

The BEACON

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Administration prepares campus for change on several fronts *Efficiency is key in continuing Vision 2010*

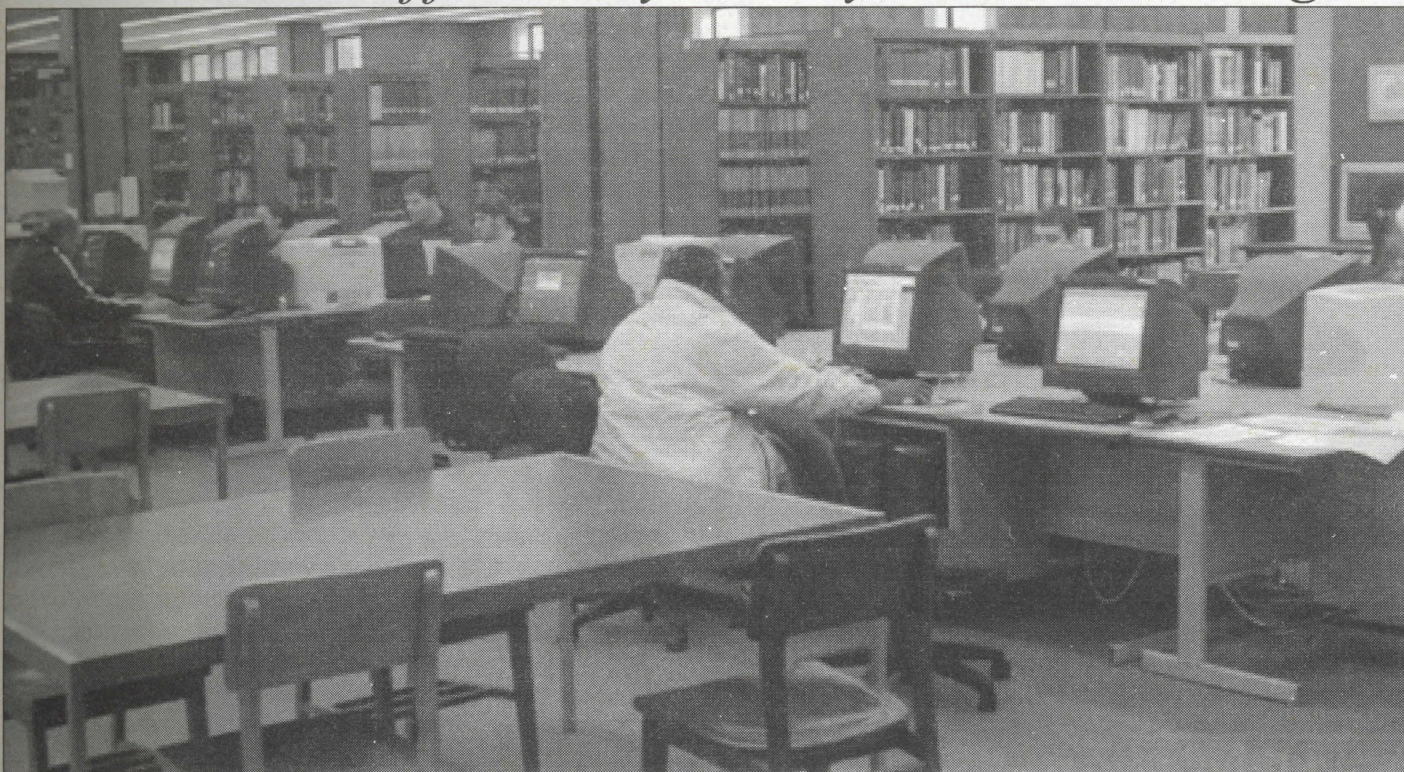
BY REBECCA GOODMAN
Beacon Managing Editor

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part series on changes proposed by the Vision 2010 plan for Wilkes University. Offering an overview of changes associated with the plan. Next week's article will examine campus reaction.

Members of the President's Cabinet revealed details of the budget plan for 2007 fiscal year and reiterated key discussion points of a plan called Vision 2010 at special faculty and staff meetings last Thursday, March 16.

The details highlighted previously established plans for renovation and expansion of Wilkes University and the means by which specifics will be achieved. Some of those means will include redistribution of funds, changes in processes, hiring new faculty, and reorganizing administrative duties and structure. The presentations to faculty and staff last week acknowledged that positive growth and advancement does not come without struggle and some of those challenges may be felt in personnel changes.

Administrators plan to unveil the same information to student representatives at Wednesday's Student Government (SG) meeting as well as the proposed tuition increase for 2006-07, which will be a 6% hike across the board. Traditionally, Wilkes officials have released the proposed tuition hike to SG before talking with faculty or the press; however, officials acknowledged that tuition was part of the larger budget picture and as a result was a component of Thursday's presentation.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Eugene S. Farley Library is one of the many buildings that will be affected by Vision 2010. Officials say the library is slated for renovations in the future along with some residence halls, such as Chesapeake & Delaware, and there are plans to raise money for a new Science and Health Building.

No charges filed against Wilkes staff member

BY KRISTIN KILE
Beacon Editor-in-Chief

No charges will be filed against Andita Parker-Lloyd, Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs, who was arrested on Thursday, February 16 for disorderly conduct. Parker-Lloyd and a group of students were traveling in two separate cars heading to a restaurant after a black history month celebration when the car behind her was pulled over for

failing to signal three times.

The driver was of Indian descent and those inside the car included a Puerto Rican female, African American male and a white Wilkes staff member. Parker-Lloyd was arrested after she approached a police officer a second time for his badge number.

Police Chief Gerry Dessoye said Parker-Lloyd submitted a letter expressing her intent that night and the police decided not

to file charges. He said Parker-Lloyd was asked to get back into her car and police officers did not want her to be "a part of the mix" because she was not the person who was pulled over.

"We deal with incidents like this all the time where people stop and get involved with a police action because they feel they

See CHARGES page 4

See VISION page 5

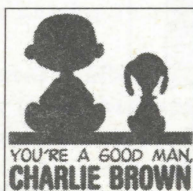
In This Issue...

Quitting MySpace



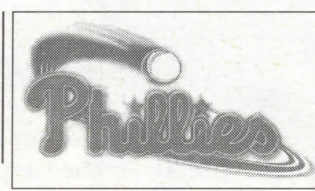
Page 8

Little Theater



Page 13

MLB Phillies Preview



Page 17

Index

News.....	1-5
Opinion.....	6-8
Features.....	9-11
Arts & Entertainment....	12-15
Sports.....	16-20

NEWS

MARCH 20, 2006

2

News in Brief	3
CEO Check	3
Nuisance Properties	4

Fenner Hall gets long-term tenants

Study Abroad Office finds a home

BY JEANNE STAPLETON
Beacon Staff Writer

The late Atty. George L. Fenner donated his former home and office, nestled between the Eugene Farley Library and Capin Hall on South Franklin Street, to the university in 1985; however, the building did not officially become part of the Wilkes campus until November of 2001 when he passed away.

Since Wilkes acquired the building it has provided a place for meetings, conferences, faculty/staff TGIF gatherings and in 2004 it served as the temporary summer home of the Admissions office during renovations to Chase Hall. But Fenner Hall has never served as a long-term home for any university entity until now.

Recently, the Study Abroad Office moved into Fenner Hall. With a fresh coat of paint and some spe-

cial touches of posters and knickknacks the Study Abroad Office calls it home, for the time being.

"The Study Abroad Office was in need of additional space and Fenner Hall was suitable and provided them with the space needed. No plans have been made to address Fenner Hall in the near term (the next year or so) so it can meet the needs of the Study Abroad Office until some definite plans are made," said Scott Byers, vice president of finance and support operations.

The Study Abroad Office offers procedure information for studying abroad along with passport application information, maps, brochures and most importantly consultation and help. Currently, the Study Abroad Office specializes in Italy, Spain, Australia, and France. Wilkes supports programs ranging from two weeks, a semester, to a yearlong.

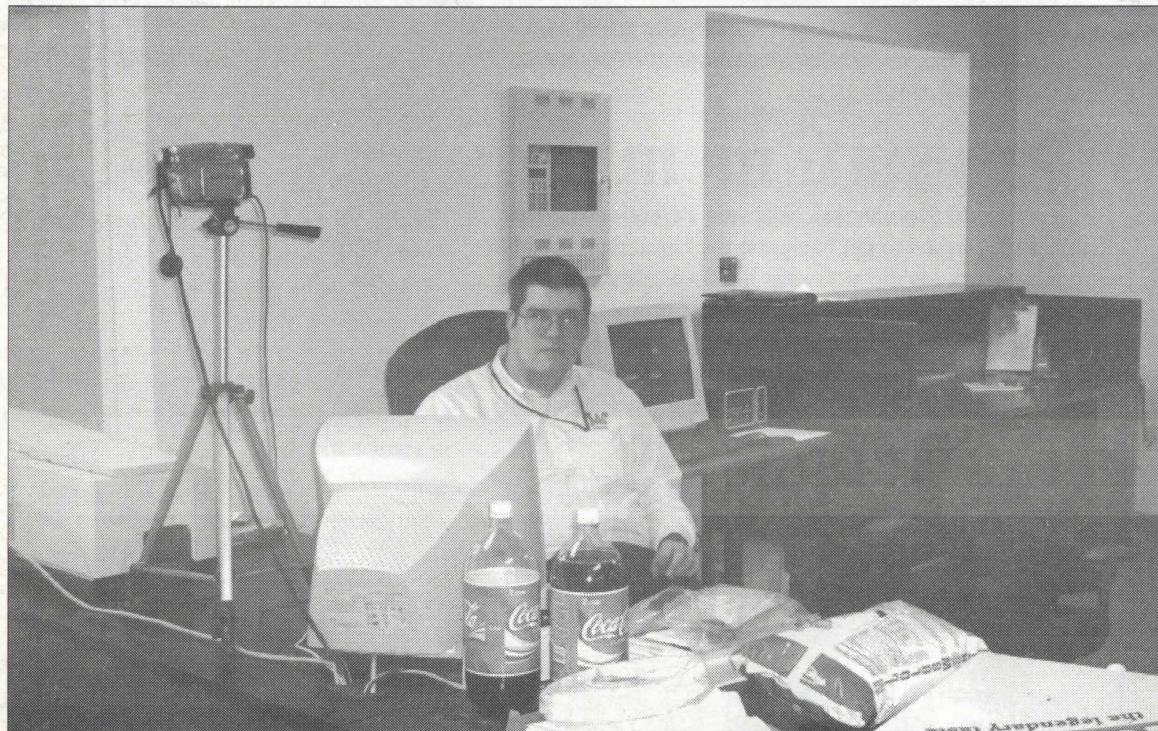
The new space also provides a

meeting place for the Spanish Club in addition to the study abroad informational meetings that will be held there.

"Spanish is growing, the language is growing. We talk about globalization all of the time. International business people are graduating all of the time and they do not even leave this country. It is very important being a country of Spanish language in an English country; going over seas is important in this period of time in our society," said Dr. Paulo Bianco, associate professor of foreign language.

The office is currently student run and overseen by Bianco. Students interested in studying abroad are encouraged to stop by the office for assistance in research and planning. The office is open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 12 until 4 p.m. and Wednesday from 12 until 1 p.m. and 2 until 4 p.m.

Public Safety moves to Park and Lock South



The Beacon/Victoria White

Public Safety finished moving into their new facility on South Main Street late Friday afternoon. The office was fully functional by the end of the day Friday, but officers finished unpacking and organizing the new facility throughout the weekend.

SG Notes

March 15, 2006 meeting

-The Islamic Interest Society appeared for first reading of constitution in an attempt to achieve club status.

-Emerging Leaders presented and asked for a donation of \$250 for CEO kids olympics. Stephanie Victor made a motion to give \$250 with the stipulation to make the event sponsored by SG. The motion was seconded by Courtney Amrhein. Motion passed 37-0-0.

-Student coordinator for the Tom Bigger Journalism Conference appeared and asked for a donation request of \$700 for t-shirts for the volunteers of the conference. Jef Bauman made a motion that was seconded by Rich Hannick. Motion passed 37-0-1.

-SG members discussed advertising on facebook for major events and members approved of the idea.

-Dean Mark Allen presented a brief update on renovations to UCOM. He reported that athletics teams have been using the facility and that construction is continuing on the building. There are hopes of having open recreation nights beginning soon.

-Casino Night is March 24 in the ballroom and the grand prize is a 32" television. Texas Hold 'Em tournament is being held Tuesday at 9:15 pm and the grand prize is an Xbox 360 or an iPod.

-Spring Fling tickets are on sale at the information desk. Spring Fling is March 31 at 6 pm at the Waterfront Bar & Grill.

The BEACON

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

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News in Brief

Bush Administration proposes Upward Bound cut

BY JEANNE STAPLETON
Beacon Staff Writer

Preparing to enter a college of any kind can be an overwhelming experience, particularly for first generation college-bound students with few resources and limited traditional support systems.

The Upward Bound program was created in 1965 and adopted by Wilkes University in 1967 to address the educational, social, and emotional needs of those students. Over the past forty years the program has helped potential first generation low income students prepare for one of the biggest decisions in their lives; whether or not to pursue higher education.

Upward Bound programs offer many services including academic, financial, and personal counseling, tutorial services, assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications. Eligible students enter into the Upward Bound program during their sophomore year in high school and remain in the program until their senior year. Students attend weekly tutoring sessions and regularly meet with advisors. The students also attend a six-week summer enrichment program, that exposes them to college life on campus.

"We are able to give them very intensive counseling that they really would not be able to get from a guidance counselor because a high school guidance counselor usually has a client base of one to five hundred often times. We are able to bring [Upward Bound students] in and really sit them down and do a lot of inventories with them figuring out what they are good at, what they enjoy, what careers they fit into, and what colleges they might look into for that. So really we try to give that support that they need," said Margaret Espada, Upward Bound Program Director.

The Upward Bound program, which is



The Beacon/Nick Zmjewski
Upward Bound members Stephanie Shandra, coordinator, and Margaret Espada, program director, work with high school student Jamie Kramer. Proposals to eliminate the Upward Bound program have been made by the Bush administration.

government funded, is one of the many programs that the Bush administration has proposed to fully eliminate in an effort to curb domestic spending. Bush stresses that these eliminations are a matter of "setting priorities." This particular elimination would completely eliminate the \$311 million budget that is granted for Upward Bound programs nationwide.

According to "expectmore.gov," a website created by the government that rates the programs as "performing" or "not performing," the Upward Bound program is not living up to its expectations. "Recent evaluation findings indicate that Upward Bound has not been effective in increasing the overall college enrollment rates of its participants. Upward Bound services have had significant effects on higher-risk students, while the program is not properly targeted to focus on these students."

But the Wilkes program suggests otherwise. Last year, 30 students graduated from

the Upward Bound program with 100% of those students moving on to pursue post-secondary education. "On average over the past 20 years, 92% of our student base has gone on to pursue post-secondary education. When you take a look at the odds within the schools, as far as students who are in that lower income potential first generation bracket, [who] actually do go on to pursue post-secondary education that do not participate in the program, you are talking about well under 50%, probably closer to 30 to 40% in this area," said Espada.

Currently, there are no plans to terminate Upward Bound services at Wilkes, but the future of the program does depend upon continued federal funding.

"[The program's elimination] would leave [students] lost and alone in their high schools because the guidance counselors aren't going to go and seek them out and say, 'Did you get your college applications in?' They are going to assume that

because they didn't come to see them that they are not going to go to college. On the other hand, those students probably never thought they had to get it out by a certain time. With our program and other programs like us, we help them, we sort of nag them along the way, but in the end they come back and thank us," said Donna Marie Chajko, academic coordinator Upward Bound and Upward Bound alumna.

This is not the first time that the Bush administration has proposed to eliminate the Upward Bound program, and if the program survives it will most likely not be the last.

"It is happening once again. Look at how many times we have been through this, and it is just so important to get the word out there, to get the support needed to carry on the Upward Bound program; now is not the time to be complacent," said Alberto Prado, coordinator of academic services University College.

"The cost of college education has increased so many more times than the cost of living over the past twenty years. For someone that has no clue about college, if you were to just walk up to them and tell them what it would cost them to go to college for one year, there would be no way unless you really showed them the way. So that is something that we are about, showing them the way, showing them that yes you are going to have to make sacrifices, yes you are going to have to work hard but in the end it will all be worth it. It really is about educating them and showing them that it can happen," said Espada.

"It really worries me that other students might not have that opportunity because I know how much it did for me. I know that I wanted to go to college when I was in high school but if I didn't have Upward Bound to do the directing, I am not sure whether I would have pursued it," said Chajko.

Relay for Heat participants present check to CEO

Running Club president Jared Shayka and other members presented a check to CEO after the Relay For Heat event. Running over 100 miles, the runners were sponsored by each mile that they ran or they received flat rate donations. Even though this check was presented late in the heating season, cold days still abound and the money will be put to good use.

The Relay for Heat raises money annually for local families in need in order to help them afford to heat their homes. With many families turning to alternative ways of heating their homes as a way of saving money, it is important to recognize those individuals and organizations that help to ease the burden of home heating during the cold winter months.

The Beacon/Nick Zmjewski



W-B redevelopment leaders grapple with problem of nuisance properties

BY DAVE SEBELIN
Beacon Correspondent

abandoned UCOM center, many wonder if the University would located on Ross Street.”
Changeable Skies has been busy

Homes already renovated by the organization include: 84 West Ross, 77-79 Northampton, and 137-139 North Main. Prior to the redevelopment of these buildings, many were considered nuisance properties.

Scott Byers, vice president for finance and support operations, also expressed interest in the development by stating: “The property on Northampton was previously a drug house. Now the building is a safe and vital part of Wilkes-Barre.”

While both the university and the private sector are interested in acquiring nuisance homes, maintaining existing campus structures provides another challenge to officials. “We have a preventative

maintenance program. . . We try to look at every building’s age and life span” said Byers.

This program primarily acts as a way to predict when dormitories need renovation. The target for this fiscal year, according to Byers, is the renovation of Chesapeake and Delaware Hall (scheduled for completion in fall 2007 semester).

Though it is highly unlikely any Wilkes facility would reach the level of deterioration of a nuisance home, plans are in place to maintain structures. Further restructuring is also planned for other facilities in the future.

“The property on Northampton was previously a drug house. Now the building is a safe and vital part of Wilkes-Barre.”

-Scott Byers,
vice president finance and support operations

Since breaking ground in August 2004, the sounds of jackhammers, saw blades, and heavy equipment have been resonating around Northampton Street.

With Wilkes-Barre’s South Main Street development project well underway, city officials have taken the first step in a series of major developments in downtown. Plans for development include a new Convention and Arts Center, South Main Street housing, and even the revitalization of the Sterling Hotel.

But while the streets and city are buzzing with the sounds of progress, several areas of Wilkes-Barre still remain silent.

One street in particular that has remained quiet is neighboring Ross Street. Located on the southern tier of Wilkes University’s campus, Ross lies within walking distance of Barre Hall and Slocum Hall. Dotting the street are several dilapidated, rundown, and abandoned properties. Though these buildings were once the homes of businesses and apartment complexes, now they are considered to be “nuisance properties.”

According to Butch Frati, director of planning and development for the city of Wilkes-Barre, nuisance properties are, “Areas that are continually changing owners with little or no progress being made for development.”

This constant buying and selling often inhibits any attempts at city intervention with the property. Frati said, “Sometimes owners die or leave the state. . . It is very difficult for anyone interested in the area to go through the legal measures in buying the property.”

In addition to stagnant progress with nuisance homes, Frati also cited several minor problems. Cases of trespassing with homeless and vandalism have been documented for several buildings. Break-ins by unknown assailants are also prevalent to the structures. These crimes, while not serious in nature, do contribute to an overall negative image of the property.

With the recent purchase of the

be willing occupy other nuisance properties.

The University’s Master Plan Report addresses this very issue of campus development. The report clearly cites there is a defined area wherein the university has “publicly declared its intent to purchase land and convert its use.” These areas are not subject to zoning approval, and therefore allow the University unhindered development.

The southern border of this “area of influence” highlights many of the nuisance properties that are located on Ross. Though the report suggests the University avoid purchasing deteriorating property, this primarily suggests the buying of property located off campus.

In terms of Ross Street development, John Pesta, director of capital projects and planning said, “Beyond Ross Street is an R3 residential zone . . . but the northern side of Ross Street is zoned for development.” Pesta continued, “We are looking at the old deli building [on the corner of Ross and River streets] but it has been difficult.” Ross’s northern section is entirely open to development by the university; whether the university actually does so is another matter.

Any future acquisition of deteriorating buildings will undoubtedly be difficult for the University; however, a solution may be found by other means. According to Pesta, private development of nuisance homes is a reality. “Bill Henry, owner of Changeable Skies, recently purchased and renovated homes in Wilkes-Barre,” said Pesta. “One of the homes is

acquiring and redeveloping historical houses. Once completed, the homes are rented out to university students for an affordable price.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

This building on the corner of Ross and River Streets is one of the buildings considered a nuisance property by the City of Wilkes-Barre. Nuisance properties are defined as areas that continually change owners with little to no progress made in terms of development.

VISION

from FRONT PAGE

"The most important aspect of enacting the plan further will be to get feedback and answers from all members of the Wilkes community, especially the students," said Michael Frantz, Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing.

Vision 2010 plans for change initiated in 2001

According to Frantz, Vision 2010 is not something new to Wilkes, but instead is something that began with the fall convocation in 2001, coinciding with and very closely related to President Gilmour's inauguration. Frantz said that students would have heard the plan "talked about in terms of 'strategic initiative.'"

Now in 2006, the culmination of Vision 2010 is about five years away. Said Frantz of the progress of the plan, "As we've gone now a little over half way from that period of time [2001] towards 2010, we've gained greater focus. We've gained the ability, through some successes, to make some alterations to it. And I think probably as important as anything, our conviction in the possibility of achieving it is greater than ever right now."

Vision 2010 focuses on the idea and the initiative to "build a stronger Wilkes." The plan emphasizes that academic programs are to become more competitive through program growth and enhancement of technology and facilities. "We want to have excellent support for our academic programs, more part-time degree completion opportunities, a larger array of graduate programs, excellent equipment and labs, competitive salaries for faculty and staff, new and renovated facilities, a first-class mentoring environment, faculty and staff

development funding, a refurbished excellent library, additional faculty positions, a larger endowment and documentation of successful student learning," said Provost Maravene Loeschke of the many goals of Vision 2010.

Financial growth and enhancing Wilkes' place in the market are main components to the plan, but one of the most important parts

risen from 5% to 7% respectively in 2001 to 6.9% and 8%, respectively last year. Wilkes has added 22 faculty positions leaping from 111 in 2001 to 133 in 2006.

With change comes challenge

Despite positive growth over the past five years, there are some external forces that affect Vision 2010 and building a stronger Wilkes. Specifically, analysts agree there

More faculty, financial stability, funding for mentoring programs, improvements to technology and equipment, expanded academic programs, improvements to residence halls and dining services, renovated classrooms - these all affect student satisfaction with Wilkes and the quality of a Wilkes degree."

-Dr. Tim Gilmour, Wilkes University President

of Vision 2010 is an increased attention to current and future students through mentoring. "Everything that we're trying to do puts the students at the center point of the strategy and of the vision," said Frantz.

President Tim Gilmour agreed, noting that, "Current and future students have the most to gain from the Vision 2010 strategic plan. More faculty, financial stability, funding for mentoring programs, improvements to technology and equipment, expanded academic programs, improvements to residence halls and dining services, renovated classrooms - these all affect student satisfaction with Wilkes and the quality of a Wilkes degree."

Much headway has already been made. Compared to 2001, freshman enrollment has increased from 417 students to 583; diversity among students and faculty has

the student's car for so long and the circumstances surrounding Parker-Lloyd's arrest.

Dessoye said his officers acted appropriately. He said they did not try to bait and entice Parker-Lloyd and if the officers were being prejudiced, the driver of the vehicle would have been cited. He also said [the incident] wasn't racially motivated because there was a mix of races in the car.

"They're more than welcome to do an investigation. My officers acted appropriately. There was no issue of racism, and I'm not sure exactly what angle they're looking at," Dessoye said.

He said he has not been contacted by the DA's office about an investigation, but noted that it would take a while for the DA's office to do so. However, Dyller has sent a letter to Mayor Thomas Leighton stating he is Parker-Lloyd's lawyer and litigation is soon to follow because they feel Parker-Lloyd was wrongfully arrested.

"Ms. Lloyd's constitutional rights were violated, her federal constitutional rights,"

will be a significant decline in Pennsylvania high school grads, which may affect enrollment over the next 5-10 years.

As a result, administrators acknowledge that Vision 2010 will include difficult decisions that are common to all decision making processes, including the loss of some jobs. But as Frantz stated, "When you have a focus, what you try, then, is not only to funnel energy and attention on that focus, but also money. Well, we don't have a bottomless pit of money, so that is where the tough decisions come in. If we are going to do X, sometimes we have to take from Y to be able to do so. Our primary guiding principle in all of this is what enhances student learning and the student experience, first and foremost."

One of the most difficult decisions comes when reevaluation occurs and certain as-

Dyller said.

Students involved previously said they would like the police department to undergo diversity training. Dessoye said the officers go through 16 hours of diversity training a year, which is mandated by the municipal police training commission. He said the time is split up between different diversity training as the commission sees fit.

"I don't say how many hours we get of it. They tell us how many hours we're going to get of it," Dessoye said.

While Parker-Lloyd declined to comment on her incident, she does think racism is prevalent in the community.

"Racism definitely is here. From simple things as being followed in stores, being called the 'N' word, yeah that's definitely not gone...It's not dead as many people think it is. It's very much alive. I mean we're not the only community that has these issues," Parker-Lloyd said.

Parker-Lloyd said that because of this situation, Student Affairs, Student Govern-

ments of the Wilkes community face elimination or change. Said Gilmour, "These action plans require significant investment of dollars, some of which must be recaptured from existing programs. This means several departments will be reorganized for greater efficiency, resulting in some jobs being restructured and some jobs becoming obsolete."

To illustrate this point, Frantz cited an example of different offices on campus that do essentially the same thing, adding that to do this, "One of the initiatives is to bring these four groups together and say, 'We're all doing essentially the same thing, how can we do it faster, cheaper, better?' [...] The premise is that we sit down for those discussions, find a way to do this better, faster, cheaper. The hard part comes with the cheaper; it means we may not need every person who is currently employed here if we can find a cheaper way to do it. That's where the real stresses come in."

Administrators urge campus-wide discussion

Officials emphasize that the discussion about Vision 2010 is neither closed nor anywhere near finished. It is actually one that will continue as long as it can.

Those involved stress that the most important role for members of the Wilkes community is that of providing the feedback and the questions that are needed to fully realize the potential and the goal of Vision 2010. Said Frantz, "We want the questions. We do not have every answer and the only way we get the best answers is through full participation. Nobody should be worried about asking very hard, pointed questions. That's what we're expecting. And that's how we will both achieve the vision and make it better."

ment and Multicultural Affairs will host dinner discussions on March 21, 28 and April 4 to discuss issues such as race, racial tensions and how to diffuse them, how to deal with the police, as well as how to be a positive member in the community and make positive changes. The programs are at 6 p.m. in the Miller Room in the Henry Student Center.

Parker-Lloyd hopes students will come away from the discussions with a "better understanding of some rights and responsibilities around police, a better understanding of the whole concept that racism still does exist and we still have to keep acting upon it. And hopefully for those students who are leaders on our campus and who want to do small things to help make differences, give them some tools that they can use to help stop some of these things."

Students interested in attending the dinner discussions are asked to RSVP by emailing culture@wilkes.edu or calling 408-4731.

CHARGES

from FRONT PAGE

have some interest with the individuals who are being stopped, and often times it gets handled like a situation like this," Dessoye said.

He said in situations like this police often drop the charges if both parties come to an agreement. Parker-Lloyd did confirm she submitted a letter to the police department, but declined to comment further on the specifics of her case and referred comment to her lawyer, Barry Dyller. Students involved in the case previously stated they think the incident was racially motivated.

After reading a February 27 article in *The Beacon* about the incident, Ron Felton, President of the Wilkes-Barre chapter of the NAACP sent a letter to the District Attorney to have the incident investigated. He wants to know what caused the police to follow

Racial profiling incident proves that tensions are real

Diversity education crucial step toward change

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

College campuses are typically seen as some of the most liberal and accepting communities in this country. The exchange of information, the quest for knowledge, and the fact that numerous students are discovering who they are and who they want to become all lead to an expectation that various ideologies and viewpoints will be accepted on the campus.

In addition, university students from a variety of places come together to share similar goals and grow together. It's expected that students will bring with them their own opinions but will also learn

from their fellow students' and will be better people for having done so.

The traffic incident that escalated into Wilkes University staff member Andita Parker-Lloyd's arrest last month and involved alleged racial profiling in Wilkes-Barre clearly affected those who witnessed it. The experience has revealed that even in 2006, racism and cultural tensions do exist in Wilkes-Barre and all of us need to pay attention. Likewise, the two women who were quoted in *The Beacon's* February 27 article on the incident expressed having previously experienced overt racism in the community.

It is startling that in a forward-

thinking community, such as Wilkes, racism can continue to exist. But as persons of color and from various minority vantages can attest, it does. Residents of color will acknowledge that they are still watched more carefully for shoplifting than whites by department store merchants. Racial slurs can still be heard in high school hallways. Swastika graffiti still occasionally shows up on local synagogues. Public derision still occurs if two men openly hold hands or kiss in public.

Okay, so bigotry exists. So far, we haven't said anything new or different. What, then, can be done? Should those discriminated against simply continue to deal

with it? Should those narrow-minded individuals be permitted to "get away" with their actions and statements?

No, standing on a soapbox and pointing to past injustices does not make the problem go away. More needs to be done. And it needs to start on campus and move outward consciously and assertively.

Perhaps the most effective way to foster acceptance and camaraderie amongst students on a college campus is to force students outside their comfort zones. Way outside. The majority of students who attend Wilkes are white and hail from the state of Pennsylvania. Sharing common characteristics, they are comfortable with one another and their surroundings. That needs to change. Diversity classes should be mandatory in the Wilkes University curriculum. Similar to diversity training, these classes should address how people differ from one another and how understanding these differences are valuable to individual growth.

Although taking students physically out of their comfort zones is impossible, discussing the implications of difference can be helpful. Students should have to think about what it would be like to be relocated, to be placed in a community entirely different from Wilkes, and to be the minority. Tough questions should have to be answered, such as how a student would feel if the new community did not accept him or her, or what it would feel like to be told that simply because you live in this community and are the minority, you are unequal.

Racism is an -ism for a much less intelligent community than Wilkes. With intelligence should come acceptance that one is no better than another based on such arbitrary labels as white, black, male, female, gay, straight, Catholic or Jewish.

College students have the intelligence to recognize the individual

value each student brings to the table. Just as Wilkes provides necessary knowledge for students to survive in the world and in their chosen field, it is also their responsibility to educate their students about other knowledge necessary for survival in this world: acceptance.

And then, of course, the next crucial step looms. Once the campus can fully declare itself as diverse, sensitive to the needs of all cultures, and responsive to those needs, then Wilkes University needs to take it to the streets of Wilkes-Barre.

Wilkes administrators should open the doors of our campus. We have great facilities in the Darte, the Grand Ballroom, and soon the UCOM that could play host to community discussions on these issues. We should make permanent space for the NAACP, for example, that has struggled to find an official home in the city. We also have respected leaders in President Gilmour, Provost Loeschke, Director of Diversity Zellner and others who can help guide public discussion. And finally there are hundreds of students at Wilkes University who, particularly as a unified group, have the power to impact Wilkes-Barre economically, socially, and politically. If we don't like what we see, we have the power to make change. We can stop shopping in those businesses that develop a reputation of poor or uneven service to minorities. We can speak out when we hear racist comments. We can vote.

Bigotry of any kind is our business. And it's our responsibility to make change where change is necessary. Change begins at home, but in this case, it's also our responsibility to model and move forward on key issues of diversity. Losing even one student to intolerance is losing one too many.

Nickle for Your Thoughts

By Jason Nickle



MARCH 20, 2006

OPINION

7

Gay adoptions ban unfair to gay couples, needy kids

BY DONNA TALARICO
Beacon A&E Editor

"I wish someone would adopt me," said one lonely orphan to the other.

Someone could. That's the problem. A recent Yahoo! News article stated that 16 states have current legislation in process to ban gay adoptions, a second wave, as they are calling it, from a 2004 push to do so. The goal? To get this on the November '08 ballot.

While it seems as if gay marriage was the civil rights movement on the front burner, this issue crept in once again.

And it needs to creep on out.

In 2004, Ohio, Georgia and Kentucky banned gay adoption. By 2008, states like Missouri plan to join in banning loving couples-- who physically cannot reproduce, but are emotionally prepared--from being parents. In Mississippi, it is illegal only for gay couples to adopt; gay singles can. So, this means that a single lesbian can adopt a child. But God forbid she falls in love later in life, say when the child is in his or her preteens. Does this mean the child has to go back?

Coming from a mom (mom, I love you) who was married three times before I was

13, I sometimes craved a stable life. While I think being a child of divorce gives me some endearing qualities, that is another article. But I often think what a stable home can do for a little boy or little girl.

Stable, in my opinion, could mean two parents or caregivers. Four loving arms. Perhaps two incomes and two positive influences. Stable does not have to mean President Bush's idea of a family: mom, dad, kid(s).

Think about the way gender roles have changed since the days of Donna Reed. Today, both mom and dad can be secretaries. A straight dad can be a hairdresser or fashion designer. Does this mean that having a dad with a stereotypically homosexual job makes less of a dad? And, what about straight females who are auto mechanics, laborers and *gasp* CEOs? In today's society, any gender role is deemed acceptable. So, why should it matter when it comes to same sex parents?

I once knew a man who was raised by his two aunts. They never married and never had children and they lived together- with a little boy. One could argue on the surface that in public, it could look like these two women were lesbians. Sisters even show affection in public. Was this man scarred

for life because two females raised him? No.

A February 20 *USA Today* article tells the story of two Ohio men who have been together for 25 years. Harold Birtcher and his partner Thom O'Reilly decided to adopt a child three years ago, but state officials said only one of them could become the legal parent; same-sex partners are barred from joint adoption. Michael, now ten, was beaten and sexually abused by straight parents-- and he hadn't hugged anyone for four years before one of them were able to adopt (read: rescue) him. O'Reilly argued in the article, "Nobody's stepping up to adopt such hard-to-place children, but they don't want us to adopt them."

Birtcher, his partner added, "Our prisons are full of people who were in foster care, and those people were in, quote/unquote, 'straight family homes.' If I can provide a loving, stable home for my little boy, that's the goal."

O'Reilly runs a children's theater company and Birtcher owns a hair salon. This is a couple that is doing far better than some single and married parents, parents that are many times on welfare that we all end up "adopting," or at least supporting by being taxpayers. I have a vendetta against

parents--no, I refuse to call them that--child bearing people who cannot support their kids, who drink and inject heroin while they are carrying babies. Again. And again.

Someone needs to adopt these children who are placed in foster care because they were taken from their "real" parents. Some states allow it. But, 16 more are fighting against it. Hey, state legislators! You are really fighting against these poor children. That's who really is losing the battle.

In another February 20 *USA Today* article, Bill Maier of the conservative group Focus on the Family says, "Children in foster care are already scarred by abuse and neglect. We would want to do everything we could to place them in the optimal home environment."

Neglect? Hello! That's just what these conservatives are doing! The North American Council on Adoptable Children says there are about 520,000 children in foster care. Of those, 120,000 are available for adoption. Guess what? Only 50,000 find permanent homes each year.

70,000 kids without parents. Those four words alone are enough an argument. I rest my case.

YOUR VOICES

Personally attacking Zebrowski invalidates argument

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to Matt Givler's article attacking Matt Zebrowski. For a preface, allow me to state that I couldn't care less about drug commercials. What I care about is Givler's failed attempt to be witty and intellectual while he brazenly attacked Zebrowski.

Givler states "...I have contributed my 1,006 words..." and then continues to quote inane babble about the laws of costs. Givler, this is child's play. The cost which you so pretentiously preach about is common knowledge in any EC-101 or 102 class. You should have saved your breath and stopped at paragraph two, where you plainly contradicted yourself and the rest of your article. "... these prerequisites are all standard for an opinion column," and "Granted this is an opinion column and he is entitled to his opinion."

Then, he follows up, trying to be cute with "You know, First Amendment stuff." In his battle to appear open-minded he defeated himself. The crux of his argument, that Zebrowski shouldn't be able to write any more Op-Ed articles is null and void thanks to him so graciously pointing out the obvious: it is an opinion article. Had he merely stopped there, he would have saved at least a little dignity. However, he consistently attacked Zebrowski's character, which is where his problem lies.

I'm guessing his point, aside from a personal vendetta against Zebrowski, is that he disagrees that drug-free commercials are a waste of money. He states website statistics, and tries to fill in the rest of his opinion with Zebrowski-esque quips, appearing to look clever. He failed. The only thing he managed to achieve was to look like a generic copy cat. If his article picked specifically on the merit of drug commercials, then he would be in the clear. However, what he ended up spewing was nothing more than a cheap shot at Zebrowski, riddled with miserably poor commentary, written like an eleventh grade English response. Next time focus on the facts instead of attacking the author.

Givler, my boy, you had your week to bask in the glory of being published with your pretentious friends, while appearing to look like a tool to the rest of the intelligent community at Wilkes. Do everyone a favor and go back to quoting your 101 classes to people who actually care. Leave the Op-Ed columns to people who understand what they're for. Anyone can quote statistics from a website, but it takes real talent to manufacture your own ideas. Stick to your MySpace blog.

Jason Sutton

Sophomore, English major

The BEACON
THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

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Contact: Dr. Andrea Frantz ext. 4165 or e-mail andrea.frantz@wilkes.edu for more information.

Why I quit my Myspace.com account

BY PATRICK AUSTIN
Beacon Columnist

The other day, prompted by two friends who had recently made this decision, I quit Myspace.com.

Sure, it was, umm... "fun" while it lasted. It was great signing on every day to find that a new thirteen-year girl had randomly found me on the site's database. It was also fun checking (at least 5 times a day) to see if anyone new had commented on my wall of comments, as if somehow validating my puny existence through "I <3 yr new pix LOL!"

After making the impulsive decision to stop, I was shocked to find that it took approximately ten to fifteen minutes to cancel my "subscription." First, you must find the "cancel account" button, no small task. Second, after finding it and clicking the cancel button, you are prompted to click another cancel button. Then, just to make sure that you really, really want to cancel your account to such a marvelous service, they prompt you one more time to press a cancel button. This third time is even more ridiculous. They ask the subscriber to write a short, brief message to a MySpace administrator to explain why he/she has been somehow unsatisfied with his/her "experience" on the glorious web community.

Of course, I realized at this point how serious this whole issue had become; I had to explain myself for canceling a subscription to such a vital web community. For about one second I reconsidered my decision. And then after thinking for another second, I realized how strange it was that I had to explain myself. MySpace even told me that I would have a few days to really think about my decision. It's laughable that this trivial website would be so shocked at ONE user leaving. So I decided to write a letter to the MySpace admin that would supposedly be checking the reason that I was canceling my account.

Dear MySpace Person, who will never read this,

I think that your website promotes self-glorification. Secondly, I would like to state that it is websites like myspace.com that are single-handedly destroying adolescent relationships (in any sense of the word relationship). I appreciate you really caring about the people who are on your site by putting lewd advertisements on everyone's homepage that glorify the objectification of women. You also promote online stalking in a very "subtle" way. Thank you, Rupert, for helping to destroy the validity of American media and all forms of free information! See ya later, buddy! Tom, you're a giant

tool! BYE <3's (that's the heart that kids make on the internet!)

LOVE! but, not really, though!

-Patrick

Frankly, after thinking about it, MySpace is a site that encourages people to expose themselves. I suppose that this is the huge draw of the site. It feels safe to be able to go online and post pictures of yourself and say things about yourself and never have to own up to your opinions. People can simply just press the "x" button on their window if they don't want to be around you anymore. Scantly clad thirteen-year old girls can put pictures of themselves on their homepage, while disgusting legal-aged men can drool over these facades of female friendship that happen within online mediums. This blatant voyeurism is intriguing to all people (look at reality television), but for some reason these online mediums involving real people tend to scare me just a little bit more.

Even I have fooled myself into thinking that I know someone because of this MySpace medium. "Hey look, that person likes Modest Mouse, I bet he/she is really cool. I should message them." Then, two days after receiving a friendly reply, "Oh man! I am so happy. I feel like I <3 Myspace. It makes me new friends..."

Just think about that for a second. Friend? Maybe our social definition of the term "friend" has just been scraped away to mean nothing more than a person that has said "hello" once or twice. Think about that for just a second. Hell, I've been part of these websites since I've been in high school, but lately, after really thinking about what they are, I decided it's time to start phasing them out of my life.

For starters, MySpace has the potential to destroy relationships that exist in real life, by people posting pictures and private information. Also, these sites have the potential to get the user in trouble with law [harassment and flaming, pictures of underage drinking, etc...].

Also, Rupert Murdoch, the founder and owner of Fox Networks, currently owns MySpace. You might know him as the infamous mastermind behind Fox News. Not



that this really matters, but just keep in mind that this is a player in the major media, not someone I'd want to have access to anything in my life. These people also force marketing and advertising down our throats. Why do I want to voluntarily be part of a community that is propagating horrible trends of everything from cell phones to Victoria's Secret, which might be called female objectification? And then I find myself asking why so many females on these sites feel the need to expose themselves.

The majority of the people on the site feel the need to mask who they really are to make themselves feel acceptable to people they don't even know. I think this is perhaps the most embarrassing part about the site. Click to any random user page, and I guarantee you that you will see a picture of an angled face with or without bangs over the eyes, or a picture taken in a strange context that has been photoshopped in order to appear cool. I ask the question, "Hi Myspace, I am just curious... How much further can you bend your arm above your head while still managing to aim the lens at the top of your head?"

I am done. I know for a fact that this article means nothing in the general scheme of things, but I just can't stop thinking about these communication trends that are happening in America. Maybe they are just a natural evolution in regular communication. Maybe in the close future more people will find their significant other by using online mediums then by going out and socializing in real life arenas, but this seems scarier than the march of progress should. I should probably just get used to it, but for some reason I can't force myself to fully accept this change. I feel like my grandfather. What does MySpace even care? I mean there are always going to be more thirteen-year-olds signing up. But I can't be a complete technophobe. If you ever want a new Facebook friend, just find me at Wilkes. My name is Patrick Austin.

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 58 responses.

The Beacon asked:

If you won \$21 million in the lottery, what charitable organization would you give money to?

- Red Cross - 9%
- St. Jude's Children's Hospital - 16%
- SPCA - 16%
- American Cancer Society - 15%
- Ronald McDonald House - 5%
- Local historical societies - 3%
- Libraries - 5%
- Schools - 7%
- Big Brother Big Sister - 0%
- Other - 24%

Next Week's Poll Question:

If you were alive before the dawn of modern medicine, what disease would you least want to have?

- Scurvy
- Dysentery
- Consumption
- Plague
- Cholera
- Typhus
- Smallpox
- Measles
- Polio
- Other

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

FEATURES

MARCH 20, 2006

9

Bicentennial Celebration	9
Downtown Revitalization	10
Robotics Club	11

Wilkes-Barre: two colorful centuries old *City to celebrate bicentennial all year*

BY DONNA TALARICO
Beacon A&E Editor

If the John Wilkes statue disappeared from campus for a few hours on Friday, don't worry. He was just attending his birthday party.

While the Irish and the Irish at heart celebrated St. Patrick's Day at various bars, parties and posts last Friday, there was a celebration of a city elsewhere in town.

Wilkes-Barre's official 200th birthday was March 17. It was on this day 200 years ago, in 1806, that the city put the Inc. in ink. While much of the emphasis on the city's bicentennial celebration seems to be on the late June/early July events slated for Public Square and Kirby Park, Luzerne County Historical Society Executive Director Jesse Teitelbaum said the celebration will take place through the entire year. The historical society, he says, is providing facts, research and most of the images that will be used in presentations, literature and displays.

To commemorate the incorporation of Wilkes-Barre as a borough, an event was held at the F.M. Kirby Center, where a speech from Jesse Fell was reenacted. Fell, whose ingenuity lit the fire for the industrial revolution with an important discovery, was also the city's first burgess and popular tavern owner. And, according to Teitelbaum,

Fell was one of the most important people in not just local history, but US history as well.

"One can say that this region paved the way for the entire industrial revolution. [Fell] found a way to burn coal in an open grate. This was an important experiment early on in the city's history. Wilkes-Barre was only thirty years old. For something to happen so soon..." Teitelbaum said, trailing off. "The founders of this city were so smart. They discovered this concentration of coal, began mining it and people wanted it. I read somewhere that this area provided 90% of the coal to the country."

Fell's tavern was torn down in 1986. But the grate survived the wrecking ball and is held at the society's museum on South Franklin Street.

Mayor Tom Leighton, his staff and the bicentennial planning committee have been very busy planning a week of events this summer, which include the annual Cherry Blossom Festival and 4th of July fireworks display. However, some anticipation and excitement looms in an event that's full details are not yet available to the public. A national recording artist has been confirmed to play at a Kirby Park event-- but the artist's publicist does not want the name released yet. The news surrounding the event includes reports that it is an act the whole



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski
Wilkes-Barre's official 200th birthday was March 17. The city has put much emphasis on its bicentennial celebration, which will last the whole year. Mayor Tom Leighton and his committee have planned a week of events for this summer which includes the annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

family will enjoy.

Teitelbaum added that on Public Square will be a mini-walking tour of some "historical sites" from Wilkes-Barre in year's past. He explains that vignettes of a barbershop, general store, a coal miner's home and others will be placed around the square. During the gala ball, there will be a slide show presentation. So, the society, he explains has done much to help with the accuracy of depicting the replicas of years past, as well as providing actual images.

But, after fireworks are over, the bicentennial will not have fizzled.

"I think that a lot of people look at the July events to be the end of the celebration. It's not. It's the climax...a lot more people will continue with the bicentennial themes for meeting..." Teitelbaum said, adding that the historical society is planning on gearing its agenda for 2006 toward the 200-year-old city.

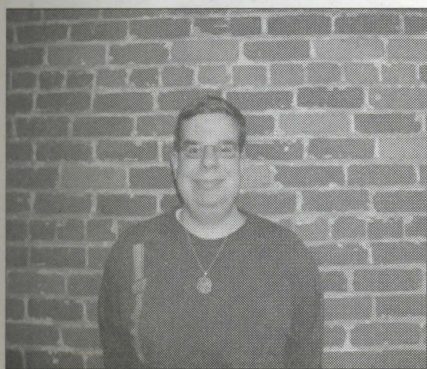
"We are going to do new walking tours and exhibits, so keep your eyes and ears out for all of these other events," he said. "There will be some before and after [the July events]. It's a year-long celebration, really."

Teitelbaum added that at the historical society's annual dinner this April, a silent movie will be shown of Wilkes-Barre's

See BICENTENNIAL page 10

Tell Us... Where is your dream vacation and why?

Managing Editor Becky Goodman was curious about what Wilkes students are thinking. Here is what she found out.



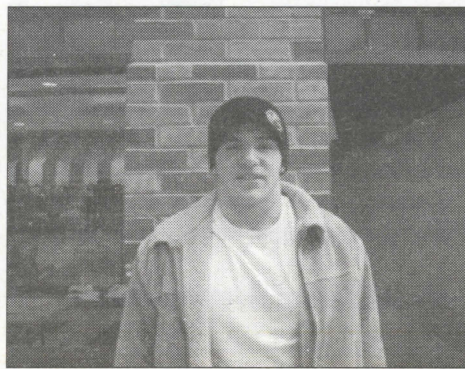
Jim Welch- sophomore history major

"Tokyo, because I've always heard interesting things about Japan and I've always wanted to be there."



Michelle Pace- freshman undeclared

"Anywhere hot and on the beach."



Joe Graziano- freshman business administration major

"Anywhere out of the valley."



Jeanine Dreimann- sophomore psychology major

"Anywhere on a beach."

Local college presidents highlight campuses as assets to city

BY ERICA LEO

Beacon Staff Writer

To say that the presidents of the area colleges have done a lot to promote revitalization in downtown Wilkes-Barre is an understatement.

From publishing articles targeting Wilkes-Barre's economic development to sitting on local boards and committees that focus on revitalization, they devote a significant amount of their free time committed to making the "Diamond City" shine once again.

Despite the fact that these efforts serve to better the Wilkes-Barre community, there is also a greater incentive. A safer and more prosperous Wilkes-Barre ultimately reflects these college campuses by boosting morale as well as enrollment numbers.

In a recent article published in *University Business*, Wilkes University President Tim Gilmour highlighted why it is important for college presidents to devote time to stabilizing their surrounding community using Wilkes' involvement with downtown revitalization as an example.

"The article is a presidential perspective on how city development really fits in to the institution's directions and larger plans," said Gilmour.

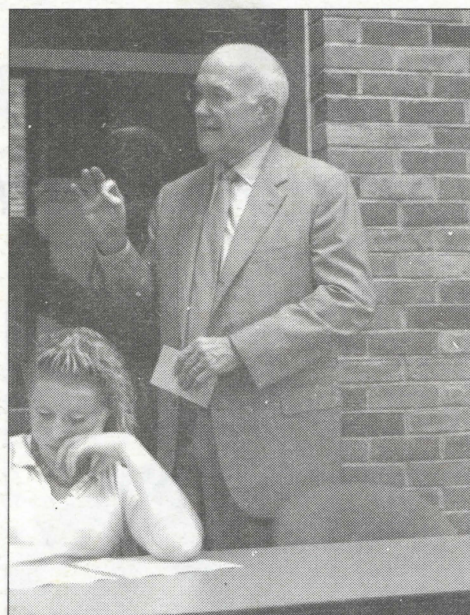
BICENTENNIAL from PAGE 9

centennial celebration. And, Wilkes University classes are participating, by transferring the "film in a tin can" to DVD. Dr. Mark Stine, Professor and Chair of the Communications Studies Department, has his advanced video class working on some additional material for the DVD along with history department professor and chair Dr. John Hepp's Historical Presentation class. Hepp explains that the two team up each year to work on a joint documentary project. But this year is a little special.

"We are working to transfer a 100-year-old film to DVD to preserve it and make better use of it. Film can deteriorate and there are not many film projectors," explained Hepp. "Future generations will have access that." He added that in fact Carl Brigido, Wilkes University television station engineer, had to work very hard to get a projector working.

By the end of the semester, much of the DVD will be complete, but over the summer film crews will be out again to cover the summer events. Then, Hepp said a student will edit the show and the documentary will air on channel 15 in the fall.

"The students always enjoy working on



The Beacon Archives

In a recent article published in *University Business*, Wilkes University President Tim Gilmour highlighted why it is important for college presidents to devote time to stabilizing their community with downtown revitalization. The President pointed out the 7.9 million dollar purchase of the Call Center, which is now the University Center on Main, and the upcoming bookstore merger slated for downtown as examples.

these projects. The video side is doing well, and I've gotten some positive feedback from the history side as well," Hepp said of the collaboration.

While Mr. Wilkes was firmly planted in the Fenner Quadrangle on Friday, he was surely at the celebration in spirit. Perhaps the free-speech advocate for whom (half) the city and the campus was named will make it to the next bicentennial event.

RUN-DOWN

Friday, June 30- Bicentennial Blast-Off
-5 p.m.-10 p.m. on Public Square with food and beverages (free)
-6 p.m.-8 p.m.- Cocktail Party, Ramada Inn (\$25)

Saturday, July 1- Bicentennial Parade and Kiwanas Diamond Coal Car Race (free)

Sunday, July 2- Gala Ball: A Night to Believe, black-tie affair at Genetti's (\$50)

Monday, July 3- "To be announced" national music act, Kirby Park (free)

Tuesday, July- 4th of July celebration at Kirby Park (free)

July 7-9-100th anniversary of the Giant's Despair Hill Climb

In his article, Gilmour pinpointed specific instances such as Wilkes' \$7.9 million dollar purchase of the Call Center building on Main St. (now named UCOM) and the upcoming bookstore merger as examples of how the institution is trying to help the downtown get back on its feet.

"If you're trying to strengthen an institution, it's hard to do that and ensure its future if it doesn't have a surrounding area that is the kind of area that students want to come to and that their parents would be comfortable with," said Gilmour.

Rev. Tom O'Hara, president of King's College, has also played an integral role in revitalization.

O'Hara has written several articles and editorials on community issues, speaks frequently to community groups about the local community, and sits on the board of City Vest, which is a non-profit development corporation, currently engaged in its most visible project, the refurbishment of the Hotel Sterling.

"People on our campus hear me talking about King's role in the community all the time. I think King's and Wilkes are natural

bookends to the downtown. Wilkes-Barre is blessed to have two fine institutions of higher education right downtown," said O'Hara.


But despite the fact that both Wilkes and King's are centrally located in the downtown area, they are not the only ones directly impacted by the city's economic challenges.

College Misericordia, located in the Back Mountain's Dallas, has also been committed to ensuring its future by promoting the revitalization of its neighboring city. Misericordia's President, Dr. Michael MacDowell, has done his share as well.

In addition to writing more than 20 editorials for regional newspapers about economic development and revitalization, Dr. MacDowell also serves as the Vice Chair of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce.

"I believe that college presidents, by virtue of their positions, have a responsibility to speak out on key issues of concern to a region or community. Clearly, economic revitalization and development is one of those issues and that is why I have been vocal about them," said MacDowell.

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Growth in robotics due to govt. mandates and home uses

BY JEREMY ZUCKERO
Beacon Correspondent

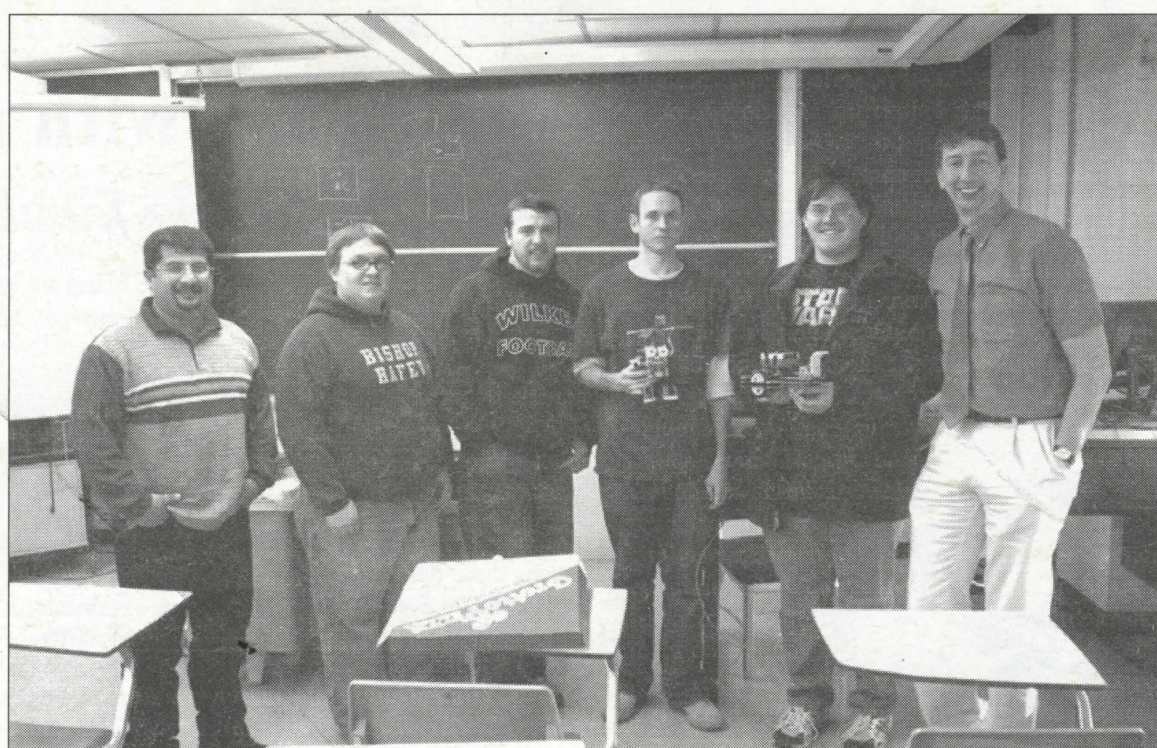
Robots, long belonging only to the realm of science fiction, are becoming more and more a component of everyday life.

Recently, a robotics club began here at Wilkes University, reflecting the growing interest in and importance of robotics.

Matthew Zukoski, assistant professor of mathematics/computer science and advisor to the club, commented on the club's formation: "We went through what ... ended up being a three week process, and...were [then] informed (by Student Government representatives) that we were voted in unanimously, that now we were an official group."

Zukoski believes that burgeoning interest in robotics can be traced to several factors: "Lately there has been an interest [generated] by different factors, such as the government mandating that one-third of all military vehicles must be autonomous [The mandate specifies 2015 as the deadline]...With the war, there is a need for robotic vehicles."

Some people are already seeing the function of robotics in the home, or at least realize the future of robotics. Seth Peasley, junior electrical engineering major said, "more and more [robots] are going to be in the home, like the Room-



Recently, the Robotics Club at Wilkes was granted official club status. Pictured in the photo from left to right are Mr. Hisham Abu-Nabaa, Joe Seaman, Bryan Hughes, Jacob Groom, Mike Voda and Mr. Matthew Zukoski, advisor. The club has already started planning future projects. Some preliminary plans include student competitions, mentoring high school students, and a project called Robo-Cup that uses robotic dogs in a soccer-like setting.

ba, not like the 1950's walking automotons, but small purpose-built machines."

The club's roots go back at least to last year, when its first meetings were held. According to Zukoski, "We had a couple [of] meetings last year - three - then we went through the paperwork to become an official club." Following the semester break, club members

gathered for their first official meeting to determine what kinds of projects the students wanted to do.

Zukoski and the club members have some preliminary plans for future activities. "Now we are eligible to receive some funds ... we'll be able to use [those funds] for some robotic kits or some travel money ... we want to get

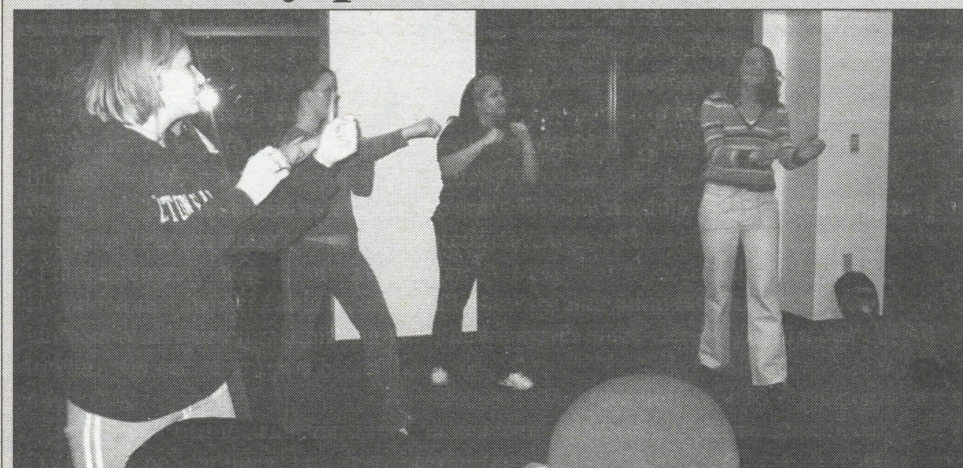
the students involved in competitions ... Also I'd like to bring some competitions here ... One is called the Robo-cup. It is a really cool project that uses the Sony AIBO dogs, robot dogs which have a vision system and wireless capability. Each side has five AIBOs playing soccer. They use their heads to nudge the ball, and the students have to write code to nav-

igate the dog towards the ball and then nudge it towards the goal. I want to bring that competition [to Wilkes] since the closest site is at Carnegie-Mellon, in Pittsburgh," said Zukoski.

The robotics club would also like to interact with the larger community according to Zukoski, "We'd also like to work with schools, K-12 students. There is a big competition for K-12 students called FIRST Robotics Competition, they use LEGO robots. The schools look for mentors, so one of our students could be a mentor for a team."

According to Zukoski, for those that are computer science and engineering shy, never fear: the robotics club is intended for both "newbies" and old hands alike: "You can have no background at all. We can take English majors who are interested in robotics. I'm going to have sessions to show [those with limited technical knowledge] introductory programming, how to drive a robot, even simple building without doing any programming. Initially we might work more with kits because a lot of the students b vl've seen who were interested in the club don't have much background. We were out there [on the Greenway] on club day, and about twenty-some signed up that day. I was glad to see students sign up from all majors--art, English, history, computer science and engineering."

University promotes self defense



The Beacon/Lindsey Klish

This past Wednesday, Health Services sponsored a special self-defense training class designed specifically for women. The event featured helpful hints and strategies about ways women can defend themselves in threatening situations. Members of Public Safety also attended the session.



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3-D art: Sordoni adding new dimension with new exhibit

"Committed to Clay" features five ceramists, including faculty Jean Adams

BY NORA JURASITS
Beacon Correspondent

Wilkes University's Sordoni Art Gallery entered a three-month relationship this weekend when it became "Committed to Clay." The exhibition, which features five well-known artists who work in ceramics, will run until May 21.

Sordoni curator and co-curator of the exhibition, Ronald Bernier said that since the gallery hadn't featured ceramics, or many three-dimensional pieces, it was time they took advantage of faculty member Jean Adams' knowledge and connections in ceramics.

Adams, who acted as co-curator of the show said, "There are so many different types of art, and it's nice to bring a 3-D medium in here. It's important for people to see great clay work."

Adams contacted the five artists, including Joe Bennion, Randy Johnston, Mary Law, Jeff Oestreich, and Sandy Simon, and asked each of them to submit approximately ten pieces. "I've known their work; they're artists I've followed. It's interesting to see what they send to the exhibition."

Jeff Oestreich said he chose his pieces based on what he wanted to continue to evolve with. "I chose a range of work that I am currently excited about, ideas that I will continue to expand on in the future."

When the pieces arrived to the gallery, Bernier, Adams and a few students had to decide whether to display the artists' work together, or to organize the pieces by similar qualities, such as size, color, and form. Lighting of the three dimensional pieces was also considered when the show was set up. "Designing the show is part of what we enjoy the most. It's our added bit of creativity," Bernier said.

Artist Randy Johnston usually draws his pieces first, and then uses the drawings and paper models as a guide to create the three-dimensional pieces, which he wood fires. "The fun thing about clay is you can translate 2-D shapes into 3-D form," he said.

Johnston said he has met and spent time with the other four artists featured in the show and was excited to have his work displayed with other artists he knew. "I think people tend to be very aware of other people's work and what they are doing. Most of us are pretty informed with ceramics and art history, so we tend to develop certain styles and thinking methods within our work and that tends to create bonds."

In addition to having their work displayed, artist Joe Bennion will offer a workshop on Saturday, March 25. Jeff Oestreich will run a workshop on Saturday, April 1. Oestreich will also be presenting a slide lecture on Friday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Stark Learning Center.

The opening reception for the show was held Saturday. All of the art featured will be available for purchase. The gallery is open daily from noon until 4:30 and admission is free. For more information on the gallery and programs being offered, call (570) 408-4325.

Little Theater of Wilkes-Barre to present *Peanuts* show

Wilkes' Mariane Ferrantino brings Lucy to life

BY DONNA TALARICO

Beacon A&E Editor

One of America's most famous comic strips comes to life this weekend--on the stage. Snoopy, Charlie, Linus, Lucy and the gang are all hopping from cell to stage at Wilkes-Barre's Little Theater for "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Cathy Alaimo, director, explains why the group chose this show.

"Charlie Brown has such draw for the community. Everyone can relate to one of the Peanuts characters. It also has the benefit of being a smaller cast/production which really lends itself to an intimacy between the audience and players," she said.

Junior English major Mariane Ferrantino landed the role of Lucy VanPelt, making this her fourth show with the community theater. And, the role of taking a drawn character outside the lines is something she has enjoyed.

"It's been great fun, getting to bring a 2-D character to life. There is so much opportunity to put so much of yourself [into it] and also take it to a place where you can get really animated. It's such a great combination," said Ferrantino of developing "Lucy."

The show will follow characters from Charles Schulz's classic Peanuts comic strips throughout a typical day in the life of Charlie Brown and his gang, featuring familiar moments from Valentine's Day, the baseball field and others. The daily events are played out in various vignettes, and according to Ferrantino, most would recognize the scenarios.

"There is the essential baseball game where we all lose because the Peanuts can never win at anything, and Charlie talking about the Little Red Headed Girl and Valentine's Day when Charlie doesn't get any valentines," she said, adding that her character has a lot of interaction with her little brother Linus and his blanket.

The set also features the familiar meeting places featured in the comic strip, such as Lucy's advice stand and the doghouse. But the emphasis is really on the Peanuts.

"I explained to the technical director/set designer that I wanted to keep the set extremely simple. We have Snoopy's dog house, of course, as well as some brightly colored blocks and a few puffy clouds hanging overhead - that's it. The play is really about the characters so that was where I wanted the focus to be. We aren't even using a full orchestra, just piano," said Alaimo.

As Ferrantino noted, the unique thing about the show is character development. When asked about bringing the strip to life, director Alaimo responded, "It really is a challenge, especially with Peanuts being so iconic. There is a concern about your audience coming in with preconceived notions about the characters because they've 'known' them since childhood through the strip and the animated features. At the same time, as a theatrical production, you want to be creative and inventive in character development. The cast does a great job at blending both perspectives. It's really been a joy as a director to watch them grow."

Ferrantino agreed; in fact, it's been her favorite part of the production. "It's so awesome, such a fun time. My favorite part is seeing the characters come to life, and watching everyone grow. It's hard to see where they end and their characters begin," she said.

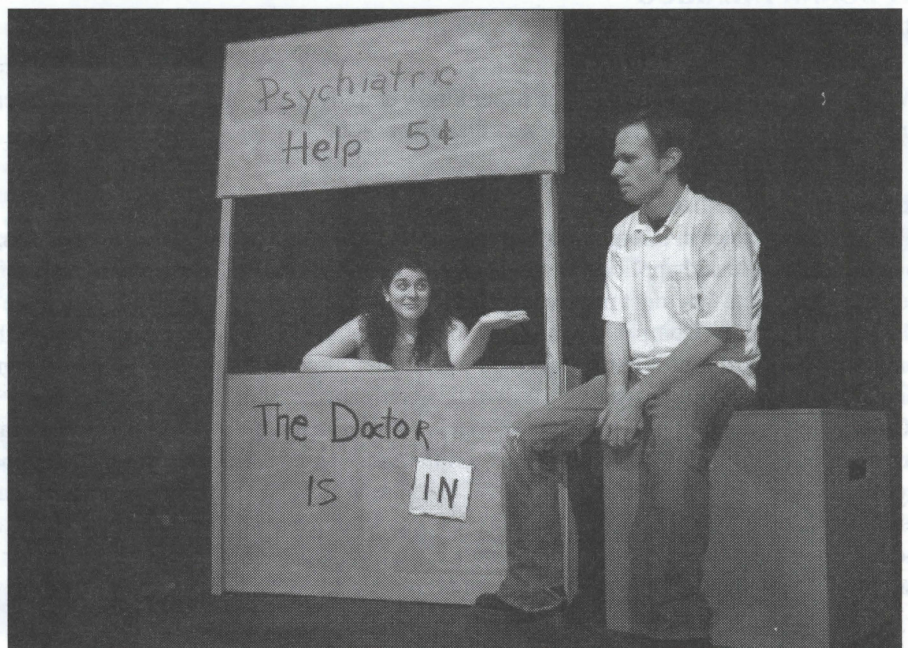
"Snoopy is played by a person, Kaitlin Peterman of Kingston, who speaks and sings. The character really only shares thoughts with the audience. The rest of the cast [Jay Fink, Charlie Brown; Conor O'Brien, Linus; Christopher James Bohinski, Schroeder and Jesse McNatt, Patty] have all tackled their characters much as one would in any other performance. They have taken on the persona that is easily recognized from the long running Peanuts comic strip."

Ferrantino added that the young woman playing Snoopy does not just play the beagle, but has *become* him. "She does a fantastic job. During one of the dances she channels Snoopy; the dance moves are actually Snoopy," she said.

And, why does America feel Charlie really *is* a good man? Alaimo has an idea.

"One of my favorite things about Charlie Brown is that in spite of the challenges he faces, he has a way of finding hope and bringing it to others," she said.

This show marks the 84th season for the Little Theater of Wilkes-Barre, and is the third longest running community theater in the United States. Philanthropists who were so generous to Wilkes University also saw the contributions the Little Theater was making to the arts community. In the 70s, Dorothy Dickson Darte, who also co-founded the theater, donated a new lighting board to the theater while Annette Evans, namesake of the alumni house, donated the curtain. "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" runs Friday and Saturday, March 24 & 25 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 and \$2.00 with a Wilkes student I.D. For some neat *Peanuts* info, check out snoopy.com



Courtesy of the Little Theater of Wilkes-Barre
Some kids set up lemonade stands. Bossy Lucy (Mariane Ferrantino) gives advice to blockhead Charlie Brown (Jay Fink). These two make up the cast of Peanuts characters, which will also include Snoopy, Lucy's little brother Linus and his blanket, piano-playing Schroeder and D-average student Patty.

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Nothing but Net: Netting your first job

BY DONNA TALARICO
Beacon A&E Editor

While cold calling, newspapers (the paper kind), employment guides and the campus career services department are quality places to find a post-graduation career, the web can also be a way to 'net' that dream job.

Monster.com

Perhaps the pioneer in internet job searching, Monster offers many job search options, e-mail alerts, the ability to post resumes and cover letters online and applicants can also apply to many jobs with the click of a button. Another neat feature is the networking section where users can meet people within companies or industries in which they have an interest.

Pros: Free to use. Companies must pay to post jobs, which can weed out fly-by-night places. Also, many large companies will post multiple job openings within their organization. So, they have a great "learn more about this company" and "see all opportunities within this company" option.

Cons: Despite having to pay for space, there are still too many work-from-home, pyramid schemes and military recruiting ads made to appear like careers on the site. Also, if resumes are posted expect random e-mails from people offering you a job-but don't reply. These are usually for the aforementioned scams. Another con is that before getting the job you clicked on, you must go through a page to sign up for a special offer. You can decline and we suggest you do so. Also, there are not too many local jobs to choose from nor smaller companies that may offer great opportunities because of the high price to post jobs.

CareerBuilder.com

CareerBuilder has a relationship with several daily newspapers, and draws listings from the classified section from those. Also, companies can post directly to the site as well.

Pros: There are probably more local jobs on this site since it draws from local papers. You can also post resumes and apply through the site. This is also free to use.

Cons: Since these come from newspapers and many jobs are in the paper everyday, there are lots of repeats. To get around this, you can look everyday and use the "posted within 24 hours" option. Also, there are lots of scam jobs posted here.

Craigslist.com

The granddaddy of online classifieds, this site started in San Francisco and now has versions for nearly every major city in the nation and world. Just click on the city name for the places you'd like to job hunt and you'll find job listings, gigs, roommates, housing, cars and much more.

Pros: This could be a one-stop-shop as you can find much of what you'd need to relocate. There is no Wilkes-Barre/Scranton version; however, there is an Allentown, Philadelphia and New York City, which are all a commutable distance. The best part about this site is probably not the job part, but finding housing and roommates. Also, this site is free of charge.

Cons: There are many unpaid and one-time (such as passing out samples for one event) jobs listed, especially on the creative categories. It takes a while to weed through things as well.

SoYouWanna.com

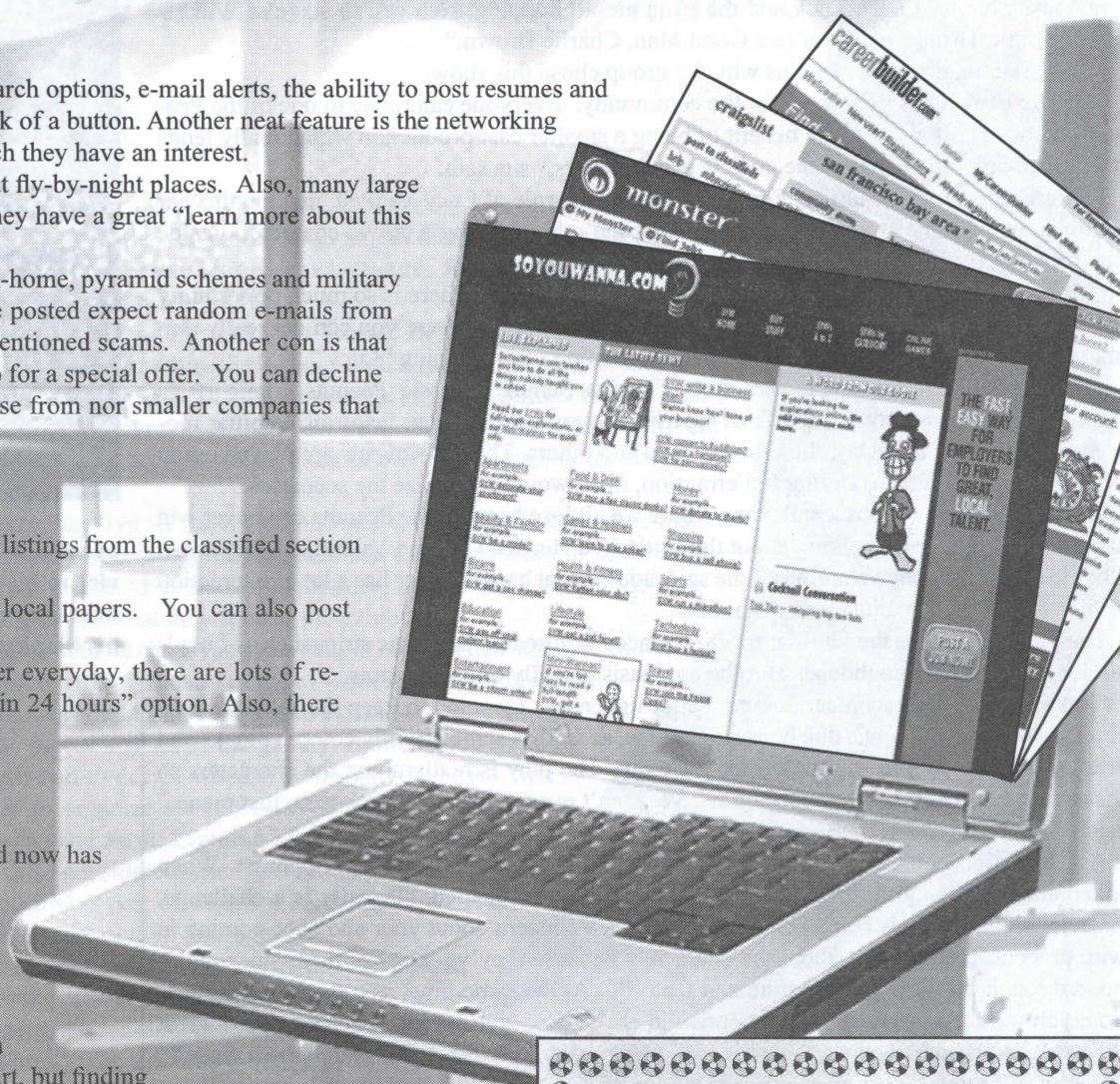
This site is not solely for job-hunting as it covers almost anything anyone might 'wanna' do. Under its work category, are articles on acing a job interview, asking for a raise and others.

Pros: The free-to-use site offers a wealth of articles on tips for many types of jobs and even freelance gigs. There is also much advice about the job hunting and interviewing process.

Cons: The site is not totally focused on jobs. Also, the job articles may not appeal to the masses or even the college-educated- circus performer and babysitter are listed.

These are just four sites- there are many, many others. In fact, some of the best places to look are corporate websites, as many places just post their jobs on their own sites. Also, professional and trade organizations and publications often have jobs posted. For example, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* has a job area for instructors, staff and administration. Many of these organizations have student sections.

When looking online, be wary of insurance and work-at-home schemes. Many say you can be a manager and make over \$100,000 per year. But for a smart user the internet can be a nice supplement for a search.



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BY JASON NICKLE
Beacon Cartoonist



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	REQUIREMENTS		MISDEMEANOR	FELONY	RESULT
Accountant	B.S. in Accounting (1)	License - State Board of Accountancy (3)	X	X	(§9.34) Must represent good moral character. (§9.34) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Architect	B.S. in Architecture (1)	License - Architects Licensure Board (3)	X	X	(§34.8) Must be an individual of good character. (§34.19) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Chiropractor	Associate - Bachelors (preferred) (1)	License - State Board of Chiropractic (3)	X	X	(§525.501) Must represent good moral character. (§525.500) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
CIA Agent	Associate - Bachelors (1)	License as private detectives; (1,3)	X	X	Fail security clearances; cannot receive license (1,3)
Dentist	Degree from dental school (1)	License - the State Board of Dentistry (3)	X	X	(§123.1) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Engineer	Bachelors in Engineering	License - State Board for Professional Engineers (3)	X	X	(§151.4) Must represent good moral character (3)
Funeral Director	2 yrs. Post-Secondary Ed. (1)	License - State Board of Funeral Directors (3)	X	X	(§479.11) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Insurance Adjuster	Associate - Bachelors (1)	License - Insurance Commissioner (3)	NA	X	(§1606) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Lawyer/Attorney	4 yrs. Undergrad. 3 yrs. law school (J.D.) & pass written bar exam. (1)	License - State & Federal Courts/Bar Associations (2)	X	X	Lacks "good moral character"; ineligible for admission into the Bar (2)
Medical Doctor	4 yrs. Undergrad. 4 yrs Med. School, & 3-8 yrs. Residency/Internship (1)	License - State Board of Medicine (3)	X	X	(§422.22) Must represent good moral character. (§422.41) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Nurse	Degree from approved nursing program (1)	License - State Board of Nursing (3)	X	X	(§216) Must represent good moral character. (§216, 224) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification up to 10 yrs
Nursing Home Administrator	B.S.; Master's in Health Services Administration (1)	License - State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators (3)	X	X	(§1106) Must represent good moral character. Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Occupational Therapy	Bachelors; pass national certification examination (1)	License - State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure (3)	X	X	(§1508) Must represent good moral character. (§1516) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Pharmacist	Doctorate degree (1)	License - State Board of Pharmacy (3)	X	X	(§390-3) Must represent good moral & professional character. (§390-3, 390-5) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification for up to 10 years (3)
Physical Therapy	Bachelors degree (1)	License - State Board of Physical Therapy (3)	X	X	(§1309.1) Must represent good moral character. (§1311) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Police Officer (Fed. & State Agencies)	B.A. in Criminal Justice (1)	NA	X	X	Failure of background checks; denied employment (1)
Psychologist	Doctorate & Internship (1)	License - State Board of Psychology (3)			(§1206) Must represent good moral character. (§1206) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Real Estate Broker	Associate - Bachelors preferred (1)	License - State Real Estate Commission (3)	NA	X	(§455.604) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Social Worker	Master's degree (1)	License - State Board of Social Work Examiners (3)	X	X	(§1907) Must represent good moral character. (§1911) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Speech/Language Therapist	Master's degree (1)	License - State Board of Examiners of Speech-Language and Hearing (3)	X	X	(§1707) Must represent good moral character. (§1710) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Teacher	Bachelors degree (1)	Licensed as a teacher (1)	X	X	Failure of passing background checks. Denied employment (4)
Veterinarian	Doctorate degree (1)	License - Pennsylvania State Board of Veterinary Medicine (3)	NA	X	(§485.3) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification for up to 10 years (3)

Sources: 1) U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm). 2) PA Bulletin - Admission to Practice Law (www.pabulletin.com/secare/data/vol29/29-50/2001.html) 3) Purdon's Penna. Statutes Annotated, Title 63, Professions and Occupations 4) PA Crimes Code, Section 9124.

The PLCB recognizes this is not a comprehensive listing of all occupations requiring licensure/certification. The information contained herein is to be used as a guide only.

Phillies geared for run at National League East

Underrated team has made playoffs once in last 22 seasons

BY NICK PODOLAK
Asst. Sports Editor

As the 2006 Major League Baseball season approaches, the Philadelphia Phillies face one daunting task...win five more games.

That's the philosophy of new General Manager Pat Gillick, who believes the Phils need to improve five more wins over last seasons 88-71 record to win the National League East.

To the casual fan, five games don't sound like much. But considering the move the New York Mets made in the offseason by snagging Phillies closer Billy Wagner, five more wins would be a major accomplishment. With a couple of new faces and a core of young talent, the Phils appear more than ready for the task at hand.

NEW FACES

In one of the biggest moves of the off-season, Gillick traded slugger Jim Thome to the Chicago White Sox for scruffy center fielder **Aaron Rowand**. Known for his hard-nosed play, Rowan once knocked himself silly after running into a cinder block wall chasing down a fly ball. "Crash" should become an instant fan favorite as he looks to rebound from a down season.

The move also gives reining Rookie of the Year **Ryan Howard** a permanent position at first base. His ten September homeruns was a major league record for rookies, and he is on pace to smack 30 bombs this year playing in a band-box like Citizens Bank Park.

In place of Billy Wagner, the Phils acquired veteran closer **Tom "Flash" Gordon** from the New York Yankees. Despite his age, Gordon put up impressive numbers with the Yanks, going 7-5 with a 2.66 ERA.



Unfortunately, tenderness has been reported in his throwing arm (not a surprise to long suffering Phillies fans).

Newcomers **Ryan Franklin**(P) and reliever **Arthur Rhodes** should also strengthen the bullpen significantly.

Off-season moves: B

FAMILIAR FACES

The biggest story coming into this season has to be shortstop **Jimmy Rollins's** 36-game hit streak. "J-Roll" needs to hit in 21 straight games if he wants to break Joe DiMaggio's record of 56. Look for Rollins to get a standing ovation every time he knocks one through.

Now that Placido Polanco is gone, **Chase**

Utley will take over full time at second base. "Dirtball" is a hustler and leaves his heart on the field every game. Perhaps that's how he got his nickname...he just loves to get dirty! Utley's bat is the glue that holds this lineup together. He is considered among the elite second basemen in the game.

Whoever will play third base is still up in the air. With **David Bell** out with a nagging back injury, new pick-ups **Abraham Nunez** and **Alex Gonzalez** should vie for time at the hot corner, both providing decent pop.

Mike Lieberthal will finish off the last year of his contract behind the plate, while **Pat "The Bat" Burrell** and **Bobby Abreu** complete an All-Star outfield.

Offense/Defense: A

PITCHING

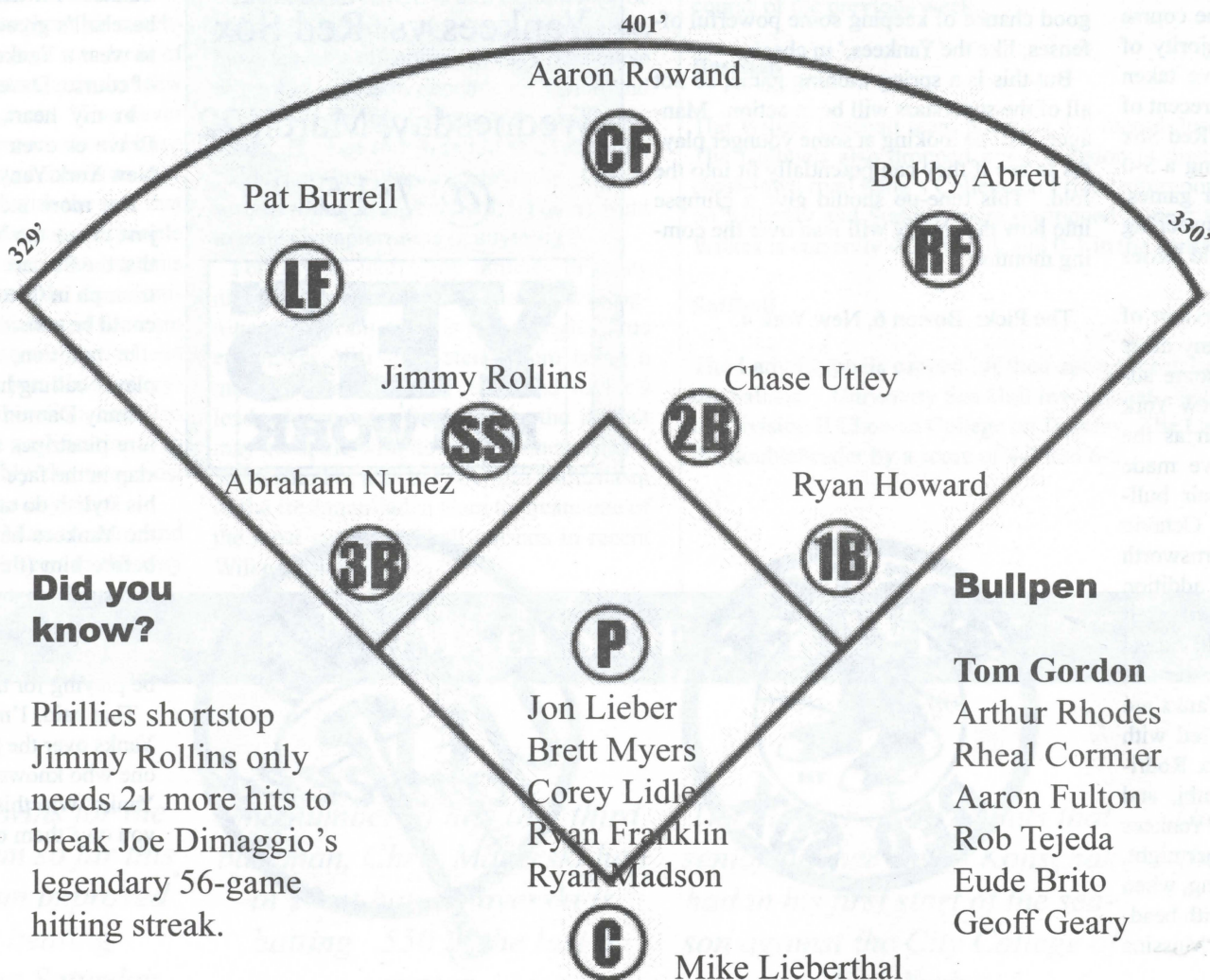
It has been said that pitching wins championships, but it isn't easy pitching in a hitters park known as the "Coors Field" of the East. **Jon Lieber** will lead a young pitching staff, though he has been known to give up some gopher balls. **Brett Myers** has matured a lot over a three year period and accumulated 208 strike outs last season---92 more than in 2004. **Cory Lidle**, **Ryan Franklin**, and **Ryan Madson** will also figure into the starting rotation.

Pitchers: C+

OUTLOOK

Despite for the Florida Marlins, every team in the National League East remains very competitive. Keep in mind, the Phillies had the best record in the National League during the second half of the season. If they could somehow put it together in April (their worst month by far), the Fightin's can make a serious run at the division title. After finishing one game out of the wild card to Houston last year, the Phillies should be rarin' to go.

Prediction: Win NL East, lose to St. Louis Cardinals in the first round of the playoffs.



Did you know?

Phillies shortstop **Jimmy Rollins** only needs 21 more hits to break Joe Dimaggio's legendary 56-game hitting streak.

Bullpen

Tom Gordon
Arthur Rhodes
Rheal Cormier
Aaron Fulton
Rob Tejeda
Eude Brito
Geoff Geary

| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

MLB: Yankees vs. Red Sox (spring training)

Long-time rivals to feel each other out

BY KEVIN REED
Beacon Staff Writer

The sun is out, spring is here and the diamonds are being prepped for the start of baseball season.

This is the time of year when potential is boundless for many players anxious to get a chance at making a big-league squad. Minor leaguers and young draft picks alike are feverishly vying for very limited openings within their top affiliate's roster once the Major League Baseball season starts April 2 and 3.

Easily, the two highest profile teams in baseball are the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox. Their history dates back several generations and the magnitude of this divisional rivalry is incomparable anywhere in baseball lore. Not only do these teams meet nineteen times over the course of the regular season, but the majority of the Yankees/Red Sox classics have taken place in the postseason. The most recent of these is the 2004 ALCS when the Red Sox "reversed the curse" by overcoming a 3-0 series deficit to win the final four games, defeating the Yankees, and then sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series to win their first title eight decades.

Back to the present, the 2006 versions of the Yankees and Red Sox, like many other teams in the league, have made some adjustments to their rosters. The New York Yankees, who finished last season as the AL East Champions (95-67), have made considerable improvements to their bullpen by adding reliable relievers Octavio Dotel from Oakland and Kyle Farnsworth from Atlanta. The most intriguing addition was center fielder Johnny Damon, who left Beantown for Broadway and should expect a chorus of boos when he finally returns to Fenway Park in pinstripes. The Yanks are also led by their potent lineup filled with core players like Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez, Gary Sheffield, Jason Giambi, and Bernie Williams. In addition to the Yankees lineup that could score eight runs per night, the Bronx Bombers' starting pitching, when healthy, can be dominant as well with headliners like Randy Johnson, Mike Mussina and Carl Pavano.

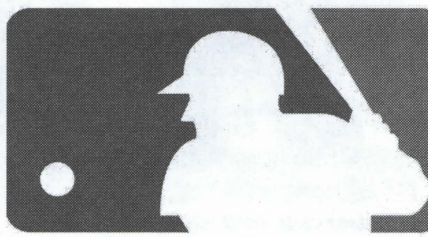
The Boston Red Sox ended last season

with an identical record as their hated rivals, at 95-67, but thanks to a tiebreaker, Boston did not capture the division title. The Red Sox were a little busier this off-season adding pitcher Josh Beckett and third-baseman Mike Lowell from Florida, dependable relief pitcher Julian Taveréz from St. Louis, second-baseman Mark Loretta from San Diego, and as a replacement for the departed Damon, center fielder Coco Crisp from Cleveland. Add those bats to the Red Sox's score of Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz and Jason Varitek, and they have a lineup just as deadly as their long-time rivals.

The BoSox starting pitching, however, is where the club "trumps" the Yankees. When a team can throw five guys on the mound on consecutive days, like Curt Schilling, Matt Clement, David Wells, Tim Wakefield and the aforementioned Beckett, they have a good chance of keeping some powerful offenses, like the Yankees, in check.

But this is a spring training game, so not all of the superstars will be in action. Managers will be looking at some younger players to see if they can potentially fit into the fold. This tune-up should give a glimpse into how the rivalry will lead over the coming months.

The Pick: Boston 6, New York 4



Quick Info

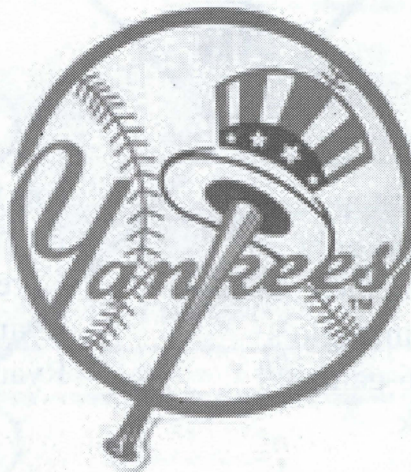
Spring Training

Yankees vs. Red Sox

Wednesday, March 22

@ 7:15

**YES
NETWORK**



Double Take

Sarah examines the facts that truly matter...

BY SARAH HERBERT
Beacon Features Editor

Well, I know it has been frightfully cold, but I'm fairly certain hell hasn't frozen over yet. That leaves me wondering why my editors are being so nice to me this week.

The rumors are true. This week's game of the week has nothing to do with football, hockey or any other ridiculous "sport."

Welcome to baseball season. What better way to begin the season than with baseball's biggest rivalry: New York Yankees v. Boston Red Sox.

I have to let you all know that I still have some very hostile emotions toward the Yankees for taking, in my opinion, one of baseball's greatest players and forcing him to wear a Yankees uniform. That player is, of course, Dave Justice.

In my heart, Justice will always be a Brave or even an Indian, but never ever a New York Yankee.

I'm more inclined to pick the Red Sox, just to see the Yanks lose. However, given that the Sox are the latest of the two rivals to triumph in October, technically the Yankees could be considered the underdog.

In addition, there is a former Boston player calling himself a Yankee this season. Johnny Damon is sporting the Yanks signature pinstripes and a new haircut. What a slap in the face to the poor guy. He's losing his stylish do and his self respect. But hey, the Yankees have done it to many players before him (think Justice or Roger Maris) and surely many will follow.

Somehow, the Yanks get all the good players. I guess it could be worse, Damon could be playing for the Mets.

That said, I'm actually going to pick the Yanks over the Sox (right about now everyone who knows me is gasping). So let's go Yanks. Win this one for Justice and Maris, you owe them one. Go Yankees.

Athlete of the Week

Softball: Nadine Taylor

BY RYAN DIPPRE
Beacon Sports Editor

Senior centerfielder Nadine Taylor took center stage in the final day of the Wilkes softball team's barnstorming spring break by going 2 for 4 with a home run and two RBI's to help the Lady Colonels to a 9-4 win over Cabrini College.

Taylor comes into the year after an outstanding junior year that saw her named to both Regional All-American and a second-team All-American, along with first team ECAC South honors. Taylor hit a spectacular .394, with a .955 fielding percentage in 2005, and stole 17 bases.

An outside observer might notice statistics such as these and be unsurprised to note that Taylor was named co-captain (along with fellow senior Jan Nunemacher) for the 2006 season. Head coach Frank Matthews, however, is not in the habit of selecting team captains. In fact, Nunemacher and Taylor are only the second and third captains that he has ever selected on any of his teams. "That would include junior high and high school [teams] also," said Matthews, now in his sixth season at the helm of the team.

The lack of captains throughout his coaching career stems from the high standards of captaincy that he holds--standards that few players have been able to meet. "I've never been of the opinion that teams should have captains merely to have figureheads as captains. I also never agreed with the fact that captains should be the most popular people on the team. I always felt that captains should be people who could be communicators between the head coach and the team while at the same time also seeing the head coach's point of view on just about everything. And in a rare combination, both Jan and Nadine do meet those qualifications. In addition, they are probably the two most popular people on the team anyway."

The effectiveness of Nunemacher and Taylor as captains can be seen in the way



Courtesy of Sports Information
Taylor was an All-American in 2005, with a .394 batting average and a .955 fielding percentage.

that the team--that has 24 players this season--is coming together as a group. "Everyone gets along," said Taylor.

Matthews credits Taylor's leadership as a major factor in bringing the team together. "She's unquestionably a leader," said Matthews. "The younger girls respect her. They respect the fact that she's been an All American, and they know that she understands the way things have to be done at this level."

Taylor's effectiveness as a captain may be measured in terms of group cohesiveness, but a leader's effectiveness over the course of an entire season depends on vision and goals. For Taylor, the long-term goal is obvious. "I want to win the MAC," she said. "This is my last year to do anything. I never won anything in high school; [I] never went to state championships or anything."

For Taylor, like many athletes in many different sports, the thrill of personal recognition in a team sport is not enough. True enjoyment of a sport stems from being a member of a successful team, and Taylor's leadership on the field and in the dugout may combine with not only Nunemacher's leadership but also the youthful enthusiasm of the freshman-laden team to create one of the most storied softball seasons in recent Wilkes history.

Winter Sport Honors

The Beacon would like to honor the individuals who earned various awards throughout the 2005-2006 winter sport seasons, along with exceptional team accomplishments.

All-Conference Selections

Men's Basketball

Mike Constantine (second team)
Chris Shovlin (second team)
Evan Walters (second team)

Women's Basketball

Rena Bolin (second team)

All-American Selections

Wrestling

Brandon Kelly (197 lb)
Feliqe Queiroz (125 lb)

MAC Wrestling Rookie of the Year

Team Honors

Congratulations to the Wrestling team for finishing 12th overall with 25.5 points at the NCAA Championship Tournament. The Colonels also finished 3rd overall in the MAC with 111 points at the MAC Championships on Feb 19.

Congratulations to the men's basketball team for reaching the Freedom Conference championship game and finishing the season with a 14-10 record.

Congratulations to the women's basketball team for notching six wins during the 2005-2006 season, improving by two wins from the 2004-2005 season.

WHILE YOU WERE GONE...

While the rest of campus was hitting the beach during spring break, the Wilkes baseball and softball teams were barnstorming across the east coast. Both teams did not break stride upon their return to Wilkes-Barre, and kicked off their regular season during the course of the previous week.

Baseball

The Wilkes baseball team posted a 4-2 record during its spring break trip to Florida. The Colonels also dropped a 9-1 decision in their season conference opener against cross-town rival King's College on Friday afternoon. Two other games against King's, on Saturday and Sunday, were postponed to next weekend due to inclement weather. Wilkes is currently 4-3 overall, and 0-1 in the conference.

Softball

The Lady Colonels capped off their spring break barnstorming tour by finishing 2-2 at the Salisbury University Sea Gull Invitational. Wilkes returned to local play by taking on Division II Chowan College on Tuesday. The Lady Colonels dropped both games of the doubleheader by a score of 4-3 and 6-2.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

3

The number of wins for the men's tennis team so far this season. The team improved to 3-1 after beating Neumann 6-1 on Saturday.

11

The number of hits that third baseman, Chris Mayerski had in 20 at bats. Mayerski is batting .550 in the last 6 games.

5

The number of strikeouts that senior pitcher Kevin Konschak had in his first start of the season against the City College of New York.

31

The total number of runs for the softball team so far this season.

Preview of the Week: Baseball vs. Marywood

Young Colonels looking to make a mark in the MAC in 2006

BY ADRIENNE RICHARDS
Beacon Staff Writer

With nine freshmen and eight seniors on the Wilkes baseball roster, many onlookers may stop and question the team's depth and experience. Those on the roster, however, don't see a problem.

Regardless of the gap in academic year, the team is fighting to defy the notion of superiority.

"Chemistry is a lot better than past years and a lot of this can be credited to the seniors for taking on the leadership role and helping the freshmen. Also, the freshmen have to be credited for knowing their role," said senior captain Mike Toomey.

Over spring break, the team traveled to Florida for a barnstorming trip that allowed the freshman to prove themselves on the field for the first time.

"We got a lot of leadership out of

our upperclassmen, and a number of our freshman jumped right in and helped us win a few games," stated Head Coach Joe Folek.

The team is fortunate this year with three senior pitchers: Mike Toomey, Kevin Konschak and Mike Quinn.

"Our senior pitchers did a great job. Toomey, Quinn, and Konschak gave us three great starts and helped us to sweep our first two double-headers of the season. We need these three guys to have big years for us and they got off to a great start. I think they're just getting started," said Folek.

Sophomores Chris Mayerski and Kyle Follweiler also proved themselves in Florida.

"Mayerski and Follweiler each had a great trip to Florida and we need them to bring that intensity and production back home with them. They are two solid players who can make a lot of noise in the MAC this year," stated Folek.

So what are the expectations this

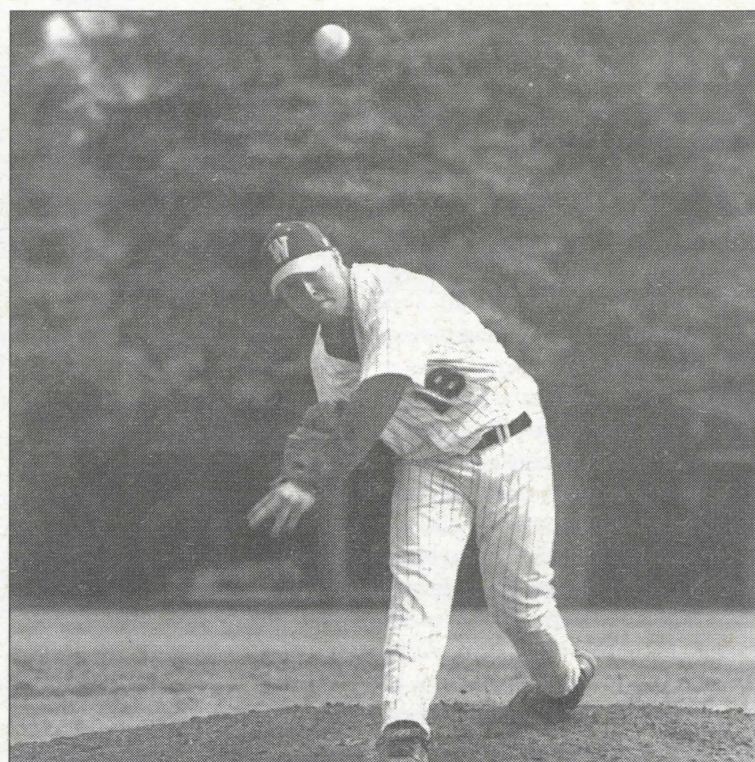
year with such a diverse group of men?

"We have made playoffs all three of my years so far. Two out of the three we've finished second in the conference by one run. I would like to leave my fourth year on top," said Toomey.

Every game for the Wilkes baseball team is held to the same level of importance. This year, the team cannot afford any setbacks. They will come into the 2006 season labeled as the underdogs, with DeSales and King's being top Freedom Conference picks.

On March 21, at 3 p.m. the Colonels will challenge the term "underdog" against Marywood University.

"The trip was a good start to the year and we hope to carry this momentum into our game against Marywood," said Folek.



Beacon Archives
Kevin Konschak fires a pitch during the 2005 season at Artillery Park. The Colonels will be looking for large contributions from their senior pitchers throughout the season.

Campus Calendar

Monday (3/20)

*Women's Health Night
- 4 PM, Evans Hall

Tuesday (3/21)

*Men's baseball vs. Marywood - 3 p.m.
*Men's tennis vs. King's - 3 p.m.
*Concert, Wilkes University Chamber Winds, HSC Ballroom - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday (3/22)

*Women's softball @ William Paterson - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday (3/23)

*Women's lacrosse vs. Drew - 4 p.m.

Friday (3/24)

*Men's baseball @ Drew - 3 p.m.

Saturday (3/25)

*VIP Day for accepted students - 9 a.m.
*Men's Baseball vs. Drew - 12 p.m.
*Women's softball @ Delaware Valley - 1 p.m.
*Men's tennis @ DeSales - 1 p.m.

*Women's lacrosse @ Widener - 1 p.m.

Sunday (3/26)

*Women's softball @ FDU-Florham - 1 p.m.
*Men's tennis vs. Marywood - 1 p.m.
*Men's baseball @ Vas-sar - 2 p.m.

To have your events included, send an email to wilkesbeacon@gmail.com and include the event, date, time and location

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH

Quest for Peace

Once upon a time
Long long ago
In the heavens above
And the waters below
The birds in the air

From earliest days
One desire is clear:
To live together
Without threat or fear
The birds in the air

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

Congratulations to Tim Nolt who correctly identified last week's secret shot which was of the art safe in the basement of SLC.