



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

Framing Moments exhibition spans decades

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff

Following the incredibly successful Rose O'Neill exhibition, the Sordoni Art Gallery returns with another exhibition. The Framing Moments exhibition aims to capture quick, singular moments in time and make them last a lifetime.

The contents of the gallery originate from the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, a nonprofit museum and school residing in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The gallery includes a wide array of pieces across decades of photography, utilizing various styles, methods and techniques to create the work displayed.

Among the works of the gallery are some increasingly iconic pieces. A gelatin silver print of the iconic "Migrant Mother" image by Dorothea Lange takes a substantial place in the gallery's new exhibition. One of the most iconic photographic works of the great depression era, the Migrant Mother photo perfectly encapsulates the dirt, grime and desperation during the economic crisis.

Various photographic prints of famous artists and prominent historical figures also make their appearance at the gallery.

A print of the incredibly influential and respected funk and soul singer James Brown performing at the Mid-South Coliseum proudly resides on the wall, bursting with energy. The photo, taken by Ernest C. Withers, features Brown on his knees, singing passionately into his microphone as the band plays behind him.

Another striking piece is a very large chromogenic print of a Cindy Sherman. As with all Cindy Sherman pieces, the work remains untitled. Sherman often refused to title her works, as she believed that her work should be admired, not restricted by any preconceived narrative or influence.

An incredibly iconic image of Martin Luther King Jr. being arrested in Alabama sits powerfully on the walls of the exhibit. The photo, taken by Charles Moore, documents a critical moment within the civil rights movement.

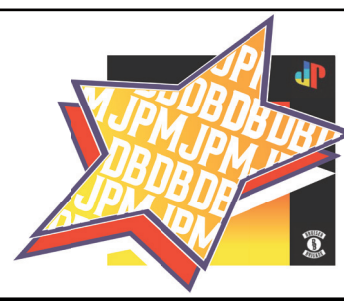
King was being arrested on a loitering charge, as there were several restrictions against boycotting at this time. These rules were heavily enforced against African-Americans seeking justice and equality. Moore would continue to be a prolific Civil Rights photographer.



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To Benefit Julia Hockey Mazur
2.18.24

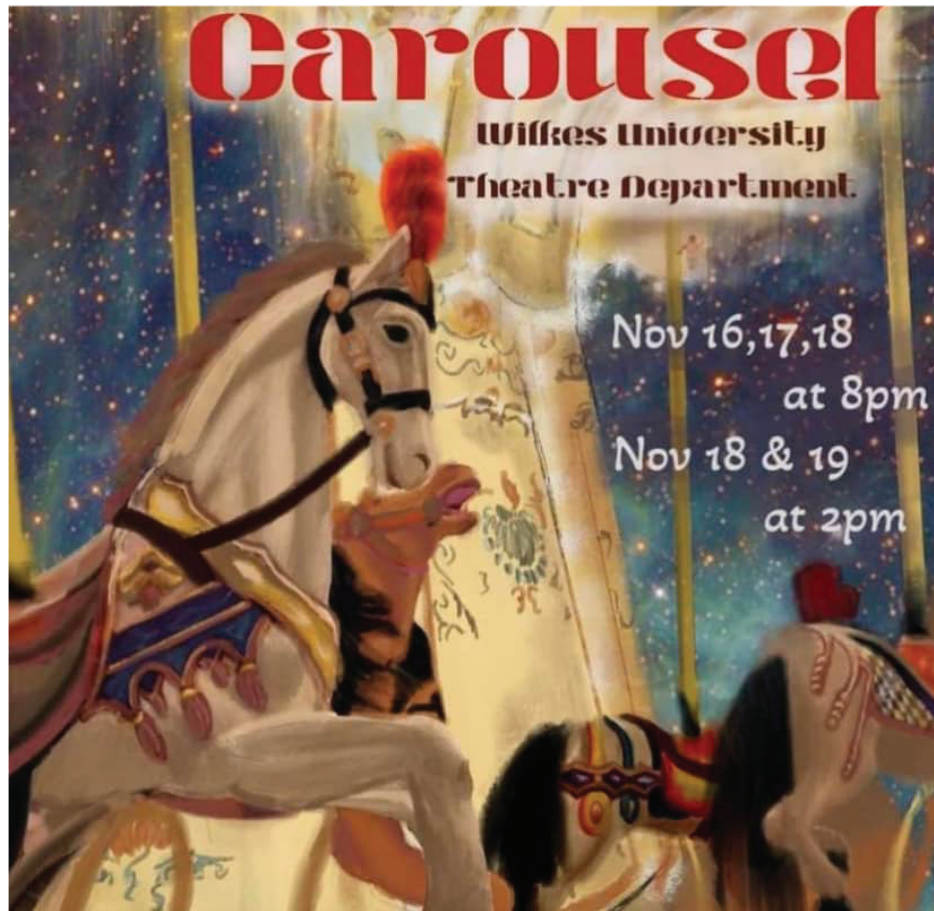
Julia is 20 years old and has been diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic melanoma cancer.

To donate a basket for this event please private message Julia on Instagram

**Basket raffle to aid Wilkes
student battling cancer,
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News

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



Carousel opens at the Darte Center

From a press release

Wilkes University Theatre will take audiences for a spin with a production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel* at 8 p.m. on Nov. 16, 17 and 18, and 2 p.m. on Nov. 18 and 19, at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

Carousel opened at Broadway's Majestic Theatre in 1945, running for nearly 900 performances and launching a national tour. The musical was the subject of three Broadway revivals, most recently in 2018, and received the big screen treatment in 1956.

Set on the coast of Maine in the late 1800s, *Carousel* focuses on the turbulent romance and troubled marriage of Billy Bigelow, a carnival barker, and Julie Jordan, a millworker. While the couple's love takes center stage, the story also deals with the difficult issues of violence and retribution, before delivering a message of hope and redemption.

Alison Morooney, serving as director

and choreographer, addressed the darker elements of the show with her cast on the first day of rehearsal to make sure they were ready to dive into their roles. "Sometimes they have to play characters that are objectively harmful to others. It requires a lot of empathy and a clear understanding of what our production is trying to say," says Morooney. "The challenge of *Carousel* is usually the content. With our students, the content is worthy work."

The production provides Wilkes students with an opportunity to hone the skills they need to perform in the Golden Age musical style. This experience with big, broad vocals and dance numbers typical of the era helps to make the cast members more competitive in the industry.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Spring 2024 Commuter and Resident Student Parking Applications

Commuter and resident parking permit applications are available now until Monday Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. The applications will not re-open again once they are closed.

The link for parking applications: <https://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/safety-security/parking/student-parking-permits.aspx>.

Any questions contact parking 570-408-7275, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HPSC Give Kids the World Fundraiser

Join the Honors Program Student Committee in community service by donating children's books and Halloween costumes to Give Kids the World, a nonprofit that helps make dreams come true for Make a Wish children with a critical illness. Monetary donations can also be made. Donations will be accepted in the Honors office until the end of the semester.

Any questions, email jennifer.mclaughlin1@wilkes.edu.

Spring Break Trip to London and Paris

The International Business trip is now

open for registration. The trip leaves the Philadelphia Airport March 2, 2024 and returns March 9, 2024. The total estimated cost is \$3,500, which includes airfare, hotel, breakfast and dinner expenses.

Contact Dr. Matus at justin.matus@wilkes.edu for more information.

Diploma Order Form May 2024

Bachelor's degree candidates, now is the time to complete your diploma order information and degree audit review for processing for May 2024 Commencement.

Now is the time to complete your Diploma Order information and Degree

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Upcoming Events: 2023 Fall Semester

November

16 - Fast Food Bingo
18 - Melt Yoga Session
21 - Red Cross Blood Drive
30 - Break-FEST

December

1 - One World Celebration
7 - Bingo

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

That's so Honors... the HPSC 2024 student elections

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Most student organizations will hold their executive board elections in the Spring, but not the Honors Program Student Committee, or HPSC. Because members serve one year terms, January-December, elections will be taking place at the end of the month.

Certain roles will not have elections, due to the nature of the program. For example, the presidential role has been awarded to Nick Devitis, a junior psychology major, who last served as vice president of HPSC. Other positions saw only one candidate in the race. For example, the vice president for the 2024 executive board is P1 pharmacy student Kayla Burluson, the director of social events is Katie Ritsick, a junior nursing major, and the treasurer will be Syndey Farmer, who is also a junior majoring in nursing.

Several other roles will require an election, occurring at the end of November. Until then, students are able to campaign for their roles. One race is for the director of publicity, between sophomore biology major Zoe Morley, and first-year history

major, Ozzie Priebe.

Morley explained she wants the role, "because I deeply believe in the impact that the Honors Program can have and I am passionate about fostering a supportive, academic community."

Priebe, who has similar reasons for running, shared, "I want to get more involved with the Honors Program and utilize a skill set that I have that I don't get to use often."

When it comes to campaigning, students are welcome to hang posters in Honors spaces, like the Honors Office, lounge, and Residence Hall, Waller Hall.

Priebe has taken full advantage of this opportunity.

"Michael Santini, Daniel Yap and I are all running together and we made similar looking posters."

Morley admitted she'd thought about campaigning.

"I am still unsure if I will campaign or not."

Even if candidates choose not to campaign, voters still get the opportunity to get to know each candidate when they go to vote. When the voting form comes out at the end of the month, each student will have a small section dedicated to why

Honors Program students should vote for them over their opponent.

Although these two candidates are opposing each other and there is no way of telling who will win, they are both excited about the future of HPSC.

Morley shared the reasons why she would love this role.

"It gives me the unique opportunity to connect with every member of the Honors

Program."

Priebe said, "...no matter who wins, the Honors Program will continue to thrive and be the best that it can be."

Candidates are excited about the upcoming election, and you should be too. Honors students can vote for HPSC candidates in a special "Election Buzz", coming at the end of November.



The HPSC Executive Board

Photo: The Beacon/Morgan Steiner

Graphic: The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery

Attention Honors Students

Do you exemplify #That'sSoHonors? Have you been working on something cool you want to show the Wilkes community? Share it here! Fill out the Google Form found in the Honors Buzz emails to share what kind of projects you've been working on.

The column, which focuses on Honors activities and students, will run in the Beacon every week. Fill out the form and provide your email address so the writers can interview you! Any questions or concerns, please reach out to morgan.steiner@wilkes.edu.

What is... the Wilkes University Commuter Council

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

So far in this column, we've covered Mega Councils dedicated to programming for every student and diversity, but this week, we're featuring a club that focuses on the students that go back home every night: Commuter Council.

Caleb Gething, junior theater design and technology major and president of Commuter Council, or CC, explained that he got involved with the club very early in his Wilkes career.

"I got started with the Commuter Council my freshman year during the commuter orientation session. I was drawn to this club because of the sense of community I felt just from sitting through the presentation."

Gething has become a part of this tradition, as he was one of the students giving that presentation to incoming first-years at new student orientation in

July.

"The Commuter Council, while small, tries to do a lot around campus. Having people interact with and come to commuter events can make it so we can plan much bigger and better events," said Teara Deonarine, psychology major, and secretary of the Commuter Council.

Deonarine shared that there are tons of fun events happening.

"This fall semester has basically been a jumpstart with us doing more events and communicating with more people. We plan on doing more community service, and being more active on campus."

Despite all the new plans, Commuter Council hopes to continue some favorite events, like Gething's favorite: the Annual CC BBQ "...not only for the food, but to see everyone come together."

Clubs that cater to a specific Wilkes-need, like the Commuter Council, are essential to the success of these students.

"Clubs like the Commuter Council are important specifically because if there is

a commuter issue, we can talk to Dean Gretchen about it and see what we can do to help commuters on campus feel more at home here," said Deonarine.

Gretchen Yeninas, Dean for Student Life, serves as the Adviser to the Commuter Council. The Commuter Council meets every other Thursday in the new Commuter Lounge, located in the basement of the Farley Library, right

next to the Prayer Room.

Gething shared, "...while the club was designed for commuter students, we are not exclusive to the commuter students. All are welcome."

To keep up with the Commuter Council, you can follow them on Instagram @wilkes_commuter.

Photos Courtesy Teara Deonarine and Commuter Council



The Commuter Council Executive Board at Club Day earlier this fall.



The Commuter Council Bulletin Board, where students can add their own photos with their friends for the whole Lounge to enjoy.



Students play Mario Kart at CC's Mario Kart Tournament earlier in the fall 2023 semester.

It's On Us hosts first informational session at Wilkes

By Emma Broda
News Staff Writer

On Nov. 8, the It's On Us club held an informational session to discuss plans, hear from students and get more people involved.

It's On Us is a national program created to spread awareness about sexual assault on college campuses. Over 200 college campuses in the United States have their own individual chapters working on events and student awareness to combat sexual assault.

Wilkes had its own chapter prior to Covid, but it later dissolved. This year, students worked to reestablish it. The information session discussed events the club is looking to hold this year, intentions with the chapter and how they hope to get more students involved.

Jaci Bickel, sophomore political science and criminology major, is the club's president. She talked about how she got involved with the club.

"Dr. Wilczak and I wanted to see the club start off again, and I felt really motivated to start it again since it relates to me personally, and I wanted to create something for students who also related to express their feelings in a healthy way."

Similarly, another founding member, Emily Roberts, junior criminology and

sociology, shared how she got involved.

"I heard about it originally last year through Dr. Wilczak... He said he wanted to start our chapter back up after it died down post Covid, and we had a meeting with Elizabeth Leo about our plans for it. Not much happened last year, but our amazing President Jaci, has some really big plans that I am so excited for."

Roberts also shared the plans they hoped to see in the future.

"We hope to first and foremost have large turnouts so that we can educate as many people as possible. We are thinking about having events where survivors can use their trauma in a healthy way to help others who are struggling, as well as helping themselves."

Bickel mentioned she really wants to see a lot of student participation and that since so many students are able to relate to the issues being combated by the club, it's important that the club is kept alive.

Bickel, Roberts and other members of the club are very excited to get things going again.

"I'm just really excited to see what we can do. Our biggest goal is to make everyone who has a story to tell feel safe and secure to tell it. That way we can give everyone a voice who feels it has been taken away from them," said Roberts.



From left to right: Emily Roberts, junior criminology and sociology major, Reagan Metz, junior criminology and sociology majors and Alyssa Denini, junior criminology and psychology major.

Photos: The Beacon/Emma Broda



Jaci Bickel, sophomore poli sci and criminology major kicking off the It's On Us information session presentation.



Mikayla Faatz, junior criminology and sociology major welcoming students to the first It's On Us information session at Wilkes.

Dr. Martha Agbeli joins Wilkes as an assistant professor

By Amanda Montgomery

News Editor

Dr. Martha Agbeli joined Wilkes this fall as an assistant professor in the graduate nursing department. Agbeli is from Ghana, West Africa, and came to the United States when she was 17-years-old.

Agbeli's educational background is extensive, having started with a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Rhode Island. She then went on to earn her master's degree in psychiatric nursing from Drexel University and eventually obtained her doctorate in nursing. Her diverse educational journey reflects her commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

"I've always been an adjunct faculty at Wilkes and I would always joke and say Wilkes is a cool place to work. I've really enjoyed the experience," said Agbeli.

Agbeli highlighted the positive experience she had working with students and praised the learning

management system, Brightspace. Her transition to a full-time position at Wilkes was facilitated by recommendations from upper administrative personnel.

Her entry into the medical field was inspired by her family's strong medical background, with her mother and older sister both being nurses.

"It just made sense growing around nurses to go into nursing and I'm very passionate about it," said Agbeli.

In her role at Wilkes, Agbeli hopes to delve deeper into scholarly work,



Photo courtesy Dr. Agbeli

identifying it as an area where she wants to grow. Her enthusiasm for teaching and nursing as a passion, and her unique blend of nursing and teaching fulfills a lifelong dream.

Looking ahead, Agbeli envisions herself heavily involved in scholarly work, aiming for publications. Her research focus lies in geriatric psychiatry, working towards improving the quality of life for the elderly population.

"In the next five years I see myself as

doing a lot of scholarship work being published and hopefully becoming an associate professor," said Agbeli.

Beyond her academic pursuits, Agbeli shared insights into her personal life. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking traditional meals and spending quality time with her husband and three children. Her favorite dish to make is jollof rice and chicken.

Agbeli spoke about the impact she's had on her students, and expressed pride in receiving messages from former students, thanking her for the positive influence she had on their educational journeys.

In offering advice to students, Agbeli emphasized the importance of having a dream and working towards it with dedication.

"Have a dream, go for it. Just set your heart on one thing that you love and just work, whether it's a slow pace, fast pace, just so far as you achieve it, I think that's the most important thing. Just hard work and dedication, you'll get there."

Do you have a professor who has done something unique?

Feature them in The Beacon!

We are looking to spotlight the interesting and special things that Wilkes professors do in and out of the classroom.

Email: Kalen.Churcher@wilkes.edu with your nominations.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Editor-In-Chief: Morgan.Rich@wilkes.edu

Casino Week sweeps its way through Wilkes campus

By Cassidy Brumagin
Contributing Writer

Casino Week kicked off Nov. 6 with a scavenger hunt.

The week began with Student Government hiding 52 playing cards throughout campus. Students who found a card were able to bring it to Thursday's event to exchange for extra tickets for Casino Night and a Wilkes-themed deck of cards.

In addition to the cards, students were also on the lookout for free giveaway stands on Tuesday. The giveaway consisted of three pop-up stands that were placed around campus for students to find at random. The stands were giving away free crewnecks, hoodies and T-shirts with the event's logo on the back.

Lucky students found the crewnecks in the pod, hoodies in Karambelas and T-shirts in the student center. Later in the week, students were invited to wear their Casino Week gear to the Thursday and Friday night events for free tickets for Casino Night at the end of the week.

Student Government executive Marytere Quintana-Avila gave her input on what it is like to plan a campus-wide event like this.

"It has been a lot of fun planning this," said Quintana-Avila, junior political science major. "A lot of hands went into making this happen. We have something called the casino committee for this event bringing everyone's ideas together."

Thursday night's event hosted a magician in the JPAC. Student government provided light snacks including cheese and crackers and mocktails including Shirley Temples, "cuddles" on the beach, blue lagoons and bay breezes.

Students were invited to visit the refreshment stand as they settled in waiting for the show to start.

The event starred magician Denny Corby. Corby is from Scranton and graduated from Marywood. He has performed magic in various venues, even starring on an episode of television series "Penn & Teller: Fool Us."

"I am from the area, so it's nice to be able to do a show so close to home," said Corby. "Growing up here, everyone knows Wilkes. I'm very fortunate to be performing here for the second time. I'm here to make everyone smile and laugh."

Corby's performances include magic, comedy and a whole lot of audience participation. Rather than simple volunteers, however, Corby selected his participants with randomized methods including throwing a paper ball around until it landed in the hands of the student who would join him for the trick.

Corby claimed there is a method to the madness here, but the exact logic behind the participant selection remains a magician's secret.

The show began with a student brought up on stage to sign his name on a card. Corby then did the same, and both of them then folded their cards up and stuck them in their mouths. By the slight of hand, Corby then somehow switched the positions of the cards, revealing each man to have the other's signed card in their mouth when they reopened it.

Another student was even given the opportunity to participate in a trick which involved her picking an envelope with a chance of winning money. As Corby said, she was aiming to select the envelope with \$20 in it amongst three envelopes. After some mind tricks, the girl selected an envelope and revealed a \$20 bill as the crowd cheered.

The catch, though, was that the other two envelopes actually were not empty but contained a \$50 and \$100 bill.

Corby grinned, telling the girl she succeeded at her goal of selecting the \$20 bill.

Additional tricks involved balloon animals, rope and randomly selected numbers by the audience which magically added up to 11923. 11923 was the number Corby had written down before the start of the trick. At an even bigger surprise to the audience, 11923 was also the date, Nov. 9, 2023.

A standout trick of the show involved a few participants from the audience who were given a book and told to select a word at random which Corby would then use psychological magic to try to guess. After a few successes, Corby shocked the audience when he had written down 129L10 as his guess for one girl's word.

The girl gave a bit of a giggle at his guess and revealed that her word was "finger". Corby, however, then took out a dictionary, had an audience member turn to page 129, go to the left hand column (hence the L) and go to the tenth word down. It was "finger."

"The show was so fun," said Eza Chaudhry, senior business administration of management major. "I loved the audience participation. I loved how it was mandatory, even when you did not want to do it at first," Chaudhry continued with a grin.

The week led up to Friday night's



The Beacon/Cassidy Brumagin Casino Night. The event included play-to-win games, food and drinks, celebrity dealers and big prizes.

Prizes for the event included an inflatable kayak, Playstation 5, 10-in-1 game table, electric scooter, bike, Xbox Series X, Legos, Air Pod Max, Montage Mountain ski set valued at \$250, two Wilkes baskets and a Nintendo Switch.

Students were encouraged to wear their Casino Week gear again for additional tickets to win a prize.

The event wrapped up the week, giving students a chance to come together and try their luck at a variety of games for big prizes.



By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

Exploring is one of the most fun parts of the college experience. Exploring new eras, discovering new interests and learning all about new interests.

The GeoExplorers Club promises all of those experiences and more, as they continue to be one of the most prolific and welcoming clubs across Wilkes university campus.

The club deals much in the realm of geology. One of the club's main goals is to spread and gain more interest surrounding geology and the fun that can come with it.

While the club does have a slant toward geology, as the name suggests, it also deals much within the exploration of nature. This comes in the form of the club's

many trips and expeditions to various places including hiking trails, day trips to new locations and treks through nature and more.

"We usually do a trip during spring break (and sometimes during fall break) for those who are interested," said Gabriella Amaya, second year nursing student and member of The GeoExplorers Club.

The club is also active and passionate about fundraising, thinking up new ways to pique people's interest and get them involved.

"During club meetings, we mainly plan fundraisers or trips that we can do throughout the year," said Amaya. "For fundraising, we primarily do rock sales.

"We like to sell a wide variety of rocks, crystals, fossils, etc. We also give people the chance to make their own

bracelets."

The club is not narrow in its focus when it comes to welcoming those of all majors and walks of life, as anyone is open to join, it might even boost one's appreciation and interest in geology.

"People who join GeoExplorers can expect to have a good time with people who share similar interests with them, and might leave with a newfound appreciation for geology," said Amaya, "...it allows people the chance to learn more about geology and it creates a space where everyone can feel welcome."

While the club is active, it is not incredibly demanding, making it so that any student can join regardless of workload and still enjoy the club to the fullest. Meetings are often held about twice per semester.

As for upcoming events, the GeoExplorers club is already planning for new trips and fundraisers to be held.

"This spring, we're planning for a trip out west so if anyone is interested, let us know!" said Amaya.

The GeoExplorers Club has a unique blend of exploration, nature appreciation, fundraising, relationship building and a focus on geological academia that can not be found elsewhere. Put all together, this allows for a club that makes up all of the ideal aspects of what a club should be about.



Graphics/Lara Mullen



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

Morgan Rich, Editor-in-Chief:

Can't Catch Me Now - Olivia Rodrigo

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Runner - Alex G

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Crave - Paramore

Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:

Money, Money, Money - ABBA

Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:

Say It - Rihanna

"Freeze," Opinion Staff Writer:

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Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:

Smurk Carter - Lil Durk

Sam Mullen, Sports. Asst. Editor:

20 Dollar Nose Bleed - Fall Out Boy

Lara Mullen, Designer:

Regret - New Order

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Northern Attitude - Noah Kahan (with Hozier)

...Framing Moments: Continued

After pursuing all of the many iconic pieces in the gallery, one may be struck by a small black and white print depicting a tree branch surrounded by a small body of water. This wet plate print was elegantly taken in 2013 by Mary Whalen, an individual with lots of prominence within the current exhibition.

"I love the way the trees bend and extend outward. They have a lot of personality to them, they always have something to say," said Mary Whalen.

Whalen is a resident of Kalamazoo, Michigan. She is also the chairperson of the Photography and Digital Media program at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, as well as an active teacher within her field. Whalen is adept at all forms of image taking and processing.

The collaboration between Whalen and the Sordoni Art Gallery is the primary reason why the exhibition found its way to Wilkes University. Whalen did not just gift the people of Wilkes-barre the illustrious gallery, but also an art lecture about her own work and the various processes and experiences she has had throughout her decades as a photographer.

"The Art in Context Lecture: Kalamazoo: a Place, a River and Home by Mary Whalen, Photographer and teaching artist at Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and Education for the Arts" was held on Nov. 9. The event was open to the public and included various snacks and refreshments to enjoy outside of the gallery.

During the lecture, Whalen walked the audience through her career, in turn, walking them through various stages in her life. Various vacations, outings, jobs, friends

and family. All her photos gave off an aura of authenticity and sincerity.

While Whalen is more than capable of using digital forms of photography, she still prefers the methods of the past.

"I love the old stuff. It is hanging on a little bit to the past, or looking at something that is old and making a new image of it through a new lens," said Whalen.

Whalen utilized photographic methods used in the 1800's for many of her pieces. This process includes using sheets of metal and various vapors in tandem with light to create the visual images.

"This is the same process that civil war soldiers were photographed with. Normally the portraits are very small. Most of the photos of Abraham Lincoln were done in the same process. If you shoot these in glass, then you have a negative image, in which you can make a print out of," said Whalen.

Whalen uses various analog techniques to create many of her pieces. She even had a darkroom created in her home in

order to continue her more hands on techniques.

She combines her talents for analog and digital when creating cyanotype pieces. These pieces are taken on digital cameras and put into photoshop. While in photoshop the photographer will create a digital negative of the image, which will then be put onto film where it will be coated in various chemicals,

The Beacon/Anthony Cazun

exposed to sunlight and then washed in water.

This process will create a beautiful, painting-like cyan print image.

Whalen has many areas of expertise, along with her very patient and welcoming demeanor, she has had a very long and successful career.

The Framing Moments exhibition will be available until Feb. 4, 2024.



Martin Luther King Jr. arrest, photographed by Charles Moore



James Brown, photographed by Ernest C. Withers



Mary Whalen at Wilkes University podium during art lecture

Alison Bechdel to open Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series

From a press release

The Wilkes University English Department will open the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series with author Alison Bechdel at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13, in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

Bechdel is the creator of “The Secret to Superhuman Strength, Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama, Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic and Dykes to Watch Out For.

She has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a MacArthur Genius Grant.

Fun Home, her first graphic novel, was named a 2006 Best Book of the Year by TIME and was a finalist for

the National Book Critics Circle Award. The Broadway musical adaption of Fun Home won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Wilkes University Theatre will bring Fun Home to the stage from Feb. 22 through 25.

The evening with Alison Bechdel will include a reading and book signing. The event is free and open to the public. Seats are expected to fill quickly and registration is strongly suggested.

For more information on registration and additional guest artists for March and April, visit wilkes.edu/dickson.



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Email kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu



The 31st Annual
Taste of Wilkes:
Neighborhood
Cookout

Photos by Emma Broda



Jacki Eovitch pictured

Taste of WILKES



Amy Patton with her dish
"You're Puddin' Me On"



Participants gather to enjoy
different dishes and win baskets





Robin Walker
Pictured



A few of the selections offered at this event



Angela Cant
stops by to run a
table and give out
incredible dishes!

Paige Gallagher and Janet Cussatt
at their table

Taste of Wilkes
Whipped Feta and
T...

Opinion

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

Editorial Staff 2023-24

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

Daylight savings time needs to be eliminated

Twice a year, residents of nearly the entire nation and many parts of the globe all must endure the disorienting feeling that something is off. More specifically, the time is off.

The clocks are wrong, the sun is in the wrong place at the wrong time, everyone's routine is thrown through a loop and the general energy around everyone is just... off. This is because of the strange and more-than-not unnecessary daylight savings time tradition.

March 12 began this year's daylight savings time, where the sun rises later in the day, around 6:40-7 a.m., which allows for sunlight to remain for most of the day's duration, with sundown often beginning around 5 p.m.

The explanation for this is to allow for greater productivity during the day and save energy by utilizing more sunlight. It's a noble reasoning, however, it has its issues.

The human body needs sunlight for energy, to adjust one's circadian rhythm. Many people must wake up before sunrise to get ready for work, school or any other responsibilities. Waking up in the darkness of night to start the day is incredibly exhausting and discouraging.

This is the standard for much of the entire year. Many people have trouble falling asleep and waking up early during daylight savings time, especially during the first few weeks of the adjustment period.

After all of that, one may expect that once standard time returns everything would be solved, however that is not exactly true either.

Standard time presents its own myriad of issues. While sunrise is earlier in the morning, which coincides with the schedule of many, the downside resides at the other side of the day. Particularly, during sundown.

During standard time, the sun will begin to set around 4:40-5 p.m. Meaning that perceptually, the day will end earlier than before. The limited amount of daylight during the evening makes people naturally tired earlier and discourages productivity during those hours. These hours are especially valuable, as it is when many return from the standard 9 to 5 work schedule.

People also generally spend more money on electricity during standard time, as they will need to utilize more interior lighting due to the lack of sunlight during the evening.

This leads to many wondering what the ideal solution is. Both have their pros and cons, and many feel that daylight savings time should be either applied all year around, or completely eliminated as a whole.

The Senate recently approved a bill that would make daylight savings time permanent. However, members of the House of Representatives have yet to make their decision. This is not too uncommon, as the government has been trying to both solidify and abolish daylight savings time for decades, with there never being a concrete outcome.

While there are pros and cons to both daylight savings time and standard time, the hard decision should be made to streamline the entire process and keep a permanent standard. While daylight savings is easier on the wallet, standard time is more catered to the body's natural sleeping process, lessening health risks.

There seems to be no end in sight to the annual daylight savings time routine, however, the entire concept of two different time sets during the year is in dire need of elimination or reevaluation.

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The Icebox: “The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom”

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Welcome back to the Icebox, where you can learn to stay cool. Last week, I presented to you the treasure known as “Breath of the Wild.” One would think that no game could possibly surpass the nature of such a creation or, at the very least, exceed the expectations that fans had for a sequel.

What if I told you that Nintendo managed to knock both of these goals out of the park? “The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom” is the long-anticipated sequel to “Breath of the Wild” that truly broke the barriers of gaming and outranked its predecessor.

If you read the previous issue of the Beacon, you would know that “Breath of the Wild” contains numerous abilities that enhance one’s experience in combat and adventuring. “Tears of the Kingdom” takes these mechanics to a whole new level and practically reinvents the game. Link is now able to upgrade his weapons with unique attachments, such as making a bouncy hammer with a Hylian shroom, a long whip with Lizalfos tails and even attaching pieces of technology called “Zonai devices.”

The building mechanics do not stop there. Link can grab hold of almost any object and build large contraptions, machines, vehicles, you name it. As if shield tricks and remote bombs weren’t already groundbreaking, Link can now build war machines and take on entire armies of enemies with the swipe of his hand.

Unfortunately for players who fear combat, the enemies in “Tears of the Kingdom” have also been boosted. You will notice that bokoblins and moblins look meaner and scarier and that they are harder to defeat. The monsters have found more industrial ways to take control of Hyrule, building large fortresses with deadly traps. Their weapons are upgraded with abilities, and their body parts are key ingredients in making a weapon more powerful. There are a handful of new enemies, such as the Boss Bokoblin, the cave-dwelling Horriblins and the Frox in the depths.

Of course, “Tears of the Kingdom” also has many changes to the map and the basic worldbuilding formula. This game still

included the base area of Hyrule seen in the previous game, with changes caused by an event known as the Upheaval.

The map now includes three levels: the sky islands, Hyrule and the depths. The sky islands are the tutorial grounds of the game and are more concentrated on the new lore. The mainland of Hyrule still contains a majority of the familiar places. There are wells and caves spread throughout the mainland where Link can find rare treasures. Finally, the depths are very dark and rely on the activation of light roots in order to combat the gloom, which is malicious terrain created by the main enemy Ganon. The depths have unique enemies, such as (spoiler alert) the Yiga clan! Remember when you pushed Master Kohga down that mysterious hole in the Gerudo Desert? Well, guess where he ended up...

Finally, “Tears of the Kingdom” introduces a new plot that draws many players into the experience. After the fall of the Great Calamity in “Breath of the Wild,” Link and Zelda go to explore the ruined Hyrule Castle in an attempt to discover the source of Ganon’s power. The rest of the story is for you to find out when you play it. It would be a complete dishonor for me to reveal anything more and spoil the surprise. Mostly every player admits that “Tears of the Kingdom” has a better story than “Breath of the Wild” and that the former is basically the completed version of the latter.

One final note is that “Tears of the Kingdom,” though cohesive with its previous game, is actually standalone in plot. This means that a player does not even need to play “Breath of the Wild” in order to enjoy “Tears of the Kingdom.” The developers designed the game to signal continuity, but also included some retconning so that new players can understand the game all the way through. Personally, I did not agree with this decision as a “Breath of the Wild” player. However, I soon came to terms when I realized that the developers had consideration for their fans and just wanted everyone to enjoy their new masterpiece.

The Return of The Red Raven: an original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

PART 7

“You understand me, Mr. Greenblatt. You agree with me that this bleak and cold world has tainted the world’s idea of what it means to be a hero. That’s why you played along so perfectly up to this point,” the mysterious caller elaborated.

“We’re not alike whatsoever, if that’s what you’re implying. You’re a crazy fanatic, and I’m just trying to get my life back together,” Rick protested.

“Sure, but we both know what will really bring yourself back up to your feet. We both know the solution you so desperately want. You want to wear the mask and cape again. You want that warm feeling of relevance again, you want it to tell you that you’re special,” the mystery caller theorized.

Rick didn’t answer immediately. He only fidgeted his phone briefly before he came up with a remark that would ignore his very correct theory.

“If you feel that the idea of superhero stories should be wholesome again then why kill? Why haven’t you made up your own story that takes it all back to the basics?”

“I tried, but I was laughed at and shunned by everyone I know. More importantly, I do what I do now because I missed you, the world misses you,” the mystery caller said.

Rick’s tone broke as he said, “The world doesn’t miss me.”

“Oh, sure, they do! Why do you think they keep rebooting and remaking every franchise ever made?! They miss the things that shaped their whole childhood, their whole generation, they want that old feeling of justice and hope that you gave them!” the mystery caller explained.

Suddenly, Cameron’s head began to slowly move as he tried to say something. His voice was muffled and his words were indecipherable from the duct tape in his mouth. Rick noticed and was about to call out to him until the killer noticed Cameron waking up. He whacked him in the face with a small wooden alphabet block with the letter “B” on it.

Rick’s hands silenced the scream crawling out of his mouth, but he was still horrified by

not only seeing his husband being brutalized by a crazed murderer, but from the sight of the alphabet block being used as a weapon. Cameron’s head fell back on the chair that he was tied to as the killer adjusted the fancy black glove they were wearing. A small splash of blood spilled onto the knuckles of their glove. They brushed it off against their black coat and looked dead-on at the camera.

“This is my only warning for you. Do not interfere with my work. What I am doing here is going to teach people a lesson, a very important one. The only time I’d ever want you involved is if you dress up as the Red Raven and take me to prison for what I’ve done. However, if you get involved in any other way or get your cop daughter involved in this, I will kill Cameron, Isabelle and everyone else you love. I’ve already made my way through most of the cast, so, I guess I’ve been doing a good job so far!”

The mystery killer laughed at their dark joke then stated, “I’m being honest when I say that I’m a big fan of yours, Mr. Greenblatt. It would be a shame if I were to kill you, but I will do what it takes to get what I want.”

Suddenly, the video ended, and Rick started to quickly type in 9-1-1 onto his phone but stopped midway when he remembered the mystery killer’s warning. If he were to get the police involved, they would kill everyone he loves and most likely him as well. He couldn’t bear to lose his loved ones, let alone being harmed.

He started to make his way to the front door to start a search for Cameron, but heard a knock against the basement door. Rick ran to the basement door and opened it with such aggression, the handle nearly broke. Cameron was bleeding all over the steps and still had the duct tape in his mouth. Rick ripped the tape off of his mouth and hugged Cameron’s body.

“Oh my God, Cameron,” he cried onto his shoulder.

“R-Rick,” Cameron mumbled. He could barely talk from the blood pouring from his mouth.

Rick carried his body to the couch and as he settled his body onto the cushions he realized something.

The killer was inside of their home.

To be continued...

The numerous problems with live service video games

By Shawn Carey
Contributing Writer

Modern gaming is an interesting place to say the least. There's constantly something changing. Whether that be trends, developers or release dates. Every once in a while, however, there's an aspect of the industry that stays around for a while. Right now that aspect seems to regrettably be "live service" games.

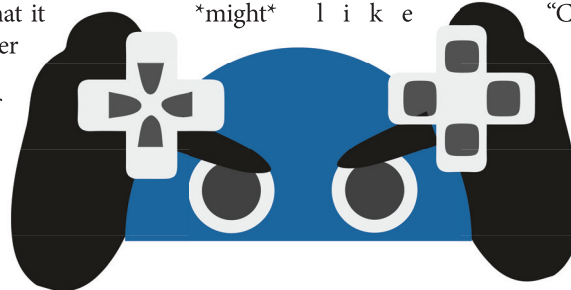
"Live service" games, also known as "games as a service," are games that are forever evolving with new features and content. The concept of getting more content for your favorite game on a semi-regular schedule sounds nice on paper.

In reality however, they usually end up featuring problems such as broken launches, micro-transactions, limited content and half-finished updates. These are problems that the publishers are usually aware of and don't care about.

Ever since the concept of live service games first got popular in 2015, we have witnessed an increase in unbelievably mediocre titles. Devs have started to have a sort of "release now, fix later" approach to their work, especially involving multiplayer player games.

Game companies used to have to make their launches count back in the day in order to turn a profit, but now thanks to the convenience of being able to patch a game post launch, these studios are now allowed to ship these buggy, unbalanced and downright unfinished products. All they have to do is promise the consumer that they will improve their game later now. Developers are no longer selling games, but a promise that it *might* be good at a later date.

A lot of these games have a sort of "job-like" feel to them. Just like with a real job, there's this overwhelming feeling that you have to play it. You have to complete the battle pass, or you have to unlock this limited time item before it goes away forever. Just like with a job, you can't play at your own pace because everything now has an expiration date. You can't even take a break from playing due to the fear that other players will become better than you and make your experience worse.



These games pretty much weaponize the idea of "fear of missing out." If you're playing and you see a player using a cool battle pass emote that you can't get anymore, I'm sure you'll feel a little bad that you missed out on such a cool cosmetic. This will inspire you to buy the newest battle pass and grind it to make sure that you don't miss out again.

Not even single player games are safe from the live service curse. Games like "Cyberpunk 2077" and "Fallout 76" launched in unfinished states and didn't become the games that the developers originally promised until years later. This goes back to the whole "release now, fix later" mindset.

Some single player games even have "time-saver" micro-transactions that promote the player to actively not play the game. Instead of having to fight a challenging boss to unlock a rare item, you can just spend a few bucks and buy it. This has been a part of the last three "Assassin's Creed" games and they find success from it each and every time,

which leads into my last point.

Companies aren't entirely at blame. They can only get away with things that the consumers tolerate. In the gaming community, there's a huge amount of people who defend the actions of these devs. No matter how poor a game is there will always be someone there to say "give it time it'll get better" or "just ignore (insert flaw here)."

Not every live service game is bad. "Fortnite" and "Final Fantasy XIV" were released as perfectly great games, only using the live service format to make themselves even better. The core of the matter is where do we draw the line in the sand?

Adding new content to our favorite games is great but when does it become too much? I have always believed that a developer's first goal should be to release a good game and everything after that should just be there to improve said game. However, as I mentioned before, this doesn't seem to be the mindset most have.

I do believe that gaming will get better as time goes on, but how long will it take? When will players finally say enough is enough? While I don't have the answers to any of these questions, I do believe that it will eventually happen.

Graphic by Lara Mullen

Campus Suggestions: Why being a commuter isn't so bad

By Samara Carey
Contributing Writer

Hello everyone! Welcome back to "Campus Suggestions," where I talk about my opinions about our campus and try to convince you to feel the same way that I do (or at least attempt to do so).

In this article, I will be discussing the highs and lows of being a commuter on campus. Now, obviously everyone that is a commuter has their own opinions on this topic, but I'm here to say it's not that bad. Before I begin, I know you're asking why I am speaking out about this, and to that I say because I'm a commuter silly! I've been driving 15 minutes to and from campus every day for the last year and a half now, so I feel like I'm qualified enough to talk about this.

For starters, let's get the elephant out of the room here. We are saving a ton of money.

Since we aren't living directly on campus and need a meal plan for every meal, our tuition bill doesn't make us wince every time it's time for us to pay for each semester. Even though we don't have dining or flex dollars, we do have the ability to have a commuter meal plan that we can use for meals for those long days on campus (which is pretty much everyday, to be honest). So it's nice to have an option even if we can all mutually agree that the food is just OK.

Speaking of food, we are able to eat meals at our own houses! I always hear people say that they "miss their moms cooking," and that "all they want is a home cooked meal." Well, guess what? My mom makes me that every night, since I see her everyday for dinner of course. In all seriousness though, it is nice to be able to eat my own food and have control over what I choose to eat each day.

Another pro of mine that I want to talk about is more of a personal one. If you are like me, moving away to college was an incredibly hard thing to imagine, especially since I am so close with my family. When I was picking schools out to look at, I was terrified of moving away to colleges that were only 45 minutes away, let alone a few hours. Therefore, the fact that I am able to get my education, pursue amazing opportunities, love where I go and also only live 15 minutes away from campus is a huge blessing in my book.

While I do acknowledge that there are some cons to being a commuter, it really isn't that bad. If you want to know the worst part of being a commuter, it is the constant fear of missing out. That being said, I always feel like I am missing out on the "college experience," since I am not rooming here at Wilkes. I will admit, I do not have this fear

as bad as I'm sure many people do, due to the fact that I feel that I am very involved on campus.

Also, I like to think that since I am here all the time and I practically live in my friends dorms, I am an honorary resident of University Towers the way it is. That being said, if it wasn't for them, I think I would probably go crazy thinking about all the crazy stuff happening without me there.

While there are other disadvantages about not being a commuter like not having anywhere to go in between classes, needing to wake up extra early in the morning to get ready and drive and having to deal with snow during the winter, it could be worse.

At the end of the day, we get to have a different college experience, and if commuting works for you, that's great. If you prefer to live on campus, that's also great. If you are really feeling bold, why not do both?

Explaining the hate towards legacy characters in comics

Why do some comic fans detest character changes?

By Shawn Carey

Contributing Writer

Recently it seems like every piece of superhero media has been playing with the idea of “passing on the mantle.” The “Marvel Cinematic Universe” is a prime example of this. Within the last three years alone, we have seen the characters Sam Wilson, Shuri, Kate Bishop and Riri Williams toss aside their previous identities and pick up the roles of Captain America, Black Panther, Hawkeye and Iron Heart respectively.

The previous four heroes I listed are what is known as “legacy characters.” The concept of “legacy characters” has existed in the realm of comics for quite some time. “The Phantom” is the earliest example of the character type, dating all the way back to the 1950s. It has always been a beloved part of the comic medium with a lot of fans liking legacy characters more than the original. With that being said, why does it seem like so many people have problems with the newer characters?

Before we get into everything I just want to make a quick note. The comic community is split into many different parts and is incredibly diverse. There’s something for everyone. Whether that be in the books, movies, video games or animated series, it’s quite rare to find someone who doesn’t like anything superhero related. What I’m going to be discussing in this article applies to every aspect of comics, but I will have a focus on the books and films since that’s where the problem is most rampant.

So, what problems do people tend to have with the new legacy characters? If you were to ask someone this question, they’ll probably give you one of the following answers. “They didn’t earn the title,” “the original was better,” and “it was an unnecessary change,” “just make new characters.” Personally, I don’t really tend to take any of these answers seriously. In fact, I believe that these are all used as cover for their true reasoning.

Let’s quickly go over some of the

problems with these answers. Starting with the idea that the character “didn’t earn the title.” I never understood what people meant with this. How does a person “earn” the title of a certain hero?

There are a few heroes that this argument makes sense for, such as the Lantern Corps of DC Comics. To become a lantern you must embody a specific emotion, such as a s
a n g e r, f e a r,

willpower, hope
and love.
There is a
set way in
becoming
a lantern.
However, what
makes someone worthy
of becoming a hero like
Captain America?

Most legacy heroes share the same powers as their predecessor, but apparently that’s not enough for some people. There’s “something else” that makes them worthy. What that “something” is tends to be a mystery. It doesn’t seem like they need the blessing of those who came before them, for example Barry Allen is widely accepted as The Flash even though he didn’t get permission from Jay Garrick to use the name. So what exactly is needed?

Next is the most common answer “the original was better.” I don’t think I have to tell you guys the problem with this one. This is an extremely subjective answer. There isn’t really a way to judge the quality of a character. There isn’t a specific personality trait that instantly

makes a character better.

Let’s compare and contrast the first and second characters that took up the Ant-man persona. Hank Pym is a brilliant scientist who’s constantly trying to push mankind forward into a bright future. Meanwhile, Scott Lang is a witty ex-con who’s trying to do right by his daughter and make up for his past actions. While one character may seem more interesting than the other, that doesn’t make the other bad.

“It was an unnecessary change” is an answer I have mixed opinions on.

While I can see it as a valuable response, I can’t think of a story where this applies.

Most writers build up to the change; it never j u s t happens. When a p e r s o n says this I usually just blame it on them not keeping up with the universe.

Jane Foster was the focus of much backlash in 2015 when Marvel made her the new Thor. Countless “fans” complained about the change and how it didn’t make sense for such a random character to become the new god of thunder. In reality, the event was being built up for about two years. I understand that not everyone has the time to keep up with multiple monthly series, and I do believe that there is a conversation to have about how that is harmful to the overall reader experience. However, these writers tend to know what they are doing, and I think a person has to actually experience the story before making comments about it.

Lastly we have the infamous “just

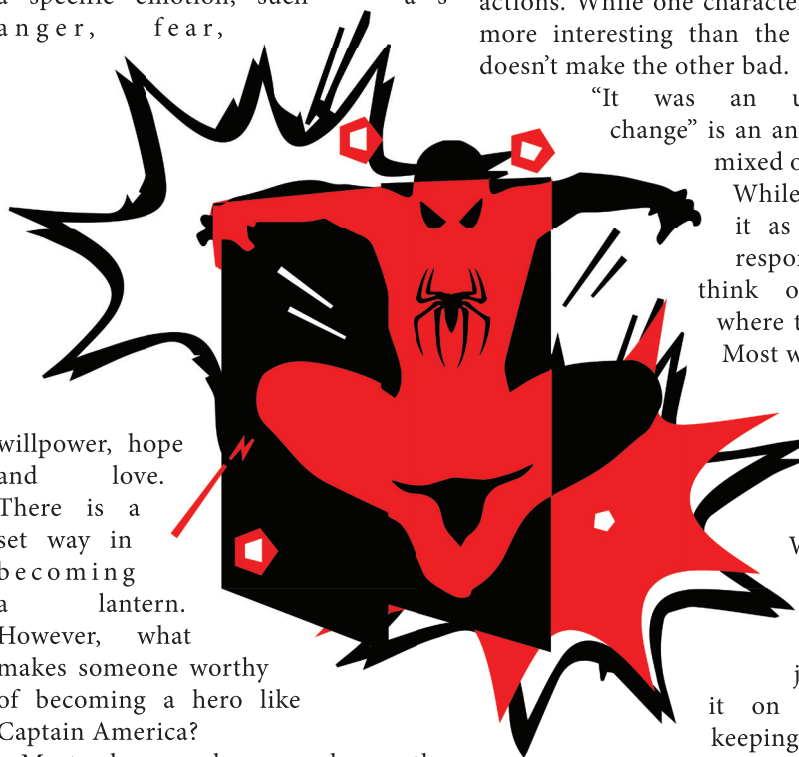
make new characters.” I purposely saved this one for last because it plays well into my main point. When a character shows up donning the uniform and power set of an old hero you tend to hear people complain about the publisher being out of ideas and pandering to a crowd. As much as I hate to admit it, the comic community is full of some truly awful people. There’s a select group of comic fans who seemingly hate change, especially when it comes to getting rid of straight white male protagonists. I’m sure you know the group of people I’m talking about.

Whenever one of the big comic publishers makes a post online announcing that a new character will be taking the role of an old one, there’s a high chance that the comment section will be filled with people complaining about it. These complaints can vary depending on the gender, race and sexual orientation of the new character. However, in the end it mainly boils down to grown men crying about “wokeness” and “white erasure,” two things that don’t actually exist.

Miles Morales sadly tends to be one of the characters these people love to talk about. Ever since he first debuted almost 10 years ago, he has been the subject of nonstop hate. As of recently, his haters have taken to saying the phrase “Peter Parker is Spider-man and Miles Morales is Miles Morales.” This is strange to me because no one really said anything when Ben Reilly took up the Spider-man mantle back in the 90s. In fact, they welcomed him with open arms. Ben Reilly is a white man by the way.

I know I’m writing an article about them, but I truly believe that the worst thing you could do is show these people attention. They make up a small percentage of the community, and I promise you that real fans do not share the same opinion. If they truly understood the heroes they claim to love so much then they would know that reputation matters.

Graphic by Lara Mullen



JPEGMAFIA and Danny Brown push the boundaries of music

An in-depth review of "SCARING THE HOES"

By Logan Colonna
Contributing Writer

JPEGMAFIA and Danny Brown, two underground American hip-hop artists, teamed up for their highly-anticipated debut collaboration, "SCARING THE HOES." This album had fans on the edge of their seats as its release date came marching forward.

In this record, listeners are in for an experience that pushes the boundaries of what's considered "normal" in hip-hop. JPEGMAFIA's distinctive production choices, characterized by their avant-garde nature and unapologetic intensity, are complemented by Danny Brown's unexpected vocal inflections and raunchy lyrical content matter.

Together, they have crafted an album that goes beyond the mainstream, delivering an audacious sound. The two made sure to push the boundaries of the genre to ensure that it leaves a lasting impression.

The album hits the ground running with "Lean Beef Patty." The listener is immediately greeted with weird production choices as the instrumental comes from a hyper-speed version of a 2002 Diddy track, setting the tone for what's to follow. On top of this, the thunderous bass and drum patterns accompany the rapping from JPEG and Danny greatly. As the two show off their chemistry, it's already obvious why so many fans are in love with this album.

"Steppa Pig" starts with Danny as soon as the song begins. Per usual, he does great. However, JPEG easily steals the show here. For whatever reason, I love JPEG's performance here, even over Danny's, especially if you include his production skills being used here. Personally, this track is slightly forgetful, but everytime I come back to it, I'm reminded of its greatness.

The title track, "SCARING THE HOES," is a standout of the album. This is because of the immense use of brass instruments and the overly graininess of the soundscape. When both artists are rapping, you can hear the grain that was

layered onto their voices. Danny has an excellent verse, while JPEG takes a step back and takes on the chorus, which is also great.

My favorite track is undoubtedly "Garbage Pale Kids." The sample used here is nothing less than weird, as it calls back to a Japanese ramen commercial from the mid-90s. The duo shines brightly here as it's easily their best rap performance on this record. The rappers glide effortlessly on the quirky and catchy beat. JPEG's unique production and Danny's raw lyrical talent combine without fail.

"Fentanyl Tester" is the fifth track on the album. The track samples a popular song from 2003, this being "Milkshake" by Kelis. The iconic line, "My milkshake brings all the boys to the yard," is chopped up and used throughout the whole song. Apart from this sample, I absolutely love the way JPEG and Danny rap over the instrumental. The song ends with an outro of just the instrumental with "Milkshake" being chopped over and over again.

The fan favorite is "Burfict!" As the song begins, the listener is greeted with a grand introduction as Roman Colosseum-like horns start to blast into their ears. As the song progresses, JPEG unfolds this fusion of hip-hop and orchestral production. While the rapping does take a back seat to the production, it still adds to the overall track.

"Shut Yo B---h A-- Up/Muddy Waters" is divided into two different sections. The first being Danny's portion, while the second is JPEG's. I like JPEG's a little bit more just because of the instrumental. While it's pretty similar to the beat used before it, something about it just hits me right. Both artist performances here are pretty great overall as well.

"Orange Juice Jones" is named after the R&B singer of the 1980s, Oran "Juice" Jones, and pays homage to his certain style. To capture his sound, the instrumental is sampled from Michael Jackson's "Dear Michael." Both artists tone down their vocals to match the track's atmosphere, and they do it quite

well. This exhibits their sheer amount of versatility as they easily rap over any obstacle thrown their way.

The track, "Kingdom Hearts Key," is a standout from the rest, yielding the only feature on this album, redveil. For those not aware of him, he created his breakout song "pg baby" in 2022, which was loved by the masses. The instrumental stands out as it uses sampled voices from an anime and offers intricate drum patterns. The track shifts into redveil's verse as the instrumental tones down, offering a fresh breath of air for the listener.

"God Loves You" instantly starts off with a gospel-like soundscape with a choir singing in the background. Danny's whole verse contains constant references to the Bible, such as Noah's Ark, Moses, the Twelve Disciples and Adam and Eve. All of the lyrics here are funny and witty. Nothing is added here content wise by JPEG, but I still enjoy his performance here quite a bit. Yet again, I love the overproduction as it ties the track all together.

"Run The Jewels" is the shortest track on the record, clocking in at a minute and change. In comparison to the other songs on the album, the vocal inflections and overall production are somewhat calm. Think of it as a break from the album. While it's not bad by any means, it is the worst on the album.

Another personal favorite is "Jack Harlow Combo Meal," which, despite its odd name, stands out as a unique track. This song features this elegant piano chord progression that's constantly in the background, which makes this track stand out even among the other anomalies on the album.

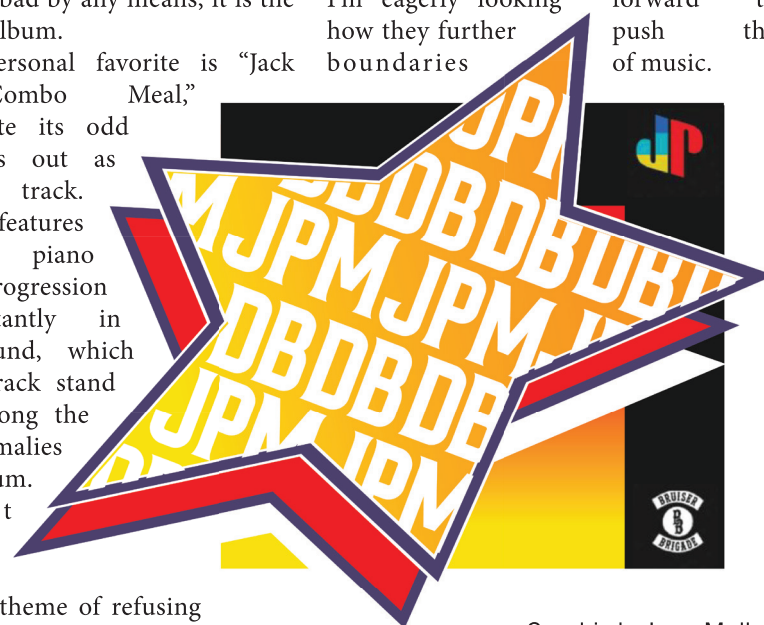
Throughout the song, both rappers maintain the theme of refusing to compromise their artistic integrity.

They take shots at people in the music industry, American hip-hop artist Jack Harlow in particular for his endorsement with KFC in 2022.

Yet another one of my favorite tracks is "HOE (Heaven on Earth)." The song takes obvious inspiration from gospel music as it incorporates certain elements from it, such as an organ and choir-like vocals into its instrumental. Toward the end of the track, the vocals take a backseat as they're cut from the track while the instrumental shifts to a different approach. This allows listeners to appreciate the amazing production of this song and the album as a whole.

The last track, "Where Ya Get Ya Coke From?" undoubtedly offers an interesting experience sonically with a booming instrumental per usual. However, the previous track would have acted as a much better send-off for the listener rather than this song, lowering my overall likeliness of the track.

I deeply admire the approach this album has taken as it pushed the boundaries of hip-hop and music as a whole. Since the initial release of the album, fans have been treated to an EP titled "SCARING THE HOES: DLC PACK." News has been released from JPEG and Danny that tells fans they're working on another album. I'm eagerly looking forward to how they further push the boundaries of music.



Graphic by Lara Mullen

Sports

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

Wilkes student & hockey fanatic fighting courageous battle

By Adam Grundt and Sam Mullen

Editor's Note: Julia Mazur, a 20-year-old Wilkes University student, former staff writer for The Beacon, and member of the Communication Studies Department, is currently in the fight for her life against stage 4 cancer. In addition to writing stories for The Beacon, Mazur was active in several co-curriculars within the Communication Studies Department when healthy. We, at The Beacon, await her return to campus and are proud to not only call Julia a colleague, but, more importantly, a friend.

Cancer.

The dangerous disease, feared by individuals across America, hit close to home this year.

On July 28, Wilkes University student and men's ice hockey equipment manager, Julia Mazur, was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic melanoma, infecting her lymph nodes, liver, lungs, and small parts of her bone joints. Mazur is 20 years old.

But even during her battle with this disease, Mazur remains positive and stresses the importance of positivity during tough times.

"Positivity has helped me a lot through everything," Mazur said. "It is such a hard and painful thing to go through. My mother has been my rock in this and hasn't left my side even while I have been hospitalized over a month.

"One big thing I learned is how important positivity is in a bad situation. I also learned that you could have some bad moments but there is no reason to have a bad day. It is also important to live in the moment and appreciate every day and everything you have.

"I often think about how I used to

cry over the smallest things and I look back on it and realize that none of it was ever important."

During treatment, Mazur has been unable to attend physical classes and often has to join classes via Zoom.

"Right now, I am unable to really do much schoolwork because of all the testing I'm having done and also spending the last month in the hospital," Mazur explained. "Prior to that it was a huge struggle to get to be physically on campus to sit through a class so I had requested to Zoom into classes a lot.

"All my professors have been so kind and willing to help and accommodate with anything I need."

The Wilkes men's ice hockey team is pulling for Julia in her courageous battle with cancer.

"We want our equipment manager Julia to know we are thinking about her and are behind her every step of the way," men's ice hockey head coach Tyler Hynes said. "She's had our back and we have hers."

The Wilkes men's ice hockey team is not the only group pulling for Mazur during this time.

Mazur's love for hockey extends outside of Wilkes University and to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins. She attended the games and then got an opportunity to work there as a member of the ice crew.

The Penguins even mapped out an internship for Mazur that allowed her to see how the AHL team was able to make everything work for their entire season at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

This past Saturday, the Penguins had a Julia Mazur Penguin for a Day Benefit. Portions of the gold zone were donated to Mazur. There was a great turnout for the game as well as the game earlier in the day for D-League and Friends members. There were tons of people there to support Mazur and

BASKET RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

To Benefit Julia Hockey Mazur

2.18.24

Julia is 20 years old and has been diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic melanoma cancer

To donate a basket for this event please private message Julia on Instagram @julia.mazur93

*Event tickets will go on sale in January

sport the purple "Cancer is Brutal" shirt.

"Support has been overwhelming to say the least," Mazur said, graciously. "People I haven't talked to in forever have reached out asking if I need anything or even to donate a basket for the fundraiser we are having on Feb. 18."

A basket raffle event will be held in February, to help raise funds for Mazur during her battle. Tickets for this event will go on sale in January. More information about the event can be found on Mazur's Instagram page, @julia.mazur93.

"People can donate a basket for the fundraiser we will be having in February of next year," Mazur said. "The baskets can be dropped off at Tiny Trends in Luzerne or Lil' Tikes

Playschool in Scranton."

In addition, Mazur has also started a GoFundMe page to help limit the financial costs of treatment. The support, needless to say, has been overwhelming. Mazur has raised over \$18,000 through this fundraiser.

To donate to Mazur's GoFundMe, go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/julia-diagnosed-with-stage-4-metastatic-cancer>.

Wilkes women's basketball season preview

By Sam Mullen

Contributing Writer

This season, women's basketball is looking to improve from last year, which was full of ups and downs.

This is the first season the team, and players are eager to make the Wilkes name known. In addition, the team has a new head coach, Al Berger.

Despite the major changes, team members have shown nothing but excitement.

During the 2022-23 season, the team won eight games, including the game against cross-town rival King's College, played on Wilkes' home court. Another noteworthy game was against FDU-Florham. The women had 69 rebounds in that game, as well as 11 three-pointers.

They beat FDU by more than 60 points, with a score of 84-20.

"This season I'm looking forward to playing in a new conference that will challenge us as a team and continue to push us to the level we hope to achieve," said Yamerilis Matos, a sophomore from Springfield Massachusetts. "Personally, I look forward to expanding my skill set as a point guard and adjusting to a faster style of play that will bring many scoring opportunities and success".

When asked if there was anybody in particular that she looked up to, Matos said fellow teammate Julia Marino.

"The way she plays fascinates me. Her ability to create plays and facilitate the ball amazes me. I look up to her in the sense that I enjoy learning from her on the court.

"She maintains aggressiveness while calm through tough times in the game and is very smart when it comes to making decisions."

Marino, from Washington Township, New Jersey, is ready for her senior season and excited for the team's new coach..

"He has brought a fresh perspective and coaching view to our team," she said. "His belief in the team's capabilities is something I think all of



Photo courtesy of Wilkes Athletics

Wilkes women's basketball secured their first season win against Marywood University with a score of 56-50.

us really respond to.

"Entering the Landmark Conference and having a new coach is definitely a lot of adjustment, but the team has been working hard day in and day out to make sure we're fully prepared once conference play begins".

Marino, in her final year playing, reflected on her time at Wilkes. She said one of her favorite memories is when the team beat nationally-ranked Stevens her sophomore year.

"It was a really exciting accomplishment for the program and our team," she explained. "Additionally, I have so many memories that I've made with my teammates every year that I'm super thankful for."

Also returning this year is fifth-year student, Brenna Babcock of Sweet Valley, Pennsylvania. Babcock plays point guard.

"I think throughout my years playing at Wilkes I have developed into a much more mature and well-rounded player. My teammates and coaches have helped me grow physically and mentally as a player to help our team succeed."

Taylor Simpson, a first-year from Dunmore, Pennsylvania, is one of two first-years playing. Coming into college is a big adjustment to anyone's life, but Simpson has taken it in stride.

"Whether it is on the court, in the weight room, or in the classroom, I prioritize my mental and physical health. In order to do my best as a college athlete, I have to make sure I stay on top of my physical health such as eating, sleeping, and having free time.

"I work hard to stay on top of basketball and school, but I also make

time to spend time with my friends and prioritize my own well-being."

Although it is Berger's first season coaching, he has already sensed the commitment the team has to improving.

"The team knows we have a tough schedule but we are excited for the challenge."

Before coming to Wilkes in May of 2023 he was the head coach of the Keystone Giants.

"I have a very balanced group led by our four seniors," Berger said. "I am excited for the return of the majority of our leading scorers from last year."

The Colonels had their first game on Nov. 10 against Marywood University. They were able to secure a 56-50 win with Marino securing the win two free-throws.

Eagles sit 8-1 at halfway point of season

By Adam Grundt
Asst. Sports Editor

Last season, the Eagles came very close to the franchise's second super bowl championship, where they were defeated by the Kansas City Chiefs in a 38-35 shootout.

As the 2023 National Football Season reaches its halfway point, many students and NFL insiders believe that this could truly be the Eagles' year.

The Eagles are coming off a close victory against the Dallas Cowboys, a game in which they won 28-23 and improved their record to 8-1. Jalen Hurts passed for 207 yards, D'Andre Swift rushed for 43 yards, and A.J. Brown caught seven passes for 66 yards and a touchdown to lead the Eagles to their eighth victory of the season.

To this point in the season, the Eagles

defeated the New England Patriots, Minnesota Vikings, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Washington Commanders (twice), Los Angeles Rams, Miami Dolphins, and most recently, the Cowboys. Their only loss came at the hands of the New York Jets.

Sophomore student Devin Markert believes that this is the Eagles best chance for a Super Bowl championship.

"They have eight wins, they are solid on both sides of the ball, and I don't think many teams in the league can beat the Birds at full strength."

The Eagles, with a record of 8-1, sit atop the league's NFC East division. Wide receiver A.J. Brown has six touchdowns this season, and quarterback Jalen Hurts has thrown for 15 touchdowns. Although he has thrown eight interceptions, Hurts has compiled a passer rating of 97.0 and

thrown for over 2,000 yards at the halfway point of the season.

"I think Haason Reddick has been the best player this season," sophomore Danny Storm said. "He is the leader on defense, and has over seven sacks so far this season. He has been the most impactful player so far this season and sets the tone for the defense week in and week out."

Reddick leads a defensive core that also contains Reed Blankenship, Darius Slay, and Zach Cunningham, three defensive players that currently hold Pro Bowl potential. Blankenship and Slay each have two interceptions on the year, and Cunningham has over 50 tackles at the halfway point of the year.

If the Eagles want to find success for the remainder of the season, the defense must remain strong and the

offense must produce at the rate they have produced so far this season. If quarterback Jalen Hurts wants to return to MVP contention, he must lead his team to another deep playoff run.

The Eagles next five games will certainly be a test for the team. On Nov. 20, they play the Kansas City Chiefs (7-2) on Monday Night Football. Then, the team travels back to Philadelphia for two consecutive games against the Buffalo Bills (5-4) and San Francisco 49ers (5-3).

The Eagles then go on the road to face off against the Dallas Cowboys (5-3) and Seattle Seahawks (5-3). The team then concludes their season with two games against the New York Giants (2-7) and one against the Arizona Cardinals (2-7) in the final three weeks of the season.

Graphic/Morgan Rich

*The Beacon is looking for sports writers for the
Spring 2024 semester*

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

Athlete of the Week

Emma Burlew First Year, Women's Swimming

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week

Burlew won two individual races, the 50 freestyle and 500 freestyle, in a match against Goucher College. She recorded a time of 27.05 in the 50 freestyle, and a time of 5:54.93 in the 500 freestyle where she defeated two of Goucher College's swimmers.

Major: Neuroscience
Hometown: Effort, Pa.
High School: Pleasant Valley

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

On Halloween, we split into two teams and made rafts out of cardboard and other things from the pool deck and raced.

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

Philadelphia Eagles

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Reading or going out with my friends.

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

I get to represent Wilkes! I love being a Colonel and being able to swim for Wilkes is amazing.

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

She's the Man

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

Perhaps water polo because I don't see myself outside of the pool.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

On my club team, I was counting for someone swimming the mile during practice and I accidentally fell into the water. It was a very funny moment and I don't think I'll ever forget it.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Chick-fil-a.

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

I am honestly very surprised I got picked athlete of the week. There are many great female athletes at Wilkes so I felt very grateful when I found out. I will continue to work hard at practice, during swim meets, and outside of the pool.

The Beacon//Ava Tureen

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

Athlete of the Week

Jack Perna

Junior, Men's Ice Hockey Goalie

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

Perna led the Colonels to two victories against No. 15 Albertus Magnus Colege on Friday and Saturday. He finished the two games with 71 saves, a goals-against-average of 1.00, and a .973 save percentage.

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Sykesville, Md.

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

Winning the MAC championship my freshman year and playing in the UCHC championship game

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

New York Rangers

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Work out and hang out with my friends.

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

I love how close knit our team is and the support we receive from other students and faculty.

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

Miracle

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

Baseball

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Winning states in my last year of youth hockey and getting to go to USA Hockey Nationals.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Chipotle

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

I feel honored to be chosen but would not be here without the guys in front of me.



The Beacon/Sam Mullen

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