

Admissions fires nine students without warning

BY CATHRYN FREAR
Assistant News Editor

This semester, students working in the admissions office who were paid by institutional funding were laid off via e-mail without any forewarning.

"We hired roughly the same number of students with the same amount of budget," said Melanie Mickelson, vice president of enrollment. "There's usually a normal amount of attrition that happens. After about two, maybe three weeks, students just stop showing up for work. Also, students start cutting back on their hours."

Mickelson said that this is typically caused by said students being busier with classes as the semester goes on. This year, there were less students cutting back and there was also a change in leadership.

Mickelson emphasized that the student personnel cuts had nothing to do with budget cuts, because there simply were no budget cuts. This round of firings was because of a change in employee pattern. There were also more interested and committed students doing the

work this year.

"We have students who help around the office during the day and we have students who work the phone, calling prospective students in the evening," said Amy Patton, interim director of admissions. "We did a really good job in attracting students to the job, so we had more work study students than usual."

Patton took over as interim director of admissions on January 15, replacing former director Matt McCaffrey. The new position requires Patton to directly manage the University's budget.

"I didn't have access to any of the budget information until after January 15," said Patton. "But, I think [prior to taking the director position] when we're looking at the time cards and seeing how many hours students were logging, we realized that this might be an issue."

Patton also said that she decided that when she took the position, she would look into the number of hours students were accumulating. Once she took the position and the

SEE FIRES, Page 2

SNOW BURIES "THE BARRE"



The Beacon/Kirstin Cook

Peter Melle and Kelly Hummel take advantage of their snow day by romping around the greenway and pummeling one another with the snow of the newly formed icy tundra. Look for another snow day photo on page three and a slide show of shots online.

Former Reagan adviser to deliver Kirby Lecture

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Online Editor

Dinesh D'Souza, a former policy analyst for the Reagan White House and the former John M. Olin Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, will speak at Wilkes University today as part of the Allan P.

Kirby Center Lecture Series.

D'Souza has been called one of the "top young public-policy makers in the country" by Investor's Business Daily, and one of America's most influential conservative thinkers by The New York Times Magazine. His lecture is titled "Why America is Loved, Why

America is Hated."

"I'm going to speak on what are the unique aspects of America and why is the role of America so controversial in the world today," said D'Souza. "I'm going to explore the issue of patriotism, and I am going to ask whether America is deserving of rational allegiance."

By "rational allegiance," D'Souza said he means whether the United States is worthy of its citizens' love, and whether patriotism is a rational emotion.

D'Souza also said he will be drawing from some of his most recent books, including: The Enemy at Home, which looks at Islamic

radicals and what he believes made them successful.

Trevor Hirsh, a junior entrepreneurship major, will introduce D'Souza at the lecture. He said he thinks D'Souza's speech will be intriguing and useful.

"That is so amazing," said Hirsh.

SEE D'SOUZA, Page 5

Opinion Pages 6-8 Student Development

Wilkes University Student Development has been doing a great job planning activities for students on campus. **PAGE 6**

Life Pages 9-12 College Days

Dr. Jennifer Edmonds reflects on her time at the University of Michigan as a chemical engineering major. **PAGE 11**

Arts & Entertainment Pages 13-15 Globetrotters visits the Valley

Harlem Globetrotters played at Moberg Sun Arena this past weekend, offering entertainment value beyond just basketball. **PAGE 13**

Sports Pages 16-20 Baseball Season Preview

Last season, the Colonels set a school record for wins with 29. What's in store for 2010? **PAGE 16**



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CAHSS dean search beginning to make progress

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

News Editor

The dean search for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS) is underway after the college operated with an interim dean since January 2009.

After 15 years at Wilkes, Dr. Darin Fields left the position of dean of the CAHSS in early January of 2009 to become vice president for academic affairs, dean of the faculty and professor of English at Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia. After Fields' departure, a search was held within the college to find an acting dean.

Dr. Thomas Baldino, interim dean of the CAHSS, applied for the position and signed a contract, which expires in May of this year. The expiration of his contract prompted a search to begin in January.

Dean John Stachacz, dean of library services, is heading the search committee of five other professors. The members of the

committee include: Sharon Bowar, associate professor of art; Dr. Marcia Farrell, assistant professor of English; Dr. Edward Foote, professor/chair of pharmacy practice; Eric Ruggiero, director integrative media; and Dr. Robert Tuttle, associate professor/chair of sociology and anthropology.

Stachacz headed the search committee for the Chief Information Officer at Wilkes University, in addition to several other searches during his career.

Baldino said he was curious about an administrative position, such as dean. He applied for the position temporarily with the understanding that he could apply for the full-time dean position once his contract expired in May 2010.

"As of this summer, I pretty much decided I wanted to return to the faculty," said Baldino. "I have had some satisfaction [as dean], but I think I'll get more going back to the classroom."

Currently, Stachacz said that there are

over 50 applicants for the position.

"I think we've seen some really good applicants for this position," said Stachacz. "We're still working through [the applications]."

The committee is now trying to narrow down the application pool to a few candidates.

"What we're looking for in a new dean, obviously, is somebody who has a good track record in teaching, working with students and faculty, and an administrative background," said Stachacz. "[The candidate] should have some experience in chairing a department."

Baldino believes that whoever is chosen to fill the position of dean should be committed to the College and the students of Wilkes University.

"Whoever holds the job needs to be absolutely committed to the liberal arts and the value of a liberal arts education [and] committed to student-centered education," said

Baldino.

Baldino also said that patience, good judgment and the ability to analyze and weigh alternatives are good qualities for a candidate to have. Above all, Baldino believes that the person who takes this job needs to like people because, as dean, he or she will deal with people on a daily basis.

The new dean will also deal with faculty review, faculty review for tenure and issues between faculty members or student-faculty issues.

Stachacz said he hopes to have selected at least three candidates to come to campus in early April to have interviews with the faculty and department chairs of the CAHSS. The prospective candidates will talk with members of the campus community, including students, the hiring committee, the provost and the president.

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ADMISSIONS

Continued from FRONT PAGE

budget was evaluated further by both Patton and Mickelson, they realized that they had a problem.

"When Amy took over as [interim] director of admissions, she and I sat down and started reviewing everything. We quickly realized that there just wasn't enough institutional funding to keep the students employed," said Mickelson.

Patton said that at this point, she went through the budget and found some extra money that she transferred from the operating budget to keep the students employed by admissions as long as possible. Even so, this funding only lasted long enough to employ the students for an extra month.

Mickelson said that letting go students is a normal part of the cycle in the admissions

office. Still, she went on to say that this usually doesn't happen until closer to the end of the semester and that there is also generally more warning.

"In the past when we had to lay students off, we would review the payroll and it would be more 'Okay, you guys, you can work this month, then after this month the money's gone.' However, that usually doesn't happen until April or May," said Mickelson.

To make up for the work that the students who were fired would be doing, Mickelson said that the students who are funded by federal work study dollars will pick up the slack.

"We do still have our federal work study students who are still employed and that budget is perfectly stable, so those students will be able to remain with us through the end of the semester," said Mickelson. "Plus, we have restructured so that we will have somewhat less need."

According to Mickelson, admissions knew after the December payroll that they would have to let students go. After Winter break commenced, the firings began.

"It [the firing] was not all at once. It varied based on what jobs they were doing, because we employ students doing a lot of different jobs in admissions," said Patton.

Though nine of the 30 students lost their jobs, all of the office-related jobs were eliminated. The admissions office also employs admissions ambassadors, or students who give tours of the campus to prospective students; those students were kept on. According to Patton, they will most likely only be used during Wilkes's upcoming VIP Day.

As for the future, both Mickelson and Patton said that they will be making some adjustments when it comes to the process of hiring students.

"I think we will definitely be reviewing all of the things that we need to address with

students prior to the start of the semester," said Mickelson. "There's been various work study issues that have come up throughout the years that we'd like to address upfront with students [in the future]."

According to Patton, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. This year students came in and we assumed that they would drop off, but they didn't. So next year, we're going to assume that they won't drop off either."

Both Mickelson and Patton also said that, in the future, they will tell students upon hiring that there is a chance they will not keep their jobs the entire year. Also, there will be more advanced warning as to if or when the students will be fired from admissions.

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Meet the Staff



Gillyan Gowarty
Assistant A&E Editor

Student Government Notes, February 24

BY JOSHUA PELLEW

Correspondent

Treasurer's Report:

All college: \$27,400
Conference: \$16,260
General: \$11,560
Leadership: \$5,235
Special projects: \$2,250
Spirit: \$480
Start-up: \$1,800
Total: \$64,095

Club Reports:

Programming Board will host Justin Kredible, a comedian and magician, on March 26.

Biology Club recently raised \$300 for Haiti relief efforts. The Biology Club will host Wilkes "Fear Factor" where professors will participate in the event. All the proceeds from the "Fear Factor" event will go to Haiti.

Psychology Club held a Krispy Kreme fund raiser, the Harvest Party, "Step By Step" event to help residential homeless in Kingston. They will also be hosting "Wilkes Night Out" next week and are planning a trip to the Bollywood exhibit.

New Business:

Zebra Communications Donation Request (Week 1 of 1): Zebra Communications asked for a donation of \$500 for their spring event: "Spring Wing & Sing." The event is in co-operation with the Victims Resource Center (VRC) and will be held on March 29. For students and the public, the cost will be \$5. The motion was passed 38-0-0.

The Tenth Annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference Donation Request (Week 1 of 1): Representatives from the Tenth Annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference requested \$470 for tee shirts for Communication Studies students who help during the conference. The motion was passed 38-0-0.

Winter Weekend Results: "Golden Girls" team won and raised \$500 for Ruth's Place.

Old Business:

Robotics Club Constitution was passed.

Nursing Student Organization fund request was not passed.

Adventures in Science was given \$2,500 for their project on April 23.

Winter Weekend was given \$2,300 for their budget.

Events:

MSC will hold their annual fashion show on March 20.

Block Party will be held on April 10.

Casino Night will be held at the Mohegan Sun Casino on April 30. Fall dates are currently being discussed.

Class reports:

The freshmen class is planning a root beer pong social.

The junior class had a good turn-out at their trivia night with about 40 people in attendance.

The senior class is planning a Bart & Urby's Senior Social. Also, senior class tee shirts are being sold for \$10.

Closing Comments:

OCC is currently planning March Madness and Field Hockey tournament.

IRHC purchased tee shirts for \$250. They also plan to volunteer at the local children's hospital

Bingo Night is planned for after Spring Break and the New York City trip will be held on March 27.

Comments from the Floor:

Executive Board told members that pre-registration for classes will begin March 15. Tryouts for the new Colonel will be held next week.

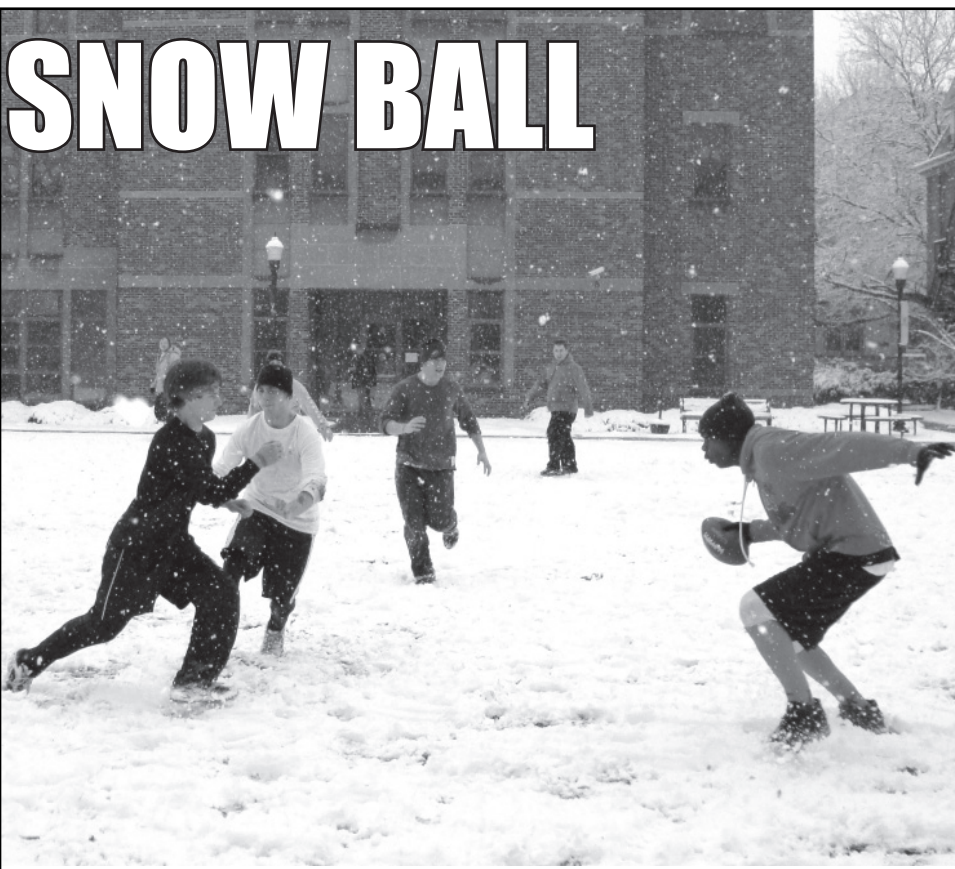
* At 6:45 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the SG meeting. The Motion was approved.

SG Meetings are open to all students. They are held every Wednesday in the Miller Conference Room on the second floor of HSC.



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The Beacon/Kirstin Cook

Here, students enjoyed their two days without school by playing football in the snow on the Fenner Quadrangle or greenway. Other students spent time indoors at Student Government's snow day event on the first floor of the SUB where there was hot chocolate and doughnuts. For a slide show of pictures of the snow day's events go to *The Beacon's* Web site.

Last week's winner of Januzzi's Dinner and a Movie for 2:

Stephanie Durk

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Drop forms off at The Beacon office in Conyngham Hall or at the desk in the Student Union by Friday, March 5, by noon.

One form per person. The winner will be announced in next week's issue.

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GO!

Marketing department wins three ADDY awards

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
News Editor

Wilkes University's marketing department won three awards from the Northeastern Pennsylvania AdClub (NPAC) at the 2009 ADDY Awards.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania AdClub, a non-profit organization, is a division of the American Advertising Federation (AAF). According to the NPAC's website, their purpose is to "promote greater effectiveness in the use of advertising as an instrument of distribution."

The three awards were presented to Lisa Reynolds, assistant director of creative services, on February 19, 2010 at the Green Ridge Club in Scranton. The awards were given for Wilkes's advertising campaign: "Be Colonel," which launched around early October of 2009.

Wilkes University partnered with 160over90, an advertising agency based out of Philadelphia, to create the "Be Colonel" campaign, which is a combination of animation, photographs, music and a narrative.

"[160over90] had the majority part in ac-

tually creating the website and the commercial," said Reynolds. "It's also a really big nod for them because they put in a ton of work [into the campaign]."

The ad campaign, which also featured the new Colonel mascot, has been airing on channels such as MTV and VH1 in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton markets.

"When the ADDY's came around, we looked at the categories and thought that we had a really viable chance to win one with the campaign that was created," said Reynolds. "We entered and were fortunate enough to win two Gold [Awards] and a Best in Show [Award]."

The marketing department won the first Gold Award for a local 30-second television spot for the "Be Colonel" ad campaign. The other gold award was for the BeColonel.com website design.

Because the department won the two gold awards, they are automatically entered into the national AAF competition.

Some of the major players working to achieve a successful "Be Colonel" ad campaign were Reynolds; Kimberly Bower-Spence, director of marketing communica-

tions; and Craig Thomas, director of Web services for marketing communications.

The Best in Show Award was given to Wilkes University because of the overall success of the "Be Colonel" campaign.

"The Best in Show Award is given to the best creative of all the entries in the show," said Jack Chielli, executive director of marketing communications. "The Northeastern Pennsylvania AdClub includes all of the ad agencies, the colleges, the hospitals; anybody who does a significant amount of marketing in the NEPA region."

The winner of the best in show award has the best ad out of any company that entered in any category, according to Chielli.

Winning ADDY awards is important to Wilkes University for a number of reasons.

"This is another way for Wilkes University to show that it is a high-quality university," said Chielli. "It [also] energizes the folks in the marketing department."

This year, the marketing department won a few other awards including a Gold Award in Magazine for Color at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District II.

Also, according to Chielli and Reynolds, the department was awarded three CUP-PIE's from the College and University Association of Public Relations of Pennsylvania (CUPRAP): a Gold Award in the Print Magazine category for the spring 2009 magazine, a Silver Award in the Electronic Category for the Wilkes Web-redesign and a Bronze Award in the Print-Brochure category for the health and sciences brochures.

"What you learn about advertising is that you have to be different," said Chielli. "You have to try and stand out from the crowd."

Chielli added that the support that he has received from the Wilkes community has been tremendous.

"The marketing department is very appreciative of the support we've gotten from campus," said Chielli. "It's very important that the faculty and the administrators have been extremely supportive of what [the marketing department] does. To know that the campus is behind you and enjoying what you're doing makes [work] really rewarding."

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Chinese New Year celebration



Photo courtesy of Shaokang Yang

Students play instruments during the Chinese New Year Celebration on Saturday, February 27. Attendees were able to try traditional Chinese foods, listen to music and talk with International students.

D'SOUZA

Continued from FRONT PAGE

"To be 17 years old and then ten years later be advising the president. That's not much older than we are," said Hirsh.

D'Souza brings the perspective of an immigrant with him when he speaks, too.

Born in India, D'Souza traveled to the U.S. when he was 17 years-old. He then attended college at Dartmouth, and was advising President Ronald Reagan by the age of 26.

"The immigrant has the advantage of growing up in a different culture, but the immigrant has the disadvantage of not knowing a lot about America," said D'Souza. "Most immigrants have the foreign accent; they haven't lived in America very long. So they know about some other culture, but they don't know a lot about America."

"To me, the kind of perspective I bring is the dual perspective of being both an insider and an outsider," he added. "That I think has helped my work and will certainly inform the theme of my talk."

D'Souza is currently working on two books, which will add to his already lengthy catalog of works. One book focuses on



Courtesy of Marketing Communications

"Obama's America," which will be released in the fall. The second looks at God and suffering, and is expected to be released next fall.

Hirsh said, "I think it is important to get different perspectives... One of the things that I'm going to ask him is why he left his country, what is the education background that enabled him to be a Reagan adviser so young, and just ask him about his personal life right now."

D'Souza will speak tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts. The event is free and open to the public.

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Student Development a valuable asset to Wilkes University

BY THE BEACON
 Editorial Board

The long-lived expression, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," comes to mind when talking about Student Development at Wilkes University. Well, it "ain't broke," so we are not going to try to fix it. Student Development is actually quite the contrary. It is a well-structured and truly democratic organization on campus. In fact, no other organization on campus encompasses so much student participation, so they admittedly deserve recognition for it.

Student Development's primary focus on campus is to plan activities for student participation. Thus far, they have done a stellar job planning events and activities that encompass the student body's wide variety of interests. From well-attended musical concerts, guest speakers, and sporting events, to the many other activities they plan each semester, Student Development clearly makes every effort to take an active role in

knowing what students are interested in on campus and satisfying those interests. With the addition of a new Adventure Education Coordinator, Student Development plans to hold more rock climbing sessions and outdoor excursions for students, as well.

"We come together as a whole department incorporating the co-op coordinator and the community service coordinator and we sit down and look at what the students want to see, especially when it comes to student activities planning," said Mellissa Howells, Student Development coordinator. "We really keep in mind what the students would like to go to, what they want to experience, especially outside of the classroom."

Though recently hired as Student Development Coordinator, she is already playing a vital role in the continuing success of Student Development and the other organizations she oversees on campus.

Students may not be aware that they do more than just plan concerts, guest speakers, and trips to sporting events. They also help plan freshmen orientation, commencement, and provide a multitude of leadership programs through the leadership institute.

Most importantly, Student Development creates a greater sense of community. It is the type of organization where every student can participate, opinions can be voiced, and interests can be cultivated. If we can all find programs or events that we enjoy at Wilkes, then both the University and the student body benefit as a result. If you are a student who is interested in something that Wilkes has yet to offer, go see the Student Development coordinator. You will not regret it.



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Though the Student Development office is small in size, many exciting decisions have been made from the desk of the Student Development coordinator involving concerts, sporting events, comedy acts, and so many others to accommodate student interests at Wilkes University.

Senate passing jobs bill shows continued political agreement

BY MATTHEW GOGAS
 Opinion Editor

If you have been watching the political news lately, you might have seen that the proposed 2010 jobs bill passed in the Senate last Wednesday. In a surprising turn of events, the bill passed 70 to 28 votes with 55 Democrats, 13 Republicans, and two Independents voting in favor.

What does this mean for John Q. Public? Well, if you are an employer, you will receive a tax break for hiring previously unemployed people for at least 60 days. Also, the proposed bill will also increase funds to states for highway and transit plans, increase loans to small businesses, provide subsidies to make homes more energy efficient, and aid state government funding.

The most important thing that we as Americans need to know from all this jobs bill discussion is that Democrats and Republicans finally came to an agreement on how to boost the United States' stalling economy.

We, as Americans, need to see Congress agree on more legislation like this proposed jobs bill. Too many people stand to benefit from this bill and the many others that have been promised this year. Indecision and public disagreement of these proposed bills and many other bills that will benefit the United States will only hinder the progress that our country is making.

Currently there are 57 Democrats, 41 Republicans, one Independent, and one Independent Democrat in the Senate. There are 255 Democrats and 178 Republicans and two vacancies in the House of Representatives. Though the Democrats hold the majority in Congress, both parties still need to vote on these key policies before they can be made into laws. For years we have seen bills get rejected for this reason, which is why we need to see more agreement.

We need our leaders to reach a common ground like they have with this jobs bill. Indecision and public disagreement of these proposed bills and many other bills that will benefit the United States will only hinder any future progress.

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BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. The poll was based on 96 responses.

Last week's question:

Do you agree with the Wilkes administration decision to censor comments on *The Beacon* website?

- Yes 10%
- No 90%

This week, *The Beacon* asks:

Do you feel that Student Development is doing a good job at Wilkes University?

- Yes
- No

Cast your vote online at:
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One too many parking tickets prompts professor to take the bus

BY DR. GINA MORRISON

Associate Professor of Education

I confess it; I did the crime. Over the past few years I parked my car in so many non-parking spots—little nooks and crannies, unmarked extra spaces, and secret hide-aways—that I accrued quite a collection of those nasty white tickets. I'm not proud of it and I'm confessing it to the world.

It always started the same way: I had to get to work and I needed to park my car. It's a terrible addiction, but admitting it is the first step to recovery. The amount I've spent feeding the addiction is frightening: about \$4500 since my hire at Wilkes! I paid my money faithfully, only to find that I was seldom able to find a parking spot within reasonable distance to carry my laptop, purse, books, notes, and class props without something falling out. And with that many things to carry, managing an umbrella is just not an option. So I won't even tell you my reaction if it started to rain on my journey to work.

Oh, I was able to get pretty creative when I needed that parking spot fix. I parked in unmarked spots behind walls, tucked in gravelly curves or cobblestoned corners. Or worse: sometimes I even parked in a visitor's spot, out of sheer frustration in seeing so many un-ticketed non-Wilkes vehicles filling up all the paid-Wilkes spots. It became a terrible habit. In the end, they always found me, gave me the ticket, and painted a big NO PARKING sign on the spot. I don't blame security. They didn't make the rules, but it's their job to enforce them. Alas, I fear that I alone am responsible for the many NO PARKING signs that have sprung up over the years in the most unusual spots. And

I'm sorry that I've ruined these spots for the rest of you, my friends.

There's more to this sad story, though: I paid my \$30 a month even during summer when I wasn't even working here, because when I asked to opt out for the summer, I was told no! If you sign up for parking, you're hooked. Forever. And I paid that \$30 a month all year round, year after year, even when my schedule changed to accommodate online, night, and weekend classes. By the way, did you know that it doesn't matter if you have a pass after 4:30 p.m. anyway? So, month after month, year after year, I paid for a spot that either wasn't within walking distance during the day, or was no longer reserved for paying customers at night. Let's face it; it's just not logical. Addictions never are.

It finally caught up with me. "Do the crime, you pay the dime." Or, in my case, 2000 dimes. Yep, I got a bill for \$200 for all those little white tickets I have accrued since 2006. And I've already asked finance to take the money right out of my paycheck. No, I'm not mad at them either. They've got a job to do, too. I'm just grateful to be able to pay my debts to Wilkes and to society, to come clean and make a fresh start.

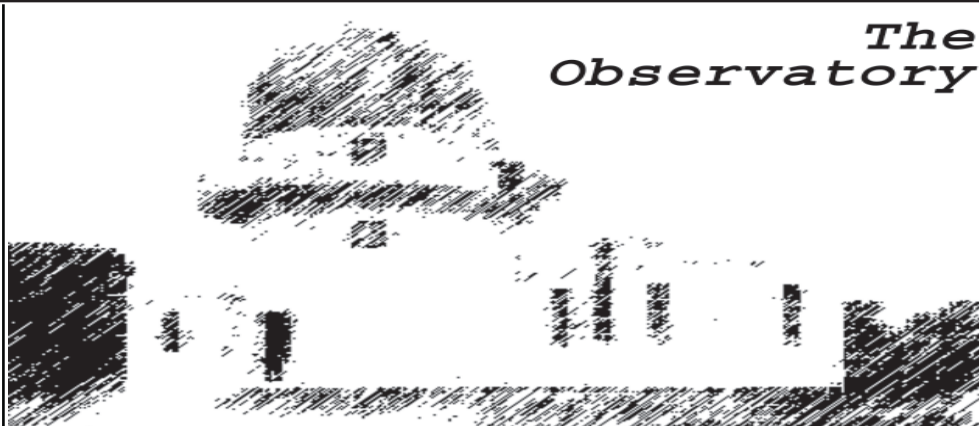
Anyway, I'm free! I cancelled my parking pass and I have been taking the bus. I'm a new person, and, like many ex-addicts, I want to share my good news with the world. You, too, might consider cancelling your parking pass and taking the bus! Think about it while you read my list below.

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TOP TEN REASONS TO TAKE THE BUS

10. The new hybrid buses are environmentally correct and comfortable, too.
9. You can read Dr. Anthony's students' poetry on the walls of the bus while enjoying the stress-free ride to campus.
8. The bus company's phone number is easy to remember and the people who answer are really helpful: Call 287-TIME and find out for yourself.
7. You only have to walk from downtown, which is almost the same distance you're probably walking now anyway.
6. You can stop by Circles for a blueberry muffin, grab a coffee at the bookstore, and browse at Boscov's on your way to campus.
5. You only pay for what you use! You can get 20 rides for \$22, which still leaves you with enough money for that muffin and coffee.
4. There's plenty of room on the bus for my new wheelie-thingy that carries my laptop and classroom props, and it's easier to get it in and out of the bus than my car.
3. The bus drivers are great, especially Bob and Lou, who know their passengers by name.
2. You get to meet all sorts of people on the bus: moms, businessmen, students, professors—mostly just people who are sick and tired of fighting for parking spots downtown.
1. On weekends and after 4:30 during the week, you can still park on campus for free!



The Observatory

Tim Burton, clearly the most typecast director in Hollywood

BY MATTHEW GOGAS

Opinion Editor

We have all been brainwashed. Some of us may not have even known it until reading this, but it's true. We have all been brainwashed into thinking that Tim Burton is an excellent filmmaker; albeit he once was, but not anymore.

For years we have been dazzled by his eerie filmmaking style, strange motifs, and zany characters. The only problem here is: most of these characters have already been developed by literary figures and/or other filmmakers and Burton's style never really progresses or matures. And to my knowledge, it does not seem as if anyone really seems to notice. These issues need to be addressed and truth needs to come out now.

Let's start with some of his earlier works. *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, *Batman*, *Beetlejuice*, *Batman Returns*, and *Edward Scissorhands* were all admittedly great films. They were truly innovative for their time and showed great promise for Tim Burton's directorial career, but that starts to unravel from here.

Burton's most praised claim to filmmaking fame came next with *The Nightmare Before Christmas* in 1993. Though Burton did not direct, he developed the characters and story, as well as produced the film. To be honest, I never even saw it. Any chance of having an enjoyable experience while watching the movie has been ruined by seeing countless tweens and teens sporting *The Nightmare Before Christmas* t-shirts and sweat jackets.

Moving on, Burton next tackles the life of b-horror director, *Ed Wood*. He does the movie in black and white and stars Johnny Depp in the title role. The film is not well received commercially, so what does Burton do? He goes back to making stop-motion animation musicals by producing *James and the Giant Peach*.

After that he does a couple more spooky films, but not really worth mentioning

for the sake of argument. Let's just say they were commercial flops and move on, though Johnny Depp stars once again in the leading role of one of them and Burton borrowed the story from Washington Irving. (It's *Sleepy Hollow*.)

Next comes a "re-imagining" of *Planet of the Apes*, not a remake as Tim Burton stated making the film. This film sees Burton's girlfriend, Helena Bonham Carter for the first time.

Big Fish is the next film. It is a cute story and enjoyable. However, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* follows two years later and diminishes any hope of Tim Burton diversifying himself as a filmmaker. It was adapted from the Roald Dahl book and is yet another remake of the story.

Uh-oh, here comes more spooky-ness with *Corpse Bride*. After that comes *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, a play adaptation, and *Alice in Wonderland*, a loose adaptation of Lewis Carroll's book by the same name. With the exception of *Big Fish*, what do all of these films have in common? They were all filmed with the same unchanging Burton style and they all star Depp and Carter in leading roles.

Now Burton is planning to adapt a cheesy 60s soap opera, *Dark Shadows*, into a film and remake one of his earlier short films, *Frankenweenie*. It is not difficult to adapt other works and remake your own films, Tim Burton. Please come up with something original for a change.

With all that being said, Tim Burton really needs to change his style and stop casting the same actors in every movie and we all need to start realizing this and boycott these movies. Failure only has the potential to force him to digress from the norm, otherwise the trend will continue and Burton will just continue to type-cast himself and tarnish his legacy in the filmmaking industry.

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The golden rule does not apply to eBay

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO

Assistant Opinion Editor

A majority of eBay users take part in honest, smooth transactions; however, the world's most popular online marketplace is littered with swindlers who profit off of average, hard-working citizens. These criminals deserve to be prosecuted and jailed, but unfortunately, most will never be reprimanded for their parasitic actions.

I feel that eBay users need to be made aware of common scams and also how these scams can be avoided. Knowing scam prevention techniques may not drag scammers into a courtroom, but they can help us honest consumers avoid losing our hard-earned dough.

Since eBay began as AuctionWeb in 1995, scammers have discovered methods to cheat the system and its honest users. According to ScamBusters.org, there are nearly 2,000 scams in progress on eBay at any given time. Everyone I know that has ever browsed eBay has seen less-than-truthful listings. Even my 9-year-old brother once spotted people selling empty boxes of brand new video game systems. Unfortunately, most eBay scams are much more difficult to

spot than items listed as "Brand New PlayStation 3 – Empty Box."

The most common scam appears in the form of an email that is presented as an official eBay or PayPal e-mail. The e-mail directs the user to a fake eBay page and once the user enters his or her login information, the scammer can gain limitless access to the user's account, allowing the scammer to sabotage the user by bidding thousands of dollars for a single "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" DVD.

Though the e-mail scam is the most popular, there are a multitude of other common scams, such as sellers shipping incorrect, fake or broken items, sellers raising bids on their own items through different accounts, fake "Second Chance Offers" and many more.

Although eBay users cannot always protect themselves from scammers, there are several precautions users can take to reduce the possibility of being scammed. I have been employing several of these techniques and have not yet been taken for a single penny.

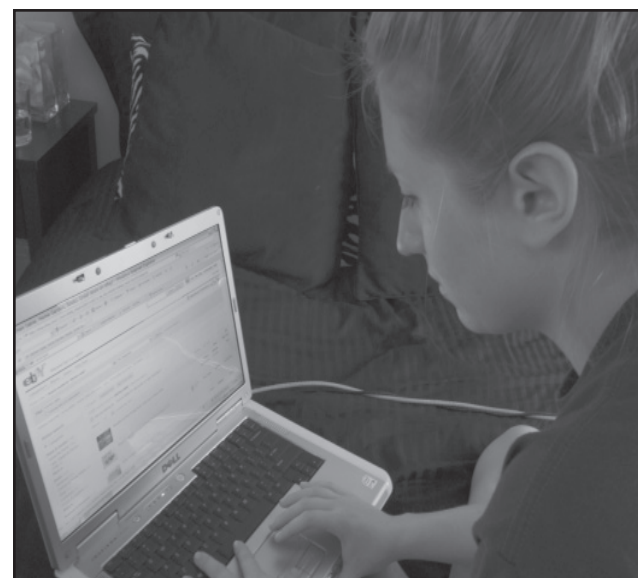
The most important technique to avoid being scammed is to always read the seller's feedback. If a seller's feedback has a mes-

sage saying, "This nincompoop took my money and disappeared," then he/she is probably not a good person to do business with.

Another simple technique is to read the entire listing of the item carefully. Unless you are seeking a broken item, do not bid if it is described as being broken.

Creating a separate e-mail address strictly for eBay and PayPal will make it easier for you to keep track of all eBay-related messages and will prevent scammers from finding more information about you by performing a Google search of your main e-mail address.

There are hundreds of websites describing many other methods that can be used to avoid being scammed. Sadly, there is no sure-fire way to avoid scams, as scammers have become accustomed to finding loopholes and inventing new scamming methods. Though scammers will most likely not become ex-



The Beacon/Allison Roth

Sophomore business major Raina Connor contemplates placing a bid on an eBay auction. Scammers on eBay are constantly seeking victims; therefore, users are highly recommended to take precautions.

tinct in the near future, we have the power as consumers to thwart their selfish plans by educating ourselves on scamming techniques to prevent becoming victims.

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Are there rules when it comes to text messaging?

BY BRYAN CALABRO

Correspondent

So you like to text message? It is often easier than talking and less stressful because you do not have to deal with uncomfortable pauses and awkward moments. You get to think before you act and make up a good message/story to send out into the digital world.

I always wondered if there were actual rules when it came to texting, so I got bored one day and decided to do my own investigation on texting etiquette. The website life123.com has mapped out three distinct guidelines for proper etiquette when sending text messages. With their help, which is illustrated in the first four rules and a few of my own suggestions, I have constructed some basic measures that should be followed when one is composing a text message/SMS (Short Message Service).

1) You do not want to die, right? Do not text message while you are driving for obvious reasons. According to Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and Liberty Mutual Insurance Group, text messaging

while driving leads the list as the biggest distraction while driving, and is considered to be becoming as dangerous as drinking and driving, in terms of distorting a teen's perception while driving.

2) Make sure you watch how you word your text messages; sarcasm is hard to get across to the person reading your text. They might take something you say the wrong way. When you mess up the punctuation and make all your letters CAPS, people might think you are shouting at them.

3) If you are texting something important, refrain from using slang terms. Serious matters call for actual words, not abbreviations. Ex: Lol, Lmao, k, and cuz. These slang terms can make you sound quite dull.

4) Do not use text messaging for anything that is formal. For example, breaking up with your girlfriend/boyfriend, or telling your friend that someone else had died. Face to face conversations are preferred when it comes to serious matters.

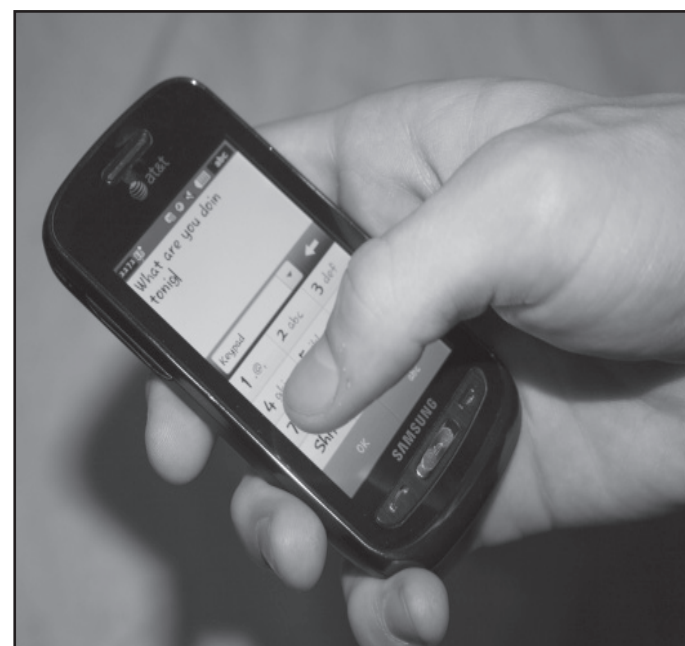
5) Texting under the influence can leave you with disastrous results. Sending a drunken text at 3 a.m. saying, "hey wut up foxy lady," can make you look like a fool

later in the morning. Do not drunk text if you want to save yourself the embarrassment.

6) And finally, when you are in class, talking to your friends or in a conversation with someone, do not just pull your phone out in front of them and start texting. Text when no one can see you. There is nothing more annoying than someone talking to someone else while they are supposed to be talking to you.

Just remember these six rules when you pull out your phone to start texting. You could offend people, possibly get in trouble with your professor or employer and make a fool out of yourself.

I am sure no one wants to do that.



The Beacon/Tom Reilly

A student is in the process of composing a text message. Although text messaging is sometimes more convenient than talking to someone, there are important rules to remember when sending text messages.

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MARCH 2, 2010

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Student of the Week: Brandon Pauling

RUTH WHISPELL

Assistant Life Editor

As we all know, the deadline for taxes is fast approaching. Brandon Pauling, a junior accounting major, has volunteered his time to make sure people in the Wilkes-Barre community are prepared for the April 15 deadline.

Pauling is a volunteer for VITA, which stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. VITA volunteers, as stated on vita-volunteers.com, provide free income tax preparation assistance to those people who are low-income, elderly, disabled or speak limited English.

"I thought the program would be good to do because it's something that I will be doing when I graduate from Wilkes. I also thought it was a good idea to help people in Wilkes-Barre with their taxes," said Pauling.

In order to be a VITA volunteer, Pauling had to have taken both individual and corporate taxes, two courses taught by Ms. Cynthia Chisarick, associate professor of the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, and he also had to pass a test given by VITA.

Pauling considers being a VITA volunteer excellent practice and hopes to gain more experience in the field of accounting.

He has been helping an average of three to four people every Saturday since the beginning of February. The last day Pauling will be volunteering for VITA is February 27.



The Beacon/ Allison Roth

Pauling is a volunteer for VITA, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance.

The Beacon: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Pauling: In ten years, I would like to have my CPA licenses, and either be high up in a CPA firm or be an accounting manager in a company. I would like to get my MBA during that time and maybe have a family.

The Beacon: Describe yourself in three words.

Pauling: Nice, friendly and helpful.

The Beacon: Finish the sentence, "My friends would be surprised to know..."

Pauling: What size shoe I wear, which is a size 13.

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Forty days of Lent & fasting

RUTH WHISPELL

Assistant Life Editor

The season of Lent lasts for 40 days, during which time many Christians fast. Some don't eat meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent. Others will give up something that they normally eat or do all the time.

"Lent may be one of the oldest Christian seasons and is one of the two traditional periods of repentance within the Christian calendar," said Dr. Michael Davidson, assistant professor of history.

Christians have observed Lent in one form or another since at least the second century, but originally Lent was not 40 days long, said Davidson.

He explained that, years ago, people who were being baptized or receiving confirmation to become a Christian practiced a strict 40-hour period of fasting. This fasting began on Good Friday and went into Easter, which was their baptism.

"This corresponded with the 40 hours during which Jesus, by tradition, lay in his tomb. Eventually this period was extended throughout the entire Easter week," said Davidson. "In the fourth century, the period was extended to 40 days, corresponding with the period of Jesus' temptation in the desert, and became common practice among all Christians."

Today, many people from different forms of Christianity and diverse backgrounds

still practice Lent. This is why Rifkin Cafe, located on the first floor of the Henry Student Center, has a list of various non-meat meals that can be ordered on Wednesdays or Fridays.

Bea Kopec, a cashier at Rifkin Cafe, explained that, although the list is designed for Lent, anyone can order those items on any day.

Egg salad, a cheese quesadilla, eggplant parmesan sub and tuna salad are just some of the meals that you can purchase during Lent. The full list can be found in Rifkin Café on the glass divider, where orders are placed.

The cafeteria is also offering a special menu for Lent. According to Michael Molnar, general manager of Sodexo, the cafeteria offers more non-meat or fish items on Ash Wednesday and Fridays throughout Lent.

"Every day we offer a vegetarian option or the salad bar, but those days are not entirely meatless days," said Molnar.

Molnar explained that if anyone from any religion at any time made it known that they had a reasonable special preference then the cafeteria would try to honor that person's request.

Today, most Catholics, and even some people who are not Catholic, give up meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent.

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The power of positive thinking around Wilkes

ADRIENNE SHELLENBERGER

Correspondent

If you feel like you are always complaining and your friends constantly tell you that you're a negative person, perhaps it's time to change it up and start thinking positive.

"I try to use positive thinking; it's what gets me through nursing at Wilkes," said Amanda Rodney, junior, nursing major.

Many people believe that if one thinks positively, only positive things will happen in their life. Around campus, the attitudes seem to reflect being optimistic, but realistic.

"I do not advocate positive thinking," said philosophy professor, Dr. Linda Paul. "I advocate realistic thinking, this means taking into account all aspects of a situation."

Positive thinking isn't about convincing

oneself of false realities, but simply looking on the bright side and dealing with any situations that may come their way.

"We have to work to find a good balance in our attention of the positive and the negative," said Paul.

"Thinking positive doesn't mean being a smiling idiot and smearing rainbows on the harsh realities of life," said English professor Dr. Mischelle Anthony. "It's facing life in the present moment. Recognizing patterns and being open to change in realistic, helpful ways while being as aware as possible of every one that our decisions could affect."

It can be dangerous to only focus on the positive. However, it can also be unhealthy to focus only on the negative.

"I try to be aware of things as they are, rather than how I want them to be or expect

them to be," said Paul. "I try to appreciate them for what they are."

"My family's always been the 'put on a happy face' type," said Anthony. She explained that she became a truly positive person after she learned about anxious thought patterns and how to deal with them.

"That's what got me into what I call traditional Buddhism practices, which involves regular meditation and close attention to our surroundings," she said.

Some people consider Buddhism a religion, but it's a philosophy. If a person wanted to become a more calm and positive person, he/she can research Buddhism. Paul teaches about Buddhism in her Philosophy 101 course.

So if someone thinks that they will get an A on a test without studying, will it work? Probably not, but if someone stays positive

and doesn't complain and dread studying, it might pay off.

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Top o' the morning

Wilkes students uphold Irish traditions on St. Patrick's Day

BY KIRSTIN COOK

Assistant A&E Editor

With St. Patrick's Day approaching, many old traditions and family values are emerging among Wilkes students. Because of a rich historical heritage, St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17, has a special relevance in the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton area.

The annual Scranton Parade is one of the biggest St. Patrick's Day events in the country. Overall, the celebration is the fourth-largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the United States, according to NBC Philadelphia. In 2008, there was an estimated 150,000 people who attended the parade. This year, the Scranton St. Patrick's Parade will take place on March 13 and will start at 12 p.m.

According to www.stpatparade.com, a page devoted to the parade in Scranton, the event has been held for many years, beginning in 1962.

The Scranton parade has a personal importance to pharmacy major Natalia Petrochko. "I've been in the [Scranton] parade twice, but I've never actually gone to see it," she said.

Petrochko, a freshman, says she is usually a participant in parades rather than an observer. She used to play bagpipes in the Edward P. Maloney Memorial pipe band from Binghamton, New York, and admits that she is disappointed that she is unable to participate this year.

"Normally I would be playing the bagpipes in the parade, but because of school I haven't been able to go to practice, so this year I'll just be supporting the band, cheering them on from the sidelines," she

said. Petrochko has marched in several parades since she began playing the bagpipes. "I've been playing the bagpipes for about five years," she said, adding that she has marched in countless parades during that time.

Being a part of the parade has become a great St. Patrick's Day memory for Petrochko, since she was able to spend time with all of her friends in the band. "It's just a lot of fun; I know back home our parade day is the same thing, just get out and have fun."

Petrochko enjoys being active in the St. Patrick's Day festivities, even though there is no ancestral importance behind it for her. "I'm not even Irish. I'm Russian," she said.

For Julie O'Leary, there is a family significance behind her celebration. The freshman mathematics major enjoys a traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner with her family every year to celebrate their Irish heritage.

"Corned beef and cabbage is the main thing, and then you have some other sides, like sometimes my mom will make corn and potatoes," said O'Leary.

This St. Patrick's Day feast has been a tradition in the O'Leary family through many generations. "Both my parents are 50 percent Irish, so I'm sure they grew up doing the same thing."

O'Leary said she looks forward to the customary meal each year, so much that it has become her favorite part of the holiday. "We only do it once a year, that's the only time my mom makes it," she said.

For her St. Patrick's Day tradition, freshman nursing major Sarah Rollison attends the Scranton parade, along with thousands of other community members. Like Petrochko, Rollison is not accustomed to viewing the parade from the sidelines.

"I actually played in band with my high school and marched in it for the last four years," said Rollison.

Rollison says that the parade attracts all types of people. "It's either a lot of really bizarre people, or a lot of really normal people just trying to enjoy the parade."

Since she hails from the Scranton area, Rollison looks forward to the time spent at home with her relatives. "My favorite part

would probably just be getting to hang out with my family again, because I'm from around Scranton," she said.

Rollison believes that the importance behind the parade is a result of the associated history. "I think in Scranton there's a lot of the Irish history, like a lot of people that came over from Ireland and settled around this area. Then, I think over the years...it just got so much attention that it just expanded."

According to "Colonial Scots-Irish Immigrants: The Irish Records", an article by Kyle J. Betit, many of the earliest Scots-Irish immigrants settled in Pennsylvania during the 1720's and 1730's. This immigration in the Scranton area is what began the celebrated culture.

The enhanced Irish culture is one of the best aspects of the parade for Ryan Stanger, theater arts major. "The whole Irish atmosphere, there's just so much culture there, it's so much fun to be a part of."

Stanger also marched in the parade during his high school career. He has been involved with the parade every year since he has moved to the area. The highlight of his St. Patrick's Day experiences is the memory of when his high school band won the parade contest among the other participating bands.

Whether it is attending the Scranton parade or spending time with family, there are plenty of ways that students can appreciate this Irish celebration. It is clear that there is more substance to this holiday than just leprecons, shamrocks, and pots of gold.

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Photo courtesy of Natalia Petrochko

Natalia Petrochko, second from left, stands with fellow bagpipers during the 2009 St. Patrick's Day parade in New York.

Saidu Barrie: former refugee, current student, future humantitarian

BY CATHRYN FREAR

Assistant News Editor

Freshman pharmacy major Saidu Barrie approximates that he was about two years old when he and his family fled north to Guinea from his birth country of Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the African countries that has been facing conflict over its natural supply of diamonds.

Barrie doesn't remember much about his early life in Sierra Leone and, he said, he prefers not to ask his family too much about it.

"I don't ask a lot about it, because it just upsets my family," said Barrie. "I think it's

better to just let it go and move on."

However, Barrie said that growing up in Guinea wasn't bad. He received a good education—attending a French school—and excelled in his studies. By the time he was ready to think about life after high school, his father had moved to the United States, so Barrie looked at some of the schools around the U.S, looking for a school with an attractive program in pharmacy.

"I chose Wilkes because it has a really good pharmacy program," said Barrie. "Also, I applied to schools like Temple, but they wanted me to complete some kind of cultural requirements and I just wanted to start school. I didn't want to wait."

Barrie wanted to start as quickly as possible, but has had a little delay.

"I had to go in as an undeclared science major," said Barrie.

There are lots of reasons that Barrie wants to start and finish school with haste. The most important reason is that he would like to start making money as soon as he can. Not for the sometimes selfish reasons people want money, however. Barrie doesn't want to buy a huge house or expensive cars; he wants to help the people of Guinea. He considers Guinea to be his home country and he wants to give back in any way that he can.

"I want to help them build things. They

could use schools and hospitals. I would also like to build mosques," said Barrie.

Though he doesn't have a lot of free time as a student, Barrie signed up as a member of Wilkes' branch of Circle K, a community service program. "I have a very busy schedule, but I am still part of it," said Barrie.

He also plans on helping to support his family, as is customary in Guinea. "People here, when they get jobs, they support themselves and their children," said Barrie. "Where I'm from, we help cousins and aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews."

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College Days

Dr. Jennifer Edmonds uses time at University of Michigan to find true friends

BY LEEANN SEARFOSS

Life Editor

Dr. Jennifer Edmonds sits at a desk in a classroom in high school. She looks to the left. She sees another girl. She looks to the right. She sees another girl.

Jennifer Edmonds sits at a desk in a classroom in college. She looks to the left. She sees a boy.

Edmonds, coming from an all girls' school in Detroit, Michigan, went from a high school of 600 students to classes of 600 students.

"Maybe there were 600 in my high school—all girls--Catholic. [In comparison,] my organic chemistry lecture...fit 600," said Edmonds.

While Edmonds, now assistant professor of business, only lived 45 minutes away from the University of Michigan, where she majored in chemical engineering, the University of Michigan was leaps and bounds away from her upbringing.

According to Edmonds, she was not allowed even to talk to boys until she was 14 years old.

"I lived in a very traditional house. You can't talk to boys on the phone until you're 14. You can't date until you're 16," said Edmonds.

Once at the University of Michigan, Edmonds let loose, or at least as loose as one can be as a chemical engineering student.

While Michigan's engineering program was a four-year program, many students completed it in four and a half years or even five.

"Here, students take 18 credits almost like it's no big deal. It was a big deal to take 15, usually 12. You did all your general education stuff the first two years and what was left was only your major," said Edmonds.

Edmonds became acclimated to the academics of higher education within the first two years at Michigan.

"Freshman year was just okay, not great. I would get Bs and Cs [in college], when

in high school I got As and Bs," said Edmonds. "Maybe a year and a half of that, and then you drifted towards your major, and you couldn't do that anymore."

Beyond her academics, Edmonds threw herself into several different extracurricular activities. While she believes she should have joined them earlier, Edmonds joined several clubs relating to chemical engineering.

"There was a chemical engineering club, a minorities in engineering club. Most of them were engineering clubs. You socialized with people in your major, because they knew this is a time to study. Most of the social stuff I did, I did with engineers," said Edmonds.

One of the extracurriculars Edmonds did not do with engineers was the African dance group she became a part of after taking an African dance class. A dancer from her childhood, she took the course on a whim while at Michigan and was later approached by the instructor to join the group.

With her studies all in a row, Edmonds used her time at Michigan to learn lessons about herself, and she did not even notice.

"I think you do so many different things in college. I was able to be a student before that. I didn't know how to date. I didn't know who was out there to date. I figured out in college what makes a good friend, and who ends up not being a good friend," said Edmonds.

Hindsight into her five years at Michigan gave Edmonds the perspective to truly value herself and who she surrounds herself with.

"It comes from dating. You date bad guys, and you realize 'Wait, I don't deserve to be treated that way.' Then you extend it to your friends and how they treat you," said Edmonds.

Edmonds' college days were truly revolutionary to her studying habits, her social habits, and who she eventually became as a person.

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Photos courtesy of Jennifer Edmonds

Left: Edmonds sits in the middle of her African dance group. Middle: Edmonds stands with a friend on Michigan's campus. Above: Edmonds, left, poses for pictures after graduating from the University of Michigan.

In her own words, Edmonds hash bashes:

“Then there was hash bash. Every April. There was this event. It was a sit-in on the Michigan equivalent of the greenway. First Saturday in April. It was a protest to legalize marijuana. It was a smoke-out. I did not [partake in that]. I may have. I can't remember. I may have walked by. It was kind of cool. This was concerts and speeches and sit down and smoke weed. You only got arrested if you got caught selling. It was a very peaceful thing, as long as you weren't getting carried away. It's just sitting, sitting on the grass...high.”

Wilkes University's Health & Wellness Corner

The Health & Wellness Corner is a weekly feature in The Beacon. Students who ask questions will remain anonymous. All questions will be answered by Health Services staff.

Q. Can you help me to understand more about eating disorders?

A. Bulimia usually begins in late adolescence and early adulthood. Persons with bulimia are aware of the problem and work to keep it secretive. Bulimia Nervosa consists of recurrent episodes of binge eating when a person eats an excessive amount of food within any two-hour period feeling a lack of control over their eating. The binge eating and inappropriate compensatory behaviors both occur, on average, at least twice a week for three months. A person's self worth is greatly influenced by body shape and weight. There is a purging type of bulimia disorder and non-purging type. In the non-purging type, a person uses other compensatory behaviors such as fasting or excessive exercise. Finally, there are disordered eating patterns that do not meet the criteria for any specific eating disorder. An example of this would be binge-eating disorder where a person engages in binge eating but does not use compensatory be-

haviors.

Common warning signs of eating disorders include: preoccupation with body type/weight, continuous dieting even when thin, obsessing over food, calories, nutrition, making excuses to avoid eating, eating high calorie foods in secret, compulsive exercise, eating alone or in secret, and going to the bathroom right after meals.

The risks of anorexia nervosa are: loss of approximately 30% or more of body weight leading to emaciation, irregular or complete loss of menstrual period, dry skin, hair loss, growth of fine body hair, withdrawal and isolation, and death. The risks of bulimia are: abdominal pain due to overeating, heart and kidney problems, excessive constipation, digestive problems, swollen salivary glands, a tear in the esophagus, and diarrhea.

Next week's column will include a compassionate look at those who suffer with eating disorders and practical ways to help.

Do you have a question for the Health & Wellness Corner? Email your question to, wellness.services@wilkes.edu, and you may see your question in next weeks Wellness Corner. Your privacy will be protected.

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Wilkes casts alumnus in lead role of *Dracula*

BY NICOLE FRAIL

Editor-in-Chief

& GILLYAN GOWARTY

Asst. A&E Editor

On Friday, January 22, students of Wilkes University took to the stage to audition for various parts in the school's upcoming theatre production, *Dracula*, which will be presented this April.

Junior John Layton had planned on trying out for the lead role and was surprised to find a familiar face reading for the same spot—Daniel Pascoe, a graduate of the Class of 2009.

Having only previously worked with current Wilkes undergraduate students - and occasionally a child or two from the Conservatory - in Wilkes productions, Layton said he questioned the audition policy and was told that auditions for *Dracula* were open to the public, meaning anyone from the surrounding community could audition for a part.

According to Layton, this was the first he heard of an open audition policy. Of the four productions held this year—*The Love of the*

Nightingale, *Brenda Bly: Teen Detective*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Dracula*—Layton said that Pascoe was the only community member who auditioned for a role.

The Visual and Performing Arts Department's page on the Wilkes Web site states that the department "is committed to nurturing a climate in which a community of artists-educators, diverse student population, and the public-at-large engage in art, dance, music, and theatre."

While this statement mentions that the "public-at-large" are allowed to "engage" in the department's productions, it does not distinguish between engaging as part of the audience or as a member of the cast.

Several attempts were made to contact members of the Visual and Performing Arts Department to clarify the auditioning policy, but faculty declined to share details of the casting process with *The Beacon*.

Despite the unclear rules that may be in place regarding casting, current and former theatre majors feel that the casting of alumni or members of the community in a Wilkes production is unfair.

Christopher Lucas, Class of 2007, sent a letter to *The Beacon* to air his feelings on the situation.

"There are students that are paying over \$100,000 over the course of their four-year stint at Wilkes University for a quality education and I feel by casting an alumnus, you are not only cheating them out of their money, but cheating them out of a quality education," Lucas, a theatre graduate. "It feels as though part of the money that they are putting in as a student is being handed over to the alumnus actor."

Layton agreed, stating that current students should be given these opportunities to prepare them for their careers. He added that holding open auditions for a student production does not make sense because student productions should be filled by students.

"I'm sure the [Wilkes] football team would love to have Peyton Manning come and play if they were allowed to have open try outs," said Layton.

Lucas also added in his letter that casting former Wilkes students or members of the community weighs on current students'

confidence levels. He said that Wilkes students may think that the directors may feel that they "do not currently have the talent pool amongst their current students to be able to play a lead role in a main stage production" and must search elsewhere to fulfill these roles.

Layton agreed. "We all go to Wilkes and if we're not good enough to play this part, are they training us the right way?" he asked.

With an open audition policy, Layton questioned how Wilkes' theatre productions are any different from those put on by community theatres. Representatives of the department would not provide *The Beacon* with information that would clarify the differences between these two types of productions.

Upset with the decision to cast a non-Wilkes student in *Dracula*, Layton said he contacted Joseph Dawson, chair of the Visual and Performing Arts department, for further clarification on the audition policies. But when he didn't get a direct answer regarding the policy, he told Dawson he would not

SEE DRACULA, Page 15

Globetrotters provide silly and sporty fun for viewers

BY KIRSTIN COOK

Assistant A&E Editor

On Friday, February 26, The Harlem Globetrotters made a stop in their 2010 world tour at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre. With a focus on audience participation, the performance brought out the child in every audience member.

The show was a blend between humorous theatrical antics and athletic talent. It was constructed of a basketball game against the Washington Generals, with a silly plot line incorporated.

The players had imaginary names with personalities to match. The line-up consisted of the likes of Bear Butler, Moo Moo Evans, and Rocket Rivers. The leader of the pack seemed to be Hi-Lite Bruton, who narrated for the team as he played along.

Another player, Cobra Coley, entertained the audience with his signature cobra imitation after every slam dunk.

There were several basketball tricks incorporated into the game, which made it more of an entertainment event than a sporting event. At the beginning of the show, there

was a break-dance performance showing off skilled moves and building the fun atmosphere.

During halftime, the show featured a dance and stunt performance by Northeastern Pennsylvania's very own dance company, The David Blight School of Dance. These dancers were from all age groups, and wore eye-catching neon outfits.

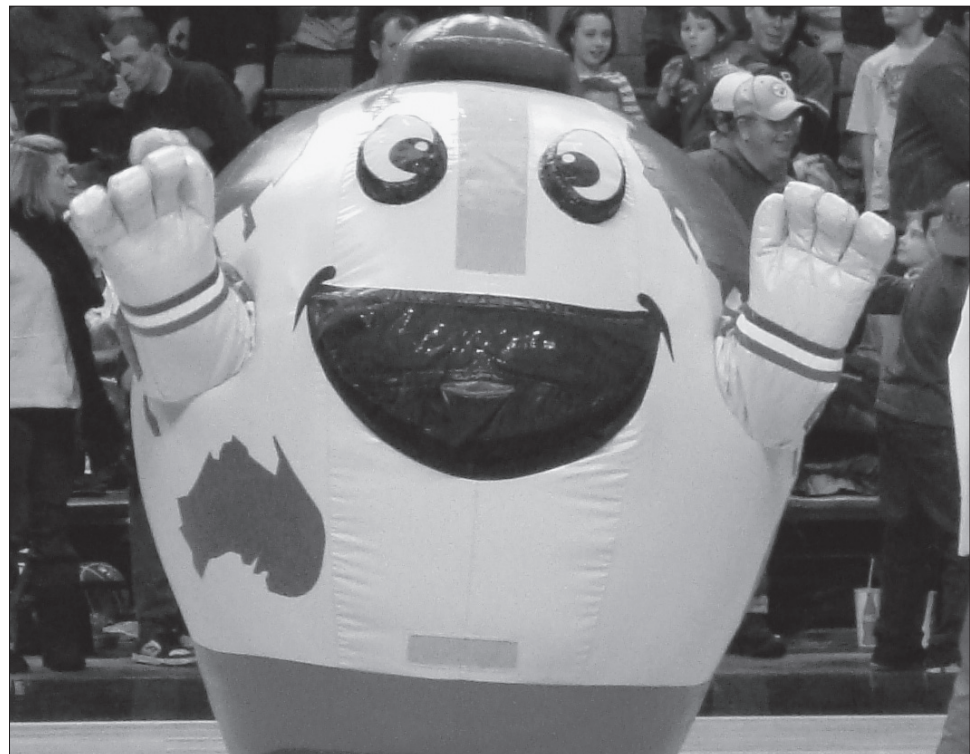
The audience participation was another entertaining element. The players pulled audience members out of the stands to dance with them. Children were able to shoot hoops and take part in games.

The downfall of the performance was the time length, since it ran around two hours. The game began to drag on towards the end.

The Globetrotters are scheduled to return to Pennsylvania on Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m. They will be performing in Philadelphia at the Liacouras Center at Temple University.

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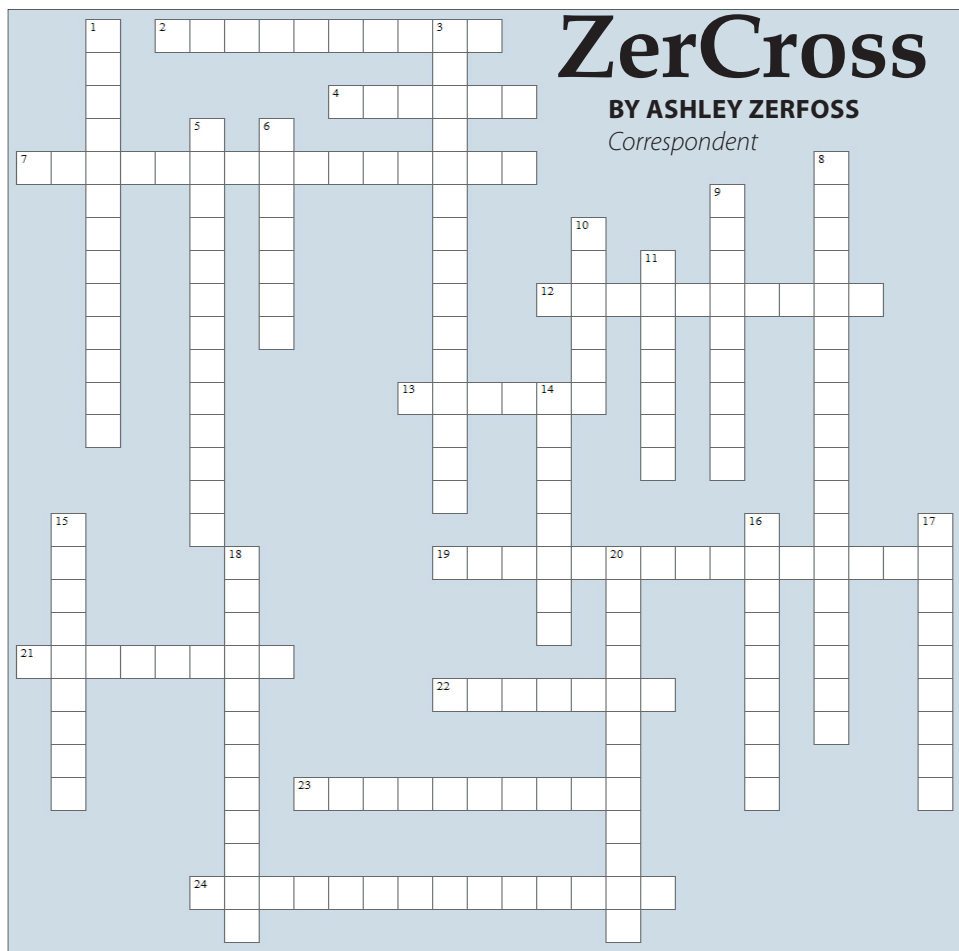


The Beacon/Kirstin Cook

The mascot of the team, Globie, was one of the best aspects of the performance. He danced energetically, changing into different outfits to imitate various stars. Globie impersonated Taylor Swift, Michael Jackson, and many other performers.

ZerCross

BY ASHLEY ZERFOSS
Correspondent



"Dog Breeds"

Across

2. Loyal and protective, Best known as fearsome guard dogs
4. Some famous ones include Snoopy, Underdog, Gromit (from Wallace and Gromit), and Brain (from Inspector Gadget)
7. Small black dog with a wiry coat, originates from Scotland
12. Known for their amazing sense of smell and tracking abilities
13. French curly-haired dogs, Georgette from Disney's Oliver and Company
19. Famous dogs from this breed include Duke (from the Bush's Baked Beans commercials), Shadow (Homeward Bound movies), and Comet (from Full House)
21. These little hot dogs are lovable, playful, and ideal for any home.
22. Can skateboard (or at least Darla can)
23. These hounds were used in England to stop otters from destroying the fish population.
24. Known to hunt wolves in the land of Leprechauns

Down

1. Developed in Massachusetts
3. Hunts foxes across the pond
5. Famous as sled dogs in The Iditarod
6. Toy breed known for its long, flowing double coat, name means "lion"
8. A shepherd in Britain, Known in films as a Shaggy Dog
9. Mexican dog famously owned by Paris Hilton
10. You get one clue: Lassie
11. These dogs can point the way to a hunter's prey.
14. Can come in chocolate brown or bright gold

For last week's answers and for this week's "What's Happening Around Wilkes" calendar, please check out

wilkesbeacon.com

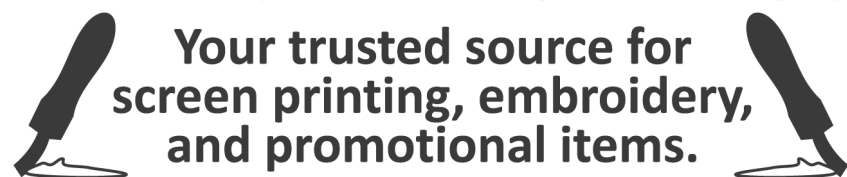


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THE DEEVOQUIP!

BY DAVID LEWIS
Staff Writer

Use the clue provided in order to decipher the meaning of the puzzle. The clue represents a letter that can be used to guess what other letters within each word are. Through the process of elimination and knowledge of vocabulary, solving the puzzle depends upon how well you can deduce the possibility of one letter equaling another. Once you assign a letter to equal another, the letter cannot be changed for the remaining letters in the puzzle. Good Luck!

QOWRI YPITI OQ WA SEUTUWYII YPUY

U PUXXD GIUH JOHH GULI DAE

PUXXD, DAE GOSPY UQ JIHH SIY YPI

TISEHUT-ZUHEI GIUH; UY HIUQY OY

JOHH MI ZUHEIUMHI!

This week's clue: E = U & D = Y

Last week's answer: If something is a stone's throw away, then it must have given someone a hard time!

DRACULA

Continued from Page 13

feel comfortable attending rehearsal for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

"He called me back and gave me the ultimatum—that if I wasn't at rehearsal, then I wasn't in the production. And I decided not to go," said Layton. Layton not only chose to abandon his part in *Putnam County*, but also to leave the department entirely. Layton said he has decided to drop theatre and will soon declare an English major. He has also considered transferring to another college or university.

After leaving *Putnam County*, Layton said he expected that one of the two assistant stage managers would fulfill his empty role. Although there are no formal understudies for Wilkes productions, assistant stage managers act as such and are prepared and willing to fill deserted positions.

"People have told me that [Tony Goreczny] was preparing [to fill Layton's role] and was rehearsing," said Layton.

Goreczny, a freshman theatre major and one of the assistant stage managers for *Putnam County*, was not called upon to play

the part, however. Instead, Pascoe picked up where Layton left off.

"I consider the theater department's choice of replacing John Layton with Daniel Pascoe to be a slap in the face [to Layton], considering the fact that John left his major after the unexpected Dracula event," said Austin Loukas, a freshman psychology major who tried out for Layton's empty role in *Putnam County* before Pascoe was given the role.

Both Goreczny and Pascoe declined to comment on these, or any other, matters. Numerous attempts were made to contact Teresa Fallon, director of the upcoming *Dracula*, but phone calls and emails were not returned. Dawson was the director of *Putnam County*, but declined to comment on the situation.

While Dawson did not wish to comment specifically about casting procedures either, he directed *The Beacon* to the academic grievances protocol that is listed on page 88 of the Student Handbook.

The handbook states that "students having academic grievances should first confer with the instructor involved. The route of appeal is the department chairperson, the dean of the school, and the Provost."

"The student in question [Layton] merely

informed the instructor [Teresa Fallon] that he was dropping his major," said Dawson. "As far as I know he has still not addressed the casting issue with her. As a result he has not allowed himself to become educated on the intricacies of casting. He bypassed protocol by emailing me first, and even before I could respond went to the Dean and then *The Beacon*. Clearly not protocol ... If students are encouraged to follow protocol by first bringing grievances to instructors then uncomplicated issues would have a slimmer chance of being sensationalized."

Dawson would not comment on the "intricacies of casting" he mentioned, stating that if students wished to find answers to their questions regarding casting decisions, they are to speak with the faculty directors who are involved with the theatre productions.

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The Beacon/Tom Reilly

Daniel Pascoe, Wilkes alumnus, Class of 2009, filled the role of Chip Tolentino in *Putnam County Spelling Bee* after former theatre major, John Layton, left the department because of the *Dracula* casting.

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Coaches make sacrifices for love of the game

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Assistant Sports Editor

***Editor's Note: What follows is the third part of our look into the background of coaching, a three-part feature series entitled "The Life and Responsibilities of a College Coach."*

The Life and Responsibilities of a College Coach

PART
3

Jerry Rickrode, the coach of the men's basketball team at Wilkes, went to Skidmore College, a small liberal arts school in Saratoga Springs, New York, to become a doctor.

He was one semester from completing his degree in biology when he was forced into a decision one day: go to a lab for a class he was badly struggling in, or cut it and follow his team to their game against New York University that night. He decided to drop the class and retake a similar science course the next semester, a decision that would serve as one of the turning points of his life.

Upon returning as a fifth-year senior, he attempted to rejoin the basketball team before finding that his eligibility had expired. It was then that his coach asked him about stepping in to lead the Skidmore JV team.

"It's funny how things evolve," said Rickrode. "You never know how things are going to happen."

His young introduction into coaching, originally a way to simply stay involved while finishing school, turned into a career that has spanned 25 years. Now in his 18th year as head coach of the Wilkes men's basketball team, he said that he has found his niche.

Christopher Leicht, the coach of both the men's and women's tennis teams, also took to the sport early. He received his introduction to coaching while serving as the club pro at Frost Valley Country Club, simultaneously trying to earn his bachelor's degree in business from Bloomsburg University as a 21-year-old.

Leicht would later go on to coach at Danville Area High School and attend summer instructional camps taught by coaches at Division I powers like Boston College and the University of Georgia. He realized after a few seasons that it was something he was interested in professionally.

Lisa Rizzo, the head coach of the women's volleyball team, also became a coach because of her love of the game. So much so, in fact, that she began coaching at Wilkes despite her undergraduate ties to King's College.

Despite their love of the profession, they are all well aware of its drawbacks. Because the sports revolve around the agendas of the students first and foremost, they are often at the mercy of schedules that do not allow much time for family or personal enjoyment.

Rickrode, a married father of two, believes that it can be a difficult profession to manage at times. "I think the downside is, in the sport of basketball, which has a longer season and lasts two semesters, you basically have to recruit while you're playing and you're away from your family a lot," he said. "Whether it be practicing at night or travelling for recruiting or games, you spend a lot of time away from your family. I often said you should start coaching at 55 when your kids are grown up. It just doesn't work that way. You have to try and keep a balance in life and it gets stressful sometimes; you can easily distort yourself by putting so much energy in your job. I guess that's something I thought I always needed to work better at," he concluded.

For Rizzo, the grind can be extremely difficult and time-consuming. She holds a full-time job teaching computers applications at King's, while also serving as their desktop and lab support specialist. In addition to those responsibilities, she is also working toward her Master's in science and instructional technology at Bloomsburg University. Her schedule often prevents her from returning to her home in Kent Island, Maryland.

"To go through a day of work and then have to run across town to coach the girls [...] it's something I have never minded doing but also something I will admit is hard," said Rizzo. "Sometimes it can be very tough. [Kent Island] is about a three and a half hour drive [...] and when coaching it is difficult to find time to travel. This means that I often miss birthday celebrations, mother's/father's day dinners, off-shore fishing trips, campground vacations [...]"

"During our season, my schedule is extremely busy," added Leicht, who has three daughters ages one, three, and five. "We



Courtesy of Sports Information

Lisa Rizzo (far right, in white) has juggled a large amount of responsibility in becoming the head coach of Wilkes University's volleyball team. Despite the demands on her time, Rizzo loves being able to work with her girls, an opportunity she calls "a privilege."

have a very full schedule, and I am working every weekend. I have had to miss some family events due to this time commitment."

None of them would go back and change professions if given the chance, however. For all of the hardships that come with the territory, it has given each of them a sense of personal fulfillment in which they relish.

"It's something I love, plain and simple," said Rickrode. "I just kind of took to it. When I did graduate [from Skidmore], I was offered a graduate assistant job at Ithaca College as, again, a JV coach. It was paid for by my school. I was going to go to medical school but I liked coaching and just got into it."

"Coaches, in a lot of ways I think, can get a point across to kids more than their professors can," said Rizzo. "It's a responsibility and a privilege, one that I like."

"It was [at those advanced camps] that I really took to the [teaching] aspect of the game," said Leicht. "The students there wanted to learn and have fun and it was a lot of fun for me. "[Despite the drawbacks], I really do love coaching. I could not see myself in any other job at this current time. I enjoy working with my players, both on and off the court."

Rickrode, Leicht, and Rizzo may never achieve the superstardom or public

profile of Phil Jackson, Mike Krzyzewski and Pat Summit, but that does not mean that they don't consider themselves successful. Their efforts have helped hundreds of young men and women mature into more well-rounded individuals with a focus on academics and representing themselves in a positive fashion. Through their roles as mentors and, at times, disciplinarians, they have provided stability for these young adults at one of the most crucial points of their lives.

At times, their lessons have extended to their family lives as well.

"I think I've done a pretty good job in raising them," said Rickrode, in reference to his two children, Jordyn, 12, and Christian, 10, both basketball players themselves. "Whether or not they follow in my footsteps and continue with basketball isn't that important to me, as long as they work hard and act respectfully."

When asked if he could be considered his children's life coach, he provided just the slightest of grins.

"I guess you could say that."

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2/23 @ Portland 1-2 L
2/27 vs. Providence 5-1 W
2/28 vs. Hershey

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2/23 @ Golden State 110-102 W
2/24 @ Phoenix 95-106 L
2/26 @ Los Angeles Lakers 90-99 L

NEW JERSEY NETS

2/21 vs. Memphis 94-104 L
2/23 vs. Portland 93-102 L
2/27 @ Boston 104-96 W
2/28 vs. Washington

WEEK AHEAD

WBS PENGUINS

3/3 vs. Norfolk 7:05 p.m.
3/5 @ Syracuse 7:30 p.m.
3/6 @ Hershey 7:00 p.m.
3/10 vs. Albany 7:05 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

3/3 @ Atlanta 7:00 p.m.
3/5 vs. Boston 7:00 p.m.

NEW JERSEY NETS

3/3 vs. Cleveland 7:30 p.m.
3/5 vs. Orlando 8:00 p.m.
3/6 @ New York 7:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

3/2 @ Lightning 7:30 p.m.
3/3 @ Panthers 7:30 p.m.
3/5 @ Sabres 7:30 p.m.
3/7 vs. Maple Leafs 7:00 p.m.
3/9 vs. Islanders 7:00 p.m.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

3/2 vs. Sabres 7:30 p.m.
3/4 @ Rangers 7:00 p.m.
3/6 vs. Stars 1:00 p.m.
3/7 vs. Bruins 3:00 p.m.

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FACE OFF



When should Tiger Woods return to golf?

Time and space are needed for Tiger to lick his wounds



Sports Editor

ANTHONY DORUNDA

Alright, he's apologized, it is now time to begin the countdown to Tiger's return to golf. After leaving us without a return date, it is quite possible that golf's biggest star will not be in attendance when golf's Superbowl, the Master's, gets under way in April.

So now the question is, should Tiger come back? The answer? No, not right now.

The best thing he can do is stay away from the limelight for a while and tie up the loose ends in his personal life. That's what's most important in the very end. Golf is just a game — a hobby that will be waiting for him when he decides to return. His life outside of golf is what matters when it all boils down.

He has to focus on number one--himself--and organize the most important part of his life--his family.

I completely agree, as does the rest of the world, that golf needs Tiger. But when

they say golf needs Tiger, it's not the actual game that needs Woods, it the businessmen and power brokers behind the scenes that need Woods. The figureheads talking are discussing golf monetarily; they're talking about the Benjamin's.

With Tiger playing in a tournament, the following is incredible; without him, sometimes we forget that golf is still being played. Just look at the numbers.

According to Nielsen Company, an estimated average of 4.6 million viewers tuned in to tournaments played by Tiger in 2007-08. When he had knee surgery after winning the 2008 U.S. Open and missed the rest of the season, ratings sunk as much as 50 percent.

Neal Pilson, president of Pilson Communications, a media consulting firm, and a former president of CBS Sports said that "if Tiger's in an event, you expect a 50 percent increase in ratings."

For the 15 or so tournaments where Woods might have been expected to play this year, Larry Novenster, executive vice president of Optimedia, estimated the resulting advertising loss to networks would total between

\$10 million and \$20 million.

But look at it this way. Tiger has only been on the PGA tour since 1997; they survived before Tiger didn't they? And one day they will have to do it again, so consider this a round robin tournament in which they get to figure out what they have to do to keep people interested, while maintaining ratings and public interest.

It also gives other golfers a chance to step up and prove their worth without the enormous shadow cast by Tiger.

Am I saying Tiger should never come back? No way, Jose. That's like saying I shouldn't have turkey and pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving. I'm just saying he needs to take a break to get everything else in his life sorted out and to take some time off from the sport that demands perfection from him every time he hits the fairway. He needs to re-charge his batteries, and come out when he has a renewed vigor, and a hunger to get back to the sport he loves--and the sport that loves him.

Tiger needs to stop hiding in the Woods



Assistant Sports Editor

DANIEL KAUTZ

Tiger Woods set the record for consecutive covers of the *New York Daily Post* with 20, beating the previous record of 19 set by the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks. Despite his grossly over-publicized infidelities, Woods should return to the sport of golf sooner, rather than later. He is without peer, the true giant of his sport. Every time the experts raise an argument claiming that he has been overtaken by one of his rivals (Mickelson, Els, Singh, etc.) he proves them wrong. He draws the biggest crowds, the biggest advertisers, and is sorely needed by a sport that is lacking in legitimate star power.

The obstacles he will face on the green may be startling. Over the last several months, his life has been analyzed and talked about more than the cast of *Jersey Shore*, with talking heads all around the country offering up their opinions on his conduct.

His marriage has been talked about and lampooned relentlessly, from talk shows to *Saturday Night Live* and beyond. No one knows what kind of crowd reaction he will receive after stepping under the rope for the first time, though his caddie, Steve Williams, offered a hopeful assessment.

"I think when Tiger gets back to playing, people will be appreciative of the fact he is going to play..." said Williams in a story published on ESPN.com. "There are always going to be people who are going to knock you ... Being the No. 1 player in the world and being as successful as Tiger has been, there have been people who have knocked him anyway. I am sure there might be a few more, it goes with the territory."

A few more? That would be a minor miracle. What Tiger should be preparing for are boo birds, and plenty of them.

Should that stop him from returning though? I agree with Mr. Dorunda that his number one priority at the moment should be trying to heal the damage done to his family. The damage to his marriage may be irreparable, but he still has to try and arrange

the care of his children. I believe that he will come back sooner than most anticipate, however, because of the type of competitor he is. He and the rest of the world already know that he is the greatest golfer alive; he now needs to prove that he is the greatest in history. With every tournament he misses, he loses an opportunity to further cement his legacy as the sport's best ever.

Tiger's already offered a public apology for his behavior, beginning the long road towards mending the relationship between him and fans of golf around the world. By the time the Master's roll around in April, he will have had adequate time out of the public spotlight with which to heal and mentally prepare for his competition. When you consider the implications his break may have on his career, as well as the financial ramifications his time off has had on the PGA, it becomes obvious that Tiger Woods need to return to his sport as soon as possible. They need each other, for better or worse.

Older, Colonels look to improve on '09 success

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Assistant Sports Editor

Despite tying with Manhattanville for first place in the Freedom Conference last season with an 11-5 conference record, the Wilkes Colonels were picked to finish sixth in this year's standings. This would be understandable were Wilkes not returning nine seniors (there largest senior class in the last two decades), and coming off a season in which they won 29 games, the school record for a season. Despite the clear lack of preseason faith in the Colonels by coaches around the conference, senior criminology major and shortstop Mike McAndrew has a tremendous amount of faith in his team.

"I like that we were picked low because it gives us more to prove," said McAndrew. "I'd rather be [sixth] last year we were

picked to finish fifth or sixth, too. It makes us work harder."

"We expect to win the MAC with our returning guys," said Joseph Folek, the head coach of the Wilkes baseball team.

They certainly have the tools to do just that. Returning are many members of the team that played consistently enough to run off an 11-game win streak last year, while outscoring their opposition by 117 runs over the course of the season (an almost three-run differential per game).

Among those returnees is senior catcher Randy Dengler, a reigning first-team all-region selection. During his sophomore campaign last season, Dengler batted .348 with 41 RBI, good for second on the team, while also leading the team with eight long balls. Also returning is sophomore Matt Ruch, who was second on the team last season

with a .390 batting average, and tied for the team lead with 44 RBI.

On the mound, the Colonels return senior Tom Buckler. Last season, Buckler led the team with nine wins and 58 strikeouts en-route to a second-team all-region selection.

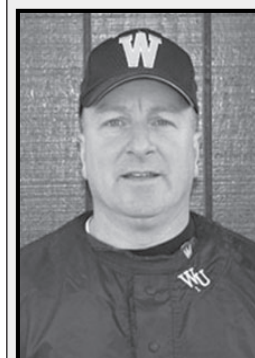
With any luck, they will be able to contend for the school record for wins yet again with the currently constructed team. Their first game is tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. against Muhlenberg College in Allentown.

"The target on our back is bigger because last year we set the record for school wins," said Folek. "I think our guys are up to the challenge. In fact, they're looking forward to it."

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INSIDE LOOK



Joe Folek

QUICK HITS

- Entering 15th season as head coach of the Colonels
- 2007 Freedom Conference champs
- School record 29 wins last season
- 2-time Freedom Conference Coach of the Year

FULL ROSTER

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 2 - Scott Sammer | - Fr. - OF |
| 4 - Shawn Ward | - Sr. - P/3B |
| 5 - Tom Buckler | - Sr. - P |
| 6 - Tom Piessi | - So. - 2B |
| 7 - Carmen Lopresto | - Fr. - IF |
| 8 - Trevin Jaggars | - Sr. - 1B |
| 9 - Jon Drebitko | - Fr. - C/IF |
| 10 - Ed Kamenas | - Sr. - OF |
| 11 - Sean Flecknoe | - So. - P/IF |
| 12 - Mike Brennan | - Sr. - P |
| 13 - Joe Dantas | - Fr. - IF |
| 14 - Jeremy Watson | - Sr. - IF |
| 15 - Matt Ruch | - So. - IF |
| 16 - Mike McAndrew | - Sr. - SS |
| 17 - Joel Watson | - So. - UTL |
| 18 - Ben Caioli | - So. - IF |
| 19 - Randy Dengler | - Sr. - C |
| 20 - Justin Fortin | - Fr. - OF |
| 21 - Will Sisca | - So. - P |
| 22 - Al Clocker | - Jr. - OF |
| 23 - Rich Cosgrove | - Jr. - OF |
| 24 - Joe Harvey | - Fr. - P |
| 25 - John Florance | - Sr. - OF |
| 27 - Angelo Trento | - Fr. - P |
| 28 - James DaRe | - Fr. - C |
| 29 - Mark Siebel | - So. - P |
| 34 - Ryan Fetterman | - So. - P |
| 36 - Brandon Carling | - Fr. - P |
| 37 - Chris Manzi | - So. - IF |
| 38 - Zach Lazar | - Fr. - P |
| 39 - Corey Martin | - Fr. - P |
| 40 - Phil Leid | - Fr. - P |
| 44 - Jose Ruiz | - So. - C |
| 45 - Angus Neary | - So. - IF |
| 48 - Jonathan Tomko | - Fr. - P |
| 49 - Mike Olerta | - So. - P |

OPENING DAY

- 3/3 @ Muhlenberg 3:30 p.m.
 3/5 PSU-Abington (DH)* 9:00 a.m.**
 3/6 Plattsburgh 9:00 a.m.**
 3/7 PSU-Berks (DH)* 12 p.m.**

*DH - Doubleheader

**Ripken Experience



John Florance



Joel Watson

Florance
53 TB

Watson
.571 SLG%



Mike McAndrew

34 BB
(led team)

.474 OBP



Matt Ruch

64 Hits
(led team)

100 TB
(led team)



Rich Cosgrove



Justin Fortin

Cosgrove
DNP

Fortin
DNP
(freshman)



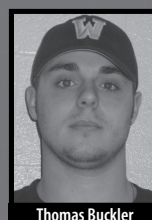
Shawn Ward



Carmen Lopresto

Ward
.846 FP

Lopresto
DNP
(freshman)



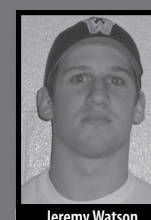
Thomas Buckler

75.0 IP
(led team)
14 GS
(led team)
9 wins
(led team)



Trevin Jaggars

.994 FP
(led team)



Jeremy Watson

.333 AVG

.365 OBP



Randy Dengler

First-Team
All-Region
Catcher

Eight HR
(led team)

Proposal to renovate Ralston Field athletic complex in final stages

Synthetic turf, new bleachers, lights included in face lift

BY GINO TROIANI

Managing Editor

After nine years of consideration, the proposal to renovate the current athletic complex at Ralston Field is in the final stages of approval.

The Board of Trustees will meet on March 26 to vote on the multi-phase proposal, which includes a synthetic surface, new stands, press boxes, new lights and comfort facilities.

"We're trying to make it not only a more attractive, but a more functional facility," said Addy Malatesta, athletic director. "We're also trying to serve the needs of as many student athletes and people in the campus community as possible."

Malatesta explained the renovations will come in a series of installments. "This is at least a three or four step plan," said Malatesta. She explained phase one would be the construction of a multi-use synthetic surface that will replace the current football field.

The field would be home to football and women's lacrosse on game days, but would also serve as a practice surface for men's and women's soccer, baseball and softball, and as a place for intramurals sports to be played.

"From a durability standpoint you can do many things [with a synthetic surface]," said head football coach, Frank Sheptock.

Due to space constraints at the current complex, Malatesta explained there is little room to expand, so the implementation of a multi-use synthetic surface is a major factor in the decision making process.

"This sort of opens up everything," she said. "Once you have this you don't have to worry about the field maintenance issues and tearing everything up; the next team just moves onto the field."

In conjunction with the new surface, there are many other new features under consideration. First, the university would like to install a lighting system surrounding the field, making it a 24-hour facility. The current home stands are set to be demolished, re-built, and switch places with the visiting stands. From there a double sided press box would be built on the home side, overlooking both the football field and current soccer field, and a free standing press box would



The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

Ralston Field is nearly set to undergo a major face lift over the next few years. New additions to the field include a synthetic turf field, lights, a demolition of the old bleachers and installation of new ones with a double sided press box on the home side.

be built on the visiting side.

The sod covering the football field is set to be transplanted to the far practice field at the other end of the complex, replacing the current beat up surface. The university is also considering re-locating the concession stands and restrooms to the front of the complex, making it the first thing spectators see upon entering.

Sheptock said the completion of phase one would be a major improvement to the current complex. "I think it's going to benefit all of the field teams," said Sheptock. "I also think that it's a great opportunity for intramurals."

In order to cover the cost of the \$3 million facility, Dr. Paul Adams, vice president of student affairs, said there is a placeholder in the 2010-2011 budget to begin the project. In conjunction, there have also been many fundraising efforts over the last year and a half through the Wilkes development staff and former Wilkes athletes.

"We think we have enough that will allow us to do the synthetic surface, to demolish the old home bleachers and to do a lot of the site work that is necessary," said Adams.

"We would hope that we could somehow get lights on it, although it's not a given," added Malatesta.

If all goes according to plan, Adams said the university hopes to finish the complex in the next few years. "I'm hoping that three or four years from now we look at a completed project," said Adams.

"It's very exciting," Adams continued. "I hope everybody understands that this isn't just benefiting student athletes, but is also going to give us the ability to have this surface for intramurals... it really opens up the opportunities we have."

CONTACT GINO TROIANI AT

gino.troiani@wilkes.edu

BY THE NUMBERS

3 mil.

Amount of money it is going to take to cover the cost of the brand new renovations to Ralston Field. The money has been earned through many fundraising efforts as well as donations from former athletes.

24

Number of hours in a day that the facility will be available for use if lights are installed.

3-4

Number of years it is expected to take to complete project. This includes a new synthetic field surface, reconstruction of bleachers, a potential lighting system, double sided press box, and possible relocation of the restrooms and concession stand.

7

Number of outdoor sports, excluding cross-country, that these new renovations would benefit (which is all outdoor sports). On top of NCAA sports, it will also be used for intramural sports as well.



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GO!