty much because where I live is the middle of nowhere. So I like to go four wheeling and swimming, but my pool got taken away.

Taken away? What did you get grounded? No, we moved...down the road.

Guilty pleasure? Ice cream.

Favorite flavor? Chocolate Peanut Butter Cup.

Favorite Basketball Moment? Well, beating my high school rival Mansfield. They're good every year, but my senior year we beat them, and it was like a big upset. My school was never good, but my senior year we were.

Since Valentine's Day is coming up, what is your perfect first date? I really don't know, I don't really have one.

Best and worst Valentine's Day gift you've ever gotten? Well nothing is the worst. Nobody ever goes big on me for Valentine's Day.

Come on this isn't supposed to be depressing. I know...probably jewelry, a heart necklace.

Thirteen is considered an unlucky number...why do you wear 13? It's been my number since Junior High. I just ended up getting it. It's lucky for me.

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Wilkes softball off to early start

7 a.m. practices, Sunday camp keep Lady Colonels busy

BY PHAT NGUYEN
Assistant Sports Editor

Lindsay Behrenshausen's first class on Monday starts at 2 p.m., but the senior pitcher and the rest of her teammates on Wilkes' women's softball team are up long before that.

Head coach Frank Matthews has his players running laps and circuit training during weekday morning practices, which run from 7 to 9 a.m.

Matthews has never had any problem keeping the girls motivated at the crack of dawn, and he might be on to something by getting those girls out to a running start.

"Seven a.m. is not that different from going to high school and getting up that early," Matthews said. "By doing some running and conditioning first, that will wake everyone up."

After that, it's all business for the girls, who then are warmed up and focused to play some ball.

"Although it is early, our 7 a.m. workouts are a typical practice," Behrenshausen said. "There is no taking it easy just because we are practicing early in the morning. Each practice begins with running and sprint work."

From there, they break into their respective skill positions and each work specifically on fielding and game situations. Pitchers and catchers work together every single day and work to lay a strong foundation leading up to the regular season.

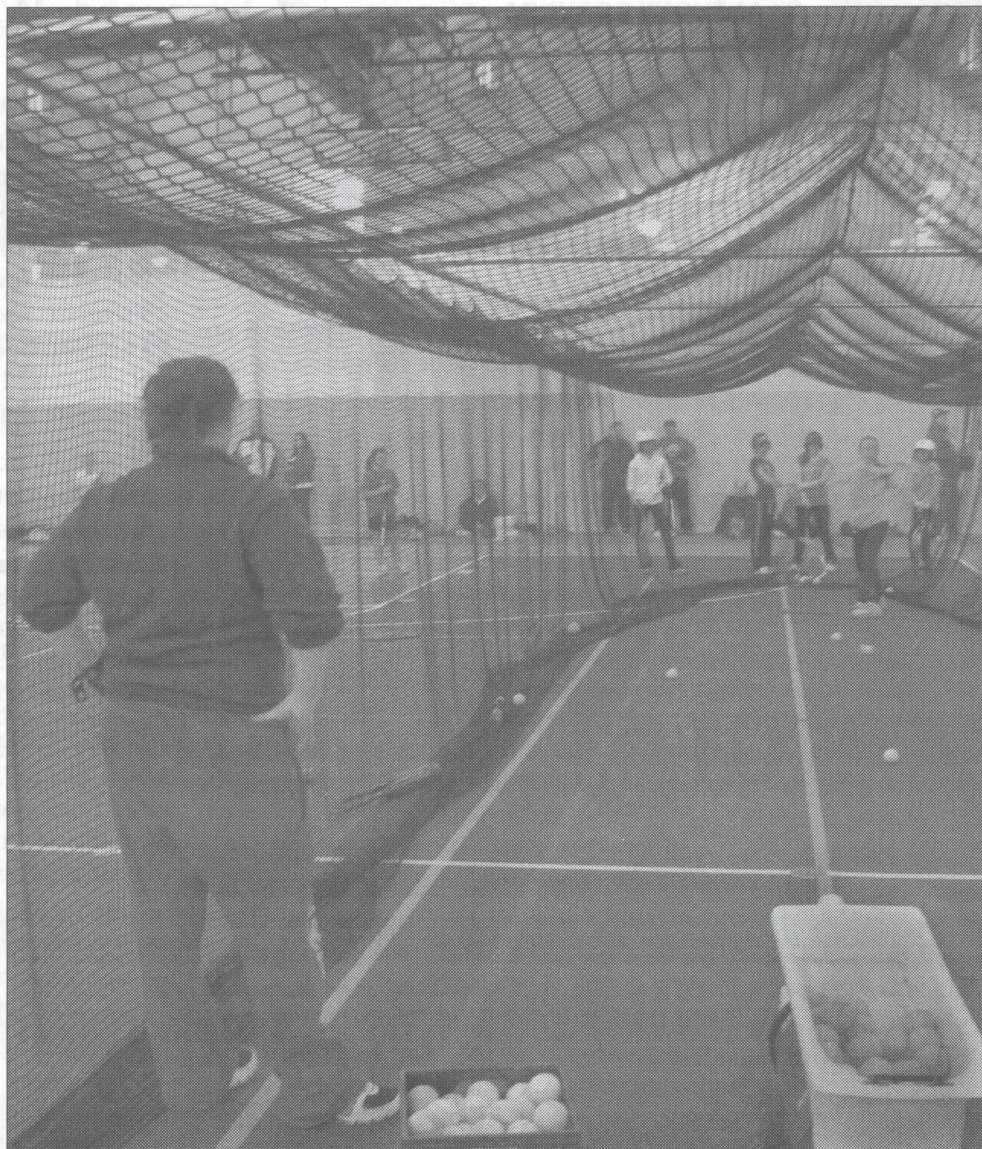
Typical practices will then conclude with an hour of hitting, and then it's time for class.

"Preseason is very tough because you are so tired after practice," said junior center-fielder Amanda Holston. "It's 9 a.m. and you still have all your classes and homework you have to do and you want to go to bed early every night, but you have homework and stuff to do. It's very hard to balance sleep and school work."

But it seems like things are starting to click for the girls, who are now in their third week of preseason.

"So far, it seems that everyone has a good attitude and things seem to be clicking very well," said senior catcher Cori Saltzer. "We were definitely sore the first week or so, but these practices are meant to get the right muscles into shape for the season."

In addition to those early bird specials during the week, they've also been incor-



The Beacon/Phat Nguyen

The Wilkes women's softball team holds a camp for local area girls every Sunday for the first five weeks of school. Skills range from hitting to in-game situations.

porating their 11th annual mid-winter softball camp during the first five Sundays of this spring semester. The camp serves as skills and mechanics session that help local players of all ages improve their softball skills.

The camp is very similar to their weekday practices, with exception of a 9 a.m. start time.

"Usually every player or two gets a group of about 10 girls, and we help them on hitting/fielding/throwing mechanics," said Holston. "We do drills that we do in our practices. It is only the third week of camp, but the girls try hard to do what you ask."

This year's Lady Colonels squad is young, but optimistic on potentially how well they can do.

"We are doing as well as can be expected at this point," Matthews said. "Hitting seems to be pretty solid, pitching is pretty solid as well. I think our main problem will be defense, but we'll see."

"I really believe that if each player has a strong work ethic this year then we will be in great shape," Behrenshausen said. "Each girl must be willing to give it 100 percent every time she steps on the field in order to have a successful season. I think we have the potential to have a very good season this year if everyone is dedicated and willing to put forth their best effort each time we step on the field."

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BY THE NUMBERS

7

In the morning, the time that the Wilkes softball players have to be at practice for their preseason workouts. Practices usually run until 9 a.m.

11

Years the Wilkes softball team has held their annual mid-winter camp, where they invite girls of all ages to work with the Wilkes players.

10

Years is the age differential for the girls at the camp. The ages range from 8-18 with girls coming from t-ball up until high school.

3

Sessions during the team's Sunday camp. Each hour-long session focuses on either hitting, throwing or pitching mechanics. The camp runs for the first five weeks of the spring semester.

