

The BEACON

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

FEBRUARY 5, 2007

www.wilkesbeacon.com

Volume 59 Issue 13

Show me the money...

SG members voice concern about status of funds

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Beacon Asst. News Editor

When asked what he thinks of Student Government (SG) spending this year, sophomore class president, Dave Sborz, doesn't mince words. "I think that the way we are spending money this year is absolutely ridiculous."

SG is annually charged with dispersing student fees, which are part of the tuition charges for every student. This responsibility is akin to what an elected official must do with the revenue generated by taxes. With the large pool of funds raised by taxes, legislators must make decisions about how best to use the money to benefit constituents. Like state or federal legislators, then, Wilkes SG representatives are charged with analyzing budgetary requests and needs and applying student dollars to them. Annually, student groups go before SG with funding

requests for everything from sweatshirts and t-shirts, to attendance and travel costs for academic and leadership conferences, to support for special events. SG members hear the requests and vote to fund or not based on availability of funds and whether SG members deem the fund request worthwhile.

This year, however, spring requests for funding may receive more "no" votes than in the past. According to SG members, the pool of funds from which to work has evaporated more quickly than in previous years due to liberal spending in the first semester.

At the beginning of the year, SG had \$421,000 in its account. That money is divided approximately in half for equal dispersals at the beginning of each semester.

See **MONEY** page 3



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Some Student Government (SG) representatives are concerned that the SG treasury will run dry by the end of the school year, and it will be forced to dip into the "buffer" fund to pay for events and bills.

Education best prevention against drug-related sex crimes

"Date rape" considered one of the least reported crimes

BY NICK PODOLAK
Beacon News Editor

Thursday evenings at Slainte's (formerly known as Murray's) are wildly popular: Two dollar pitchers of Long Island iced teas and rum and cokes from 9-11 p.m. with the hoppin' tunes of Go-Go Gadget playing in the background. What more could a student want?

But with so many pitchers floating around in a sea of students, how easy would it be for somebody to slip something in?

"I could definitely foresee it happening,"

said senior political science major Brian McNelis.

Just last month, while studying abroad in London, Wilkes junior Andrea Scarantino witnessed just such a scenario. While enjoying an evening out at a bar, Scarantino's friend began to behave oddly, though she'd had little to drink. After she was taken to the hospital by ambulance, it was discovered that the young woman had received a drink from a man at the bar and it had been drugged.

"She actually died at the hospital. They told her she had to be revived," Scarantino

said.

Shortly after the incident, Scarantino put up a blog on Facebook which has already received two responses from locals.

"People try to pull that crap here, too," one response read. "I don't even go to the bathroom without my drink in my hand... even if I know people are watching it."

According to a flier from the National Drug Intelligence Center, "Drug-facilitated sexual assault involves the administration of an anesthesia-type drug to render a victim physically incapacitated or helpless and thus incapable of giving or withholding

[sexual] consent."

The victim in London was too overwhelmed by the experience to recall precisely the drug doctors told her she ingested, but chances are that the drug was either Rohypnol or GHB, the drugs of choice for sexual abuse perpetrators.

Rohypnol is the frontrunner, a colorless, odorless prescription pill that is relatively cheap, costing no more than \$5 per tablet. Illegal in the United States, Rohypnol is widely available across Europe, Mexico,

See **DATE RAPE** page 4

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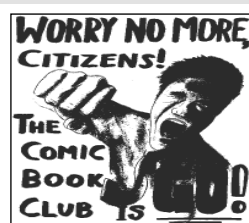
He Said



She Said

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Expansion of the greenway still a work in progress

Students embrace idea of open space, raise concerns about sidewalk safety

BY MARK CONGDON JR.
Beacon Correspondent

With Punxatawney Phil's recent promise of an early spring, Wilkes community members may begin to think about the promise of new growth in the expanded greenway.

It's tough to see the possibilities under the recent blanket of white, but officials assure that the expansion of the greenway is nearing completion.

John Pesta, Director Capital Projects, said, "The original completion date for the project was mid November 2006 but as is common with outdoor construction and landscaping projects, delays occurred that were beyond our control."

He added that in addition to the weather, there were other obstacles that arose. "During excavation, we encountered old foundations from previously demolished buildings. In addition, sections of our underground electrical distribution system had to be relocated to ensure future access to the system so it was not compromised," said Pesta.

According to President Tim Gilmour, "We are expecting that the construction will be complete this spring."

The expansion of the greenway was designed to provide more space for outside events. "Early on in the design phase of the Quad expansion project, there was a request to provide a more intimate space for students to hold outdoor events. This became a key element of the site design and the architects developed the concept of the ellipse (oval shape sidewalk area) with the Pergola that has a stage at one end. The layout and structure provides an appealing space to hold outside events," said Pesta.

Even though there were complications, Gilmour noted that he believes that the finished greenway will benefit the university. "Long term, I hope that it will create an

area that people will enjoy and will bring a level of peace," stated Gilmour.

While the green space has received praise from students who look forward to its beauty in the spring and fall, the new sidewalks have posed some challenges.

Laura Zuckery, junior history and spanish major said, "I think that the greenway will be nice when it gets warm out, and I think it will entice students to go outside more. However, the new sidewalks get slippery quick, and students who are disabled have a harder time getting places, and it takes them longer. But, the expansion should ultimately benefit the university."

Rachel Jablon, senior spanish and english double major, believes that the new sidewalks near the expansion are slippery and students with certain physical disabilities have a hard time traveling to other parts of campus. "The new sidewalks are hard for me to use because my chair slides all over them," said Jablon.

Moreover, George Wasef, junior double major in pre-pharmacy and business administration major,

observed that when he was on RA duty doing rounds he noticed that the new sidewalks were slippery. "The new sidewalks are something I worry about. They seem to get icy quicker than the old ones and it could be a little dangerous for someone who isn't cautious when walking. More [maintenance] and spraying more salt could help," said Wasef.

Scott Byers, Vice President for Finance and General Counsel, responded to the student concerns about the sidewalks noting that it's important for community members to report problems if they occur. "We [the university] are not aware of any types of problems related to the new sidewalks in regards to falls or accidents...The concrete is similar to other sidewalks in that they are concrete but the concrete is stamped and sealed. This type of sidewalk has been used in many institutional settings, parks, driveways, etc. to enhance appearance and extend the life of the concrete." He added that any concerns and accidents should be reported so that the university is made aware and can address the problem.

Wasef agreed that students should speak up to let officials know of any problems they are encountering. "Students shouldn't be afraid to talk with the university because by speaking out they are helping themselves and others, so we could avoid someone getting hurt in the future," he said.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

These Roman style pillars are just one of the new additions to plan the Greenway Expansion Project. Work will resume in spring.

The BEACON

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

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- Established in 1936
- PA Newspaper Association Member
- Printed on Mondays during the academic school year.

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MONEY

from FRONT PAGE

A variety of student groups receive specific allocations for each semester. At the beginning of both the fall and spring semesters about \$80,600 is divided among the following groups: Alternative Spring Break; *Am-nicola*; BACCHUS; cheerleading; Circle K; community service; Commuter Council; concert & lecture; crew club; IRHC; lacrosse club; MSC; Off-Campus Council; Residence Life; Student Health Advisory

funds, SG General and the buffer fund. The SG general fund is broken down into the various accounts (leadership, spirit, etc) but that is just for our recorders to judge our spending. All Student Government spending come out of SG General.”

Jenna Strzelecki, SG President, added, “We actually have a bunch of different funds under [the SG total of \$60,000]. They are all-college funds where different fund requests come from. We have a conference fund if people are going to conferences that we take that from.”

asking for money which technically impact a small number of students on campus, and SG members have opted to fund those requests. Sborz believes money should be used for the student body as a whole. “I think what they are doing for their clubs is excellent, but I think the way we are spending money this year is just absolutely ridiculous. I think we need to look at ourselves; we need to understand that this is money that we are all paying into. I think it’s money we need to look back and say ‘O.K., this is money that every single student in the

14 months apart, the Treasurer’s report from January 24, 2007, compared with the Treasurer’s report from March 29 of 2006, shows that SG has \$35,666.50 more in its account than it had a year ago. However, expensive events such as Spring Fling, Winter Weekend, Casino Night and the SG Summit still have yet to receive funds. In addition, according to McClave, SG has spent substantially more than it did at this time last year and there is almost a two month difference in the time period not working in this year’s favor.

McClave acknowledged, “We’ve spent \$22,000 more this year than we did last year. So there has been an increase in spending. It’s just how wisely we’ve been spending it. I think that’s the main concern.”

“We need to come up with a more uniform way of voting on fund requests like whether or not we pay for food, because some of the clubs come in asking for food and in years past we have [supported that] and we need to standardize that more,” McClave added.

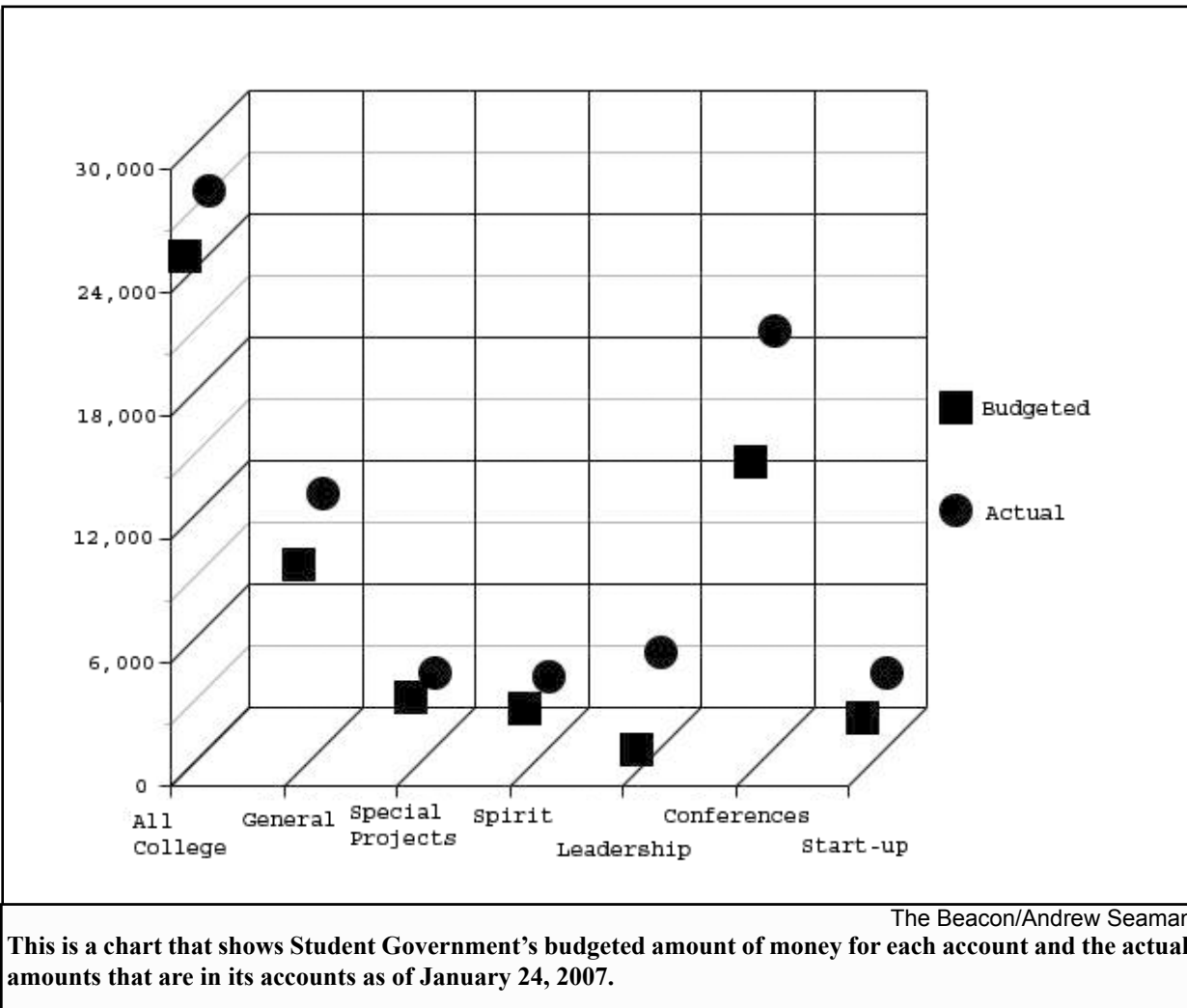
Sborz, on the other hand, supports an increase in student fees. “Next week I am making a presentation to this room, to this body, and we are thinking of raising the student union fee. Why? Because students are coming to us with all these concerns, and at the end of the year we don’t want to be stuck not having that money.”

Allen thinks that this is an interesting time for SG, and he said, “I think it’s good that they’re really taking a look at their fiscal responsibilities, because that is one of their biggest challenges.” Will SG run out of money? It is simply too early to tell, but it seems some SG members are concerned about the situation and will be evaluating their own performance on this issue. Meanwhile, students are also speaking their minds on the issue.

Erin Sweet, a freshman integrative media major says, “I think SG needs to look at the way it runs itself, in the sense that they are the ones that let clubs be clubs...[and] approves [if] they get money. I’ve been hearing that SG has been allowing a lot of clubs to go through the system recently and I think they need to start to limit.”

The SG meetings are open to all students who can voice their opinions at the end of the meeting. The meetings are held on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. in the Miller Conference Room on the second floor of the Henry Student Center.

Editor’s Note: All budget information taken from SG documents.



Council; and speech and debate team.

In addition, each semester Programming Board is allocated \$65,000 to organize various activities such as comedians, concerts, etc.

So, while SG technically began this semester with approximately \$216,500, from that amount: \$65,000 has been applied to Programming Board, another \$80,600 has been taken out for the sixteen clubs mentioned above; \$3,400 is dispersed among the individual undergraduate classes (freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior); and finally \$7,500 are allocated to the student organizations secretary per semester. This leaves \$60,000 for SG to use for the spring.

The person who knows SG’s funds better than anyone else is its treasurer, Jonathan McClave. He explained, “The school recorders only show two Student Government

As Strzelecki explained, the remaining \$60,000 is dispersed among seven funds that are designated for specific projects. However some SG representatives acknowledged that there is not enough money remaining to make it to the end of the semester without going into the “buffer” fund, which is normally reserved for large projects such as investment in the ropes course at the UCOM and the addition to the Henry Student Center.

The person who knows the financial state of SG better than anyone is Jonathan McClave, SG Treasurer. “I don’t see us running out of money, but you can never really be positive of that,” he said. “This year we have spent substantially more money than we have in years past.”

One criticism Sborz has leveled is that many clubs and organizations come to SG

the fiscal situations a little bit tighter.”

The Treasurer’s report on the minutes of the last SG meeting notes that SG has a total of \$74,376 in its bank account. Of that total, \$60,000 must go to specific purposes such as the leadership fund, the special project fund or others listed in the all-college lines during the spring semester. SG also has approximately \$14,376 remaining from last semester which has been dispersed among those accounts. The general fund has \$12,260 in it.

However, there are still several events to be held and spring term is the busiest time for student conference attendance. For example, at last week’s SG meeting, 25 psychology club students sought \$3,329.52 of support to attend a conference in Philadelphia.

In a head to head comparison of reports

DATE RAPE

from FRONT PAGE

and Columbia, where it can easily be smuggled into the US.

"It's a prescription," said assistant professor of pharmaceutical science Dr. Dan McCune. "People use it for sleep and anxiety. In fact, it's chemically related to Valium," he added.

GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate), on the other hand, is a potent central nervous system depressant used for euphoric and sedative effects. And unlike Rohypnol, it can be manufactured by using cer-

tain components from household cleaning solvents to kits sold on the Internet ranging from \$48 to \$200. According to McCune, one doesn't need to be clad in a white lab coat to prepare it, either.

"GHB is manufactured in homemade laboratories, like meth labs. So it's a process that people can perform fairly easily without a lot of training," he said.

Though local police official acknowledge that the area receives approximately 30 reported rape cases in a year, there isn't any conclusive evidence on how many of these assaults are drug-related.

"We don't have a tremendous amount on campus," said Wilkes-Barre Police Chief Gerry Dessoie. "However, sexual assaults are traditionally one of the more underreported crimes," he said.

This lack of reporting could be due to anterograde amnesia, a powerful punch to the brain that both Rohypnol and

GHB can pack on the victim, rendering him/her without memory of events when the victim finally regains consciousness.

"The hippocampus helps us form memories and when you depress function of that area, you're giving yourself amnesia. Both of these drugs are good at doing that. If a person can't remember what happened, they're not going to report," McCune said.

Better known as "club drugs," Rohypnol and GHB can both pose a threat at any bar or tavern, but according to Wilkes senior Matt LoPresto, a bartender at Slainte's, there is no potential threat at the popular downtown watering hole.

"We don't have a tremendous amount on campus. However, sexual assaults are traditionally one of the more underreported crimes."

- Gerry Dessoie, W-B Chief of Police

"The good thing about Murray's is that it's like a Cheers bar," LoPresto said. "All the Wilkes students go to it so you know everybody there, but we're always on the lookout for the unfamiliar face...there's a lot of good looking girls that go to the bar."

Though there are prescription drugs that can be taken to prevent the effects of Rohypnol, these antag-flumazenil agents are nearly impossible for the average person to get their hands on.

"It's nothing you would have access to ordinarily," McCune said. "They usually use it to treat overdoses."

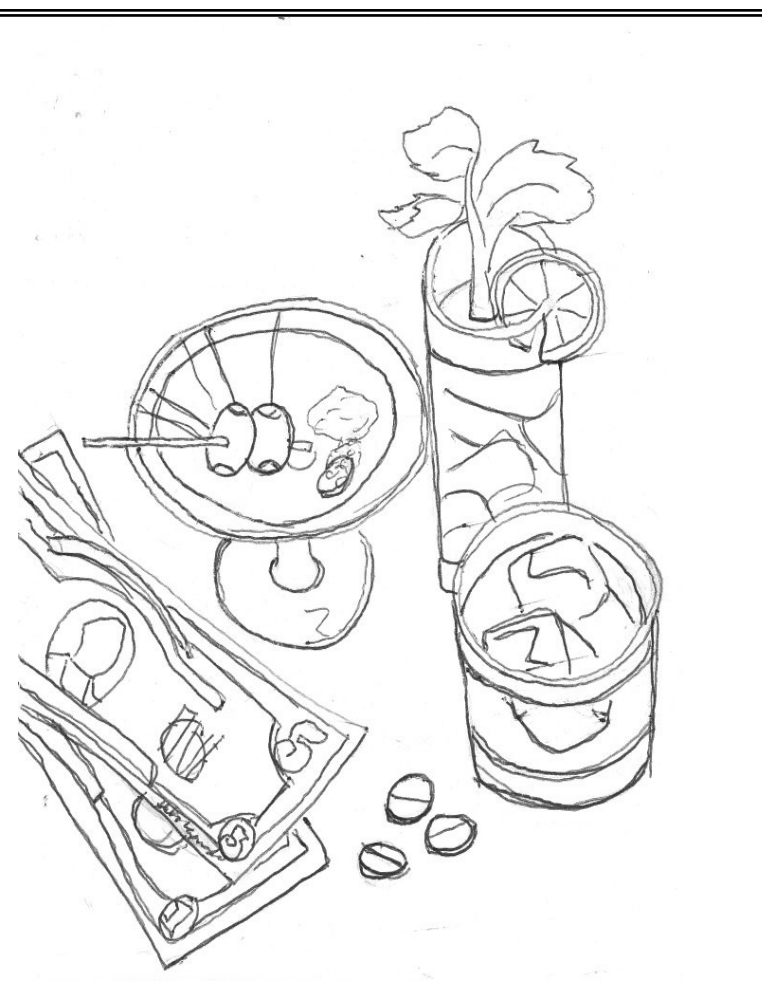
As for an antidote being made readily available to the general public?

"I haven't heard of anyone proposing that, but it's an interesting idea. I don't know that there's anything particularly harmful about this particular drug. They're prescription only because they can be misused," McCune said.

The punishment for attempted drug-induced sexual assault is up to 20 years in prison plus fines.

"We take any report of any rape or sexual assault very seriously, and I can only encourage people to report anyone that is a victim of any type of sexual assault to the police because it's not just about themselves. If someone gets away with harming one person, they're much more likely to do it to someone else," Dessoie said.

For anyone who has been the victim of a sexual assault or worries about a loss of memory and unusual circumstances following a night out, the Victim's Resource Center offers counseling and support. The VRC offers a 24-hour hotline, staffed with trained counselors that provides services for a variety of crimes, including rape



The Beacon/Aleksander Lapinski

Rohypnol is a tasteless, odorless prescription pill that will usually turn a clear drink blue, as it dissolves. This makes blue drinks such as daquiris, martinis, and margaritas especially dangerous. It is advised to never leave a drink unattended.

survivors, domestic violence, and assault. The VRC can be reached at 823-0765 and its regular office number is 823-0766.



At the January 31 Student Government (SG) meeting:

The psychology club requested funding for 25 members to attend a conference in Philadelphia. SG heard the request and will rule at this week's meeting. *

SG members agreed to purchase admission for 150 students to attend the Vagina Monologues, at \$5.00 a piece with a \$750 cap.

The Islamic Interest Society put in a fund request for \$750 to support various activities and events. *

SG meetings are held on the second floor of the Student Center in the Miller Conference Room every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

* = Action taken next week

Facts on Date Rape Drugs Rohypnol and GHB



Rohypnol: A tasteless, odorless, prescription pill that is illegal in the United States. Used as a sedative across Europe, Mexico, and Columbia, Rohypnol is up to 10 times stronger than Valium according to the NDIC.

Street names: Circles, Forget-me pill, Mind Eraser, Roofies



GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate): A powerful central nervous system depressant that can be made rather easily from components of home cleaning solvents and kits sold on the Internet.

Street names: Cherry meth, Everclear, Fantasy, Gamma-O, Georgia Home boy, G-riffic, Jib.

New lighting project brings warmth to the Square

BY JEANNIE STAPLETON

Beacon Correspondent

Lights, Camera.... Trees? Leadership Wilkes-Barre is currently working on a project that will light the trees up on Public Square.

"We really got excited with the entire idea", says Jane Smedley, team member of Leadership Wilkes-Barre.

Within the first couple of weeks of planning, the "Lights on the Square" team identified their goals and determined how they would go about raising money for their project. "Our mission statement is to (1) illuminate the square, (2) enhance safety and (3) draw attention downtown," said Smedley. The project is slated to be completed somewhere between the beginning to mid March. Leadership Wilkes-Barre is planning a Lighting Ceremony that will be hosted by the Alumni Council. The lights will be a permanent fixture. Leadership Wilkes-Barre is asking for a \$150 donation for sponsorship of each tree.

However, there were initial concerns about the project team. "We had environmental concerns (i.e. squirrels eating the actual wires, vandals, how long the lights would last, etc). We had to meet with the city for approval, and they have been amazing and incredibly supportive. They are taking part in the il-

lumination of the monuments/statutes as well as the flag, and the labor. The bulbs should last approximately 10,000 hours....so they will be on dusk to dawn, and really make the Square a nicer place to be," says Smedley.

Leadership Wilkes-Barre is currently working on five different projects; the "Lights on the Square" is just one of the five. When discussing another of the projects in a previous WNEP report, the revitalization of the clock in the Square, Gabrielle Lamb, Leadership Wilkes-Barre team member, said, "I think any little bit is important as the Chamber concentrates on some bigger projects to move the city along. This is just our little piece of it."

They are hoping that the lights will add warmth to the Public Square and draw people back downtown. "I think a lot of people will be first interested in seeing what the 'Lights on the Square' is all about. The interest in becoming a sponsor has been great too! Lots of people are interested in increasing the attraction, appeal and safety of the downtown. I think it will add a great segue for the area too - so that people want to drive around the square again, want to walk down to the square again, etc. There are so many fantastic developments in the area - we hope that this will just add to a greater downtown," said Smedley.



The Beacon/Cara Koster



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He said/She said: The Democratic frontrunners: Clinton v. Obama

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

Lately, it has been all about the 'he said she said.'

She said this. He said that.

She has more experience. He has the likeability factor.

Two of the Democratic presidential hopefuls, New York Senator Hillary Clinton and Illinois Senator Barack Obama, have seen their every move critiqued as they move one step closer to the hot seat--the 2008 Democratic Presidential nomination.

Voters and pundits alike are quick to criticize the current administration for its recent choices regarding Iraq, as well as other policy decisions since 2002. In fact, the Bush administration's approval ratings are at an all-time low. So what qualities must the next president possess to win back the faith of the American people? What issues will be at the forefront of the presidential campaign?

IRAQ IRAQ IRAQ--This hot issue is not subsiding anytime soon. Both Obama and Clinton have made it clear where they stand.

On January 30, 2007, Obama introduced the Iraq War De-escalation Act of 2007. This proposed legislation would stop the escalation of troops and would cap the number of troops in Iraq as of January 10, 2007. A

second talking point is a phased redeployment no later than May 1, 2007. Troops would be redeployed to the United States, Afghanistan and other areas in the Middle East. Surprisingly, Obama and Bush agree on the enforcement of benchmarks which would serve as the basis to tracking progress.

Obama delivered his plan with the goal of removing all combat brigades by March 31, 2008.

As part of the Armed Services Committee Senator Clinton, has been a key advocate for troops and their families. Clinton acknowledges that there were never

Afghanistan. And Clinton openly criticizes the current administration for its blatant disregard of the Iraq Study Group's findings and recommendations.

Race has become an interesting component to the 2008 Democratic bid for the presidency. Thanks

dimension? There is much to like about Obama. He has often been described as articulate, young and handsome. Perhaps, this new 21st century type of approach is what this country has been lacking.

Critics and fans alike have noted that Senator Clinton has received the good old "Washington Polish" in her time as a Senator. This polish can be seen in the way she answers questions as well as her persona. In interviews Clinton never seems to answer the question directly, but rather works her way around it. But the fact is that if we look at each of the candidates, there is no one--Republican or Democrat--who hasn't been put through the spin cycle and buffed to some sort of high shine before running for The Office.

And, just as the question, "Is America ready to elect a black man?" hovers, so, too, does the question, "Is America ready to elect a woman to the presidency?" It's unfortunate that we even entertain such questions in the 21st century.

So what does this country need in a viable Democratic candidate? Ten things to start: 1) Guts, 2) a plan for dealing with the mess in Iraq, 3) a backbone on the issue of global warming, 4) the means to unify a divided Congress, 5) ethics, 6) ideas for how to restore the credibility of the United States abroad, 7) a sensible accountant who can get the country back on the right side of the ledger, 8) a clean record, 9) smart choices for the federal judiciary, and 10) an ability to please some of the people some of the time.

Ultimately it is going to be up to the next administration to fix what has been broken--starting with Iraq. Until January 2009 we can only continue and listen to the "He said She said" with open ears and choose the most worthy man or woman to mend a government divided.

Editor's Note

Next Week:

Republican candidate review



Courtesy of www.fiveanddime.net/

enough troops from the beginning in Iraq. Recently, she has made the bold statement that if she is elected president come January

to some erroneous reports and ridiculous rumors, there was speculation that Obama was Muslim. That is far from the truth. Once and for all we are going to set the record straight. He is biracial! His father is from Kenya, Africa and his mother is from Kansas.

Political strategists argue that the Illinois Senator will need to pick a race to whom he



Courtesy of <http://davespeaks.blogspot.com/>

2009, she will end the war in Iraq. Along with Obama, Clinton agrees to cap the number of troops and will call for phased redeployment. To remove troops from Afghanistan and move them to Iraq would be a military nightmare according to Clinton. She feels more troops should be placed in

most wants to appeal--the "logic" behind this theory, of course, is that a viable candidate cannot appeal to both blacks and whites on the same platform. We disagree. Why should he, or any candidate, have to appeal to a single element of our American population? Does diversity not create

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 65 responses.

The Beacon asked:

What game show would you like to see come to campus?

- Deal or No Deal - **25%**
- The Price is Right - **22%**
- Jeopardy - **15%**
- Family Feud - **13%**
- Double Dare - **7%**
- 1 vs. 100 - **7%**
- Singled Out - **5%**
- Other - **5%**
- \$25,000 Pyramid - **1%**
- Identity - **0%**

Next Week's Poll:

What restaurant would you like to see downtown?

- Dave & Busters
- A greasy spoon diner
- Cold Stone Creamery
- White Castle
- IHOP
- Don Pablos
- Cheesecake Factory
- Hooters
- Hard Rock Cafe
- Other

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

Student renters be aware: you, too, have rights

BY KRISTYN OSTMAN
Beacon Opinion Editor

I've known many students who dwell in apartments. Not unlike many of my peers, I've also chosen the off-campus apartment route. As a result, I have witnessed firsthand abuses of student renters as well as peers who are ignorant about their rights as renters.

Many college students ignore their rights or opt not to exercise them, most likely out of fear of not being able to renew their lease or simply not knowing what their rights are. So, while this may seem like a dry and dull review of renter's rights, keep in mind that if you fail to stand up for all your rights, no matter how small or mundane, then we might as well just take a poop on the Constitution and flip off Uncle Sam.

The following is for all the residents that are off-campus dwellers, including those students renting from Wilkes in University Towers. Those who dorm in University Towers are subject to the rules and regulations for any other dorm.

First, no matter what your relationship to your landlord, (i.e. college, friend, father, etc.) there are laws governing their behavior as well as yours. The following should be both understood between you and your landlord as well as part of your lease:

Renters' responsibilities:

You cannot conduct illegal activities in your apartment, so no furnishing alcohol to minors and no meth labs! You aren't allowed to disturb the peace, damage the apartment (unless you want to pay for it; that's entirely up to you) and you have a duty to take out your trash, make minor repairs and notify



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

University Towers houses both on-campus and off-campus Wilkes students.

the landlord of major problems. Many of you living off-campus take advantage of the freedom of living in an apartment, but keep in mind that Wilkes, as well as any landlord, retains the right to start eviction proceedings and take legal action against

you for any breach of the lease agreement. Whether or not they win the suit, no poor college kid wants to pay for a lawyer so we should all try to keep our noses clean.

Landlord responsibilities:

A landlord must refrain from interfering

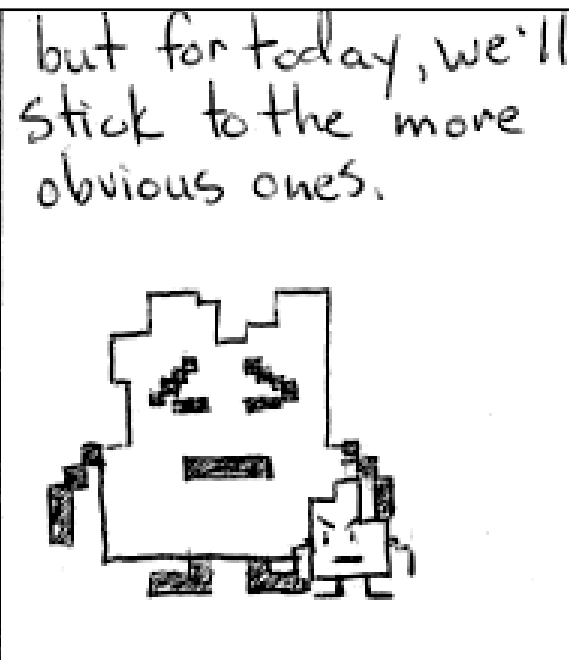
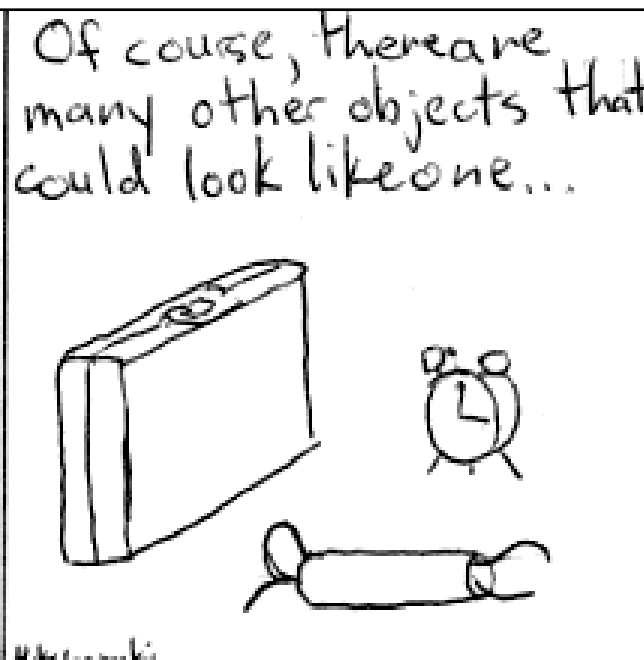
with the tenant's rights to exclusive and peaceful use of the apartment. Therefore, Public Safety has no right to eavesdrop on you just because they hear voices. They also cannot compel you to leave your apartment since they are not the police, have no probable cause (as long as no one with a t-shirt reading "I'm underage" is falling out of your door drunk) and they cannot and should not force you to give your name. This is a violation of your 4th Amendment rights. For those of you who have forgotten or never learned your Constitution, you have the right to be secure in your person, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable search and seizure.

However, hallway, elevators, lobby, lounge and any common areas within a building are fair game. Don't be stupid. Landlords do have the right to protect their property and keep order, but not at the total expense of your rights. Do not let anyone convince you that you suddenly don't have the right to your privacy in your home. This doesn't mean that you can (or should) purposely and maliciously disturb the peace of your building while waving the Constitution in the face of anyone who comes knocking. Be responsible and act like a grown-up.

Finally, get everything in writing. Oral contracts between the tenant and landlord are not valid. The landlord is responsible for major problems, such as no hot water, power outage, etc. Go online and read the Pennsylvania Landlord Tenant Law. You have rights and responsibilities and it would be better for everyone if we all played our part in being good renters.

A Sight for Sore Eyes

Aleksander Lapinski



Bonding with clothing a perfectly natural phenomena

BY NORA JURASITS
Beacon Features Editor

It's laundry day so I'm wearing the old sweatshirt from high school that I couldn't care less about. I'm clumsy, so the glass of red wine I'm drinking splashes all over the sleeves. (And yes, sometimes I drink wine while I do wash. What of it?)

Besides that fact, the actual wine "stain" is a complete

non-issue. The spots will most likely wash out easily with a few drops of water and perhaps a bit of soap. The lack of attachment to an article of clothing is directly inverse to its durability, likelihood to remain in my possession, and stain resistance.

My favorite jeans? Torn. Favorite t-shirt? Slightly ripped. Most comfortable sweats ever? Shrunk to pseudo-capri length. Beloved green vest to keep me warm during these cold winter months? M.I.A.



Courtesy of www.mommyneedscoffee.com

These cruel twists of fate seem to discourage me from, 1. buying articles of clothing I really like, or that fit very well, and 2. forming any sort of emotional bond with my clothes. While the concept of bonding with clothing sounds odd, and possibly perverted, it's pretty much inevitable, in a non-sexual way of course.

The same way guys can develop man-

crushes on Jon Stewart, I develop clothes-crushes on the articles that have seen me through good and bad days, and shield me from the elements.

These crushes sometimes are long-lasting and fulfilling, but much like real-people relationships, they sometimes end in disaster. Take for example, the loss of my vest last winter. A year later I still mourn its mysterious departure. A bright green vest- how could it magically disappear!

I understand certain wear and tear is inevitable. Sometimes the bottoms of my jeans will get stepped on and torn, and that damage I can deal with, but when the damage is unpredictable, like my clumsiness resulting in marred garments, it is much more difficult to deal with.

These damages and losses are not limited to clothing. Any article of jewelry I become attached to is either damaged or lost. My favorite watch



Courtesy of <http://akamai.backcountrystore.com>

somehow disappeared, and a ring I had received as a baby fell off a chain, nowhere to be found. At least with these items, I can convince myself that someone out there is smartly checking the time, and one lucky baby is pimped out wearing my jewelry.

I suppose the only solution to my supposed lack of luck with clothing and jewelry is to become a Buddhist and refuse attachment to all material goods.

Either that, or I'll start taking care of my things, and maybe carry a Tide Stain Stick.

Radical medical decisions for kids parent's choice

BY CURRAN DOBSON
Beacon Editor-in-Chief

Many people long to improve or enhance their physical appearance in some way, whether through surgery, exercise, or specially designed clothing.

In most cases, women and men long to be more attractive, perhaps taller, fitter, and more desirable. However, with the advent of newer technology and the research on growth hormones and similar drugs, a new concept has been developed to alter a person's physical appearance, and it doesn't involve making them better-looking.

Instead, parents of a 9 year old bedridden girl identified only as "Ashley" recently persuaded their daughter's doctors to change their daughter in drastic ways. According to a January 5 *Newsweek* article, Ashley, a child with severe mental and physical handicaps, has been given large doses of hormones to stunt her growth at her parents' request. She is currently only 4' 5" at 9 years of age; had she not been given the hormones, she would probably have grown to a normal 5' 6". She also weighs only 65 pounds.

Ashley's parents also decided to have her uterus and breast tissue removed in their at-

tempt to keep their child, well, perpetually a child.

In reality, Ashley functions much like an infant, unable to sit, stand, or even roll over by herself. According to Ashley's parents and doctors, she will never improve, as her brain damage is irreversible. The surgery and the hormone treatment were designed

and her parents from the added burden of menstruation.

While there has been much public outcry about medical and parental ethics, Ashley's care and the decisions about her health and life are no one's decisions but her parents'. That does not mean that the idea of invasive surgery and extensive hormone treatment

young, so the health effects of this procedure remain to be seen.

However, while the parents may be taking some risks, including extreme public criticism and health risks for Ashley, only they know whether or not these changes have benefited their care of their daughter. And, as our world changes medically, parents are making similar decisions all the time.

In our modern society, parents can choose to create babies outside of the bedroom, can now screen for diseases or the possibility of diseases, create babies with blue eyes and blonde hair, and eventually make decisions to undergo radical surgery or hormone

treatments for themselves later in life. As parents, Ashley's mother and father made a decision that they thought would best serve their child, similar to decisions parents must make every day about their children's health or safety or well-being. In their eyes, these procedures and treatments were improving the quality of life of their daughter.

And, yes, exposing a disabled child to invasive surgery and extensive treatments that have not been around long enough to conduct extensive, lifelong research may be a questionable decision. As long as they're acting with their daughter's best interests at heart, the bottom line is: it's their decision.

In our modern society, parents can choose to create babies outside of the bedroom, can now screen for diseases or the possibility of diseases, create babies with blue eyes and blonde hair.

to keep Ashley more child-like, making it easier for her parents to provide her with better care. Because she resides in their home, her parents are responsible for her day-to-day care. They lift her and reposition her in bed, and worried that as they aged, they may no longer be able to do this were Ashley to physically mature completely. Her parents have offered statements that say keeping Ashley smaller will better protect her against bedsores and allow them to more fully integrate her into their family life. The removal of her breast tissue and uterus was completed because Ashley will never make use of them and to save Ashley

doesn't make some people uncomfortable, myself included.

The hormone treatments given to Ashley were designed to speed up bone maturation, making her bone plates fuse together. At 9 years old, Ashley has the bones of a fifteen year old. Is this painful for Ashley? Is it even possible to know when she can't speak to tell her parents so? These hormones also speed up the maturation of menstruation and breast development, causing her parents to decide to perform a hysterectomy. While I don't know if Ashley is the youngest girl to ever receive a hysterectomy, I can't imagine they are done all that often to a child so

Comic book club receives official club status

Plans to create a multi-story comic book are in the works

BY NORA JURASITS
Beacon Features Editor

The comic book club, which has recently been granted club status, is allowing Wilkes students and other writers and artists in the area to bring their dreams of creating comics to fruition.

They had their first meeting last Thursday in room 013 of Breiseth Hall, where members will meet every Thursday at noon. At the first meeting, they discussed fundraising and community service opportunities. They plan to sell pierogies at the Henry Student Center on February 15 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., and also sell baked goods at the Vagina Monologues performance at Wilkes.

Eric Shatrowskas, sophomore integrated media and English major, and Marissa Phillips, junior English major, are serving as the Editors-in-Chief of the comic book the club plans to produce.

They encourage any interested Wilkes students or members of nearby communities to contribute art and story ideas to potentially be included in the comic book. Those submitting art should include male and female characters in an environment of their choosing, with frontal and profile

views of the characters. Story ideas should be submitted in the form of a one-page overview with a list of characters.

Small committees will work on each story idea, and create the final comic. Multiple stories will be included in the final comic book.

"Once submissions are in, we can all offer each other constructive criticism to better our groups," Shatrowskas said.

The club is not limited to Wilkes students, with King's communications major Alisha Turull in attendance at the first meeting. Turull, who is interested in concept design and writing, said she was introduced to the club by one of its founding members. "I've been an avid comic book reader since I was a little girl," she said.

Jim Feeney, senior communications major, will be drawing and possibly writing stories for the comic book. "I've always wanted to do a comic book, and I think it'll be a great experience," he said.

Currently, the club has about fifteen members, but Shatrowskas said they welcome newcomers. "The more the merrier. So far only we have about four of five story pitches."

Story ideas discussed at the first meeting consist of tales of fairy gangs, Holocaust

zombies, beekeepers who act as crazy villains, a couple of post-apocalyptic stories including one with Saint George and dragons. Potentially, the comic book may also include a story of jazz mobsters and ninjas.

Interested submitters and people who are looking to work on the production of

the comic book should contact Phillips and Shatrowskas at wilkescomicclub@gmail.com. Submission guidelines and additional club information can be found at the club's web site, www.djcardshark.com/wilkescomicclub. The deadline for submissions is February 18.



Above: Local artist Kevin Dougherty contributed a few pages of comics as an art sample. He may be joining the club in the production of their comic book.



Left: Jim Feeney uses a scarf to create a ninja costume. Ninjas will most likely be featured in one comic book storyline. At the club's first meeting, members discussed other potential story ideas, fundraising suggestions and future community service opportunities.

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Watch out Google, ChaCha.com offers new moves

A new search engine offers live, real-time assistance

BY MEGAN KRISANDA

Beacon Asst. Features Editor

"I can't dance, but I can ChaCha," said Donna Talarico, guide for the internet search engine ChaCha.com. No, she's not offering a 'how to' on the techniques of the dance, but rather a search engine that connects users to real people who guide the search in the right direction.

Scott Jones and Brad Bostic, co-creators of the site, were not satisfied with obscure search results that they came across from traditional search engines. Consequently, they created ChaCha.com in order to filter through those unnecessary results and provide searchers with the best result instantly and free of charge. The reason for the name "ChaCha" is that "Cha" means "search" in Chinese, according to ChaCha.com.

What makes ChaCha.com different than the typical search engines like Google and Yahoo is that it provides the option of a guide to help search for you.

"I was really intrigued by it. I love searching for things, but there are some people who do not know how to search as well with using brackets and adding pluses and

minuses in their search. So if people are struggling with searching, that's where ChaCha is different. They can search with a live guide," said Talarico.

Talarico was introduced to ChaCha.com through a website, Associated Content, which offers freelance writers a chance to be published. Talarico was networking through Associated Content and saw a link which read "Other Writing Gigs," which led her to ChaCha.com.

The layout of ChaCha is similar to that of Google, with the exception of the "Search with a Guide" tab. Once a user opts to "search with a guide," a box appears to the left of the screen with a screen name of the guide that is chosen to help the user in the search. It's similar to an Instant Message screen where users send and receive messages instantly. Within minutes, the guide returns a number of different credible sites with information on the chosen subject.

"I'll do maybe 20 searches a night. I spend a couple hours at night searching. It's great because I'm usually online anyway," said Talarico.

In order to become a guide people must be invited by an existing guide that reached

the master guide level. The more searches a guide provides on certain key words makes her or she a master for those key words. Master guides also train other guides through testing their search results and rating them accordingly.

Talarico has reached the master level and gets paid for her service.

"I've been doing this for about two weeks and I've made about \$100," said Talarico.

Many of the searches Talarico comes across are students looking for help with research projects. She's also searched for obscure song lyrics and occasionally she'll get an inappropriate request which she has the option to cancel. Talarico also adds that with each search result, the guide is rated on the results.

"I'd say more than half are sincere requests. If someone is just fooling around they don't have the option to rate my search results, so I can just cancel the message box," said Talarico.

The site also offers search categories such as the arts, shopping, health, reference and more. Next to each search category is the number of guides designated to that subject.

In relation to students using the site, this may be a very helpful tool when conducting research in a timely manner. However, isn't the goal of a research project to find out the information yourself? With such a convenience, many might only rely on guide related searches for their research.

Eric Miller, integrative media major, believes it may be making things a bit easy for people.

"Especially if we're talking about an academic setting or use. I'd have to say that I might be a bit biased, as I'm a bit older than most students and remember when the Internet was not such a powerful tool. I'd have to look things up in magazines, books, reference materials, etc. Are we less attentive because of this type of advance or does this change cater to a change in modes that is independent of the technology? It sounds like a good thing as long as it is used as assistance and not a crutch," said Miller.

ChaCha.com has appeared on CNBC, *The New York Times* ABCNews, and other major media outlets, according to its website.

Diversity Ambassadors paint campus with broad, colorful strokes

BY CANDICE HALLIDAY

Beacon Correspondent

History's most celebrated artists--Monet, Van Gogh, Picasso, Gauguin and others--seemed to share one philosophy: the world is brilliant with color and texture, and it's essential we seek it out.

Members of the Diversity Ambassador program at Wilkes are working hard to educate the university's community and color the campus using a brilliant palette of cultures and races.

The main goal of the Diversity Ambassador program is to promote multiculturalism on campus. The program essentially provides students the opportunity to obtain a leadership role and educate others on different cultures and lifestyles.

Diversity Ambassador Valerie Martinez explained that the program grew from issues that needed to be addressed on campus concerning diversity awareness and acceptance.

"Students were asking questions like, 'What's the difference between Native Americans and Indians?'" said Martinez.

Diversity Ambassadors aim to be the "go to" people on campus regarding

questions about race or ethnicity.

In order to become involved with the Diversity Ambassador program, students must go through an interview process with Dean of Students, Mark Allen. Allen, along with Alberto Prado, advises the program and helps train students to encourage leadership skills.

Diversity Ambassador Teddy Orelinen explained that Allen aims to prompt discussion and thought with questions like, "What does cultural diversity mean to you?" Acceptance into the program is not limited to specific races or ethnicities. Anyone interested can join.

The program currently has ten working ambassadors. Among them are students who have roots in a variety of cultures including Haiti, Puerto Rico, India, Trinidad, as well as caucasian American.

The ambassadors work with the Community Service Office, Campus Interfaith and Student Development to identify needs on campus and recommend programming. In addition, students in the Diversity Ambassador program also collaborate with other student offices such as Multicultural Student Coalition (MSC) and Programming Board. Diversity Am-

bassador Amanda Kunkel is involved in all three of these programs and noted that diversity is an issue that needs to be part of many aspects of the campus.

"People need to realize that diversity is not something black and white. It exists from person to person and we all need to celebrate the things that make us special," said Kunkel.

She added that it is important to understand that rules vary across cultures and not to hold one culture superior to another. Her main goal is to find unique ways for MSC, Programming Board and the Diversity Ambassadors to work together to encourage Wilkes University community members to value and discuss diversity issues.

Diversity Ambassadors are currently working to promote upcoming events aimed to engage the campus in multicultural experiences and issues. Some events include the MSC fashion show, the Eid-uh-Adha dinner hosted by the Islamic Society and the Indian Cultural Association's Holy Hindu holiday dinner.

In honor of Black History Month, the Diversity Ambassador program is working on various projects of its own. Student

Ambassador Nitasa Sahu is writing a skit about Rosa Parks to present in elementary schools throughout Wilkes-Barre in February. Four other ambassadors are planning to promote the story of Little Rock Nine in Wilkes-Barre high schools.

In addition, Linda-Nieves Powell is a featured speaker planned for March. Powell will speak about the importance of women's education and self discovery. Martinez explained that Powell advocates the importance of molding yourself into what you want to become instead of letting other people mold you.

In the next few weeks, Sahu said there will be a jazz band performing in the cafe and a diversity presentation given to business students enrolled in PPD.

Diversity Ambassadors make it clear that Wilkes campus is dynamic with color and texture. It is an innovative canvas painted with different ideas, thoughts and values. According to Kunkel, this is what makes her believe, "We have honestly planted the seeds that will blossom into a garden of roses."

Speech and Debate team to host tournament at home

BY ALLISON KULIK

Beacon Correspondent

It is said that you're only as strong as your weakest link. So, when you have a team full of rookies, the expectations of the team as a whole usually aren't especially high.

However, when a team works together as well as the Wilkes University Speech and Debate team, its rookie status is the least of its worries.

Last semester the Speech and Debate team saw a surge of new interest and welcomed many new faces. Since that time the team has grown from two members last year to eight regular members this year. And according to Dan Broyles, Speech and Debate Team coach, the best thing is that despite the its overall lack of experience, the team as a whole seems to be doing a good job of holding its own in competition. At its last tournament, the Ed Leonard Swing hosted at Brookdale Community College and Seton Hall University, Art Redmond was a finalist, placing 4th and 5th, in Impromptu for both days of competition.

Most of the team is fairly new to the world of college level speech and debate

competition. Yet, members are not intimidated because most of them are in the same boat and everyone makes an effort to assist each other and better themselves as a team. Freshman team member Alyssa Benner said, "There are some people on the team who are stronger than others; however, we help each other out a lot so it really helps the team become stronger as a whole." Unlike some teams, they appear to have great team chemistry and that proves to work in their favor.

Junior team member Raquel Wheby added, "Although there are some people who strive to improve individually, the whole team wants to get to a point where they can feel comfortable going to tournaments and also rank well."

"Their energy, outgoing personalities and zest for knowledge would be the team's biggest strengths. Trust me when I say there is never a dull moment with this group. We appear to have much more fun than many other schools at the tournaments simply because we enjoy one another's company so well," said Broyles.

Freshman team member Jeff Niemiec noted coaching style affects atmosphere

as well. "Broyles is a good guy and great coach. He definitely makes it fun."

Despite the team's lighthearted attitude and fun loving personalities, they still know how to step up to the plate when necessary and continuously strive to improve their skills.

"For us the competitions are not simply a mechanism to compete, but they are also a springboard for intellectual and personal growth. For instance, following the competitions, Wilkes students are always eager to read their ballots and see how they can improve themselves as communicators. Basically, we take our responsibilities very seriously, but we just have a lot of fun doing it," said Broyles.

Through coaching and interaction, the team members develop individually as well as together. Also, the students receive help from several staff members within the communications department too, which proves to be a big help to everyone.

The next competition they are currently preparing for is the annual Harold Cox Swing tournament that Wilkes University is co-hosting with Johns Hopkins University. It will be held this weekend on the Wilkes

campus February 10 and 11. All of the team members will spend one day helping run the competition and then compete the next.

Among the students from these schools who will be attending the competition, many of them are nationally ranked.

There is additional excitement about the competition this year because the hosting teams have decided to donate their proceeds to charity, as well as Wilkes University's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) organization. ASB is an organization that sends students, faculty and staff to help communities in need. This year ASB is traveling to New Orleans to assist with Hurricane Katrina damage. Johns Hopkins University will be donating its proceeds to a charity that is chosen at the competition.

With this particular tournament comes some extra stress because in addition to preparing and competing, team members will need to plan, organize and run the competition with Johns Hopkins University. However, despite the added pressure, Broyles said, "I feel very confident that this tournament will run smoothly and that our students will do well."

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Former 'N Sync star makes stop in Wilkes-Barre

BY NICOLE ZASTKO
Beacon Correspondent

Lance has come out of the closet. Chris is about to participate in a new VH1 reality show. Joey's been on Broadway and in movies. And thank God Justin has stuck around to "bring sexy back."

Members of the superstar boy band 'N Sync have clearly gone their separate ways and enjoyed great media coverage of nearly every move over the past couple years, but little has been said about band mate JC Chazez.

In his debut solo album, "Schizophrenic" in early 2004, JC proved he didn't have the same star power or success as Timberlake. The CD only peaked at 17 on the Billboard charts, and singles such as "Some Girls (Dance with Women)" and "All Day Long I Dream About Sex" got very little radio play.

Three years later Chazez is back and making his rounds across the country promoting a new album. Currently on an east coast radio tour, Chazez made his way to Pittston and Wilkes-Barre last week to campaign for his latest material.

Local radio station, 98.5 WKRZ, welcomed Chazez last Monday with a room full of fans eager to hear samples of his new record. *The Beacon* was part of a small entourage of local media allowed access to Chazez behind the scenes. Beginning with a question and answer session, Chazez described what he has been up to and went into making this album.

Outside his musical realm, family and friends have been an important part of his life, he acknowledged. With a brother, 25, and sister, 28, he's been around in their every day life. While his family is in full support of finding a passion, Chazez admits that he gives them no input on his music. "They don't know anything," he jokes.

With the new album yet to be titled, Chazez noted, "... It's been the focus of my life for over a year. They are really interesting songs."

He further explains how the recording and writing process differs from his days of being in 'N Sync. "It's a different thought process. You have an idea and have to take it to four people. There is a lot more compromise."

The demise of 'N Sync was not about hostility or problems, Chazez said. Each band member simply wanted to try something new. "This is what we wanted," Chazez said.

With the freedom of making a solo album, Chazez offered details on how writing a song happens. "Every song is different, it could start

direction, he noted that high energy is a key component to his overall style. "Ballads put me to sleep. If I kept doing slow songs over and over I wouldn't be able to express myself the way I want to."

One song previewed at the meet and greet that had a promising chance was, in fact, a ballad titled "You Ruined Me for Life." Two other in-the-works songs took on JC's edgy dance/pop persona. "Kate," a possible CD title, is about an imaginary person. Claiming there are no

references to any general life experience, Chazez uses "Kate" as a concept to give the record a focus. "Love Again" comes from the help of Dallas Austin, who has produced hits for Madonna, TLC, Pink and Gwen Stefani.

"All my lyrics help to color a story," Chazez says. "And that is what will give it staying power."

After discussion and listening to the album, JC made his way around the table to sign autographs, take pictures and just talk to his fans. All of the females at the event were winners of a WKRZ contest in which they received

VIP passes to hang out with the former 'N Sync-er.

Chazez then went into the radio studio where he went over the air waves to promote his CD to listeners. During the course of the interview, JC spoke about everything from his new single, to Justin's triumph, to Britney's lifestyle choices.

With the second solo album due out in March or April, JC Chazez is making sure to reach his fans and listeners. "I want to go out and hand deliver my material," he says. Anticipating to bring a tour back to the area later this year, it's his hope that Wilkes Barre, and America, will welcome back the former boy band icon as a successful solo artist.

All Photos The Beacon/Nicole Zastko



with a hum and then words just fly out." Interestingly, he described songs as

"Lightening in a bottle," saying "you never know if it's gonna be a hit."

Writing on every song, he worked with producers such as Dallas Austin, Billy Steinberg and Timberlake. The first single of the record, "Until Yesterday," is co-written with Timberlake. Chazez said of the song, "It's actually about your girlfriend getting knocked up with another man's baby. How would you deal with that?"

"I just like the way it feels," Chazez expresses about the song. He believes this CD has great potential, describing it as IPM (Intelligent Pop Music). "I don't want a quick burn. I want it smart where people won't get bored."

When asked why he took his approach to a dance/pop

Schedule of Events

Monday, February 5

-Karaoke with Scott Stevens at Slainte.
-My Hero is Me, Beneath the Sky, Sincision and The Hottness performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, February 6

- "Wilkes-Barre Bicentennial Exhibit" photography that traces 200-year history of the city at Luzerne County Historical Society Museum 12-4 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7

-The Five Percent performing at The

Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Thursday, February 8

- "Regional Ink: Tattoo Art from Northeastern Pennsylvania," art exhibit at Everhart Museum, Nay Aug Park, Scranton 12-4 p.m.

Friday, February 9

-Acacia Strain, Job for a Cowboy, See You Next Tuesday, Psuopus and Daath performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
-The Pink Floyd Experience at the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.
-Flaxy Morgan performing at the

Woodlands at 10 p.m.

-Millenium Actress showing at Café Metropolis at 9 p.m.
-Tanglefoot performing selections from its newest CD "Dance Like Flames" at the Chicory House, St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 35 S. Franklin St. 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 10

-All That, Pellinore and Mongoloids performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
-Hypnosis for Couples at Arts Youniverse at 6:30 p.m.

-Northeastern PA Phillharmonic at the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.
-Kid Icarus, Tigers Jaw, Three Man Cannon and The Lamphshades performing at Café Metropolis at 8 p.m.
-Trylogy performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Sunday, February 11

-Ghost Mice, Captain Random and Miles to Texas performing at Café Metropolis at 2 p.m.
-Sara Evans performing at the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.

CD Review: The Shins *Winning the Night Away*

BY NORA JURASITS
Beacon Features Editor

The Shins seem to know the way to my heart. Their newest album, *Winning the Night Away*, came complete with free stickers and a 45 rpm record with an alternate version of "Splitting Needles," as well as the B-side track, "Nothing at All." As if the solid tracks on the album weren't enough, the addition of free stuff capped it off. I'm in love.

Based out of Portland, Oregon, The Shins have been around for about ten years. The inclusion of, "Caring is Creepy," which was described in the movie as being a song that, "will change your life," and "New Slang" on the *Garden State* soundtrack boosted The Shins into the public eye.

James Mercer, the band's front man, is the lone songwriter. Mercer also contributes guitar, bass, ukulele, banjo, cat piano, percussion, synthesizers, beat and MIDI programming to the tracks. Along with Marty Crandall, who delivers synthesizer, bass, organ, and percussion sounds, lead guitarist Dave Hernandez, and Jesse Sandoval on drums, The Shins achieve success with their third full-length album.

The late January release of this album seems appropriate. Its overall sound is somewhat down-tempo, matching with the seasonal sorrow that usually kicks in around this time of year. But the songs hold enough pep to snap listeners out of the winter funk without getting annoying or trying too hard.

Winning also boasts the achievement of finding the balance between serving as background music and acting as music that can grab your attention any time it is played. This versatility means the album can be played while studying, as well as while hosting guests.

"Sleeping Lessons" is a strong lead track, beginning slowly and advising, "go without until the need seeps in." This eloquently stated advice foreshadows the frequent inclusion of notable and entertaining lyrics. The song builds into a faster base for the next song to build off.

From that base, "Australia" jumps into the rest of the album full-force with a steady beat, use of the banjo, and no actual mention of anything remotely Australian. The song has a timeless quality, as do many other songs on this album. The sound could be current, but could also probably be accepted twenty years

prior, or fifteen into the future. The musical sounds are pure, and that serves to translate very well across the years.

"Pam Berry" is a minute-long track with one line of lyrics stretched out across a warble of background sounds. Mercer seems to tell an entire story with just a line, informing listeners, "The lass of some 15-odd years is widely known to have spat in her teacher's lap but now I see how after all their crap, she rightly came to that."

This abstract piece is followed by the commercial "Phantom Limb," which has been released as the first single. It continues with the pace of the album, and serves as a good representation of the overall style of *Winning the Night Away*. Its only potential downfall is the overuse of the tambourine, resulting in more of a distraction than a compliment to the rest of the sounds of the song.

Somehow Mercer manages to include "Sealegs," a track with more of an 80's, synthesized feel, without making it seem out of place, and transitions into "Red Rabbits," on which vocals are laid against music with a dream-like quality that could accompany a sea adventure in some sort of video game.

"Turn on Me" contains the lyrics that made

me laugh out loud the first time I listened: "You can fake it for a while/ bite your tongue and smile/ like every mother does her ugly child." They are relatable and somewhat depressed, but Mercer adds humor to the song about unrequited love, avoiding the mopefest it could have become if other indie rock bands had written or performed it.

The two following tracks, "Black Wave," and "Split Needles," set a more somber mood, seemingly expressing the aftereffects of "Turn on Me." But the songs avoid sounding angry category with the experimental sounds The Shins play with in these tracks.

Although pleasing to the ear, "Girl Sailor" boasts no other notable qualities, but the album's last song, "A Comet Appears," sets them back on track. A noticeable lack of drums ends the disc with a mellow feeling.

It is definitely worth noting that anyone who enjoys the fun style of The Shins should check out their web site, www.theshins.com. In addition to typical music web site features, their site allows visitors to move around the band members and watch a video of them dancing.

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Crossword Puzzle

BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

Beacon Correspondent

ACROSS

- 1 Poe's works
6 Duration
10 Negative votes
14 Kind of nerve
15 Conception
16 Popular cookie
17 Remove security from a document
19 Close by
20 Contrivance
21 Science of life (briefly)
22 Yesterday
23 Delay
25 Chooses actors
26 Molecule component
30 Where wine is sometimes kept
32 Tall mammal
35 Recover from intoxication
39 Aviator, ____ Earhart
40 Tool for gripping
41 Feels indignantly aggrieved
43 Without purpose
44 Pertaining to the evening
46 Long narrow strip of wood
47 Having two legs, for support
50 Invalidate
53 Person regarded with admiration

- 54 Watson's concern
55 Detain
60 Yard tool
61 Permission to enter
63 Now and ____
64 Caribou or elk
65 Excursions
66 Master of ceremonies
67 Bar connecting wheels
68 Abides by

DOWN

- 1 Groups of whales
2 Oil countries grp.
3 Inscribe
4 Denver height
5 Cons
6 "My country ____ of thee"
7 Consumable
8 Replenishes
9 Common condiment, for short
10 Sugar covered flat chocolate
11 Carpenters measurements
12 Dough raiser
13 Organizes
18 Assign
24 Expert
25 Pay T.V.
26 Lab medium
27 Contract stipulation

- 28 Iron and copper
29 Bad-natured
31 Cuts off
33 Charged money as a penalty
34 Found in junk foods

- 36 Film unit
37 Constellation
____ minor
38 Get ones attention quietly

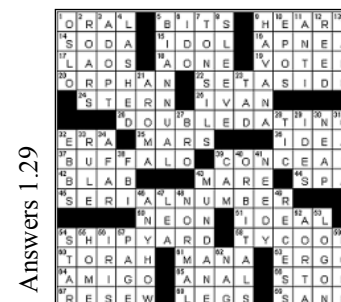
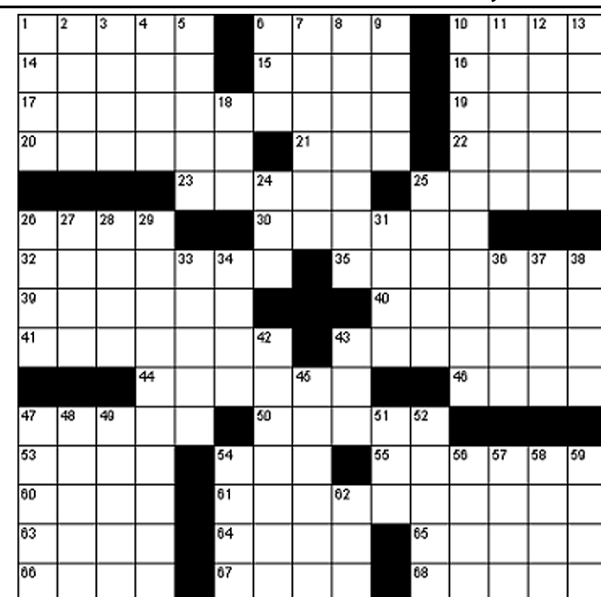
- 42 Tight fitting

- fabric

- 43 Decorative

- vase

- 45 Protective coating
47 Babies entrance
48 Potato State
49 Prods
51 The greatest abbr.
52 Game of chance
54 Father, as said by a baby
56 Energy molecule, for short
57 Leg joint
58 Repulsive, slangly
59 Famous monster
62 Anger



Answers 1-29

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This Week In History

BY MICHAEL GIONFRIDDO

Beacon Correspondent

Brought to you by the History Club

February 5

1917: With more than a two-thirds majority, Congress overrides President Woodrow Wilson's veto of the previous week and passes the Immigration Act. The law required a literacy test for immigrants and barred Asiatic laborers, except for those from countries with special treaties or agreements with the United States, such as the Philippines.

February 6

1952: After a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies in his sleep at the royal estate at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the king's two daughters and next in line to succeed him, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

February 7

1984: While in orbit 170 miles above Earth, Navy Captain Bruce McCandless becomes the first human being to fly untethered in space when he exits the U.S. space shuttle Challenger and maneuvers freely, using a bulky white rocket pack of his own design. McCandless orbited Earth in tangent with the shuttle at speeds greater than 17,500 miles per hour and flew up to 320 feet away from the Challenger. After an hour and a half testing and flying the jet-powered backpack and admiring Earth, McCandless safely reentered the shuttle.

February 8

1587: After 19 years of imprisonment, Mary

Queen of Scots is beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I.

February 9

1950: During a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, Senator Joseph McCarthy (Republican-Wisconsin) claims that he has a list with the names of over 200 members of the Department of State that are "known communists." The speech vaulted McCarthy to national prominence and sparked a nationwide hysteria about subversives in the American government.

February 10

1962: American spy pilot Francis Gary Powers is released by the Soviets in exchange for Soviet Colonel Rudolf Abel, a senior KGB spy who was caught in the United States five years earlier. The two men were brought to separate sides of the Glienicke Bridge, which connects East and West Berlin across Lake Wannsee. As the spies waited, negotiators talked in the center of the bridge where a white line divided East from West. Finally, Powers and Abel were waved forward and crossed the border into freedom at the same moment--8:52 a.m., Berlin time. Just before their transfer, Frederic Pryor--an American student held by East German authorities since August 1961--was released to American authorities at another border checkpoint.

February 11

1990: Nelson Mandela, leader of the movement to end South African apartheid, is released from prison after 27 years on February 11, 1990.

Note: All information is provided by the History Channel and can be found at <http://www.history.com/tidh.do>.

LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT: THE HOLY MESS

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

The Beacon recently had the opportunity to speak with local band The Holy Mess before they went off on a weekend tour. The band offers a solid and upbeat pop-punk sound, and always delivers an energetic live performance. Add along with that their clever sense of humor, and you'll see that this band truly is the "real baked potato."

The Holy Mess consists of Rob Malloy on guitar and lead vocals, Steve-O on bass and vocals, Dommy Russo on guitar and vocals, and Keith Yosco on the drums. They currently

have a demo out which you can order from their website, and they have a number of east coast tour dates lined up.

Beacon: How long have you been a band, and what changes has your band gone through over time (sound, lineup, etc)?

Rob: We've been a band about a year-ish, during that time we added Dhom James on guitar and hired 'Big Money' Yosco on the drums.

SteveO: We have steadily been improving our awesomeness thanks in no small part to Busch pounders.

Beacon: Do you guys currently have any recordings in the works?

Yosco: We have the proverbial hammer ready to drop with 6 freshies...starting at a slow simmer and bringin it to boil sometime on or around March 24, 25.

Beacon: So, I'm a little confused. Did your band used to be named Fo A Cha, or was that an entirely different band, because unless I'm mistaken, the lineup appears to be almost entirely the same?

Rob: Fo A Cha was my old band and SteveO filled in for awhile, so I see how you would make that comparison. This band is the real baked potato...print that!

Beacon: Also, why the name The Holy Mess, and who actually came up with the name?

Dommy: The real explanation is...a zombie gave us the idea. That's actually not a joke.

Beacon: So on your Myspace you describe your sound as "punk/lounge/soul." Maybe it's just me, but I can't really spot the lounge undertones... While that's not worded as a question, feel free to respond.

Rob: I'm stoked that you picked up on the soul influence!

SteveO: We're pretty much the soul of punk that lounges around all day...if that makes any sense.

Yosco: ...I liked Lounge, they were a good band.

Beacon: Are there any other bands that people have compared you to? For people who haven't ever heard you guys play, who could you compare yourselves to? And are there any bands out there that you guys sort of admire, or aspire to be similar to?

SteveO: Mike from The Avalanche is the only dude who ever compared us to anything, and he said we sounded like The Lawrence Arms, so we took that as a compliment.

Beacon: So, like most bands, you have to have some sort of show or

tour horror story. Share one with us.

Rob: We look at all of our horror stories as blessings...we live for that stuff!

Dommy: Balls Mahoney versus The Sandman '95...

Beacon: Along with that, describe the best show you guys have played.

Rob: We played a show once in Tamaqua with 7th Layer, a juggalo band...that pretty much made our lives.

SteveO: We love playing Cafe Metropolis...Donald and Matt are totally chill dudes and we always get good vibes over there.

Beacon: Have you guys ever encountered any overly obsessive fans? Also, have you guys amassed a hyperactive entourage of teenage girls yet, or is it still too early in the game?

SteveO: We have yet to encounter any fans at all...and if we ever do, we will turn them away.

Yosco: We do this for us, ***damnit!

Rob: Should we put some 'haha's' in there?

Beacon: What exactly are you guys shooting for with this band? Is this something you all do full-time, or do you all have other jobs on the side?

Yosco: Clay pigeons...

Dommy: There's pellets that shoot from the ends of our guitars and take them out.

SteveO: We're all award-winning marksmen.

Beacon: Okay, and lastly, sum up the Holy Mess experience in simply three words.

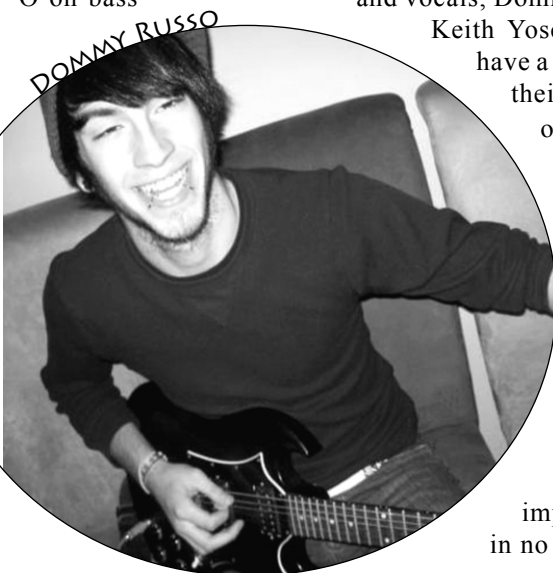
Dommy: Real baked potato.

Rob: A holy mess.

Yosco: Busch Pound Ers.

SteveO: Everything listed above.

If you haven't yet checked out The Holy Mess and you're really dying for a baked potato, go to www.myspace.com/theholymess1.



Wilkes wrestlers lose two close dual matches with ranked rivals

BY ALISSA LINDNER
Beacon Staff Writer

The Wilkes wrestling team was in action this week with fellow nationally-ranked rivals. The 13th-ranked Colonels took on the eighth-ranked College of New Jersey Wednesday, January 31 in the Martz Gym.

Wilkes took the mat again on Saturday, February 3 at 14th-ranked Ithaca College.

On Wednesday in the dual against College of New Jersey Lions, Shaun Farnham started off the match for Wilkes in the 125-pound weight class. Farnham won the first bout of the evening for the Colonels with an 11-2 major decision over Tom Roberto.

The Lions took the next two bouts by a close margin. In the 133-pound weight class, sophomore Josh Pauling lost a close 6-3 decision to the Lion's Ray Sarinelli. Sarinelli is currently ranked seventh in the nation at 133 pounds. At 141 pounds, sophomore Pete George lost a narrow 1-0 decision over Tyler Branham.

But the Colonels fought back to take the lead in the 149 pound weight class. Sophomore Erik Smith was awarded a point for riding time at the end of the bout to win a

2-1 decision over Chris Prihoda.

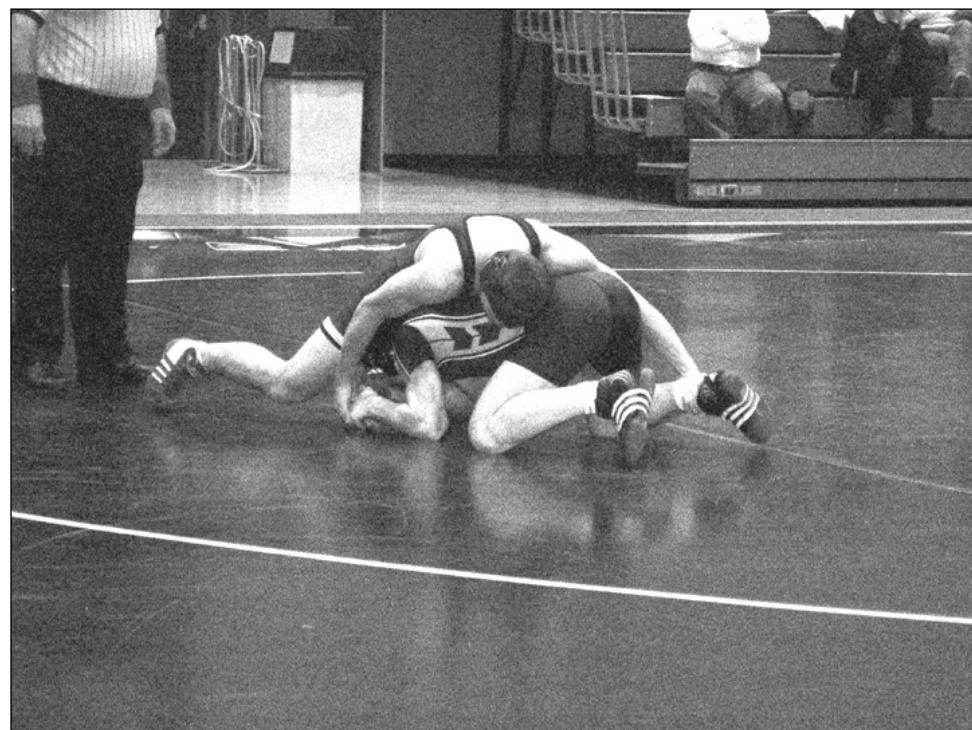
In the 157 pound weight class, sophomore Andrew Franko was forced to injury default from the bout. Joey Galante of the College of New Jersey was awarded the win and the Lions again captured the lead, 12-7.

Freshman Frank Heffernan moved up a weight class to 165 pounds. Heffernan met the Lion's Lenny Goduto. Goduto was awarded an escape in the third period to send the bout into overtime. In overtime, Goduto scored a takedown to win the bout.

Also bumping up a weight class was sophomore Justin Barowski. Barowski met 7th ranked Greg Osgoodby in the 174 pound weight class. Barowski kept the bout close; however, Osgoodby would take a 3-1 decision.

With three weight classes remaining, the College of New Jersey Lions held the lead 18-7. Freshman Colin Nagy provided the most exciting bout of the evening in the 184 pound weight class. Nagy faced Jim Tomczuk, who is the top-ranked wrestler at 184 pounds in the Metropolitan Conference. Nagy was awarded a point for riding time to

See **WRESTLING** page 17



The Beacon/Alissa Lindner

Pete George narrowly lost on the mat 1-0 to Tyler Branham in the Colonels match against the College of New Jersey. The Colonels who came into the match ranked 13th in the nation, also took on Ithaca College on Saturday.

The CUMBERLAND

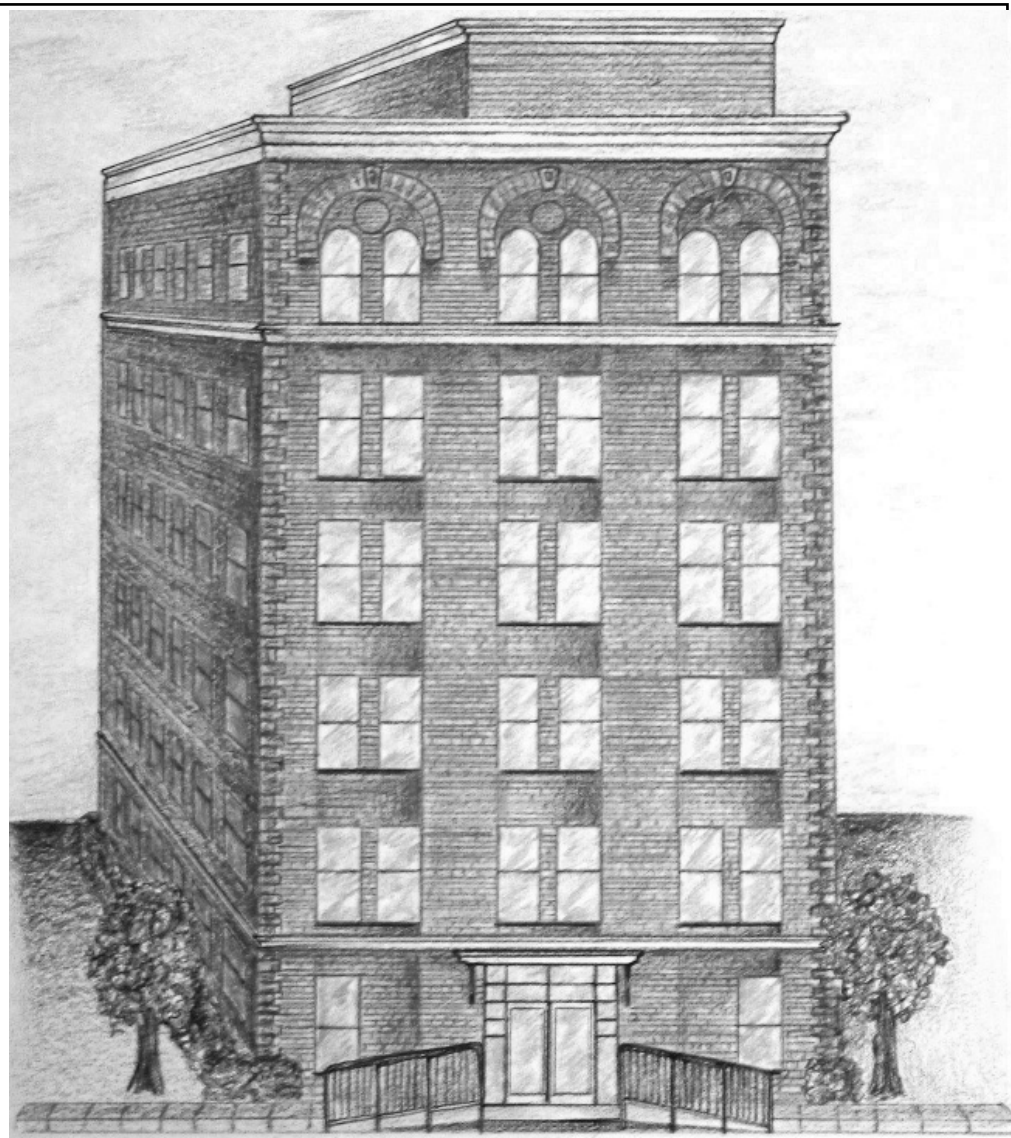
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Preview of the Week: Women's basketball v. Scranton

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

In a road game, getting off to a slow start can be deadly. The crowd gets pumped up, home-team opponents are constantly slapping high fives with one another to keep the fire stoked, and your team is left miserable wondering how all of this is happening. Too often in scenes like this, before you know it the game is over and your team is on the losing end of the stick.

Unfortunately, the Lady Colonels know what it feels like to get off to a slow start, and will look to reverse their previous performance against Scranton University in which they faced an embarrassing 63-23 loss at Scranton.

"The first game against Scranton, we got off to a real slow start. We took a lot of shots in the first half, but they just wouldn't fall. It wasn't like they were rushed shots or bad shots. A lot of them were good shots, but they just wouldn't fall," reflected head coach Rachel Emmerthal.

As Emmerthal acknowledged, last month was the first time the two teams squared off at Scranton University, and the Lady Colonels could not make anything happen. Wilkes shot just 10% from the floor on 3-30 shooting for the entire first half. The Lady Colonels made minor improvements in the second half, in which they shot only 7-26 from the field. Wilkes finished the game shooting just 17.9% from the floor.

The sun wasn't shining for the Lady Colonels that day, and putting on a poor performance against a solid Scranton team most



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Lady Colonels all time block leader Karyn Perestam goes up for a chip shot, and will look to help her team knock off top seeded Scranton University this Wednesday at 6 P.M. in the Marts Gym.

of the time will result in a loss.

The Scranton University Lady Royals, also known as the reigning MAC Freedom Conference champions, are in first place of the MAC conference with an impressive 10-0 record. The Lady Royals have the luxury of veteran leadership in their 26-year head coach Mike Strong, who has led his teams to seven NCAA Final Four appearances.

Not only do the Lady Colonels have to be concerned with the leadership of Coach Strong, but they also have to be able to contain two senior All-Americans, Taryn Mellody

and Allison Matt. Mellody leads the Lady Royals in scoring with 17.4 points per contest, and Matt chips in with 12.3 points per game. The Lady Colonels have a lot on their plate when it comes to this experienced Scranton team, but they are hoping that the home team advantage this time around will prove that the results of the last meeting with the Lady Royals was a fluke.

"We just have to come out and play hard. Anybody who is a giant, and is used to winning, there are still nights where they can be picked off; and we are hoping Wednesday night will be that night," said Emmerthal.

The Lady Colonels will need contributions from the entire team, including freshman guard Ashley Makarczyk who led the Lady Colonels in scoring this past Saturday against Del Val, with nine of her 13 points coming from behind the three point line.

Both junior captains Lacey Andresen and Katie Cappelloni must display great leadership in order for the Lady Colonels to pull out a win against the Lady Royals. Randi Corbo leads the Lady Colonels in scoring and assists and believes that being at home will give her team the edge versus the Lady Royals. "Scranton is coming to our gym, so it will be a much better game. It's our school, our gym, and we played them before so we know what to expect to get the win," said Corbo.

The Lady Colonels will need a much greater effort than what they demonstrated in the first contest against the Lady Royals, and if they can do so, a "W" for the Lady Colonels can be in reach. The Lady Colonels will play host to Scranton this Wednesday at 6 P.M.

WRESTLING from PAGE 16

send the match to overtime. The Colonels prevailed in overtime as Nagy was awarded a takedown to win the match 4-2.

Nagy commented, "It was exciting to beat the first seed. Coach explained to me he was very beatable." He added, "In overtime, my adrenaline was rushing and I was able to get the quick takedown."

Senior Brandon Kelly returned to action for the Colonels after missing nearly three weeks due to injury. Kelly, ranked sixth at 197 pounds, pinned his opponent, Shawn Vanwingerden, in the first period to bring the Colonels within two with one bout remaining.

In the 285 pound weight class, senior Keith Altieri took the mat for the Colonels. Altieri remained strong throughout the match only to lose a close 2-0 decision over the Lions Steve Carbone. The College of New Jersey Lions were awarded the win, 21-16.

But Coach Jon Laudenslager was

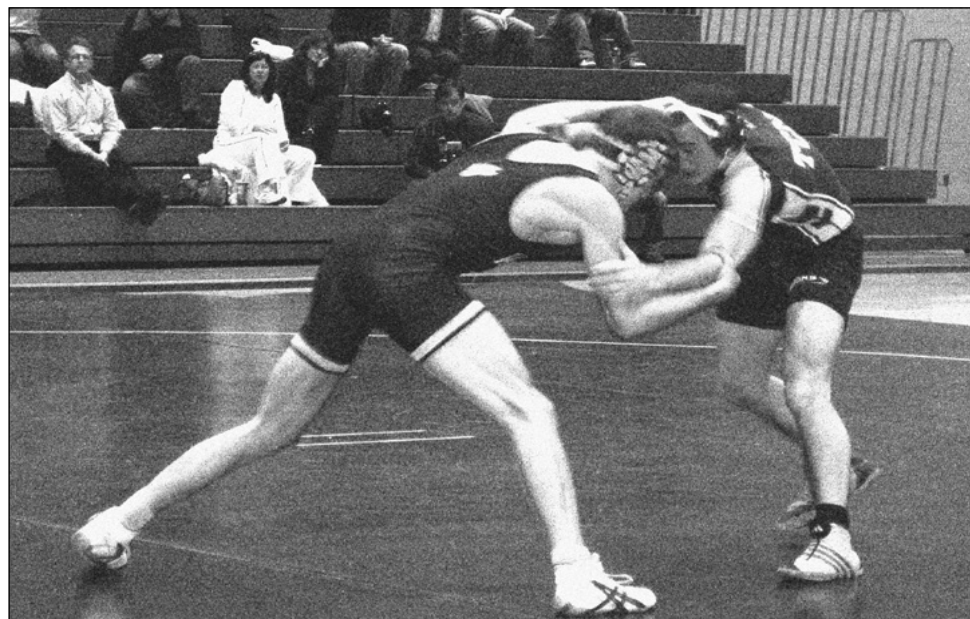
pleased with the performance of the entire team against the College of New Jersey. Laudenslager explained, "We wrestled well. It was a great match against two good teams." He added, "It was an exciting dual meet."

The Colonels wrestled another tight match against the Ithaca College Bombers on Saturday afternoon. Both teams won five bouts; however, the Bombers ultimately took the win, 19-15.

Credited with wins by decision for Wilkes were Heffernan, Barowski, Kelly, Altieri and Felipe Queiroz. Queiroz returned to the mat after nearly a month off.

With the end of the season nearing, Laudenslager is confident in his team's ability. He explained, "We have had some ups and downs, but hopefully we are getting ready to peak at the right time." Laudenslager added, "We have two weeks until the conferences. Our guys are goal oriented right now to win the Metros."

The Colonels will be in action again next



The Beacon/Alissa Lindner

Frank Heffernan is armed locked during the Colonels wrestling match, which the Bombers won 19-15.

Saturday, February 10 when they host Elizabethtown College and SUNY Morrisville

in the Martz Gym at 12 noon.

| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

NBA: Los Angeles Lakers vs. Detroit Pistons

Lakers, Pistons meet to settle their past differences

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

It doesn't get any better than this...

Three seasons ago during the 2004 NBA finals, two teams faced off and the outcome shocked the world.

The LA Lakers were on a hot streak. They finished first in the Pacific Division and second in the Western Conference. With the Lakers back in the playoffs, everyone knew that it was almost definite that this superb Laker team would

dance in the NBA Finals again. Prior to the 2003-04 season, the Lakers had won three out of four NBA championships. But this time, the Lakers weren't the ones shining with the "bling, bling" on their fingers; it was Ben Wallace and the Detroit Pistons.

The Pistons bullied Kobe Bryant and traded severe body blows with Shaquille O'Neal on their way to beating the Lakers in five games out of a seven game series. Basically sweeping the Lakers, they somehow slipped and lost a game. This time it's only a regular season game, but the tension between these two teams following their battle in the NBA Finals still lingers. The Lakers minus Shaq and the Pistons minus Ben Wallace equals an even match this Thursday at 5 pm.

The Pistons primary focus will be to shut down a guy by the name of Kobe Bryant, and it certainly won't be an easy task. Bryant is a nine-time All-Star, three-time NBA champion, six-time All-Defensive selection and the list goes on. An examination of his record shows that the man is a monster playing amongst children. Bryant scored 81 points in a single game last seson, which currently stands at the second most points scored in a single game behind Wilt Chamberland's 100 point game against the Knicks nearly 35 years ago.

Despite the credentials of this living legend, the Pistons are famous for their stingy defense and can put a halt on a player's

scoring at the snap of a finger. In fact, the first time this season the two teams met in November, the Pistons held Bryant to only 19 points, and spanked the Lakers 97-83 in front of 18,997 screaming Laker fans at the Staples Center. That success can be attributed to the excellent coaching strategy that involves sending the 6'9, long-armed defensive weapon Tayshaun Prince to contain Bryant. And it works, so they will probably give him the job again.

Head coach Flip Saunders has guided this Piston team full of veterans to a 27-18 record, which leads the Eastern Conference. But for a coach like Saunders, their job is made a whole lot easier when you have one of the strongest and quickest guards in the league

in Chauncey Billups. Billups was named the NBA Finals MVP after whooping on the Lakers in 2004, and he's on the path to another standout season, averaging 18.1 points and a stellar 7.6 assists per game.

Most of Billups's passes are thrown to Richard Hamilton, who tops the team in scoring with 22.7 points per contest. Although Hamilton wears a permanent mask, he can shoot in anybody's "grill" and when he's hot, the sound of the net goes "swish." Rasheed Wallace, who averages 12.1 points and 8.2 rebounds, will also play a huge factor in the game against the Lakers. Instead of playing alongside his former partner Ben Wallace, who was traded to the Bulls at the beginning of the season, Rasheed will be accompanied by newcomer Chris Webber, combing for a two-man-wrecking-crew down low in the paint.

The Pistons are an experienced team that has the potential to run the Lakers out of the gym, but it won't be easy. Why? Two names: Phil Jackson or Kobe Bryant. What-

ever. It doesn't matter. They both cause a problem for the other team, and together they cause a 48 minute brawl for any team in the NBA.

Jackson is just one finger short of being able to cover both hands with NBA championship rings, which means that he possesses unique coaching experience. Jackson has led his young and inexperienced Laker team to

an impressive 29-19 record as they stand in sixth place among a jungle of great teams in the Western Conference. After trading in his number 8 for a 24 on his jersey, Kobe Bryant has been dishing the "rock" with great precision, averaging 5.6 assists per game to go along with 28.8 points per game. If the Lakers get everyone involved in the flow of the game, look out Detroit. Lamar Odom is fresh from his knee injury that he suffered back in December, and will look to continue being a reliable compliment to Kobe Bryant's offensive attack. Smush Parker is doing a solid job at the point guard position, averaging 11.5 points per game.

The bottom line is this: If the Pistons are able to effectively set up their half court offense and shut down Kobe Bryant, they win. If the Lakers execute Jackson's famous triangle offense and control the tempo, they win. But based on these teams' past history, expect a great game as the Lakers and Pistons go head to head for another exciting round of NBA basketball.

Prediction:
Lakers: 97
Pistons: 93

Double Take

Steph examines the stats that truly matter...

BY STEPHANIE DEBALCO

Beacon A&E Editor

I will admit I actually kind of enjoy basketball. Well, I use the word "enjoy" loosely. I "enjoy" it in the way that I understand that when the ball goes in the net, that's a good thing. More often, I enjoy scoping out what celebrities are rooting for which teams, and then I can decide which team I prefer (unless the Knicks are playing, because in that case I am always rooting for the Knicks).

In the case of the Los Angeles Lakers versus the Detroit Pistons, there should be no question of whom I am betting will win. Pitting Los Angeles against Detroit would normally be a no-brainer, at least for me. I mean, it's LA! It's the city of angels or whatever, and definitely the city of amazing shopping and ridiculously attractive people (even if they weren't born that way). However, I did hesitate for a second here, for one very good reason.

When it comes to cute cheerleading outfits, the Pistons have the Lakers beat. While both teams have scandalously skimpy outfits that are barely visible, what I could tell was that the Pistons' uniforms were a lot more sparkly and therefore, in my opinion, more worthy of attention.

I never thought I'd say it, but in this case, cute outfits are just not enough. While the Pistons have the Lakers beat in the desirable attire aspect, the Lakers are the Lakers. They not only have an enviable location and infamous players (Kobe Bryant is on the team, right?), but they also seem to have a higher ratio of celebrity fans. I'm not one to jump on the bandwagon when it comes to sports (insert laughter here), but I find it quite impossible not to when one of the team's biggest fans is Jack Nicholson! Add to that the fact that other celebrity fans include Leonardo DiCaprio, Kevin Costner and Denzel Washington, and I'm about ready to book the next flight to L.A. ASAP.

So, in my opinion, the Lakers are going to, like, totally win.



BASKETBALL from PAGE 20

both programs expected to return substantial talent, the potential exists for some outstanding games in the next several years. However, many administrators and coaches involved in that decision have mixed feelings about Scranton leaving the conference, and the immediate future of the rivalry is still uncertain at best.

"I think the first thought we had here was one of disappointment," said Wilkes athletic director Addy Malatesta, when asked about Scranton's move to the Landmark Conference. "We've enjoyed the history be-

tween the two schools, and we've had some outstanding contests in men's basketball over the years. Scranton has made a decision that they feel is in the best interest of their institution. They remain our friends and colleagues, and we must respect their decision."

Still, many coaches and administrators at both schools have expressed interest in keeping the rivalry alive through non-conference competition during the regular season.

Regardless of the future, this Wednesday will mark the final installment of a conference rivalry that has brought out the best in

players, coaches and fans for decades. The meetings may continue, but nothing will ever quite replace the battles between the

Colonels and the Royals for conference-and-local-supremacy.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

The Colonels smacked the Delaware Valley Aggies 62-53 this past Saturday, and desperately need to repeat that performance against Scranton University on Wednesday to avenge last month's 70-41 loss to the Royals.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

WEEKEND RECAPS

Women's Basketball

Moiria Donohue popped in 27 points to lead Delaware Valley College to a 75-65 Freedom Conference women's basketball win over Wilkes University on Saturday afternoon in the Marts Center. The win improves the Aggies to 9-11 overall and 5-5 in conference play. Wilkes sees its record move to 6-15 overall and 2-8 in the conference.

Ashley Makarczyk led three Wilkes players in double-figures with 13 points. Patchell chipped in with 12 points and five rebounds, while Karyn Perestam added 10 points, eight rebounds and four assists.

Men's Basketball

Junior Jeremy Kable scored a career-high 24 points and freshman Tom Kresge added 17 counters to lead Wilkes University to a 62-53 Freedom Conference men's basketball win over Delaware Valley College on Saturday afternoon in the Marts Center.

The victory not only improved the Colonels to 10-9 overall and 2-8 in the conference, it also snapped the team's seven-game losing skid. Delaware Valley saw its record fall to 4-17 overall and 2-8 in conference play.

Wrestling

In a battle of nationally-ranked wrestling teams 14th-ranked Ithaca College nipped 13th-ranked Wilkes University, 19-15, on Saturday afternoon. The win improves the Bombers to 9-2 in dual matches, while the Colonels see their record fall to 10-8.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

24

Number of points scored by junior guard Jeremy Kable against Del Val on Sat.. His outstanding effort gives him a new career high.

197

The weight class that has been dominated by the Colonels 6th ranked Brandon Kelly. Kelly's record stands at 8-2.

13

Total number of points scored by freshman guard Ashley Macarczyk. She led the team in scoring as the Lady Colonels lost to Del Val.

288

Number of career wins for head coach Jerry Rickrode. Rickrode is currently in his 15th season as the Colonels head basketball coach.

Wilkes, Scranton to meet for last time as conference foes

End of an era for classic rivalry

BY GERARD HETMAN
Beacon Staff Writer

When the Wilkes University men's basketball team takes to the Martz Center floor Wednesday against conference rival Scranton, the showdown will mark the end of an era in local college basketball.

For many years, the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) has enjoyed a three-way rivalry between Wilkes, Scranton and King's College. Sold-out arenas, passionate student sections and conference title implications have all become regular features of the clashes between the three local basketball powers.

However, in late 2006 The University of Scranton made a decision to leave its local rivals in the MAC and begin competition in the newly-formed Landmark Conference. The Royals will therefore

no longer share the MAC with King's and Wilkes and as a result, Wednesday will mark the last meeting of the Colonels and Royals in a game with MAC conference implications.

"I think it's taking away an atmosphere that's hard to top," said Wilkes head coach Jerry Rickrode of not having the annual conference clashes between Wilkes and Scranton on the schedule. "When I got the job at Wilkes in 1992, it was a big draw being in the same conference with a successful team like Scranton and the local rivalry factor that came along with that."

The two programs have enjoyed tremendous success in recent decades, with nearly every regular-season meeting between the rivals holding playoff implications. Some of the most memorable moments in the series came when Wilkes won six MAC championships from 1995 through 2001.

Scranton also featured strong teams in those years, and fans would often line up outside the gym well in advance just to secure a seat for the game. When Wilkes won the conference title in the 1997-98 seasons, the teams met twice in the regular season, again for the league championship and once more in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Scranton leads the all-time series 71-35, but Wilkes has won many of the more recent games in the rivalry.

When and if the rivalry will continue has become a hot topic of conversation on the Wilkes campus and in the local sports community. Given the close geographical distance and outstanding sports history shared by the schools, many fans are eager to see the teams continue to meet in a non-conference format. With

See **BASKETBALL** page 19



The Beacon/Todd Weibel
Leading scorer Tom Kresge will look to guide his team to a win in their last conference meeting with rivalry Scranton University.

Campus Calendar

All Week:

*Sudan: The Cost of Silence exhibit, Sordoni Art Gallery.

Monday 2/5

*No events scheduled.

Tuesday 2/6

*MBA Information Seminar.

Wednesday 2/7

*National Black AIDS Awareness Day information table, HSC lobby - 11:00 a.m.

*Women's basketball vs.

Scranton - 6:00 p.m.

*Private movie screening: All About Darfur, RC Movies 14 - 7:00 p.m.

*Men's basketball vs. Scranton - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday 2/8

*Alternative Spring Break Spaghetti Dinner, HSC Ballroom - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 2/9

*Student Development Group Ski Night, SnoMountain.

Saturday 2/10

*King of Prussia

Shopping Trip, HSC Info Desk - 9:00 a.m.

*Wrestling vs.

Elizabethtown/Morrisville - 12:00 p.m.

*Women's basketball @ FDU-Florham - 1:00 p.m.

*Men's basketball @ FDU-Florham - 3:00 p.m.

*Penguin's hockey game, Wachovia Arena - 7:05 p.m.

Sunday 2/11

*No events scheduled.

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH



This photo was taken somewhere on Wilkes University's campus.

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



Congratulations to Lorraine Serfoss, who correctly identified last week's picture, which was of a sign on the front door of Pearsall Hall.