



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

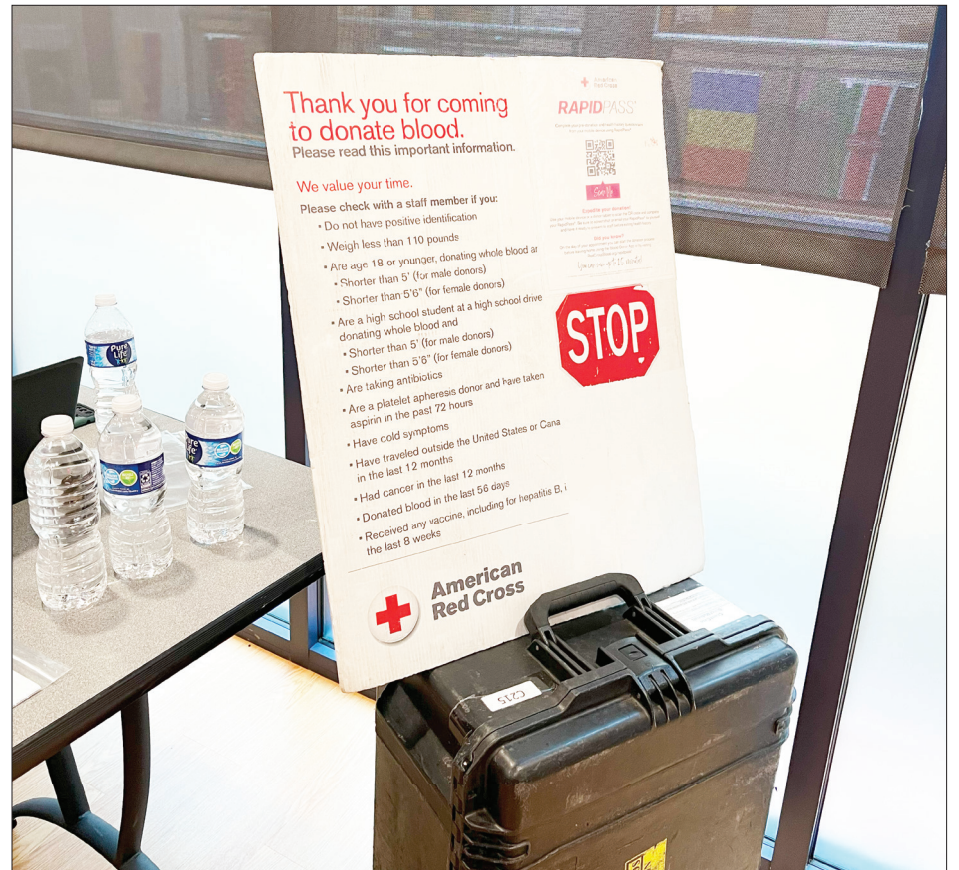
"The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow."

Wilkes hosts first blood drive of the fall semester



The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery

American Red Cross volunteers taking blood donations in the Jean and Paul Adams Commons ballroom on the second floor of the SUB. The blood drive took place Sept. 12 and was held from 9:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.



The American Red Cross placed a poster at the sign-in table which cautioned donors to be wary of certain factors before donating their blood. Some things to consider included weight, height, age and current and past health histories.



Students celebrate national chocolate milkshake day, page 5



E-mentors host bowling event for first-year students, page 7



A reflection on comedy show "Jon, John and Pete," page 16

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Amanda Montgomery: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: Sept. 13 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway
Contributing Writer

Student Government had its third meeting for the semester on Sept. 13. It also marked the first meeting with all the new members.

These new members include three from the senior class and one from the sophomore class. It was also the first meeting for the newly-elected members of the first-year class.

SG currently has \$70,628.65 in its account.

The first order of business was the an Alumni Office fund request for homecoming weekend. The presentation was given by Bree Freeman of the office and Brooke Coleman, a junior student intern. They spoke on the importance of the weekend from an alumni perspective and how it helps renew past memories with colleagues and former students. It can also provide networking opportunities for current students from former graduates

within their desired field.

Helping this weekend come together is a team of student leaders who help make the weekend possible for both students and alumni. The request for \$500 would cover 20 tickets that would be given to the team for their hard work. The tickets would provide access to all activities over the weekend that require payment and come up to a value of \$10 per ticket. This was the first week of their proposal and will be voted on next week.

The next order of business was a fund request from Kappa Psi, a pharmaceutical fraternity on campus under the chapter Delta Omicron. Presenting was their regent Phil Davis, a p4 student. They came to request funding in order to attend two conferences over the first semester. These conferences are to provide networking opportunities and to vote on changes that affect all chapters within their area. The locations for these are in Buffalo, N.Y. and Boston, Ma. The money would be used to cover hotels and registration for both p1

and p2 students. The amount requested was for \$2,226. This was the first week of their proposal and will be voted next week.

The next presentation and last order of new business was the pre-law society coming in for club recognition. The presentation was given by Sean and Bryce Greco, both juniors majoring in political science.

The club has been in operation over the two semesters without full SG recognition and has a full e-board and general board of over 20 members. They hold events in order to help others understand a bonding through the understanding of law and help their members in the seeking of higher education. This was the first week of their proposal and will be voted on next week.

The final presentation was week two of the homecoming fund request for students. The presentation was given by Marytere Quintana-Avila, a junior political science major and a member

of SG. The presentation was the request for final ideas toward the homecoming pep rally, events during the game and the homecoming dance. Major ideas include the theme which is Starry Night, the changing from a homecoming king and queen to homecoming royalty and will no longer be split between men and women, and finally the introduction of free student tickets for the homecoming dance. The request came out to be for \$22,350.81 and was approved for the full amount.

SG will meet again Wednesday Sept. 20.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Volunteer with ChalkFest

The Riverfront Parks Committee hosts their annual ChalkFest event on Saturday, Oct. 7 starting at 9:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for students to volunteer and serve their community. Please email john@riverfrontparks.org with the following information: name, phone number and email address. Contact John Maday with questions.

College of Business and Engineering Career and Internship Fair

The College of Business and Engineering is hosting a career and internship fair on

Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This fair is open to all students interested in working in the business, engineering and technology fields. Over 30 companies have already registered with more anticipated to come. Register to attend on Handshake. Contact Carol Bosack for more information or questions at carol.bosack@wilkes.edu.

Scholarship Opportunity for Students of Polish Descent

The Polish Room Committee Scholarship (\$3,000 top award) welcomes applications from Luzerne County residents. To be considered, applicants must write a brief description of their Polish heritage and what that heritage means to them. This letter must be submitted, along with the applicant's name, WIN and contact information to Allison Naumann, Alumni

House.

Applications can be emailed to allison.naumann@wilkes.edu with the subject line "Polish Heritage Scholarships." Deadline for applications is Oct. 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Leadership Collegiate

This six-week, virtual course consists of online modules that provide current college students who are aspiring leaders with an innovative and flexible online learning experience. Participants work on weekly course content at their own pace. The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 22. Use this link to apply: <https://www.leadershiplackawanna.com/leadership-collegiate-1>.

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- 12-15 - Fall Break
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Want your event featured in the calendar?
Email: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Wilkes-Barre's Multicultural Parade unites community

By Emma Broda
News Staff Writer

Wilkes-Barre celebrated its sixth annual Multicultural Parade and Festival earlier this month. It was highlighted as one of the events to attend during Wilkes' Family Day, which was also on the same day.

Students and residents of Wilkes-Barre lined South Main Street and watched the parade put together by multiple groups from throughout the area.

The parade was a huge display of the many different cultures that make up the city. Some of the countries represented included Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Ireland, India, Ecuador and Jamaica.

The parade also featured a range of music from each group's respective culture

and extravagant and colorful costumes representative of different cultures.

Each group representing a different country or region walked the parade while also performing with their culture's dances, and of course throwing candy to those watching.

It was a much admired celebration of the different cultures that make Wilkes-Barre what it is.

"It was cool to see a bunch of the different cultures represented," said Gabriella Amaya, sophomore nursing major. "It was a really great atmosphere downtown and everyone was having a good time."

The high-spirited mood of the parade continued on during the festivities that followed.

More than 30 different vendors from the area set up on the Public Square

to continue the celebration. Vendors included, Sammy's Caribbean Grill, Los Antojitos, Tacos don Kiko, Greek Stones Handcrafted Jewelry, Awa's Arts and Crafts, Handel's Homemade Ice Cream and Wilkes University's Sordoni Art Gallery.

There was an abundance of food to enjoy from pupusas to potato pancakes.

Along with the food and vendors, there were also things like face painting for kids who attended the festival. Throughout the festival there was a mix of live music and dances from the different cultures who participated in the parade and festival.

Organizations like North Eastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Inclusive and Action Together NEPA had booths set up to highlight the importance of a diverse community and how to protect it.

For example, Action Together

encouraged those in attendance to take action and vote.

King's College and Luzerne County Community College also participated in the parade and shared their own students' cultures.

Did you know that Wilkes University's own Erica Acosta, director of diversity initiatives, was the grand marshal of the 2021 Multicultural Parade?

Photos: The Beacon/Emma Broda



A diverse array of stands and vendors at the Wilkes-Barre Multicultural Parade and Festival. The Public Square had over 30 vendors.



Los Antojitos, a vendor at the Wilkes-Barre Multicultural Parade, offered a wide selection of international cuisine, adding a flavorful touch to the event.



Club of the Week: *Ultimate Frisbee*

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

There are many sports and athletic opportunities on campus, but there are few that exemplify the speed, precision and adrenaline that goes into athletic activity than that of ultimate frisbee.

Ultimate frisbee packs a lot more punch and excitement than one may initially think. The game consists of two teams of seven that compete against each other in scoring goals by throwing and receiving a disc. It may sound simple, but there is a lot more under the surface, and the competitive nature of the sport and its players allows for very intense and nail-biting matches.

“Most people may look at ultimate frisbee as something out of the ordinary that people might not gravitate towards,” said Myles

Timmons, ultimate frisbee captain and sophomore year physics major, “But when going to tournaments and scrimmaging other teams, the atmosphere the people and sport bring are unmatched in the world of sports.”

Players will engage in matches and practice against not just each other, but also other teams in intense seven on seven tournaments. These tournaments include weeks of preparation, as teams will practice their synergy, gameplans and techniques in between large events.

While the ultimate frisbee players are certainly competitive, they also harbor a very welcoming environment, encouraging new players to not only join the club, but also bring friends and family along to enjoy the sport.

“Every semester our goal is to go to at least four tournaments, and also while competing in those we have team socials, where we encourage team members

to bring their friends that might be interested,” said Timmons. “This also allows us to build a family-like culture around the team and on campus.”

While ultimate frisbee takes skill in both speed and precision, the club is very keen on helping both newcomers and seasoned players sharpen their skills.

“This club is extremely beginner-friendly,” said Timmons, “Aside from me, I have Zara Lantzman, Esther Orlando, Brennan Reiner, Alex Lopez, Alex Schweiter, Stephen Youkoski and Olivia McInnis, who all act as supplemental teachers while we are playing and practicing.”

Anyone with an interest in engaging in a high energy sport with a friendly and supportive environment, The Ultimate Frisbee team will welcome with open arms. The team prioritizes giving a voice and proper attention to everyone that joins.

“Our goal for this year is to establish a family-centric winning culture,” said Timmons. “We want people to come that are hungry to win something while also giving them somewhere they feel accepted without judgment.”

Ultimate frisbee exemplifies the skill, adrenaline, precision, cooperation and sportsmanship that is so important within sports. There may never be a dull moment, but that just makes the energy that much more palpable.

“We want people to come that are hungry to win something while also giving them somewhere they feel accepted without judgment,” said Timmons.

To join the team, simply email myles.timmons@wilkes.edu, or alternatively, ultimate@wilkes.edu to learn more.



Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Our very own Zara Lantzman has put together a Spotify playlist where you can scan it and listen to the Beacon's staff weekly picks!

Morgan Rich, Editor-in-Chief:

the ballad of a homeschooled girl - Olivia Rodrigo

Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:

Wait by the River - Lord Huron

Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:

Boyish - Japanese Breakfast

Zara Lantzman, LA&E Editor:

get him back! - Olivia Rodrigo

Anthony Cazun, LA&E Asst. Editor:

Tick Tick Boom - The Hives

Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:

Twilight - Boa

Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:

Nails for Breakfast, Tacks for Snacks - Panic! At the Disco

“Freeze,” Opinion Staff Writer:

Senso - Grillabats

Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:

Slime You Out (feat. SZA) - Drake

Lara Mullen, Designer:

Say Yes - Elliott Smith

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Nothing Works - Declan McKenna

Graphics/Lara Mullen

Students celebrate national chocolate milkshake day

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Residence Hall Council partnered with Aramark to sponsor a milkshake giveaway on Sept. 12. Students who stopped by the Student Union Building during club hours had the choice of vanilla or chocolate milkshakes to celebrate national chocolate milkshake day.

The first 100 students were given a RHC-branded reusable straw to promote sustainability measures. In addition, Aramark gave out Wilkes T-shirts.

“[RHC was created to] support resident assistants (RAs) and the residents in the Wilkes community,” said Natalie Hernandez, junior accounting major and president of RHC.

While RHC specializes in residential issues, commuter students, as well as those who live off-campus, are welcome to attend their events.

“I knew them before from orientation,” said Junia Lawton, first-year history

major. “It was cool to know they do more events on campus. It was nice to get to know them and see who runs it.”

RHC strategically plans these events in advance, while also creating the impression of random, unexpected events.

“I believe pop-up events work so well because it’s unexpected, and create the feeling of a surprise, especially in a location where there is a lot of foot traffic,” said Hernandez. “It’s a once-in-a-blue-moon type of event that students would rather enjoy in the present than not participate and possibly regret later.”

Students who attended the event echoed this sentiment.

“Giveaways are fun!” said Lawton. “It went by fast, it was relatively quick and easy. It’s always nice to have a free milkshake.”

RHC will be hosting more events throughout the semester. To find out more, follow their Instagram @wilkes_rhc.



Photo: The Beacon/Morgan Steiner

Students lined up on the first floor of the SUB before club hours to get their milkshakes.



Photo Courtesy Melissa Ooi

Left to Right: sophomores John Buonano and Victoria Corbo were happy to help out at the event



Photo: The Beacon/Morgan Steiner

Nicole Norton, Aramark's General Manager, posing with the T-shirts that were given out during the event.

Dr. Kaitlyn Langendoerfer joins Wilkes as assistant professor

By Amanda Montgomery
News Editor

Dr. Kaitlyn Langendoerfer joined the university this fall as an assistant professor in the Sociology Department.

Langendoerfer received a bachelor of pre-medical science in sociology from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. She also received her doctorate in sociology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I've always been interested and I love research and what I do in terms of my research, but what I really want to go into academia for is teaching," said Langendoerfer. "At Wilkes, it's a very teaching-oriented college [and] it's smaller, so you really get to know the students."

Langendoerfer planned to pursue a career in dentistry before considering one in sociology. When writing an essay for why she wanted to be a dentist, her committee told her that she might make

a good dentist, but that she sounds like a sociologist.

She explained that sociology is important if a student is going into nursing or another career in the science field.

"You still need to know how your personal problems or maybe your patients' personal problems are related to public issues and societal issues and how that may be playing a role in either your own life or your patients' life," said Langendoerfer.

Throughout her academic career, she has had various influential professors



Photo courtesy Dr. Langendoerfer

that believed in her research and encouraged her to pursue a career in sociology. She understands that not every student who comes into her office or is in her class will become a sociologist, but she hopes that in some way, she is helping to shape them and mentor them.

In her free time, Langendoerfer likes to spend time outside with her three children. They are currently raising monarch caterpillars that will soon become butterflies.

"It's really a good way to see

sociology," said Langendoerfer. "I'm seeing their socialization as they go to school and I'm seeing how my parenting is impacting them and I'm seeing all these things I'm studying."

Langendoerfer currently lives in Honesdale, Pa., with her husband, three children, two horses and donkey.

In five years, Langendoerfer plans to be an associate professor, and to be in her group with students who are akin to her and are interested in her classes.

"I am a medical sociologist and I study aging, so I'm hoping to bring those specializations into the department that has mainly focused on criminology and family," said Langendoerfer. "I'm hoping to bridge those and bring in medical and life course issues and to the curriculum."

One piece of advice Langendoerfer has for students is to meet with their professors. She explained that most students don't attend their professor's office hours, unless there is an assignment or project.

Dr. Kyung Park joins Wilkes as assistant professor

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Dr. Kyung Park joined Wilkes as an assistant professor of math, physics and computer science this fall.

Park received a bachelor of science from Seoul National University in Seoul, South Korea. She later also earned a master of science in computer science. Later, she received a doctorate of science in information technology from Towson University in Towson, Maryland.

"I am most proud of my balanced experience and thinking," said Park. "I established a startup company and experienced various tasks necessary for doing business."

She explained that kind of real-world experience can be valuable for students looking to create their own startups and brand into multidisciplinary fields.

"I thought the computer science program is very strong and competitive,

covering both the most basic subjects as well as the latest technologies," said Park.

Park also observed the Wilkes community, which aided in her decision to join the computer science program.

"When I first saw the advertisement, the city of Wilkes-Barre stimulated my curiosity and I loved the photos of the students and campus," said Park. "During the campus interview, almost all the professors in the math, physics and computer science



Photo courtesy Dr. Park

department welcomed me very kindly and explained the school and the life at Wilkes well."

Park enjoys teaching, but also recognizes the importance of connecting with her students.

"I want to help students gain knowledge and experience that will serve as a fundamental source in

overcoming the challenges they face when they go out into the real world," said Park. "I also want to conduct fruitful research with outstanding students

and colleagues. Additionally, based on my experience at a large metropolitan school and a small liberal arts college, I will teach and advise students to suit each student's background and experience."

Park is eager for this fall semester, not only for teaching students what she has learned through her education and experience, but also to learn from her students and to enjoy new experiences.

Park is very active in learning and putting new applications and innovations in technology into her practice.

In her free time, she enjoys walking on hiking trails and golfing.

Park offers some advice to students regarding overcoming obstacles.

"When you run into difficulties, I encourage you to think back to when we first learned a programming language and go back to the basics. Then you will see the path to follow," said Park.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: Zara.lantzman@wilkes.edu

E-mentors host bowling event for first-year students

By Kelsie Klein
Contributing Writer

The Wilkes e-mentors hosted a bowling night at Chacko's Bowling for all first-year students to have a night to unwind and hangout with friends.

Upon arrival, students were greeted by their e-mentors, were able to get their shoes, and then broke out into groups for the event. It was a great opportunity for first-year students to get to know fellow students, as well as have fun, relax and unwind after classes.

"My experience with bowling is so far a very positive one," said Kara Beerly, a senior psychology major. "It's a great experience. It was 8:46 p.m. and students were still trickling in."

"I witnessed students needing to join lanes that were already open, which was an amazing opportunity for students to talk to fellow students and get to know everyone by having to join other lanes."

While there, everyone was given a ticket for a chance to win cool prizes. Some of the prizes included a Chacko's gift card and a lot of university merch. The university merchandise was from the bookstore and if students received the wrong size, they had the opportunity to exchange the item for the correct one.

Items were drawn throughout the night and it was an equal opportunity to end the night with a win for everyone who showed up.

"There was an amazing turnout this year," said Leah Kubasek, a junior chemistry major and e-mentor coordinator. "There were a lot of people here this year having fun and really enjoying themselves, which I am very grateful for."

An e-mentor's main job at the university is to help guide first-year students and ensure that their mentees are having a smooth transition into college. E-mentors are required to host

individual events for their specific groups of mentees for extra one-on-one time.

"I love being an e-mentor and truly enjoying being an event coordinator," said Kubasek. "It is a lot of work, but it's worth all the time and dedication I put into it. It is a very rewarding position, and one that I truly value."

"I was able to spend time with my friends, bowl and, of course, win an amazing hat," said Shauna McAndrew, a first-year nursing major. "The highlight of my night was definitely winning the hat because I never had the chance to win anything before."

The bowling night was a success for all first year students and gave first-year students the opportunity to connect with other first-year students in a relaxing environment. The e-mentor program is an opportunity that the university provides for first-year students to make things easier and provides them with someone in their community that they are able to talk to.

"I love being an e-mentor because I get to meet all of the first-year students and bring them together," said Beerly. "I love giving them an opportunity to get to know one another and bring together a community."

"I really love being in a mentor role and encourage and support my mentees and hopefully encourage one of them to become an e-mentor themselves."



Kara Beerly, left, and Leah Kubasek, right, pose for a picture before they bowl.



Shauna McAndrew poses after winning a hat from the university's bookstore.

Photos Courtesy of Kelsie Klein



Club of the Week: *Ultimate Frisbee*

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

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Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:

Slime You Out (feat. SZA) - Drake

Lara Mullen, Designer:

Say Yes - Elliott Smith

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Nothing Works - Declan McKenna

Graphics/Lara Mullen

The rise of Artificial Intelligence and its place in art

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

As the world grows older, technology advances and humanity yearn to create new and innovative ways to perform tasks, both basic and complex.

This strive for innovation and streamlined systems have led to the development of artificial intelligence, the possible backbone of the future within industry and art, for better or worse.

Artificial Intelligence, or A.I., has a long history, extending back to the 1950s. Initially, A.I.'s purpose was increasing the functionality of machines, allowing for more proficiency in data storage to increase performance optimization. While A.I.'s potential was well known, computers were not yet at the computing ability to explore A.I.'s true capabilities.

As computer speeds, memory and computing capabilities continued to grow, artificial intelligence became more intelligent and versatile in its skillset. A.I. became able to mimic human actions, emotions, sort, store, organize, problem solve and more.

Toward the end of the 20th century, A.I. began to enter the wider net of popular culture. Books, films and media such as "Westworld," "Metropolis," "The Terminator," "Robocop," "Cyberpunk 2020," "The Matrix," "Blade Runner," "Ghost in the Shell," "Star Wars," "Tron," "Transformers," "2001: A Space Odyssey," etc. all became wildly popular, often perpetuating the idea of rogue A.I.'s taking over humanity, or adopting human-like qualities. Artificial intelligence quickly became a cornerstone of popular culture.

Stories rife with warnings of machine autonomy, deception and philosophical explorations of the human condition, these stories are some of the most well known and successful pieces of media within the last handful of decades.

These pieces of media were not meant to be predictions or expectations of A.I., but simply pieces to create an intriguing narrative. However, some of these stories have been more accurate in their view of artificial intelligence than previously thought possible.

Previously, while artificial intelligence was a recurring theme and presence

within many pieces of art and media, it would not be until recently that A.I. was not just within the art, but instead the conductor of it. While there had been rare instances of A.I. assisting in the creation of art throughout the decades, the mid 2010's would revolutionize the usage of A.I. generative art.

2015 was the true catalyst year of A.I. art, with programs being launched by Google, however they were still in the learning phase. A.I. art truly took off to the public in 2021 with the release of machine learning models by OpenAI such as ChatGPT and Dalle-E. More A.I. art generators such as Midjourney and Stable Diffusion have also been launched into the stratosphere within the last few years.

These programs make it easier than ever to generate art. Simply type in a prompt and watch a machine attempt to replicate the artistry of a human. Replicate being the keyword, as A.I. is unable to truly think for itself or innovate, as it is simply a machine learning tool, not an artist. The simple fact of A.I. arts nature has stirred up much controversy surrounding the new generated art methodology.

A.I. artists have more in common with programmers than they do artists. The user will type a detailed description of what they want visualized, occasionally modify various settings, possibly even train the A.I. to a specific art style, and then send the command to the bot. The A.I. will scrub the internet for art made by artists and mimic their style to their best ability.

A.I. generated art does not stop at simply illustrations and paintings, but also accurately mimicking voices, writing styles and animation styles etc. A.I. generated voices are becoming particularly popular across the internet, as social media users create parodies with voices of famous characters and celebrities.

Many voice actors have expressed their dismay at these A.I. voice models, as while the models continue to progress, they become more indistinguishable from the real voice. Naturally, there are many plagiarism and ethical concerns surrounding this system of art generation.

Many say that since the A.I. is unable

to truly innovate and can only mimic living artists, the artists that are being mimicked, without their permission, are being unrightfully copied and having their style and work butchered by machine learning algorithms. Not only is this seen as unethical for its own merit of plagiarism, but also because it can usher in an era of out of work artists due to art generation being faster and considerably less argumentative in their vision.

This is an especially large concern in the world of media, as studios and corporations such as The Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros. Discovery, Take Two Interactive, Sony Corporation, etc. have already shown their knack of being exceedingly anti-human in their approach to artistic creation, mistreating, crunching and underpaying thousands of artists of all kinds.

This has been the primary catalyst of the many active creative strikes, most notably being the current SAG-AFTRA strike. The current treatment of artists as well as the adoption of A.I. generated artwork has instilled fear and frustration in artists across the globe.

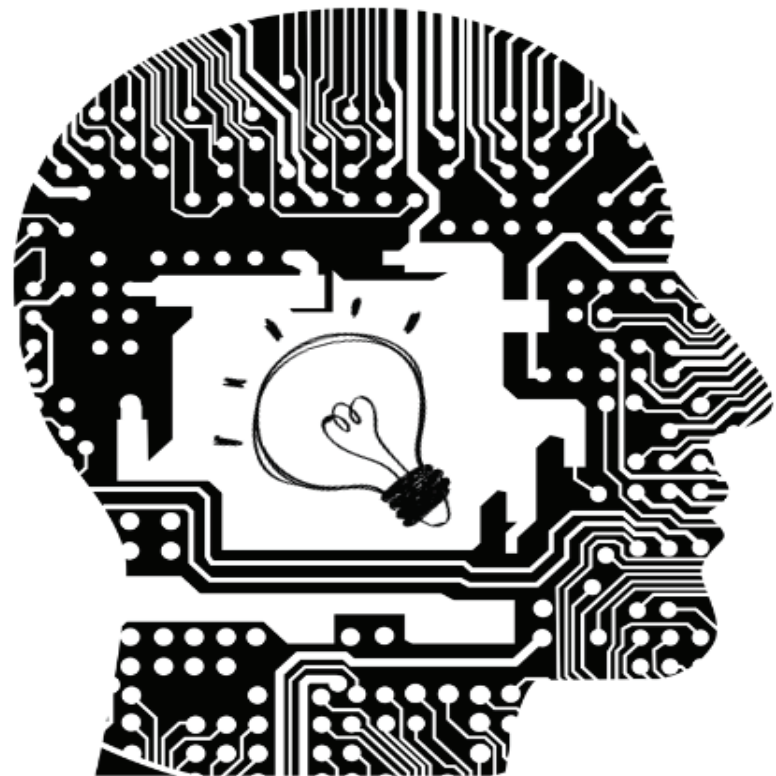
Despite these concerns, there are also many in support of A.I. art generation,

citing that with these simple tools, complex and difficult forms of art will be able to be created by anybody with an idea, creating art pieces while skipping the long and arduous creative process.

This idea of generating art for the sake of haste and convenience has also seeped its way into creative programs and tools such as those found in the Adobe Creative Suite. Just recently, Adobe software such as Photoshop have introduced generative fill, a tool that allows users to simply highlight an area, type in a prompt, and have artificial intelligence generate the prompt. This can be used to remove a blemish, replace an entire structure or being and create all new items within the editor.

As artificial intelligence continues to develop and be adopted by the public and various industries, it remains a contentious topic. Many believe it's the next step in innovation and efficiency, while many others believe it is stripping away every ounce of humanity from everything it touches. The trajectory of artificial intelligence is unpredictable, but one to keep a watchful eye on.

Graphic by Morgan Rich



Rodrigo releases critically-acclaimed sophomore album “GUTS”

By Cassidy Brumagin
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 8, Olivia Rodrigo released her sophomore album “GUTS.” The album spans across various genres including rock, pop, punk and indie.

The tracklist features 12 songs including “vampire,” the lead single that made its debut at number one on the Billboard Hot 100. The release of this album follows the massive success of Rodrigo’s debut album “SOUR,” which earned the singer three Grammys in 2022.

“For me, this album is about growing pains and trying to figure out who I am at this point in my life,” Rodrigo wrote about the album announcement.

The tracks touch upon topics of hooking up with an ex, toxic people in her life, and the overall awkwardness and pains of growing up and out of her teenage years. The day after her sophomore album’s release, Rodrigo took to Instagram to post about the album, writing, “Making this album was so fun and scary and thrilling and fulfilling and I’m so happy it is yours!”

Within a week of its release, the album reached the number one slot for albums on iTunes, filled 11 of the slots of Spotify’s Top 50 Global songs and occupied two slots

on Billboard’s Hot 100. Joining “vampire” on Billboard’s Hot 100 is “bad idea right?,” which peaked at number 10 thus far.

In addition to success on the charts, Rodrigo’s album has made a presence on TikTok with thousands of users using sound clips from various songs off the album.

At the time of writing, the lead single “bad idea right?” has over 157.5 million uses. Many users have taken to the sound to share their own similar stories of getting with an ex, as the song describes.

“I think that she is bringing back the female rage we saw in the 90s and early 2000s in the most amazing way possible,” said Maddie Carpenter, senior pharmacy major.

When prompted further, Carpenter explained that the opinion comes primarily from a track on the album titled “all-american bitch.”

The track is the album’s lead off and begins with a soft melody, leading into a beat drop complete with electric guitar, drums and Rodrigo raising her voice to a near scream style of singing.

“The song resembles something from an artist like Avril Lavigne,” said Carpenter. “We have not seen that sort of rage and just letting loose from many artists of the newer generations.”

In comparison to “SOUR,” many fans are citing maturity as the most notable change to Rodrigo’s style on this album.

“When comparing ‘SOUR’ to ‘GUTS,’ I feel ‘GUTS’ is definitely more mature,” said Jocelyn Cussatt, senior biology major. “I love ‘SOUR,’ but I feel that looking back some of the lyrics are definitely, not to be brutal, juvenile. Her lyrics and feelings definitely matured as she grew up.”

Rodrigo was 18-years-old when “SOUR” was released and is 20-years-old now.

Mirroring the time pass and change for Rodrigo between the two albums, many users have gone to TikTok to post photos of themselves at the time of each album release as well. The trend puts the photos over an audio clip from “ballad of a homeschooled girl.”

Critics have also taken to the album in an overall positive manner. The Los Angeles Times dubbed the album a “bubble-gum rock masterpiece,” while the Rolling Stone describes it as “another instant classic”. Common themes amongst music critics include praising the pop-punk undertones, relatable lyrics and scope of the album from slow ballads to upbeat music and lyrics.

Taking the opposing side, The Telegraph (UK) calls “GUTS” a “simple continuation of ‘SOUR,’” stating “there is little musical growth or thematic change.” The review from them, however, is the only mixed critic review out of 18 on Metacritic, with the rest being positive. The 18 total reviews earned “GUTS” a Metascore of 91.

With the release of “SOUR” earning Rodrigo seven Grammy nominations, many critics are wondering what is to come following the commercial success of “GUTS.”

Graphic by Lara Mullen



Broadway shows, including “Funny Girl,” set to close curtains

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

Broadway has been a staple of American culture since the 18th century. People from all over the world bond over their enjoyment of spectacular music, shining lights and a good tap number.

Many shows that have run on Broadway stand the test of time, but still can not fight that final closed curtain. Some Broadway shows that will be closing this fall include “The Cottage,” “The Shark is Broken” and “Melissa Etheridge: My Window.” “The Cottage” is set to close on Oct. 29, and the latter two will close on Nov. 19.

While these current Broadway shows are set to close in a couple of months, the revival of the hit musical “Funny Girl” just gave its final bow on Sept. 3.

Funny Girl tells the story of Jewish

comedian Fanny Brice and her journey to stardom as a Vaudeville entertainer. Barbara Sreisand originated the role of Fanny Brice in 1964. The current 2022 revival of “Funny Girl” starred “Glee” actress Lea Michele in Streisand’s iconic role.

Michele debuted on Broadway as young Cosette in “Les Miserables” at the age of 8, and performed the role of Wendla in the original Broadway production of “Spring Awakening.” However, she is most often known for her role as Rachel Berry in the television show “Glee.” Michele started her run as Fanny Brice in April 2022 and closed it on Sept. 3.

In “Glee,” Michele’s character Rachel is cast as Fanny Brice in the Broadway revival of Funny Girl. Now, years later Michele actually played the role herself. Just like her “Glee” character, Michele looked up to Barbara Streisand, making

this role very significant for her.

Jane Lynch, who played the tough cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester, also appeared in “Funny Girl.” Lynch played Brice’s mother in the revival of the musical but left the show right before Michele’s run. She insisted that her exit had nothing to do with Michele, stating that they were on good terms.

During her final performance on Sept. 3, Michele paid homage to Streisand, adding in a song that the original “Funny Girl” star sang on her closing night. Michele sang the cut song, “My Man” just as Streisand did, to mark her final performance as Fanny Brice in 1966. The song was in the 1968 movie, but never in the actual musical.

“Funny Girl” marked Michele’s first Broadway performance in 15 years. Michelle took a break from performing after the birth of her son. Michelle Beanie

Feldstein was playing Fanny, but left the cast early. Michele then stepped in for Feldstein, ending her Broadway hiatus.

Along with Michele, Julie Benko has been playing Fanny Brice when Michele was unavailable. Benko has recently gained notoriety for her successful portrayal of the lead role. The New York Sun called Benko “The Fanny Brice of our time.”

Benko has performed in several Broadway productions, including the national tour of “Spring Awakening,” “Les Miserables” and “Fiddler on the Roof.”

Benko was named “2022 Breakout Star for Theatre” by The New York Times.

The North American tour of “Funny Girl” started in Rhode Island on Sept. 9. It will tour all throughout North America, ending in August 2024, in Houston, Texas.

Fall Season Sudoku

Jump into fall with this start-of-the-season puzzle

Challenge your brain with some sudoku!

How to play: Fill in the missing words. Each row should have 6 different words, no repeats. Each column should have 6 different words, no repeats. Each 2x2 quadrant should have 6 words, no repeats.

Answer Key:

harvest	leaves	cider	foliage	fall	apple
fall	foliage	apple	cider	harvest	leaves
apple	harvest	fall	cider	leaves	foliage
leaves	cider	foliage	fall	apple	harvest
foliage	fall	harvest	apple	leaves	cider
cider	apple	leaves	harvest	foliage	fall

	ivy	flowers	rain				orchid	
		dandelion	orchid	bumblebee				ivy
hicks		april			flowers		sunshine	
	flowers	bumblebee	chicks			sunshine		
	chicks		april	rain			bumblebee	
april			bumblebee	flowers				rain
				chicks	rain		flowers	orchid
	bumblebee		sunshine	april	orchid			
	dandelion	chicks			bumblebee	april		

Credit for these puzzles goes to:

www.edu-games.org

Compiled by Morgan Rich, Editor In Chief

FAMILY DAY



**Lizzy Franco, Junior
Pharmacy Major**



**Brian Guzman (left)
senior business
major and
Kalei McCourt (right)
junior psychology major**





Cole Riley (left)
freshman sports
management,
Sebastian Sylvester
(right) freshman
mechanical engineering



Mens' soccer huddle before the game



Photos:
Sam Mullen

Design:
Lara Mullen



Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact opinion editor: sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu.

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Our Voice

Each week, The Beacon's editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

The switch to GrubHub has been a nuisance

Before the start of the fall semester, students were notified that there would be a transition in the campus food ordering and pick-up platform. Dining Sidekick would be replaced by GrubHub. Although we were initially promised that this change would improve our dining experience, it has actually created more troubles.

One issue with this transition is that both students and campus dining employees are being forced to switch from a platform they were familiar with to a platform that is unfamiliar. Students and staff alike have had to learn and get accustomed to an all-new user interface.

For some students, becoming accustomed to a new platform has created a damper on their dining experience. Learning how to order on an app that is unfamiliar creates setbacks in the ordering process. For others, uncertainty about how to use the app has discouraged them from ordering food on campus whatsoever.

Dining staff also had to overcome obstacles and uncertainties that come with the changes to a new dining platform. For the on-campus Starbucks, for example, this change meant they now had to become accustomed to simultaneously serving in-

person customers while also attending to the orders that come through the GrubHub app when they previously only had to take in-person orders.

Outside of the hurdles that come with learning how to use a new platform, there have been promises that have been left unfulfilled. In the initial email regarding this change, students were promised that GrubHub would offer a seamless ordering process, real-time order tracking, and reliable services. These statements have not been entirely true thus far.

The ordering process has not been seamless for all students. Some students have reported that the user-interface is less visually appealing and more complex than Dining Sidekick, making ordering more complicated in some instances. Sometimes, students are unable to order what they want, such as a venti drink from Starbucks, for example, as it is not listed as an option on the app. A reportedly inconvenient and less-intuitive ordering system may also make it more difficult for first-year students to become accustomed to ordering and picking up food on campus.

Regarding real-time order tracking,

students have stated that the estimated order times have not been accurate. On Dining Sidekick, students would receive a notification when their order was ready. When they received this notification, their order was, in fact, ready. On GrubHub, some have stated that they no longer receive pop-up notifications when their order was ready, or in other instances, they would receive a notification when their order may not actually be ready yet.

We were also promised that GrubHub would be a reliable, hassle-free service, however, this too has not entirely been the case. Within the first week of school, students had issues ordering from on-campus dining locations such as Burgers + Fries and Greens to Go. Although these issues have since been addressed, they still caused an inconvenience during a time students already had other things to adapt to, such as class schedules and living situations.

Going forward, hopefully GrubHub becomes commonplace as Dining Sidekick had been, but that has yet to become a reality for some students. Ordering and picking up food should not be an inconvenience.

Letter to the editor policy: *The Beacon* welcomes letters to the editor from differing viewpoints. Letters must contain contact information, including name, city, state and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published but may be used for verification purposes.

All letters to the editor must be sent using one of the following methods:

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The hidden power of the indie video game genre

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

In the modern world of media, mostly everyone engages with movies, shows, music, books and games that are considered “mainstream.” This is media that skyrockets with attention and captivates the public by the millions. However, that is precisely why the mainstream genre is actually terrible.

Not only does gaining traction discourage creativity and brand new elements, but it also starts to develop into a lazy formula for entertainment. Meanwhile, there are lesser known projects, which are referred to as indie titles, that employ fresh strategies and introduce new techniques that really enhance the experience. Of course, I will discuss the superiority of the indie genre in the context that I know best: video games.

If you read last week’s issue of The Beacon newspaper, you would know that I am not a big fan of online video games. There are a variety of reasons that the online setting is problematic, but the main point is that all of the games in this category are exactly the same. These games have only one goal: make as much money as possible.

For example, Epic Games’s Fortnite has been nothing but a strategy to hypnotize children into spending all of their parents’ money on cosmetic items. The worst part is that this strategy has infected other games, such as Rocket League, FIFA and even the mobile hit Clash Royale. In short, the developers of these games don’t have any regard for gameplay or their user-experience.

On the other hand, the indie genre is simply beautiful. In order to really demonstrate how great these games are, it is important to understand three big categories: cost, gameplay and development and the community interaction.

Cost. Although indie games can cost as much as a mainstream title, they are much cheaper on average. More importantly, the money that is spent on indie titles is happily spent by players in order to gain ownership of the game. For indie games, the cost is not a fee in order to have access, but it is a salutation to the developer and a confirmation that the player themselves wants to own a personal copy of the title. It is

common for players to even go so far as to provide funding for a game that is in development. Finally, unlike mainstream and online content, these games do not rely on microtransactions. Developers sacrifice a lot of time and money on a title only to release it for a discountable price. Thus, the cost of indie games are very affordable and worthwhile.

Gameplay and Development. Needless to say, the actual content of a game is what makes it worthy. Many indie players will say that the smaller projects are not just games, but they are experiences. Indie games are often described as a unique display of new mechanics, such as Hollow Knight, fresh art-styles, like in Cuphead, and killer soundtracks like in Undertale. These games have completely original content created by small, talented developers and artists who band together to bring their vision to reality.

Community Interaction. Interaction within a video game community could greatly change how someone may enjoy playing the game. A community for an indie game is usually very unified and civilized. First, the developers constantly ask for feedback and respond to the community. Players also enjoy treating an indie title like a shared experience, so they will freely give tips and tricks out of respect for other players and the game itself. Finally, the community in an indie is not demanding of the developers. If anything, most players fear the day that an indie game skyrockets and follows the dark path of mainstream status. Even so, developers often respond to their community with expansions for their titles, known as downloadable content (DLC). One important thing to note is that indie developers are just a few people working with their own funds.

At the end of the day, there is nothing that can stop you from playing whatever games you enjoy. However, the indie genre is a goldmine that offers spectacular types of games, which may be something you never knew you liked until you tried it. The top list of indie games would certainly be a great place to start.

The Return of The Red Raven: an original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

PART 2

Rick froze as he read the description of Teddy Flowers’s death one last time.

“Teddy Flowers was bludgeoned to death with a wooden square block with the letter ‘A’ painted on it.”

He couldn’t breathe. He repeated in his head that this was just a coincidence. That perhaps a sick serial killer was out murdering people with wooden toy blocks. It couldn’t have anything to do with his show. It couldn’t, it shouldn’t, it can’t. Rick didn’t realize that he was becoming light-headed by walking around his blue sofa in circles with the paper in his hand.

He felt the need to call someone. He thought of Cameron first, but assumed that he would call him crazy and be more upset with him. He could maybe call the police and tell them that he knows something, but they would call him crazy too.

He had only one person left he could call, and his gut twisted just thinking about it. He reached for his cell phone and dialed her number. His thumb hovered over the button to call her. He hasn’t talked to her in years ever since the incident they had where she stormed off and swore that she would never talk to him again. He had no other choice or else he was lost.

He took a deep breath and pressed the button. He waited for almost a minute until the beeping from the other end ceased.

A woman with a tired and dry voice answered, “Hello?”

Rick couldn’t recognize her voice. “Can I speak to Isabelle, please?”

“This is Isabelle,” she replied.

Rick answered as confidently as he could, “Hey Izzy, it’s your dad.”

There was a long, silent pause as Rick was already regretting his decision, but then a deep sigh followed after what felt like an eternity.

“What do you want?” she demanded in a cold tone.

“Did you hear about Teddy Flowers’s death?” Rick asked.

“Yeah. What does this have to do with me?” Isabelle said.

“How he died was like how Mr. Jenkins died in the pilot of ‘The Red Raven.’ I want your help in looking deeper into this case, and you’re the only person I have that is in the force that can do this for me,” Rick explained.

“So you find out that one of your co-stars passed away and your first thought is that it matches how a character died in a TV show?” Isabelle said in disbelief.

“Izzy, please, I don’t mean it like that. I want to try and see if there’s any correlation. I want to try and help,” Rick pleaded, heartbroken that she was still bitter towards him.

“Look dad, we are on the case and still trying to uncover everything that we can, but you are in no shape to help. You always thought you were the Red Raven even off the screen. It’s so sad to see you still think that,” Isabelle said.

“I don’t want to be the Red Raven. I just want to know because maybe I can help.” Rick defended.

“When you called you said that I should do this for you. That’s what it’s always been about. Rick Greenblatt always had to be the star in every moment, even in his own child’s life. I took up being a detective because I knew that I could help people and not just play pretend in a red cape. I can’t help you because it won’t feel worth it because you’ll make it all about yourself,” Isabelle addressed.

Rick tried one last time. “Please, you are all that I have left, and I wouldn’t be calling you if I didn’t care for your help and if I didn’t care about the impact you had on my life. I just need this one favor, just this once.” He begged her, tears streaming down his face.

Another long silent pause, with the exception of Rick’s sobs, was brought upon the two again. After a few minutes, Isabelle made her decision.

“Do you have those old VHS tapes of the show still in the basement?” Isabelle asked.

“Yes, I do,” Rick nodded, clearing his voice.

“Bring them down to the station.” Isabelle said. The call ended there.

Rick wore an awkward smile as he walked to the door that was standing diagonally from the sofa. He opened the door and ran downstairs and grabbed the boxes labeled “Red Raven Collection.”

To be continued...

“La La Land” can teach us about long-distance relationships

Are long-distance relationships worth it?

By Bryce Greco
Contributing Writer

There exists over a thousand surviving letters between John and Abigail Adams, perhaps the most notable long-distance couple in American history. Perhaps you have heard stories from your grandparents about going long distance during times of war. Or maybe your parents were high-school sweethearts who had to be apart once they went away to college.

If there is anything history tells us, it's that long-distance relationships are not easy. But modern technology makes keeping up with your partner much more convenient.

Gone are the days of letters and expensive long-distance phone calls. With a cell phone in your pocket, you and your partner can be virtually together anytime and anywhere. However, this doesn't make long-distance relationships necessarily easy.

So, are they worth it?

Hollywood likes to romanticize long-distance relationships as something that oftentimes winds up working out in the end. But that is far from realistic. Take a look at Damien Chazelle's 2016 masterpiece “La La Land.” The film follows the journey of two artists, the actress and playwright Mia and the musician Sebastian, as they pursue their dreams at the expense of their love.

During a segment of the film where the couple goes long distance for a few months, we watch the lovers we've spent the past hour routing for fall apart. Sebastian is on tour with a band he hates trying to make enough money to open a jazz club, and he fails to make it to the opening performance of Mia's play. Things only get worse when Mia's big break in the movie world requires her to move away to Paris for filming.

While it's abundantly clear that Mia

and Sebastian deeply love and care about each other, the places their careers are taking them cause their relationship to end.

The film concludes after a five-year time-skip, where Mia and her new husband are out on a date at a jazz club. We see the club's owner and main performer Sebastian greeting guests from the stage. Mia

on his tour, she would have never become a famous actress. If Sebastian accompanied Mia to Paris, he would have never opened his club.

Their story, while tragic and sad, is rather bittersweet. Both artists achieve their dreams, but at the cost of their life together.

I believe this to be the reality of many long-distance

relationships, especially in college. High school relationships, while fundamental and at times perfect, are not always the best predictors of the future. College differs from high school, as the things that truly matter in life now enter the forefront of many students' minds. You're no longer working to walk across a stage and get a diploma, you're working to master the topic of

your major, find a job to kickstart your career and create a life for yourself worthy of carrying into your future. And the sad truth is, that sometimes, your long-distance high school relationship can stand in the way of that. Much like with Mia and Sebastian, sometimes you need to sacrifice a life with someone you truly love for the sake of your career and future, and that's okay.

The way I see it, long-distance relationships in college are well worth the struggle if your partner does not stand in the way of what you truly want out of life. If your partner is your best friend and someone you cannot see yourself living without, then the pain of a long-distance relationship will most likely pay off in the end.

When you encourage each other to follow each of your dreams while never sacrificing your own desires for life, your time long distance, while certainly not the best, can be necessary to reaching an ideal adult relationship.

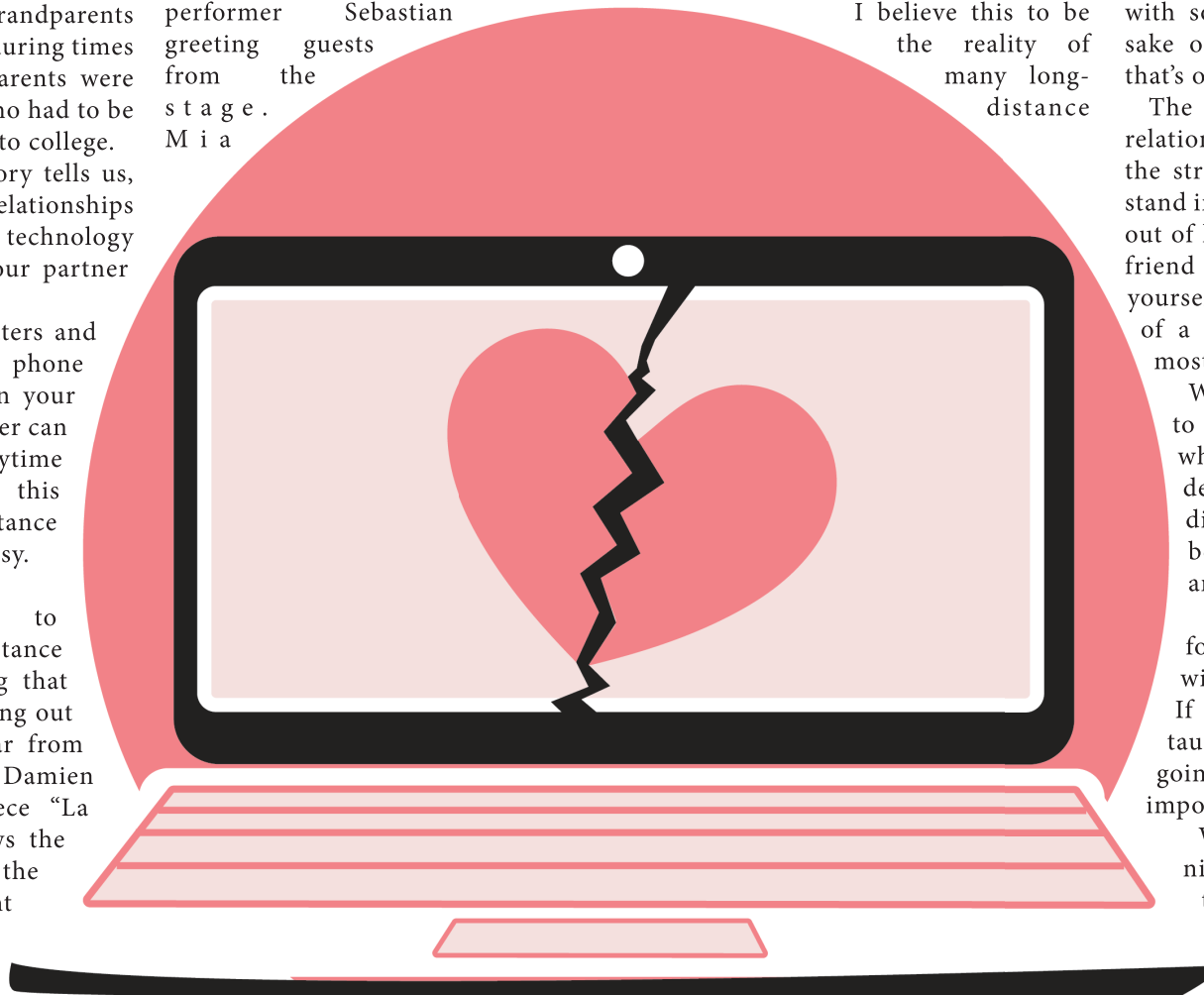
Giving up on your best friend for an on-demand relationship will boil down to selfishness. If there is anything history has taught us over the years, it is that going the distance is far from an impossible feat.

When phone calls replace date nights, remember that modern technology is a blessing your ancestors did not have. Stand by each other's side during long distance, and I believe that your relationship will be stronger in the end once your time apart is over.

Are long distance relationships worth it? When two best friends spend time apart but continue to stand in each other's corner and aid each other to pursue their dreams and aspirations as one, I believe they are.

However, a shared past, while memorable, formative or even perfect, means nothing if it leads to an unwound future.

Graphic by Lara Mullen



A reflection on comedy show “Jon, John and Pete”

By Samara Carey

Contributing Writer

In a world full of hate and injustice, it is important that we have something in our lives to make us laugh. Regardless of your sense of humor, everybody has a guilty pleasure for something that makes them crack a smile. In my case, my favorite comedians are John Mulaney and Pete Davidson.

From as far back as I can remember, I have been watching Mulaney specials. I became obsessed with memorizing the punchlines and watching his sketches that date as far back to his “Saturday Night Live,” days where he was a writer. During that time, I also discovered the elusive Pete Davidson.

There was something about Davidson that I was instantly drawn to. Whether it was his self-deprecating humor or the way he over-exaggerated his punchlines, I always loved being able to sit back and watch his sketches whenever I was feeling down about something going on in my life.

In 2019, Mulaney and Davidson ended up going on tour together for a small comedy run to present and test out new sketches. When this tour was originally announced, I remember running up to my mom as a first-year student in high school begging to see my two favorite comedians in real life. My mom, being the wonderful lady that is she and concerned for my 14-year-old wellbeing, unfortunately said no due to the fear that there would be crude humor not safe for my prepubescent ears.

Hearing this absolutely tore me apart and made me feel like my life was never going to be the same again, but I quickly got over it when Mulaney decided to announce his “From Scratch” tour back in early 2022. Luckily, I was able to attend this tour with one of my friends and had an amazing time. Mulaney launched this tour just after recovering from rehab and wanted to retell his stories from his time away. It was, of course, hilarious and I dreamed about seeing him again during one of his next comedy runs.

Then, my entire world stopped. In August, Mulaney announced a brand

new, limited time comedy run with none other than Pete Davidson and Jon Stewart. As you can imagine, my heart skipped a beat a little. Yes, I had absolutely no idea who Jon Stewart was (more on that later), but Mulaney and Davidson? Oh, my heart can only take so much. My mom, again being the lovely woman that she is, ended up buying me tickets as a gift so we could go together. Maybe this was her way of redeeming herself from betraying me all those years ago, but I digress.

The day of the show finally came around, and I was ecstatic. I wore my John Mulaney T-shirt, and I was ready to go. Once we got to the venue, they had us lock our phone in a Yondr punch, which is normal for a comedy show to this high of a standard. Yes, it sucked not being able to go on my phone while

I was waiting for the show to start, but I quickly got over it once I realized that this meant more shows were around the corner for this trio.

After an opener that I do not care enough to speak about, Davidson officially opened the show. This show was different from past shows for Pete, especially since he recently got out of rehab and was still in active recovery. Nonetheless, he was still incredible and truly encapsulated the audience for the entirety of his set.

Some of the notable pieces of his set were when he talked about missing his stalker, how he wants his mom to date someone and the time he fell in love with Leonardo DiCaprio. It was nice to see Davidson in a positive and supportive light, especially since he was torn apart in the media last year.

Davidson’s act was enjoyable; however, I do wish it was longer. He was open and honest about his addiction, which I found quite admirable and was proud of him for doing so. After Davidson’s act, he announced Mulaney on stage next.

Mulaney was a natural on stage and made it seem like this was his own headlining show. Some of his most notable pieces included: How an adult failed at kidnapping him, his new adventures with his two-year-old son, and how he believes dinosaurs are not real.

It was honestly super refreshing to see Mulaney healthy and happy, especially since his last special contained a lot of heavy material and focused on a darker time in his life. Like I said previously, this was my second time seeing Mulaney, and if you ask me, he just is getting better and better with each act that he performs.

Like all things though, it must end. After Mulaney’s set, he announced the last and main act, Jon Stewart.

Now, before heading to this show, I had absolutely no idea who this man was, and to be honest, I did not care. I figured if he was staring with stars such as Davidson and Mulaney, he was bound to be just as funny as they are. Oh, boy was I wrong. Before I go any further, I want to say I respect Stewart and his work as a whole, but it is simply not for me.

To be blunt, I did not laugh a single time he was on stage. His entire act was about how old he is, how he hates both political parties and then went on to weirdly compare Christianity and Judaism for half the act. Now, I am not sure if this is something that interests you, but I did not necessarily enjoy his set. If you want my honest opinion, the show would have been better without him in it.

Overall, I had a fun time at the show, but being transparent, I wish I left after Mulaney’s act. Now I know for next time to completely avoid Stewart, or to leave whenever I see his name. I will be seeing Mulaney and Davidson in the future though.



Photo courtesy of Samara Carey

Sophomore Samara Carey stands beside her parents Shawn and Sue Carey as a “Jon, John and Pete” graphic is displayed on a television behind them.

"PUNK TACTICS:" an album overshadowed upon release

A song-by-song review of "PUNKTACTICS" by Joey Valence & Brae

By Shawn Carey
Contributing Writer

We live in an age of constant media. One of the most highly anticipated albums of the year, "GUTS" by Olivia Rodrigo, was released on Sept. 8. Following the breakout success of her first studio album "SOUR" in 2021, "GUTS" had much to live up to. This album is the young artist's chance to prove that she's not just a one hit wonder. I, however, will not be talking about any of that in this article.

As much as I would like to add on to the discussion surrounding "GUTS," I would rather highlight an album that was released on the same day but only received a fraction of the same attention. An album that I believe more people should be listening to. The album I am talking about is "PUNK TACTICS" by Joey Valence and Brae.

"PUNK TACTICS" is hip-hop duo Joey Valence and Brae's first major album. Being recorded entirely in Joey's bedroom, the 24-year-olds aimed to recreate the punk-rap style of the '80s and '90s in this record, which I believe they were able to do with flying colors.

Before I go into detail about the songs on the album, I would first like to get rid of the elephant in the room. Yes, I know, they sound a lot like the Beastie Boys. When talking about the album, or any of their songs for the matter, it's hard to not make the comparison, which is completely valid. The duo takes huge inspiration from the New York-based band for much of their discography. They don't just try to recreate what worked in the past; however, they really make the songs their own with their unique gimmicks and flair.

This can be heard in the album's title track. "PUNK TACTICS" starts with what can only be described as a blast of excitement. It's very loud and in your face, leaving you with no room to breathe in the best way possible, a common characteristic that all the songs on the album share. This serves as a fantastic

start that tells you what the album is all about.

There's also a good chance that you heard the song before, or at least the chorus. Joey and Brae released it as a single in the spring of last year. Due to the song's general fun and energetic vibe it unsurprisingly started to trend on TikTok. It was used in everything from edits of users' favorite characters to short animated music videos.

The songs "DROP!!" and "WATCH YO STEP" follow in the footsteps of "PUNK TACTICS" as fast-paced power anthems that makes you want to get up and start putting on your own music video, the latter even referencing the opening of

Next up we have "DELINQUENT (TEEN TITAN)," which as you probably tell by the name, highlights the duo's love of samples and references related to pop culture. It's not uncommon to hear them make the occasional anime reference, with one of my personal favorite examples being, "...we ain't got a label, you don't get a quarter. Now we going platinum, ora, ora, ora." I can see how some may be turned off by the constant name drops, but I believe they tend to work on their own without having to have knowledge of the properties.

"INTERMISSION" marks the halfway mark of the album. It's a nice short break from what we've been used to hearing,

a fun track that will certainly hype you up. While the song tends to repeat itself in a similar way to "STARTAFIGHT," the vocal work and instrumental more than makes up for it. The song "HOOLIGANG" does pretty much the same thing but to what I feel like is a lesser degree.

"TANAKA 2" is what I believe to be the objectively best song on the album. For the first minute it just sounds like a typical song by them, that's until Logic comes in and does his verse. You heard that right, this album has a Logic feature. I'm not going to act like I really care about Logic or his music, but his verse on this song does a lot to separate "TANAKA 2" from the duo's other works.

Speaking of separating their songs we now have "STREET PIZZA," which is just a straight-up punk song. The song features Joey and Brae shouting about making street pizza over heavy instruments. While that may not be the most punk thing to sing about, it certainly has that energy to it. I would like to note that on Spotify they have the artist "Bonjour Señor" listed as a feature. I tried to find more out related to this individual, but the only proof of his existence is this one song.

The final song on the album is "CLUB SANDWICH," a song that returns the duo to their normal style of music. This works as a great track on its own, but I recommend playing the entire album before giving it a listen. It serves also as a celebration of "PUNK TACTICS," referencing almost all the songs that came before it.

"PUNK TACTICS" is an album that takes you for a short yet fun ride. Once you start getting used to its unique style, it does something new and different. If you're a fan of the Beastie Boys, Cypress Hill or Joey Bada\$\$ this is worth a listen. Joey and Brae really have something special going on, and I can't wait to see what they do next.



"PUNK TACTICS." One thing that stood out to me was the instrumentals of these songs. They start out as slow electric beats until their respective chorus, in which they explode out, turning into something that sounds more like traditional hip-hop.

"STARTAFIGHT" plays next, and I would say this is the song that sounds the most similar to what you would hear on a Beastie Boys album, mainly due to the constant repeating of the song's name, something the group was well known for. It's also around this point that you'll probably start to notice that none of the tracks on the album are that long. Most of the songs end up lasting only a mere two minutes, with the entire album being a modest half hour. I see this as working out in the artist's favor with none of the songs outstaying their welcome, making the album an easy listen.

with it even sounding like elevator music. From here on out through, we get much more experimental tracks from Joey and Brae, with the following song immediately letting you know that things are about to change.

"GUMDROP" is a minute-long hyper pop song that sounds nothing like what came before it. As someone who isn't really a fan of the genre, I tend to find myself skipping this one upon plays of the album, but I can appreciate the duo trying something different.

Taking a complete 180, we now have "DANCE NOW." The song's name is very fitting as it will make you do as it says. It's a very groovy song that has a unique jazz feel to it. This was originally released as a single and had me convinced that it would be my favorite on the album. That was until I heard the next song.

Simply titled "RN" the track serves as

Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Asst. Editor: Adam.grundt@wilkes.edu

Wilkes field hockey off to hot start under new coach

Ashley Irwin, King's College alum, now a proud Colonel

By Adam Grundt

Sports Assistant Editor

The Colonels' field hockey team is off to a hot start under new head coach Ashley Irwin.

Irwin, a native of Douglasville, Pa., attended King's College and graduated in 2011. For the past nine years, she was at Keystone College coaching the women's lacrosse team from 2015-2020 and leading the field hockey program from 2014-2022.

"This will be my 10th season coaching at the Division III level," Irwin explained. "I feel that my time at Keystone has done a great job in providing me the work habits to go the extra mile, and do the extra work.

"Truthfully, at Keystone, it was very, very hard. Our facilities and resources were nowhere compared to what we have at Wilkes, and I think it made me humbled and grateful to be the next coach here at Wilkes.

"Now, with the work habits and resources that we have, the sky is the limit."

Irwin played at King's from 2006-2009. During her career there, she played in 67 games with 47 starts and won back-to-back MAC Freedom championships and made NCAA Tournament appearances in 2006 and 2007, according to her profile on the Wilkes Athletics website.

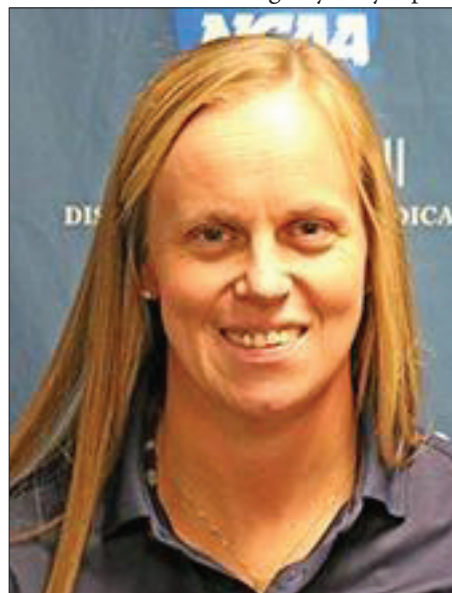
She graduated in 2011 with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Special Education.

Irwin also served as coach for both women's lacrosse and field hockey at Meyers and Coughlin high schools in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

She was the Meyers field hockey assistant coach and JV head coach

from 2011 to 2014. From 2012 to 2015, she worked with Coughlin's girl's lacrosse team

"Over the course of my years in the 'valley' I have grown to make a name for myself," Irwin explained. "After my time at King's I coached locally for both Meyers and Coughlin High School, before making my way up to



Irwin

Keystone. I then have had the pleasure of mentoring 15 former players that are head coaches of some sort of collegiate field hockey, collegiate lacrosse, high school field hockey, or high school lacrosse.

"It helps to make friends along the way".

In her first season at Wilkes, Irwin commends the atmosphere at the university.

"When you came to Wilkes it was always a battle," Irwin said. "They were tough, they hit hard, and when you saw their name on the schedule you

kind of feared them. The atmosphere is one of winning and wanting to win.

"I think when you finally experience it as both a student-athlete and a coach, it's electric. Best decision I ever made, I am simply humbled to be here and work with great people".

The Colonels opened up their season with an overtime victory at Oswego State, and are coming off of back-to-back wins against Wells College and Neumann University. They are one win away from matching their season total in wins from a year ago.

"They are definitely off to a solid start for sure," Irwin said. "They are learning what it takes to battle and we couldn't be prouder. It is definitely a process, and a new one at that. There is a lot of learning and learning quickly.

"This week, for example, is unheard of. No team in collegiate field hockey plays four games in one week. But we are; it's a schedule I inherited and we're making the most of it.

"For the NCAA, field hockey is given 18-19 games to play, depending on scrimmages. It is really hard to fit those games into a two-month schedule.

"They are off to a strong start and proving themselves game-by-game".

The Colonels begin conference play on Sept. 16 when they travel to Baltimore, Md. to take on Goucher College. Irwin believes this will be the first real test of the season.

"Conference opens this Saturday for us down at Goucher College," Irwin explained. "It will be the first test for sure, and it is definitely a game that we have already set in our minds that we need to win to set out on the course we are on. It is a bold move, but we want to be the number five or number

6 seed in playoffs.

"The Landmark is a tough conference, and one that we know we need to do the work in if we want to survive and make it to that spot. There are a lot of big opponents ahead, but the first one is Goucher and we need that 'w'".

After a non-conference match against Misericordia University on Sept. 14, the Colonels will travel to Baltimore to take on Goucher College in their first Landmark Conference game of the season.

They return home on Sept. 19 to take on rival and Coach Irwin's alma mater, King's College, at Schmidt Stadium. At the game, faculty and staff will be recognized as a part of Faculty/Staff Appreciation Night. For more information, visit gowilkesu.com.

**Catch the
Colonels at
Susquehanna
Saturday
at
1 p.m.**

Will the Waterdogs secure a second championship?

By **Samantha Mullen**

Contributing Writer

The Premier Lacrosse League (PLL) is gearing up for a much anticipated championship game against the Waterdogs Lacrosse Club and Archers Lacrosse Club. As the best of the best prepare to face off, lets take a closer look at what could be expected when it comes to game time in Philadelphia on Sept. 24.

It was to no surprise that the Waterdogs were able to secure a trip to the championship this year as they are the current reigning champs. Led by head coach Andy Copelan and a roster filled with talented players like Kieran McArdle and Michael Sowers, they were able to overcome struggles in the beginning of the season. Waterdogs finished the regular season with a 7-3 record putting them as the 3rd seed. Just from the stats, the team showcased resilience and determination in every game.

As already mentioned, players to look at during the championship on the offensive side is Kieran McArdle and Michael Sowers. McArdle led the team in points, have 34, and in 1 point goals, 20. Sowers was close behind with 30 points total with 15 1 point goals and 15 assists, leading the team for most assists. Defensively, they have the Canadian Dillion Ward who came back late in the season but ended with a 61 save percentage.

On the other side, the Archers are coached by Chris Bates. The Waterdogs could potentially have some trouble stopping Archers offensive powerhouses like Tom Schreiber, who won league MVP, and Connor Fields. By the end of the regular season, the Archers placed as first seed with a record of 8-2.

As mentioned before, Tom Schreiber dominates everytime with he is on the field. He finished the regular season with 16 1 point goals and 2 2 point goals. Another key offensive player is Connor Fields who, in the regular season, led the team in points, 39, and 1 point goals, 28. Defensively, they have the long stick defender Graeme Hossack, who had 8 caused turnovers and 35 groundballs during the regular season. Hossack also showed off his offensive skills with an assist and two 2-point shots. In net, they have second year, Brett Dobson had a save percentage of 60 in the regular season

and 78 in post season play. It'll be a tough fight between Dobson and Ward to see who's save percentage is better.

Though some fans may focus heavily on the defense and offense players, the game starts with the faceoff which is going to be a battle. The rookie Mike Sisselberger has been dominating this season with having a 68 percent for faceoff wins. With the new shot clock rule of 32 seconds after

the faceoff, Sisselberger was able to take advantage of that and got 3 goals after gaining possession of the ball.

On the Waterdogs, they have two rookies, James Reilly and Zac Tucci, listed as their faceoff guys, but have opted for midfielder Zach Currier to be taking it as of late. Currier currently has a 59 percent for faceoff wins. Seeing him and Sisselberger go head to head at the faceoff will definitely

be something exciting to watch.

Both teams have had an incredible season which is why they are in the championship. They both have solid offense and defenses. It's just who is more hungry and determined to get the trophy on Sunday. Will the Waterdogs stay the reigning champs or will the Archers take the crown and win for the first time in program history? Tune in on Sunday Sept. 24 at 3 p.m. on ESPN.

THE BEACON

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MLB wild card races heat up as playoffs approach

By Adam Grundt
Sports Assistant Editor

Wild Card and divisional races in both leagues are heating up as the Major League Baseball Season enters its home stretch.

The Baltimore Orioles sit in first place in the American League East Division with reinforcements on the way as the Tampa Bay Rays sit three games behind them. The Orioles are expected to promote top prospect Jackson Holliday to their major league roster in order to solidify that top spot in their competitive division.

Baltimore selected Holliday with the number one overall selection in 2022's first-year player's draft. While the Rays remain in striking distance for the division title, they have all but guaranteed themselves a spot in the playoffs as they sit in the first wild card spot.

Baltimore's all-star closer, Félix Bautista, recently suffered a partial tear in his UCL but is hopeful return for their playoff push.

"It's probably best characterized as an acute-on-chronic injury to his ligament", Orioles general manager Mike Elias told the media. Elias also added that doctors don't see a risk if Bautista were to continue throwing this season.

The remaining two places for the American League Wild Card spots are currently occupied by Tampa Bay and Baltimore's division rival, the Toronto Blue Jays, and the Texas Rangers. The Rangers find themselves in a similar situation as the Rays, as they sit two games behind the leader of the American League West division, the Houston Astros.

The Minnesota Twins are running away with the American League Central as they sit seven and a half games ahead of the Cleveland Guardians in what many believe to be the division in baseball with the least strength.

According to ESPN analytics, Minnesota has upwards of a 99% chance of clinching their division.

As it stands, the Seattle Mariners sit half of a game out of the final wild

card spot in the American League. The Blue Jays, Rangers, and Mariners are all separated by a small window of one game. According to ESPN analytics, the Mariners have a 51% chance to lock up that final Wild Card spot.

Seattle is coming off the best month of their franchise's history in August, one where they accumulated 21 wins.

"Twenty-one wins in a month and there was a really special team here that won 116 games in one year and they didn't even do that," Mariners manager Scott Servais said, referencing the 2001 Mariners team that finished the season with only 46 losses.

The race to keep an eye on toward the end of this season, however, is undoubtedly the one for the final National League Wild Card spot. It is currently a heated race between six separate teams.

The Philadelphia Phillies currently occupy the first Wild Card spot, and the Chicago Cubs sit a game and a half behind them in the second. The third Wild Card spot, currently occupied by the Arizona Diamondbacks, is up for

grabs.

The Miami Marlins and San Francisco Giants both sit a game and a half behind Arizona, and the Cincinnati Reds are chasing the Diamondbacks by two games.

The Chicago Cubs have been as hot as any team as of late, and have a valid chance at capturing the National League Central division crown. They currently sit three games behind the leader of their division, the Milwaukee Brewers. That remains the only division in the National League that is still up for grabs in the National League, as the Atlanta Braves have locked up the National League East and the Los Angeles Dodgers have done the same in the West.

For baseball fans, this point of the season remains very exciting due to the annual number of tight races for division crowns and Wild Card spots. With October baseball nearly here, a better idea of who will be contending for the league pennants and a World Series championship will come to fruition.

*The Beacon is looking for sports writers for the
Fall 2023 semester*

**If you are interested in sports writing,
editing, photography or graphics contact
Adam Grundt at adam.grundt@wilkes.edu**

Athlete of the Week

Trevor DuBoff

Senior Golf Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

DuBoff was chosen as our athlete of the week after shooting a career low of 74 to help Wilkes defeat cross-town rival King's College on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at Huntsville Golf Club.

Major: Sports Management
Hometown: Stony Point, NY
High School: North Rockland

What has been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?
 Shooting 2 over at Huntsville and leading my team to a win over King's.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?
 New York Mets.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?
 Going to the gym.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?
 Being able to compete with and against talented and motivated athletes.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?
 Happy Gilmore

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?
 Basketball.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Hitting a hole in one on hole 5 at Huntsville.

What is your favorite post-game meal?
 Chipotle

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?
 It's an honor even to be considered amongst all the great athletes at Wilkes. I'm grateful for all the support I've received from my coaches and teammates - both on the wrestling and the golf team - as well as my friends and family.

Photo Courtesy of Anna Beckham

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

Athlete of the Week

Alexis Reedy

Junior Volleyball Outside Hitter

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week

Reedy was chosen as our athlete of the week after a strong performance with 15 digs in the Colonels' victory against Penn State Hazelton. Reedy also surmounted 15 kills in a 3-0 victory against Delaware Valley in the team's first game of the tri-match on Sept. 4. She then compiled another 12 kills and 15 digs against Penn State Altoona in the final game of the tri-match and she finished with a total of 36 kills, 37 digs, 8 aces and 2 blocks.

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Palmyra, Pa.

High School: Palmyra

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

Team bonding, this year we went white water rafting which was a lot of fun.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

Philadelphia Eagles.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Hanging out with my friends and going to the beach.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

Meeting other athletes and the support from other sports teams. Also being involved in the community.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

Remember the Titans.

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

Soccer.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Winning states my junior year of high school.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Mozzarella sticks.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

I feel very honored to be selected. It is reassuring to have gotten this recognition for the hard work I have been putting in.

Compiled by Adam Grundt, Asst. Sports Editor



Photo Courtesy of Anna Beckham

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

WILKES FOOTBALL

ALL GAMES BEGIN AT NOON UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

9/2

KING'S COLLEGE*

HOME

9/9

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

AWAY

9/16

SUNY BROCKPORT

HOME

9/23*

ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

AWAY

9/30

JUNIATA COLLEGE**

HOME

10/7

LYCOMING COLLEGE

AWAY

10/14

KEYSTONE COLLEGE

HOME

10/21**

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

AWAY

11/4

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA***

HOME

11/11

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

AWAY

*MAYOR'S CUP
**HOMECOMING
***SENIOR DAY

*4 PM @ ST. JOHN
**1 PM @ SUSQUEHANNA



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

"The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow."

Wilkes hosts first blood drive of the fall semester



The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery

American Red Cross volunteers taking blood donations in the Jean and Paul Adams Commons ballroom on the second floor of the SUB. The blood drive took place Sept. 12 and was held from 9:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

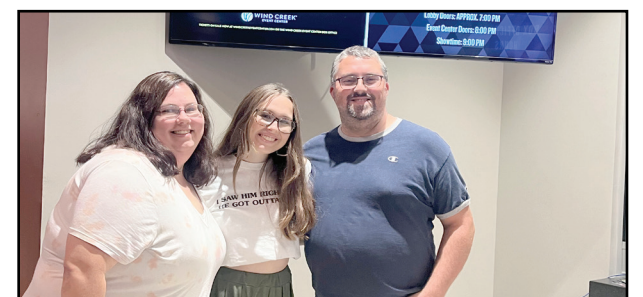
The American Red Cross placed a poster at the sign-in table which cautioned donors to be wary of certain factors before donating their blood. Some things to consider included weight, height, age and current and past health histories.



Students celebrate national chocolate milkshake day, page 5



E-mentors host bowling event for first-year students, page 7



A reflection on comedy show "Jon, John and Pete," page 16

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Amanda Montgomery: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: Sept. 13 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway
Contributing Writer

Student Government had its third meeting for the semester on Sept. 13. It also marked the first meeting with all the new members.

These new members include three from the senior class and one from the sophomore class. It was also the first meeting for the newly-elected members of the first-year class.

SG currently has \$70,628.65 in its account.

The first order of business was the an Alumni Office fund request for homecoming weekend. The presentation was given by Bree Freeman of the office and Brooke Coleman, a junior student intern. They spoke on the importance of the weekend from an alumni perspective and how it helps renew past memories with colleagues and former students. It can also provide networking opportunities for current students from former graduates

within their desired field.

Helping this weekend come together is a team of student leaders who help make the weekend possible for both students and alumni. The request for \$500 would cover 20 tickets that would be given to the team for their hard work. The tickets would provide access to all activities over the weekend that require payment and come up to a value of \$10 per ticket. This was the first week of their proposal and will be voted on next week.

The next order of business was a fund request from Kappa Psi, a pharmaceutical fraternity on campus under the chapter Delta Omicron. Presenting was their regent Phil Davis, a p4 student. They came to request funding in order to attend two conferences over the first semester. These conferences are to provide networking opportunities and to vote on changes that affect all chapters within their area. The locations for these are in Buffalo, N.Y. and Boston, Ma. The money would be used to cover hotels and registration for both p1

and p2 students. The amount requested was for \$2,226. This was the first week of their proposal and will be voted next week.

The next presentation and last order of new business was the pre-law society coming in for club recognition. The presentation was given by Sean and Bryce Greco, both juniors majoring in political science.

The club has been in operation over the two semesters without full SG recognition and has a full e-board and general board of over 20 members. They hold events in order to help others understand a bonding through the understanding of law and help their members in the seeking of higher education. This was the first week of their proposal and will be voted on next week.

The final presentation was week two of the homecoming fund request for students. The presentation was given by Marytere Quintana-Avila, a junior political science major and a member

of SG. The presentation was the request for final ideas toward the homecoming pep rally, events during the game and the homecoming dance. Major ideas include the theme which is Starry Night, the changing from a homecoming king and queen to homecoming royalty and will no longer be split between men and women, and finally the introduction of free student tickets for the homecoming dance. The request came out to be for \$22,350.81 and was approved for the full amount.

SG will meet again Wednesday Sept. 20.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Volunteer with ChalkFest

The Riverfront Parks Committee hosts their annual ChalkFest event on Saturday, Oct. 7 starting at 9:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for students to volunteer and serve their community. Please email john@riverfrontparks.org with the following information: name, phone number and email address. Contact John Maday with questions.

College of Business and Engineering Career and Internship Fair

The College of Business and Engineering is hosting a career and internship fair on

Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This fair is open to all students interested in working in the business, engineering and technology fields. Over 30 companies have already registered with more anticipated to come. Register to attend on Handshake. Contact Carol Bosack for more information or questions at carol.bosack@wilkes.edu.

Scholarship Opportunity for Students of Polish Descent

The Polish Room Committee Scholarship (\$3,000 top award) welcomes applications from Luzerne County residents. To be considered, applicants must write a brief description of their Polish heritage and what that heritage means to them. This letter must be submitted, along with the applicant's name, WIN and contact information to Allison Naumann, Alumni

House. Applications can be emailed to allison.naumann@wilkes.edu with the subject line "Polish Heritage Scholarships." Deadline for applications is Oct. 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Leadership Collegiate

This six-week, virtual course consists of online modules that provide current college students who are aspiring leaders with an innovative and flexible online learning experience. Participants work on weekly course content at their own pace. The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 22. Use this link to apply: <https://www.leadershiplackawanna.com/leadership-collegiate-1>.

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- October**
 5 - Hoedown Throwdown
 8 - Statue of Liberty Boat Tour NYC
 12-15 - Fall Break
 19 - Couch Potato
 23-27 - Freak Week
 28 - Dorney Haunted Park----

Want your event featured in the calendar?
 Email: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Wilkes-Barre's Multicultural Parade unites community

By Emma Broda
News Staff Writer

Wilkes-Barre celebrated its sixth annual Multicultural Parade and Festival earlier this month. It was highlighted as one of the events to attend during Wilkes' Family Day, which was also on the same day.

Students and residents of Wilkes-Barre lined South Main Street and watched the parade put together by multiple groups from throughout the area.

The parade was a huge display of the many different cultures that make up the city. Some of the countries represented included Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Ireland, India, Ecuador and Jamaica.

The parade also featured a range of music from each group's respective culture

and extravagant and colorful costumes representative of different cultures.

Each group representing a different country or region walked the parade while also performing with their culture's dances, and of course throwing candy to those watching.

It was a much admired celebration of the different cultures that make Wilkes-Barre what it is.

"It was cool to see a bunch of the different cultures represented," said Gabriella Amaya, sophomore nursing major. "It was a really great atmosphere downtown and everyone was having a good time."

The high-spirited mood of the parade continued on during the festivities that followed.

More than 30 different vendors from the area set up on the Public Square

to continue the celebration. Vendors included, Sammy's Caribbean Grill, Los Antojitos, Tacos don Kiko, Greek Stones Handcrafted Jewelry, Awa's Arts and Crafts, Handel's Homemade Ice Cream and Wilkes University's Sordoni Art Gallery.

There was an abundance of food to enjoy from pupusas to potato pancakes.

Along with the food and vendors, there were also things like face painting for kids who attended the festival. Throughout the festival there was a mix of live music and dances from the different cultures who participated in the parade and festival.

Organizations like North Eastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Inclusive and Action Together NEPA had booths set up to highlight the importance of a diverse community and how to protect it.

For example, Action Together

encouraged those in attendance to take action and vote.

King's College and Luzerne County Community College also participated in the parade and shared their own students' cultures.

Did you know that Wilkes University's own Erica Acosta, director of diversity initiatives, was the grand marshal of the 2021 Multicultural Parade?

Photos: The Beacon/Emma Broda



A diverse array of stands and vendors at the Wilkes-Barre Multicultural Parade and Festival. The Public Square had over 30 vendors.



Los Antojitos, a vendor at the Wilkes-Barre Multicultural Parade, offered a wide selection of international cuisine, adding a flavorful touch to the event.



Club of the Week: *Ultimate Frisbee*

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

There are many sports and athletic opportunities on campus, but there are few that exemplify the speed, precision and adrenaline that goes into athletic activity than that of ultimate frisbee.

Ultimate frisbee packs a lot more punch and excitement than one may initially think. The game consists of two teams of seven that compete against each other in scoring goals by throwing and receiving a disc. It may sound simple, but there is a lot more under the surface, and the competitive nature of the sport and its players allows for very intense and nail-biting matches.

“Most people may look at ultimate frisbee as something out of the ordinary that people might not gravitate towards,” said Myles

Timmons, ultimate frisbee captain and sophomore year physics major, “But when going to tournaments and scrimmaging other teams, the atmosphere the people and sport bring are unmatched in the world of sports.”

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While the ultimate frisbee players are certainly competitive, they also harbor a very welcoming environment, encouraging new players to not only join the club, but also bring friends and family along to enjoy the sport.

“Every semester our goal is to go to at least four tournaments, and also while competing in those we have team socials, where we encourage team members

to bring their friends that might be interested,” said Timmons. “This also allows us to build a family-like culture around the team and on campus.”

While ultimate frisbee takes skill in both speed and precision, the club is very keen on helping both newcomers and seasoned players sharpen their skills.

“This club is extremely beginner-friendly,” said Timmons, “Aside from me, I have Zara Lantzman, Esther Orlando, Brennan Reiner, Alex Lopez, Alex Schweiter, Stephen Youkoski and Olivia McInnis, who all act as supplemental teachers while we are playing and practicing.”

Anyone with an interest in engaging in a high energy sport with a friendly and supportive environment, The Ultimate Frisbee team will welcome with open arms. The team prioritizes giving a voice and proper attention to everyone that joins.

“Our goal for this year is to establish a family-centric winning culture,” said Timmons. “We want people to come that are hungry to win something while also giving them somewhere they feel accepted without judgment.”

Ultimate frisbee exemplifies the skill, adrenaline, precision, cooperation and sportsmanship that is so important within sports. There may never be a dull moment, but that just makes the energy that much more palpable.

“We want people to come that are hungry to win something while also giving them somewhere they feel accepted without judgment,” said Timmons.

To join the team, simply email myles.timmons@wilkes.edu, or alternatively, ultimate@wilkes.edu to learn more.



Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Our very own Zara Lantzman has put together a Spotify playlist where you can scan it and listen to the Beacon's staff weekly picks!

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the ballad of a homeschooled girl - Olivia Rodrigo

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“Freeze,” Opinion Staff Writer:

Senso - Grillabats

Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:

Slime You Out (feat. SZA) - Drake

Lara Mullen, Designer:

Say Yes - Elliott Smith

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Nothing Works - Declan McKenna

Graphics/Lara Mullen

Students celebrate national chocolate milkshake day

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Residence Hall Council partnered with Aramark to sponsor a milkshake giveaway on Sept. 12. Students who stopped by the Student Union Building during club hours had the choice of vanilla or chocolate milkshakes to celebrate national chocolate milkshake day.

The first 100 students were given a RHC-branded reusable straw to promote sustainability measures. In addition, Aramark gave out Wilkes T-shirts.

“[RHC was created to] support resident assistants (RAs) and the residents in the Wilkes community,” said Natalie Hernandez, junior accounting major and president of RHC.

While RHC specializes in residential issues, commuter students, as well as those who live off-campus, are welcome to attend their events.

“I knew them before from orientation,” said Junia Lawton, first-year history

major. “It was cool to know they do more events on campus. It was nice to get to know them and see who runs it.”

RHC strategically plans these events in advance, while also creating the impression of random, unexpected events.

“I believe pop-up events work so well because it’s unexpected, and create the feeling of a surprise, especially in a location where there is a lot of foot traffic,” said Hernandez. “It’s a once-in-a-blue-moon type of event that students would rather enjoy in the present than not participate and possibly regret later.”

Students who attended the event echoed this sentiment.

“Giveaways are fun!” said Lawton. “It went by fast, it was relatively quick and easy. It’s always nice to have a free milkshake.”

RHC will be hosting more events throughout the semester. To find out more, follow their Instagram @wilkes_rhc.



Photo: The Beacon/Morgan Steiner

Students lined up on the first floor of the SUB before club hours to get their milkshakes.



Photo Courtesy Melissa Ooi

Left to Right: sophomores John Buonano and Victoria Corbo were happy to help out at the event



Photo: The Beacon/Morgan Steiner

Nicole Norton, Aramark's General Manager, posing with the T-shirts that were given out during the event.

Dr. Kaitlyn Langendoerfer joins Wilkes as assistant professor

By Amanda Montgomery
News Editor

Dr. Kaitlyn Langendoerfer joined the university this fall as an assistant professor in the Sociology Department.

Langendoerfer received a bachelor of pre-medical science in sociology from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. She also received her doctorate in sociology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I've always been interested and I love research and what I do in terms of my research, but what I really want to go into academia for is teaching," said Langendoerfer. "At Wilkes, it's a very teaching-oriented college [and] it's smaller, so you really get to know the students."

Langendoerfer planned to pursue a career in dentistry before considering one in sociology. When writing an essay for why she wanted to be a dentist, her committee told her that she might make

a good dentist, but that she sounds like a sociologist.

She explained that sociology is important if a student is going into nursing or another career in the science field.

"You still need to know how your personal problems or maybe your patients' personal problems are related to public issues and societal issues and how that may be playing a role in either your own life or your patients' life," said Langendoerfer.

Throughout her academic career, she has had various influential professors



Photo courtesy Dr. Langendoerfer

that believed in her research and encouraged her to pursue a career in sociology. She understands that not every student who comes into her office or is in her class will become a sociologist, but she hopes that in some way, she is helping to shape them and mentor them.

In her free time, Langendoerfer likes to spend time outside with her three children. They are currently raising monarch caterpillars that will soon become butterflies.

"It's really a good way to see

sociology," said Langendoerfer. "I'm seeing their socialization as they go to school and I'm seeing how my parenting is impacting them and I'm seeing all these things I'm studying."

Langendoerfer currently lives in Honesdale, Pa., with her husband, three children, two horses and donkey.

In five years, Langendoerfer plans to be an associate professor, and to be in her group with students who are akin to her and are interested in her classes.

"I am a medical sociologist and I study aging, so I'm hoping to bring those specializations into the department that has mainly focused on criminology and family," said Langendoerfer. "I'm hoping to bridge those and bring in medical and life course issues and to the curriculum."

One piece of advice Langendoerfer has for students is to meet with their professors. She explained that most students don't attend their professor's office hours, unless there is an assignment or project.

Dr. Kyung Park joins Wilkes as assistant professor

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Dr. Kyung Park joined Wilkes as an assistant professor of math, physics and computer science this fall.

Park received a bachelor of science from Seoul National University in Seoul, South Korea. She later also earned a master of science in computer science. Later, she received a doctorate of science in information technology from Towson University in Towson, Maryland.

"I am most proud of my balanced experience and thinking," said Park. "I established a startup company and experienced various tasks necessary for doing business."

She explained that kind of real-world experience can be valuable for students looking to create their own startups and brand into multidisciplinary fields.

"I thought the computer science program is very strong and competitive,

covering both the most basic subjects as well as the latest technologies," said Park.

Park also observed the Wilkes community, which aided in her decision to join the computer science program.

"When I first saw the advertisement, the city of Wilkes-Barre stimulated my curiosity and I loved the photos of the students and campus," said Park. "During the campus interview, almost all the professors in the math, physics and computer science



Photo courtesy Dr. Park

department welcomed me very kindly and explained the school and the life at Wilkes well."

Park enjoys teaching, but also recognizes the importance of connecting with her students.

"I want to help students gain knowledge and experience that will serve as a fundamental source in

overcoming the challenges they face when they go out into the real world," said Park. "I also want to conduct fruitful research with outstanding students

and colleagues. Additionally, based on my experience at a large metropolitan school and a small liberal arts college, I will teach and advise students to suit each student's background and experience."

Park is eager for this fall semester, not only for teaching students what she has learned through her education and experience, but also to learn from her students and to enjoy new experiences.

Park is very active in learning and putting new applications and innovations in technology into her practice.

In her free time, she enjoys walking on hiking trails and golfing.

Park offers some advice to students regarding overcoming obstacles.

"When you run into difficulties, I encourage you to think back to when we first learned a programming language and go back to the basics. Then you will see the path to follow," said Park.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: Zara.lantzman@wilkes.edu

E-mentors host bowling event for first-year students

By Kelsie Klein
Contributing Writer

The Wilkes e-mentors hosted a bowling night at Chacko's Bowling for all first-year students to have a night to unwind and hangout with friends.

Upon arrival, students were greeted by their e-mentors, were able to get their shoes, and then broke out into groups for the event. It was a great opportunity for first-year students to get to know fellow students, as well as have fun, relax and unwind after classes.

"My experience with bowling is so far a very positive one," said Kara Beerly, a senior psychology major. "It's a great experience. It was 8:46 p.m. and students were still trickling in."

"I witnessed students needing to join lanes that were already open, which was an amazing opportunity for students to talk to fellow students and get to know everyone by having to join other lanes."

While there, everyone was given a ticket for a chance to win cool prizes. Some of the prizes included a Chacko's gift card and a lot of university merch. The university merchandise was from the bookstore and if students received the wrong size, they had the opportunity to exchange the item for the correct one.

Items were drawn throughout the night and it was an equal opportunity to end the night with a win for everyone who showed up.

"There was an amazing turnout this year," said Leah Kubasek, a junior chemistry major and e-mentor coordinator. "There were a lot of people here this year having fun and really enjoying themselves, which I am very grateful for."

An e-mentor's main job at the university is to help guide first-year students and ensure that their mentees are having a smooth transition into college. E-mentors are required to host

individual events for their specific groups of mentees for extra one-on-one time.

"I love being an e-mentor and truly enjoying being an event coordinator," said Kubasek. "It is a lot of work, but it's worth all the time and dedication I put into it. It is a very rewarding position, and one that I truly value."

"I was able to spend time with my friends, bowl and, of course, win an amazing hat," said Shauna McAndrew, a first-year nursing major. "The highlight of my night was definitely winning the hat because I never had the chance to win anything before."

The bowling night was a success for all first year students and gave first-year students the opportunity to connect with other first-year students in a relaxing environment. The e-mentor program is an opportunity that the university provides for first-year students to make things easier and provides them with someone in their community that they are able to talk to.

"I love being an e-mentor because I get to meet all of the first-year students and bring them together," said Beerly. "I love giving them an opportunity to get to know one another and bring together a community."

"I really love being in a mentor role and encourage and support my mentees and hopefully encourage one of them to become an e-mentor themselves."



Kara Beerly, left, and Leah Kubasek, right, pose for a picture before they bowl.



Shauna McAndrew poses after winning a hat from the university's bookstore.

Photos Courtesy of Kelsie Klein



Club of the Week: *Ultimate Frisbee*

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

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Timmons, ultimate frisbee captain and sophomore year physics major, “But when going to tournaments and scrimmaging other teams, the atmosphere the people and sport bring are unmatched in the world of sports.”

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Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Nothing Works - Declan McKenna

Graphics/Lara Mullen

The rise of Artificial Intelligence and its place in art

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

As the world grows older, technology advances and humanity yearn to create new and innovative ways to perform tasks, both basic and complex.

This strive for innovation and streamlined systems have led to the development of artificial intelligence, the possible backbone of the future within industry and art, for better or worse.

Artificial Intelligence, or A.I., has a long history, extending back to the 1950s. Initially, A.I.'s purpose was increasing the functionality of machines, allowing for more proficiency in data storage to increase performance optimization. While A.I.'s potential was well known, computers were not yet at the computing ability to explore A.I.'s true capabilities.

As computer speeds, memory and computing capabilities continued to grow, artificial intelligence became more intelligent and versatile in its skillset. A.I. became able to mimic human actions, emotions, sort, store, organize, problem solve and more.

Toward the end of the 20th century, A.I. began to enter the wider net of popular culture. Books, films and media such as "Westworld," "Metropolis," "The Terminator," "Robocop," "Cyberpunk 2020," "The Matrix," "Blade Runner," "Ghost in the Shell," "Star Wars," "Tron," "Transformers," "2001: A Space Odyssey," etc. all became wildly popular, often perpetuating the idea of rogue A.I.'s taking over humanity, or adopting human-like qualities. Artificial intelligence quickly became a cornerstone of popular culture.

Stories rife with warnings of machine autonomy, deception and philosophical explorations of the human condition, these stories are some of the most well known and successful pieces of media within the last handful of decades.

These pieces of media were not meant to be predictions or expectations of A.I., but simply pieces to create an intriguing narrative. However, some of these stories have been more accurate in their view of artificial intelligence than previously thought possible.

Previously, while artificial intelligence was a recurring theme and presence

within many pieces of art and media, it would not be until recently that A.I. was not just within the art, but instead the conductor of it. While there had been rare instances of A.I. assisting in the creation of art throughout the decades, the mid 2010's would revolutionize the usage of A.I. generative art.

2015 was the true catalyst year of A.I. art, with programs being launched by Google, however they were still in the learning phase. A.I. art truly took off to the public in 2021 with the release of machine learning models by OpenAI such as ChatGPT and Dalle-E. More A.I. art generators such as Midjourney and Stable Diffusion have also been launched into the stratosphere within the last few years.

These programs make it easier than ever to generate art. Simply type in a prompt and watch a machine attempt to replicate the artistry of a human. Replicate being the keyword, as A.I. is unable to truly think for itself or innovate, as it is simply a machine learning tool, not an artist. The simple fact of A.I. arts nature has stirred up much controversy surrounding the new generated art methodology.

A.I. artists have more in common with programmers than they do artists. The user will type a detailed description of what they want visualized, occasionally modify various settings, possibly even train the A.I. to a specific art style, and then send the command to the bot. The A.I. will scrub the internet for art made by artists and mimic their style to their best ability.

A.I. generated art does not stop at simply illustrations and paintings, but also accurately mimicking voices, writing styles and animation styles etc. A.I. generated voices are becoming particularly popular across the internet, as social media users create parodies with voices of famous characters and celebrities.

Many voice actors have expressed their dismay at these A.I. voice models, as while the models continue to progress, they become more indistinguishable from the real voice. Naturally, there are many plagiarism and ethical concerns surrounding this system of art generation.

Many say that since the A.I. is unable

to truly innovate and can only mimic living artists, the artists that are being mimicked, without their permission, are being unrightfully copied and having their style and work butchered by machine learning algorithms. Not only is this seen as unethical for its own merit of plagiarism, but also because it can usher in an era of out of work artists due to art generation being faster and considerably less argumentative in their vision.

This is an especially large concern in the world of media, as studios and corporations such as The Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros. Discovery, Take Two Interactive, Sony Corporation, etc. have already shown their knack of being exceedingly anti-human in their approach to artistic creation, mistreating, crunching and underpaying thousands of artists of all kinds.

This has been the primary catalyst of the many active creative strikes, most notably being the current SAG-AFTRA strike. The current treatment of artists as well as the adoption of A.I. generated artwork has instilled fear and frustration in artists across the globe.

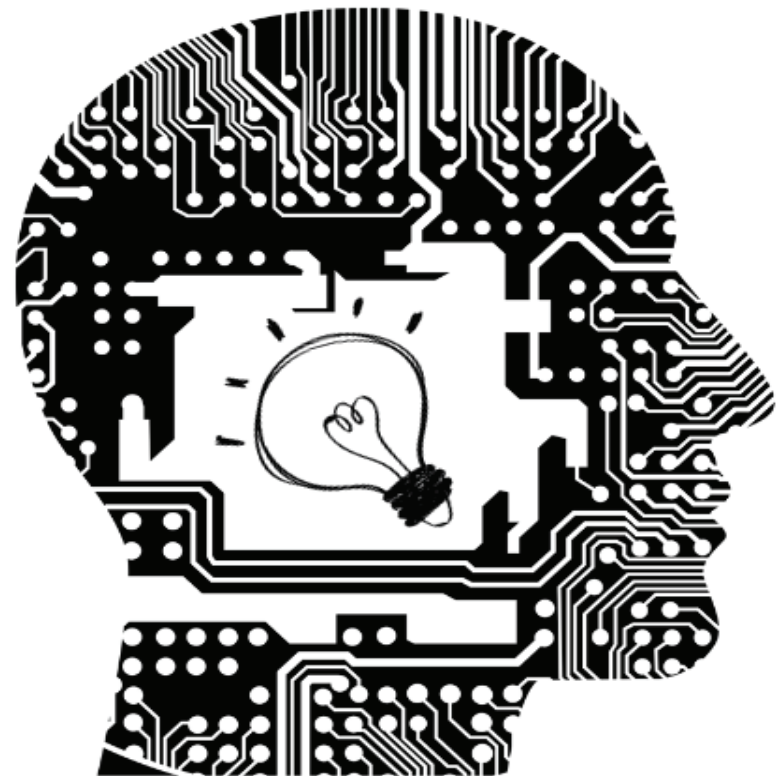
Despite these concerns, there are also many in support of A.I. art generation,

citing that with these simple tools, complex and difficult forms of art will be able to be created by anybody with an idea, creating art pieces while skipping the long and arduous creative process.

This idea of generating art for the sake of haste and convenience has also seeped its way into creative programs and tools such as those found in the Adobe Creative Suite. Just recently, Adobe software such as Photoshop have introduced generative fill, a tool that allows users to simply highlight an area, type in a prompt, and have artificial intelligence generate the prompt. This can be used to remove a blemish, replace an entire structure or being and create all new items within the editor.

As artificial intelligence continues to develop and be adopted by the public and various industries, it remains a contentious topic. Many believe it's the next step in innovation and efficiency, while many others believe it is stripping away every ounce of humanity from everything it touches. The trajectory of artificial intelligence is unpredictable, but one to keep a watchful eye on.

Graphic by Morgan Rich



Rodrigo releases critically-acclaimed sophomore album “GUTS”

By Cassidy Brumagin
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 8, Olivia Rodrigo released her sophomore album “GUTS.” The album spans across various genres including rock, pop, punk and indie.

The tracklist features 12 songs including “vampire,” the lead single that made its debut at number one on the Billboard Hot 100. The release of this album follows the massive success of Rodrigo’s debut album “SOUL,” which earned the singer three Grammys in 2022.

“For me, this album is about growing pains and trying to figure out who I am at this point in my life,” Rodrigo wrote about the album announcement.

The tracks touch upon topics of hooking up with an ex, toxic people in her life, and the overall awkwardness and pains of growing up and out of her teenage years. The day after her sophomore album’s release, Rodrigo took to Instagram to post about the album, writing, “Making this album was so fun and scary and thrilling and fulfilling and I’m so happy it is yours!”

Within a week of its release, the album reached the number one slot for albums on iTunes, filled 11 of the slots of Spotify’s Top 50 Global songs and occupied two slots

on Billboard’s Hot 100. Joining “vampire” on Billboard’s Hot 100 is “bad idea right?,” which peaked at number 10 thus far.

In addition to success on the charts, Rodrigo’s album has made a presence on TikTok with thousands of users using sound clips from various songs off the album.

At the time of writing, the lead single of the album is “bad idea right?” with over 157.5 thousand uses. Many users have taken to the sound to share their own similar stories of getting with an ex, as the song describes.

“I think that she is bringing back the female rage we saw in the 90s and early 2000s in the most amazing way possible,” said Maddie Carpenter, senior pharmacy major.

When prompted further, Carpenter explained that the opinion comes primarily from a track on the album titled “all-american bitch.”

The track is the album’s lead off and begins with a soft melody, leading into a beat drop complete with electric guitar, drums and Rodrigo raising her voice to a near scream style of singing.

“The song resembles something from an artist like Avril Lavigne,” said Carpenter “We have not seen that sort of rage and just letting loose from many artists of the newer generations.”

In comparison to “SOUL,” many fans are citing maturity as the most notable change to Rodrigo’s style on this album.

“When comparing ‘SOUL’ to ‘GUTS,’ I feel ‘GUTS’ is definitely more mature,” said Jocelyn Cussatt, senior biology major. “I love ‘SOUL,’ but I feel that looking back some of the lyrics are definitely, not to be brutal, juvenile. Her lyrics and feelings definitely matured as she grew up.”

Rodrigo was 18-years-old when “SOUL” was released and is 20-years-old now.

Mirroring the time pass and change for Rodrigo between the two albums, many users have gone to TikTok to post photos of themselves at the time of each album release as well. The trend puts the photos over an audio clip from “ballad of a homeschooled girl.”

Critics have also taken to the album in an overall positive manner. The Los Angeles Times dubbed the album a “bubble-gum rock masterpiece,” while the Rolling Stone describes it as “another instant classic”. Common themes amongst music critics include praising the pop-punk undertones, relatable lyrics and scope of the album from slow ballads to upbeat music and lyrics.

Taking the opposing side, The Telegraph (UK) calls “GUTS” a “simple continuation of “SOUL,” stating “there is little musical growth or thematic change.” The review from them, however, is the only mixed critic review out of 18 on Metacritic, with the rest being positive. The 18 total reviews earned “GUTS” a Metascore of 91.

With the release of “SOUL” earning Rodrigo seven Grammy nominations, many critics are wondering what is to come following the commercial success of “GUTS.”

Graphic by Lara Mullen



Broadway shows, including “Funny Girl,” set to close curtains

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

Broadway has been a staple of American culture since the 18th century. People from all over the world bond over their enjoyment of spectacular music, shining lights and a good tap number.

Many shows that have run on Broadway stand the test of time, but still can not fight that final closed curtain. Some Broadway shows that will be closing this fall include “The Cottage,” “The Shark is Broken” and “Melissa Etheridge: My Window.” “The Cottage” is set to close on Oct. 29, and the latter two will close on Nov. 19.

While these current Broadway shows are set to close in a couple of months, the revival of the hit musical “Funny Girl” just gave its final bow on Sept. 3.

Funny Girl tells the story of Jewish

comedian Fanny Brice and her journey to stardom as a Vaudeville entertainer. Barbara Sreisand originated the role of Fanny Brice in 1964. The current 2022 revival of “Funny Girl” starred “Glee” actress Lea Michele in Streisand’s iconic role.

Michele debuted on Broadway as young Cosette in “Les Miserables” at the age of 8, and performed the role of Wendla in the original Broadway production of “Spring Awakening.” However, she is most often known for her role as Rachel Berry in the television show “Glee.” Michele started her run as Fanny Brice in April 2022 and closed it on Sept. 3.

In “Glee,” Michel’s character Rachel is cast as Fanny Brice in the Broadway revival of Funny Girl. Now, years later Michele actually played the role herself. Just like her “Glee” character, Michele looked up to Barbara Streisand, making

this role very significant for her.

Jane Lynch, who played the tough cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester, also appeared in “Funny Girl.” Lynch played Brice’s mother in the revival of the musical but left the show right before Michele’s run. She insisted that her exit had nothing to do with Michele, stating that they were on good terms.

During her final performance on Sept. 3, Michele paid homage to Streisand, adding in a song that the original “Funny Girl” star sang on her closing night. Michele sang the cut song, “My Man” just as Streisand did, to mark her final performance as Fanny Brice in 1966. The song was in the 1968 movie, but never in the actual musical.

“Funny Girl” marked Michele’s first Broadway performance in 15 years. Michelle took a break from performing after the birth of her son. Michelle Beanie

Feldstein was playing Fanny, but left the cast early. Michele then stepped in for Feldstein, ending her Broadway hiatus.

Along with Michele, Julie Benko has been playing Fanny Brice when Michele was unavailable. Benko has recently gained notoriety for her successful portrayal of the lead role. The New York Sun called Benko “The Fanny Brice of our time.”

Benko has performed in several Broadway productions, including the national tour of “Spring Awakening,” “Les Miserables” and “Fiddler on the Roof.”

Benko was named “2022 Breakout Star for Theatre” by The New York Times.

The North American tour of “Funny Girl” started in Rhode Island on Sept. 9. It will tour all throughout North America, ending in August 2024, in Houston, Texas.

Fall Season Sudoku

Jump into fall with this start-of-the-season puzzle

Challenge your brain with some sudoku!

How to play: Fill in the missing words. Each row should have 6 different words, no repeats. Each column should have 6 different words, no repeats. Each 2x2 quadrant should have 6 words, no repeats.

Answer Key:

harvest	leaves	cider	foliage	fall	apple
fall	foliage	apple	cider	harvest	leaves
apple	harvest	fall	cider	leaves	foliage
leaves	cider	foliage	fall	apple	harvest
foliage	fall	harvest	apple	leaves	cider
cider	apple	leaves	harvest	foliage	fall

	ivy	flowers	rain				orchid	
		dandelion	orchid	bumblebee				ivy
hicks		april			flowers		sunshine	
	flowers	bumblebee	chicks			sunshine		
	chicks		april	rain			bumblebee	
april			bumblebee	flowers				rain
				chicks	rain		flowers	orchid
	bumblebee		sunshine	april	orchid			
	dandelion	chicks			bumblebee	april		

Credit for these puzzles goes to:

www.edu-games.org

Compiled by Morgan Rich, Editor In Chief

FAMILY DAY



**Lizzy Franco, Junior
Pharmacy Major**



**Brian Guzman (left)
senior business
major and
Kalei McCourt (right)
junior psychology major**





**Cole Riley (left)
freshman sports
management,
Sebastian Sylvester
(right) freshman
mechanical engineering**



Mens' soccer huddle before the game



Photos:
Sam Mullen

Design:
Lara Mullen



The hidden power of the indie video game genre

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

In the modern world of media, mostly everyone engages with movies, shows, music, books and games that are considered “mainstream.” This is media that skyrockets with attention and captivates the public by the millions. However, that is precisely why the mainstream genre is actually terrible.

Not only does gaining traction discourage creativity and brand new elements, but it also starts to develop into a lazy formula for entertainment. Meanwhile, there are lesser known projects, which are referred to as indie titles, that employ fresh strategies and introduce new techniques that really enhance the experience. Of course, I will discuss the superiority of the indie genre in the context that I know best: video games.

If you read last week’s issue of The Beacon newspaper, you would know that I am not a big fan of online video games. There are a variety of reasons that the online setting is problematic, but the main point is that all of the games in this category are exactly the same. These games have only one goal: make as much money as possible.

For example, Epic Games’s Fortnite has been nothing but a strategy to hypnotize children into spending all of their parents’ money on cosmetic items. The worst part is that this strategy has infected other games, such as Rocket League, FIFA and even the mobile hit Clash Royale. In short, the developers of these games don’t have any regard for gameplay or their user-experience.

On the other hand, the indie genre is simply beautiful. In order to really demonstrate how great these games are, it is important to understand three big categories: cost, gameplay and development and the community interaction.

Cost. Although indie games can cost as much as a mainstream title, they are much cheaper on average. More importantly, the money that is spent on indie titles is happily spent by players in order to gain ownership of the game. For indie games, the cost is not a fee in order to have access, but it is a salutation to the developer and a confirmation that the player themselves wants to own a personal copy of the title. It is

common for players to even go so far as to provide funding for a game that is in development. Finally, unlike mainstream and online content, these games do not rely on microtransactions. Developers sacrifice a lot of time and money on a title only to release it for a discountable price. Thus, the cost of indie games are very affordable and worthwhile.

Gameplay and Development. Needless to say, the actual content of a game is what makes it worthy. Many indie players will say that the smaller projects are not just games, but they are experiences. Indie games are often described as a unique display of new mechanics, such as Hollow Knight, fresh art-styles, like in Cuphead, and killer soundtracks like in Undertale. These games have completely original content created by small, talented developers and artists who band together to bring their vision to reality.

Community Interaction. Interaction within a video game community could greatly change how someone may enjoy playing the game. A community for an indie game is usually very unified and civilized. First, the developers constantly ask for feedback and respond to the community. Players also enjoy treating an indie title like a shared experience, so they will freely give tips and tricks out of respect for other players and the game itself. Finally, the community in an indie is not demanding of the developers. If anything, most players fear the day that an indie game skyrockets and follows the dark path of mainstream status. Even so, developers often respond to their community with expansions for their titles, known as downloadable content (DLC). One important thing to note is that indie developers are just a few people working with their own funds.

At the end of the day, there is nothing that can stop you from playing whatever games you enjoy. However, the indie genre is a goldmine that offers spectacular types of games, which may be something you never knew you liked until you tried it. The top list of indie games would certainly be a great place to start.

The Return of The Red Raven: an original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

PART 2

Rick froze as he read the description of Teddy Flowers’s death one last time.

“Teddy Flowers was bludgeoned to death with a wooden square block with the letter ‘A’ painted on it.”

He couldn’t breathe. He repeated in his head that this was just a coincidence. That perhaps a sick serial killer was out murdering people with wooden toy blocks. It couldn’t have anything to do with his show. It couldn’t, it shouldn’t, it can’t. Rick didn’t realize that he was becoming light-headed by walking around his blue sofa in circles with the paper in his hand.

He felt the need to call someone. He thought of Cameron first, but assumed that he would call him crazy and be more upset with him. He could maybe call the police and tell them that he knows something, but they would call him crazy too.

He had only one person left he could call, and his gut twisted just thinking about it. He reached for his cell phone and dialed her number. His thumb hovered over the button to call her. He hasn’t talked to her in years ever since the incident they had where she stormed off and swore that she would never talk to him again. He had no other choice or else he was lost.

He took a deep breath and pressed the button. He waited for almost a minute until the beeping from the other end ceased.

A woman with a tired and dry voice answered, “Hello?”

Rick couldn’t recognize her voice. “Can I speak to Isabelle, please?”

“This is Isabelle,” she replied.

Rick answered as confidently as he could, “Hey Izzy, it’s your dad.”

There was a long, silent pause as Rick was already regretting his decision, but then a deep sigh followed after what felt like an eternity.

“What do you want?” she demanded in a cold tone.

“Did you hear about Teddy Flowers’s death?” Rick asked.

“Yeah. What does this have to do with me?” Isabelle said.

“How he died was like how Mr. Jenkins died in the pilot of ‘The Red Raven.’ I want your help in looking deeper into this case, and you’re the only person I have that is in the force that can do this for me,” Rick explained.

“So you find out that one of your co-stars passed away and your first thought is that it matches how a character died in a TV show?” Isabelle said in disbelief.

“Izzy, please, I don’t mean it like that. I want to try and see if there’s any correlation. I want to try and help,” Rick pleaded, heartbroken that she was still bitter towards him.

“Look dad, we are on the case and still trying to uncover everything that we can, but you are in no shape to help. You always thought you were the Red Raven even off the screen. It’s so sad to see you still think that,” Isabelle said.

“I don’t want to be the Red Raven. I just want to know because maybe I can help.” Rick defended.

“When you called you said that I should do this for you. That’s what it’s always been about. Rick Greenblatt always had to be the star in every moment, even in his own child’s life. I took up being a detective because I knew that I could help people and not just play pretend in a red cape. I can’t help you because it won’t feel worth it because you’ll make it all about yourself,” Isabelle addressed.

Rick tried one last time. “Please, you are all that I have left, and I wouldn’t be calling you if I didn’t care for your help and if I didn’t care about the impact you had on my life. I just need this one favor, just this once.” He begged her, tears streaming down his face.

Another long silent pause, with the exception of Rick’s sobs, was brought upon the two again. After a few minutes, Isabelle made her decision.

“Do you have those old VHS tapes of the show still in the basement?” Isabelle asked.

“Yes, I do,” Rick nodded, clearing his voice.

“Bring them down to the station.” Isabelle said. The call ended there.

Rick wore an awkward smile as he walked to the door that was standing diagonally from the sofa. He opened the door and ran downstairs and grabbed the boxes labeled “Red Raven Collection.”

To be continued...

“La La Land” can teach us about long-distance relationships

Are long-distance relationships worth it?

By Bryce Greco
Contributing Writer

There exists over a thousand surviving letters between John and Abigail Adams, perhaps the most notable long-distance couple in American history. Perhaps you have heard stories from your grandparents about going long distance during times of war. Or maybe your parents were high-school sweethearts who had to be apart once they went away to college.

If there is anything history tells us, it's that long-distance relationships are not easy. But modern technology makes keeping up with your partner much more convenient.

Gone are the days of letters and expensive long-distance phone calls. With a cell phone in your pocket, you and your partner can be virtually together anytime and anywhere. However, this doesn't make long-distance relationships necessarily easy.

So, are they worth it?

Hollywood likes to romanticize long-distance relationships as something that oftentimes winds up working out in the end. But that is far from realistic. Take a look at Damien Chazelle's 2016 masterpiece “La La Land.” The film follows the journey of two artists, the actress and playwright Mia and the musician Sebastian, as they pursue their dreams at the expense of their love.

During a segment of the film where the couple goes long distance for a few months, we watch the lovers we've spent the past hour routing for fall apart. Sebastian is on tour with a band he hates trying to make enough money to open a jazz club, and he fails to make it to the opening performance of Mia's play. Things only get worse when Mia's big break in the movie world requires her to move away to Paris for filming.

While it's abundantly clear that Mia and Sebastian deeply love and care about each other, the places their careers are taking them cause their relationship to end.

The film concludes after a five-year time-skip, where Mia and her new husband are out on a date at a jazz club. We see the club's owner and main performer Sebastian greeting guests from the stage. Mia

on his tour, she would have never become a famous actress. If Sebastian accompanied Mia to Paris, he would have never opened his club.

Their story, while tragic and sad, is rather bittersweet. Both artists achieve their dreams, but at the cost of their life together.

I believe this to be the reality of many long-distance

relationships, especially in college. High school relationships, while fundamental and at times perfect, are not always the best predictors of the future. College differs from high school, as the things that truly matter in life now enter the forefront of many students' minds. You're no longer working to walk across a stage and get a diploma, you're working to master the topic of

your major, find a job to kickstart your career and create a life for yourself worthy of carrying into your future. And the sad truth is, that sometimes, your long-distance high school relationship can stand in the way of that. Much like with Mia and Sebastian, sometimes you need to sacrifice a life with someone you truly love for the sake of your career and future, and that's okay.

The way I see it, long-distance relationships in college are well worth the struggle if your partner does not stand in the way of what you truly want out of life. If your partner is your best friend and someone you cannot see yourself living without, then the pain of a long-distance relationship will most likely pay off in the end.

When you encourage each other to follow each of your dreams while never sacrificing your own desires for life, your time long distance, while certainly not the best, can be necessary to reaching an ideal adult relationship.

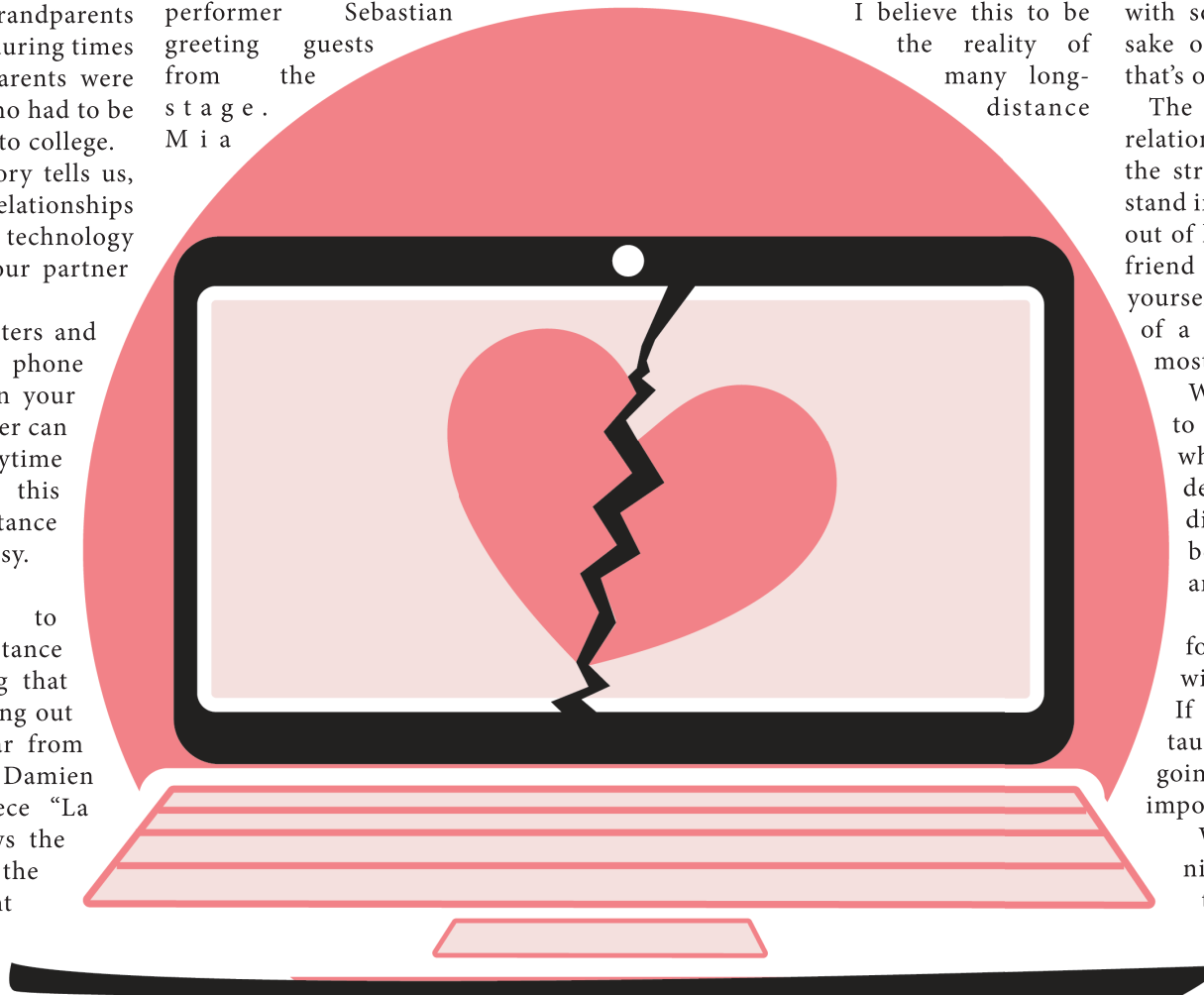
Giving up on your best friend for an on-demand relationship will boil down to selfishness. If there is anything history has taught us over the years, it is that going the distance is far from an impossible feat.

When phone calls replace date nights, remember that modern technology is a blessing your ancestors did not have. Stand by each other's side during long distance, and I believe that your relationship will be stronger in the end once your time apart is over.

Are long distance relationships worth it? When two best friends spend time apart but continue to stand in each other's corner and aid each other to pursue their dreams and aspirations as one, I believe they are.

However, a shared past, while memorable, formative or even perfect, means nothing if it leads to an unwound future.

Graphic by Lara Mullen



A reflection on comedy show “Jon, John and Pete”

By **Samara Carey**
Contributing Writer

In a world full of hate and injustice, it is important that we have something in our lives to make us laugh. Regardless of your sense of humor, everybody has a guilty pleasure for something that makes them crack a smile. In my case, my favorite comedians are John Mulaney and Pete Davidson.

From as far back as I can remember, I have been watching Mulaney specials. I became obsessed with memorizing the punchlines and watching his sketches that date as far back to his “Saturday Night Live,” days where he was a writer. During that time, I also discovered the elusive Pete Davidson.

There was something about Davidson that I was instantly drawn to. Whether it was his self-deprecating humor or the way he over-exaggerated his punchlines, I always loved being able to sit back and watch his sketches whenever I was feeling down about something going on in my life.

In 2019, Mulaney and Davidson ended up going on tour together for a small comedy run to present and test out new sketches. When this tour was originally announced, I remember running up to my mom as a first-year student in high school begging to see my two favorite comedians in real life. My mom, being the wonderful lady that is she and concerned for my 14-year-old wellbeing, unfortunately said no due to the fear that there would be crude humor not safe for my prepubescent ears.

Hearing this absolutely tore me apart and made me feel like my life was never going to be the same again, but I quickly got over it when Mulaney decided to announce his “From Scratch” tour back in early 2022. Luckily, I was able to attend this tour with one of my friends and had an amazing time. Mulaney launched this tour just after recovering from rehab and wanted to retell his stories from his time away. It was, of course, hilarious and I dreamed about seeing him again during one of his next comedy runs.

Then, my entire world stopped. In August, Mulaney announced a brand

new, limited time comedy run with none other than Pete Davidson and Jon Stewart. As you can imagine, my heart skipped a beat a little. Yes, I had absolutely no idea who Jon Stewart was (more on that later), but Mulaney and Davidson? Oh, my heart can only take so much. My mom, again being the lovely woman that she is, ended up buying me tickets as a gift so we could go together. Maybe this was her way of redeeming herself from betraying me all those years ago, but I digress.

The day of the show finally came around, and I was ecstatic. I wore my John Mulaney T-shirt, and I was ready to go. Once we got to the venue, they had us lock our phone in a Yondr punch, which is normal for a comedy show to this high of a standard. Yes, it sucked not being able to go on my phone while

I was waiting for the show to start, but I quickly got over it once I realized that this meant more shows were around the corner for this trio.

After an opener that I do not care enough to speak about, Davidson officially opened the show. This show was different from past shows for Pete, especially since he recently got out of rehab and was still in active recovery. Nonetheless, he was still incredible and truly encapsulated the audience for the entirety of his set.

Some of the notable pieces of his set were when he talked about missing his stalker, how he wants his mom to date someone and the time he fell in love with Leonardo DiCaprio. It was nice to see Davidson in a positive and supportive light, especially since he was torn apart in the media last year.

Davidson’s act was enjoyable; however, I do wish it was longer. He was open and honest about his addiction, which I found quite admirable and was proud of him for doing so. After Davidson’s act, he announced Mulaney on stage next.

Mulaney was a natural on stage and made it seem like this was his own headlining show. Some of his most notable pieces included: How an adult failed at kidnapping him, his new adventures with his two-year-old son, and how he believes dinosaurs are not real.

It was honestly super refreshing to see Mulaney healthy and happy, especially since his last special contained a lot of heavy material and focused on a darker time in his life. Like I said previously, this was my second time seeing Mulaney, and if you ask me, he just is getting better and better with each act that he performs.

Like all things though, it must end. After Mulaney’s set, he announced the last and main act, Jon Stewart.

Now, before heading to this show, I had absolutely no idea who this man was, and to be honest, I did not care. I figured if he was staring with stars such as Davidson and Mulaney, he was bound to be just as funny as they are. Oh, boy was I wrong. Before I go any further, I want to say I respect Stewart and his work as a whole, but it is simply not for me.

To be blunt, I did not laugh a single time he was on stage. His entire act was about how old he is, how he hates both political parties and then went on to weirdly compare Christianity and Judaism for half the act. Now, I am not sure if this is something that interests you, but I did not necessarily enjoy his set. If you want my honest opinion, the show would have been better without him in it.

Overall, I had a fun time at the show, but being transparent, I wish I left after Mulaney’s act. Now I know for next time to completely avoid Stewart, or to leave whenever I see his name. I will be seeing Mulaney and Davidson in the future though.



Photo courtesy of Samara Carey

Sophomore Samara Carey stands beside her parents Shawn and Sue Carey as a “Jon, John and Pete” graphic is displayed on a television behind them.

"PUNK TACTICS:" an album overshadowed upon release

A song-by-song review of "PUNKTACTICS" by Joey Valence & Brae

By Shawn Carey
Contributing Writer

We live in an age of constant media. One of the most highly anticipated albums of the year, "GUTS" by Olivia Rodrigo, was released on Sept. 8. Following the breakout success of her first studio album "SOUL" in 2021, "GUTS" had much to live up to. This album is the young artist's chance to prove that she's not just a one hit wonder. I, however, will not be talking about any of that in this article.

As much as I would like to add on to the discussion surrounding "GUTS," I would rather highlight an album that was released on the same day but only received a fraction of the same attention. An album that I believe more people should be listening to. The album I am talking about is "PUNK TACTICS" by Joey Valence and Brae.

"PUNK TACTICS" is hip-hop duo Joey Valence and Brae's first major album. Being recorded entirely in Joey's bedroom, the 24-year-olds aimed to recreate the punk-rap style of the '80s and '90s in this record, which I believe they were able to do with flying colors.

Before I go into detail about the songs on the album, I would first like to get rid of the elephant in the room. Yes, I know, they sound a lot like the Beastie Boys. When talking about the album, or any of their songs for the matter, it's hard to not make the comparison, which is completely valid. The duo takes huge inspiration from the New York-based band for much of their discography. They don't just try to recreate what worked in the past; however, they really make the songs their own with their unique gimmicks and flair.

This can be heard in the album's title track. "PUNK TACTICS" starts with what can only be described as a blast of excitement. It's very loud and in your face, leaving you with no room to breathe in the best way possible, a common characteristic that all the songs on the album share. This serves as a fantastic

start that tells you what the album is all about.

There's also a good chance that you heard the song before, or at least the chorus. Joey and Brae released it as a single in the spring of last year. Due to the song's general fun and energetic vibe it unsurprisingly started to trend on TikTok. It was used in everything from edits of users' favorite characters to short animated music videos.

The songs "DROP!!" and "WATCH YO STEP" follow in the footsteps of "PUNK TACTICS" as fast-paced power anthems that makes you want to get up and start putting on your own music video, the latter even referencing the opening of



"PUNK TACTICS." One thing that stood out to me was the instrumentals of these songs. They start out as slow electric beats until their respective chorus, in which they explode out, turning into something that sounds more like traditional hip-hop.

"STARTAFIGHT" plays next, and I would say this is the song that sounds the most similar to what you would hear on a Beastie Boys album, mainly due to the constant repeating of the song's name, something the group was well known for. It's also around this point that you'll probably start to notice that none of the tracks on the album are that long. Most of the songs end up lasting only a mere two minutes, with the entire album being a modest half hour. I see this as working out in the artist's favor with none of the songs outstaying their welcome, making the album an easy listen.

Next up we have "DELINQUENT (TEEN TITAN)," which as you probably tell by the name, highlights the duo's love of samples and references related to pop culture. It's not uncommon to hear them make the occasional anime reference, with one of my personal favorite examples being, "...we ain't got a label, you don't get a quarter. Now we going platinum, ora, ora, ora." I can see how some may be turned off by the constant name drops, but I believe they tend to work on their own without having to have knowledge of the properties.

"INTERMISSION" marks the halfway mark of the album. It's a nice short break from what we've been used to hearing,

a fun track that will certainly hype you up. While the song tends to repeat itself in a similar way to "STARTAFIGHT," the vocal work and instrumental more than makes up for it. The song "HOOLIGANG" does pretty much the same thing but to what I feel like is a lesser degree.

"TANAKA 2" is what I believe to be the objectively best song on the album. For the first minute it just sounds like a typical song by them, that's until Logic comes in and does his verse. You heard that right, this album has a Logic feature. I'm not going to act like I really care about Logic or his music, but his verse on this song does a lot to separate "TANAKA 2" from the duo's other works.

Speaking of separating their songs we now have "STREET PIZZA," which is just a straight-up punk song. The song features Joey and Brae shouting about making street pizza over heavy instruments. While that may not be the most punk thing to sing about, it certainly has that energy to it. I would like to note that on Spotify they have the artist "Bonjour Señor" listed as a feature. I tried to find more out related to this individual, but the only proof of his existence is this one song.

The final song on the album is "CLUB SANDWICH," a song that returns the duo to their normal style of music. This works as a great track on its own, but I recommend playing the entire album before giving it a listen. It serves also as a celebration of "PUNK TACTICS," referencing almost all the songs that came before it.

"PUNK TACTICS" is an album that takes you for a short yet fun ride. Once you start getting used to its unique style, it does something new and different. If you're a fan of the Beastie Boys, Cypress Hill or Joey Bada\$\$ this is worth a listen. Joey and Brae really have something special going on, and I can't wait to see what they do next.

with it even sounding like elevator music. From here on out through, we get much more experimental tracks from Joey and Brae, with the following song immediately letting you know that things are about to change.

"GUMDROP" is a minute-long hyper pop song that sounds nothing like what came before it. As someone who isn't really a fan of the genre, I tend to find myself skipping this one upon plays of the album, but I can appreciate the duo trying something different.

Taking a complete 180, we now have "DANCE NOW." The song's name is very fitting as it will make you do as it says. It's a very groovy song that has a unique jazz feel to it. This was originally released as a single and had me convinced that it would be my favorite on the album. That was until I heard the next song.

Simply titled "RN" the track serves as

Sports

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Wilkes field hockey off to hot start under new coach

Ashley Irwin, King's College alum, now a proud Colonel

By Adam Grundt

Sports Assistant Editor

The Colonels' field hockey team is off to a hot start under new head coach Ashley Irwin.

Irwin, a native of Douglasville, Pa., attended King's College and graduated in 2011. For the past nine years, she was at Keystone College coaching the women's lacrosse team from 2015-2020 and leading the field hockey program from 2014-2022.

"This will be my 10th season coaching at the Division III level," Irwin explained. "I feel that my time at Keystone has done a great job in providing me the work habits to go the extra mile, and do the extra work.

"Truthfully, at Keystone, it was very, very hard. Our facilities and resources were nowhere compared to what we have at Wilkes, and I think it made me humbled and grateful to be the next coach here at Wilkes.

"Now, with the work habits and resources that we have, the sky is the limit."

Irwin played at King's from 2006-2009. During her career there, she played in 67 games with 47 starts and won back-to-back MAC Freedom championships and made NCAA Tournament appearances in 2006 and 2007, according to her profile on the Wilkes Athletics website.

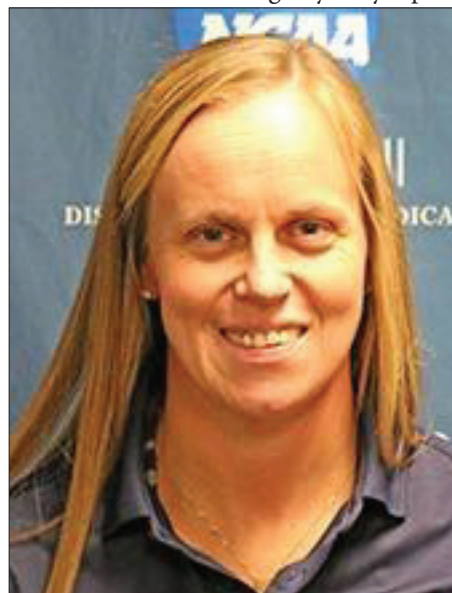
She graduated in 2011 with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Special Education.

Irwin also served as coach for both women's lacrosse and field hockey at Meyers and Coughlin high schools in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

She was the Meyers field hockey assistant coach and JV head coach

from 2011 to 2014. From 2012 to 2015, she worked with Coughlin's girl's lacrosse team

"Over the course of my years in the 'valley' I have grown to make a name for myself," Irwin explained. "After my time at King's I coached locally for both Meyers and Coughlin High School, before making my way up to



Irwin

Keystone. I then have had the pleasure of mentoring 15 former players that are head coaches of some sort of collegiate field hockey, collegiate lacrosse, high school field hockey, or high school lacrosse.

"It helps to make friends along the way".

In her first season at Wilkes, Irwin commends the atmosphere at the university.

"When you came to Wilkes it was always a battle," Irwin said. "They were tough, they hit hard, and when you saw their name on the schedule you

kind of feared them. The atmosphere is one of winning and wanting to win.

"I think when you finally experience it as both a student-athlete and a coach, it's electric. Best decision I ever made, I am simply humbled to be here and work with great people".

The Colonels opened up their season with an overtime victory at Oswego State, and are coming off of back-to-back wins against Wells College and Neumann University. They are one win away from matching their season total in wins from a year ago.

"They are definitely off to a solid start for sure," Irwin said. "They are learning what it takes to battle and we couldn't be prouder. It is definitely a process, and a new one at that. There is a lot of learning and learning quickly.

"This week, for example, is unheard of. No team in collegiate field hockey plays four games in one week. But we are; it's a schedule I inherited and we're making the most of it.

"For the NCAA, field hockey is given 18-19 games to play, depending on scrimmages. It is really hard to fit those games into a two-month schedule.

"They are off to a strong start and proving themselves game-by-game".

The Colonels begin conference play on Sept. 16 when they travel to Baltimore, Md. to take on Goucher College. Irwin believes this will be the first real test of the season.

"Conference opens this Saturday for us down at Goucher College," Irwin explained. "It will be the first test for sure, and it is definitely a game that we have already set in our minds that we need to win to set out on the course we are on. It is a bold move, but we want to be the number five or number

6 seed in playoffs.

"The Landmark is a tough conference, and one that we know we need to do the work in if we want to survive and make it to that spot. There are a lot of big opponents ahead, but the first one is Goucher and we need that 'w'".

After a non-conference match against Misericordia University on Sept. 14, the Colonels will travel to Baltimore to take on Goucher College in their first Landmark Conference game of the season.

They return home on Sept. 19 to take on rival and Coach Irwin's alma mater, King's College, at Schmidt Stadium. At the game, faculty and staff will be recognized as a part of Faculty/Staff Appreciation Night. For more information, visit gowilkesu.com.

**Catch the
Colonels at
Susquehanna
Saturday
at
1 p.m.**

Will the Waterdogs secure a second championship?

By **Samantha Mullen**

Contributing Writer

The Premier Lacrosse League (PLL) is gearing up for a much anticipated championship game against the Waterdogs Lacrosse Club and Archers Lacrosse Club. As the best of the best prepare to face off, lets take a closer look at what could be expected when it comes to game time in Philadelphia on Sept. 24.

It was to no surprise that the Waterdogs were able to secure a trip to the championship this year as they are the current reigning champs. Led by head coach Andy Copelan and a roster filled with talented players like Kieran McArdle and Michael Sowers, they were able to overcome struggles in the beginning of the season. Waterdogs finished the regular season with a 7-3 record putting them as the 3rd seed. Just from the stats, the team showcased resilience and determination in every game.

As already mentioned, players to look at during the championship on the offensive side is Kieran McArdle and Michael Sowers. McArdle led the team in points, have 34, and in 1 point goals, 20. Sowers was close behind with 30 points total with 15 1 point goals and 15 assists, leading the team for most assists. Defensively, they have the Canadian Dillion Ward who came back late in the season but ended with a 61 save percentage.

On the other side, the Archers are coached by Chris Bates. The Waterdogs could potentially have some trouble stopping Archers offensive powerhouses like Tom Schreiber, who won league MVP, and Connor Fields. By the end of the regular season, the Archers placed as first seed with a record of 8-2.

As mentioned before, Tom Schreiber dominates everytime with he is on the field. He finished the regular season with 16 1 point goals and 2 2 point goals. Another key offensive player is Connor Fields who, in the regular season, led the team in points, 39, and 1 point goals, 28. Defensively, they have the long stick defender Graeme Hossack, who had 8 caused turnovers and 35 groundballs during the regular season. Hossack also showed off his offensive skills with an assist and two 2-point shots. In net, they have second year, Brett Dobson had a save percentage of 60 in the regular season

and 78 in post season play. It'll be a tough fight between Dobson and Ward to see who's save percentage is better.

Though some fans may focus heavily on the defense and offense players, the game starts with the faceoff which is going to be a battle. The rookie Mike Sisselberger has been dominating this season with having a 68 percent for faceoff wins. With the new shot clock rule of 32 seconds after

the faceoff, Sisselberger was able to take advantage of that and got 3 goals after gaining possession of the ball.

On the Waterdogs, they have two rookies, James Reilly and Zac Tucci, listed as their faceoff guys, but have opted for midfielder Zach Currier to be taking it as of late. Currier currently has a 59 percent for faceoff wins. Seeing him and Sisselberger go head to head at the faceoff will definitely

be something exciting to watch.

Both teams have had an incredible season which is why they are in the championship. They both have solid offense and defenses. It's just who is more hungry and determined to get the trophy on Sunday. Will the Waterdogs stay the reigning champs or will the Archers take the crown and win for the first time in program history? Tune in on Sunday Sept. 24 at 3 p.m. on ESPN.

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MLB wild card races heat up as playoffs approach

By Adam Grundt
Sports Assistant Editor

Wild Card and divisional races in both leagues are heating up as the Major League Baseball Season enters its home stretch.

The Baltimore Orioles sit in first place in the American League East Division with reinforcements on the way as the Tampa Bay Rays sit three games behind them. The Orioles are expected to promote top prospect Jackson Holliday to their major league roster in order to solidify that top spot in their competitive division.

Baltimore selected Holliday with the number one overall selection in 2022's first-year player's draft. While the Rays remain in striking distance for the division title, they have all but guaranteed themselves a spot in the playoffs as they sit in the first wild card spot.

Baltimore's all-star closer, Félix Bautista, recently suffered a partial tear in his UCL but is hopeful return for their playoff push.

"It's probably best characterized as an acute-on-chronic injury to his ligament", Orioles general manager Mike Elias told the media. Elias also added that doctors don't see a risk if Bautista were to continue throwing this season.

The remaining two places for the American League Wild Card spots are currently occupied by Tampa Bay and Baltimore's division rival, the Toronto Blue Jays, and the Texas Rangers. The Rangers find themselves in a similar situation as the Rays, as they sit two games behind the leader of the American League West division, the Houston Astros.

The Minnesota Twins are running away with the American League Central as they sit seven and a half games ahead of the Cleveland Guardians in what many believe to be the division in baseball with the least strength.

According to ESPN analytics, Minnesota has upwards of a 99% chance of clinching their division.

As it stands, the Seattle Mariners sit half of a game out of the final wild

card spot in the American League. The Blue Jays, Rangers, and Mariners are all separated by a small window of one game. According to ESPN analytics, the Mariners have a 51% chance to lock up that final Wild Card spot.

Seattle is coming off the best month of their franchise's history in August, one where they accumulated 21 wins.

"Twenty-one wins in a month and there was a really special team here that won 116 games in one year and they didn't even do that," Mariners manager Scott Servais said, referencing the 2001 Mariners team that finished the season with only 46 losses.

The race to keep an eye on toward the end of this season, however, is undoubtedly the one for the final National League Wild Card spot. It is currently a heated race between six separate teams.

The Philadelphia Phillies currently occupy the first Wild Card spot, and the Chicago Cubs sit a game and a half behind them in the second. The third Wild Card spot, currently occupied by the Arizona Diamondbacks, is up for

grabs.

The Miami Marlins and San Francisco Giants both sit a game and a half behind Arizona, and the Cincinnati Reds are chasing the Diamondbacks by two games.

The Chicago Cubs have been as hot as any team as of late, and have a valid chance at capturing the National League Central division crown. They currently sit three games behind the leader of their division, the Milwaukee Brewers. That remains the only division in the National League that is still up for grabs in the National League, as the Atlanta Braves have locked up the National League East and the Los Angeles Dodgers have done the same in the West.

For baseball fans, this point of the season remains very exciting due to the annual number of tight races for division crowns and Wild Card spots. With October baseball nearly here, a better idea of who will be contending for the league pennants and a World Series championship will come to fruition.

*The Beacon is looking for sports writers for the
Fall 2023 semester*

**If you are interested in sports writing,
editing, photography or graphics contact
Adam Grundt at adam.grundt@wilkes.edu**

Athlete of the Week

Trevor DuBoff

Senior Golf Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

DuBoff was chosen as our athlete of the week after shooting a career low of 74 to help Wilkes defeat cross-town rival King's College on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at Huntsville Golf Club.

Major: Sports Management
Hometown: Stony Point, NY
High School: North Rockland

What has been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?
Shooting 2 over at Huntsville and leading my team to a win over King's.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?
New York Mets.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?
Going to the gym.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?
Being able to compete with and against talented and motivated athletes.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?
Happy Gilmore

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?
Basketball.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Hitting a hole in one on hole 5 at Huntsville.

What is your favorite post-game meal?
Chipotle

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?
It's an honor even to be considered amongst all the great athletes at Wilkes. I'm grateful for all the support I've received from my coaches and teammates - both on the wrestling and the golf team - as well as my friends and family.

Photo Courtesy of Anna Beckham

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

Athlete of the Week

Alexis Reedy

Junior Volleyball Outside Hitter

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week

Reedy was chosen as our athlete of the week after a strong performance with 15 digs in the Colonels' victory against Penn State Hazelton. Reedy also surmounted 15 kills in a 3-0 victory against Delaware Valley in the team's first game of the tri-match on Sept. 4. She then compiled another 12 kills and 15 digs against Penn State Altoona in the final game of the tri-match and she finished with a total of 36 kills, 37 digs, 8 aces and 2 blocks.

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Palmyra, Pa.

High School: Palmyra

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

Team bonding, this year we went white water rafting which was a lot of fun.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

Philadelphia Eagles.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Hanging out with my friends and going to the beach.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

Meeting other athletes and the support from other sports teams. Also being involved in the community.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

Remember the Titans.

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

Soccer.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Winning states my junior year of high school.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Mozzarella sticks.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

I feel very honored to be selected. It is reassuring to have gotten this recognition for the hard work I have been putting in.

Compiled by Adam Grundt, Asst. Sports Editor

Photo Courtesy of Anna Beckham

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WILKES FOOTBALL

ALL GAMES BEGIN AT NOON UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

9/2

KING'S COLLEGE*

HOME

9/9

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

AWAY

9/16

SUNY BROCKPORT

HOME

9/23*

ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

AWAY

9/30

JUNIATA COLLEGE**

HOME

10/7

LYCOMING COLLEGE

AWAY

10/14

KEYSTONE COLLEGE

HOME

10/21**

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

AWAY

11/4

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA***

HOME

11/11

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

AWAY

*MAYOR'S CUP
**HOMECOMING
***SENIOR DAY

*4 PM @ ST. JOHN
**1 PM @ SUSQUEHANNA