

The BEACON

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Financial Aid packaging delayed by office personnel changes

Issues expected to be resolved by next round of bills

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon News Editor

Over a six week span, the university has lost 45 years worth of expert knowledge in the Financial Aid department, resulting in major delays with student loans and aid being processed.

Rachel Lohman, who served as the Director of Financial Aid for the past 25 years, accepted a position during the summer with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). On the heels of her departure, Associate Director Edward Moyer put his resignation earlier this month. Moyer had served at Wilkes for 20 years. Moyer was unavailable for comment.

"You could imagine that as a result of these personnel changes, we did not get as much as we typically do or would like to get done," said Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing Michael Frantz. "It's very difficult when you lose that kind of tenure, knowledge, dedication, and experience," he

said.

The setback has had an impact on student financial aid needs. Senior communication studies major Jake Grande explained that he was entitled to \$5,000 from the government, and when he couldn't get his loan processed, he couldn't pay the bills he owed to his landlord.

"I'm like 'you gotta be kidding me,'" Grande said. "They threatened to shut my water off and everything."

Kristen Dopko, who is currently enrolled at Luzerne County Community College, was forced to drop out of Wilkes after the Financial Aid office allegedly failed to file her aid application with the state.

"When I went to go pay the rest of what I owed, I still had a \$9,000 balance," she said. "It's hard, you know? I had to take school off for a year to work and try to pay it off."

See AID page 3



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

President of Enrollment and Marketing Michael Frantz addressed problems with financial aid packaging at last Wednesday's Student Government Meeting. Five temporary replacements have been hired to fill the void left by the recently departed Ed Moyer and Rachel Lohman.

Technical difficulties delay SG election results

BY DAVE SEBELIN

Beacon Staff Writer

Election season has once again arrived at Wilkes University, but not without problems.

Student Government's (SG) annual replacement and freshmen elections were disrupted last week as the electronic voting process encountered technical difficulties. Voting ballots, usually completed online, had to be voided due to an error in class listing.

According to Brian Deihl, SG Parliamentarian, the voting error occurred due to a

problem with how online class lists match with the voter ballots. Deihl described the error in the system as, "a technical problem with our excel sheets and how they line up with class list."

The problem primarily involved students receiving either multiple ballots, or ballots for the wrong class. Deihl added, "The P1 and P2 pharmacy students were receiving multiple ballots. In addition, students with more credits than required were being listed in higher grade categories, thus causing confusion."

Deihl also indicated SG's intention to prevent further complications with future elections. According to Deihl, SG will be taking steps to making corrections and better match their list with the registrar's. The intention is to create a list of students that will have a clear definition of the class to which they belong.

While SG is tackling the technical aspects and problems with ballots, the elections continue. The original elections which were intended to be held on September 20 and end September 22 have been officially rescheduled by the SG. Since online ballots

were voided, SG has opted for paper ballots to determine the results. Paper ballot elections began on the first floor of the SUB on Friday, September 22 and will also run on today from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Students are encouraged to vote at the voting table located outside the SG office. Government members will also be stationed to assist anyone interested or in need of assistance during the scheduled voting times.

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Free campus health services hailed by some, critized by others

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO
Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

Students and teachers alike have heard it in the classrooms: the coughing, hacking and sneezing.

And for a germ haven like a college campus, the common colds and viruses are often just the tip of the iceberg.

So where do students go for consultation and relief?

Health Services exists to provide the services to meet a variety of medical needs. The problem is, some students are unaware of the extent of services, hours, location and when to make the decision to go for more extensive help.

According to Diane O'Brien, Director of Health Services, the clinic provides a multitude of services to students including free over-the-counter medicines, antibiotics, X-rays, lab tests and vaccinations.

Still, with all of the free services provided, some students have experienced problems with treatment and have been confused as to when to consult with a family physician or go to the hospital.

Dan Luskin, senior mechanical

engineering major, said, "I went to the health services and tried to tell them my problem. At the time I thought my throat was swollen... I went into the room and a women came in and said... 'The doctor is not in yet.' She looked in my throat, then looked at a poster on the wall behind me... She said, 'I think it is a swollen uvula, but I am not sure.' She left the room for five minutes... then she walked back in with a textbook in her hand reading out of it as she looks down my throat."

Luskin said the nurse planned to do a strep culture, but he felt uneasy about it. He made the decision to drive two hours home to see his primary physician.

"When I got to my doctor, she said she would never have checked for strep throat because she could have aggravated the uvula more, and I may have had to go to the hospital," said Luskin.

Nicole Zastko, junior communication studies major, said that she had a problem with medicine dispensed from health services. The medicine resulted in her having very high blood pressure, and Zastko felt it was due to the pills

being expired or nearly expired.

"Every single time it's a different doctor and they always have a different student with them, too. They have different people in there every single day," said Zastko.

O'Brien said that in her eighteen years at Health Services, she had only heard of approximately ten students having very negative experiences. "We try to bend over backwards for the students. We try to give them 100% of our time. That's our philosophy. If we don't have it and the student needs it, we get it," she said.

O'Brien also said that all doctors come to Health Services from a family practice residency program in Kingston. All of the doctors who are available at Health Services are residents of the program. "It's a three year residency program. We get them in their second year. They're done with medical school and... get paid for their residency. In that residency you learn, you do rotations, you have prescriptive privileges and you can sort of prescribe as a physician, but it's still learning," O'Brien said.

Other services available through Health Services include mental health counseling. The staff includes one full-time and two part-time mental health professionals for those students struggling with stress, depression or other mental health related issues. The counseling services offices are located also on the first floor of Evans and the oordinator of mental health services is Meaghan Broderick. The part-time counselors are Patty O'Neil and Susan Biscup.

Also, Health Services hosts a Women's Health Night monthly, where women can receive free pelvic exams and STD testing. Birth control is available upon examination (by either Health Services or a private doctor) for \$20 a month.

Not all students feel there is a problem with Health Services. "I hear people complain about Health Services all the time. I'm not sure why. I mean, I've never had a bad experience with them... It's relatively close to us students

and it's free," said Krystal Goulding, junior psychology major.

"I think a lot of students come in here with sore throats and upper respiratory complaints. More of what we see is viral in nature, and a lot of people like to receive an antibiotic... They have this mentality that, 'I want to leave here with a prescription for an antibiotic' and we don't do that!" said O'Brien.

Health Services is located on the first floor of Evans Hall. Its hours of operation are from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. Health Services is closed on the weekends. It's a walk-in clinic,

so students may work their busy schedules without having to make an appointment. Students are not always guaranteed to see a physician, however, as the staffing for the doctors is limited to 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Mondays, and 9:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays. During the other hours of operation, a nurse practitioner and an R.N are always on staff.

"We see over 2,000 students a year, and this month we have probably seen close to five hundred students since school started. I have been here for 18 years and it's the absolute busiest we have ever been," said O'Brien.

The BEACON

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

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The Beacon/Curran Dobson

Wilkes initiates talks about law school

BY ALISON WOODY
Beacon Asst. News Editor

University administration, faculty and Board of Trustees members are in the investigation stages of examining whether Wilkes should add a law school to its graduate program offerings.

While no firm decision has yet been made to move ahead with plans, and no formal fund raising for the development of the program has been announced, officials acknowledge there is growing excitement as well as concern about the possibility of launching a law school at Wilkes, and also confirm that a law school is currently in the exploratory and research stages.

The Board of Trustees granted permission for President Tim Gilmour and his cabinet to further investigate the feasibility of a law school following the presentation of a preliminary business plan.

Dr. Bernard Graham, interim provost and head of the law school project, explained the next steps Wilkes must take in order to bring a law school to campus. "We [the research committee] still have to bring the new business plan before faculty, gathering information and concerns. Adjustments will be made as needed and we are looking for a vote of support by the end of the semester to re-present the data to the Board of Trustees."

Graham also expressed that there are three main focal points of research on the viability of a law school at Wilkes. "First off, we are looking for general support from faculty and staff. Secondly, feasibility is a concern.

Would it be successful? Last, we are looking at it from a financial perspective and if the business model makes sense."

For the past six months, a group comprised of consultants, faculty and administration has been investigating a prospective population for the law school and possible areas of curricular focus.

"We are looking to see if we will be able to fill all the seats in the law school and if there is a population of prospective law students... The size of the law school would probably be about 70 students [per class]. The actual type of law the school

would focus on remains to be seen. However, it is leaning more toward family law and practitioners that want to go into a small town opposed to a big city," Graham said.

Graham explained that the law school could also focus on mentoring. "The main niche for the law school will be our mentoring heritage and culture at Wilkes that makes us so unique."

There are many students and faculty who are equally excited about the possibility of a Wilkes University law school. Dr. Anthony Liuzzo, director of the MBA program, is pleased that administration is researching this project. "I am excited that Wilkes is even looking at it [law school]. I am happy that Wilkes is taking the lead regionally and looking at the possibility... I think it is a good development. The region could use a law school. High-quality local students are at a disadvantage. The region will be served by it."

Graham agreed that this region is short of a professional law school. "There is no law

I believe that a law school will improve the University's reputation and prestige in much the same way that the Pharmacy school has.

-Dr Thomas Baldino, Professor of Political Science

school in northeast Pennsylvania and the need stems from there. It is a big motivational factor."

However, Dr. John Hepp, associate professor of history, sees the situation differently. Hepp explained, "There is no shortage of law schools in this region. Out of the 194 American Bar Association (ABA) approved law schools, 25 of them are within a two hour drive of Wilkes and 66 of them are within six hours... Also, Drexel University just opened a new law school and Penn State plans to do the same."



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

The Luzerne County courthouse could be future training ground for the area's newest lawyers. If Wilkes University chooses to pursue a new law school,

Thomas Baldino, professor of political science, also feels that a law school can have a bigger impact on Wilkes. "If done properly so that the law school is very likely to be accredited by the ABA, I not only support a law school for Wilkes, but think it would have at least as positive an impact on the university as the pharmacy school

has had. I believe that a law school will improve the University's reputation and prestige in much the same way that the pharmacy school has."

While Liuzzo feels the law school can have a great effect on other programs at Wilkes, especially the business and MBA programs, Hepp feels differently. "Administration's time will be taken up [with] the law school and less focus will be on undergraduate programs. My fear at the end of the day is that a lot of money will be sunk into the law school and taken from undergrads.

Wilkes is not a wealthy enough resource to be investing in a law school and I feel it will adversely affect other programs."

Hepp also has many other concerns. "We also need to think about where to house, where to park, and where to offer jobs and internships to these students after law school that is so convenient to other law schools... the fact is that this is going to be a full-time law school and not part-time. Therefore people with day jobs and most adult learners would not be able to enter. This law school wouldn't be able to serve that population."

Graham insists physical space isn't a big concern. "A law school doesn't require much of a physical plan. The law library is the exception since it must be on campus. Classroom and office space is all that is needed. There will be no new building, just restructuring of current places."

Hepp is fearful that Wilkes' law school could become a safety net for those students who have no other option. "Whenever a new law school opens it becomes a new 'safety school.' We will get a number of applicants from New York, New Jersey,

See LAW SCHOOL page 5

Child care issues inhibit education for some students

BY SARAH DOMAN

Beacon Asst. News Editor

The many challenges college students face can range from choosing a major to finding time to study and also, in some cases, locating and maintaining child care.

As the Wilkes population continues to grow and diversify, many full-time students who are also parents face the challenge of locating reliable, affordable child care and sometimes are forced to leave school when it falls through.

Jessica Baer is a psychology major who has six children. She said, "Child care has not always been an issue because I had family and friends to help, but now everyone has either gone to work or is now failing in health and can no longer help. I do not have any alternatives at all. If I cannot find child care, I will have to drop out." On her thirtieth birthday, Baer was faced with the decision of whether or not she would have to drop out of Wilkes this semester in order to raise her children. Much of this decision is based on the child care programs that are offered for single parents.

Wilkes University has offered a partial child care subsidy program since 1982 and offers a stipend per child per day to help defray child care costs. According to Mary Mack, University College, "Any Wilkes student can apply. It's for males and females. The only requirements are that you are a full-time undergraduate student." The partial subsidy program operates when school is in session, which means that if the parent chooses to have their child remain in day care when the university is not in session, they are responsible for the entire cost of day care for that time. "The child has to be in a licensed day care and the parents are responsible for choosing the day care, but we check it," said Mack.

At the beginning of every semester, the parent must register as a participant for the program and the university will partially reimburse the day care. Baer said, "Most day cares will not take children part-time which is two or three days a week. So, you could end up paying for a full week, which in most cases is well over \$100 per week for one child. You would think that would be all right because of the \$6 per day Wilkes pays, but the catch is they only give you the \$6 on the days you actually have class. Now that is not great when you consider all the other expenses like books and stuff that you are already paying for."

For many students the financial burden of tuition and day care is enough to break the bank or force an absence from school. "Basically as it stands now, it [child care] goes

hand in hand with being able to attend class. I have been out of class for almost a week [recently] with no babysitters available and in the meantime I'm still paying for my older kids to be at the YMCA," said Baer.

Wilkes University is not the only local institution that offers child care subsidies; in fact there are many different programs available to students. According to Vicki Austin, director of the Women With Children program, "College Misericordia provides a 40% child care stipend for any single parent student who is in need."

Misericordia does not provide child care on campus but does offer a unique option called the Women with Children Program. Austin said, "Our program is a residential program for single moms and their children. We provide housing for the families on campus free of charge while the moms are earning an undergraduate degree at College Misericordia. The moms do have to pay tuition and take out loans like any other student." This program costs about \$150,000 per year to run, and there is only one other like it in the state of Pennsylvania at Wilson College.

Despite the many different programs in place at various institutions across the country Baer believes that, "With more and more non-traditional students entering college, it would make sense to do something [more] to help."

The choice between education and child care is an issue, but many parent students who have help at home do not wish to place their child in day care. Taren Weisenfluh, senior elementary education major, chooses not to place her 18-month old daughter in day care while she's at school. "Natalie is usually with her father, my mother or grandmother. I always thought I wanted family to take care of her. My only concern is that she doesn't get enough exposure with kids her own age. But, I'm happier having her at home."

In all cases, whether child care is provided at home or in a day care, balancing time between school and family can be dif-



Courtesy of www.tcw.org

Wilkes University currently does not house a physical space for child care, yet they do provide subsidies for single student parents to send children to day cares.

ficult. "I do not have as much study time as a traditional student but I make do. My kids always come first. It takes a lot of organization and patience to handle the load but I make do. A lot of getting up early and going to bed late but it makes me happy, I am proud of myself for going back to school after all this time and I love my babies more than anything," said Baer.

"Children come first" is a phrase that Weisenfluh can agree with. She said, "My daughter comes first. For me, it's balancing time between school and her, because she is only one and a half and demands a lot of attention."

Although there are many different options for parent students and their children, Baer suggests that Wilkes implement a program that would offer students credit for working in a day care on campus. "The children could unknowingly take part in a number of things that would benefit the students of our institution. Psychology and social workers to be can observe behaviors and teachers to be could get a glimpse of what it might be like if they were to try and teach younger children."

Some students may now have to take into consideration those child care options that colleges and universities offer. "There are probably many mothers out there who would love the opportunity to get an education and better themselves but cannot afford to do so with young children," said Baer.

SOBERING STATS

According to the Center of Disease Control,

1 in 1,500 college students is HIV positive,

and the fastest-growing populations of American people with HIV are teenagers and young adults.

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http://hcs.caipoly.edu/peerhealth/alcohol/info_students_stats.html

FINANCIAL AID

from FRONT PAGE

To counter the losses of Lohman and Moyer, Wilkes is rapidly staffing its office with interim and part-time employees. Upon Moyer's resignation, the institution contracted with a firm based in Atlanta called Financial Aid Services (FAS) which provides financial aid leadership and expertise to schools in periods of transition.

Ron Laszewski, who served as the director Bucknell University's Financial Aid department for 23 years and PHEAA for three years, was contracted as the interim Director of Financial Aid through FAS. The university also hired two financial aid counselors to finalize the financial aid process. None of these positions are permanent to stay in keeping with the One-Stop Shop, which will integrate enrollment processing, student accounts, and financial aid services later this year.

Entering his fourth week in office, Laszewski has taken no time in making moves and recommendations to better serve students. For starters, it was advised that students who have a high likelihood of returning will be able to get their loans certified when they are awarded their financial aid completing all of this in one sitting. It was also suggested that the school not require tax returns from all new students to the institution.

"The government does not re-

quire us to do that. It impacts the student and the workload on the office. It is our belief that this will speed up our availability to serve students and require less paperwork from our students," Frantz said.

Frantz expects the financial aid service issues to be resolved by the time bills are sent in mid-October.

"I certainly regret that we did not have this corrected before school started. I expect it to be the done. The students expect it to be done. And we are working as rapidly as we can to solve these identifiable issues," he said.

LAW SCHOOL

from PAGE 3

and Pennsylvania that have no real intention to come here unless they can't get into a better law school... Many students say, 'If Wilkes had a law school, I would go.' This doesn't strike me as a good reason to go to law school."

Liuzzo acknowledged this may be an issue. "While we build a reputation and draw attention, we may attract those specific students. However, Wilkes is a very student-centered school and law schools are usually not like this. The expe-

rience will be very different and is something that is rarely found in institutions."

While the faculty differ in their opinions, they agree that current and prospective students are excited. Hepp noted, "Students that talk to me are overwhelmingly positive about a law school in part because it offers another option if you do not want to leave the area."

Baldino concurred, "I absolutely believe that a quality law school will attract students to Wilkes not only to political science, which is a "traditional" major for those undergraduates who are interested in preparing for law school, but to

all the majors in the humanities and social sciences. The business department should also see more students. At the open house last week, all the prospective students who expressed interest in pre-law were very curious about Wilkes starting a law school."

Graham concluded that the likelihood for the law school looks positive. "Indications are very good. I haven't found any data that would suggest not to do it. The best case scenario is for the first class to begin in fall 2008.

ELECTIONS

from FRONT PAGE

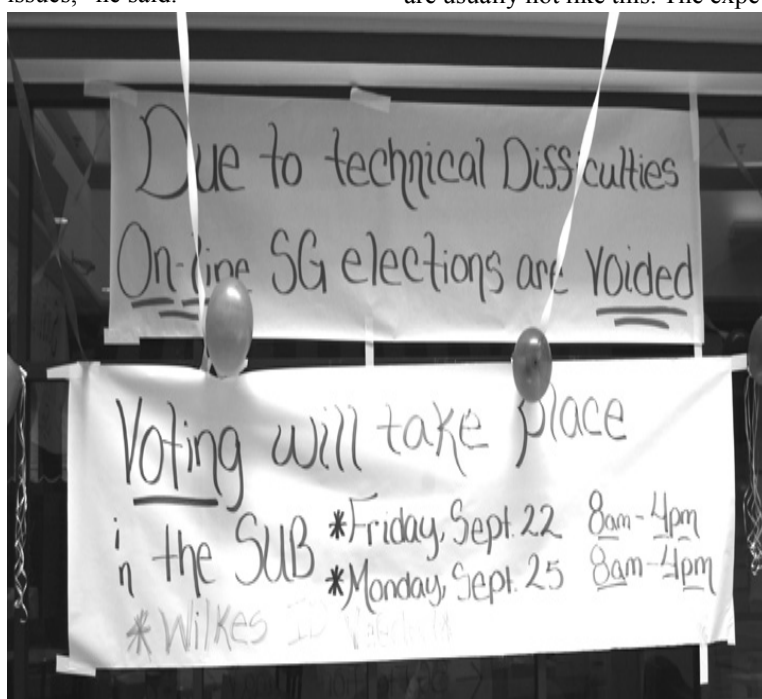
Though difficulties delayed the election process, Jenna Strzelecki, SG President, is hopeful about the results. "We had some technical difficulties, but this is the first time using this election system this year" said Strzelecki. She added, "Monday at 5 p.m. we are meeting to count the ballots and determine the winners."

While the election problems will likely be resolved by the paper ballots, candidates running for office will have to wait for the final count to be tallied on Monday night. For the freshmen SG candidates, this wait could be difficult. A total of 15 freshmen are currently running for positions in SG. While not an unusually high number, these 15 candidates will face more compe-

tition than the sophomore, junior, and senior candidates who have a lower number vacant or challenged seats.

Despite difficulties with the election and a large body of competition, many of the freshmen candidates maintain a positive attitude toward SG. Charles Siaikowski, freshman pre-med major running for class representative, commented: "Student Government seemed like it was the most important club on campus. . . I realized if I wanted to really help, this is where it would be."

Anyone with questions or concerns about the election is encouraged to contact SG representatives. Results of the paper ballot election are expected to be complete Monday night and released to the student body shortly after.



The Beacon/Nick Zmiejewski

The winners of the SG elections will be determined Monday, September 25, by the use of paper ballots over online voting.

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SG Notes

At the Wednesday, September 20 Student Government (SG) meeting:

- Vice President for Enrollment Mike Frantz discussed the status of the financial aid office and slow financial aid packaging, along with new personnel and projects.
- Dave Sborz motioned for a free trial run of the *New York Times* and *The Times Leader* for all Wilkes students. Jef Bauman seconded the motion. Motion passed 19-4-0.
- Matt Brown motioned to allocate \$700 for updates to the SG website. Lauren Zubey seconded the motion. Motion passed 22-0-1.
- Dave Scordino motioned to donate \$250 to the Jake Simonis Memorial bench project. Kathy Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed 17-0-6.
- Homecoming nominations were announced and the group included both ten senior men and women.

When we think 9/11, it's not W-B that comes to mind

\$1.3 million planned for 9/11 memorial in Kirby Park

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

"Our goal is to make it the biggest and best across the country," said Mayor Tom Leighton in an event on Public Square.

You'd think Leighton was talking about the downtown area, the streetlight project, the bars, the clubs, the offices or even the revitalization of the old, Victorian architecture that brings an elegant beauty to the city.

Unfortunately, the mayor wasn't talking about any of that. He was unveiling plans for the city to spend \$1.3 million on a 9-11 memorial in Kirby Park. Monument supporters believe it will attract tourists from various parts of the country.

According to a report in the *Times Leader* on September 12, 2006, the plan for the monument entails granite pillars to be built in Kirby Park (which, we need

to point out, isn't even in Wilkes-Barre). Eleven of the proposed pillars will have names of all lost in the attacks engraved on the right, and nine of the pillars will have the names of the emergency responders who were killed during the attack engraved on the left. The article noted that the tallest pillar will be 18 feet high, and nearly centered. Circling it on a 60 x 40 ft. concrete slab will be shorter pillars. In the center of the slab will be a pedestal describing the events of the attack. Other decorative touches would be added as well, such as city and state flags. The monument will surely light up its immediate area, and will be seen from a distance.

According to reports in both the *Citizens' Voice* and the *Times Leader*, city officials have been asking many local businesses to donate to the cause. It's a fact that when Tom Leighton came into office, the city was millions of dol-

lars in debt, and few businesses had any desire to work with local government constructively. Thanks to Leighton's leadership, that debt has been paid and there is a sense of unity among downtown business owners. But we wonder about how the city paid the majority of its debt. Leighton received grants and loans to pay off some of it, and hopes to revitalize the downtown area to make Wilkes-Barre a booming metropolis with the help of yet more state and federal aid.

We don't want to criticize the mayor too harshly on this issue. The city looks better than it has for decades, and that is nothing short of positive. In addition, the mayor is not alone in his zeal for this project. It is clear that city council and a variety of other supporters all communicate a genuine desire to honestly memorialize one of the greatest tragedies in our country's modern history. The sentiment is to some degree understandable.

However, the city is in no position to be spending \$1.3 million on a memorial with no guarantee of attracting tourist traffic.

When Americans think of 9-11, they automatically think of Wilkes-Barre, right? (Insert sarcastic tone here)

While the 9-11 attacks certainly touched the entire nation emotionally, those cities that rightly should dedicate space to memorials are New York, Washington D.C. and Shanksville, PA. While locals undoubtedly lost loved ones and volunteered aid for months after the attacks, Wilkes-Barre was still two and a half hours from the focal point of the tragedy.

If people want to say a prayer and remember loved ones lost in the attacks, most would agree that the appropriate locale would be Ground

Zero in New York City. Why would people from the West Coast fly to Wilkes-Barre to see a 9-11 memorial? "Oh! Let's fly into Avoca and visit the Wilkes-Barre memorial instead of New York's." That dialogue is not going to take place. As for people from the East Coast, well, why would they drive to Wilkes-Barre when New York is a hop, skip and a jump away? What about this monument will draw tourists here?

The city's streets need to be paved. Wilkes-Barre is a dream for mechanics wanting to do tire alignments. There are more potholes than the moon has craters, and although the downtown has been looking better, the riffraff are still lingering in its alleyways and side streets. Every ounce of money the city can raise needs to pour into its upkeep, not into a memorial in Kingston's most lovely green space when we know it has no hope of truly resonating with the local public or prospective tourists.

What about the debt? While officials are quick to point out that no taxpayer dollars will be spent on this memorial--the money will come from state grants and private donations--we feel that any money raised would be far better spent paying off existing debt and increasing our credit rating, or applied to existing unmet needs in the community.

And the public appears to agree. Reports in the *Citizens' Voice* (9.14.06) and *Times Leader*, as well as numerous local blogs, highlight the fact that residents see other more important uses for local money.

Mayor Leighton has earned our trust, for the most part. For his sake and Wilkes-Barre's, he should simply focus on making Wilkes-Barre a great place. Don't use terrorism and death to bring tourism here. The goal is to build Wilkes-Barre's reputation, not to destroy it.

Beacon Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus. Results are based on 42 responses.

The Beacon asked:

How can President Bush raise his approval rating?

- Grow a beard - **0%**
- Dress like a dinosaur - **5%**
- Buy everyone a puppy - **5%**
- Carry a man-purse - **7%**
- Find bin Laden - **47%**
- Have an affair with an intern - **7%**
- Fire a cabinet member - **2%**
- Get breast implants - **12%**
- Wear an eye patch - **10%**
- Speak with an Austrian accent - **5%**

Next Week's Poll

Question:

If Wilkes Barre had an extra \$1.3 million, how would it best be spent?

- Fix W-B Blvd, Main St. and Ross St. potholes
- Clean up Sherman Hills
- Invest in drug crime prevention
- Bulldoze nuisance properties
- Invest in community science center
- Invest in community art center
- Pay off remaining city debt
- Invest in Wilkes University law school
- Develop community homeless shelter
- Invest in riverfront development

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

The Pen is Mightier...

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and we want to hear it!*

Want to express your unique views to the Wilkes community?
The Beacon's Opinion section is scouring campus in search of
writers with fresh thoughts and views.



If you have any ideas, questions or a sample column or editorial cartoons, please contact:

OPINION EDITOR: KRISTYN OSTMAN, OR
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR: ANDEE SCARANTINO
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Progressive urban planning starts with vision for Main Street

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon Correspondent

Many years ago there was a town located not too far from here. It was a lovely place.

People could be seen going from store to store, some buying hats, suits, and then there were some people who were just looking at the new window displays. On the corner there was an old man playing an accordion, and a block north of the town hall the high school band often played a medley of songs composed by John Phillip Sousa.

This town was called "Main Street America," and many towns were like this. Unfortunately, with WalMarts and malls springing up all across the country, "Main Street America" has turned into a village with a lonely grocery store, pharmacy and quick mart (if you are lucky). The once crowded streets are quiet and the only thing discussed in the local paper is how a student was caught with heroin in Mrs. Trindle's fourth grade reading class.

All these problems cannot be blamed

exclusively on WalMart and malls, but that is where it is placed most of the time. Countless websites have the theme "Wake-Up WalMart" or "Battle WalMart," but does anyone think that WalMart is actually going anywhere?

A company, that according to walmartstores.com, earned a net profit of \$76.8 billion for the quarter ending in July of 2005 sounds pretty financially secure to me. That is why I am not going to sit here and tell you why you shouldn't shop at WalMart or malls, because for today's consumer it is almost impossible to do so.

But there is another solution some might call an easy way out: development. Our area is very well known for its ski resorts, also for the foliage. If we could get some savvy developers in our local towns to look at what they have to offer, there is no reason we can't turn our towns into the Main Street described above.

Most of the towns located in NEPA have a unique characteristic. I will use mine as an example. I come from Forest City, which is

about an hour north of Wilkes-Barre. Our local attraction is Elk Mountain, about ten minutes north of town. If we could get the right people to open the right businesses, my town would be alive again. A ski shop, bed and breakfast and bike shop would do my town wonders. These places would bring business back to downtown and create jobs for the locals.

"But since WalMart and malls are still around, how are these small businesses expected to compete?" you may be asking yourself. But when you are going skiing or biking, where would you rather buy your skis? A big white warehouse that specializes in being a "One Stop Shop" where you can pick up a head of lettuce with your skis? Or a small shop owned by a person who has been skiing his or her whole life and can fit you with the right skis? Almost a no-brainer when you think about it.

Over the years my town has seen many businesses come and go, but mostly go. However, when you look at the town and the architecture you have to ask yourself,

"Why on a Saturday night is this town dead?" I always grew up hearing stories of how the streets in Forest City were always filled with people on Saturday nights. The kids would be in the local candy store while the mothers and fathers were off shopping around downtown. Today, any teenager from my town who wants to go to the movies needs to travel 45 minutes to Moosic or Scranton to do so. I contend that with progressive urban planning, it doesn't have to be that way.

I really do believe that with a little work and cooperation from the local businesses any one of our local towns can turn into that town described above. We're beginning to see the fruits of such labor right here in Wilkes-Barre.

To the towns who are already doing this, I applaud you, and ask that you help your neighboring towns with the development of their Main Street. And hopefully by the time I have kids, I can walk down Main Street with my wife while our kids go to the local candy shop.

Americans inconsistent to want access to information and privacy

BY JIM MORRISON

Beacon Correspondent

The Freedom of Information Act was put in place to ensure the public that it has access to any government records, with a few exceptions for National Security.

Recently Facebook.com changed its entire appearance and the main page began to include the details of what users and all of their friends had been doing on the site. At first glance, it seemed like a good idea to some. A lot of information that friends have or changes go unnoticed until others ask. But people began to realize what was really happening. Employers, parents and anyone with a Facebook account is able to log on and see what you are doing. It is almost as if you must be constantly aware of what people are reading about you and why they want to know.

Wait, but isn't that what we do when we demand this information from the government? I don't know what has happened. It seems hypocritical that we can demand that information be accessible to the public and then get up in arms when something as trivial as Facebook offers too much information.

We want privacy for ourselves, yet we will cause our government to stop and mull over every decision as they have to worry about

how the records will look when the public sees it. Let our government do its work and not have to rethink its every step.

Of course I believe that government officials should do it right, but I believe in the fact that we should leave them alone to work. It feels oppressive to think someone is always watching. We learned that when Facebook changed.

It is really just two-faced that we as a people can demand openness on one end, yet want our own privacy and go up in arms when something like this happens. Americans as a whole are hypocritical. If I had to think of one word to describe us as a people, it would be hypocritical.

We want the reassurance of knowing we are free; however, we do not want to know how we get that freedom. We forget the sacrifices made by men and women in our armed services. We forget our own history about what it took to get to this stage in our nation's growth.

We want to know what is going on but we do not want others to be able to see what we are doing. It is all just wrong.

As a people we have to change our outlooks on a lot of things, because if we do not, then as a nation we will become ineffective and unable to operate.

Opinion at a Glance *Public Un-Safety?*



The Beacon/Nora Jurasits

Well, we certainly hope that sedan can make the turn onto South Main Street as the Public Safety van blatantly blocks its view of the oncoming traffic. It's good to see that the Public Safety vehicle is facilitating the safety of the public.

What's bothering Nick: Silly sidewalk planning

BY NICK ZMIJEWSKI

Beacon Photo Editor

Somewhere shrouded deep within the mists of history a secret was discovered that would change the fate of mankind forever. This secret is that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points.

It is this truism that causes me to scratch my head every time I journey over the former Evans lot. Wilkes seems to have trouble designing sidewalks. The one in the front of the library, a high traffic area, is not really wide enough for two people to pass without stepping out onto the lawn. It is also curved and therefore even more inefficient.

As for curved sidewalks, the one by the map and SUB lot is also avoided by many students who simply walk across the grass, wearing a muddy path by the end of the semester. So why in the world would they use curved sidewalks again? Could there be some Mount Wilkes being constructed in the centre of a circle? This would make sense as the roads and rails laid between important places only deviate from the straight line when there is an obstacle.

There are also a lack of sidewalks that seem very glaring, mostly because there are doors that lead to where they used to be. There is no longer any quick access from Briseth to River Street. The rear door from Sturdevant no longer goes anywhere, but three rooms have their own sidewalks. Even the back door to Conyngham is a stairway to nowhere. You can expect paths to be worn in the grass once it grows, especially since this is disrupting travel patterns that should have been apparent. There are little patches of mud every time it rains in places where the sidewalks are inadequate.

You could even make the argument that the new sidewalks are dangerous. Anyone who has had the misfortune of walking across the smooth pattern will note that water builds up on the surface and that it is a very slippery surface. I am waiting for the day that some poor student slips on ice that forms overnight or during a snowstorm.

The new sidewalks are decidedly silly. Straight lines and a uniform pattern would have been the way to go.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

A curved sidewalk behind Evans Hall. Notice the puddles.

YOUR VOICES

Blind attacks on diversity issues don't fly

Dear Editor:

How can you criticize something you have not seen? Seems crazy, right? Well, Assistant Professor Gina Morrison certainly blindly attacked the amazing, spectacular program known as "N*gger, Wet*ck Ch*nk" or NWC.

Her allegations of the students getting the wrong impression are outrageous and are completely wrong. If she attended the show, she would have realized the true mission and message that was being part of a human race and not separate divided races.

Also, if she attended and was more curious instead of disgusted, she would have laughed along with the rest of the student body. But her fear and ignorance came from what I believe to be "The White Scare," which basically means when white people fear to offend and say derogatory words such as n*gger, h*nky, or ch*lie. They are scared because they allow hateful words still to hold full value instead of just meaning race.

Now not to get side tracked, but I believe I have the right background to talk about this. I was raised in a mixed neighborhood, went to a mixed school and lived in a mixed amazing state like New Jersey. So basically, I grew up around a community diverse in race and culture and was taught to respect everyone, no matter race or gender.

Because of "The White Scare," communities and many people still believe these words hold great hatred. Yet in music, poetry and movies we see words like n*gger and ch*nk being used all the time. More and more students and children are exposed everyday to these words, which only helps the understanding that they are only words in today's age and lifestyle. This type of mindset leads to the "pussification" (HBO, George Carlin Special) we see in mainstream America.

Which leads to my next topic of debate: the students who did not like the leadership program. If you can't get knocked down and stand back up on your own two feet, then you are not fit to be a leader nor did you get the clear message to why you were at the retreat. Only you can bring yourself back up and rise above an experience like that. Now I am only going from the article in *The Beacon* and not from outside sources.

Overall, both instances point to the major problem in our society and how it is turning for the worse, such as the constant tightening and hold over the children and students of tomorrow and today to censor this and stop that. If we as a nation and community continue with such constraint, then we will only hurt ourselves in the end. We will not learn and grow with new experiences.

I will end this with a personal quote I came up with: If human life was worth something, I would have cashed you in a long time ago.

Mark Leicht

Junior history major/political science minor



Aleksander Lapinski

Washington semester offers alternate educational experience

BY TABITHA HAPEMAN
Beacon Asst. Features Editor

Taking a break between classes in Wilkes-Barre offers students a few more choices than they had last year at this time.

Depending on the day's itinerary, students might be able to sneak in a matinee movie, will soon be able to lounge in the Barnes and Noble with a cup of coffee or those with hunger pangs can soon look forward to Einstein Bros. Bagels on South and Main.

Until this semester, taking a stroll to the Smithsonian or sipping a cup of coffee on the steps of the Supreme Court was just a fantasy.

But university officials recently entered into an Inter-institutional agreement with American University's Washington Semester Program that allows Wilkes students to study in the nation's capitol for a semester. According to Phil Ruthkosky, Director of Student Development, the program is a combination of seminars and internships.

Communication studies senior Adrienne Richards is the first to enroll in the program. She is currently studying journalism and working at an internship with

the Washington bureau for ABC News. She notes that one of the most exciting things she's experienced is the level of access she has with her Capitol Hill and ABC News press passes.

The program consists of hands-on seminars alongside the internship. Richards stated, "It's not a regular class...It's really hands on, we're going out in D.C...I'm on Capitol Hill a lot." The internships are perhaps the most important part of the experience. Richards stated, "The first day of my intern-

ship I did an interview with Senator [Hillary] Clinton...The biggest part of this program is the internship."

Before an agreement was reached between Wilkes University and WSP, it was not possible for students to transfer their credits back to Wilkes. Now that the Inter-institutional agreement has been signed, however, students can transfer their credits back to Wilkes.

Each intern is also assigned to an advisor. The advisor has the option

of evaluating the research project the student completes at the end of the semester.

The university was concerned that the students would be left to their own devices as far as living was concerned, but the experience at American University includes housing. Every amenity offered to AU students is offered to the visiting Wilkes students. Similar to the study abroad program, the student at AU is still considered a Wilkes University student, not a transfer student

Ruthkosky states, "It's a great program, but you need to consider other things," such as the fact that any institutional financial aide is lost for the semester. State and federal loans and grants will still apply, but all aid from Wilkes itself is lost during the time the student is studying at AU. However, they will be charged the Wilkes tuition rate instead of the AU tuition rate, which is slightly higher.

Depending on the program, students have the opportunity to hear a variety of distinguished guest lecturers. In Richards' case, she notes that journalism students have or will see Bob Schieffer, Charles Krauthammer, Ted Kop-

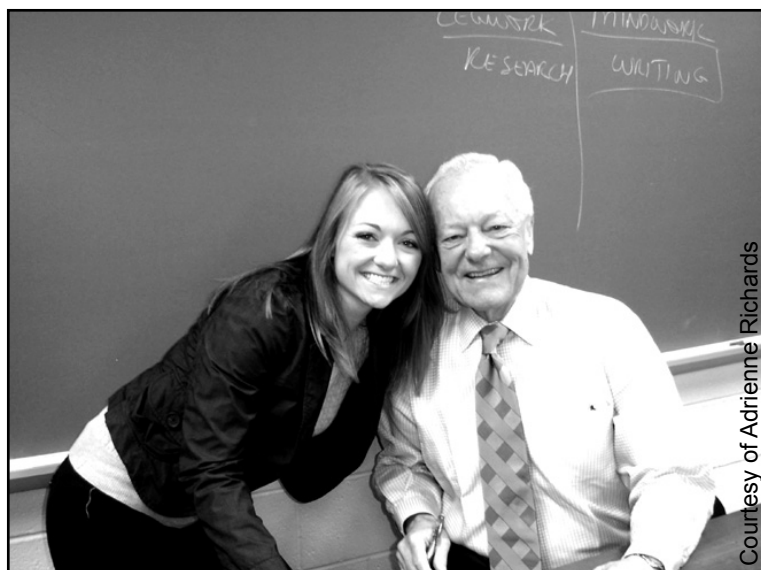
pel and Barbara Harrison in their seminars.

And the experience of the program extends beyond the disciplinary knowledge gained. Richards stated, "I'm so fascinated with culture...[and] I have five students from France, two from Sweden, two from Germany [in my class]...You have students from all over the world."

The Washington Semester Program (WSP) offers thirteen different program choices, some of which allow students to travel abroad as part of a practicum experience during the semester. Some of the choices include American history, American politics, foreign policy, peace and conflict resolution and public law.

In order for a student to be considered eligible for the program, they must "have a 2.5 GPA and...be nominated by the school," explained Ruthkosky. Even if a student has the GPA to qualify for the program, they must also receive a nomination from their advisor and subsequently from Wilkes University. Those interested in learning more about the program can visit the website,

www.washingtonsemester.com.



Senior communications major Adrienne Richards poses with Bob Schieffer, a CBS television news journalist who spoke at an AU seminar.

Environmental club and mtvU look to make things a little greener

BY SARAH DOMAN
Beacon Asst. News Editor

Among the physical changes to campus that greeted returning students this fall was an extension of the greenway that now stretches to Northampton Street where the old Evans parking lot began.

Many have been wondering what to put there. How about a concert?

A new challenge is being waged in schools across America. The Ecomagination Challenge, sponsored by mtvU and GE, is a contest to promote the green space on college campuses. According to ecocollegechallenge.com, "mtvU and GE are asking

individuals and teams of college students from around the country to submit innovative, groundbreaking ideas for projects that would make their schools more environmentally responsible."

The contest involves creating ideas, no matter how big or small, that would make a positive impact on campus green space. Schools are competing for a \$25,000 grant to put the project into motion as well as an mtvU concert on the college campus.

After hearing about this contest, members of the Wilkes University campus decided to take part in it and enter. Dr. Marleen Troy, chair and associate professor of environmental engineering said,

"I regularly check a variety of newspapers, magazines and websites to keep current about environmental issues. I came across the ecomagination challenge on the greenbiz.com site. I thought it would be fun to work on with my FYF students. However, after learning more about the contest, it was apparent that there would be benefits in getting campuswide involvement."

The Wilkes University environmental club hopes to spread the word and help the university gain a wider reputation. "It [the contest] will give us a great deal of publicity and recognition for both the students involved as well as the university.

We can have a chance to expand our environmental engineering and science divisions as well," said Michael Agricola, vice president of the environmental club.

There will be many benefits for the campus in participating in the contest. "The greatest benefit will be increasing awareness about environmental issues and showing the benefits of having a 'green' campus. Another benefit would be to refute the belief that being a 'green' campus is difficult, expensive and not worth the trouble. Students are hoping to win the contest but also want to increase awareness about environmental issues." Agricola said, "The ultimate goal would be to

take the win, but honestly if we can just get people to participate and have a good time with this, we can't really ask for more. It would be nice to see everyone starting to think a little greener as it is becoming a greater issue for our environment. Honestly though we are just looking to have a good time and hopefully win."

The environmental club has a few ideas, but, according to Agricola, could always use some more. Students are encouraged to participate because, according to Troy, "Seeing the impact that even small changes can make is a very powerful

Globetrotting opportunities abound for 2006-07

Through clubs and majors, students can take many trips to other states and countries

BY DANA ZLOTUCHA

Beacon Asst. Business Manager

An epidemic is sweeping campus. Wilkes students of all ages are stricken with a condition that causes them to want to get out of their current atmosphere, explore, see the world and maybe help out others in the process. For those students afflicted with this condition, known as the "travel bug," Wilkes is providing a few possible cures.

Dr. Wagiha Taylor, professor of international business and economics, is advising an international business trip to Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic and Germany. The focus of this trip is Central Europe, and we are interested in knowing more about newly independent states,' she explained.

The trip will take place over spring break, from March 2-11, 2007. The price is \$1,599. Students will register for BA 398, a

three-credit elective course, in the spring semester. The group will meet three times throughout the semester.

Taylor explained that "the trip is both enjoyable and educational, because, to have firsthand exposure to the global world we live in...to see things and to experience things, has a life-long effect, different from just reading about things."

Trip capacity is approximately 50 students and is currently full. However, those interested can still see Dr. Taylor and add their names to the waiting list. She is also taking names for the 2008 spring international business trip, which will highlight England, Scotland and Ireland.

For students interested in visiting a new place, meeting new people and providing community service, the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana, from March

3-10, with 30 students and 6 faculty/staff advisors.

Students chosen for the trip will pay a \$200 application fee and raise the rest of the money. Their goal is to earn \$27,000, as they did last year. Ann Loyek, community service coordinator, and Megan Boone, AmeriCorps Vista, are two of the advisors for the trip.

"These experiences challenge each of us personally...by pulling us out of our comfort zones into new experiences and new surroundings so that we can discover those things within ourselves that help us to grow," Loyek said.

ASB applications are available in the Community Service office, on the second floor of the Henry Student Center. Applications are due Monday, September 25, by 4 p.m. Faculty and staff members interested in helping with the trip preparations are also encouraged to contact the Community Service office.

The communication studies and history departments are also jointly sponsoring a study tour to London. Dr. Mark Stine, associate professor of communication studies, and Dr. John Hepp, associate professor of history, will be advising the trip and teaching the class. The focus of the trip is to examine the history of communications from the British vantage point. This trip will be offered over Intercession, from Jan 4-11, 2007. Cost is \$1,799 per student.

The trip may be used as either a COM 398 elective or a HIS 398 elective, which can also be used to satisfy the general education requirement for history.

"[The London week is] the meat of the course, and then when we come back for the spring semester, we are then taking things that the students did in London and preparing that in the form of major assignments and a term paper," Stine explained.

Hepp related the value of this travel experience, especially citing "that moment when [students] suddenly realize, 'here's something very, very different,' than what they're used to," as the best part. "By the end, no one wants to come back to America," he laughs.

Group size is usually between 8-14 students. Those interested should contact Stine or Hepp as soon as possible, as the initial deposit of \$100 is due on September 28, and the entire cost must be paid by October 5.

In addition, two Study Tour Experience trips are also planned. One is headed to Panama, the other to Australia, Tahiti and Fiji. Interested students should contact Dr. Jim Merryman, professor of sociology and anthropology.

All trips are open to students of all majors, and those interested are encouraged to contact the trip advisors soon to reserve a spot.

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Junior, Candice and Dean of Student Affairs, Mark Allen.

Dean Allen was the first person I met at Wilkes.

"I'm interested in Student Government. As it turned out, he was our advisor. He helped me adjust to school. I think of myself as a leader and I want to model my leadership skills after him. He's a person you can confide in and look up to and that makes the Wilkes experience even better!"



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Making ends meet in college without going broke

With a budget and a clue, students can avoid bankruptcy

BY JACLYN FRANCESE
Beacon Correspondent

“I’m just a poor college student” is often a phrase heard around campus.

So why are college students so poor? First of all, the daily “inconsequential” little things add up. The cup of coffee to keep awake in class, the expensive habits like smoking cigarettes and of course there are those nights out with friends. All of this keeps college-town businesses booming and wallets empty. It really doesn’t take much to spend hundreds of dollars on these types of things each semester.

The easiest way to budget is to have a plan and be aware of expenses.

According to about.com’s section on budgeting for college students, when it comes to finances and budgeting, students have to be smart from the beginning and have a plan. Listing sources of income and knowing how much money can be set aside monthly throughout the semester can help students spend within their means.

Setting financial priorities are also key. Basic needs should come first, such as tuition, books, groceries and gas. Then comes entertainment, which can include everything from catching a movie to hitting up local bars. These activities may seem extraneous, but socializing is how students stay sane amidst the other obligations and responsibilities.

For those who find that the end of the month frequently brings an empty wallet, Wilkes is attempting to help new students get started the right way. One of the first-year foundations (FYF) course focuses on personal finances to help students with budgeting both in and out of college.

According to the course outline, students learn how to better budget money, save for the future and plan for retirement.

They also have the opportunity to learn how to manage student loans, avoid the many perils of credit card abuse and how to increase the amount of money they earn after graduation.

“Having an introductory finance course would be a good opportunity for any freshman. When I was a freshman I had more difficulty, but moving off-campus and becoming more independent helped me to make better decisions financially,” said Bill Steiner, senior business major.

Nandita Das, assistant professor of finance and accounting, and teacher of the personal finance FYF class, frequently tells her students, “This is one course that you will directly use no matter what field you choose or what you do for a living.” She hopes to start a Personal Finance Club for students. “The purpose of the club would be to help the general student population with basic budgeting skills.”

Commuters and students who have a job off campus run into difficulties with gas prices and parking every day. Samantha Clarke, junior communication studies major said, “As a commuter I have to set aside money for gas and parking. With gas prices as high as they are, it makes it difficult to keep my budget intact.”

Donnie Murray, senior psychology major added, “I work on and off campus and all my money directly pays my tuition. It took me a while to learn how to budget, but you have to learn sometime. When shopping, I just look for sales.”

The basics of budgeting are the same for students as they are for anybody else, but the challenge for those enrolled in college is that they are most likely new to the game. To successfully survive the dollars and cents struggle, it is key to begin now with careful spending and proper planning.

Using this simple budget chart found on about.com, students can manage their income and expenses, comparing the expenditures from month to month so they can better budget and manage their money.

CATEGORY	MONTHLY BUDGET	MONTHLY ACTUAL	MONTHLY DIFFERENCE
INCOME:			
From Jobs			
From Parents			
From Student Loans			
From Scholarships			
From Financial Aid			
Miscellaneous Income			
SUBTOTAL			
EXPENSES:			
Rent or Room & Board			
Utilities			
Telephone			
Groceries			
Car Payment/Transportation			
Insurance			
Gasoline/Oil			
Entertainment			
Dining Out/Vending			
Tuition			
Books			
School Fees			
Computer Expense			
Miscellaneous Expense			
EXPENSES SUBTOTAL:			
NET INCOME: (Income less expenses)			



Dinner and a Movie

Dinner: Red Robin

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO

Beacon A&E Editor

Although Red Robin isn't exactly a new establishment in the area, it is one that I thoroughly enjoy but don't frequent as much as I used to.

It was after a marathon shopping trip, and some extreme hunger pangs, that Jaclyn and I decided to stop at Red Robin. We all know how much truly strenuous shopping can really take it out of you. Anyway, the location is right on our way home and is also a pretty prime spot since it is so close to the Wyoming Valley Mall.

When we arrived, we snagged a parking spot right outside the front door and since it was a Wednesday night, we had no problem getting a table. We were promptly greeted by our waitress after being seated, and along with our drinks we were given a basket of

Red Robin's famous bottomless steak fries, which were, by the way, hot and fresh and especially delicious with the secret recipe Red Robin seasoning.

Jaclyn ordered a BLTA, minus the avocado, and when she asked for cheddar cheese along with it, they were extremely accommodating. It didn't take long for me to decide on the Gardenburger, something I think is a very cool choice for restaurants to have on the menu. I suppose I should clarify that a Gardenburger is a brand of what I would call veggie patty that Red Robin offers as a substitute to beef.

The food arrived unbelievably fast (good thing, too, because those fries were running a little low while we waited.) Both of our meals came with more steak fries, so there was no need to take them up on the "bottomless" offer. Jaclyn's sandwich consisted of bacon, lettuce, tomato and turkey on a crois-

sant, with a side of cantaloupe. My Gardenburger was just as tasty as I suspected it would be, with lettuce, tomato, "bistro sauce" and pickles on a wheat bun. In my opinion, the pickles are what really made it great, because otherwise it would have been a little plain. They definitely helped to give the whole sandwich a little zing and complemented the Gardenburger (which, in my opinion, tastes pretty similar to a hamburger) perfectly. As I usually do at Red Robin, I ordered a side of honey mustard dressing to go along with my fries. It is my personal belief that Red Robin has the best honey mustard dressing in the entire world. If you order fries here, it is a must. It also went pretty well with my Gardenburger, too.

Both of our portions were huge, so we took half home. We had already made a predinner pact that we were sharing dessert. It took us all of about 1.5 seconds to decide on the Mountain High Mudd Pie, which we ordered along with some coffee. When it arrived, I'll admit, we felt a bit ridiculous. This was an insanely large dessert, but with chocolate and vanilla ice cream, peanuts, fudge sauce, caramel sauce, peanut butter and cookie crusts, sprinkles and whipped cream, there was no way to pass it up!

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It has to be said that the atmosphere of Red Robin can only be described as "fun." Adorning the walls are photos from famous and recognizable television shows and films, something I found to be particularly interesting. I mean, I can't be the only one who would enjoy dining next to a framed photo of George Costanza posing in his boxers, courtesy of that infamous episode of *Seinfeld*, right?

The only real drawback to Red Robin is that it's not exactly a bargain, and especially not if you order an immense amount of food as we did. For my meal I paid \$7.99, and our dessert was around \$6.00. Factor in the costs of drinks and coffee and it got a little pricier than I would have liked. The portions were extraordinary in size, though, so I suppose there was sort of a tradeoff there.

If you're looking for the kind of hearty meal where you need to undo the top button on your pants because you're so full, then Red Robin, with its generous portions and bottomless fries, is a great option. Even if that doesn't really sound like a pleasurable night, you can at least take half of your meal home.

Grade: A+

...And a Movie: *The Covenant*

BY JONATHAN MILES

Beacon Correspondent

The covenant has been broken. Within weeks it will be no secret that this movie was a waste of an hour and a half. Another poor excuse for a horror movie fails to live up to the genre.

In the Ipswich Colony, located in Massachusetts, four male students attending the Spencer Academy are connected by amazing powers. They are descendents of a long line of witches who are now bound to stop an evil, power-hungry rival. But using their own powers also weakens them and causes them to age.

Steven Strait (*Sky High*) is Caleb Danvers, leader of four "Ipswich Brothers" who have inherited a secret power dating back to the Salem witch trials. Laura Ramsey (*She's the Man*) plays Sarah, Caleb's love interest and the basic "damsel in distress." Both act well enough to bring the lame story half to life, especially towards the final acts when the antagonist begins to threaten their lives.

Its plot misconstrued, senseless and full of holes, *The Covenant* somehow manages to have a decent message. The message is a rip-off of Spiderman's "Great power comes with great responsibility," but it is still worth

noting. *The Covenant* implies that power is addictive. Like the abuse of a drug, the abuse of power will kill you.

The movie has its jumps, a few "disturbing images" and something for those with arachnophobia. However, this movie doesn't offer the psychological terror true horror films capture.

The Covenant is more of a thriller with very little excitement. It earned a PG-13 rating for "intense sequences of violence and action," but most of the special effects and so-called fight scenes are vapid and uninteresting. The action becomes dull quickly as most fight scenes are composed of one person forcing another through a wall, door, window, etc. The anti-climactic ending comes with a battle between two rival warlocks throwing fake-looking CGI energy balls at one another like a Dragon Ball-Z copy.

With a cast full of unknowns, *The Covenant* tries to be this decade's version of a teenhorror flick, but falls short. At first glance, it seems like a fresh warlock-spin on the classic film *The Lost Boys*. But *The Covenant* lacks the charms, imagination and wit that made *The Lost Boys* great. It ends up a sloppy male version of the TV show *Charmed*.

Unfortunately, originality is not a strong

point among recent horror movies and *The Covenant* continues this trend. It offers viewers tired appeals such as the typical helpless, half-naked female walking around asking "hello?," the dream sequence, the sudden phone ringing and plenty of other sad excuses for suspense. A strange brew of supernatural power and teen sex appeal create a taste much like that of *The Craft*, except *The Craft* was actually mildly entertaining.

The story is utterly bland, predictable and full of unintelligent dialogue that a high school kid could have written. No high school script would be complete without "sexual content, partial nudity and language." But before anyone gets too excited, the sexual content is merely a cute kiss scene. Weak chemistry fails to create a teen romance worth remembering.

Like most films, this one's casting is entirely about looks, but perhaps the film's director is trying to cover up the awful acting and dialogue. *The Covenant* uses sex appeal to sell its cast as hot twenty-somethings pretending to be teenagers. To add to the ridicule, all the extras are unrealistically flawless as well.

The soundtrack is full of songs heard too many times before. Other than the remix of some Rob Zombie in the beginning, the rest

of the film's music is nauseatingly cliché, like the use of "I love rock n' roll" in a bar scene.

The movie is not completely terrible. Although not creepy, the cinematography is almost picture perfect as the film travels around the Massachusetts setting. With the bright spectra of autumn colors, crisp darkened hues of nightfall and powerful visuals of thunderstorms, *The Covenant* impresses.

While it's not for those horror fans who want to be kept awake at night, *The Covenant* offers something for the younger teens that enjoy *Dawson's Creek* reruns and lame witchcraft. Fortunately, for those who enjoy making fun of scary films, there are some parts bad enough to mock.

Interestingly, *The Covenant's* tagline is "Imagine having the power to do anything you want. But at what price." The first grammatically correct thing to do would be to end that second line with a question mark and not a period. Maybe the editor from the film's script also looked over the tagline. With the power to do anything it would be nice to save others the money and time they might spend watching this film.

The price is simply not worth it.

Grade: F

Socializing over the internet diminishes face to face contact

BY SHANNON CURTIN
Beacon Correspondent

Facebook, Livejournal, instant messenger. These are just a few of the many methods of online interpersonal communication that students use on a daily basis.

There is a constantly increasing number of students who spend at least a small percentage of their free time in front of a computer screen, catching up and interacting with those they know and those they stalk. In this age of constantly increasing internet activity the question has arisen of whether online communication is detrimental to student's face to face social interactions.

In recent years there have been reports of conflicting findings as to whether increased internet socialization has led to increasing physical isolation. A 2004 *New York Times* article mentions that researchers at the Stanford Institute for the Quantitative Study of Society have found that "an hour of time spent using the internet reduces face-to-face contact with friends, co-workers and family by 23.5 minutes." Certainly time spent on the internet will cause a deficit of time spent doing other activities, but does this reduced amount of face-to-face contact have a detrimental effect on the lives of students?

Some Wilkes University students concluded that the use of the internet for social communication is a convenient and cost effective way to interact, with little negative effect on their social lives.

Sophomore psychology major Jonathan Miles stated that he uses both facebook and myspace to "see what events are coming up," and to keep in touch without wasting money on cell phone text messages or phone calls."

As to whether or not such communication is damaging their ability to interact with people in day to day life, many students agree with junior English major Lauren Carey, "I don't feel like I have a hard time talking to people face to face." Instead Carey's qualms with the internet focus on a more academic concern, "I think the problem is that people don't know how grammar works anymore. The internet lingo has crept into our non-internet lives. I'm almost certain some professors have horror stories about "lol" and "u" creeping into academic papers."

Sophomore Justin Spott concurs with Carey in his opinion of internet communication, "It can allow people to communicate, and spread and develop ideas with people who live in different regions, but sadly, I don't really see that happening. What I see more of is a one-night stand of information exchange, a wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am of misspellings, improper grammar, and strange acronyms, pertaining to nothing important."

Though the depreciation of the English language can arguably be blamed on the internet's impact on our communication, the formation of purely internet based relationships could create negative social impacts on our lives.

What's Happening

Wednesday, September 27

- Taming of the Shrew* at King's College at 7:30 p.m. (through September 30)
- HOODS, Strength for a Reason, Steel Nation, Million to One, performing at Back stage at 6 p.m.
- FROGGY 101 Free Concert with Steve Azar at the Woodlands Grand Ballroom, 7 p.m.
- Crush performing at the Woodlands Streamside Bandstand, 10 p.m.

Thursday September 28

- The Laramie Project* at the Dorothy Darte Dickson Center at 8 p.m. (September 29)

Friday, September 29

- Lewis and Clarke performing at Cafe Metropolis at 8 p.m.
- Murder Junkies, 1428, and the Dirt Vultures performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 30

- The Tossers, Freedumb Bomb, Captain We're Sinking, and Siderunners performing at Cafe Metropolis at 8 p.m.

Junior Ken Gareau points out the disadvantages to popular avenues of online communication, "out of state college students may cling to that as a way to be home, and thus won't really interact with the rest of the campus population. That happened to me my first few weeks of school as a freshman - I would sit in front of my computer, and wait for friends to IM me from home. It took the resident assistant to pry me out of the room just to go socialize."

Obviously online communication activities can be both beneficial and detrimental, but what could be the long term effects of the continued increase of technological communication on society? Sociology professor Dr. Michael Garr provided an academic perspective on the issue. "Because the relationships with others met via the internet are virtual relationships they lack the authenticity of real relationships and may reduce the number of face-to-face contacts," he said. "Recent research has revealed that over the last 20 years people today have half the friends they once had. This could suggest a reduction in social support that people receive. It's not clear that virtual relationships can make up for this loss of social support."

Professor of sociology and anthropology Theresa Kintz mentioned that the lack of visual clues and body language in internet communication causes a "virtual anonymity," that then "creates a different dynamic, non-verbal cues are absent, and personal, real, authentic connection is impossible." Kintz, like many researchers of the social impact of the internet, believes that "online relationships replace real relationships in an individual's life; it leads to a greater sense of alienation and isolation that is already cultivated in mass society."

Even though the internet is convenient and does allow plenty of modes of communication and interactions with friends and strangers, the opportunities of the real world should not be overlooked. Campus activities such as clubs and free university sponsored events are just a few examples of the ways students can become more active socially on campus. As Kintz concluded, "A virtual community is no substitute for a real community."

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CD Review: John Mayer's new *Continuum*

BY NICOLE FRAIL
Beacon Correspondent

In *Room for Squares*, he was a sensitive, energetic boy who wanted to run through the halls of his high school and scream at the top of his lungs. He wrote love songs for no one but marveled at the body as a wonderland.

In *Heavier Things*, he was a similarly sensitive, energetic boy who had found not only a home life, but a new deep as well. He suffered from split screen sadness and insisted that you held his only heart while he begged you sweetly to come back to bed.

That was John Mayer *then*. So who is John Mayer *now*?

In his latest offering, *Continuum*, he's still the sensitive John Mayer we always knew. He's still easy on the ears and the eyes, but the aural and visual information we're taking in is in an entirely different league and sending completely new messages.

Continuum was released last Tuesday, and I can honestly say it hasn't left my CD player yet. Mayer's third album is almost unrecognizable. His voice still sounds the same, but other than that, it's a whole new experience for fans. Abandoning his pop and rock-lite style, he's adopted

a more soulful approach for these twelve new songs, one of which is an impressive, energetic cover of Jimi Hendrix's "Bold As Love."

I can't lie. I was slightly disappointed while listening to the first two tracks the first time I played *Continuum* in the car on Tuesday. "Waiting for the World to Change," the first song, caught me off guard with it's mellow beginning and talk of being misunderstood and standing up for nothing and no one. I had half expected a bouncy, happy start to the CD - kind of like "Clarity" from *Heavier Things*.

I had been so excited about Mayer's new album, I hadn't even bothered to read any reviews or preview any songs. All I wanted to do was buy it and listen to it nonstop for the next few weeks. His other CDs were beyond amazing, so why wouldn't this one be as well? Much to my surprise, the sounds I heard flowing out of my car stereo speakers weren't what I had expected from Mayer. At all. The music wasn't the same. The lyrics weren't the same. What had happened to my beloved John Mayer?

He grew up.

Continuum is a mature album in every way you look at it. His talent and love for music and the guitar are evident in every song, and it's obvious that he takes more pride in them and is

more comfortable in the music this time around, instead of just in his vocals and lyrics. In addition to his maturing musical talent, the subjects of his songs are also deeper. In his previous cd's, the messages and lyrics he delivered seemed to be more upbeat and hopeful, more positive, even. *Continuum* contains lyrics about bringing friends back from war, different religions, losing love and recovering from that loss.

Not only does he share his pain in losing a love that he thought was true, but he expresses his need to find someone better in the last track, “I’m Gonna Find Another You,” in which he sings, “Now I’m gonna dress myself for two / Once for me, and once for someone new / I’m gonna do some things you wouldn’t let me do / I’m gonna find another you.”

The whole cd doesn't entirely embrace the negative, however. Tracks five and six, "The Heart of Life" and "Vultures," are sure to get your feet tapping as Mayer expresses how much he hates to see you cry and how there are easier ways to get through the pain that's thrown at you at the worst possible times in life. He expresses feeling tested by the world and shares his wish to survive, come out on top and have the world see him for more than just a number.

It took me a little while, a couple of plays



Courtesy www.fan-sites.org

through, to see the album for what it truly is. At first it sounded like something my father played on his stereo while we cleaned the house on Saturdays when I was younger. And honestly, now that I think about it, it actually is something he would like today. But that's what makes all of Mayer's music so wonderful and so enticing. It's appealing to everyone who enjoys soulful music, who enjoys being able to sit back, relax and simply take in good music.

I encourage all John Mayer fans to buy *Continuum*. It may take a little getting used to, but it really doesn't need the spunk of *Heavier Things* or the lovesickness of *Room for Squares* to be entertaining. It has everything it needs in what's already there and was well worth every penny.



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LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT: TITLE FIGHT

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

I've got to say, it's not every night you walk into a venue and see kids maybe as young as 12 years old dancing and belting out lyrics alongside people well into their 20s.

Last week I saw the Title Fight perform, and while each member has yet to finish high school, judging by how pumped they kept the crowd during the entire set, it's pretty obvious that when it comes to punk, age really doesn't mean a thing.

The Title Fight is a four-piece band out of Kingston. Ned Russin is on bass and vocals, Ben Russin plays drums, Jamie Rhoden is on guitar and vocals and Shane Moran plays guitar. *The Beacon* recently had the chance to sit down with members of The Title Fight to discuss music and plans.

The Beacon: So, exactly how old are all of you?

Title Fight: Ned and Ben Russin are twin brothers. They are both 16. Jamie Rhoden is 15 and Shane Moran is 17.

The Beacon: And I'm just wondering, do one (or a number of you) have your driver's license, because if not I can see that being pretty difficult.

Title Fight: Shane has his license. Our friends and family help us out a lot with getting our stuff to and from shows though.

The Beacon: What kind of bands do you guys listen to that influence your music? Along with that, for people who haven't ever heard of you, what are some bands that you can compare yourselves to?

Title Fight: We all listen to a bunch of different stuff, but a lot of the song writing is influenced by bands such as Blink 182, The Movielife, and Saves the Day. People tell us we sound like those bands, but you should listen and decide for yourself who we sound like.

The Beacon: And for someone who hasn't yet seen you perform, explain what can be expected from your live performances.

Title Fight: Our shows are fun. We always have our friends there supporting us, and we like there to be a lot of energy and interaction with ourselves and the crowd. We encourage stage dives. You can always expect a generous amount of 7th grade girls taking pictures of Jamie on their camera phones, too.

The Beacon: Is this band a hobby or do you guys hope to go full-time with the band once you get out of high school?

Title Fight: Right now it's definitely a hobby. We love to play, and I'm certain every one of us would love to do this full-time but it's hard with high school in the way (except for Jamie, he's

home schooled and plays guitar for 12 hours a day). We're going to try to keep the band throughout high school and into college, and we'd hope to just try to do both school and the band and wait for something to happen for us.

The Beacon: So, are you guys working on a full length CD, or should fans expect one in the near future?

eral sound, fan base, etc.).

Title Fight: Shane was added about a year ago when our songs started to get a little more complex. Prior to that, the songs we had (we still play some of them) were fast and simple. We've been trying new things and Jamie is always writing new material, so we have a lot to work with to make our sound more mature.



Photo Courtesy of Alisha Turull

From left, Ben Russin, Ned Russin, Shane Moran and Jamie Rhoden of Title Fight. To check out their music, visit www.myspace.com/titlefight or thetitlefight.tk

Title Fight: We've been talking to a few people about putting something out and if that goes through, we'll have an EP or a 7" on a smaller indie label in the near future. A full length CD would be awesome, but we need to see if we would get enough support from a label to do that.

The Beacon: What has changed over the three years you guys have been together (lineups, gen-

Our fan base has definitely changed since we started playing shows. For a while, our only "fans" were our very close friends. Also, Ned and Ben's older brother played in a local hardcore band and we'd always get shows with them. Not that many younger kids would be there, so a lot of our first fans were older hardcore guys.

Once we started getting shows on our own, we'd play to a crowd whom we would appeal to

more. Playing shows in Kingston at The Future (R.I.P.) and Backstage really helped build up our fan base because we are from Kingston. We'd get a ton of younger kids to come, and a lot of them would be allowed because it was close to home for them. A lot of those kids are too young to be going to Metro, so when we played at places like Backstage and The Future, it gave kids that normally couldn't see us a chance to see us. Now a lot of them see us every time we play in Kingston.

We also have some of our best friends coming out to see each show and those older guys still come and support us whenever and however they can.

The Beacon: Have you guys toured outside of NEPA? If so, where have you been, and if not, do you plan on it in the future?

Title Fight: We have played in New Jersey and a few places scattered up and down the East Coast of PA. We are going to try to do some weekend tours this year, and we're hoping that by the summer we will be able to do a few full weeks of touring the East Coast.

The Beacon: What are some of the bigger bands that you have gotten to play along with over the years?

Title Fight: Gym Class Heroes, I Am The Avlanche, As Tall As Lions, Just Surrender, Emanuel, An Angle, Dave Melillo, Valencia, Pistolita, that's all that I can think of right now.

The Beacon: Do you have any other shows lined up in the near future?

Title Fight: We are going to be playing at Café Metropolis sometime in October. Check out our Myspace constantly. We get show offers at random so it's kind of hard to tell if we're going to be playing a lot in a certain month. We are also hopefully setting up some shows with bands Cash In and The Front Page - check them out.

The Beacon: So, you guys have been a band for about 3 years. That's a pretty long span of time, and I'm sure you have to have a good amount of interesting show stories. If you can think back, share a story about the strangest show you've ever played, and the most embarrassing experience as well.

Title Fight: We haven't had any strange shows, but we've played on Wyoming Avenue and venues as big as closets which made for some interesting and fun shows.

I can't think of any embarrassing experiences. I guess just voices cracking and making mistakes is the worst. A few times Ned has fallen over and smashed off the ground. Ben is also a sloth and is never on time so we're usually late and I guess that's a little embarrassing. Nothing really matters though, if we pay homage to Rulio, we will have a good time.

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Wilkes crew club to host first regatta in nearly 20 years

BY ARIEL COHEN

Beacon Sports Editor

Levels have been up and levels have been up in the interest of the Wilkes University crew club which has been in existence for close to 30 years.

But since its rebirth in the past four years, the interest in the club has reached record levels with nearly 60 students turning out on a regular basis. In fact, the club received nearly 80 sign-ups on club day just a few short weeks ago.

Since its inception, a permanent home has been hard to come by for the club. Crew members originally began operating from Harvey's Lake, then came back to the Susquehanna River four years ago. But in October of 2004, troubles began to plague the club when their boat house burned down, in what investigators speculated to be a case of arson. When it seemed as though things couldn't get any worse for the team, equipment was stolen in November of the same year, only two months after the devastating fire.

Since then, the crew club has been struggling to settle down, moving from the football field to the baseball field and now back out to Harvey's Lake after the land that they were using on the Susquehanna River was recently sold.

Even with all of the troubles the club has faced, it does not seem to be putting a damper on the activities and progress that the group seems to produce on a daily basis. The club is so determined to continue to succeed that according to Todd Ankiewicz, one of the coaches of the club, "We are hosting the first regatta here [at Wilkes] in nearly 20 years."

The regatta, which is dubbed the McAndrew Cup, will be the inaugural home regatta for the team in years. The race will consist of a 3,000 meter trip down the Susquehanna beginning at Nesbitt Park. The points leader at the end of the day will take home "The Cup." Participating in this race according to Ankiewicz will be the University of Scranton, Susquehanna University, Wentworth Institute of Technology and possibly Bucknell College. Besides the rowing, which will be the main focus of the day, there will be plenty of food, live music and other entertainment.

"There have been many people that have donated some equipment or money that has really helped us out. Because of this we think that at the break around noon time [on the day of the regatta] we are going to rededicate some of the equipment," Ankiewicz stated.

With this new outlook for the team, a lot of the equipment has recently been fixed, including patching holes and repainting some of the oars. "We work with what we have and try to maintain it so it lasts," Ankiewicz said regarding the boats.

Even with the lack of newer equipment and the fact that the crew club is not actually a recognized sport at Wilkes, the club still goes out and competes to the best of their ability.

"There is definitely a lot of good schools that we compete against and it makes it hard for us because we are small and do not have the money that they have," crew secretary Andrew Julian said.

The crew club's McAndrew Cup will take place Friday, October 7 beginning with check in at 7:00 am. The races begin at 10 a.m.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Todd Ankiewicz (right) and Dave Scarisbick put finishing touches on their boat.

Women's volleyball team welcomes new coach

BY TOM JONES

Beacon Correspondent

The new school year has begun, and with its arrival brings a new addition to the Wilkes varsity sports program.

The Lady Colonels recently welcomed Alicia Orlowski as the new volleyball head coach.

Orlowski's volleyball career first began in West Chicago, Illinois, where she played for the Sports Performance Volleyball Club from 1992 to 1996. A five year starter, she led the team to a 99-4 record, and earned a 5th place finish in the 1996 Junior Olympic Tournament.

Orlowski entered the collegiate volleyball scene by playing Division I volleyball at Coastal Carolina University where she, during her four years, helped the Chanticleers win Big South Conference titles in both 1996 and 1998. During both of these seasons, the Chanticleers earned a place in the NCAA Division I championship field. Orlowski also served as the team captain during her junior and senior years.

Orlowski continued her career after Coastal Carolina University by playing for the Duke Lady Blue Devils volleyball team while earning her doctorate in physical therapy.

This extensive background provides Orlowski with the knowledge to pass on to the current Lady Colonels volleyball team. Orlowski noted that, "Having played at the collegiate level, I feel I have a grasp on the fundamentals of volleyball and what it takes to be successful and improve as a team."

She added, "The transition has been made easy for me by the athletics department staff as well as the returning volley-



Courtesy of Sports Information

Orlowski brings her impressive resume to Wilkes University.

ball student-athletes."

One of these returning athletes is Nicole Hahn, an accomplished athlete who has in the past won player of the week and MVP awards.

"She has the knowledge of the game and the ability to understand what's wrong and then fix it," Hahn said.

Orlowski noted that the Lady Colonels volleyball team is working hard and has the talent to go far in the collegiate sports world.

"Our strongest point as a team is our work ethic and the willingness to sacrifice personal, individual success to ensure success as a team. We have a strong nucleus of returning players and freshmen that have been able to step up and contribute on the court. We are improving every day in practice," said Orlowski.

SOCCER from PAGE 20

tough, and make Wilkes work hard for the win.

The Colonels are now ranked 10th in the region and the team's relaxed attitude may make it hard for the Aggies to contend. Rush stated, "This is the most relaxed group, but when they play they get results."

The Colonels added ten new freshmen, and are on a mission to avenge last year's first round playoff loss. According to Rush, each player enters every game with confidence, and this can only lead to success.

Freshman Bret Osswald from Stroudsburg, PA stated, "I believe we are progressing as a team each game."

With the Colonels having all their offensive weapons against a Delaware Valley team that averages less than a goal per game, this may turn into a blowout for the Colonels. We can expect Wilkes to execute, and come out with the victory.

"We go into every game with confidence, expecting a good result," said Rush.



GAME OF THE WEEK

MLB: Chicago White Sox vs. Minnesota Twins

White Sox look for miracle for chance to repeat 2005 success

BY TIM SEIGFREID

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

This time last year, the Chicago White Sox were 91-60, and they were well on their way to clinching the American League central division, en route to their first World Series title in 85 years.

What a difference a year makes.

Currently, the Sox are 85-66, and are a handful of games behind in the AL central and AL wild card.

In other words, they're likely to be watching the playoffs from home this season.

Chicago, who was heavily favored to win its division for the second straight year, has been largely disappointing as of late, because not only has it been in second place behind the Detroit Tigers in the central, but also because the Chi-Sox recently relinquished first place in the wild card to the red hot Minnesota Twins.

It's no surprise that they were so heavily favored; they maintained the bulk of their starting rotation, not to mention the off season acquisition of slugger Jim Thome from Philadelphia.

Thome, who was sidelined for the majority of the 2005 season due to injuries, remained a question mark for the White Sox, as his health was still in question coming into the beginning of the season.

Those fears were put to rest, however, as Thome hit 10 homeruns and 23 RBIs in his first 24 games, while maintaining a .300 batting average.

While the arrival of Thome has certainly bolstered an offense that already had sluggers Paul Konerko and Jermaine Dye, it was Chicago's starting rotation that has been disappointing.

That rotation, which includes veterans Freddy Garcia and Mark Buehrle, as well as the young John Garland, has been solid, however they have not been as consistent as they were last season, and they have rarely

showed the dominance that was on display during the 2005 playoffs.

Despite the shortcomings of the starting rotation, things were still looking good for the White Sox, even though they still trailed Detroit Tigers for the division lead.

They spent most of 2006 season leading the wild card, and were heavily favored to win it, despite having to fight off teams such as the Yankees and Red Sox during several points in the season.

But by the time Minnesota got within striking distance, it was too late.

Since the beginning of July, the Twins are 47-26, the best record in the AL in that timeframe.

That comes as no surprise, as Minnesota has one of the most complete teams in baseball, and can use a number of different weapons to win games.

First and foremost is their pitching staff, led by 2004 Cy Young winner Johan Santana and rookie sensation Francisco Liriano, both of whom have been anchored by closing pitcher Joe Nathan.

Santana, despite a rough start, is heavily favored to win his second Cy Young award this season thanks to a record of 18-5 with 277 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.77. He leads the league in all three categories.

Liriano, in his first season, was spectacular as he pitched to a 12-3 record with an ERA of 2.16 before being sidelined for the remainder of the season on September 13th with an elbow injury.

Nathan has been as good as ever, pitching himself into the top ten in the league in saves(33) and ERA(1.73) among closing pitchers.

If the pitching staff wasn't enough, the Twins have an offense that can beat a rival several different ways, having a perfect blend of power, speed, and batting average.

The Twins, who are historically known for having well placed hits in lieu of homeruns, are no exception this year, as they are led by the current AL batting leader, Joe Mauer.

Mauer, in just his second full season, stands to become the first catcher to win the batting title in almost 100 years.

Additionally, the Twins also have Justin Morneau, one of the leading candidates for AL MVP.

Morneau, in his fourth season with the Twins, has managed to balance his batting average(.325) and homeruns(33) into a perfect offensive blend.

Perhaps the most underrated performers on the field are those making the big plays on the other side of the baseball.

I speak of course defense, and Minnesota has one of the best defenses in baseball, which is led by centerfielder and five-time Gold Glove winner Torii Hunter.

Hunter, who has spent his entire career with the Twins, has been given the highest honor in baseball for five consecutive seasons, is looking for his sixth gold glove this year.

With a team that is that well balanced, it's hard to make an argument against them.

Despite playing a team that is this well



balanced, all is not lost for Chicago; however, it will take quite the uphill battle to make the post season.

First, they will have to literally win every game for the remainder of the season.

If that's not difficult enough, they would need both the Twins and the Tigers to lose at least seven of their last ten games.

That said, it might be time for the White Sox to hang the white flag.

As Chicago rolls into town on the 29th for the final three games of the regular season, their aim will only be to play spoilers to the Twins, who are still looking to win the division and gain home field advantage in the playoffs.

White Sox fans should take comfort in knowing that while it took 85 years for them to win another World Series, it can't possibly be that long of a wait again.

Can it?

The pick:

9/29: Minnesota 7, Chicago 3

9/30: Minnesota 4, Chicago 1

10/1: Minnesota 5, Chicago 0

Double Take

Andee examines the stats that truly matter...

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

Wow. What happened to Chicago this year? I was really surprised to find out that they are being such a disappointment! What's going on with their starting rotation? Come on, guys!

I've never been much of a Twins fan. I don't know why. I truly don't know a lot about baseball. Their uniforms are nice, but something's not right about them. Maybe if the Twins got more players that looked alike, they'd better fit their name. It's all about the image, you know. That's truly what matters.

The White Sox are obviously making some poor choices this season or they wouldn't be so far behind. I think it's the fashion issue. You all know I love sockies. Heck, I picked the silly Red Sox over the Yankees because they had cute little sockies. That took a lot out of me. I bet the White Sox have sockies, too, but EVERYONE knows you can't wear white after Labor Day. That's a sin. I wouldn't buy their sockies.

I'm routing for the Twins. Obviously they know what's up in the fashion department.



Photo courtesy google.com

Twin's ace Johan Santana agrees with Andee.



Athlete of the Week: Christina Waldele

BY ARIEL COHEN
Beacon Sports Editor

It was like a standup triple in a play-off MLB game for senior soccer forward, Christina Waldele, scoring three goals in just two games. O.K., so it is not baseball, but the simile describes the impact of Waldele's soccer success against both Elmira and Moravian.

After a scoreless first half between the Eagles and the Colonels, Waldele ended the 0-0 tie nearly seventeen minutes into the second half. After accepting a pass from junior Bethany Head, Waldele was able to fire the ball straight past Eagles goalie Meaghan Doherty. Then, during the 72nd minute of play, it was Waldele again giving the Colonels a 2-0 lead and eventual win.

But Waldele wasn't satisfied with two goals to blank Elmira. During the Saturday late afternoon match between the Lady Colonels and the lady Greyhounds, Waldele figured she would make it three in a row,

again draining the ball in the back of the goal only 15 minutes into the first half.

"Her success in goal scoring can be attributed to her quick shot," said women's soccer head coach John Sumoski.

Waldele is putting on a show during her senior year worthy of plenty of attention. In the five matches the women's soccer team has had, she is leading the team with five goals, including two game winning goals off of 12 shots on goal.

Waldele has been with the team since her freshman year, so Sumoski has had a front seat for the improvements that have led her to being a team leader in a variety of ways.

"Christina was very strong as a freshman and she was always in a good position to score goals. Now she has become even better and is able to play into her feet more," commented Sumoski.

Looking at what she has accomplished so far this season, Sumoski added that, "I am just happy for her and her success in her senior year."



The Beacon/Todd Wiebel
Wilkes senior forward Christina Waldele drives down the field during the game against Susquehanna on 9/23.



The Beacon/Todd Wiebel
Wilkes freshman Bret Osswald in the game against Susquehanna on 9/23. Wilkes won the game in overtime, 2-1.

WEEKEND RECAPS

Men's Soccer

Mike Bridy scored with just 1:53 remaining in the second overtime period to propel Wilkes University to a 2-1 non conference men's soccer win over Susquehanna University on Saturday afternoon at Ralston Field.

Football

Al Karaffa threw three touchdown passes to lead 16th-ranked Wilkes University to a 30-16 Middle Atlantic Conference win over FDU-Florham on Saturday afternoon. The win improves the Colonels to 4-0 overall and 3-0 in the conference.

Women's Tennis

Wilkes University surrendered only 10 games en route to a 9-0 non-conference women's tennis victory over Keystone on Friday afternoon at the Ralston Complex. The Lady Colonels kept their unbeaten mark in tact by improving to 8-0 overall. The Giants saw their record fall to 2-3.

Women's Soccer

The Lady Colonels soccer team outscored Susquehanna University 4-1 in a win on Saturday afternoon at Ralston Field. The Lady Colonels improve to an overall record of 5-2-1.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

8

Number of tackles by Kyle Follweiler during the game against FDU on Saturday afternoon.

2

Goals scored by both Catherine Simone and Ashley Deemie in win over Susquehanna University.

75

Assists handed out by Nikki Hahn at the Elizabethtown College volleyball tournament on Friday and Saturday.

5

Number of consecutive wins by men's soccer team.

Preview of the week: Men's Soccer

BY CARLTON HOLMES
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

The men's soccer team looks to add victories to the win column as they take on both Lycoming and Delaware Valley this week.

The Colonels are on a hot streak, winning their last four games. If Lycoming and Delaware Valley don't bring their "A" game, they too will get burned.

Lycoming

Rivalry games are the most exciting to watch, because both teams always approach the contest with fire in their bellies. With the Colonels and the Lycoming Warriors constantly ending the MAC Freedom Conference neck and neck in playoff contention, this game should prove to be nothing short of an exclamation point on the season to date.

The Colonels took care of business in their first conference out-

ing, embarrassing King's 4-0, and will look to repeat that performance against Lycoming.

"We've scouted Lycoming a few times to see what systems they run, and we like to see who their targets are. We look for match-ups to expose," said assistant coach Kyle Rush.

The Colonels have made great improvements from last year, providing a more balanced offensive attack that averages two goals per game. In addition to an improved offense, the Colonels have applied a shut down defensive strategy, holding their opponents to only one goal per contest.

Senior Paul Gideon from Orwigsburg, PA stated, "Defense is the main reason for winning. Our defense is there, and the offense balances it off."

The Colonels' strategy has certainly been a successful one, posting five wins of their first seven games, which includes shutting out nationally ranked Johns Hopkins University.

Although the Warriors have a surprising 1-3-2 record, the match-up should be interesting as both teams move onto their second MAC Freedom conference game at home on Wednesday, September 27th.

Delaware Valley

No matter how poorly a team may be doing, it should never be taken for granted as an opponent, especially if the team has a history of putting up a fight. Well, that's the kind of game the Colonels will be playing as they face the struggling Delaware Valley Aggies on Saturday, September 30.

"Every year they play us well, and give us a run for our money," said Rush. The Aggies have a horrible 0-7 record, and for the past three years they finished last in the MAC. But somehow they have a history of playing the Colonels

See SOCCER page 17



The Beacon/Todd Wiebel

Steve Uhas (12), senior forward, will look to lead Wilkes to victory against both Lycoming and Delaware Valley.

Campus Calendar

All Week:

*Into the Streets Week

Monday (9/25)

*Yo Soy Latina, Burke Auditorium at King's College - 6:00 p.m..

Tuesday (9/26)

*Red Cross Blood Drive, HSC Ballroom - 10:00 a.m.

*Women's tennis @ Scranton - 4:00 p.m.

*Women's soccer @ Lycoming - 4:00 p.m.

*Women's volleyball @ Lycoming - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday (9/27)

*Women's tennis vs. Albright - 3:30 p.m.

*Men's soccer vs. Lycoming - 4:00 p.m.

*Field Hockey @ King's - 4:00

p.m.

*Resume Writing Workshop, Max Roth Center, Career Services, 12:00

* Careers in Social Sciences, Professionals Presentation Series, "A Career as a Guidance Counselor," Career Services, Breiseth 206, 3:00 p.m.

Thursday (9/28)

*Women's volleyball @ Baptist Bible - 7:00 p.m.

*Theater production, DDD - 8:00 p.m..

* Career Services Workshop: "Applying to Graduate School: Testing Update & Applications and Kaplan Mock GRE, LSAT, GMAT score give-backs," Breiseth 206, 11 a.m.

Friday (9/29)

*Women's tennis vs. Neumann

- 3:30 p.m.

*Theater production, DDD - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday (9/30)

*Women's volleyball @ Hunter Tournament - 9:00 a.m.

*Field Hockey @ Susquehanna - 12:00 p.m.

*Women's soccer @ DeSales - 1:00 p.m.

*Men's soccer @ Delaware Valley - 2:00 p.m.

*Women's tennis @ Drew - 2:00 p.m.

*Theater production, DDD - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday (10/1)

*Theater production, DDD - 2:00 p.m.

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH



This photo was taken somewhere on Wilkes University's campus. **When you find it, email us the answer at:** wilkesbeacon@gmail.com. Be sure to put "Campus Picture" as the subject heading, as well as your name, phone number, and either campus mailbox or mailing address in the body text. A random winner will be picked from the correct responses and will receive a \$10 cash prize courtesy of the Programming Board.

Congratulations to Kristina Erat who correctly identified last week's shot, which was taken in the basement of the Stark Learning Center.