

The BEACON

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In This Issue...

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LaDuke



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Webcast problems plague would-be viewers

Surge of internet activity causes outages nationwide

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Beacon News Editor

The build-up had worked. Hundreds of students, faculty and staff crowded into the Dorothy Dickson Darte (DDD) Center theater last week to participate in the nationwide effort to develop solutions to the worldwide environmental crisis born of greenhouse gas emissions.

And when the appointed hour came, the screen remained blank. The nationwide webcast of the "2% Solution" turned out to be not so nationwide when many of the participating 1,750 locations could not access the program.

According to a spokesperson at Focus the Nation headquarters, the problem was that so many people and institutions tried viewing the site at the same time that they were basically turned away by the computer.

In a message sent to Wilkes University from Minna Brown, Focus the Nation organizer, she stated, "The downside of doing a live broadcast online on a hot topic like global warming solutions is that more people than even we expected wanted to view it."



The Beacon/Andrew Seaman

Dr. Prahlad Murthy, Lee Rinehart and Ed Shoener sit behind the table before the start of the webcast in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.

See FOCUS page 4

Search for Dean of Law School Initiative Intensifies

BY NICOLE FRAIL
Beacon Asst. News Editor

In approximately two weeks, Wilkes University plans to begin scheduling campus visits for finalists of the Dean of Law School Initiative Search, according to Dr. Reynold C. Verret, Provost.

The search committee, comprised of eleven members, along with Verret and President Tim Gilmour, held neutral site interviews with candidates in New York City on January 19 after advertising the position and screening applications.

The committee consists of chairperson Dr. Paul Browne, Dean of the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership; Dr. Vee Ming Lew, associate professor of math and computer Sciences; Dr. Mary McManus, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences; Dr. Anthony Liuzzo, Esq., professor of the Sidhu School of Business; Dr. Kyle Kreider, assistant professor of political science and pre-law advisor; Dr. Ellen Flint, professor of performing arts; Attorney Joseph Cosgrove; Attorney Marc Levey; Attorney Eugene Roth; and senior pre-law majors Dana Zlotucha and Justin Richards. Levey is a Wilkes alumnus. Cosgrove is a

member of the Luzerne County Bar Association, and Roth is both an alumnus and a Board of Trustees member.

The committee is also assisted by Dr. Theodore J. Marchese of Academic Search, Inc., a search firm located in Washington, D.C.

Over the next two months, an undetermined number of candidates will be invited one at a time to the campus to speak with the search committee, the dean's council, members of the president's cabinet, the provost, members of the Board of Trustees, members of the Luzerne County Bar Association, faculty and students.

"The search committee is pretty excited about the people that we've talked to. I think we have some prospects who would be a pretty good match for our needs and the expectations that we have," said Browne.

"At this point, we must protect the confidentiality of the candidates; thus, I cannot share names," said Verret, who will be the hiring officer for the position.

According to the prospectus for the Dean of Wilkes Law School Initiative, "[l]ate last

spring [2007], after preliminary studies and consultations, the faculty and the trustees endorsed a recommendation from the Provost to move the law school initiative into a final phase."

The "final phase" essentially consists of three parts: a detailed academic plan, a financial plan and a dean to aid in the creation and presentation of both plans.

"We're looking for someone who can help the university re-examine all of the issues involved in the law school idea, who can bring professional experience of starting a law school, who knows the processes for accreditation... So we're really looking for someone who has been in a law school or has run a law school before, but also who has creativity and energy," said Browne.

The prospectus also stresses the importance of being able to communicate, plan, budget and manage effectively and willingly embrace diversity.

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Lifesaving defibrillators purchased, to be installed

BY MEGAN KRISANDA
Beacon Staff Writer

Wilkes just became a little safer. The university recently purchased nine automated external defibrillators (AEDs). These devices are used to restore normal heart rhythm to patients in cardiac arrest, according to www.fda.gov.

University officials had discussed adding the machines to campus for a few years and questioned where the devices would be placed and how many to purchase, according to Director of Health Services, Diane O'Brien.

"I think now that we're expanding and there's a lot more buildings with big concentrated areas of people, we felt that it's prob-

ably time we made this purchase. It makes sense," said O'Brien.

In cases of sudden cardiac arrest an AED may save someone's life. An AED is applied to the outside of the body and it analyzes the person's heart rhythm and whether or not a shock is needed to restore a normal heart beat, according to www.fda.gov.

"If you intervene with an electric shock delivered at the appropriate time, your chances of survival go up significantly within the first five minutes of a cardiac event," said Chris Bailey, director of campus support services.

Bailey is familiar with AEDs thanks to his part-time work as a paramedic in the Pittsburgh area before his career at Wilkes.

Bailey says AEDs have always been a part of athletic programs since there is more potential of a cardiac event occurring.

"There have been cases where a ball hits someone in the chest at the appropriate time, and there's enough energy to disrupt the electrical circuitry of the heart," said Bailey.

Kammie Studley, head coach of women's lacrosse, is trained to use an AED and is happy to hear about the addition of the life saving devices.

"I think it's really beneficial to have them on the field, because if an athlete gets hit in the chest you have those two minutes to save them. I think it's one of the best things Wilkes could have done,"

said Studley.

The AEDs will be placed throughout campus in public accessed buildings such as Stark Learning Center, UCOM, Henry Student Center, and other surrounding buildings.

"Basically, they are going to be secured to a wall. You open the AED and turn it on and it talks you through the whole process. It is made for a 'lay person,' [though] certainly it will appear a lot less strange if you have taken a CPR test," said O'Brien.

The AEDs were part of the university's budget and all nine devices totaled \$15,000. The AEDs were purchased thorough Philips

Medical, according to Petra Carver, Vice President of Finance and Support Operations.

The devices have become more commonplace, appearing in airports, malls, and at sporting events. AED training has become a part of many CPR training sessions. Students or faculty interested in being trained to use these devices should contact Public Safety.

"We have a community to protect, and when you need these devices, you need them close by and you need to be trained on how to use them. We want to give the right training and the right tools," said Bailey.

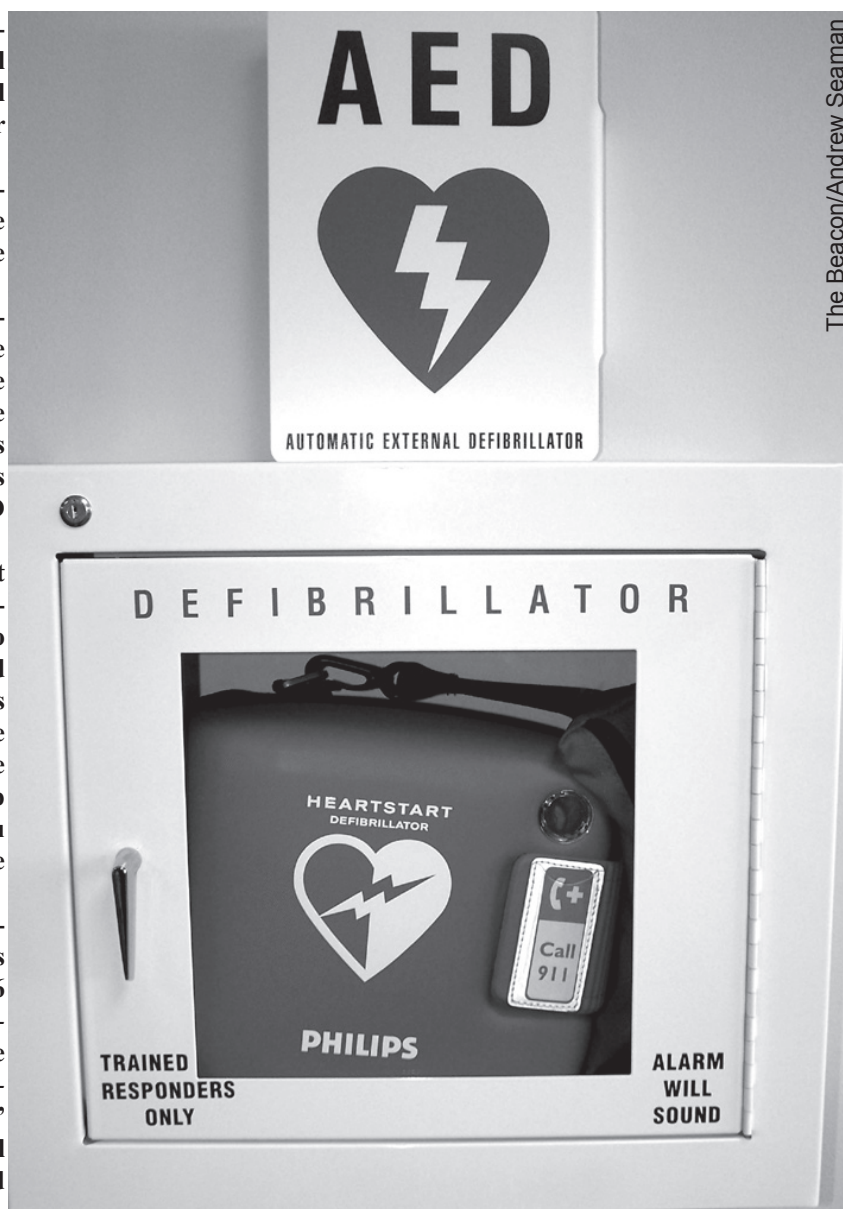
(RIGHT) Philips HeartStart Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) will soon be placed in popular areas of campus.

According to heartstartthome.com, "Philips is the market leader in innovative defibrillation technology."

Once the cartridge handle is pulled, a calm voice guides the user through the process of analyzing the heart rhythm and decides whether an electric shock is necessary, making the AED easy to use for anyone.

Not only is HeartStart designed to help the patient, but the user will also receive any additional aid needed. The AED adapts to your actions so if you're moving quickly, the voice delivering will speed up with you. The slower you go, the more detailed the instructions become

Awards Philips HeartStart Defibrillator has won date back to 1996 and include *Fortune Magazine*, "Best Products of the Year" (2004), *Popular Science*, "Best of What's New" award (2003) and Medical Design Excellence Award (2003).



The BEACON

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

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News Analysis: *Beacon* Election Update

Making sense of the election, candidates and issues

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon News Editor

When the Mamas and the Papas sang, “Monday Monday, so good to me/Monday mornin’, it was all I hoped it would be” they obviously weren’t singing to presidential candidates. Monday pales in comparison with the excitement, anticipation, and in some cases dread of “Super Tuesday.”

That may be a slight exaggeration, but there is a lot riding on this election, and February 5, may be the day that decides who goes on and who is left in the dust.

This Tuesday, February 5, is a big day for both parties, but maybe a little more for the Democrats. Over 50% of all of the Democratic party’s delegates will be awarded on Super Tuesday, while 41% of all Republican delegates will also be awarded. On Super Tuesday, 22 states go to the voting booths, and most national polls have the remaining Democratic candidates in a race that is simply too close to call.

Following his wins in Florida and South Carolina, Senator John McCain has emerged

as the Republican frontrunner, which is in complete contrast from where he was only a few weeks ago. Even McCain remarked on the *Tonight Show* that he “no longer has to carry his own bags.” Propelling McCain forward is his one-time rival, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani. Following his disappointing and distant third place finish in Florida, the state where he has spent so much time campaigning that some joked about his suntan, Giuliani saw the handwriting on the wall and dropped out of the race. He quickly endorsed McCain, alongside California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and even accompanied him on *The Tonight Show*.

Despite McCain’s favorite son status, Governor Mike Huckabee and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney both campaigned actively last week. Romney scored a win in Maine on Saturday, with 52% of the vote and claimed that voters would see more of the same on Tuesday.

As for the Democrats, the field is down to two, as Senator John Edwards bowed out of the race last week. Edwards has so

far not endorsed any of the remaining candidates; however, has urged the remaining candidates to focus on poverty—his key campaign issue. Pundits agree that his influence in this area will likely spur the remaining candidates, New York Senator Hillary Clinton and Illinois Senator Barack Obama, to do so in an effort to swing Edwards supporters their direction and possibly win his endorsement.

So what can everyone expect to happen on Tuesday?

First, candidates are likely to hit issues relevant to the states at stake this week including health care, the mortgage crisis, gun control, and the war.

Obama and Clinton can expect to take home most of their base states. For Clinton, this means those mostly northern states that do not have open primaries, meaning that the state does not let independent voters vote. Obama’s base states include southern states and some in the Midwest. Obama will also likely get a boost out of those states

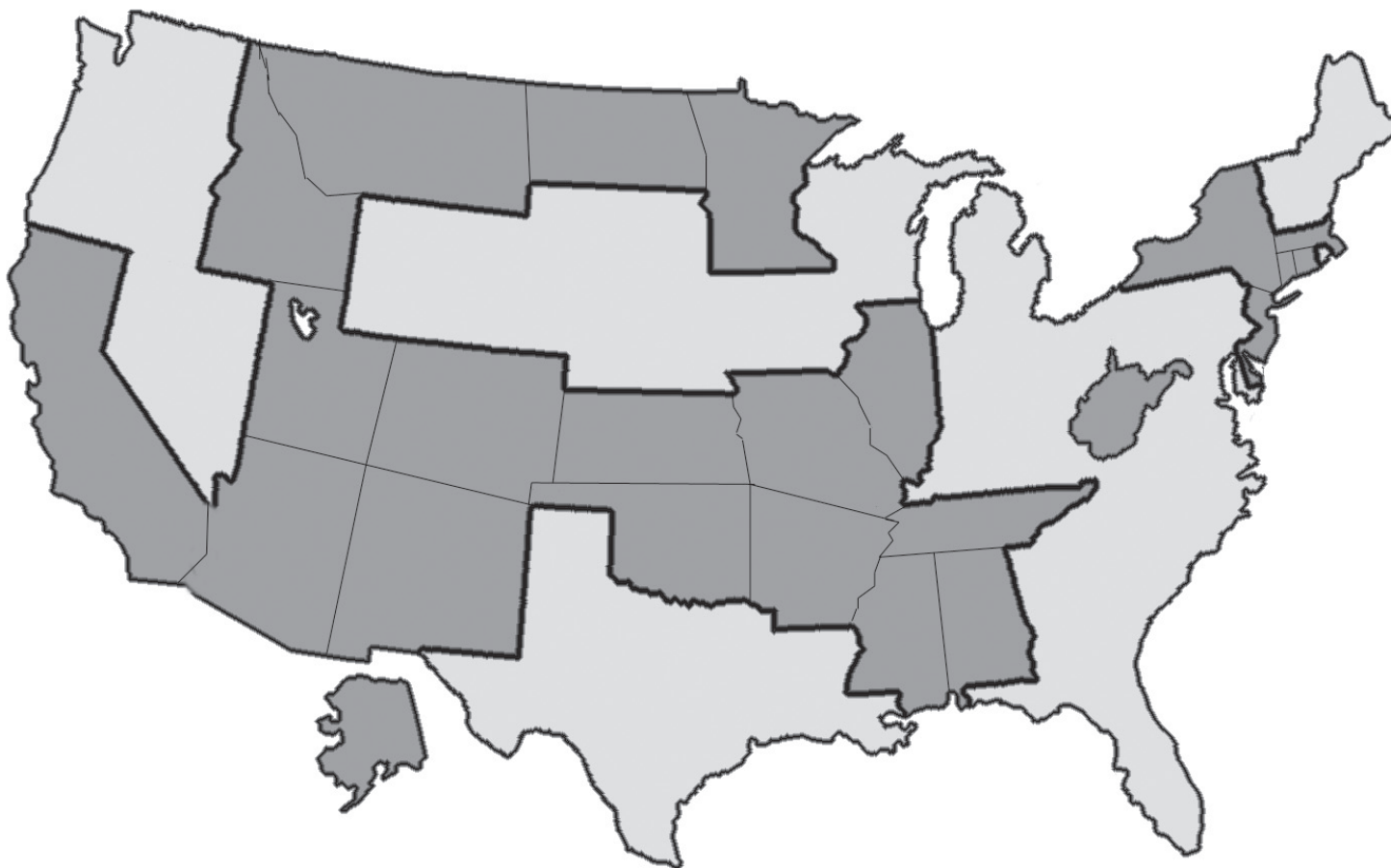


that allow independent voters to vote in the primary.

The bigger unknown for the Democrats on Super Tuesday are some key delegate states, like California or Georgia.

This also holds true for the Republicans. California and Georgia are the prize.

So what happens after Super Tuesday? Well, in the off chance there is not a clear nominee after Tuesday, there is “Fantastic Friday,” February 9. There will be two primaries and one caucus for each of the parties that should help separate the candidates from one another, and then for the Democrats the Maine caucus will be held the 10.



★ Super ★ ★ Tuesday ★ ★ States ★

Alabama primaries **R 48 D 60**
Alaska caucuses **R 29 D 18**
Arizona primaries **R 53 D 67**
Arkansas primaries **R 34 D 47**
California primaries **R 173 D 441**
Colorado caucuses **R 46 D 71**
Connecticut primaries **R 30 D 61**
Delaware primaries **R 18 D 23**
Georgia primaries **R 72 D 104**
Idaho caucuses **D 23**
Illinois primaries **R 70 D 185**
Kansas caucuses **D 40**
Massachusetts primaries **R 43 D 121**
Minnesota primaries **R 41 D 88**
Missouri primaries **R 58 D 88**
Montana caucuses **R 25**
New Jersey primaries **R 52 D 127**
New Mexico primary **D 38**
New York primaries **R 101 D 280**
North Dakota caucuses **R 26 D 21**
Oklahoma primaries **R 41 D 47**
Tennessee primaries **R 55 D 85**
Utah primaries **R 36 D 85**
West Virginia convention **R 18 0**

The Beacon/Andrew Seaman

ABOVE: The dark shaded areas represent the states that will be voting on Super Tuesday. On that day over 50% of all the Democratic delegates will be awarded to the winning candidates, while 41% of all Republican delegates will be awarded to their winning candidates. RIGHT: A list of all the states participating in Super Tuesday. West Virginia and Montana are only voting on the Republican side of the ballot, while Idaho, Kansas and New Mexico are only voting on the Democratic candidates. As of right now the only Democratic candidates still left in the race are: Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama, Sen. Mike Gravel. The only Republicans left are: Sen. John McCain, Gov. Mitt Romney, Gov. Mike Huckabee and Rep. Ron Paul.

FOCUS from FRONT PAGE

During the assembly at Wilkes University it was clear shortly after 8PM that something was wrong, when the webcast never showed up on the large projection screen. At that point Dr. Mike Case, Wilkes professor of environmental engineering and earth sciences and organizer of the event, made the announcement that they were not able to pick up the feed and had another plan.

Case said that they were prepared for the prospect that technology might fail, and Dr. Ned Fetcher, Coordinator of the Institute for the Environment Science and Sustainability, who has been educating the faculty on global warming through a slideshow presentation, would provide the lecture to those assembled at the DDD.

At that point several members of the audience were seen leaving the auditorium. However, many opted to stay to listen and discuss the issues at hand. Fetcher offered detailed scientific analysis of the causes of the earth’s warming trend and the impact such warming may have on a variety of issues such as climatological change.

Garett Reiss Brennan, Director of Media & Public Relations for Focus the Nation, told *The Beacon* during the assembly, “It’s a small problem, it’s an unfortunate problem, but it’s a severe problem.”

Brennan also said they were prepared for something like this, but nothing of this magnitude.

After the event concluded the national organization, Focus the Nation apologized for the failure by posting, in large green and red letters, “Big Sorry! Too many hits on the ‘2% Solution.’ Some sites experienced technical difficulties. We truly regret the difficulties this has caused...” The apology was signed “The Focus the Nation Team,” however the apology was quickly taken down.

The evening concluded as it was supposed to with a panel of experts offering their thoughts on the evening and then taking questions from the audience. The panel consisted of Dr. Prahlad Murthy, Wilkes professor of environmental engineering; Lee Rinehart, a sustainable agriculture program specialist; and Ed Shoener, an authority on the design and deployment of wind technology. In his address to the audience, Shoener challenged college students to take control now. While generations before have created the existing situation, Shoener suggested, the solutions needed to come from those who will be living with the mess. “This is going to be *your* problem...good luck.”

The evening also began as normal with a welcome from Case and Dr. Tim Gilmour, Wilkes University President, who stressed the steps Wilkes is taking to be a green campus and a leader in environmental awareness in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

“The Focus the Nation event, is the Wilkes first public forum on global climate change... I hope it’s one of many,” said Gilmour, hinting that there may be more events like Focus the Nation in the future.



The Beacon/Andrew Seaman
Panel of experts address audience members on the issue of global warming as part of Focus the Nation last Wednesday.



The Beacon/Andrew Seaman
Wilkes University was closed on February 1, due to an ice storm that moved across the area. The Henry Student Center parking lot was covered with about a half-inch of ice in the morning, which later turned to slush. Originally Wilkes was listed as a compressed schedule but was later changed to a closed status. Wilkes was one of over 200 schools, colleges and universities to either delay or cancel classes on Friday.

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

Barnes & Noble Wilkes-King's College Bookstore



"Live Acoustic Music"
Wednesday night in our café!
February 6th at 6:30-8:00pm
Jay Luke from "The Mess"

"Live Acoustic Music"
Friday, February 8th 7:30-10:30pm
Adam Burke



We are now a


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"WBFREE"

25% off all café items during free live shows with your student ID!

Don't forget to pick up a "Frequent Buyer Card" today!

*****Don't forget to use your "Flex Cash" anywhere in our store!*****



SG Notes January 30, 2008

Treasurer's Report

All College: \$25,000
General: \$10,000
Special Projects: \$3,500
Spirit: \$2,000
Leadership: \$5,000
Conferences: \$12,500
Start-Up: \$1,500

Club Reports

The following clubs presented updates on their events.

Programming Board
 Spanish club
 Chemistry club
 Math/CS

New Business

New Members - The Faith Wyrda introduced as member of SG for the class of 2008.

SAE mini baja fund request - Members of SAE came back for the second week seeking \$3,702 to build a new car. After a discussion about fundraising, SG granted SAE \$3,000.

Chemistry Club - Representatives from the chemistry club came to SG asking for funds to travel to a convention for the second week. SG granted the full request of \$3,000. However, if they receive a mentoring grant they must return the equal amount of money.

AFROTC - Robert Bireley came to SG asking for funding for a conference in Colorado Springs for AFROTC. SG granted him his full request, paying for his flight, up to \$450.

Wristband allocation - OCC asked if SG would purchase an additional 400 wristbands for block party, but after discussion about a business class selling wristbands SG decided not to allocate the money for the wristbands.

Food allocation for open forum - Next week there will be a forum instead of a meeting and all SG members must present for an hour.

Old Business

Vagina Monologues donation
Movie tickets purchased



LAW from FRONT PAGE

Responsibilities of the dean would include creating a "compelling, marketable vision for legal education," developing a five-year financial and academic plan for the law school, assisting in the final decisions about the school and inevitably becoming and acting as the founding dean of the school if and when it is approved and launched.

"We are on track in our plan for a law school that will distinguish Wilkes and address issues for legal education outlined in a recent report by the Carnegie Foundation (*Education Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law*, 2007)," said Verret.

Paying close attention to the Carnegie report, which addresses the criticisms of legal education, the prospectus states that Wilkes has the ability and opportunity to rise above any "inattentions," such as practitioner concerns or ethics and civility within the pro-

fession.

"Wilkes has a concept of not creating what is being called a 'me too' law school, but one that has a distinctive curriculum. We'll be perceived in the marketplace as innovative, so one of things that we're looking for is someone willing to think outside of the box and willing to create the current model of law school education and has ideas of how to do it better," said Browne.

Following the success of Wilkes' Graduate Teacher Education Program, the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, and the Pharm.D. program, the Wilkes University Law School is expected to attract attention due to location and demographics. With the nearest Pennsylvania law schools in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, it's possible that 75-100 graduate students will enter the program in the first year.

"We know that people in criminology, communications, sociology, psychology,

political science and economics are all tracks that often have people who choose to go on to law school... Business, pharmacy, and nursing students may also find this possibility to be of interest," Browne explained. "One of the things we would like to see is a stream of Wilkes students that go on to the law school."

With aid from the dean, Wilkes will also determine where the possible law school will be located. Browne stressed that it is important that they figure out approximately how many students they will be accommodating before they begin designing and constructing a building. The current plan for the building of the school is scaled on a minimal size.

"The [early] studies done on a preliminary basis were to test the feasibility of running a small law school. As the dean comes in

and leads us through the final stage of studies, there may be a determination that the school should be slightly or significantly larger, so how many students we expect to have are really critical issues for us to know before we make a commitment of what kind of a facility will be most appropriate."

If all goes according to plan, the dean of the law school will be chosen by this summer. The dean's plan should be approved by spring of 2009 and the first class of law students at Wilkes University may begin their first semester in the fall of 2010.

According to Browne, "a definite decision has not been made to start a law school," but choosing a dean to lead the decision-making process brings the university one step closer to doing so.

PANDORA
Jewelry

Customer Appreciation Event
February 8th & 9th

Show Special:
 Buy \$75 of Pandora Jewelry
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 for any future purchase.

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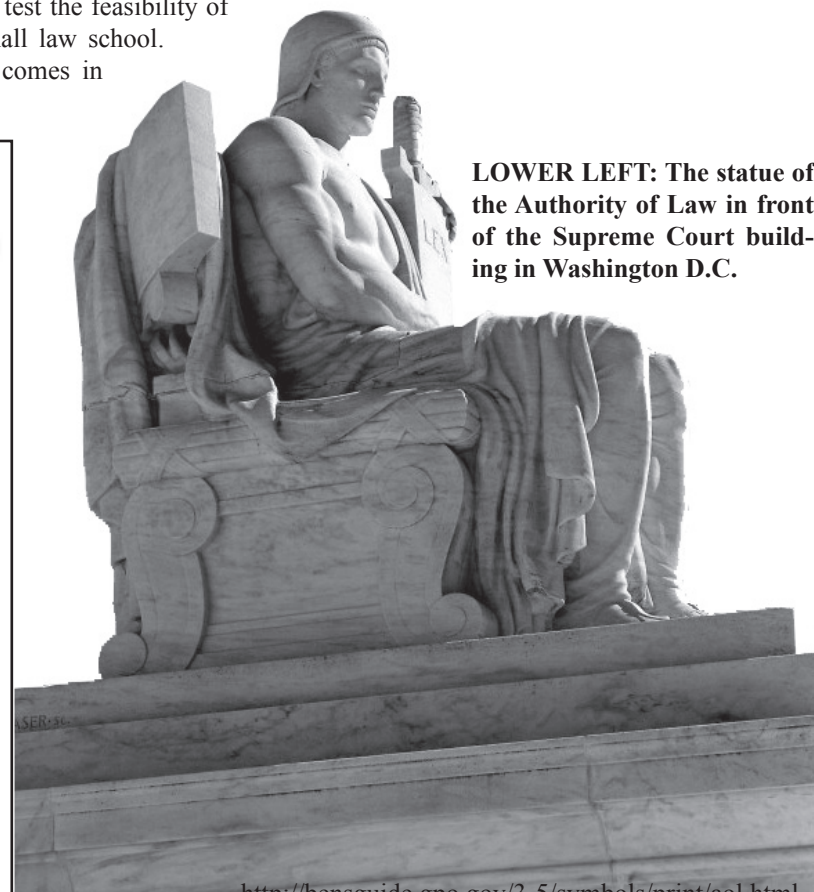
HIDDEN COSTS OF DRIVING IMPAIRED

An arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol can be expensive.
 Costs include: paying the minimum fines, penalty assessment, state restitution fund, alcohol education classes, jail fees, license reissue fee, attorney fees, and auto insurance increases.

A DUI/DWI can cost between **\$7K-\$11K**.
 This total does not include loss of pay,
personal injuries, medical costs,
vehicle damage or penalties for
 causing a crash or a death.

Provided By Health Services

(The BACCHUS Network. (2006). Just the Facts: Impaired Driving. [Brochure].)



LOWER LEFT: The statue of the Authority of Law in front of the Supreme Court building in Washington D.C.

Step Two: focus the university

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

This past week Wilkes University was one of a thousand colleges and universities across the nation to participate in Focus the Nation, an environmental colloquium designed to educate contributors about global warming and its impact.

Now, unfortunately, the national webcast, "The 2% Solution," met with an untimely (and major) glitch, which prevented Wilkes University students, faculty and staff, nestled in their new, sustainable wood seats in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center from seeing the webcast at the appointed time. However, a link to the national broadcast can now be found at the website www.earthdaytv.net. In addition, Wilkes faculty quickly rallied and turned the opportunity into an impromptu teaching moment for which many in the audience chose to stay.

Despite the problem with the webcast itself, the planning and excitement that went into the Focus the Nation event garnered community and campus-wide support. Students, faculty, staff and community members participated in a variety of ways including class assignments and discussions and participation in the Green Fair in the Henry Student Center. As a result, Wilkes community members became better educated about what steps we can take--both individually and institutionally-- to address this

global crisis.

Focus the Nation encouraged participants to see Pennsylvania in a harsh, new light. Did you know that Pennsylvania produces 1% of the world's heat-trapping gasses, which is more global warming pollution than 101 countries combined? Did you know that Pennsylvania is the *third* worst polluting state in the country, behind only Texas and California?

With these shocking and disturb-

self-assessment and the university's ongoing plans to build a new, completely green health sciences building hold great promise. But we can do more...

For example, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, we should always use compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) in desk lamps as opposed to incandescent lights because they give off 90% more heat than light. By switching bulbs on two lamps that burn four

Another common sense action we can take is to keep all our appliances clean and running as efficiently as possible. On a monthly basis, we should try to change the heating and air conditioning system filters monthly, clean our dryer vent and hoses, and keep the coils under our refrigerators clean.

By sealing up the cracks in windows and doors in one's home, apartment, dorm room, and campus buildings with weather stripping and caulking, heat and money will both be saved. Not only will cold February nights be made more comfortable by trapping heat indoors, but energy bills will be reduced. With technology constantly improving, there are many appliances available that consumers can purchase that are much more energy efficient. Buying products like these, will not only help to save the environment, but also save money.

Those who are tired of the rising gas prices and feel the need to lose a few pounds, should try walking instead of driving short distances. Cleanyourair.org reported, "You'll save 1 pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you DON'T drive." Carpooling and taking public transit can also help cut down on air pollution. Of course, the fringe benefit to this strategy is that the stress of finding a parking spot on campus will also be reduced.

Finally, support environmental friendly legislation at both the federal and state levels. Vote for political candidates who care about the environment, and write letters to the editor of your college and local newspapers that aim to educate the public and influence legislators.

By taking these actions as individuals and as a University, we can and will help Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the United States, and the world become more environmentally friendly.



The Beacon/Matt Gogas

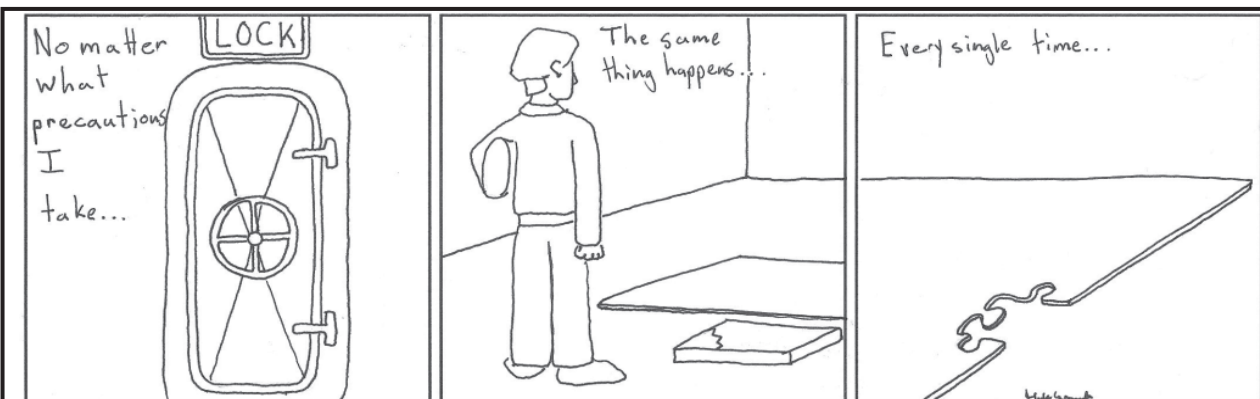
Wilkes University students become educated about global warming at the Green Fair that was held in the Henry Student Center on Thursday, January 31 during club hours.

ing facts, sustained concern and response needs to happen.

We applaud several important initiatives Wilkes is currently taking to assess its own energy consumption and pollution levels. Last Wednesday evening, President Tim Gilmour noted that Wilkes is currently engaging in such

hours a day consumers could save nearly \$10 in the first year alone.

A second way to limit global warming is to limit hot water usage. Cool Pennsylvania reports, "Hot water accounts for 15% of your utility bill...wash clothes in cold water, take shorter showers, and fix leaking faucets."



A Sight for Sore Eyes By Aleksander Lapinski

Beacon

Poll Results

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

The Beacon asked:

What was your favorite book series as a kid?

- Harry Potter-17%
- Goosebumps-17%
- Hardy Boys-14%
- Babysitters Club-11%
- Bernstein Bears-11%
- Calvin and Hobbes-3%
- Captain Underpants-3%
- Animorphs-3%
- Boxcar Kids-7%
- Other-14%

Next Week's Question:

What country would you want to study abroad in?

- Greece
- Japan
- Peru
- South Africa
- China
- New Zealand
- Russia
- Germany
- France
- Other

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

Too much information in online away messages

BY NICOLE FRAIL

Beacon Asst. News Editor

The function of away messages is supposed to be simple: they're meant to tell people that you are away from your computer. However simple this idea may seem, people have come up with truly complex ways of doing it over the years.

You could put up the default message of "I am away from my computer right now" or you could personalize your own with different font faces, colors, and symbols. You could include where you are or what you're doing or you could leave a phone number where you can be reached. An away message is essentially an online answering machine. Leave the message, you may get a reply.

When AOL launched its instant messenger in May of 1997, away messages were intended to be a quick and easy type of answering service. That's it. Nothing more, nothing less. With a limit of 1,024 characters (including any unseen HTML markup), there's not a whole lot more you could or should do with them.

But while in the midst of reading all of my buddies' away messages the other night, I

realized something: they had all moved past that simple "I'm not here, leave a message" approach and now offered way too much information.

Who needs to list out every single move they're going to make for the next two days? Location, times, who's going to be with them, etc. Is that really necessary?

Who really wants to know that you're going to psychology at 10:00, then English at 11:00, then probably going to lunch and ordering a salad and a Cherry Pepsi with Katie at noon, then going to the gym around 1:00 to work on your biceps and triceps, and finally working from 5:00-10:00? Oh - and then doing homework at 11:00 and going to bed? The example might be slightly exaggerated, but it's pretty close to some of the things I've seen recently. I understand that people sometimes need to make lists

to keep themselves organized, but buy a bulletin board or a planner or write it down on a loose piece of paper. Tiny little lists that say "Work at 5, Homework, Bed" are straight and to the point, but some details truly can be left out.

While technical details can and should be cut from the messages, so should extremely

supposed to be? And to whom?

Either way, this is not the type of thing that should be in an away message in the first place. All we want to know is if you're there and when you might be back. Not how bad your day was and everything that went wrong and that you've locked yourself in your bathroom and would like to be left alone. If you don't want to talk, don't sign online. Or if you need to talk to someone, go for it. It's easier and quicker than waiting for them to come to you.

Song lyrics, popular quotes, and "Out to dinner, call the cell!" are all cool and all

serve their purpose, but when you decide you want to confess

your feelings or write about your day, start a blog or start keeping a diary. Writing can be therapeutic and empty notebooks allow for more than 1,024 characters in any shape or color that you want. And buy a planner that breaks the days down into hours if you truly need to know where you're going to be every second of the week. Lists make for boring reads, anyway.

Wilkes_TMI_4ever2008: Auto Response from 'Wilkes_TMI_4ever2008 (10:58:42 am): long day...
Eng 101: 9am-9:50am
Hist. 101: 10am-10:50am
PS 298: 11am-11:50am
Lunch with my girl from 12pm-1pm
Work-study from 1pm-4pm
Gym: 4:30pm-5:30pm
Dinner @ 6pm
Busy day...call cell if u need me! @

This is an example of an obnoxious TMI away message.

personal ones. Away messages are not journals and they're not blogs; therefore, a message like the following really isn't necessary:

"This life seems pointless. All it has been is misery to me. The day started off well, finding out that I'm being promoted @ work to supervisor once I train the new cashiers, but then I come home and find that the one person I thought I was close enough to be friends w/ forever apparently can just dispose of me like I'm nothing. I love life...not. So now I'm around being my depressing self that I've been for the past 2 weeks. Maybe I'll do some cleaning and then sleep. Leave messages... don't feel like talking on the phone and my texts for the month are kinda low right now. =(

Unlike my last example, this is exactly what I found in an away message last week. My eyes nearly rolled out of my head when I read it. Since I know the user and know what their personality is like, I immediately knew that they were simply seeking attention. They want "that one person" to message them and tell them that it's all okay. They want their other friends to read it, respond sympathetically, and tell them that life's worth living.

This person wants to be rescued, in a sense. But when I read something like this, I'm always skeptical of if they actually need the help. It's reminds me of The Boy Who Cried Wolf. How do you know when it's real? Where do you draw that line between attention-craving and something serious? Is there a real problem or do they just want a hug? Is it a real cry for help?

I don't know the solution to this problem and I'm not in the position to suggest one, but I'm sure I'm not the only one who has run into this before. How sensitive are we

Here's to you... Mr. Socks-With-Sandals Guy

BY GINO TROIANI

Staff Writer/Photographer



Drawing By: Aleksander Lapinski

Here's to you Mr. Socks-With-Sandals Guy! Always prepared for that freak summer chill, you somehow manage to defy conventional style while sporting those pasty white socks. Are you lazy, unique, or fashion-challenged? We just don't know. You prance around with no shame, while the rest of us can't help but wonder, "What the heck is he thinking?" Keep on keeping on!

What do you think?



The Beacon wants your voice to be heard. Your Voices is the opportunity for students to voice their concerns. If you want your voice to be heard, please contact The Beacon with the following information:

- 1 Contact information including your email address and a phone number where you can be reached
- 2 Your name, major, and year
- 3 Your opinion

thebeacon.oped@gmail.com

The Beacon reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for space and content.

The Angry Rant: America has gas

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

America.

Say it again. America. The United States of America. Our past, our present, and our future.

There is no doubt that America is one of the greatest countries on earth in terms of wealth and power. So why is it filled with the homeless from coast-to-coast?

More to the point, why does the United States keep pumping money into foreign countries while our very own citizens die in the streets?

How many billions of dollars have been shipped to the Middle East, South America or Africa in the form of foreign aid in an attempt to help a country or region get on its feet, even though the money changes very little over the long run?

How much money has been raised to give to Africa to help stave off the AIDS epidemic, despite the fact that our own high



school students are receiving an insufficient education on that very same topic?

How much money has been given to American citizens in their time of need? For instance, how many have lost their homes because of rising interest rates on mortgages?

To me, it seems that we are more than willing to sign a bill to send money everywhere else in the world, yet we are reticent to offer the same helping hand to the American people, when there are so many opportunities to do so.

In other words, it's high time for America to be a little selfish and give back to its own people.

President Bush recently announced his grand idea for a tax break designed to provide most Americans anywhere from \$600 to \$1,200 in an attempt to stimulate the economy.

While that idea is well and good, a one-time gift of \$600 isn't going to help the average citizen enough for the economy to turn itself around. It's a quick fix that is going to have little to no effect, and the notion of the act itself is going to have more impact than the perceived financial boost.

It is almost embarrassing that I am even writing something about this. This isn't a holier-than-thou manifesto; it's just a common sense approach to the state of things.

Look at it this way: Running a country is just like running a business. You keep yourself in the black, and you keep your employees happy. You pay them well, give them good benefits and opportunities, and you keep the downsizing to a minimum. Too simple, right?

Right now, the United States is a Fortune 500 company that is on its way down the corporate ladder because of faulty leader-

ship and Congressional shortsightedness that dates back over two decades.

And the employees are getting antsy.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I don't much like paying over \$3 for a gallon of gas, especially as a commuter who needs to travel over 20 miles one-way each day to school. I find myself dropping over \$60 a week on gas, and let me tell you: it's not much fun. But the government seems to be doing very little about it.

So this is a problem. And with every problem, there is a solution.

Here is mine: Congress passes a law that gives a separate government agency (FGOC - Federal Gas and Oil Commission) complete control over the regulation and price of gasoline and oil in this country. It does this to prevent the price of a gallon of gas from spiking fifty cents over the course of a month, especially during travel seasons and the winter (when people use more oil. What a coincidence). By doing this, it keeps the gas prices low, with limited price movement based on supply and demand, which will also drop because the FGOC is going to pour money into the oil companies to maintain the existing refineries while simultaneously building new ones so that the oil can be processed faster. Furthermore, this also allows the U.S. to safely and harmlessly drill for oil within its own borders, lessening the need for foreign oil. This also lowers the price of gas. All the while, there will be ongoing research into alternative fuel sources for the future.

Abracadabra: There you have a reason-



able solution to a problem that is getting increasingly worse. The oil companies can no longer hold the market for ransom, which means they are only making billions in profit every year instead of trillions. The gas prices stay low, and there is no longer a false sense of supply and demand due to the new refineries and domestic drilling.

This cuts the price in half for most consumers, who will in turn have more money in the long run, meaning they can buy more houses, cars, land, etc, which will then stimulate the economy. Hooray, problem solved! America is awesome.

For all the naysayers (and there are a lot of you) that think this can't be done: why not? The government controls everything else, why not oil? Is there a better idea out there? It is completely reasonable for us to pay less money for gas, and for "Big Oil" to make a ridiculously large profit.

So that's my rant for the week. If you don't agree with me...then I really don't care, you're wrong.

Wilkes-Barre, wake up and see the light

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon News Editor

The dark can be a scary place. Young people are taught that they should be afraid of the monsters hiding under the bed or around dark corners. And even as adults, it's tough to shake that quickening of the pulse when faced with the unknown in the dark.

That is why I find it odd for a city like Wilkes-Barre to have so little light on the streets around the local college campuses.

I noticed this when I was walking to the movies last year. Looking up and down Northampton Street I was amazed to not see any light provided by street lights. The only light was residual from the parking lot and

the giant movies marquee. At the time, it disturbed me, but I eventually forgot about it. But I was reminded of my original feelings this year when I came out of my internship recently on South Franklin Street. Again, I was disturbed by the fact that there were very few lights on the street and the ones that were there provided very little illumination or none at all.

For those who have been to State College, I look at that town as the ideal "college town." The main street can provide a student with almost any necessity, whether in the afternoon or at night. But the nicest thing about the main street, and those surrounding it, is that the streets are bright on the darkest of nights.

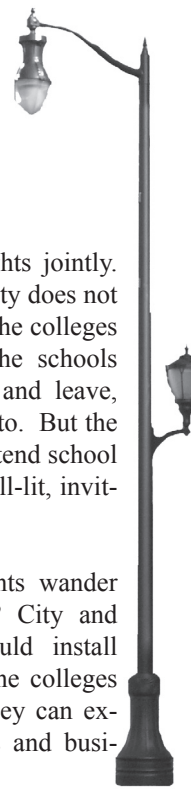
Those lights are inviting to the 20-year-olds, elderly, and middle-aged people who wish they were 20-year-olds again. Obviously State College is a much larger community than Wilkes-Barre, but I am not suggesting that they put a smoothie palace on every corner. What I am suggesting is to illuminate downtown and create a warm and inviting area at night. This will not only cause a surge in the number of students who head downtown on foot, but subsequently more businesses may move in because there will be the promise of sustainability.

The city could always use the old "we don't have the money" excuse, but I think it would be a wonderful idea for Wilkes University, King's College, and Wilkes-Barre

to purchase more lights jointly. Think about it. The city does not have to worry about the colleges going anywhere. The schools cannot just pick up and leave, nor would they want to. But the students can opt to attend school in cities that offer well-lit, inviting,

safe downtowns.

Why should students wander around in the dark? City and school officials should install more lights around the colleges and downtown, or they can expect to lose students and businesses as a result.



Activist brings experience to environmental crusade

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA

Beacon Lifestyles Editor

Since her teen years, Winona LaDuke fought for the rights of her Native American people and lobbied for reform of environmental regulations. She wrote numerous books and organized countless protests on these issues.

But she still balks at being called an activist.

"I'm considered to be an activist, but I consider myself to be more of a responsible parent and a responsible human," she said. "We live in the richest and most powerful country in the world, and that should have certain responsibilities along with all those rights."

LaDuke visited Wilkes University from January 29-31 as part of Focus the Nation, a nationwide program aimed at teaching students the information, civic responsibility, and leadership needed to fight global warming. Along with a formal lecture to the community, LaDuke also met with students in their classrooms and hosted an informal question and answer session with students, faculty, and community members.

At her informal discussion, LaDuke talked about civil responsibility, and the need for Americans to become active participants in their own lives. She said the duty of responsible citizens is to learn what they can about where their water, food, and resources come from and how that can affect their well-being.

Peter Bush, a freshman pharmaceutical science major, decided to attend LaDuke's discussion session after seeing video clips of her.



Courtesy of Wilkes University

her past lectures online. Interested in both her cultural and environmental work, Bush thought her take-charge, no-nonsense approach to these issues reflected his own beliefs.

"For me it's a moral issue, and it should be common sense," he said. "We have to take an active part in it because it affects our lives and who we are."

Bush was hooked right from LaDuke's opening when she likened personal responsibility for environmental issues to being a good parent. Just like parents want to know what additives are included in their children's cereal, they should also question what chemicals are in their drinking water or their food.

"I really loved how she immediately started talking about being a mother, about how we need to take responsibility for our

they asked me to do this research paper on it, and, being really nerdy, I said yes. Someone had to present it, so I presented it."

After she presented her paper at the United Nations forum, LaDuke started working at the Navajo reservations. Her main job was to translate government documents.

Many Navajos on the reservations did not speak English, but even the ones who did had difficulty understanding the government documents, which were written in a scientific vernacular. LaDuke believes that using that kind of language prohibited the residents from having clear knowledge of what was happening in the uranium mines where they worked.

"We have an individual responsibility to understand things, but we also have a responsibility to hold institutions accountable, not to get to the point where only they have

full knowledge," LaDuke said. "We're talking like the Middle Ages, where only some people have the knowledge."

LaDuke said that working on the Navajo reser-

vations was an epiphany for her. It made her aware of the control corporations have over communities, especially ones where English is not predominantly spoken.

"How could you make an informed decision like that? How can you send a Navajo down to an underground uranium mine when there isn't even a word in Navajo for radiation?" she asked. "How can you get informed consent?"

She began testifying at hearings and conducting research on companies before they moved into communities. She organized demonstrations in nuclear power plants across the United States.

As a way for her message to reach a greater number of people, LaDuke began writing as a journalist on the issue of informed consent. While writing for magazines described as "politically progressive," LaDuke discovered they weren't covering the kinds of issues she believed necessary.

"I remember saying I wanted to write an article on the Navajo uranium mines, and they told me, 'We covered Indian people last month,'" she said. "Do they have some kind of quota, like Indian people get covered once a year?"

After conducting research, organizing protests, and writing articles, LaDuke de-

We live in the richest and most powerful country in the world, and that should have certain responsibilities along with all those rights.

Winona LaDuke

environmental and human rights activist

own actions," Bush said. "Her entire presentation jumped into two words for me: common sense."

LaDuke, 48, grew up watching her Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) father and Jewish mother speak out on racial and environmental issues. She discovered her own passion for the issues as a high school student arguing national energy policy on her debate team.

While studying at Harvard University, LaDuke worked on researching the injustices in Navajo uranium mines, where miners were exposed to unhealthy amounts of radiation.

In 1977, LaDuke was asked to present her research at the first United Nations forum on the rights of indigenous people. At 18 years old, LaDuke traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to represent indigenous people throughout the Western hemisphere.

"Indigenous people went to the United Nations and said, 'We believe that we have rights to determine our destiny, basic human rights to speak our language, not to be sent to boarding school, not to have our land taken away, and not to have our economy controlled by someone else,'" she said. "So



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Winona LaDuke spoke with Wilkes community members from January 29-31.

decided that her next form of action would be running for public office.

In the 1996 and 2000 presidential elections, LaDuke ran as Ralph Nader's vice-presidential running mate for the Green Party.

"You don't necessarily need to be in office for things to change, but you do need to engage," she said.

At her home on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, LaDuke devotes her time, energy, and skills to help better the quality of life.

She describes the reservation as troubled, with two-thirds of the residents living below the poverty level, one-third afflicted with diabetes, and "arrest and abuse rates through the roof."

One of her main goals for the reservation is to make it more self-reliant. She encourages using wood from the abundant trees on the reservation for heat and energy, and growing food locally.

Her latest project on the reservation was to revamp school lunches. Obesity is a big problem on the reservation, and the breakfasts and lunches filled with corn syrups, fats, and dyes students eat every day at school don't help. LaDuke worked for federal grants and donations to serve organic, locally-grown food at the school.

"We now serve a chili with locally-grown kidney beans, tomatoes, and buffalo meat," she said. "We have to get these kids to decolonize their tastes. A corn dog doesn't have to be their future."

Student of the Week: Neil Kresge

BY MATTHEW GOGAS

Beacon Staff Writer

In only his first year at Wilkes University, Neil Kresge has already made an impact on the campus, and it's starting to look a little greener.

Kresge recently served as a student coordinator and helped execute the Focus the Nation campaign alongside environmental science faculty and other staff members.

Kresge, an earth and environmental sciences major (EES), also minors in political science and sees a logical connection between the two, as evidenced by the political, social, and scientific messages of the nationwide campaign to address global warming. A transfer student from the Pennsylvania College of Technology, Kresge left there nearly three years ago to take some time off to work. Recently, he decided to go back to school and chose Wilkes. Because of his active role in educating fellow students and Wilkes community members about environmental problems, *The Beacon* has chosen Neil Kresge as its Student of the Week.

The Beacon: Why did you decide to come to Wilkes out of all the other schools you looked at?

Kresge: I decided to come to Wilkes because they specifically tailored a program that let me major in environmental science while taking a political science minor.

The Beacon: How do you feel about your work on the

Focus the Nation campaign?

Kresge: This is my first big rallying objective here at Wilkes. It kind of blends political activism with the growing science accomplishments Wilkes is making, so I feel like that's a big one right off the bat.

The Beacon: So Focus the Nation was one of your primary goals at Wilkes?

Kresge: Well it's not just the Focus the Nation as a specific event. It's the whole idea of educating people on global climate change and just showing people that there's ways to reduce their normal waste day in and day out. That's going to help in the long run because this problem is going to impact our generation the hardest and our kids' generation.

The Beacon: Were you happy with the way Focus the Nation turned out?

Kresge: I was. We probably had 400 to

500 students at the event. We had overflow in Stark 101.

The Beacon: What are some other plans you would like to tackle?

Kresge: Well, I would really like to get involved with more political activism and get Wilkes University signatures and emails to try and guide Governor Rendell towards his environmental plan that has been sitting on the back burner for about two years. So I think that is maybe going to be one of our next challenges to get legislation passed that is going to make quality of life better here in Pennsylvania.

The Beacon: What do you want to do when you graduate?

Kresge: Right now I am kind of in between. I'm thinking about graduate school. Either graduate school or I would like to get involved with activism. I want to apply science objectivity to policy, you know, political leadership in this country.



Beacon/Matthew Gogas

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Students cross borders through conversation

Conversation partners needed for international students

BY CHRISTINE ZAVASKAS
Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

Mary Opalka, a junior mechanical engineering major, wanted to help her conversation partner from China learn more about American culture. So, she took her to Wal-Mart.

"She needed to get groceries... and she wants to learn about the culture, too. What's more American than Wal-Mart? Sad, but true," says Opalka.

While a trip to Wal-Mart may or may not seem like an educational experience, Opalka is actually providing her partner, Jiajia Peng, with an invaluable opportunity to practice English with a native speaker. This is especially important to Peng, who just arrived in the country last month with plans to get a Masters degree in education.

Peng, who is from Fujian, China, is a scholar in the Intensive English Program (IEP) which operates in Hollenback Hall. According to Kimberly Niezgoda, ESL Coordinator, this program functions separately from the rest of the University and provides 30 hours a week of English language instruction for international students who would like to eventually study at Wilkes or another American university.

In addition to teaching these students English in a classroom setting, the IEP also coordinates the conversation partner program, which matches Wilkes University students who speak English with international students. The pairs then are asked to meet for at least an hour a week for a semester so that the international students can practice their

new language skills and also to provide an opportunity for cultural exchange.

Students participating in the program can meet whenever they choose, and there are no guidelines for what they have to talk about. They are not relegated to just conversing either. In the past Niezgoda noted that students have even gone bowling together and taught each other how to cook ethnic dishes.

"It's not so much about teaching and tutoring. It's about getting a chance to share your culture and learn about somebody else's culture...My international students, they have 30 hours a week of intensive English language instruction. By the time they get to the conversation partner, they just want to say, 'Hey what's up, how are you doing?' and learn the way American students talk," says Niezgoda.

Peng, who is at level five (the highest level of English proficiency) in the IEP, has several things that she wants to share and learn through her conversation partner, "[I want to share] my culture, my language, and of course your culture and your language. Also, the knowledge and the different ways of your education system because I just came here and need to get used to your education style."

According to Opalka, Peng is not the only one learning something from the time they have spent together so far this semester.

"[I've learned] a lot, actually. Chinese New Year is next week...It's kind of a combination, from what she told me, between Christmas and New Year's here because they get money from their elders.

It's a big deal to them," says Opalka.

Unfortunately, only ten pairs of students this semester are currently engaging in this kind of language and cultural exchange with each other because of a lack of American volunteers. There are 22 international students that are still in need of partners.

"They (international students) keep saying, '...Please find me a conversation partner!' Eventually I wish I could pay people to do this, but the program is so new, that we just haven't gotten to that point yet...If I could find a conversation partner for every student, then I'd be thrilled, but it hasn't happened yet," says Niezgoda.

Vigen Kadysewski, who is from Yerevan, Armenia, and Archer Zhu from Tianjin, China, are both students still in need of conversation partners. Although Kadysewski and Zhu mostly want to have the opportunity to practice English with a native speaker, they also both spoke about wanting to share parts of their own culture with future partners.

"If somebody was interested, I know most of the history of the Caucasus and Russia and Europe. So if somebody is interested in history, I am good at it. Also I can teach Russian," says Kadysewski.

Zhu also noted that he thinks the conversation partner program should be an exchange of knowledge and not just one way.

"China is one of the oldest countries in the world, so we have lots of traditions. Also I am good at history, not only Chinese history, but also countries in Europe and America. So we could talk about these cultures...We should help each other," said Zhu.

Niezgoda provided some insight as to understanding why having a conversation partner is so valuable to an international student. "The example I tend to give is imagine if you went to Spain or Germany or another country. You have no family, no friends, and you're

trying to learn the language completely by yourself. How much would it mean to you to have someone from that country be willing to take an hour a week and spend time with you, just helping practice the language," says Niezgoda.

Felixa Wingen, a junior English major and secondary education minor, has volunteered to become a conversation partner this semester, and knows firsthand how hard it can be to transition to another country.

Wingen, who is originally from Germany, says, "I know what it's like to learn English, and how difficult it is. I can't imagine trying to learn English if I was just surrounded by people who speak German all day. So I think it's important to have the opportunity to speak to English speakers."

Wingen said that she would recommend becoming a conversation partner as a "cool" way to learn about another culture and help someone else at the same time. Opalka also recommends this program to other students and highlighted another benefit she has gotten from her partnership.

"You make a new friend, too. She's not just my conversation partner, we get along well... She didn't know anyone when she came here, but she came here to study. That speaks severe dedication to me. I admire her," says Opalka.

Any student interested in becoming a conversation partner should send an email to kimberly.niezgoda@wilkes.edu.

From left: Jiajia Peng, Archer Zhu, Vigen Kadysewski



Visual and Performing Arts courses offer hands-on learning

BY ALISSA LINDNER
Beacon Assistant A&E Editor

Wilkes University requires all students to complete three credits within the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) department in order to graduate; however, over the past few years, students are taking more than the required single class within the department.

According to statistics from the *Wilkes University Fact Book* provided by Joe Dawson, Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts department, VPA course enrollments have steadily increased over the past few years. Since the 2002-2003 school year, credit hours in the art courses have increased nearly 300. The dance courses have also seen an increase of about 300 credit hours, while theatre arts courses increased 200 credit hours and music courses increased about 100.

Dawson explained the increase in credit hours within the department could be due to several factors, including increased enrollment across the university and the creation of new sections to already existing courses.

Throughout Dawson's time at Wilkes there has always been steady interest in classes with the arts department; however recently students' interests seem to have changed.

"What's different, I think, is traditionally students had an interest in the arts through clubs, and I think now they have

an interest in the arts through courses," Dawson said.

He added, "There has always been an interest in the arts because you could address history and culture from an arts perspective but students now seem to be interested in processes through self expression."

The performing arts, such as dance and theater, offer a kinesthetic or hands-on experience for students while the visual arts offers self expression through the use of materials. It is these aspects of the arts classes which attract students from a normal lecture style classroom.

Wilkes offers a variety of art courses. Among the most popular, according to Sharon Bowar, an associate professor of Art, are Experiencing Art and Ceramics.

"Our art courses provide a dynamic setting where students are immersed in creativity, communication, visual literacy, and develop a stronger sense of aesthetics, and social values," Bowar explained.

Bowar and Dawson agreed students will often take additional art classes once fulfilling their required credit hours, possibly even becoming an art minor during their time at Wilkes.

Dawson explained, areas within art, such as painting and computer graphics offer a beginner level course but also a second level for those who wish to continue the development of their skills.

Jean Adams, an adjunct art faculty member and the ceramics professor, believes one

reason for the increased enrollment in ceramics is due to the new facility in Bedford Hall on River Street.

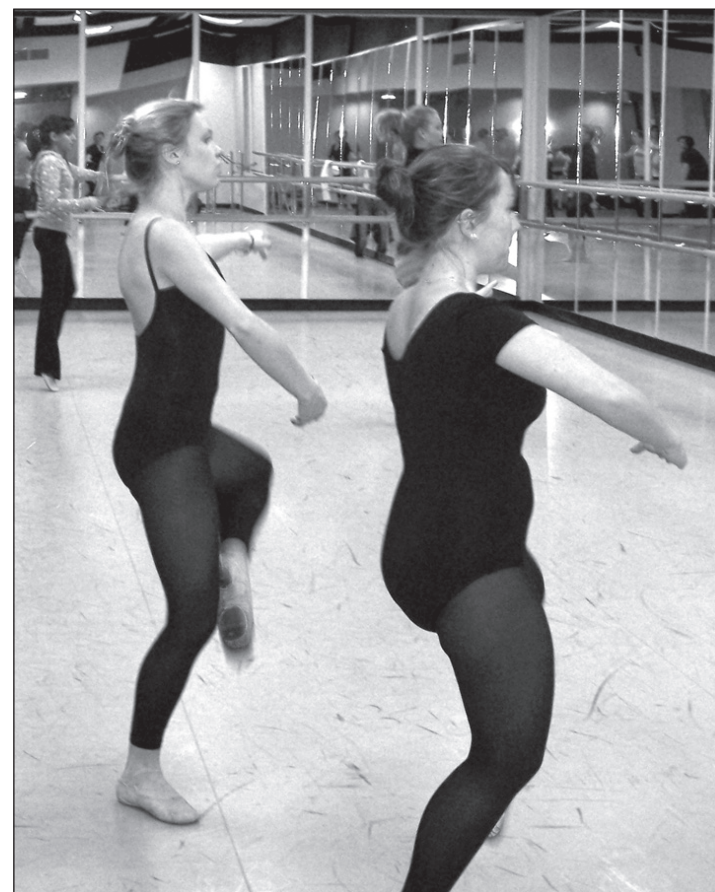
"It's [the new facility] quite obvious on campus, a lot of people see it so all of a sudden there is a better understanding that there is a ceramics class on campus," Adams explained, "It's [the new facility] a room we built for a purpose."

Adams, who has been teaching ceramics at Wilkes for 22 years explained that for the current semester, a new section of ceramics was added. All three sections of the course filled; however, each class only allows for ten students because of the limited pottery wheels and the need for hands-on instruction.

As with the visual arts courses, the dance courses also offer different levels of performance and instruction. According to the Wilkes website, DAN 100, Dance Appreciation, is a beginner course which introduces students to various forms of dance including ballet, modern, jazz and theatrical. However, each form can be learned more extensively as four ability levels are offered.

Kara Lawson, a senior dance major, explained the dance professors make the courses, specifically DAN 100, appealing to students by offering hands-on learning which gives you a taste of all dance forms.

"The classes fill up particularly in the spring," Lawson said. Adding the appeal of the spring se-



The Beacon/Cara Koster

Students in the beginner ballet class practice their form in the dance studio located in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.

son may be the dance recital at the end of the semester which features each level of the different dance forms.

Although Wilkes does not offer a dance major, Lawson is completing the program through an independent study. Currently, she is the only dance major at Wilkes.

Students who come to Wilkes with a significant amount of dance experience can enroll in higher levels of performance-oriented courses such as ballet, modern, tap and jazz with instructor permission according to Dawson.

He explained that the dance courses appeal to students, specifically athletes, because each teaches agility through a kinesthetic experience.

All the courses within the Visual and Performing Arts department teach students a variety of skills they may not learn in a traditional lecture classroom. Dawson said the courses within the department teach self expression and self discovery, kinesthetic knowledge and discipline along with organizational skills.



Photo Courtesy of Marketing Communications

Students work on the pottery wheels in the ceramics facility located in Bedford Hall on South River Street.

Movie Review: *Rambo*

BY MIKE WILLIAMS

Beacon Staff Writer

In 2006, naysayers of the world united in order to pre-pan Sylvester Stallone's sixth entry in the Rocky series, *Rocky Balboa*, criticizing everything from Stallone's age and physical appearance to the overall probability the story, before the poor ol' Italian Stallion even got a chance to lace up his gloves.

Fortunately, fans of the series got a front row seat to watch pessimists take a pounding as Stallone served up a hell of a combo, delivering a film which not only held the number one spot for weeks, grossed millions of dollars, received rave reviews and showed everyone that even at 60-years old, Sylvester Stallone can still probably shatter faces like grandma's good china.

Less than two years later, the doubters have recovered from their beatings and have once again begun to criticize Stallone for once again donning the headband in order to reprise another one of his legendary characters, John Rambo. But wait! It's been twenty years since *Rambo III*. He's almost 62. How can he do it? Why would he do it? The answer is simple: He's Sylvester Stallone. He'll do what-

ever he wants. So, brace yourselves trash talkers, because Stallone's going to do it again...and this time it's gonna hurt.

Two decades after we last saw Rambo, we catch back up with him, living a simple, peaceful life working in Thailand. However, the fires of war which have laid dormant in the mind of the grizzled Vietnam veteran are once again reignited, as a group of Christian missionaries, led by Paul Shulze (*Zodiac*) and Julie Benz (*Jawbreaker*), seek him out to guide them up-river into war torn Burma in order to administer aid to villagers, who, for over fifty years have suffered a vicious, tyrannical rule by the brutal



Photo Courtesy of moviesonline.ca

Burmese military. Now from here, if everything went smoothly, we wouldn't have much of a movie to discuss; but, as expected, the missionaries are soon taken captive by the sadistic local military unit. Upon receiving news of this, Rambo volunteers his services to guide a team of mercenaries back into Burma, in order to rescue the surviving missionaries. However, it isn't long before Rambo abandons his position as guide and becomes actively

involved in the rescue. Without giving too much away, rest assured that what follows is some of the most intense and powerful scenes ever committed to film.

Aside from the nostalgia of seeing Stallone once again tie on the red bandana and pick up his trusty trademark compound bow, *Rambo* is a powder keg of a film, not only for its scenes of intense action, but also for its compelling story and acting. Most noteworthy is that of Stallone, who gives a powerhouse performance, portraying our hero as a man who has absolutely nothing to live for, torn by his haunted past, iron will and unbreakable convictions. Still, once Rambo learns of the plight of the missionaries and he once again prepares for war, movie goers will no doubt feel their adrenaline begin to kick in as the legendary action hero rides into battle, for what may be his final mission.

But *The Beacon* would be negligent if it didn't underscore the action, which most fans of the series have been foaming at the mouth for for nearly twenty years. The sequences that Rambo has to offer are nothing short of breathtaking, showing the ferocity

of battle with grim realism, at some points making *Saving Private Ryan* look tame. One scene in particular, in which the Burmese military commits brutal atrocities against a war torn village, results in some of the most vicious and traumatic visuals ever in cinema history. After seeing this, audiences will no doubt be squirming in their seats, waiting for Rambo to do his thing, and when he does, it's a messy masterpiece of blood and gore.

Rated R for language and graphic scenes of war violence, *Rambo* is definitely not a film for the kids; however, if you do have an age consisting of two digits, and are in the mood to see an action movie that will leave you breathless, then Stallone's latest entry to the series is for you. So, in the end, what's the verdict? Do the doubters and naysayers of Rambo have anything to back up their criticism? *The Beacon* says no; they don't have a leg to stand on...probably missing an arm or two as well...and a good chunk of torso. You can thank Rambo for that.

Grade: A

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, February 5

- An Evening of Dubstep featuring: Conscious Pilot, Guerilla, Gaje and Kai lo at the River St. Jazz Cafe

Wednesday, February 6

- "Tune In" Game Show in the SUB at 9 p.m.

Thursday, February 7

- The Breakfast featuring FMO performing at the River St. Jazz Cafe

Friday, February 8

- NY Knicks vs. San Antonio Spurs N.Y. trip at 2:30 p.m.
- Poetry reading at the Arena Hub Plaza Barnes & Noble at 7 p.m.
- The Towntown Harvest and Dirty Water performing at the River St. Jazz Cafe
- Northeastern PA Philharmonic performing at the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.
- Awkward Silence, Three Man Cannon and The Window Shoppers performing at Test Pattern at 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 9

- Bigger Thomas, The Big Green, No Shirt No Shoes No Ska and Below Me performing at Cafe Metropolis at 8 p.m.
- Earth Stood Still, Captain We're Sinking and A Golden Era performing at Test Pattern at 8 p.m.
- The Woody Brown Project and Post Junction performing at the River St. Jazz Cafe

Sunday, February 10

- Motionless In White, Mayella Omerta and By All Means performing at Cafe Metropolis at 7 p.m.
- Johnny Rapp's Biodiesel performing at the River St. Jazz Cafe

Monday, February 11

- American Red Cross Blood Drive in the SUB from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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Local artists record Dan Aykroyd tribute CD

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon A&E Editor

He gained fame in the early years of *Saturday Night Live* and then made his mark in well-known films such as *Ghostbusters*, *Coneheads*, and *Blues Brothers*. But soon actor Dan Aykroyd will be making his mark in a local music compilation.

What began as an idea pitched on a message board, the "Dan Aykroyd Music" compilation will be completed and released this March. The compilation is being put together by Scranton resident, Bobby Keller, who explained, "I was literally just bored one day and posted on the Prison Jazz message board that I was going to make a compilation CD about Dan Aykroyd, and literally the next day, Eric Schlittler of Kid Icarus had sent me a track for the CD. So, after that I felt obligated to actually finish the CD. It's not making fun of Dan, but it's not a real serious tribute album. It's just fun."

The CD will consist of primarily indie-rock, although Keller has hopes of mixing in additional genres, specifically hardcore. "I wish there was a hardcore song, I may have to just record it myself," said Keller.

The bands currently involved in the project include: Kid Icarus, Strand of Oaks, My Dad is a Dinosaur, Amasa, The Green Chair, and These Elk Forever. Keller is still waiting

on submissions from a few bands, such as Marshmallow Staircase, Kinderk*nts, and a possible track from Brian Langan of the Sw!ms.

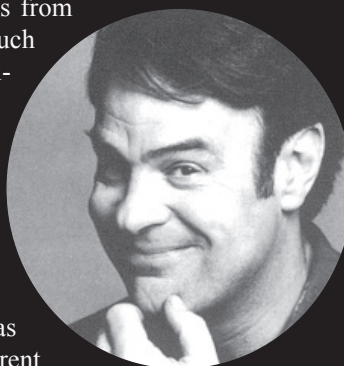
Every band has taken a different approach to the project.

One of the darker tracks, by Strand of Oaks, is a song about Dan Aykroyd taking revenge on John Belushi's drug dealer. There is also an Amasa cover of "Spies Like Us" and a Kid Icarus song in which the group actually sings Aykroyd's biography.

There was definite thought behind the songs featured on the CD, and as Schlittler explained, his band's song isn't just a random listing of Aykroyd's movies, but rather, a way to reflect on Aykroyd's past. "I've always been fascinated by an artist's body of work. Not just the great things that they've accomplished but also the wrong turns or just plain mistakes that they make. With over 30 years worth of mov-

ies under his belt, I thought it would be interesting to just sing every movie he has been in for the last 30 years and let people's own memories sort of craft the feelings you might get from the track for you," he said.

Once the it is out, Keller plans to market and sell the CD through a Myspace page (www.myspace.com/danaykroydcompilation), which is currently up and contains some samples from the CD. Keller has no intention of making money off of the CD and will either sell it for a low price or give it away for free.



Photos courtesy members.fortunecity.com, <http://www.miamisunpost.com/>

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Kudracross

BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

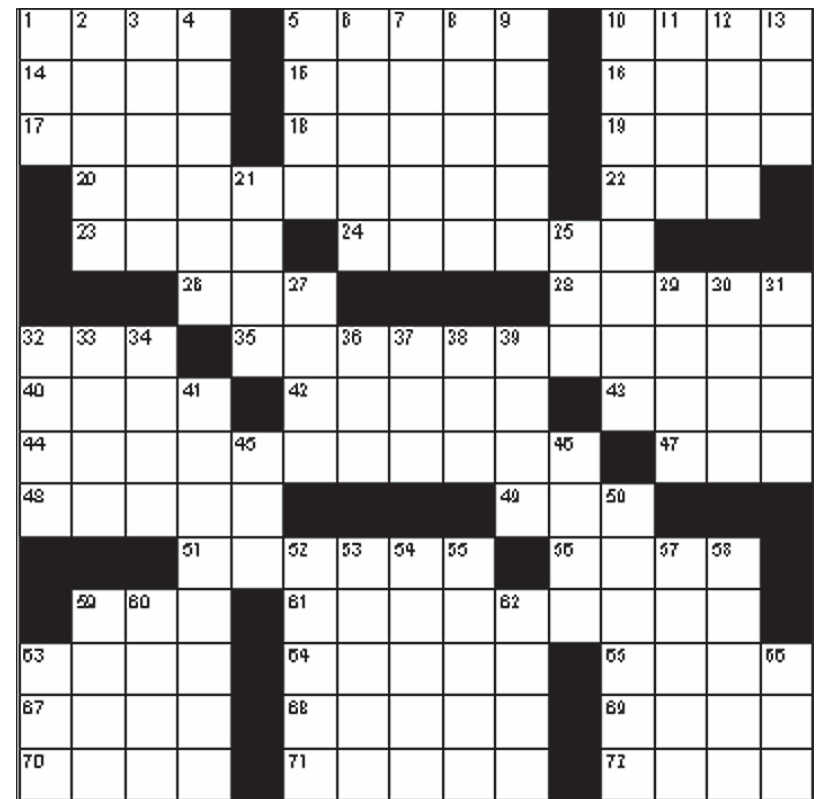
Beacon Staff Writer

ACROSS

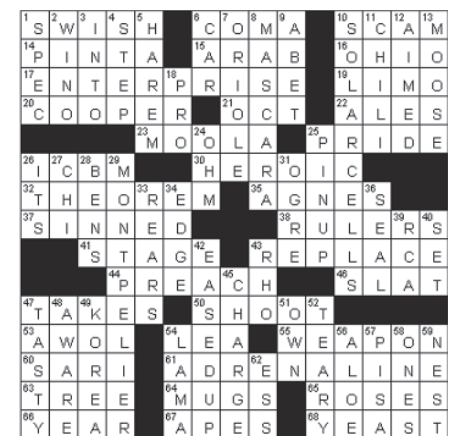
- 1 Musicians gear, for short
- 5 Marks of a wound
- 10 Greenish blue
- 14 Tree anchor
- 15 Ar
- 16 Beethoven piece
- 17 CIA agent
- 18 Small tropical yellowish fruit
- 19 Fix
- 20 _____ County, heart of PA Dutch country
- 22 Trysted
- 23 Architectural device
- 24 Unorthodox religious belief
- 26 Trendy
- 28 Looks at flirtatiously
- 32 North pole employee
- 35 Not mass produced
- 40 Wilkes-Barre mine type
- 42 Billy Joel instrument
- 43 Sphinx is missing one
- 44 Humans to linnaeus
- 47 “Brave _____ World”
- 48 Alpha’s opposite
- 49 Beer vessel
- 51 M.C.’s job
- 56 49 across contents
- 59 Nervous sign
- 61 Enterprise engine
- 63 Electronic music
- 64 Calcutta location
- 65 Bird of peace
- 67 Jurisdiction
- 68 Fragrance
- 69 Gets with great effort
- 70 Campus VIP
- 71 Number that makes a crowd
- 72 Tenant payment

DOWN

- 1 Give a weapon to
- 2 Dough, dinero, etc
- 3 Completely opposite
- 4 Bad smell
- 5 Epic adventure
- 6 Destroy by pressure
- 7 Quartz type
- 8 Moon explorer
- 9 Trap for small animals
- 10 Capone weapon
- 11 Fencing sword
- 12 Fathers sister
- 13 Hallucinatory sub-stance
- 21 Style and elegance
- 25 Shed tears
- 27 Immature insect
- 29 Pride member
- 30 Or follower
- 31 Boil slowly
- 32 Canyon sound
- 33 Appear ominously
- 34 Limelight
- 36 Drink daintly
- 37 Asian language family
- 38 “_____ Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”
- 39 Jazz musician Thelonious _____
- 41 Wise person
- 45 Jose or Antonio
- 46 Char the surface
- 50 Non-powered aircraft
- 52 Corkscrew
- 53 Large farm
- 54 Restaurant activity
- 55 Backbone
- 57 Bring about
- 58 Number of deadly sins
- 59 Exhaust
- 60 Invention causer
- 62 Prom partner
- 63 Furious
- 66 New York time (abbr.)



Answers 1/29



Lolcats.com

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

I have just discovered the world’s most obnoxious web-site. I always heard the stupid quotes but never really paid much attention until my sister sat laughing at her computer. When I ask her what is so funny, she responded, “LOLcats.” So, I went on lolcats.com and saw the wide variety of stupid pictures and videos.

Let me just tell you that this website is an English major’s

nightmare. The creators of this site take pictures of cats doing different things such as a cat in a truck that appears to be driving. They add stupid captions such as “Jebus, take the wheel!” That does not convey the spelling issues. Maybe the most popular Lolcat would be one of a cat smiling with a caption that says “Can I haz a cheezburger?” Not only is the spelling atrocious, the grammar is awful as well.

I can’t tell if the creator of this website is seriously this in love with cats or is just trying to create a stupid funny web-site. I mean, I have a cat. I love her. She is cute. But, I don’t

think that I would ever make a website about cats. I don’t understand where the language comes from or who would take the time to pose the cats according to what they want to write on the picture. I guess everyone gets bored every once in a while, perhaps this is how my sister stumbled on this site, or maybe it’s because of various other girls from her high school who have posted these stupid cat pictures on their Myspaces. Regardless, LOLcats is the worst web-site I have come across.

I give LOLcats.com a C for “Can I haz a dik-shon-airy.”

Daytona 500 offers race fans true taste for the season

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

BY MARK CONGDON, JR.

Beacon Opinion Editor

Some say it's not a sport.

"How hard is it to drive around in a circle all day?" skeptics will say.

Others claim it's a redneck sport.

"Dude, they gave away collectible buckets of NASCAR chicken at KFC."

Listen, the fact of the matter is...talk is cheap.

According to USA Today, NASCAR is the nation's second most watched sport. And while some sports fans would rather sit and watch paint dry, others are itching in anticipation for the SuperBowl of the NASCAR season-the Daytona 500- to scratch their need for speed.

Along with the 2008 season come many changes and storylines. First, Sprint will replace Nextel as the cup sponsor, thus making it the Sprint Cup. And more races will start sooner, with 18 races in the 36-race schedule starting at two o'clock or earlier.

Jonathan Lazarchick, senior criminology major, enthusiastically said, "It should be a good season. There's a lot of competition and new sponsors, so the drivers will have to prove they're worth the sponsorship."

But perhaps the biggest stories headlining the 2008 Sprint Cup focus on how Toyotas will fare after a disappointing performance last year, and how Dale Earnhardt Jr. will perform under his new team, Hendrick Motorsports.

Just in case you were living under the hood of a car last October, Dale Earnhardt Jr. will no longer be driving the red number 8 for Dale Earnhardt Incorporated (DEI--his late father's company), but rather the number 88

Mountain Dew Amp car for Hendrick Motorsports.

"His father is rollin' in his grave right now," said mechanical engineering major Stan Shaffer. "I think he made a terrible decision. Hendrick is pretty boys racing in a man's sport."

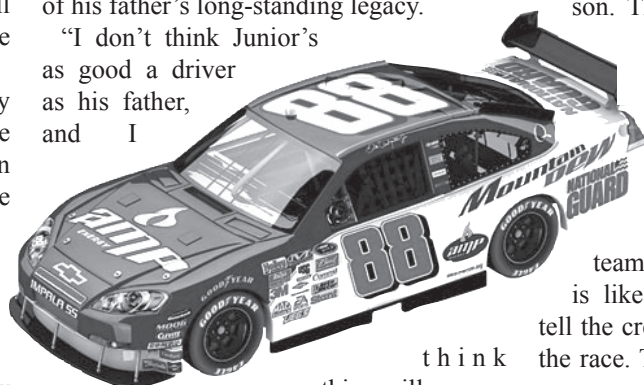
The move, though unexpected, was in no way surprising. The Intimidator's second wife, Teresa, was handed DEI after her husband's tragic death, and was accused of being too controlling, not supplying her Dale Jr. with the best motors available, etc. Now at Hendrick, Junior will have state-of-art equipment, joining the best drivers on the circuit, including last year's Cup champion, Jimmy Johnson (33 Cup wins, 2 Cup championships) and Jeff Gordon (81 Cup wins, 4 Cup championships). Many see this year as a litmus test for "Little E" (17 Cup wins, 0 championships) to prove he is heir apparent of his father's long-standing legacy.

"I don't think Junior's

as good a driver

as his father,

and I



think this will prove it," Shaffer said.

But don't, for a moment, think that this year's Chase for the Cup will be comparable to a race between the turtle and the hare, for Tony Stewart and Co. will be creeping up in Hendrick's rearview mirrors sport-

ing brand new Toyotas with attitude. With Kurt Busch and last season's Rookie of the Year Denny Hamlin hitchin' a ride with Joe Gibbs Racing (JGR), the

team may have

a three-

headed

monster

on

their

hands

as far as

arrogant personalities are concerned, but quality drivers behind the wheel might equal a championship for JGR.

"Toyota didn't do anything

last year," Shaffer said.

"They had a bunch of

crap drivers, and had

a negative advantage

coming into the sea-

son. This year, you

have top notch

drivers, and it's go-

ing to be the biggest story this year

at Daytona, to see how the Toy-

otas run."

Lazarchick explained, "What

makes a great driver is the crew

team, not just the driver. The driver

is like the quarterback. They have to

tell the crew what needs to be done to win

the race. The pit-crew is like the offensive

weapon, and has to make that driver better.

They change the tires, fuel the car up and

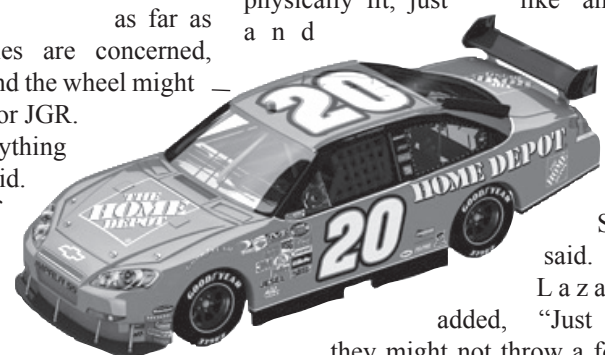
make sure the car doesn't fail. They protect

the driver to make sure they're safe and that

the car doesn't malfunction. The spotter and

crew chief are like the coach. They have the

best view of the track and can tell the driver



where to go and what can help them on the track. The car is the offensive and defensive weapon. The car isn't going to let another car pass them."

Whatever you do, don't disparage NASCAR drivers' athleticism.

"To get in a car that is 200-250 degrees and physically work it...it's not like your car at home. They just started having power steering. Imagine driving a car without power steering. Driving a car without power steering is hard as hell. They need to be physically fit, just like an athlete, and when it comes down to it, it takes brains," Shaffer said.

Lazarchick

added, "Just because

they might not throw a football or

anything like that, the drivers train just as

hard as any other athlete. People say that

NASCAR isn't a sport because all they do

is drive around in circles. That's like say-

ing someone who runs track isn't an athlete

because they run around in circles...Drivers

have to be able to maneuver around other

cars that are going at speeds that are very

fast. It takes much skill to be able to do

that."

The Daytona 500 will go down on Febru-

ary 17 at 1:00, on FOX.

Wrestlers Top Division I Foes: Wagner, Princeton

COURTESY OF SPORTS MARKETING

The nationally-ranked Wilkes University wrestling team picked up a pair of impressive wins over Division I opponents on Saturday afternoon at Franklin & Marshall College. The Colonels scored a 42-minus 1 win over Wagner College in their first match of the day, before disposing of Princeton University, 34-16 in their second match.

The Colonels ran their overall dual match record to 17-6-1 with the two victories. Wilkes is currently ranked 19th in the latest NCAA Division III national poll.

Erik Smith (149), James Histed (165) and Andrew Feldman (285) each picked up wins by fall against Wagner. Brandon Prentice (141) was a winner by technical

fall, while Frank Heffernan (174) earned a win by major decision. Shaun Farnham (125), Josh Pauling (133), Adam Penberthy (157), Shawn Bradley (184) and Chris Smith (197) added wins by decision for the Colonels.

Wilkes claimed seven of the ten individual bouts in the victory over Princeton, including forfeit wins secured by Prentice (141), Smith (149) and Bradley (184). Penberthy (157) was a winner by fall and Ryan Wilson (133) scored a win by major decision. Heffernan (165) and Chris Smith (197) contributed wins by decision for Wilkes.

Wilkes 42, Wagner -1

125 - Shaun Farnham (Wilkes) dec. Nicholas Keshecki, 5-2 (3-0)

133 - Josh Pauling (Wilkes) dec. Nick

Boghos, 6-2 (6-0)

141 - Brandon Prentice (Wilkes) tech. fall Tyler Harmer, 17-2 (11-0)

149 - Erik Smith (Wilkes) pinned Patrick Larkin, 6:37 (17-0)

157 - Adam Penberthy (Wilkes) dec. Sean Quinn, 8-5 (-1 tm. pt.) (20-minus 1)

165 - James Histed (Wilkes) pinned Marco Tellerico, 2:50 (26-minus 1)

174 - Frank Heffernan (Wilkes) by major dec. Pete Morano, 11-1 (30-minus 1)

184 - Shawn Bradley (Wilkes) dec. Ed Broderick, 7-5 (33-minus 1)

197 - Chris Smith (Wilkes) dec. Anthony Interiano, 4-3 (36-minus 1)

285 - Andrew Feldman (Wilkes) pinned John Graeffe, 4:17 (42-minus 1)

Wilkes 34, Princeton 16

125 - Tony Comunale (P) pinned Shaun

Farnham, 4:11 (0-6)

133 - Ryan Wilson (W) by major dec. Robert Benitez, 14-2 (4-6)

141 - Brandon Prentice (W) by forfeit (10-6)

149 - Erik Smith (W) by forfeit (16-6)

157 - Adam Penberthy (W) pinned Matt Katz, 2:16 (22-6)

165 - Frank Heffernan (W) dec. Mike Alvarez, 9-2 (25-6)

174 - Travis Erdman (P) by major dec. Rich Pellegrini, 13-3 (25-10)

184 - Shawn Bradley (W) by forfeit (31-10)

197 - Chris Smith (W) dec. Zack Morse, 6-4 (34-10)

285 - Sam Ritter (P) pinned Jake Weinrich, 6:13 (34-16)

Women continue Freedom Conference struggles

BY GERARD HETMAN
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

In the seven-team race for the Freedom Conference playoffs, the hopes and dreams of the Wilkes University women's basketball team were dealt several major blows this week.

On the heels of a 67-53 loss to FDU-Floham on Wednesday night, the Lady Colonels allowed a season high in points scored while suffering a 93-46 loss at DeSales University on Saturday. The recent losses drop the Lady Colonels to an overall record of 1-18, while the team remains winless in Freedom Conference play after seven contests. The game also marked a sour homecoming for Wilkes head coach Rachel Emmerthal and assistant coach Kirby Lutz, both of whom enjoyed stellar playing careers on the hardwood at DeSales during their undergraduate years.

The Lady Bulldogs took control of the game from the start as they opened play on an 11-0 run in the first half. Wilkes did mount a charge that was capped off at 19-6 by an Erin Schneider lay-up, but the home team refused to fold. Ripping off scoring

runs of 11-0 and 14-0 later in the first period, DeSales crushed any hopes of a Lady Colonels rally and took a 51-15 lead into the halftime locker room.

"I think we underestimated their ability to score quickly," Lady Colonels forward Khadija Bates said of the game afterward. "They came out and scored early and we didn't respond the way we needed to for us to stay in the game."

The Lady Colonels did narrow the margin of scoring in the second half, as the Bulldogs outpaced Wilkes by a mark of 42-31. Still, the damage had been done early, and DeSales was never seriously threatened en route to its' fifth straight conference win.

Schneider and Sam Lynam led Wilkes with nine points each, while both players grabbed four rebounds. After a non-conference home game with Richard Stockton College on Monday evening, the Lady Colonels will return to Freedom Conference action when they host Delaware Valley on Saturday at 1PM. The Lady Colonels game against the Lady Aggies features the "Think Pink" theme in an effort to fight the war against breast cancer.



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens
Brittany Ely controls the pace against the FDU Lady Devils last Wednesday.


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| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

NBA Doubleheader

Battle of conference rivals as mid-season nears

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

New Orleans Hornets at Phoenix Suns (2/06)

Two seasons ago, the New Orleans Hornets didn't have a home.

Displaced due to Hurricane Katrina, they spent most of 2005-2007 in Oklahoma City, where they struggled for two seasons with a 77-87 record and without any playoff hopes.

Now they find themselves atop the Western Conference, keeping pace with such perennial powerhouses as the San Antonio Spurs and the Dallas Mavericks.

Their success is the result of a solid core of young players, including 2006 Rookie of the Year Chris Paul, 20.6 points per game and 10.7 assists per game lead a team that includes center Tyson Chandler (12.1 PPG, 12.4 RPG), forward David West (19.5 PPG, 9.3 RPG) and guard-forward Peja Stojakovic (15.2 PPG).

While the Hornets are a relatively young team, they are playing with poise and confidence, as they are 12-2 in the month of January.

They will need to ride that momentum for the rest of the season, as there is still plenty of time for their opponents to make up lost ground.

The Hornets will have their work cut out for them, though, as they are up against the NBA's best offense in the Phoenix Suns, who are averaging nearly 110 points per game this season, while holding their own in the Pacific division.

At the offensive helm is Amare Stoudemire, whose 22.7 points per game lead the team, and Steve Nash, the two-time MVP who is one of the best players in the game today. Nash is putting up 17.4 points per game, along with a team leading 11.9 assists per game.

The rest of this juggernaut of an offense is rounded out by guards Leandro Barbosa (16.6 PPG) and Raja Bell (12.3 PPG) along with forwards Shawn Marion (15.7 PPG, 9.9 RPG) and Grant Hill (15.2 PPG).

The Suns' Achilles Heel seems to be their defense, as they are averaging nearly 41

rebounds per game, ranking 24th out of 30 teams in the NBA.

However, their offense is good enough to make up for any shortcomings in their defense, which has been unable to stop the Hornets this season.

The Suns have faced off against New Orleans twice this season, including a down-to-the-wire 101-98 loss in December, and a high-scoring 118-113 loss on January 5.

Those two games will not soon be forgotten by the Suns, as they can extract some revenge during this go-round.



The Pick:

Phoenix Suns: 105

New Orleans Hornets: 97

Boston Celtics at Cleveland Cavaliers (2/05)

How do you go from being the laughing stock of the NBA, a storied franchise that is a mockery of its former self to being the best team in the NBA in under a year?

Ask the Boston Celtics.

The Celtics, who own the NBA's best record at 35-8, are just one season removed from a 24-58 record that had their loyal fans thinking: "Do I really need to root for a basketball team? I have the Red Sox and the Patriots, are the Celtics really that important to my well-being?"

A few blockbuster trades later, and *viola*, the Celts are back on top while rolling over any team that gets in their way.

Thanks to the skills of "The Big Three" of Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce, the boys from Beantown are comfortably gliding along in the Eastern Conference en route to their first playoff berth since the 2004-2005 season.

Many thanks go to Kevin Garnett, who is leading the team with ferocity while scoring 19.2 points per game with a team-leading 9.9 rebounds per game.

Right behind K.G. is the duo of Allen

(18.0 PPG) and Pierce (20.1 PPG), who, along with Garnett, have averaged 37 minutes per game through 43 games.

Rounding out their offense are guards Rajon Rondo (9.6 PPG, 4.0 RPG) and Eddie House (8.1 PPG, 2.3 RPG), center Kendrick Perkins (7.4 PPG, 5.6 RPG) and guard-forward James Posey (7.3 PPG, 4.4 RBG).

As the Celtics near the All-Star break, they can ill afford to ease up on the rest of the league, as their backups and role players will need to begin to step it up as the wear and tear of the season takes its toll on the starters.

Before that happens, though, they will need to go through the defending Eastern Conference Champions, the Cleveland Cavaliers, who are currently second place in their division, and looking for a push that will take them back to the finals.

They are led by LeBron James, the wunderkind who is leading the NBA in scoring with 30 points per game, while making his own push to be the MVP.

If James wants to live up to his early comparisons to Michael Jordan, he is going to have to step up and lead his young squad in the second half of the season, despite that he is scoring more than twice as many points as anyone else on the team on an offense that ranks 16th in the NBA in offense with 97.27 PPG.

Besides James, the only constant offense has come from center Zydrunas Ilgauskas (13.7 PPG), guard Daniel Gibson (11.9 PPG) and forward Drew Gooden (11.5 PPG).

If there is one thing that the Cavs have in their favor, it's their ability to play defense. Cleveland has one of the best defenses in the NBA, averaging nearly 45 rebounds per game and eight steals per game.

Their best chance to stay competitive with the Celtics is to outplay them on the defensive side of the ball, while supporting LeBron James under their basket.

In the end, the Celtics' offense is just too good, and will put this game out by the middle of the fourth quarter.

The Pick:

Boston Celtics: 94

Cleveland Cavaliers: 85

*Statistics are current through 1/30



Double Take

Steph examines the stats that truly matter...

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

So, I am told that this week I am to write about a double header.

Personally I think it would be a cool idea to make a double header with two teams playing against two other teams. For example, we could pit the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Boston Celtics against the New Orleans Hornets and the Phoenix Suns.

That would be really interesting to watch.

But I know that this is not the case, so I will just write about what it actually means.

The first game is the Cleveland Cavaliers v. the Boston Celtics. When I hear the Cavaliers the first thing I think about is two of my friends who both have silver Cavaliers--Chevy Cavaliers, that is. Apparently, where I am from, the Cavalier is the car to have and frankly I am sick of hearing about them. Also, I really hate the song, "Cleveland Rocks" by Ian Hunter. It's completely annoying. On the other hand, Boston is the home of many amazing things. The Dropkick Murphys, a Celtic punk band, is from Boston, which gives the city double points in my book. Two more reasons are that the gorgeous Matt Damon is from Boston and he stars in one of my favorite movies "The Departed" which is set in Boston. Hands down this game is going to the Boston Celtics.

Next up is the New Orleans Hornets v. the Phoenix Suns. While I am a huge fan of the sun, and I'd like to see a little bit more of it this time of year, I'm going to have to give this one to New Orleans. New Orleans has been through a lot the past three years trying to rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Also, I'd have to say that *Real World: New Orleans* was my favorite season to date. There were some crazies on that one, and Real World has never even been in Phoenix.

At the end of these two games, the cities with the better pop culture histories pull out on top. Sorry, Cleveland and Phoenix, maybe you should have thought about this before you went against New Orleans and Boston.

Athlete of the Week: Chris DeRojas

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

When Wilkes men's basketball coach Jerry Rickrode welcomed a young Chris DeRojas to his youth basketball camps, he saw a player whose skill level on the court was far above than that of his peers.

Now, with DeRojas starring on that same court in a Colonels uniform, Rickrode sees the same things from his standout freshman on a daily basis.

In only his first year of college basketball, DeRojas has established himself as one of the top players in the Freedom Conference this season. Through Saturday's game at DeSales, the Kingston, PA native ranks second on the Colonels in scoring at 13.6 points per game, while also leading the squad in steals with 22. Appearing in every game this season, DeRojas has recently found his way into the starting lineup and has provided a huge scoring punch as the team progresses through conference play.

Key examples of DeRojas's explosiveness came early in conference play when he posted three straight 26-point scoring efforts in wins over Arcadia, Manhattanville and Delaware Valley.

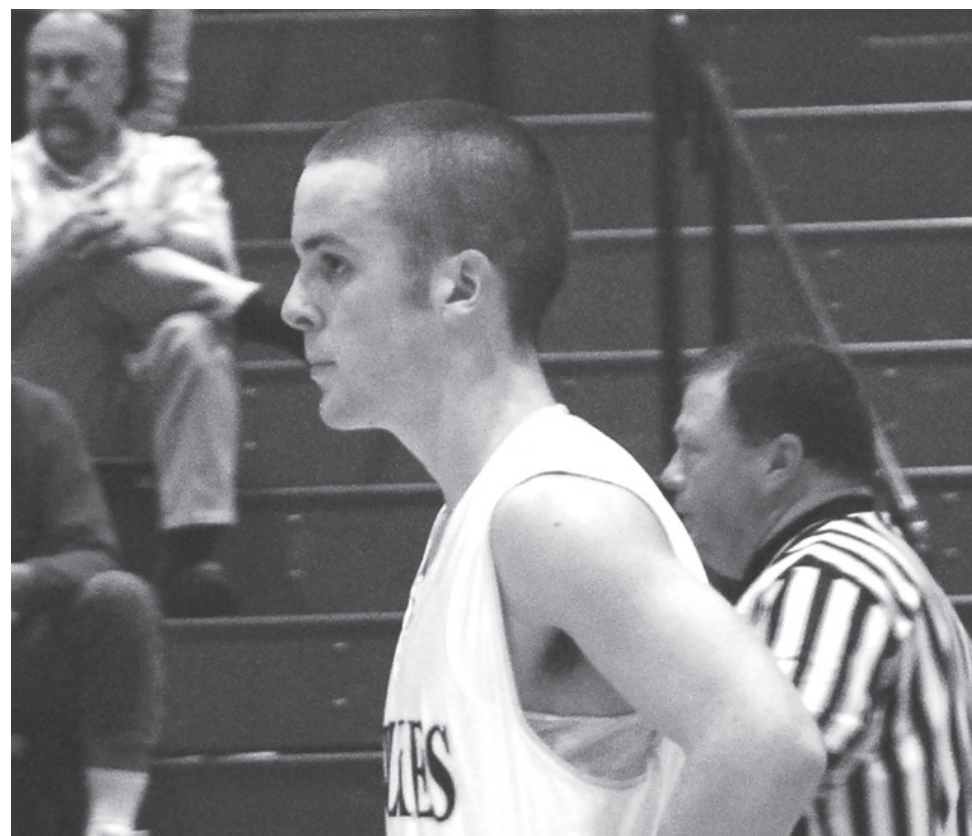
"It's a great time playing here, especially with a great group of teammates," DeRojas

said recently when asked about his standout rookie campaign. "Coach Rickrode told me during the recruiting process that I'd have a chance to play early, and I've tried to step up and do my best with that opportunity."

Although his emergence in a starring role may come as a surprise to some, DeRojas is no stranger to success. In his first two seasons of high school basketball he helped power his Bishop O'Reilly Queensmen to back-to-back state championships in 2004 and 2005. After graduating from O'Reilly as a member of the school's last senior class before it was consolidated last summer, DeRojas knew he'd found a special place in Wilkes.

"I really liked the school when I looked at it, and I've known [Rickrode] for a long time, so I was very happy here from the beginning," DeRojas said. "So far, it's been a great fit for me."

"We've seen Chris play at a high level of the local basketball scene for many years, and we knew what kind of a student-athlete we were getting when he decided to enroll at Wilkes," Rickrode said recently. "He's an excellent student of the game who has a high basketball IQ, and has certainly earned his role on the floor for us."



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

Freshman Chris DeRojas focuses his attention down the court during the Colonels home game against FDU-Florham (NJ) last Wednesday. The Colonels won 79-54.

Rickrode reaches 300 wins

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

He's pushed dozens of young men to reach higher, hustle and box out. He's seen amazing game winning shots, heroes

emerge from the bench, and has screamed at many referees.

And now, he's seen his 300th win in his storied coaching career.

After directing the men's basketball team

from the head coach position for 16 consecutive seasons, Jerry Rickrode reached 300 career wins last Wednesday when the Colonels torched FDU-Florham (NJ) at home 79-54.

It was a special day for Rickrode. Not only did the Colonels improve to 5-1 in the conference in a game in which every player touched the floor, but three students revealed a banner during the closing minutes of the game that read: "Rickrode's 300th."

The assistant coaches tapped Rickrode on the shoulder to direct his attention to the student section where the fans were holding up the celebratory sign. Afterward, he gave the students a thumbs-up and blushed until his cheeks shined red.

"Those guys are good fans," said Rickrode. "I tried to keep a lid on the whole 300 thing. I didn't talk much about it."

Rickrode remained cool throughout the entire contest but those fans certainly got him to crack a well-deserved smile.

Rickrode's career record currently stands at 300-115 making him the most successful head coach in Colonels men's basketball history.

He began coaching at Wilkes during the 1991-92 season after serving as the assistant coach at Ithaca College. As head coach, Rickrode has led seven different Colonel teams to the Division III NCAA Tournament including the 1997-98 season where his team won the MAC title and advanced

to the Final Four.

Rickrode has also been named Middle-Atlantic Regional Coach of the Year for his efforts during the 2000-01, 1998-99, 1997-98 and 1995-96 seasons. He has also been named Freedom Conference Coach of the Year three times while claiming six of the previous 12 Freedom championships.

Throughout his tenure, Rickrode has established an impeccable record. But if you ask him to describe how it feels to win 300 games, he'll tell you,

"It's not that important to me."

"It's about the ex-players and the current players. They won the 300 games. I just wanted to get to 5-1 in the conference. That's what we tried to focus on."

Junior Steve Kline came out firing against FDU on behalf of Rickrode by scoring 18 points in the first half and ended up with a career high 25 points.

"We all were aware that it was Rickrode's 300th and we wanted to take care of them (FDU) for him," said Kline, the power forward from Bridgewater (NJ). "That's a big milestone especially as a Division III coach, because it's not like Division I where guys are there for a lifetime. In Division III, coaches aren't there that long. Three hundred wins...he's got a lot of pull. People know his name. He's a big dog now."

Rickrode holds the Division III record for the fastest coach to reach 200 wins. He completed that task in just 249 games.



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

Head coach Jerry Rickrode, far left, barks out signals from the sideline during the Colonels home game against FDU-Florham last Wednesday.



The Beacon/Matthew Gogas

Colonels score triple digits in win over Aggies

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

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

The Colonels beat the brakes off the Aggies in a highly up-tempo contest 100-67, in front of an estimated 700 basketball fans watching from the stands of the Marts Gymnasium. Transition baskets and stingy defense were the key recipes for the Colonels who held the Aggies to just under 40 percent shooting and forced 18 turnovers while netting 60.7 percent from the field, their second highest shooting percentage of the sea-

son (The team's season high was 65 percent against Manhattanville on 1/22).

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

The Colonels beat Manhattanville which puts them in control of the second seed. The only reason they trail Manhattanville is because the Valiants played one more conference game than the Colonels. Both of the Colonels conference losses were to the DeSales Bulldogs. The sloppy Aggies are 2-19, 0-9 in the conference.

Delaware Valley was out-hustled throughout the entire contest. At halftime, the Colonels doubled the Aggies point total as the score

stood 53-26. If any adjustments were made to slow down the Colonels in the locker room, they certainly did not work. At one point during the second half, DelVal's Brian Hilinski missed a wide open lay-up from the right side and Aggies head coach, Denny Surovec, smacked his teeth, flapped his arms and asked, "Are you kidding me?" Yes coach, the entire game was a joke.

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

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

dangerous."

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

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

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

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

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

Conference Standings

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