

The BEACON

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

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Committee discusses SAT-optional proposal

BY NICOLE FRAIL

Beacon Asst. News Editor

Last spring, Wilkes University's Admissions and Financial Aid Committee began discussing the possibility of making SAT scores optional for student admission to the university.

Even though the topic received little support from faculty last year, the admissions and financial aid offices have presented the idea to the committee again this fall.

"The committee has been discussing a proposal to offer the opportunity for students who meet a certain minimum high school requirement to apply for admission without the SAT as a portion of their application," said Melanie Mickelson, Director of Admissions. "This was a response basically to what's going on at the national level."

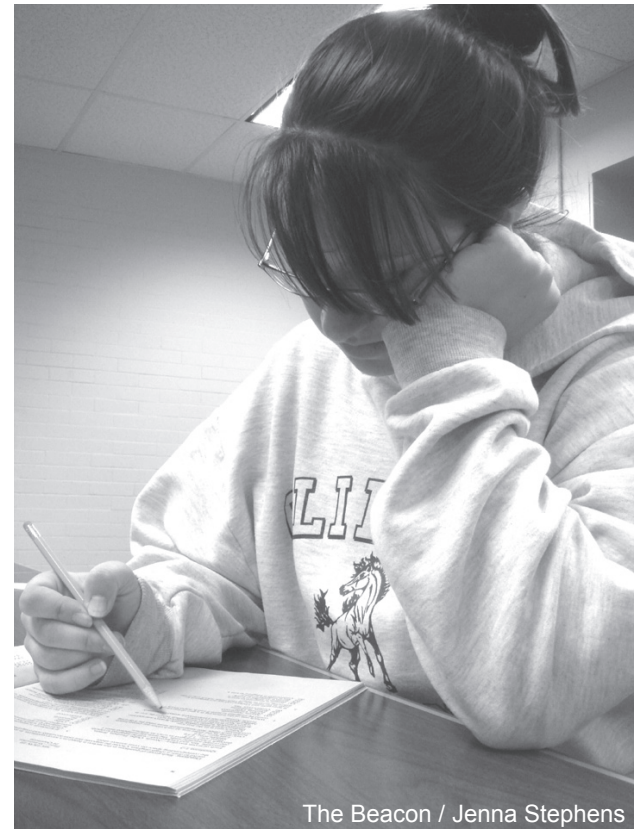
When the College Board extended the time needed to take the SATs to 3 hours and 45 minutes and added the 25 minute essay in the March 2005, many colleges across the nation chose to no longer require SAT scores on their applications.

In July of 2007, *The New York Times* reported that "More than 700 colleges will consider your application without a peek at that [three or] four-digit number."

While many of the colleges that have turned away from the SATs are religious, technical, or open-admission schools, twelve of the top fifty liberal arts colleges rated by *U.S. News & World Report* have chosen to go SAT-optional, as well. These include Bowdoin College (ranked 6), Middlebury (Vt.) College (8), and Hamilton College (15).

"There are a lot of reasons behind it, one of which is that there's been very clear evidence that the SAT is a test that's coachable," said Mickelson. "If you take a class in prepping for the SAT then you're likely to do better on the SAT, which of course implies that the SAT is not truly a measure of your aptitude or intelligence."

See SAT page 3



The Beacon / Jenna Stephens

Arrest made in Ralston Field attack *Wilkes assistant football coach stabbed October 10*

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Staff Writer

An arrest has recently been made in the ongoing investigation into an assault and stabbing of an assistant football coach at the Ralston Field Complex just before fall break.

The incident occurred on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 10 at approximately 2:30 p.m., when assistant football coach Mike McCree exited the Munson Fieldhouse building through a side door. As he emerged into a parking lot, McCree said he noticed a man rummaging through the interior of his vehicle, approached him and asked the intruder what he was doing there. The intruder then turned around and lunged at McCree, stabbing the football coach in the stomach with an unknown object. McCree then collapsed to the ground in pain, while the attacker ran off in the direction of Kirby Park, located behind the Ralston Field Complex.

Chris Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services, said that the university public safety department was notified of the incident at approximately

3PM. Officers then notified the Edwardsville police department, who responded to the scene along with an ambulance. Public Safety officers quickly arrived at the fieldhouse, along with members of the Wilkes University administration, to fully investigate the incident.

McCree was promptly taken to a local hospital to be treated for his injuries. Local police departments immediately began a search of Kirby Park and the surrounding area, and a campus-wide alert was issued to the Wilkes University community soon thereafter via the cell phone/website emergency notification system.

After being treated and released from the hospital, McCree was asked by police to examine a photo lineup, and subsequently identified a photo of 47-year old David Parrish as the man who attacked him. An arrest warrant was then issued for Parrish, who was apprehended the following day in Wilkes-Barre's Public Square, Bailey said of the aftermath of the incident.

According to a report in the *Citizens' Voice*,

the alleged assailant, Parrish, was arraigned before a local Magistrate District Judge, and was committed to the Luzerne County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$10,000 bail. Bailey also added that Parrish has been arrested numerous times in recent years by local law enforcement, and that several police departments quickly recognized the physical description provided by McCree to investigating authorities as fitting Parrish's physical appearance.

Bailey noted that there has been an increased amount of police activity in recent months in the Kirby Park area. He added that area police departments have taken a more proactive stance in fighting crime in the area where Ralston Field is located, and that these measures have led to an increase in arrests as part of preventative measures taken by local police departments.

While a suspect is in custody and awaiting trial, Bailey stressed the importance of students, faculty and staff remaining alert and tak-

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Growth and safety highlight forum dialogue

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon News Editor

A forum made up of 17 Wilkes University officials and local leaders answered and asked questions at the October 10 Student Government meeting.

The forum was comprised of President Tim Gilmour, his cabinet members, support staff, the general manager of Barnes and Noble on Main Street and the Mayor of Wilkes-Barre, Thomas Leighton. The forum sat through SG's executive board meeting and then the new business during the general board meeting before asking and being asked questions.

SG President, Matt Brown, who had the idea for the forum opened the discussion by asking what members had questions for the panel. The topics ranged from safety and security to sports.

This first question came from the sophomore class asking if there was any way to get a students meal plan balance, including dining dollars, on the portal. Chris Bailey, Director of Campus Support, said that the school is already looking into that specific idea and hoped that it would be up and running by the end of the semester.

Another question dealt with the concern over the new sidewalks and that some students believe the walkways are slippery when it rains. Bailey said the school is aware of the problem and admitted

that he has personally witnessed students having difficulty walking on the wet sidewalks. He said the school is taking action by putting down test strips of an epoxy resin with grit in it to allow better traction when the sidewalks get wet. Petra Carver, Vice President of Finance, said that they would keep the students posted on their progress.

Jef Bauman, SG Vice President, asked if Wilkes has room to keep growing at the rate it currently is with residence halls and classrooms. Mike Frantz, Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing, explained, "Our goal for the last fall student enrollment was 572 freshmen and 130 transfer students. It came roughly in at 620 freshmen and about 110/112 transfer students... it is an inexact science. And frankly what happened last year was that we had fewer applications and fewer accepted students and a much, much higher percentage of students who ultimately chose to attend the institution." He added that it is not the university's goal to keep growing exponentially. "Our goal is to cap at 577 freshman, 123 transfer students." He also outlined proactive measures the school will be doing to help predict class sizes and distribution.

Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President for Student Affairs, talked about how residence halls can adapt to

meet the institution's needs. "We have a plan to grow our residence hall population to about 1,200... Right now we are at 1,047... When we get to that 1,200 it will most likely be a different configuration of buildings than what we currently have."

He also mentioned that as other residents leave University Towers, the school can put more and more students in that building and someday it can hold up to 400 students. In addition Adams talked about the creation of "residential clusters" around campus and moving out of the 300 block of South River Street.

SG President Matt Brown asked if, overall, the university is moving too quickly. Gilmour responded, "The fact is that it is very fast, particularly for a higher education institution of this size and history. On the other hand, the whole higher education industry or business is changing substantially and very rapidly. These changes present significant opportunities and the fact that we have been an institution that is really focused on our students frankly makes us an institution that probably has the best capability to be an institution that has real strength in the future." He also touched on the creation of a law school and the school's plan to bring in someone to coordinate that effort.

Other SG members raised ques-

tions about safety and whether or not the area was seeing a crime epidemic. This question was punctuated by an incident that happened earlier in the day when assistant football coach, Mike McCree was stabbed at Ralston Field when he confronted a man allegedly stealing from McCree's parked vehicle.

Bailey sought to reassure students. "I don't think this is any major crime wave... What you are seeing is some activity on the periphery now. They are going after the easy targets... you've got to be aware of where you are, who you are around, and take care of each

other." He also added that he does not believe there is a need to add any additional security officers, mentioning all of the security the school already has in place.

Other members of SG brought up the problem of cars not stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks. Some members even mentioned police cars do not stop. Mayor Leighton said he would talk to the police chief and suggested that students take license plate numbers down and report them to Public Safety who will then pass the

See GROWTH page 4



The Beacon/ Andrew Seaman

SG members asked and were asked questions at their weekly meeting by Wilkes and local officials. Topics brought up included safety, the new sidewalks, growth, and much more. SG President Matt Brown considered the forum a big success.

The BEACON

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

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SAT

from FRONT PAGE

Mickelson also added that between the cost of taking the test once or twice, enrollment in an SAT prep course, and the cost of books or audio CDs designed to help prepare students for the test with sample questions and vocabulary, taking the SATs may come with a steep price tag.

"That puts students in a unique [situation], because if you can't afford to take an SAT prep course, you're kind of automatically at a disadvantage," added Mickelson.

The apparent inequity is born out in some of the numbers released by the College Board. According to College Board, high school students who have taken the SAT in 2006 and have a family income of \$80,000-\$100,000 have an average score of 523 Verbal, 534 Math, and 514 Writing, while students who have a family income of \$10,000-\$20,000 received average scores of 445, 465, and 440 respectively.

"Secondly, there is also a clear bias racially. Students who are... Hispanic and African American students have an average SAT score 200 points lower than their Caucasian and Asian counterparts," said Mickelson. The switch to SAT-optional will eliminate both socioeconomic and racial biases.

Many people ranging from concerned parents to admission directors also worry that the SATs don't realistically represent a student's potential for success. Kevin Welles is a teacher of English and Language Arts at E.L. Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre who also teaches an SAT-prep course designed to aid students in the verbal and writing areas.

"I don't think that you can accurately predict a student's success in college or life from merely the SAT test," said Welles. "As a teacher, I get to appreciate not just the depth of a student's understanding or ability, but the breadth and width that that student has to offer as far as motivation, which isn't tested on the SAT, creativity, which isn't really

tested on the SAT, the ability to work independently and collaboratively, which isn't tested on the SAT... There are so many elements that are important to being a successful student and a successful person that aren't tested."

According to Mike Frantz, Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing, Wilkes generally focuses on five main aspects when making its

decision about accepting a student into the university: high school transcripts, motivation, performance in the classroom, high school rank, and SAT scores.

If Wilkes were to go SAT-optional, there is still uncertainty as to what would replace the test score. While Mickelson would like to see a mandatory interview, admission essay, and more "subjective measures," Dr. Robert Tuttle, Chair of the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, pointed out that that part of the proposal is still being researched and there is always the possibility that no change will occur at all.

"If you're going to use the SATs, all three parts will play a role," said Tuttle. "The estimates would be that 20-25% of students would choose not to [submit their scores]. There's a whole range of possibilities as to alternate policies and that's what we're discussing right now."

In order to opt out of submitting an SAT score, an applicant would have to rank in the top forty percent of their high school class. Anything below forty percent would require a score.

Class rank will also weigh in for financial aid and scholarships if an applicant chooses to not submit their score due to a new either-or scholarship scale. "The National Association of College Admission Counselors has mandated to us that no scholarships be solely at the discretion of an SAT score... [For example], you have to have an 1800 or top five percent of the class," explained Frantz.

In order for Wilkes University to join the growing list of SAT-optional colleges, the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee has to first put together another proposal for the faculty. If the faculty does not reject the proposal, a pilot study will be preformed for a couple of years. If the university does switch its admission criteria, some programs may be excluded, such as some of the sciences, nursing, pre-med, and pharmacy.

"We will still require SAT, because in our

program we get so many applications, we have to have a methodology to be able to differentiate students. We find SAT to be a very good predictor of how well they're going to be doing in the science courses as well as in the professional courses. We would find it very difficult to screen out hundreds of applications to get down to the 75 students we want to accept for the pre-pharmacy program," said Dr. Bernard Graham, Dean of the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing.

While there is speculation as to which departments will not be in favor of the proposal and which will, John Carey, a sophomore electrical engineering student, recognizes the potential the switch could have. "I think some people will definitely benefit. If they do poorly on the SATs and they get to hand something else in that better demonstrates their ability, then that will definitely help them."

Frantz agreed. "I believe in student options to put the best foot forward in terms of a college application and would like certainly for us to go through a trial to see if this is beneficial to the institution and more importantly beneficial to student success in college."

There is no confirmed date as to when or even if the committee will make its second proposal to the faculty, but Mickelson is certain that if it is rejected, it won't be the last attempt. She fears that as more colleges become SAT-optional, Wilkes will be at a disadvantage if the standards aren't changed.

"I think that we're at a point where there is a lot of resistance and obviously I think that maybe more time [needs to be] spent educating people as to what the rationale is behind doing this. The perception of the faculty who are resisting it is that we're trying to dumb down the standards, which is not the intent at all."



The Beacon/Andrew Seaman and Nicole Frail

A fire burns early Sunday at the old Murray complex on the corner of Darling St. and Courtright Ave. At 11:00 a.m. the building was fully involved. For more pictures of the fire check online at www.wilkesbeacon.com

Search recommences

BY ALISON WOODY

Beacon Lifestyles Editor

Dr. Robert Shaddy, who was to assume the role of the Dean of Library Sciences beginning November 1, has unexpectedly chosen not to come to Wilkes University after being offered the position.

Shaddy currently serves as the Professor of Library and Chief Librarian at Queens College in New York. He was selected to serve as the Dean of Library Sciences from a search committee that had been reviewing candidates since February.

Dr. Frederick Sullivan, associate professor of mathematics and computer science, was the chairperson of the search committee. In response to Shaddy's sudden decision, Sullivan said, "I do not think that we were given very clear reasons as to why he is not coming."

Shaddy was not able to be reached for comment at

Queens College.

The new Dean was to present a plan to the Provost's office after studying the Farley Library and also aid in developing funds for proposed changes.

Provost Reynold Verret, who was not available for comment, described Shaddy in an October 9 article of *The Beacon* as "an excellent choice."

When asked for reaction to the departure of Shaddy, a member of the library staff chose not to comment.

Shaddy's decision has prompted the beginning of another search. Linda Chishlom of CEO Resources, who initially researched candidates who were pre-qualified for the Dean of Library Sciences position, is "already at work identifying new candidates," said Sullivan.

He added, "The next step is to reform the search committee and start again."

Nantucket Nectars, Plum TV founder emphasizes passion as key to success

BY LINDSEY WHITE

Beacon Correspondent

Wilkes University welcomed Tom Scott, co-founder of Nantucket Nectars and CEO of Plum TV, as guest speaker for the Allan P. Kirby Center Lecture Series last Wednesday, October 17.

Scott, an entrepreneur, offered his story of the rewards and challenges he faced as his small business, Nantucket Nectars, became a multi-million dollar franchise. Scott's story, "The Journey of the Entrepreneurial Spirit" tells of "two ordinary guys in an extraordinary situation."

"I think he has a compelling story to tell. He fell into being an entrepreneur, was good at it, and loved it. He's very vocal about being passionate with the product he created, and I think he will be able to capture the attention

of students by letting them know that a young person can be successful," said Dr. Jeffrey Alves, professor of entrepreneurship and free enterprise.

Tom Scott, and his partner, Tom First, entered the juice world after they attempted to recreate a juice with a peach nectar flavor. After mixing different combinations of peach juice and water, the two men developed a delicious recipe. Within ten years, Scott and First developed their juice into a successful company with no business, marketing, or beverage industry experience. Despite the enormous success of the company, it was not always an easy journey.

"Winning in business is like getting a 96, [but] if you get a 92, you lose," Scott said. It took several years before Nantucket Nectars even turned a profit. At first, the business was actually losing money because its primary focus was to create a quality product for the consumer, not to make a profit margin. However, when the partners were in danger of losing their line of credit, and subsequently their business, something had to be done. Scott explained, "We knew we had to run the business a new way. I said I wouldn't shave my beard, the CFO said he would ride his bike to work, and a woman who worked for the company agreed to workout everyday until we turned a profit. In March of that year, we succeeded. It seemed like it happened when we gave it everything we had."

For ten years Tom Scott and his partner kept Nantucket Nectars prospering. However, it wasn't the profit that drove them to success.

Scott stated, "The notion of having fun is central to me. I focused on enjoying myself and trying to create a life around it."

Scott believes that it is not the profit that should create the drive in people, but instead, the passion for the type of product the company produces. "If you want to make a 'same as,' why would anyone want to buy it? You have to make 'a better than.'"

The solution to make the product they created stand out among others was called, The Quality Juice Evolution Solution. Their goal was to make their juice "as good as the juice you drank from the fruit of the tree you sat underneath." The end result of this solution was over thirty types of juices,

teas, and lemonades, all made with high quality all-natural ingredients. The company quickly grew from a small business to a multi-million dollar franchise.

Nantucket Nectars was hailed by *Inc. Magazine* as one of the top 20 fastest growing private companies in America and now employs more than 100 people. Several

awards were also granted to Scott because of the enormous success he achieved as co-founder of Nantucket Nectars. These include the Mercury Award for Advertising, Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year award, several leadership and design awards, and a feature in the documentary film *Lemonade Stories*.

However, Scott and his partner began to lose interest in the company. Instead of waking up each day to the excitement and challenge of something new, Scott realized that he wasn't having as much fun. "I fell out of love and the day came where it was time to stop." The two partners sold Nantucket Nectars to Cadbury Schweppes for an estimated \$100 million.

After the two men sold the juice company to Cadbury Schweppes, Tom Scott went on to launch Plum TV, a lifestyle television channel created in 2002 produced largely in vacation communities, marketed toward residents and tourists of the area. Scott stated, "I don't know where this is going to go. I could be out of business in a year or flying high in the air. Stay tuned."



GROWTH

from PAGE 2

information on to the city.

At the end of the question and answer session invited guests at the forum were invited to ask questions of SG. Frantz asked the students whether or not they felt that there was enough privacy at the desk in UCOM. Also, the GM of Barnes and Noble, John Chaump, asked how the store could get more people downtown.

The meeting concluded with Brown telling the general board how happy he was with the turnout. He mentioned that he did not plan on that many officials showing up, and Bauman mentioned that students should feel free to go to the administration anytime they want, and that they do not have to wait for an SG meeting to do it.

ATTACK

from FRONT PAGE

and taking simple precautions to minimize the chances of a break-in to vehicles in the future. Such steps include "locking all doors, rolling up the windows on parked vehicles, and not leaving valuables exposed." He also noted the vital importance of notifying police or public safety of any suspicious activity, rather than having members of the university community taking matters into their own hands. "We would rather chase down 99 nothings, than miss that one incident where we could have prevented the crime from occurring."

McCree, a 1994 graduate of Wilkes, is in his eighth season coaching the linebackers for the Colonels' football program. McCree, along with various members of the university administration and athletics staff, were unavailable for direct comment on the situation at press time.

SG Notes October 17, 2007

Treasurer's Report

All College: \$10,120.72

General: \$2,188.30

Special Projects: \$3,220

Spirit: \$815.00

Leadership: \$3,525.04

Conferences: \$9,500

Start-Up: \$600

Club Reports

The following clubs presented reports to SG:

Programming Board

Fencing Club

Psychology Club

Bacchus Club

New Business

New Member - A new senior class representative, Kaitlin Taber-Miller, was appointed to replace a member currently on sabbatical, Joe Scala.

Wilkes-Barre Christmas Parade - Members discussed their plans for the Wilkes-Barre Christmas Parade that included souvenir photographs with various characters.

Two-Way Radios - SG decided to table an item that would allow them to purchase two-way radios to help during their events. The item was tabled to allow more research on products. SG members said that they borrowed public safety's radios in the past but they often failed and lost their charge.

Casino Night Budget - SG Treasurer, Greg Castelli, talked about prizes, drinks and the budget for Casino Night. He mentioned that they did not have to spend as much this year because of SG's purchase of their own gaming tables last year. The budget was set at \$10,157.30.

Weekly Office Duties - SG Secretary, Kathy Dalton, talked about the importance of members completing their required office hours.

Events

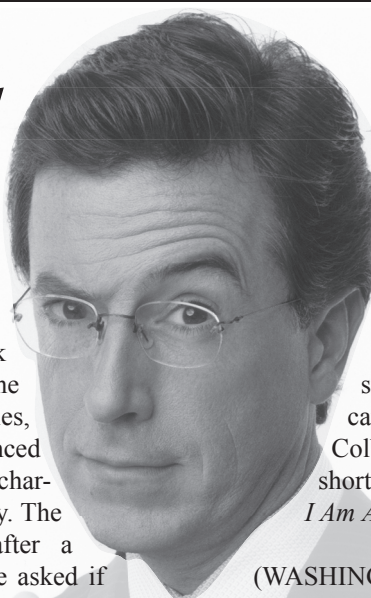
Alcohol Awareness Week/Walk - October 23 at 11 a.m.



Beacon News Briefs

Local, National, and

International Snippets



Local

(WILKES-BARRE) Area residents may soon have another Starbucks where they can grab a cup of coffee. That place however is right across the street from another Starbucks located inside the Barnes and Noble on Main Street. The new Starbucks will be located between the old Campus Billiards and Club Mardis Gras buildings.

(WILKES-BARRE) Due to a lack of repairs and utilities after a deadly fire in July that ripped through the second floor of the building, the Osterhout Library's satellite site on George Avenue closed its doors. The library is currently seeking a new location and is planning on reopening.

(WILKES-BARRE) A woman was surprised when she came across a Vietnam War era mortar shell while inspecting a house on Hazle Avenue on Friday October 19. Streets surrounding the home were closed off as the shell was transported to Ashley where it was detonated in the Huber Bunker. Local officials claim that there is no way of

knowing if the mortar was active or not.

National

(NEW YORK) After an appearance at Carnegie Hall in New York City, the author of the famed Harry Potter series, J.K. Rowling, announced that one of the central characters in the series is gay. The announcement came after a teenager in the audience asked if Professor Dumbledore ever finds "true love." After a pause Rowling answered the young woman with, "I always saw Dumbledore as gay." The author gave some more background information and then mentioned that while reading a script for an upcoming Harry Potter movie she noted in the margin that "Dumbledore is gay!"

(NEW YORK) After an appearance on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, satirist

Stephen Colbert announced he would run for the presidency of the United States on his own show, The Colbert Report. The host said he would seek nomination in South Carolina, his home state, on both the Republican and Democratic tickets. Colbert's announcement comes shortly after the release of his book, *I Am America (And So Can You!)*.

(WASHINGTON) The FDA has announced that it does not recommend the use of cough and cold medicine for children younger than six. The announcement comes after experts concluded that the medicines simply do not work.

International

(TEHRAN, Iran) Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, resigned leaving Saeed Jalili in charge of talks. Many people consider this a victory for Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The shift in power

could bring a tougher stance in negotiations because Larijani is considered to be more diplomatic in his approach to a solution.

(LONDON) In the past few weeks Great Britain's national healthcare system has experienced some problems in a few places. The "Nurse of the Year" is leaving the universal healthcare system because according to her, the paperwork involved in the system takes them from their patients. It was also released that over 1,200 patients were stricken ill over a two-year period because of "super bugs" living in dirty hospitals, about 350 of those patients died.

(YANGON, Myanmar) The junta that controls the country of Myanmar lifted a curfew and ban on assembly after recent pro-democracy protests by the country's highly respected monks. The Bush administration considers the ease in regulations as "cosmetic" while President Bush announced new penalties against Myanmar's current government.

STUDENT: INTRNSHP 4 NXT SEMESTER?

CO-OP OFFICE: GO 2 INTRN FAIR ON 10/25!

INTERNSHIP FAIR

OCTOBER 25, 2007

11 AM - 1 PM

BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR SUB

CONTACT: SHARON.CASTANO@WILKES.EDU, 408-2950

- GAIN ACADEMIC CREDITS
- RECEIVE EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES
- NETWORK WITH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS
- ENHANCE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- DECIDE WHAT CAREER PATH IS RIGHT FOR YOU
- GAIN HANDS ON EXPERIENCE BEFORE GRADUATION
- FIND OUT WHAT YOU LIKE!



Is lying in political campaigns acceptable?

Washington State Supreme Court believes so

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

True or false: candidates running for political office in the state of Washington have the right to deliberately make false statements (lie) about their opponents when campaigning? **Answer True**

According to the First Amendment Center, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled on October 4 that candidates running for public office can lie about their opponents in political campaigns because it's protected speech. The court argued that by the government controlling what they can and can't say violates their First Amendment right of freedom of speech. The court was narrowly divided with a close vote of 5-4.

The issue all started in 1999 when the state legislature passed a

law that "bars political candidates from deliberately making false statements about their opponents." This law was brought to the forefront when in 2002, Marilou Rickert, a Green party candidate running for State Senator, distributed flyers that accused the Democrat

said he could have done more to prevent the closing of the camp.

As a result of Rickert's assertions, Senator Sheldon filed a complaint with the state Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), which ultimately imposed the maximum fine of \$1,000 on Rickert. At this

wrote that, "The majority opinion advances the efforts of those who would turn political campaigns into contests of the best stratagems of lies and deceit, to the end that honest discourse and honest candidates are lost in the maelstrom."

The dissent went on to argue that the "U.S. Supreme Court... has made it absolutely clear that the deliberate lie in political debate has no protected

"U.S. Supreme Court...has made it absolutely clear that the deliberate lie in political debate has no protected place under the First Amendment because such lies do not advance the free political process but rather subvert it."

State Senator Tim Sheldon of voting to shut down a state institution in his district. He didn't vote to close the institution, but did vote against a budget that included shutting down the "Mission Creek youth camp." However, critics

point, Sheldon had effortlessly won re-election as a state senator. When this issue was brought to the Superior Court's attention, it agreed with the PDC's actions, but that decision was overturned by the Court of Appeals.

The majority's opinion written by Justice James Johnson wrote that, "The notion that the government, rather than the people, may be the final arbiter of truth in political debate is fundamentally at odds with the First Amendment."

The majority added, "The best remedy for false or unpleasant speech is more speech, not less speech. The importance of this constitutional principle is illustrated by the very real threats to liberty posed by allowing an unelected government censor like the PDC to act as an arbiter of truth."

However, Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, who also joined the majority rule, but wrote a concurring opinion, said that: "the majority goes too far in concluding that any government censorship of political speech would run afoul of the United States and Washington constitutions," but still argued that the law was overbroad and therefore unconstitutional.

The dissenting opinion written by Justice Barbara Madsen and joined by Justices Tom Chambers, Mary Fairhurst and Bobbe Bridge,

place under the First Amendment because such lies do not advance the free political process but rather subvert it."

Thus, it is alarming to know that candidates running for public office now appear to have a constitutional right to manipulate the public by lying about their opponents, all in the name of free speech. Many Americans have a hard time trusting their political leaders as it is; will allowing candidates to openly lie help build politicians' trust and credibility? Could this ruling ultimately lead to much more negative campaigning?

If advertisers can't lie and manipulate the public when advertising for their products, political candidates shouldn't be allowed to either. Considering our current political situation and government leaders' credibility, is allowing public figures to lie when campaigning going to help garner public support and trust for political candidates and politics in general?

Is the Washington court's ruling taking the First Amendment guarantee of free speech too far? Are we truly comfortable with allowing candidates running for an elected office to lie? The Roberts court needs to re-evaluate what sort of message its sending to the people.

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 81 responses.

The Beacon asked:

Which of the seven deadly sin do you commit the most?

- Pride-10%
- Lust-23%
- Envy-11%
- Sloth-3%
- Gluttony-9%
- Wrath-6%
- Anger-12%
- I don't commit any of the sins-7%
- I commit multiple or all of the deadly sins-19%

Next Week's Question:

If you could be any superhero for Halloween, which one would you be?

- Wonderwoman
- Superman
- Batman
- Spiderman
- Hulk
- Catwoman
- Wolverine
- Elektra
- Captain America
- Storm

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



A Sight for Sore Eyes by: Aleksander Lapinski

Matthew Shepard Act will expand definition of 'hate crimes'

Recognizing sexual orientation as target of hate an important step forward

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

It has been almost ten years since the shocking incident and the ignorance that served as its catalyst still exists.

Matthew Shepard was a student at the University of Wyoming. After midnight on October 7 1998, Shepard purportedly met two men in a bar and asked them for a ride home. Later, the men tied Shepard to a fence, robbed and pistol whipped him. He was found several hours later alive but unconscious. Five days later Matthew Shepard died in the hospital from the fracture from the back of his head to the front, brain stem damage, and several other lacerations. This senseless death occurred all because he was gay.

Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson pretended to be gay in order to gain Shepard's trust to rob him. The pair's then girlfriends testified that the two men had planned to rob a gay man and Shepard happened to be the unlucky target.

In March of 2007, the United States House of Representatives passed the Matthew Shepard Act, formerly known as the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 and it would serve

as an addition to already existing hate crime laws if passed. The existing law is the Hate Crimes Statistics Act and it prosecutes criminals who committed crimes based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. The Human Rights campaign states that the new act's purpose is to insure wider, more comprehensive punishment for crimes that affect a "whole community or category of people and their families." The act would add crimes committed based on gender and gender identity.

This Act could help change the way an ever growing group of people is treated, and it is widely supported. Why, then, would President Bush threaten to veto it? It is well known that President Bush will veto or ban anything relating to support of gays or lesbians and he is in very strong opposition of the group as a whole. The House had a strong vote in favor of the Matthew Shepard Act at 237 to 180, I think that says something for what the people want. But, just as with the stem cell veto, Bush thinks too much about his own beliefs and doesn't care enough about what is good for the people.

Those against the Matthew Shepard Act say that it could threaten our First Amendment rights. I find this to be untrue.

The Act would merely use the words as proof once the crime has been committed, not prosecute people for expressing their hate against a group of people, even if it is verbal abuse. If the Matthew Shepard Act is threatening to our First Amendment rights then so are the existing hate crime acts. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act punishes criminals based on what they have said about their victims based on sex, race and religion. Why not add gay and transgendered people as well?

If hate driven crimes against people based on race, religion, and sex require specific legal punishment because they cause harm not just to the victim, but to a whole class of people or community, then so should hate driven crimes against gays and transgenders. If we already have laws prohibiting hate crimes, then what is the big deal about adding a few more groups of people?

I urge you to go online and sign the Erase Hate Petition and help show some support for the Matthew Shepard Act and the many who have already been victims of such hate crimes.

Go to: http://www.matthewshepard.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Erase_Hate_Crimes_Erase_Hate_Petition

Seriously!?



The Beacon/Cara Koster

A lonely beer nestled in a tree on the greenway. At least it was, ahem, Keystone Light. Classy.

Have you seen anything around campus that has made you think Seriously!? The Beacon wants your strange pictures. Here is all you have to do.

1 Take a picture of something that makes you think Seriously!? (Please no contrived pictures.)

2 E-mail where and when you took the picture, your name, graduation year and major to thebeacon.oped@gmail.com.

"Be the change you want to see..."

Apathy yields the decline of those chasing 'The American Dream'

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

I think a big part of living life is taking risks. I was asked recently about the difference between television in the US and the UK (where I lived last spring.) Besides the social aspects, I could only think of one distinct difference in the UK: the absence of The American Dream.

I think it is not often enough that one gives credit to such a wonderful thing. The American Dream, essentially, is being able to rise up and do as you will with your life, with the ultimate goal of achieving premium happiness. For some, that is financial wealth. For others, it is fame. Regardless, we are born into a society that allows us to prosper from our own hard work, and not from being born into a high class in a rigid class structure.

Take Alberto Gonzales, for example, who came from a family of migrant workers, and rose to become to Attorney General of the United States. The values his parents instilled in him made him want to succeed,

to prosper. He is living proof that such things aren't impossible.

What got me thinking about this? Well, I think it started the other day on the Staten Island Ferry, heading into Manhattan. My best friend, with whom I've been through everything, had a job interview in the city, and I went with him. I sat thinking of the ride in; thinking about the traffic and remembering the Paul Simon lyric "Counting the cars on the New Jersey turnpike/ they've all come to look for America."

My best friend and I never had much money, but he and I have worked diligently, and both of us made a trip to New York City within that 8 day period because of prospective work. We, along with so many other vagabonds piling into that ferry that day, were chasing The Dream.

I feel like my generation does not pay enough attention to The Dream. There is an overwhelming apathy among my generation, not just with the American Dream, but with every minute factor that ties into it.

I see it in classrooms, when, instead of engaging, students let out subtle grunts at their professors with the hope that they can

B.S. a 3.0.

I see it on College Publisher, when students choose to read primarily about underage drinking, and sidewalk construction, and complain about the topics at hand, but never once write us letters.

I see it with friends and loved ones dropping out of school, and people lacking any direction to move forward in the world. You don't have to have a lot of money to chase The American Dream. You just have to have the will, and minimizing your life goals and accomplishments will lead further down a road of destruction than prosperity.

Don't settle. You've been very fortunate to have been born into a society much of the world sees as classless. It isn't going to always be easy. Failure is easy.

Don't settle for being a TSS worker when you want to be a psychiatrist. Don't settle for writing for a local newspaper when you want to write for a magazine. Don't settle for being a teacher when you really want to be a publisher. Don't allow a newspaper to write something you don't agree with. Challenge it.

So often, I see people, just moving about,

finding activities to fill their lives and the time that they have to waste, because at my age, they did not actively chase the American Dream. Don't have your life reduced to that. Live the life you've imagined, and when there are obstacles, jump over them.

This is America, and while I do not believe it is an invincible country, or even a stable one, I believe our people, if they choose to be, can be nothing short of invincible... And, our government can't stop us from succeeding.

Please, cut out the apathy. Go out, vote, write us letters, apply for that dream job, question authority. I once had a class with a professor who said "Any time some expert or authority figure says something, interrogate it."

Immediately following, a student said "Why?"

Be that student.

We live in the land of opportunity, and it's about time we start exercising ourselves to reach our goals; chase our dreams. I think it's about time we stop letting the American Dream die.

WILKES portal: aggravation outweighs convenience

BY NICOLE FRAIL

Beacon Asst. News Editor

For once in my life, I was ready to start my psychology homework the day it was assigned. Right after class ended at 10:45 last Tuesday, I headed to a computer in Stark and attempted to log on to the MyWilkes portal to get the assignment and print it to take home.

In my first attempt, I couldn't even log in.

"HTTP Status 503 - There are too many simultaneous logins - please wait and try again." I tried this three times (with a minute or so wait in-between) before I finally got to my home page. Relieved, I clicked on My Courses and the name of my psychology course and was greeted with this wonderful gray and red box:

"External System Error.

CPIP Notification: The system 'webct' is responding too slowly, please try again after a short wait."

Waited a minute, tried again. Nothing. Waited three minutes, tried again, still nothing. I even signed out and signed back in (with no trouble, surprisingly) and had to try twice after that

before I was finally able to access the pages for my courses.

What should have been a two minute process ended up taking almost fifteen and I'd be lying if I said I wasn't completely irritated when I was finally able to print my assignment out and leave the lobby.

I understand that it was the start of club hours and probably half of the students at Wilkes ran to a computer to check their

email or get something off of the portal, but shouldn't this 'new and improved' system be able to support that?

It's awesome that everything we need is in one place, but when that single site is down for a certain amount of time, I don't just lose access to my courses. I also can't get into my financial information, my email, my groups, and so on. To be thought of as convenient, the portal first needs to be functional.

If I had been in a hurry or if it was before class and I had forgotten to print out the lecture notes and had to wait almost fifteen minutes to get them, I would've been late for class, the professor would have been annoyed, the class would have been disrupted, and by that time I would have probably smeared the ink on the recently printed pages

while I frantically raced across campus so I wouldn't miss even more class time.

And yes, I know a simple response to this situation would be "Well, you shouldn't forget to print the notes in the first place," but even if I wasn't running late or hadn't forgotten something, the point is still that I should be able to access what I need when I need it.

This isn't the only problem that I (and possibly many others on campus) have run into with the MyWilkes portal. Some students are listed as the wrong major or the wrong year. Some of them don't see some of the classes they are taking on the My Courses page. Some can't even access their email through the portal at 10:00 in the morning. Even some professors have had problems with submitted assignments completely disappearing after only being posted for 24 hours.

As I said earlier, I understand that some of these problems may be encountered during high traffic hours like club hours or lunch time (or 11:55 when some of us are trying to post homework or papers before the midnight deadline). I also understand that it's a brand new system and there are still bugs to be worked out, but the semester is already half over. When will these aggravating technicalities finally be done away with?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with several error messages. The messages are:

- Personal Announcements:** Problems Accessing Outlook Web and WebCT CE6
- Temporarily Links:** Error Report. Channel ID: u111n471. Message: encountered problem while trying to complete rendering. Error type: General error (code 0). Problem type: General error (code 0). Error message: General channel rendering failure.
- What's New in MyWilkes:** Error Report. Channel ID: u111n369. Message: encountered problem while trying to complete rendering. Error type: General error (code 0). Problem type: General error (code 0). Error message: General channel rendering failure.
- President's Corner:** Error Report. Channel ID: u111n446. Message: encountered problem while trying to complete rendering. Error type: General error (code 0). Problem type: General error (code 0). Error message: General channel rendering failure.
- Group Studio Activity Channel:** Error Report. Channel ID: u111n364. Message: encountered problem while trying to complete rendering. Error type: General error (code 0). Problem type: General error (code 0). Error message: General channel rendering failure.
- Bookmarks:** Error Report. Channel ID: u111n63.

The Beacon/Nicole Fraill

When logging into the portal before Fall break, an error page was shown.

Mentoring outside the classroom: faculty key

BY MARK CONGDON JR.

Beacon Opinion Editor

"Wilkes University, wants to become a great institution dedicated to academic excellence through a mentoring culture that engages, challenges, and supports our students in extraordinary ways," wrote President Tim Gilmour in the February 2006 issue of *University Business*.

President Gilmour's vision of Wilkes is partially born out by stories of faculty interactions with students outside of the classroom. More so than in past years, one can observe that many faculty have become increasingly involved with student activities.

For instance, many faculty members turned out for the recent majors fair and casino night. This not only fosters the mentoring atmosphere that Wilkes is known for, but it also helps break down the barriers between professors and students and can make the classroom experience more enjoyable and less timid. Moreover, it shows that faculty care about their students outside of the classroom.

However, it seems that the faculty members who help out with such events are the same faculty regularly help out every year. For example, those who helped out with the majors fair and casino night, and many of the science professors who help out with Adventures in Science, offered in the spring semester, are the same who do it every year with few new faculty members joining in.

It's great that many of the faculty continue to come back and help outside of the classroom, but it would be great to see new faces out there.

This will create a better community atmosphere at Wilkes, and could help foster the mentoring atmosphere that Wilkes is creating.

Additionally, professors will get a better perspective on what their students do outside of the classroom, which could ultimately create a more positive learning environment.

The faculty who continue to go above and beyond to help out with student run events should be applauded, and more should be encouraged to do the same.

Perhaps, to create an incentive to get new faculty involved outside of the classroom, the University could offer some sort of recognition like a certificate of appreciation or Faculty Member of the Month award.

Though Student Government does recognize one faculty and staff member who go above and beyond at the end of the academic year, students need to offer more recognition across the board.

In order to continue to foster a mentoring environment that distinguishes Wilkes, more faculty should get involved with their students outside of the classroom, not just the same third who regularly go above and beyond. This can happen in both formal and informal ways. Sit down and have a cup of coffee with students between classes, attend a recital or play in support of the students on stage, help plan a diversity event, or work with a team of students on a research project.

By offering more recognition to faculty and staff for student involvement outside of the classroom, Gilmour's vision could become even more of a reality.

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.

Importance of international study grows amidst global changes

Study abroad informational seminar offered this week

BY CHRISTINE ZAVASKAS
Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

The Wilkes University Mission states that the goal of the university is "To educate our students for life-long learning and success in a constantly evolving and multicultural world..."

One way the University works to meet the objective of teaching students about the "multicultural world" is by bringing many international students to the University. However, as Dr. Paola Bianco, Associate Professor and Study Abroad Coordinator, notes "Diversity does not only come by having minorities at the university...diversity also comes when we leave our comfort-zone for once and go abroad and learn about ourselves..."

Currently, Bianco estimates that about 15-18 students from Wilkes take courses abroad every year, most of them participating in programs that take place over the summer. This number has increased from between two and four students five years ago.

"We should definitely have much more," said Bianco.

Those who are familiar with study abroad think there are several different reasons why only a few students take advantage of this experience. Nicholas Testa, a senior psychology major who spent four months last semester learning Italian in Rome, Italy, believes that some students may



Nicholas Testa lived three miles away from the Colosseum during his study abroad experience in Rome, Italy.

overestimate the difficulty of the process or be scared of traveling to another country alone.

However, Elisa Phillips has a different opinion. Phillips is a senior English and secondary education major, who studied and traveled in New Zealand for six months last February through August. She noted that "the word needs to get out more" about the study abroad program in order to encourage more students to take part.

Paul Trovato, a senior business major who spent five months at a university in New Castle, Australia, agrees with her.

Testa mentioned, though, "There are displays and there are signs. Wilkes actually does a really good job. Those things caught my eye, and I realized that Wilkes does support this, that they will help you do it and that made my decision a lot clearer."

Bianco feels that with the current war in Iraq, some students are afraid of how Americans are

perceived, but she believes that for the most part Europe is very safe. She also said, "Most of them [students] never left the area. They want to do their four years, graduate, and get a job in the area and work here. So the idea of going away, I think it scares them."

Concerns about having too many responsibilities and not enough financial resources are why Dr. Maria Suarez, Special Assistant to the President

for Diversity and Community

Affairs, thinks that only a few students go abroad. However, Suarez believes that having "international experiences" like taking courses in another country is more important now than ever before.

"In almost every field, you will be looking at international conversation...if you want to be competitive in the work force, I think it's really important..." Suarez also noted that some universities are even beginning a movement towards making it a requirement for graduation.

Phillips had a suggestion for how to encourage more students to take advantage of the study abroad experience, "...invest in programs, so that it's easier for kids who are looking to do it, because you have to get special permission when you go through a program that's not connected with our school..."

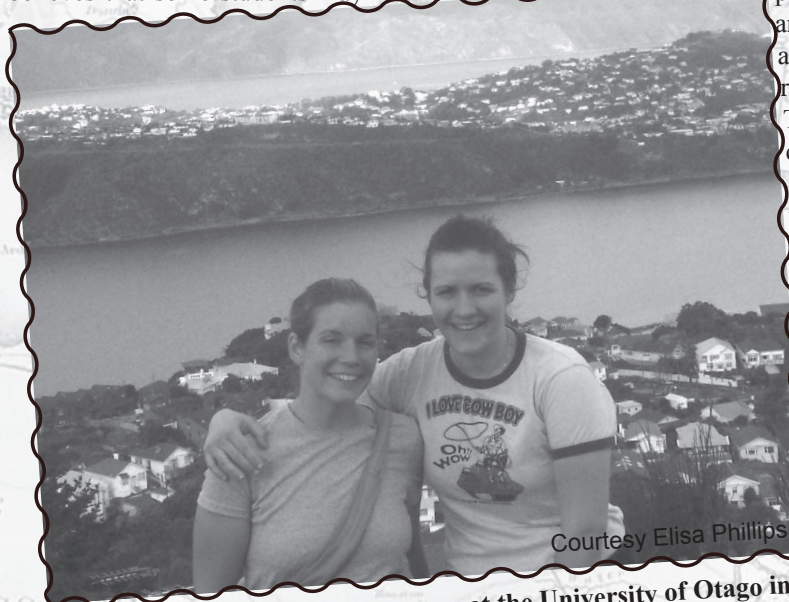
In terms of specific programs that the

University offers to students who want to go abroad, Bianco says, "Wilkes really doesn't have much..." The main programs are in Spain and Latin America which primarily focus on Spanish language courses. However, the Study Abroad Office does help students who find their own programs not affiliated with Wilkes to arrange their trips.

"The process wasn't that hard, if you find a program, that's the biggest struggle, finding a program and deciding where you want to go," says Testa.

Despite apprehensions or difficulties that they may have had at first, Testa, Phillips, and Trovato all feel that studying abroad offered them an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be immersed in another culture. "There is no other time in your life that you can spend five months away from your family, friends, everything, be in another country...and it makes you grow up, it makes you mature...it's one of the most incredible things I've ever done," says Trovato.

Those who are interested in studying abroad should attend the Study Abroad Informational Seminar, an open house which will be



Courtesy Elisa Phillips

Elisa Phillips (right) took three courses at the University of Otago in New Zealand. This picture overlooks Wellington Harbor.



Paul Trovato spent five months studying and traveling in Australia.

Courtesy Paul Trovato

held this Thursday, October 25 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Fenner Hall. The programs that Wilkes University offers will be discussed along with financial aid and credit transfer. Students who have studied abroad will also be present.

Students' weekend plans bolstered by free or cheap tickets

BY YOHANNA DE LOS SANTOS MARIA
Beacon Correspondent

Wilkes University gives its student body the opportunity to get involved in social activities to have fun, gain cultural experience, develop leadership skills or to build on academic strengths. Most would assume that movies, the Wilkes-Barre Little Theater, major speakers, or even Broadway tickets would put a major strain on students' wallets. However, thanks to careful management, planning and promotion most of these opportunities are offered to Wilkes students at a significantly reduced cost.

"Discount tickets are something that we are giving back to the students from the activity fees they pay as part of their costs at Wilkes," said Margy Sromovski, Office Coordinator for Student Development.

Some of the activities students can participate in at a reduced cost range from movie tickets to trips to NY Yankees games, Hershey Park, bus tickets to New York City, Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens, miniature golf, and horseback riding to name just a few.

The University follows a process to be able to purchase these tickets, "A student committee of around 10 students gives us suggestions on what they think is an attraction to the students and at that point we explore the possibilities," said Philip Ruthkosky, Director of Student Development. Later, they go to the places where they purchase the tickets

at full price or group rates.

Thanks to student activities fees, the university can provide some tickets for free and others at reduced rates.

Cheap tickets are given publicity around the University through pamphlets, the dry erase board, and the scroll located at the Henry Student Center.

James Crenshaw and Jarod Marino, who both work at the information desk on the first floor of the Henry Student Center, said that different people go there every day to ask or to take advantage of the affordable tickets.

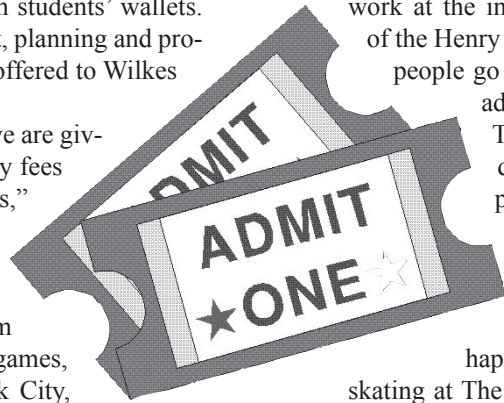
These tickets are offered to the students at a discount price or at no price at all. The most in demand tickets are to Movies 14.

"After half a day there are no more tickets," said Ruthkosky. The tickets that are per-

haps second in popularity are for ice

skating at The Ice Box, and bowling at Stanton Lanes, "To take advantage of these tickets students have to plan what they are going to do within the week," explained Sromovski, because tickets are limited in quantity.

These tickets are a great chance of having new experiences and a way of taking advantage of opportunities that many haven't be able to take advantage of before. The tickets can be obtained at the Student Development Office on the first floor of the Henry Student Center.



Tickets still available for events this semester are:

- Movies 14 ticket- \$3.00 (1 per week)
- Bowling at Stanton Lanes- Free
- Ice Skating at The Ice box- Free
- New York City Show "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", and dinner at Carmines Restaurant, Dec 2- \$25.00 (Tickets available by lottery)
- Little Theater of Wilkes-Barre "The Diary of Anne Frank" November 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 - Free
- F.M Kirby Center "An evening with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood from Whose Line Is It Anyway" Oct. 26- \$5.00



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Monday
Dozen clams/ wings for \$4.99
\$1.50 Miller Lite cans

Tuesday (College Night)
\$1 Yuengling Lager Drafts
\$3.95 Bar Pizza

Wednesday (Mexican Night)
\$1 off Coronas & Corona Lights
½ Off Mexican Apps
5 p.m. – 9p.m.

Thursday
Dozen clams for \$4.99
Featured Beer Night

Friday
Martini specials

"After Work" Happy Hour
Monday – Friday 5 – 7 p.m.
\$ 1.00 off all Mixers & Import Drafts
\$1.50 Domestic Drafts

"The Office" and its stars come home to Scranton

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA

Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

Fans of NBC's hit sitcom "The Office" may feel like they know the characters after watching them on the small screen each week. But this weekend, the show's diehards will have the opportunity to actually meet the show's stars face-to-face during a three-day extravaganza.

The city of Scranton will host the first "Office" convention Friday, October 26 to Sunday, October 28. During the convention, fans will come together to celebrate all things "The Office," through meet and greet events, question and answer sessions, and cocktail parties and receptions with the stars.

"Having the cast of a hit TV show in its heyday come to the town where it's filmed never happens," said Gene Padden, the commission organizer and entertainment chairperson of the convention. "It's unprecedented."

Now in its fourth season, "The Office" has earned critical acclaim, a wide fan base, and a spot in NBC's must-see Thursday night lineup. The half-hour sitcom follows the exploits, hang-ups, and neuroses of various office workers at the fictional Dunder Mifflin paper supply company in Scranton, Pa. It stars Steve Carell, Rainn Wilson, Josh Krasinski, and Jenna Fischer.

Tickets for the convention, which are available online at www.theofficeconvention.com, range from the \$25 to \$250. The \$25 "Intern" tickets include week-long access to the convention activities as well as one limited-admission cast appearance. Many of the higher-priced tickets, including the \$250 "Corporate" tickets, have already sold out.

Despite the tickets' popularity, Padden assures that there will still be tickets available in the lower price ranges the week before the convention.

"We've been selling tickets literally world-wide," said Padden. "The first hour we put tickets on sale, we made \$55,000 in sales."

Fans have purchased tickets from as far away as Ireland, Australia, and England, where there is a popular British version of the sitcom. Padden noted that they have sold more tickets out of state than locally.

The convention will kick off at 7.00 a.m.

Friday, October 26 with Al Roker broadcasting live from the University of Scranton for "The Today Show." That night, the university will also host a student block party.

Kayla Betacchini, a junior communications major at the University of Scranton, will be performing on "The Today Show" with a campus dance group called Urban Beats.

"We just found out about it last week, and everyone's really excited about it," she said. "We're not sure how much airtime we'll get, but we know it'll be fun."

A street festival will be held in downtown Scranton on October 27 and 28, with open admission. It will feature food, live music played on open-air stages, and vendors selling Scranton and Dunder Mifflin merchandise.

"Estimates for parade day are about 100,000 people in Scranton," said Padden.

"For this convention, we estimate a similar number of people in the downtown. The police department is preparing for at least 50,000."

Limited-admission events include question and answers sessions with the cast, a character look-alike contest, a VIP cocktail reception, and a discussion with the writers of the hit comedy.

Because of the great interest in many of these events by college-age students, Padden says that administrators changed some of the regulations to make them more age-friendly. Cocktail parties that were once limited to those 21 or older are now accessible to those of all ages. A wristband will be worn by those under 21.

The convention has re-

ceived attention throughout the country, thrusting Scranton into the national spotlight. Articles on it have appeared in

The New York Times and The Washington Post, and Steve Carell has mentioned it in national interviews.

"This convention should do nothing but better people's perceptions of Scranton," said Padden. "Scranton will be ready for it."

Betacchini, who is a fan of "The Office" believes that the crowds will get a more truthful view of Scranton by actually experiencing the city.

"I think seeing it will change how people feel about the area," she said. "I hope they see that people from Scranton aren't neces-

CONFIRMED CAST APPEARANCES

- Leslie David Baker (Stanley)
- Andy Buckley (David Wallace from Corporate)
- Brian Baumgartner (Kevin)
- Creed Bratton (Creed)
- Kate Flannery (Meredith)
- Melora Hardin (Jan)
- Mindy Kaling (Kelly)
- Angela Kinsey (Angela)
- Paul Lieberstein (Toby)
- Oscar Nunez (Oscar)
- Craig Robinson (Darryl from the warehouse)
- Bobby Ray Shafer (Bob Vance - Vance Refrigeration)
- Phyllis Smith (Phyllis)

sarily as crazy as they seem on show."

Padden also says that places mentioned in "The Office" are likely to be packed the whole weekend by fans wanting to rub shoulders with the stars.

"Cast members are saying they can't wait to go to Poor Richard's or Cooper's," he said. "I don't think you'll be able to get a seat in Poor Richard's all night."

Up-to-date information regarding tickets for the convention, a full list of confirmed stars who will be in attendance, and a listing of events and times are available at its official website, www.theofficeconvention.com.

All photos The Beacon/Christa Sgobba



They were on "The Office," but are they really in Scranton?



YES

701 N. Washington Ave.



NO

The Hooter's franchise hasn't made it to Scranton



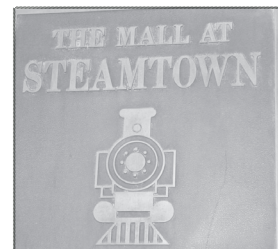
YES

McCarthy Flowered Cabs
132 Cedar Ave.



NO

There are no passenger trains in Scranton



YES

300 Lackawanna Ave.

Local skateboarders demonstrate tenacity in fight for skate park

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon A&E Editor

In some areas, skateboarders stay off the streets and can hone their skills at a skate park, but in Wilkes-Barre and its surrounding areas, skaters are left crafting makeshift ramps in abandoned lots and dodging the cops as they make use of the area's signs, walls, and rails.

"We were kicked out and cops would tell us to quit skateboarding and do more productive things with our lives....The thing is in Wilkes-Barre, they kind of just do it for themselves. It's a whole different scene. We made something out of absolutely nothing," explained skater Jon Borthwick.

The local skate scene is a unique one, because while it is seriously lacking in resources, there's absolutely no stopping the determined. With the majority of the skaters there's no focus on fame or money, and it's all simply centered around a love for skateboarding.

Borthwick explained, "Wilkes-Barre became this breeding ground for kids skating amazing. I lived in Philadelphia and Colorado, and I see that the kids in Wilkes-Barre are on some other level. Everyone out in Colorado, if there's a kid really pushing himself, it's because he wants to go pro. The thing is in Wilkes-Barre, they kind of just do it for themselves."

There are a lot of positive aspects to the NEPA skating scene, but conventional thinking among local residents presumes that the young people are "bad news" or "up to no good."

This is where the NESC (North East Skate Crew) comes in; to bridge the gap and show the public some of the more positive aspects of the skating community.

The actual name of the group came about around 1996, brought on by a constant war between the football players and skateboarders in a Dallas middle school. One person came up with the idea to get a group of kids together to defend against the football players, and they thought of the North East Skate Crew. For a while it was just a title used among a few friends.

Years later, local skater, Kevin Pizzano, was trying to come up with a name to unite all of the skaters in the area. The name NESC was known among a few people, mostly as a joke, but it just seemed to fit. As Borthwick put it, it was a name used mainly among "just a little group of kids that turned into like, the spirit of skateboarding in NEPA."

Since its inception, Pizzano has had a key role in the NESC. He got different groups of skaters to come together and together they were able to initiate certain projects. Along with the NESC he recently started the NEPA Free Skate park Association, who are working towards the goal of getting a free, public skate park in the area. He and Borthwick have also worked with members of the NESC to release numerous skate videos over the years.

The videos demonstrated what each new skating generation had to offer. Each video featured separate sections for different local skaters showcasing their talents. A new video came out annually for a few years, with the exception of this past year. However, currently the NESC has a larger project in the works. Borthwick has relocated to Colorado, but he is still working with the NESC to create a new film, starting back at the group's inception, and documenting their progression up to the current time.

Although the video will offer a bit of the history of the group, there will be "not too much talking, mostly letting the skating talk for itself," explained Borthwick. The video will obviously receive most appreciation from skateboarders, but it will continue to focus specifically on the local scene, and can be appreciated by those who grew up in the area, and who may have heard of the NESC. Although the movie will most likely remain in the works for about another year, a promo for it should be available by the end of November. The movie itself is slated to come out somewhere around the end of 2008, and besides sharing information and history about the NESC, the film will also be used to raise money for the skate park.

While the documentary is one large project the NESC has in the works, the group is continuing to put forth every effort possible to improve the local skating community. Pizzano and other members of the NEPA Free Skatepark Association have been in a constant struggle to get the city to help them build their skate park. Members have been talking to commissioners, and media outlets, and attending city council meetings, all in the hopes of getting people to take notice. Pizzano explained that "We need them to want to go for this. They say they're for it, but they aren't doing anything to make the city to help us out to get a park. We're not going to give up."

Lack of support and resources hasn't discouraged the local skateboarders in the past, because as they've proven, they'll find their own way to get things done. Before the release of the documentary Pizzano also has a music compilation, an art show, and a film festival in the works. He, Borthwick and the NESC are proving through their films, fundraising efforts, and general dedication that while they may currently lack city support and proper practice space, they'll still find a way to progress. "If you grew up skating here you'd understand how hard it was to keep it going," says Borthwick. But they did.



Local haunted houses offer affordable scare

BY ALISSA LINDNER

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

With Halloween approaching, students might be looking to add a good scare to their weekend activities.

Northeastern Pennsylvania offers several haunted house experiences designed to send even the most stoic off to the corner whimpering. But with many options, college students on a tight budget rarely have the option to 'shop around' for the right thrill. In addition, as the semester's academic pressures mount, who has time to explore the area looking for the excitement of the area's best haunted house?

Two popular local haunted houses are Night Terrors in West Pittston and Horror Hall in Nanticoke. I visited both to compare how each meets the overall goal of a haunted house: to scare the people brave enough to enter.

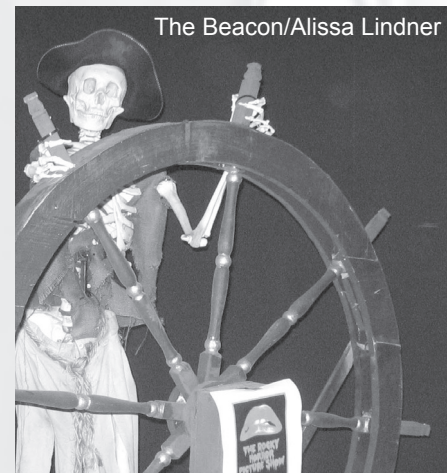
Night Terrors

Night Terrors, like most local haunted houses, is open every Friday, and Saturday from 6:00-11:00 p.m. and Sunday from 6:00-10:00 p.m. throughout October. The Night Terrors website attracted me, claiming that "Thrills, chills, screams, and amazement are waiting within the dark halls of 'Night Terrors' thanks to three full-time professionally-credited designers on staff, and just the right blend of computer control and live action."

I visited Night Terrors on a Sunday evening with a few friends. Tickets for Night Terrors were \$10.00, which makes this haunted house an affordable option for college students in search of some fun.

When first entering the building, thrill seekers are greeted by a skeleton figure pointing upstairs to where tickets can be purchased. The staircase that follows is actually quite creative. A black light illuminates the staircase which is painted to create a "spooky" effect.

The lobby featured various haunted figurines including a headless horseman and another skeleton. My friends and I were led to an auditorium, where we were seated to wait for the haunted experience to begin. The room was dark, but everyone inside was talking about the impending adventure. One girl even apologized in advance to those around her because she shrieks loudly and is scared easily.



The Beacon/Alissa Lindner
The scare starts immediately at Horror Hall with haunted figurines in the lobby.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, October 23

- "The Language of Comics" exhibition begins in the Sordoni Art Gallery
- Will's Power: Conquering Mountains, Reaching Poles and Managing Diabetes at the F.M. Kirby Center at 6 p.m.
- Dr. J. Michael Lennon book signing at Barnes and Noble at 6 p.m.
- McGlynn Halloween Party in the SUB ballroom at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 24

- Billy Rogan performing at Barnes and Noble at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 25

- Mindy Davis Sterling Silver Jewelry in the Roth Concourse from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 2nd Annual Internship Fair in the Henry Student Center Ballroom from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Open Mic Night at Tudor Bookshop at 7 p.m.

Friday, October 26

- Senior Theater Capstone (Jared Roberts): "Fading Joy...A Night of Absurdist Theatre" in the DDD blackbox at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Punk show with bands TBA at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- "Power of Truth", lecture and book signing in SLC 101 at 7:30 p.m.

- Held at Gunpoint, The Naked Faces and TBA performing at Café Metropolis at 8 p.m.

- "An Evening with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood" at the F.M. Kirby Center at 8 p.m.

- Picture Perfect performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Saturday, October 27

- Mystical Night (Tarot readings, hypnosis, reiki) at Arts Youniverse at 7 p.m.
- Disco Biscuits performing at the F.M. Kirby Center at 8 p.m.
- Halloween Show featuring Tgier's Jaw (as Blink 182), Dinosaurs (as Led Zeppelin), and Dirt Vultures (as CCR) at Café Metropolis at 8 p.m.
- Picture Perfect performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Sunday, October 28

- 1st Annual Black Tie Affair featuring Captain We're Sinking, Last Words, Dinosaurs and BTA at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- Ghost Chasers event in the SUB Ballroom at 7 p.m.
- Monday, October 29

After waiting about fifteen minutes, a movie began to play on the big screen in front of us. We were greeted by a Madame-like lady. She explained the rules: no lights, no cell phones and no smoking. The Madame also gives us the most important advice: follow the moon on our self-guided tour.

Each group consisted of about seven or eight people. As we first entered, we were greeted by another woman, who informed us of the dangers of continuing on. Not everyone comes out alive, she warned, but we all decided to continue on and take our chances anyway.

Walking through Night Terrors offered equal amounts of mechanical scares as well as live action. The live action was definitely the source of several screams within my group. The people were not afraid to get in your face to make sure you were the one scared. Without spoiling the experience, the middle offered a clever surprise which will definitely give thrill seekers the fright they are in search of.

For the best scare, I recommend being in either the front of the group or the back. In the front, people jump at you first offering the best scare. In the back, you never know if you are being followed... and you will be followed.

Although a slightly disappointing ending, Night Terrors lived up to its website description. This haunted experience gave me chills and left me checking my back for someone following me.

Horror Hall

Similar to Night Terrors, Horror Hall is open every Friday and Saturday and every Sunday. Located in Nanticoke, Horror Hall is a little more of a drive but their website drew me in claiming, "Horror Hall is Northeast Pennsylvania's biggest and best all indoor haunted attraction with approximately a ¼ mile walk-through that will take you 20 hair raising minutes to complete."

On the Friday evening when I visited Horror Hall with my friend, the place was surprisingly busy. After buying my ticket for \$12.00, everyone waited in a line in a lobby much less scary than Night Terrors. With the exception of a hunchback walking around, the only scary items were spiders and skeletons hanging from the ceiling. Like Night Terrors, Horror Hall also offered a small concession stand to satisfy pre-scare cravings.

After waiting about fifteen minutes, we were guided into an auditorium where Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video was playing extremely loudly. Upon the completion of the video, we were greeted with a bang of light and a vampire appeared, ready to inform us of our impending journey. Like the Madame from Night Terrors, the vampire informed us of the rules and to follow our tour guide throughout the attraction.

Small groups of seven or eight were brought in to begin the haunted experience. Each group was encouraged to get their picture taken, which could be purchased at the end of haunted house for \$10.00.

Our tour guide was not particularly enthusiastic about the journey, often barking orders at us to "Watch your step!" or "Don't jump!" as we crossed a makeshift bridge.

Horror Hall offered mostly mechanical scares, with the live action not beginning until the end of the tour. For me this was a downside because the in your face action is what scares me the most.

The end of Horror Hall did outshine the end of Night Terrors. Although I was not checking my back when I left, I definitely got the good scare I came in search of. Night Terrors did not live up to the "20 hair raising minutes" the website claimed, possibly five minutes would have been more accurate.

Overall, both haunted houses offered a thrilling experience. I also learned a few things while traveling through the dark hallways: always go with a friend you can hold onto when someone gets in your face, and second, I am deathly afraid of chainsaws.

Winner: Night Terrors

CD Review: Siouxsie's *MantaRay*

BY MATT GOGAS

Beacon Staff Writer

After a formidable career as the voice and face of Siouxsie and the Banshees, Siouxsie released a solo effort, *MantaRay*, this October in the United States.

She is better known for her success in the mid 70's with Siouxsie and the Banshees and her side project in the 80's called Creatures. At the age of 50, Siouxsie Sioux shows that she has not lost a step with *MantaRay*. The album shows amazing solo potential and some relevance to a current generation that may not be inclined to listen to the punk rock ramblings of a more than middle aged woman.

The positive aspect of such an artist releasing a solo album like this in the twilight of her career is that surely she has by now perfected her musical craft. This holds true with *MantaRay*.

The album opens with the beating heart single "Into a Swan." The periodically off-key distorted guitar is reminiscent of her earlier work, but lyrically the song shows a sense of maturity. She illustrates that she has finally come into her own as a solo artist with lyrics like "I feel a force I've never felt before."

The second song, "About to Happen," picks up the pace somewhat from "Into a Swan." This song catches the listener's attention with a catchy beat, a sexy attitude,

and a steady even flow from start to finish. The music itself smacks of her punk rock roots, but it also quite pop-like, which is a change from her earlier days. The combination of the two blends flawlessly. The same holds true with the third song on the album, "Here Comes That Day." The song is sexy, catchy, and relevant.

With all the pros of this work, there are of course, the cons. *MantaRay* starts to lose steam towards the middle. Songs like "One Mile Below" and "Drone Zone" carry on for what seem to be an eternity with very little progression, even though both are just over three minutes. It seems as though they were put on the album to fill empty space. These few songs in the middle hold almost no significance to the continuity of the album. They lack the pop-like guitar riffs that are so prevalent towards the beginning of the album. This clustering in the middle makes the album flow a little less evenly. It does, however, begin to pick up again towards the end with "They Follow You" and ends on a solid note with "Heaven and Alchemy."

All in all, Siouxsie has done well with *MantaRay*. It has everything someone who enjoys rock and roll could want: a chick singer, good beats, and a few droning, emotionally heavy songs to show musical range. I would recommend giving it a listen.

Grade: B-



Photo courtesy www.nnpromotions.co.uk

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BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

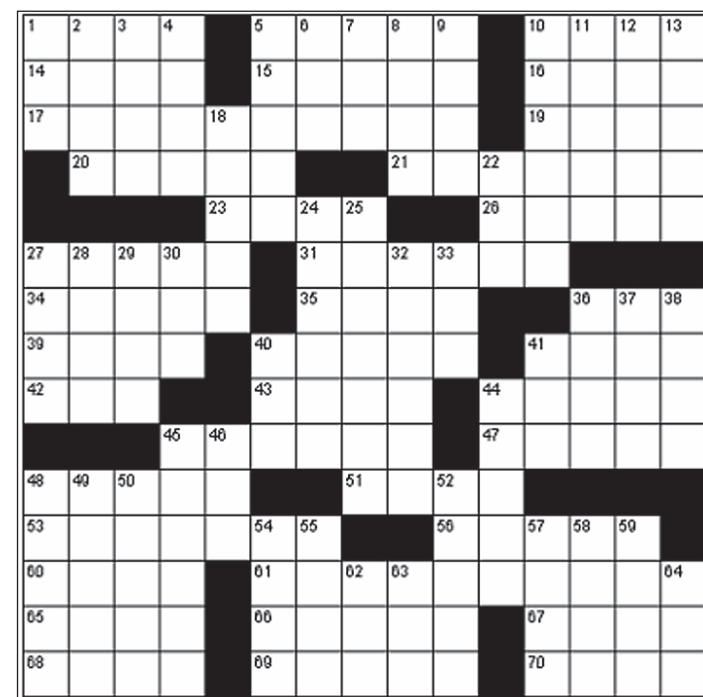
Beacon Staff Writer

ACROSS

- 1 Constellation part
- 5 British politician “Isaac _____”
- 10 Profound
- 14 Columbus is its capital
- 15 Stomach ailment
- 16 Italian volcano
- 17 Island spirit?
- 19 AIM activity
- 20 Go off course
- 21 Emu kin
- 23 Inviting letters
- 26 Religious bodies
- 27 Birdwatcher shelter
- 31 Old world
- 34 Emanations
- 35 Mouthpiece of wind instrument
- 36 Wife changed into a pillar of salt
- 39 “Cream of the _____”
- 40 Stroll
- 41 Barely adequate
- 42 Chick’s mom
- 43 Mound
- 44 Poe’s bird
- 45 Flip a switch?
- 47 Have being
- 48 Bullwinkle foe
- 51 Bachelor
- 53 Ape
- 56 Starbucks offering
- 60 Skin ailment
- 61 Insubordinate
- 65 “My country ‘tis of _____”

DOWN

- 1 Make very happy
- 67 Skin opening
- 68 John McClane nemesis
- 69 Composition
- 70 TV interference
- 1 Soak up
- 2 That’s alternative
- 3 English teacher’s no-no
- 4 Lion’s sound
- 5 Flotation devices
- 6 “_____ Souls’ Day”
- 7 Sony competitor
- 8 Make changes
- 9 Historical periods
- 10 Proclamation
- 11 Behavior principle
- 12 Make into law
- 13 Trails
- 18 Poker necessity
- 22 Cooking abbr.
- 24 Rats, for example
- 25 New Mexico Native Americans
- 27 Brandenburg Concerti composer
- 28 Fishing tackle
- 29 Fe
- 30 Doze off
- 32 Become less severe
- 33 Beethoven’s “_____ to joy”
- 36 Jean type
- 37 Useful metals
- 38 Camping abode
- 40 IRS abbr.
- 41 Mel Gibson role
- 44 Dignified
- 45 Church offerings
- 46 Canada neighbor
- 48 Baby premiere



- 49 Large Nebraska city
- 50 Got up
- 52 Narrow street
- 54 Poplar, for example
- 55 Electric swimmers
- 57 Hints
- 58 Roger Rabbit, for one
- 59 France currency
- 62 Undergrad degrees
- 63 Travelers abbreviation
- 64 Tailor



MyFreeImplants.com

BY ANDEE SCARANTINO

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

Does size matter? No, seriously, does it?

It seems that as Americans, we have this preoccupation with size. We like big houses, big cars, big credit card limits, big breasts...

How far would you go for a new set of breasts? You know, the kind that don’t droop, but rather just sit, firm and upright? Would you post pictures of yourself on the internet? Would you solicit men to give you money toward breast implants? Would you post naughty pictures that men would have to pay to see? Would you flirt shamelessly?

Well, I’ve got some spectacular news for you. You can do all of these things and get free breast implants in return at MyFreeImplants.com.

Here’s how it works. These women sign up for the site, and post pictures, blurbs, etc. about themselves. Then, gents who sign up can buy credit to speak with any particular woman. Basically, it’s like having head-sex with these women; men paying to get their rocks off while women get money toward free fake breasts.

The site works with various cosmetic surgeons that per-

form breast augmentation for “free,” pending the client acquiring the necessary funds from interested males.

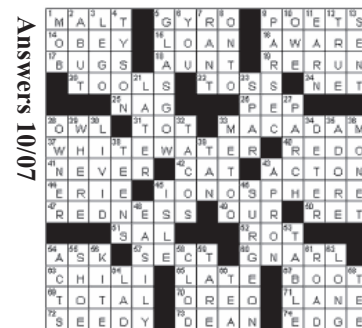
What the heck is this? Honestly. I looked at the site, and apparently it has some rave reviews from various media outlets and personalities. But, it’s crap.

This site does nothing more than give women a false sense of what is beautiful. We’re shifting more and more toward a culture where we have to look and act like cookie-cutter people. That’s simply not right.

Needless to say, there are so many human beings in this country who are homeless, starving, or both. Heck, taking it to a smaller level, I have three dollars in my bank account. Nobody is going to donate to a site to help me pay that 5 figure debt I have in student loans, but if I wanted saline shoved into my chest, all I’d have to do is hit on randy men and solicit for donations.

You know, I don’t know where I fit when it comes to selflessness, but I think this site is just disgraceful. Just the idea that strange men are so passionate about getting women a free set of boobs says something to me about this culture I live in.

I give this site a “D” cup for “Disgraceful!”



Answers 10/07

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Field hockey team shooting to score in post-season

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

At the end of every field hockey season, she's always cleaning out her locker early because another conference team stole her postseason dreams.

Facing a similar scenario this season as she did in her previous three as a Lady Colonel, senior Lindsay Thomas refuses to miss another bus ride headed to the Freedom Conference playoffs.

"What's running through my mind is these are the last games of my career," said Thomas as she gracefully pedaled on one of the bicycle machines after watching game film with the team on Friday. She plans to make them count.

After the Lady Colonels posted a 4-2 victory over Arcadia University on Saturday, Thomas is a few steps closer to punching in her first ticket to the Freedom conference playoffs.

All fans could hear in the first half were a bunch of players in maroon and black jackets screaming on Arcadia's sideline. The Lady Knights entered the game 5-11 overall, 0-4 in the conference and were excited to be winning two goals to one on the road. For the Lady Colonels, it was all silence. A loss to Arcadia would have put the Lady Colonels on a four-game losing streak.

Head coach Sara Myers stressed the team's inability to capitalize on golden opportuni-

ties in practice last week. "We need to put the ball in the cage," said Myers. "We have been really stressing scoring in the past few practices. We are dominating games but not getting the outcomes we want."

If anyone listened in practice, it was certainly junior Diana Wright.

With less than 30 seconds left in the first half against Arcadia, junior Diana Wright scored her second goal for the Lady Colonels to tie the game at two off an assist from sophomore Amanda Tilley.

The Lady Colonels came out firing in the second half by attempting 15 shots on goals. That would be the team's second-highest number of attempts in a half all season. The Lady Colonels scored on two of those attempted goals while holding Arcadia scoreless in the second half. Sophomore goalkeeper Julia Smith had four saves of the day as the Lady Colonels moved to 2-2 in the conference, 7-9 overall.

Wright fired in three of the Lady Colonels four goals leaving her with a total of seven goals on the season. On Saturday, all of Wright's three points were off assists from Tilley who entered the game with only one assist on the season. Junior Alyssa Koncelik accounted for the Lady Colonels final goal of the game off a pass from Wright.

The Lady Colonels are currently in fourth in the conference with two games remaining against third-place DeSales and fifth-place Delaware Valley. The Lady Colonels

face both teams this week. King's College leads the conference, while FDU sits in the second spot.

Since the top four teams are selected to compete in the Freedom conference playoffs, the Lady Colonels are in position to make it. If the team wins out this week, the highest they can potentially be seeded is third.

Next week will determine what teams will

be dancing into the postseason and the Lady Colonels believe they have all the moves to get there.

"After playing King's (two weeks ago), we are definitely the team to beat," said Thomas.

"It would be an amazing feeling especially my senior year to go into the playoffs. We have the potential, we just have to execute on it."



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Lindsay Thomas, seen here in a picture from the 2005 season, has started every game this season, and has contributed to the team with 1 goal and 3 assists. The Lady Colonels are 2-2-0 in conference play and 7-9-0 overall.

Preview of the Week: Football readies for Mayor's cup-clash

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Staff Writer

While the Wilkes University football team has fallen from the top of the Middle Atlantic Conference standings, their 2-5 overall record has done little to dampen the enthusiasm surrounding the upcoming Mayor's Cup clash between the Colonels and the Monarchs of nearby King's College.

The two MAC teams have met each season since King's reinstated varsity football in 1993, with Wilkes holding an 11-3 lead in the series during that time span. The teams battle for the right to host the Mayor's Cup—a silver trophy presented to the winning squad by the mayor of Wilkes-Barre. Both teams traditionally gather at midfield as a sign of respect for each other's programs, while the victors take possession of the cup for another season.

"It's a great rivalry game, enhanced a great deal by the closeness of the schools" Wilkes head coach Frank Sheptock said

recently regarding the upcoming clash. "I think the respect that the coaching staffs have for both programs has spread to the point where the players on each side have a great deal of respect for the opposing team."

While King's comes in with an 0-7 record and having suffered several key injuries, it may have found some young leaders in freshmen quarterbacks John Cuiffo and Blaine Fox. Both signal-callers have seen action in recent games with senior starter Jeff Searfass out with an injury. The Monarchs have also gotten a boost with the return of a big, fast target to their lineup in junior receiver Bob Cirko. The offense will be tested against a Colonels defense that is led by linebacker Kyle Follweiler, who brings 98 total tackles into the contest.

When the Colonels have the ball, they will need to be keenly aware of King's standout linebacker Tore Alaimo. The 6'0", 240-pound senior has been a force for the Monarchs after missing all of last season with an injury. Alaimo is a veteran leader for a King's defensive unit that has adjusted

to seeing young players and new faces in many spots on the field this year. His presence and abilities will present a major test for the young and developing running backs and offensive line of the Wilkes offense.

While other games in the series have had more suspense and greater conference implications, the 2007 Mayor's Cup clash promises to be another memorable chapter in this heated rivalry. Kickoff is set for 1:30 this Saturday at Betzler Fields in Wilkes-Barre.

Previous Mayor's Cup

2006:
Wilkes - 28
Kings - 7

2005:
Wilkes - 36
Kings - 13

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Football stumbles in MAC chase with loss

BY GERARD HETMAN
Beacon Staff Writer

After getting out to a hot start with a 2-0 record in MAC play this season, the Wilkes University Colonels football team has seen their quest for second straight conference title cool off in the past two weeks.

Albright quarterback Tanner Kelly threw for 352 yards and four touchdowns--including three to receiver Steven Asay--as the Lions posted a 35-25 win over Wilkes at Ralston Field on Saturday. With the loss, Wilkes sees its league record fall to 2-2. That puts the Colonels two games behind the conference leaders in the MAC, with just three games remaining.

"We know these tough times will pass, because we've got a great group of kids here," Wilkes head football coach Frank Sheptock said following the Albright loss. "But right now, we're in a bit of a learning curve. We always have great

expectations here at Wilkes, and we will certainly rebound from this situation."

The Colonels entered the game minus a number of key players, as 26 players on the roster were suspended for the contest as a result of an unspecified violation of team rules. The list of players included starting quarterback Al Karaffa, many of the team's top defensive backs and several of the Colonels' most productive return men on special teams.

While neither team scored in the first quarter, the two teams exploded for five touchdowns in a productive and exciting second stanza. Kelly would throw for three Albright touchdowns, while Wilkes would get rushing scores from tailback Alex Pearson and Quarterback Johnathan Stroup to stay in the fight.

The game would swing early in the third quarter, as Albright scored two touchdowns just minutes apart. Following a Wilkes fumble, Kelly threw a 29-yard touchdown strike to Asay on the Lions first play from scrimmage.

On the Colonels' next possession, Matt Christ would pick off a third down pass from Stroup and take the ball back untouched for a touchdown. The ensuing PAT pushed the Albright lead to 35-13, and despite fourth-quarter touchdowns from Sean Madden and Rocky D'Aconti, Wilkes was unable to recover.

Sophomore Rob Johnson took over at quarterback on the next possession, and completed 11 of 18 passes for 103 yards with a touchdown and interception over the remainder of the game. Pearson was the leading rusher for Wilkes with 155 yards on 33 carries, with Jason Prushinski catching four passes for 90 yards. Kyle Follweiler led the defensive effort for the Colonels with 11 total tackles.



Todd Weibel/Beacon Archives

Wilkes Senior Linebacker Kyle Follweiler is leading the defense in tackles with 67 solo tackles in 7 games played.

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Mozzarella Sticks (5)

Mini Tacos (12)

Mini Potato Pancakes (12)

Jalapeno Poppers (6)

French Fries

Cheese Fries

Onion Rings

Chicken Nuggets (8)

Garlic Bread

SALADS

Tossed w/ Croutons Antipasto

Tossed w/ Tuna Caesar

Pasta w/ Cheese Greek

Crispy Salad Chef Salad

Chicken Caesar Salad

SOUPS

Served with Crackers

Large Small

12" SUBS

Cold

Italian Tuna & Cheese

Ham & Cheese Club Sub

Turkey & Cheese

Roast Beef & Cheese

Hot

Deli Melt

Cheese Steak

Meatball w/ cheese

Sausage

Can. Bacon & Cheese

Chicken Parmigiana

Buffalo Chicken Cheese Steak

Chicken Cheese Steak

Grilled Chicken

COMMENTARY

2007: A Year in baseball

A season of no-hitters, comebacks, and broken records

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

For complete World Series coverage, visit us online at:
<http://www.wilkesbeacon.com>

In the grand scheme of things, 2007 might go down as one of the better seasons in baseball history, but it might also go down as the last season of the steroid era.

On the eve of the revelations from the George Mitchell investigation, in which the former Senator spent nearly two years investigating the on-going problems concerning the use of banned performance enhancing substances in the game of baseball, we are all left wondering which big-name players are going to be listed as abusers. Last week, it was announced that Mitchell was planning to reveal the list of players that had been involved with steroids, along with the rest of the findings of the investigation, so that Major League Baseball can have a better idea of how to handle the problem going forward.

It should come as no surprise then, that on the same year that the steroid era might have significant closure, that Barry Bonds, the most controversial character in this play, would have broken the all-time homerun record of 755 that was previously held by Hank Aaron.

It was a big story, to be sure, one that Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig refused to give any credence to by stating early on in the season that he was unsure of whether or not he would be in attendance when Bonds broke the record.

Selig would eventually commit to following Bonds on his journey, and was present when Bonds tied the record, however he was not present on August 7th, when Bonds would hit number 756 at home in San Francisco, dethroning Hank Aaron as the new homerun leader. Aaron, who has remained quiet about the chase, appeared on a pre-recorded video just moments after Bonds thanked the fans, congratulating him on his new record.

The homerun ball, which was purchased for over \$700,000 by fashion designer Mark Ecko, had its fate decided on by fans via an online vote. Over ten million votes were tallied, with 47% of

voters wanting the ball to be sent to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown branded with an asterisk, 34% voted for it to be sent to the Hall of Fame without an asterisk, and 19% voted to have the ball shot into space.

It seems to be a fitting end for the chase that captivated baseball fans for the better part of two seasons, as the asterisk will forever be a reminder of one of the most notorious baseball players of all-time.

Despite the circus that surrounded Bonds and his quest for the record books, baseball writers and fans alike were honored to be present at the Hall of Fame inductions for two of the greatest: Cal Ripken and Tony Gwynn, who are going to forever be remembered among the greatest players in history.

Ripken, the longtime shortstop and third baseman of the Baltimore Orioles, is best known for being baseball's "Iron-man," after he broke Lou Gehrig's 56-year-old record of consecutive games played on September 6, 1995, when Ripken played in his 2,131 consecutive game, a record which will not likely be broken again. Ripken also finished his career with over 3,000 hits, 431 homeruns, and 1695 RBIs.

Gwynn, the lifetime San Diego Padre, is going to be remembered as one of the greatest pure hitters of his generation, collecting eight batting titles over his 20-year career, while ending up with a career batting average of .338. Gwynn never once hit under

.300 in a full season, and hit over .350 in seven seasons, with a career high batting average of .394.

Their inductions weren't all that happened, as there were plenty of memorable moments in the 2007 baseball season.

HEAVY HITTERS

Alex Rodriguez, who has been known for not being a clutch player by the fans of New York, had two game-winning homeruns in April, on his way to one of the best months in history, hitting .355 with 14 homeruns and 34 RBIs. A-Rod would finish the season with a .314 batting average, 54 homeruns, and 156 RBIs, on his way to his third career MVP award.

Magglio Ordonez, the right-fielder for the Detroit Tigers, would lead the American League in batting average, finishing the season with a career high .363 batting average. In the National League, Matt Holliday of the Colorado Rockies took home the batting title with an average of .340.

YOUNG HURLERS

Justin Verlander, the hard-throwing pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, threw his first career no-hitter against the Milwaukee Brewers on June 12, walking 4 and striking out 12.

Boston Red Sox rookie pitcher Clay Buchholz followed suit, throwing a not hitter against the Baltimore Orioles in only his second career start on September 1.

Jake Peavy, the ace of the San Diego Padres, is likely the Cy Young winner for the National League, finishing the season with 19 wins, 240 strikeouts, and an ERA of 2.54, all of which are tops in the National League.

ROOKIE DOMINACE

Troy Tulowitzki, the shortstop for the Colorado Rockies, is leading the race of NL rookies, by having a spectacular year defensively, while hitting .291 with 24 homeruns and 99 RBIs.

Milwaukee Brewers third baseman, Ryan Braun, was by far the best offensive rookie of the year, hitting .324 with 34 homeruns and 97 RBIs, however his lackluster defense at third base, committing a league-leading 26 errors in 112 games.

Dustin Pedroia, the second baseman of the Boston Red Sox, is likely to win the American League Rookie of the Year award by leading AL rookies with a .317 batting average and stellar defense, despite starting the year off with a .182 batting average in April.

COMEBACKS GALORE

The Colorado Rockies, looking to miss the playoffs yet again, won 14 of their last 15 games, including a one-game playoff against the San Diego Padres that led to them clinching the Wild Card for their first playoff berth since 1995. They would go on to sweep Philadelphia and Arizona in the first two rounds of the playoffs, extending their streak to 21 out of 22 games.

The New York Yankees, the perennial winner of the American League East, found themselves 12.5 games back of first place to the Boston Red Sox and six games behind the Detroit Tigers in the Wild Card race on June 1. Thanks to timely hitting and clutch pitching, they found themselves the winner of the American League Wild Card at season's end.

The Philadelphia Phillies, after a 4-11 start to the season, would mount a comeback at the hands of the New York Mets, by sweeping them twice down the stretch, including a memorable 9th inning win off of Mets' closer Billy Wagner. The Phillies would win the division on the last day of the season with a win over the Washington Nationals after the Mets lost to the Florida Marlins, completing one of the the biggest collapses in baseball history by blowing a 7 game lead with 17 games remaining.

2007 League Leaders

PITCHING

Wins

AL: Josh Beckett (20)

NL: Jake Peavy (19)

ERA

AL: John Lackey (3.01)

NL: Jake Peavy (2.54)

Strikeouts

AL: Scott Kazmir (239)

NL: Jake Peavy (240)

HITTING

Average

AL: Magglio Ordonez (.363)

NL: Matt Holliday (.340)

Homeruns

AL: Alex Rodriguez (54)

NL: Prince Fielder (50)

RBIs

AL: Alex Rodriguez (156)

NL: Matt Holliday (137)



Photo courtesy google.com

Barry Bonds captivated the fans this season on the way to hitting homerun number 756.

Athlete of the Week

Xiaoqiao Zhang

BY ALISSA LINDNER

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

For Xiaoqiao Zhang, tennis has become a stress release for the everyday pressures of college classes and work. She also happens to be 12-1 on the season, most recently coming off a win over East Stroudsburg University's Katie Dambrosia on Tuesday October 16.

Zhang's only loss of the season was against Torie Cunningham of Division 2 Bloomsburg University. The Bloomsburg match was also the third match of the season, and both Zhang and head women's tennis coach Chris Leicht feel her performance has improved.

"She [Zhang] has definitely improved from day one. Everything I think, her footwork, movement, she is just a little more patient with her play," Leicht explained.

Zhang added, "In the beginning I was hurt. These days I feel good and more confident."

Zhang finished the season with a 12-1 record. She swept all of her opponents two games to nothing and none her contest were forced into a third game. Out of 26 total games played, Zhang shut-out 13 of them 6-0. Last year Zhang was named Freedom Conference Player of the Year and was selected to first team all conference. Although she wasn't named conference player of the year, this season Zhang she joined the rest of the players on the first-team conference list for a second straight season. In her first two seasons as a Lady Colonel, Zhang has a 31-3 record.

As the end of the fall season approaches, Zhang has placed an importance on improving her training. "She [Zhang] is very serious about tennis. She is very competitive. She has a strong desire to win and keep improving," Leicht explained. For Zhang, the motivation is her own desire to win and her love of the sport.

Despite her own success this season,

Zhang places a strong importance on the team as a whole doing well.

She explained the team is always cheering each other on and everyone cares about the team's results over their own. Zhang said, "The team is like a family. We win as a group, as a whole instead of winning individually."

Leicht agreed, "She [Zhang] is a big team player. On top of her individual results she is always cheering and cares more about the team results."

With the MASCAC Tournament this past weekend, Zhang plans to approach it just as she would any regular season match. "I treat every match equal but I still want to play best because it's at the end," Zhang explained, "I want a beautiful ending."



The Beacon/Gino Troiani



The Beacon/Gino Troiani
Wilkes freshman Victoria Bybel, seen here during practice last week, has a 4-1 conference record, helping the tennis team to a 12-1 overall record this season.

RECAPS

Women's Soccer

The Lady Colonels will be heading to the postseason for an eight consecutive time after last Thursday's 2-0 win over King's College. That win would be the eighth shutout in nine wins for the Lady Colonels. The team is currently 4-0 in the conference and tied for first place along with Manhattanville College (NY). Both teams square off Wednesday in NY to determine who will have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Lady Colonels will wrap up their season at home Saturday against Arcadia University.

Volleyball

The Wilkes University volleyball team split a pair of matches at a tri-match hosted by Albright College on Saturday. The Lady Colonels posted a 30-14, 30-27, 30-15 win over Marywood University in their first match of the day, before suffering a 30-26, 29-31, 30-20, 30-20 loss to host Albright in the nightcap. The split moves the Lady Colonels overall record to 11-15.

Men's Soccer

Greg Miller and Kyle Dukmen tallied goals to lead Wilkes University to a 2-1 Freedom Conference men's soccer victory over rival King's College last Tuesday afternoon at Ralston Field.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

14

Total number of kills by junior Katherine Harrington in the Lady Colonels volleyball win over Marywood. Harrington also posted eight digs and three blocks.

26

Total number of football players that missed Saturday's home game against Albright due to violation of team policy. Albright won the game 35-25.

3

Total number of conference wins by the men's soccer team. The Colonels are currently 3-1 in conference play and are 8-6-1 overall.

154

Number of rushing yards by running back Alex Pearson on Saturday. The team totaled 194 rushing yards on the day.



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Lady Colonels Snatch Four Titles at MASCAC Tourney

Tennis team brings home the gold in singles and doubles competition

BY CARLTON HOLMES
Beacon Sports Editor

For the past five years under head coach John Leicht's leadership, the Lady Colonels have slowly morphed into the team to beat around the league.

In 2005, Leicht led the team to a record breaking season with 12 victories and has been on a roll ever since.

In 2006 at the MASCAC Tournament, Leicht led four Lady Colonels to semi-final contest. Of all the matches, freshman Xiaoqiao Zhang was the lone winner to walk away with a champion.

This season, Leicht was named Freedom Conference coach of the Year for the third consecutive season. This year, the Lady Colonels finished with 12-1 overall with their only loss coming to D-II Bloomsburg University. The Lady

Colonels were 5-0 in the conference.

The team's conference performance during the fall semester solidified homefield advantage for the Lady Colonels for the Freedom Conference playoffs held in the spring semester.

But first the Lady Colonels had a scheduled date with the 2007 MASCAC Tournament on Saturday and Sunday and the team certainly scored in this one.

"The good thing about this weekend was that everyone did well," said Leicht.

"It's fun to get four champions out of nine especially with 11 teams (in the competition). That's really exciting for the program."

Former Freedom Conference Player of the Year from a season ago, Xiaoqiao Zhang took home the number-two singles champi-

onship in three sets over Elizabethtown College's Emma Smith.

Zhang opened the finals with a 6-4 win over Smith. For the first time this year, Zhang was forced into a third set after Smith stole the second set 6-3. The game was forced into a super-tie breaker that would go in favor of Zhang 10-2.

"I think I played very well (during the tournament)," said Zhang. "In the second set I was a little shaky but in the third (set) I felt more confident and I was motivated."

"I did it (won), so I'm happy"

Last year Zhang won the championship at the number-one position.

Zhang teamed up with senior Alison McDonald to win the doubles championship 8-1 over Sara Guza and Kristen Hunter from crosstown rival King's College.

McDonald advanced to the finals after beating Hunter 6-1, 6-3 in the semi-finals. Freedom Conference Player of the Year from DeSales University, Courtney McClurkin put an end McDonald's run with a 6-2, 6-0 win. McDonald ends the fall half of the season 11-2 and first team All-Conference.

Sophomore Katie Buckley finished the day with a championship trophy at the number-six position.

Buckley took on Kristin Paula from Arcadia University and posted a 6-1, 7-5 in the semi-finals before taking on Lebanon Valley's Sara Wagner.

Buckley struggled against Wagner losing the first set 6-1. Buckley would go on to win the second set 6-3 and capped off the day with a 10-7 tie-breaker to win the title.

The Lady Colonels number-two

duo, Kristin Wilt and Victoria Bybel, won their championship game over DeSales Liz Guidon and Jess Smith.

Last Saturday the Lady Colonels breezed through all six singles matches and scored wins in two of the three doubles competitions.

McDonald was named first team All-Conference for a third consecutive season.

Zhang also received first team All-Conference honors after posting a 12-1 record in singles competition. Wilt, a junior, earned a All-Conference berth for her third straight time as a Lady Colonel.

Victoria Bybel was selected second team All-conference along with Freedom Conference Rookie of the Year.

The Lady Colonels return to the court Mar. 30th for the second half of their season.