

The BEACON

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V.P. for Finance and Support Operations resigns

Byers accepts position at Diversified Information Technologies

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon Asst. News Editor

Scott Byers, Wilkes University's General Counsel and Vice President for Finance and Support Operations, announced his resignation this weekend and will be leaving the university as soon as a replacement is found, but no later than May 15, 2007. A search for a successor is slated to begin immediately.

Byers, who oversees all budgetary, legal, and support operations for the university, will become General Counsel for Diversified Information Technologies based in Scranton, PA. Diversified is an information processing company with more than 250 clients and its CEO is Clifford K. Melberger, a Wilkes University Board of Trustees member.

Byers said he will be taking his many years of experience to his new position at Diversified where he "will be responsible for the legal side of the house ... as well as helping out a couple different areas."

Byers is not the first Wilkes administra-

tor to leave for Diversified. Josephine Panganiban, Wilkes's former Vice President of Human Resources left the university on November 3, 2006, to accept a similar vice presidency with the company. The search to fill the Vice President for Human Resources position at Wilkes is in its final stages.

Byers is the fourth administrator in a year to leave Wilkes. In addition to Panganiban's departure, Provost Maravene Loeschke left to become President of Mansfield University, and Associate Provost Barbara Loftus recently departed for a Vice Presidential post with Middle States. President Tim Gilmour said, "The fact of the matter is this wonderfully talented cabinet brought [the university] progress...Talented people will move onto bigger and better things."

Byers agreed and credited Gilmour's leadership for having supported the professional development of his cabinet members. "[Gilmour] does a fine job of preparing and developing people not only for here, but for the next stage in their career development."

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Final two Provost candidates visit campus

Search committee expected to make recommendation this week

BY ALISON WOODY

Beacon Asst. News Editor

The provost search committee, despite some minor setbacks, is readying for the last stages of review before selecting a replacement for Dr. Maravene Loeschke and making a recommendation to President Gilmour.

The last of the three candidates vying for

the provost position had a chance to visit campus last week.

Dr. Laurie A. Fathe, the current Associate Provost for Educational Improvement and Innovation at George Mason University, spent two days at Wilkes University getting to know students, faculty and administration.

On Tuesday, February 20, Fathe had the opportunity to voice her opinions and concerns through a question and answer session



The Beacon/ Andrew Seaman

General Counsel and Vice President for Finance and Operations Scott Byers will leave Wilkes University as soon as a replacement is found but will stay no longer than May 15, 2007. A search for Byers' successor is said to start immediately.

that has become routine with each candidate for provost.

Fathe opened her introduction by explaining her respect for the students at Wilkes. "The one thing that I found since I've been here is that I have heard no one bad thing about the students from faculty, from administration, from anybody else. Whatever else is good or bad at this institution, there seems to be a uniformed census that the students are quite wonderful... and that is

what interests me in this institution... It's making a difference in the lives of people who come here.

"I think the provost is somebody who has to listen to the concerns that are out there and keep the institutional perspective in line... I would hope that I would be able to articulate what my priorities are and how

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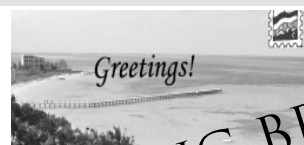
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Eating disorder screening week kicks off this week

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon News Editor

A portrait of a girl hangs in the psychology lounge on the third floor of Breiseth Hall. It is an oil painting of Lauren Martin, a Wilkes junior who died March 27, 2004, at the age of 24 after a courageous battle with anorexia nervosa.

"Lauren was a very special person. I know that everyone who knew her was deeply saddened by her death," said Associate Professor of Psychology Debbie Tindell.

In light of Eating Disorder Awareness Month, Psi Chi, the national honor society of psychology students, will hold its annual Eating Disorder Screening Day in honor of Martin. The event is slated to begin Monday from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Henry Student Center.

"The screenings are very accurate in terms of indicating if there's a problem," psychology professor

Robert Bohlander explained.

Students and faculty who wish to be screened will take a pencil-and-paper type test, answering a series of questions that will be evaluated by a campus counselor who in turn will inform the test taker whether or not he or she is at a high or low risk of developing an eating disorder. The tests are completely confidential, though Bohlander feels that the people who need to take the test most, don't.

"Denial is a big problem, especially in anorexia nervosa patients. Many of them don't believe that there is a problem. They believe what they are doing is the right thing. They believe it shows good self control," he said.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health and the American Psychiatric Association, more than seven million women and one million men nationwide experience some form of an eating disorder. With the highest death

rate of all of the eating disorders (about a 10% mortality rate), anorexia nervosa is estimated to affect about 1% of teenage girls, while 5% of college-aged students have it nationally.

"It's a very, very serious condition," Bohlander said.

Junior psychology major Rachael Cosgrove was diagnosed with the disease when she was only 14 years old after going through several family issues, which is one of the causal factors of the disease, and to this day, she continues to struggle with her weight.

"It's hard," she said. "I'd love to be able to eat whatever I want whenever I want and not worry about it. But the truth is, I'm not at that point yet. I can still remember the freedom of eating before."

Contrary to popular belief, the anorexic doesn't necessarily misperceive their image when looking at themselves in a mirror, but rather they view themselves with a sense of pride, trying to pick out the "problem areas" that could use some work.

"Some people don't see the bones. I saw the bones, and there was some comfort in seeing them," Cosgrove said. "I like taking up less space. You're very aware of the noises your body makes, like when you step on the floor and it creaks, automatically you're thinking: 'it's the weight.'"

Though there is no known cure for eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia other than force feeding and individual or group therapy, there are clinics in the state, such as the Renfrew Clinic in Philadelphia, that are nationally known.

"If you have an eating disorder and want treatment, Renfrew is the place to go," said campus counselor Meghan Broderick.

Getting "checked in" to a hospital, in many cases, can be the possible move for the patient, as Cosgrove, who was only 89 pounds when admitted into Renfrew, explained.

"There's something about the hospital setting that makes it a safe haven," she said. "It was OK

for me to eat. It was OK for me not to exercise."

Terry Martin, Lauren's mother, explained that her daughter was well on her way to recovery after being admitted to several treatment facilities outside of the area. Sadly, she passed away tragically in the midst of her self-will and determination.

"It's very, very hard. And no one knows unless you yourself are living with that illness. But seeing how hard the struggle was, we can only imagine the strength and courage it took to beat this horrific illness," she said.

Lauren's cause of death was attributed to significant damage sustained to her heart after many

years of battling the illness.

"This condition is very damaging to your internal organs," Bohlander said. "A lot of people think you starve yourself to death, but you really don't for most anorexics. You die from all the strain and stress on your organ system, and your heart could give out."

As a parent, Martin stressed the importance of taking the screenings. "You can recover, but before it gets to the stage where it's going to be difficult, get the help you need now. It's easy to deny there is a problem, but if you see yourself in a lot of these questions, then

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The Beacon/Andrew Seaman

Lauren Martin's portrait hangs in the third floor of the psychology lounge. Martin tragically passed away on March 27, 2004 after a courageous battle with anorexia nervosa.

The BEACON

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

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Residence halls hit with leaks and heating issues

Students urged to report any problem no matter how minor

BY ALISON WOODY

Beacon Asst. News Editor

Wilkes University residence halls have been experiencing some minor maintenance issues over the recent weeks. While Public Safety officials have continued to respond to such issues, they stress that unreported instances cannot be fixed unless they are known.

The University Commons on Ross Street, which are leased by Wilkes, have recently faced such problems as dirty water and no heat.

We have had water go off a few times. Our apartment at the beginning of the year was very cold, but we called and complained about it a few times and they did come in and put in a new external heater and put plastic on our windows to help heat it up," said Christine Durdach, P2 pharmacy and University Commons resident.

Alicia Cain, University Commons Resident Assistant, said, "The heat issue has been reported numerous times from way back into last semester probably starting in October. They have tried to be helpful; however, I think in general all of my residents have mostly complained that it really hasn't been resolved."

"They have at least been nice enough to give some rooms space heaters. But with how cold it is... it is still chilly in the apartments. I actually did initially call public safety myself and they said you have to go through the University Commons maintenance staff to get a space heater. It wasn't that they ignored us or ignored the issue... however it's definitely a common complaint," Cain said.

Christopher Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services, said in response to the complaints, "This is the first time that I have heard this. University Commons are aged properties and ...they are on a master lease. The University leases a bunch of those properties from J.R. Robinson, which is an outside firm and the same people who used to own University Towers. We are leasing them as if they are our own residential halls, so we need to be very concerned if we do hear issues of heat and unresponsive issues of service. In the past, we have gotten to the point where we were going to tell the current owners that we were going to start responding ourselves."

Bailey explained that there is a maintenance service provider on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for University Commons and that all issues are usually handled by that source.

"It's an old building first of all. Heating in old building is usually tricky, it's on or off. But if that's the case, especially with this frigid weather, we are going to respond and do whatever it takes to get heat to them or pull that student out of the residence because that is dangerous. Normally, though, we have to use their maintenance and contact them and give them the opportunity. They should be taking care of cleaning the steps, taking care of the heating, the electrical, and all other repair work. If it's not happening, I need to know about that... the University needs to know about that," said Bailey.

Gretchen Yeninas, the acting Director of Residence Life, said, "I know we had an issue with some water, but I didn't know it was black necessarily. But once students reported it, we contacted the management over there to take care of it. To the best of my knowledge it was taken care of as soon as it was reported. If there are other issues out there that weren't reported then if I don't know about them I can't do anything about them." Beth Mahonski, P2 pharmacy and resident of University Commons, voiced her concern over the way the heating problems had been handled, but said that minor problems are usually taken care of quickly.

"I just want to say that when we had problems with our heat and had the maintenance men here several times to look at it. They didn't actually do anything about it until my father called. It's horrible that it takes a parent to call to get things done around here. Most of the other problems we have had have been taken care of without any trouble, like when our toilet broke and if our light bulbs go out," she said.

While University Commons has had its fair share of complaints, there are other resident students also barking about their dorms' hindrances.

Sherri Homanko, sophomore pre-pharmacy and resident of recently purchased University Towers, has complained about the elevators breaking down on numerous occasions.

"Public safety is well aware of the problem that is going on. There is always at least one of the two elevators broken down. A few times already this year, both elevators have been broken. The only access to the building if both elevators are broken down is if someone walks down the stairs and props the door open," said Homanko.

Michael Zack, freshman undeclared major and resident of Sterling Hall, said, "I noticed something leaking from the third floor hallway extremely close to one of the fluo-



The Beacon/Nick Podolak

A mop bucket captures a leaking ceiling in the basement of Stark Learning Center. With the recent abundance of snow, many buildings and residence halls on campus have been hit with water leaks and heating problems. Christopher Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services, urges all students to report any issue no matter how minor.

rescent lights. I knew this was dangerous and went back to double check that it was indeed water dripping by the light. However, when I went back the second time it had stopped. There was a water stain on the ceiling tile and a wet spot on the floor where this had occurred. I haven't seen it since and I didn't see the need to tell anyone about the problem, but if it happens to continue I will report it."

Stephanie Gerchman, freshman elementary education major and resident of Slocum Hall, also spoke about water leakage problems.

"Last semester, in our shower, there was always water dripping from the ceiling. The boys' bathroom is directly above our bathroom, therefore the water had to be coming from their shower, which is really gross. There was also always a puddle of water in the middle of the floor," she said.

"I called maintenance and they said they would send someone over. A month later and still there was nothing. I told my RA and I'm not sure if she called, but I called again and they finally came and fixed it. They did leave the ceiling boards down for weeks though so when you looked up in the shower you saw wood beams and stuff," said Gerchman.

Kacy Muir, junior English major and resident of Catlin Hall, actually enjoys her

dorm despite some minor problems.

"It is an old mansion and it is to be expected that there are minor problems with it. The room gets cold every once and awhile but the heat is always on high, whether we want it or not. There are rare times when water from the rain comes through our door, which we filled with bags, but the door leads to a fire escape for safety. We also haven't followed up with maintenance to fix the door so that is a fault of our own," she said.

Catlin Hall's Resident Assistant concurred. "Personally, I feel that the conditions of the dorms, especially Catlin, are adequate," said Alison McDonald, sophomore pre-pharmacy major.

Bailey added that reporting any problem is of utmost importance.

"What I would ask is that the students report these types of issues. The university has no problem stepping in and actually doing whatever it takes for the students. We want to be honest, we want to be open. We are willing to face our errors, but we're getting hit with things that aren't correct," he said.

RESIGN from FRONT PAGE

Gilmour also noted how difficult it will be to find a replacement for Byers because his background and education offered the unique combination of skills that could serve in the capacity of both university’s lawyer and chief financial officer. When asked if these two positions will continue to be connected, Gilmour said, “My bet is, it won’t be ... [it] depends on who it is.”

Michael Frantz, Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing Services, said, “The daily contact and collegiality that he and I have, I will sorely, sorely miss. And I hurt for the institution, because Scott has brought great expertise, wonderful leadership, confidence, and financial stability.”

Frantz added, “[Byers has] made the financial status and budget development process at the institution a much more open process than it ever was prior to his arrival.”

Indeed, when Byers was hired, Wilkes University’s Standard and Poor credit rating was lower and its accounting processes were deemed unstable. The president credits Byers with bringing Wilkes

“financial stability.”

Of Byers’ many accomplishments during his tenure, Frantz acknowledged, “You can certainly point to the instrumental role he has played in the master plan development, in the Barnes and Noble accomplishment, the move into [UCOM], the purchase of University Towers, the restructuring of our indebtedness to free up money for the institution and all of those financial things. But I think the biggest accomplishment of Scott’s is the confidence he brings to his position at this institution. He is just a remarkable professional, non-judgmental, open to sharing information, open to receiving feedback...almost unprecedented.”

During Byers’ years at Wilkes, the office of Public Safety was completely restructured and became a far more visible entity on campus. Byers noted that as far as his accomplishments go, “Public Safety was always one that stuck out, because unless we can provide a safe environment in which to learn, live and play everything else doesn’t really matter.” Byers was also quick to note that, “It was always a team effort.”

Byers added that despite his departure, “the machine keeps moving,” and many of the tasks that need to be addressed by his position for next year will not be affected.

Byers challenged members of the Wilkes community to stay the course on the strategic plan. “Dr. Gilmour has developed a strategic plan with a lot of thought, a lot of input, a lot of challenges to it.” He advised, “...Just remain disciplined in trying to carry out that strategic plan. And that is tough for a lot of organizations to stay the course when things might not feel that good or might not feel all warm and fuzzy, but to stay the course, because the plan has merits to it, and that’s what I really hope the institution does going forward. And if that’s the case, we will come out a much stronger institution.”

Among his best memories during his tenure at Wilkes, Byers recalled opportunities to bond with others. “Two years ago when, I believe Wilkes beat King’s at football...I think it was about 36 to nothing, and Dr. Adams and I were caught chest bumping after we went up about 24 - nothing. So we work hard, but we get along and we have fun with what we do.”

On a final note, Byers said, “We have a great focus [at Wilkes]. It’s really about the students and there aren’t that many institutions like that. The Harvards and Yales are great institutions, but they’re not Wilkes either. The relationships, the people, that will continue and the strategic plan will further that.”

At press time there was no word as to who will chair the search for a successor.

SCREENING from PAGE 2

in a lot of these questions, then you have to realize that ‘maybe I do have a problem,’” she said.

The screenings will take place this week starting Monday from 10-12, Tuesday from 11-1, and Thursday from 11-3 in the Henry Student Center, with counselors on hand for feedback on Monday from 10-12 and Thursday from 1-3.

“There are some folks walking around on this campus who are in serious trouble who don’t want to do anything about it,” Bohlander said. “People need to act.”

While the screenings will remain completely confidential, students can anonymously take and receive feedback from an online version on the test for depression, anxiety, alcohol abuse, post-traumatic stress, bipolar disorder, and eating disorders at <http://course.wilkes.edu/PsiChi/MHS>

Feel like you may have an eating disorder? Worried about a roommate or friend? Contact the Campus Counselors Center located on the first floor of Evans Hall at 408-4732.

SG NOTES

At the February 21, 2007, Student Government (SG) meeting:

Treasurer’s Report

The remaining SG funds exist in the following lines:

All College: \$23,956.62

General: \$11,061.00

Special Projects: \$2,077.00

Spirit: \$3,405.15

Leadership: \$4,540.00

Conferences: \$16,737.00

Start-up: \$3,200.00

New Business

The Wilkes University Student Chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) requested \$800 to hold the first annual Wilkes ASME Car Show to be held on Saturday, April 28, 2007. A motion to table this item to the February 28, 2007 meeting because of confusion over the organization’s advisor failing to sign forms failed with a vote of 16 in favor and 23 opposed. After another discussion SG agreed to grant the organization \$400.00 with a stipulation attached saying that if the organization can acquire the funds from their account they must give the \$400.00 back to SG. This motion passed with a vote of 21 in favor and 18 opposed.

The Wilkes University Society for Advancement of Management request for \$3,018.90 to enable 9 (2 seniors, 6 juniors, 0 sophomores, 1 freshman) students to attend a competition in Las Vegas. Total project cost equal \$5,854.90, however through fundraising their current account balance as of the beginning of February 2007 was \$1,736, which brings the fund request to \$3018.90. The advisor will be paying for his own trip.*

Alternative Spring Break gave a presentation to SG about what they will be doing this year in New Orleans, as a “thank you” for their funds.

David Sborz, sophomore class president, gave a presentation on the renovations that are planned to occur in the Henry Student Center. The project cost will be about \$1.8 million and the first phase will focus on the first floor, the carpeting in the old bookstore and possibly sound equipment. The proposed changes include moving Rifkin

into the old bookstore with double the seating. The game room will become the tri-council office, and the information desk area will move to the center. The new location for Rifkin Café will allow for outdoor seating and will also open up the door to having a grill since there is ventilation. The new Rifkin Café will also have a stage with soft seating like that by the fireplace, which will remain untouched. This plan will be set into motion shortly after graduation and should be finished by the start of the 2007 fall semester. David Sborz, who made the presentation, also assured SG members that their money was being dispersed throughout campus in other projects such as the renovation of some residence halls and improvements being made in Breiseth and at the Ralston Field Complex.

Danielle Namiotka, junior class representative, gave a presentation on the university’s budget. This presentation included the renovation and maintenance of several buildings (Weckesser Hall, Max Roth Center, Conynham Hall, Breiseth Hall, Annette Evans Alumni House, Henry Student Center, Martz Gymnasium, Farley Library) along with the demolition of several buildings (Passan Hall, 247 S. Franklin Street, 258 S. River Street, Human Resources Building). A possible explanation for the demolition of these buildings included the discussion of a new Science and Health Building.

SG voted to allow for \$300.00 to be spent on decorations and candy for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. This motion passed with a vote of 35 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstained.

The budget for Winter Weekend was also presented with total cost coming to \$4,305.48.

As an update to Spring Fling, it was announced that the glasses for the event have been ordered.

A discussion was held about school organizations advertising alcoholic drinks or clubs who serve alcohol on campus. A policy is in place prohibiting the advertisement of alcohol on campus.

Events

High School Leadership -Riverside 9am UCOM- Feb. 22
Winter Weekend

Club Reports

Programming Board: Justin Kredible performed, psychic Mad Man Jim Karol will be here in March.

* = Action will be taken at next meeting.

from FRONT PAGE

they fit with the priorities of the institution," she continued.

After discussions surrounding research and different staffing issues, Fathe tackled the issue of diversity at Wilkes.

"I am a big believer in increasing the diversity of an institution because I think students need that variety of perspectives, particularly when you have the sort of student body that you [Wilkes] have who comes out of a background where they may not of had that sort of thing... I think it goes beyond just ethnicity. I think there are lots of things about diversity that you want to go after. You need resources, but I think it's also about having a climate that people feel valued in... It's not just about that there is nobody who looks like me, it's that there is nobody who thinks like me," said Fathe.

Fathe then discussed the importance of technology in education. "I am a big fan of working with what is called blended courses, where you have some face to face time and then do other things electronically because I think most traditional-aged students... need that personal contact and

somebody is going to care whether they do the work or not.”

Fathe also suggested what she called on-line office hours. "It's not just I'll answer this student's email, but I will be here at this particular time and I will take all your questions and you will get essentially an immediate answer."

As with Fathe, the second candidate for provost, Dr. C. Reynold Verret, also spent two days on campus from February 12-13.

Verret is the current Dean of the Mishner College of Arts and Sciences at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

"I think one of the things that I do bring is this ability to actually think across a number of disciplines," said Verret, whose background is in the sciences.

“There is not one notion of what an educated student should be, but what a Wilkes graduate should be... but that is something the faculty needs to decide what is an educated Wilkes graduate and what should he or she look like,” said Verret in response to a question on a liberal arts and interdisciplinary education.

Verret was asked what challenges he sees for Wilkes University. “The perception that I am hearing is that faculty are concerned

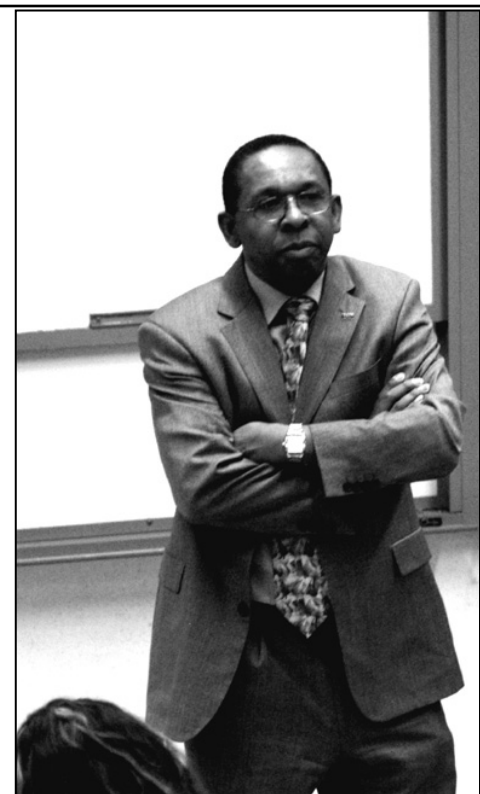
that they are not heard and that everything is top-down. That perception, even if it's just a perception, is something that needs to be addressed," he said.

Fathe and Verret join Dr. Timothy O'Rourke, who visited campus in late January, as the three finalists for provost.

Dr. Paul Adams, Vice President of Student Affairs and Chair of the Provost Search Committee, explained the next feasible steps in the process.

“The Search Committee is scheduled to meet February 28 to prepare its final report on each candidate for President Gilmour. Dr. Gilmour will review our report and then make his decision as to whom he will offer the position. Before Thursday, the Committee will be doing additional reference checking and reviewing the feedback received from the campus community,” said Adams.

The new provost is expected to take office in summer 2007.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Dr. C. Reynold Verret speaks during a question and answer session. Verret joins Dr. Laurie Fathe & Dr. Timothy O'Rourke among the three finalists for provost.



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Slim chances for third party candidates

Presence brings the important issues to forefront

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

For a moment, consider yourself a future candidate for President. What issues would you highlight as your campaign platform?

Many candidates specifically underscore one or two key issues. The environment, healthcare reform, social change and many other issues are brought to light during a presidential campaign season.

Sometimes we see people running, even from the Democratic or Republican parties, and wonder: why? What chance do the more obscure candidates have of making it to the Oval Office? Case in point: the former Governor of Iowa, Tom Vilsack, was among

the first to throw his hat in the ring for the 2008 presidential race. He is also the first to withdraw, and his explanation last week was that he was simply out of money. But in his announcement he noted the importance of the message and the fact that the issues he raised are ones we need to pay attention to. And that, is sort of the point.

In the history of the United States, no candidate from a third party has ever been elected to the presidency. Basically, there is a slim chance that someone outside the two mainstream parties--Republican or Democrat--will be getting into the White House any time soon. So why go through all the motions of raising funds and wasting time?

Ralph Nader, a well-known third party candidate, made a huge splash as the Green Party candidate in the 2000 election. Democrats felt that he divided the party and that contributed to Bush winning. Nader's key issues were extremely enticing to the socially and environmentally concerned voter. Nader primarily directed focus on environment reform.

Granted, there are a select few that tend to go above and beyond bringing problems to the forefront. For example, a declared candidate for the 2008 election is Michael Jesus Archangel. This man's platform is proving that the United States is actually a theocracy. Though this attempted murderer and former janitor is probably the

least likely to get a single vote for president, other than his own, his choice to try and raise concern for his cause is not without merit. If a man or woman feels that a crisis needs to be addressed, what better way to draw attention?

Even though Nader did not win, Al Gore has taken the lead in making a push for change for our planet. The issues brought to light by these "no chance" runners are important and reach beyond the need for a president with that particular platform. Some issues transcend the need for an elected official to give them credit; instead, we need to simply realize that these issues are out there.

A Sight for Sore Eyes

Aleksander Lapinski



—Your Voices—

University vehicles plowed in

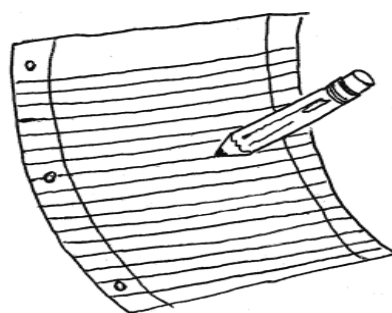
Dear Editor:

On Friday, February 16, Wilkes University Public Safety officials issued a statement urging all students with vehicles parked in University-owned lots to move their vehicles. This statement was made in order to help the Facilities Services department thoroughly and efficiently plow the snow in these parking lots. "Vehicles that are not moved this evening may be plowed in," officials said.

The following Monday morning, I parked my car in the lot behind the Student Center only to discover a vehicle next to me plowed in by mounds of snow- a University-owned blue Kia minivan. It was so pleasant to witness such irony, irony almost as bitter as the snow-storm that necessitated the plowing.

Why should Wilkes expect its students to obey the requests of Public Safety when the University cannot do it themselves?

Matthew Vanston
Senior, computer science major



Beacon

Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus. Results are based on 24 responses.

The Beacon asked:

What's your favorite urban legend?

- Gang members drive without headlights & kill people who flash theirs -**38%**
- Boy dies from eating pop rocks and soda -**25%**
- Axe murderer climbs into backseat of woman's car at a gas station -**16%**
- Babysitter receives calls from within the house -**12%**
- Other -**4%**
- HIV infected needles found in unsuspected places -**4%**

Next Week's Question:

What's the greatest challenge facing Wilkes University?

- Snow removal
- Finishing expansion projects
- Parking
- Physical plant repairs and maintenance
- Customer service
- Technology advances
- High tuition
- Too many projects
- Lack of diverse faculty
- Other

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

How Beyonce is chipping away at feminism

BY KRISTYN OSTMAN

Beacon Opinion Editor

Beyoncé is destroying feminism.

This may sound insane and irrational, but it's true. She is dangerous because she masks her anti-feminism with her catchy lyrics and well-defined posterior.

This realization came to me recently as I was once again attacked by her song, "Irreplaceable," as it played for the third time that morning on the radio. With my concerns about radio overplay aside, I took the time to listen to the words of the song.

For those who have not heard the song, listened to the lyrics or are living in a windowless basement where *The Beacon* is regularly delivered, it is about a woman who is putting her significant other out. The song warbles the torrid tale of the man driving the car the singer bought him to pick up another woman. As the singer tells him to pack up his things and leave, she explains that she can easily replace him with a new man, who will be by any minute, and she is not missing her ex-lover at all. After all, he's an ungrateful jerk.

Here's what dawned on me: what did

you expect? Of course he cheated. After all, the woman aims to buy him in order to keep him and then wonders why he has zero respect. He knows he's replaceable. But he will take what he can get as long as he can get it or until he's offered something better.

Basically female listeners are urged to be offended when a man, who has been given no reason to offer respect in the first place, finally (and predictably) betrays a trust.

And that's where the walls of female equality begin to crumble. No feminist--militant or otherwise--would agree with that idea. Okay, I am independent, rich and powerful enough to buy you a car, let you live in my fantastically decorated mansion and when you cheat on me, I'll just replace you with another guy who is also dying for a sugar mamma. Personally, I can't afford that on any level, financially or emotionally. How many self-respecting women want to put up a guy until he cheats, and then start over? No one I know.

I don't care how great the sex is; cheating can often result in the innocent party getting an STD, aside from the additional emotional turmoil. (That fact leads me to hope that Beyoncé will be driven to put out

a more socially responsible song titled, "How I Got the Clap.")

In general, relationships need equality on all levels...meaning you can't ingrain in a significant other that they are just another fish in the sea. If people disrespect each other enough to communicate that those around them are "replaceable," why not just get a dog? It's cheaper.

Men and women are equally entitled to healthy, fulfilling relationships with mental, emotional and physical safety and security provided equally from both sides.

O.K., I admit it. I'm not *really* afraid that this reflects a shift in female empowerment or relationship trends; I wouldn't dare give Beyoncé that much credit. But I do wonder if young women in particular have begun to think that acting



Courtesy of <http://www.fashionunited.co.uk/>

frivolous with their relationships is easy and fun. Respect (and all of the perks that go with it like independence, self-esteem, etc.) comes with being respectful of others.

Citizen movement is changing thoughts about community

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon Asst. News Editor

There is a change going on in the world. More specifically this change is happening in your hands or at your fingertips as you read this.

While the change seems to be happening in many fields, it's quite evident in a specific movement in journalism: a tide of citizen engagement is upon us. This change has been coming for a long time but it never really hit me until last week's Student Government (SG) meeting here at Wilkes.

I was sitting, as I normally do, in the back of the room taking notes, when another student sat down next to me. I am not sure why this student was at the meeting, but I liked seeing another person there who wasn't on SG. I think more people should come to these meetings (but that's another opinion article for another time).

As I sat there I took notice of the students' reactions to the things said or presented at the meeting and I started thinking about something I heard at a conference last November: the idea of citizen journalism. Honestly, I have heard about it before in classes but I don't think I ever truly understood its purpose until that evening at SG.

As far as I was concerned a "citizen journalist" was someone who got up one morning to find a pile of dog crap on his lawn. The guy takes care of his lawn, and this "gift" makes him angry. He wants justice; he wants change. But instead of writing a letter to the editor, or calling some complaint line about the situation, he decides to look into how effectively the police are enforcing the "pooper scooper" laws and writes an article for the local newspaper about what he uncovers, ideally influencing future enforcement for all community members. Prior to the other night, this is how I would have defined the notion of "citizen journalism."

I was only partly right.

Citizen organized journalism is amazing. Usually I sit in the SG meetings almost disconnected from the fact that there is life outside the Miller Conference Room, but as I sat there with that other person who didn't "have" to be there and I saw this person's reactions, I knew what the student cared about.

This student wasn't sitting there thinking what she had to write for the paper this week about the meeting, or how many interviews she needed to get to reach 850 words. Her reactions and questions were real, not ones

that were planned or necessarily thought out for a long period of time. What if she wrote down all of those questions that were popping into her head, and then after the meeting I said, "Find the answer to those questions?" That would probably be the most effective and useful interview I have had the privilege to write.

At the conference I attended in November, the entire group of journalists who were speaking discussed their fears about this new form of journalism, where the "average Joe" writes the news. But this is where that fine Wilkes education kicks in. In my COM 224 class this week we talked about the fact that when a new technology comes along, the old technology must adapt to stay alive. This concept should also be true for entire professional fields like journalism.

For those journalists at the conference who communicated such fears about a citizen army of untrained, new-age journalists jumping off their tractors and leaving their briefcases behind in the subways to fight for their First Amendment rights, the goal should be to forget their formal training about inverted pyramid style and put themselves in the shoes of an "average Joe."

For journalists to make it in a world of

emerging "citizen journalism," they must *be the citizens*. Today's journalists need to adjust. Instead of asking what they think their readers should know, they need to ask what their readers want to know.

I do want to point out, though, there is a difference between citizen journalism and opinion articles. I am writing this because I aim to persuade my fellow citizens to think as I do. This is an op-ed.

Citizen journalism should reflect genuine investigation into what I want and need to know as a citizen and should end up on the news, features and even sports or arts and entertainment pages. If I'm in touch with my community, that, in turn, is also probably what the readers want to know, too.

Building community and making positive change through such coverage is the nature of this movement, and it aims to empower those without the official title of "trained journalist." So, Wilkes community members, take the time to think about what it is you want to see on the pages of *The Beacon* and pursue it, or talk to us. Make this paper your own.

Your Voices

Dear Editor:

Wilkes University has failed. It has failed the current students that attend this university and it will fail the up and coming students that will be coming here in the fall.

Wilkes tried to reform the school rapidly but all they did was waste the money and time of the student body. The administration foolishly spends money in black hole programs and systems that continue to fail time and time again. As the year progresses on, new failures occur and old ones still remain. The students were promised more efficiency in a lot of programs but in all reality, the process has been slowed down.

Many of the failures include the Ten East Apartment complex, The UCOM or “warehouse,” the right judgment to declare when school should be off, revisions to various buildings, and the disgraceful greenway.

Starting with the Ten East Apartment complex, Wilkes University seems never to have taken the time to actually evaluate the condition of the building they bought. Practically every week one elevator is always broken and needs constant repair, not to mention that the elevators are outdated and

need to be replaced and need a major speed increase. Not only with the elevators, but constant maintenance is required for wash rooms and just general repairs. Granted maintenance does their job when asked and do a great job in what they do, but Wilkes in my opinion did not predict this much main-

tenance when they first bought the building. Not only are there building problems, but there is also the constant graffiti and lack of security in the building. Public Safety has a limited supply of officers on the weekend, so in turn they cannot perform their actions required to keep watch on all of Wilkes. Especially on the weekend, public safety is spread thin and can only provide a limited amount of safety.

As for the UCOM building, or “ware-

house,” the problems started the minute they opened the building for business. Granted the gym is amazing and provides a lot of benefits for athletes and other activities such as rock climbing and team building.

The main area of where the paper work is done is inefficient.

about paperwork not getting completed due to lack of knowledge of the employees. How long do students have to wait before all their paperwork gets done and money issues get taken care of? It is not as if I am talking about a few dollars, I am talking about thousands of dollars.

The last failure is the new greenway. In turn for destroying precious and needed parking, the university has erected roman columns and tons of foliage. So what true use has come from all this space, a possible statue to President Gilmour?

The real truth is extremely slippery walkways and tons of foliage that blocks any use of greenway for events and activities. Overall, Wilkes has truly failed a lot of people, and the student population should be considering whether the administration is truly working for them or against them.

Mark Leicht
junior, history major

Wilkes tried to reform the school rapidly but all they did was waste the money and time of the student body.

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When you walk in, the receptionist has some idea of your problem or has no clue; in turn she calls someone who knows further about the problem yet may not even be there. I noticed that many of the staff in that building only work three days or less, hence nothing truly gets done. Paper work and students records pile up and create many problems. I am not the first to say lines in the UCOM are long, and the efficiency of the people working there needs to step up.

Fellow students and I constantly talk

Walking on thin ice...and paying for it

ADRIENNE RICHARDS

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

Don't step on a crack or you'll break your mother's back-maybe even your own? As the polar-like ice caps from last week's storm begin to melt, I can't help but notice students on-campus and patrons at the store are enjoying a few 'trips' of their own.

Even the slightest ice patch poses a serious threat. As I was walking into the store this weekend, I played hero. I picked my head up just in time to see a middle-aged woman gliding on thin ice. Perhaps, it was my goalkeeper instincts kicking in. I dove to my left (ok, maybe I'm exaggerating a little), but I did catch her mid-flight and my support served to avoid a complete wipe-out.

She acknowledged my Good Samaritan award for the day, and then looked behind her as if the ice appeared out of nowhere. As though she didn't notice the water trickling out of the rainspouts and the decent sized ice patch that was forming?

This tends to be the norm when people



Courtesy of www.eurekalert.org

fall. They turn around in a Sherlock Holmes-like detective glare wondering where their match, in this case ice, happened to emerge.

I give this woman props for actually admitting that she almost took a nosedive. The male student I witnessed slamming his tailbone into the pavement tried to shrug it off like nothing happened. As he laid there sprawled out on the sidewalk he stared around to see if anyone noticed. Just for the record, young man, *I did!*

I'll admit it. I've taken the plunge. However, I've become a seasoned, and might I add skilled, tripper. Walking home from Barnes & Noble with my daily dose of caffeine (aka: Starbucks coffee) I leapt onto the sidewalk to find my legs ripped from under me and my coffee held straight in the air. Feel free to call me Grace.

In all seriousness, if you find yourself a victim of an unsalted sidewalk on campus, don't be afraid to report it to Public Safety. There is no excuse to fear for your life upon your route to educational bliss. Unless trouble spots are reported, nothing will be done.

My fellow street walkers: be careful of the slick conditions that you may face. Don't be embarrassed if you happen to take a tumble. We all do it. Get up, do like the song and “brush your shoulders off” and be on your way. However, don't pretend like nothing happened....someone's always watching!

Wilkes University Winter Weekend 2007



The theme of this year's Winter Weekend festivities was Disney Movies. Teams competed over the weekend in sporting events, karaoke, and a banner competition.

The winning team for 2007 is the Gargoyles.



Upward Bound celebrates National TRIO day at Wilkes

BY MEGAN KRISANDA
Beacon Asst. Features Editor

Most high school students feel the pressure of deciding where to attend college--some as early as their sophomore year.

But this weekend Wilkes celebrated National TRIO Day and hailed the efforts of one program's efforts to ease the challenges parents and students face as they navigate the murky waters of the college search.

Upward Bound, a long-standing federal program which has been a presence on the Wilkes campus since 1967, offers guidance and assistance to students and families in need of support for college. The program counsels high school students on choosing a college and possible career paths afterwards. Classes are held every Thursday night which include supplementary academic courses, SAT preparation, and seminars focusing on the steps in applying for college.

Saturday, Wilkes hosted National TRIO day, a celebration the university has initiated every year for the past four decades. TRIO is an educational opportunity outreach program that helps assist low-income, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities through high school to college. More than 2,700 TRIO programs serve nearly 866,000 low-income Americans, according to www.trioprogams.org.

Peggy Espada, Director of Upward Bound, said National TRIO day at Wilkes consisted of educational workshops, seminars, and keynote speaker, State Representative Eddie Day Pashinski. One segment of the afternoon students broke into groups to discuss leadership. Along with students receiving guidance, parents were also included in workshops focusing on how to advocate and support their children's journey to a college education. Alumni of the program also met during TRIO day to discuss the celebration taking place this summer for the program's 40th year at Wilkes.

One of the themes of this year's TRIO day was service to the community. Prior to the event, Espada said, "We'll be helping a used bookstore whose proceeds go to a woman's shelter, transfer to a new location. We'll be doing sort of a bucket brigade, by helping them move all their books into the new location. The workers of the bookstore are all homeless individuals from the Wilkes-Bare community."

Espada noted that this year is unique

in that the program can breathe a sign of relief due to the funding crisis it has experienced the past three years.

"The last two years we've had this event, it has been right after the President has cut us out of the federal budget. It has been a real rally as far as working our way back into the budget. We have been successful. It'll be very difficult for anyone to

According to Espada, the most intense part of the program is the summer session. The summer program is offered to students following their sophomore year in high school. It is a six-week academic and social interactive program.

"It's a great opportunity to reside on campus to see what it's going to be like. It's everything from learning about room-

school.

"This program helped me with my classes, SATs and the most important thing was my college decision. The program not only helped me academically, but also personally and emotionally. At every step it gave me a chance to improve myself for the better. The whole experience taught me that nothing is impossible in life and also never give up on anything," said Mukhija.

Mukhija adds that her experience with TRIO day in the past has been filled with opportunities to reunite with other graduates of Upward Bound and current members.

The eligibility requirements for students involved in Upward Bound are a desire to attain a college diploma but would have difficulty accessing college without the assistance provided by Upward Bound, according to Espada. Specifically, Upward Bound looks for students whose parents have not graduated from a four-year post-secondary institution and whose taxable income is within 150% of the national poverty level.

The program not only helped me academically, but also personally and emotionally. At every step it gave me a chance to improve myself for the better. The whole experience taught me that nothing is impossible in life and also never give up on anything.

Paran Mukhija
freshman chemistry major

prove that Upward Bound is not a viable program. There are so many graduates that are out there now that are lawyers, doctors, politicians, sports stars, and artists. We have a strong alumni base," said Espada.

mate issues to taking classes on campus which supplement their high school classes", said Espada.

Paran Mukhija, freshman chemistry major, was involved with Upward Bound beginning in her sophomore year of high



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Wilkes University's Upward Bound program organized TRIO Day. This year, one theme was service to the community. The program helps facilitate students with disabilities, as well as first generation, low-income college students. Pictured far right, Matt Sowcik of the Sidhu School of buisness talks with students on Saturday.

Wilkes students help keep railroad history on track

BY CANDICE HALLIDAY

Beacon Staff Writer

Thanks to several Wilkes University students, historical foundations that helped build America are not going to be forgotten. On Saturday, February 17, five Wilkes University students, all of who had a profound interest in history, caravanned to the National Museum of Industrial History located in Bethlehem, PA to assist in the preservation of artifacts from the locomotive ship of the Philadelphia, Bethlehem and New England railroad.

The museum has a lot of fascinating history behind it. Museum executive Mike Piersca explained, "Until this past month, the building was used as a repair shop for the locomotives that pulled trains on the grounds of the former Bethlehem Steel mill. In its heyday in the mid 20th century, the shop serviced a fleet of locomotives dedicated to moving materials for the steel mill." Trains also transported things like ingots, semi-finished products, molten iron, iron ore, coal and coke (baked coal).

Although the museum has shown great success with its productivity and the railroad has a great future ahead, the new owners were unable to purchase the locomotive repair shop. The lease for the repair shop finally fell in the hands of Sands Beth Works who plans to build a casino. They hope to open in the summer of 2008.

Since the museum is not yet open, Piersca explained how they rely on a heavy volunteer corps.

Piersca said, "We needed responsible people to help move artifacts to a storage site. The museum asked for recommen-



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski
Freshmen Pat Hart and Jimmy Kelleher take down hanging baskets in the locomotive repair shop.

dations from fellow preservationists and was directed to a Wilkes student, Nick Zmijewski. In addition to a vast knowledge of railroading and museum practice, his organizational skills were invaluable and allowed great progress to be made. The work ethic of Nick and his team from Wilkes was impressive."

Their main mission was to remove artifacts that pertained to the Mill on site to another part of the complex. In the first

load, they took items that ranged from paperwork that was abandoned on desks to a blueprint sized drawing inside a glass frame. The also removed hard hats, signs, tools and spare locomotive parts.

Removing these items symbolized a great deal of humanism that once existed in the Mill. Piersca described how "preserving items such as the logo emblazoned red hardhats bring a human scale to railroads. The same is true of the paperwork which reveals practices that would otherwise be forgotten in time."

Students decided to become involved with this project because of the impact these artifacts had on them after taking a tour two years ago. In an interview, Nick Fisher, one of the five students involved with the project, said, "The artifacts are a big piece of history like Beth Steele." Beth Steele is the woman who formally occupied the National Museum of Industrial History.

Furthermore, the artifacts also have a profound impact on the Bethlehem community and the city of Pottstown. Fisher explained, "Beth Steel built everything, including the Golden Gate bridge in Pottstown. We are saving stuff that relates to people's everyday lives. I'm from Pottstown, so I can relate to this."

These efforts brought forth from the concerns of the Wilkes University students involved with this project shows that history cannot be relived and it is important to cherish the items that still remain. Fisher concluded that, "Once the Casino is gone nothing is going to be the same so it is important to remember what we can."

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Bermuda, Bahama come on pretty mama...

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO
Beacon A&E Editor

It may feel like school has just started, and you haven't even had time to wear in those brand new penny loafers you bought last September, but believe it or not, spring break is almost here.

For some, it may be an opportunity to log some extra hours at work, but for many others, spring break is a time for fun, sun and sand--or something to that effect. Planning a spring break trip is like looking forward to that one shining beacon of hope among all the tests, papers and deadlines we drone through every semester. But figuring out all the details, like where to go and how to get there, can be a bit daunting. Have no fear, because the tips and ideas offered here should make that process a little bit easier.

According to Karen Monko-Nagle, owner of Sea the World Travel (Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort), it is probably too late to plan a trip to, say, the Bahamas right now, since spring break is about a week away. It would most likely be difficult to

nab a flight and hotel rooms this late in the game, but according to Susan Gorham, travel consultant at Travelworld (Market St., Kingston), it can technically be done. Gorham explained that there are occasionally last minute deals that can be found, but it all depends on availability. In other words, you may have a shot at sipping Mai-tai's on the beach instead of discounting jars of pickles at the local grocery next week, but luck and good timing may be necessary.

There are, however, other last minute options that do not require as much advanced planning as trips to exotic places. Monko-Nagle said that cruises are a surprisingly good option (as long as there is space left) because one can book as little in advance as the day before the ship leaves, and the prices at that time are often deeply discounted. Gorham did point out, however, that it depends on where the ship is leaving from, because obtaining last-minute airfare to get to that place can be extremely expensive.

Gorham added that Travelworld also has travel packages for ski resorts in places like New England, Vermont and Canada, and she added that even the Poconos might be a good option for someone who has a short amount of time to make plans. Additionally,

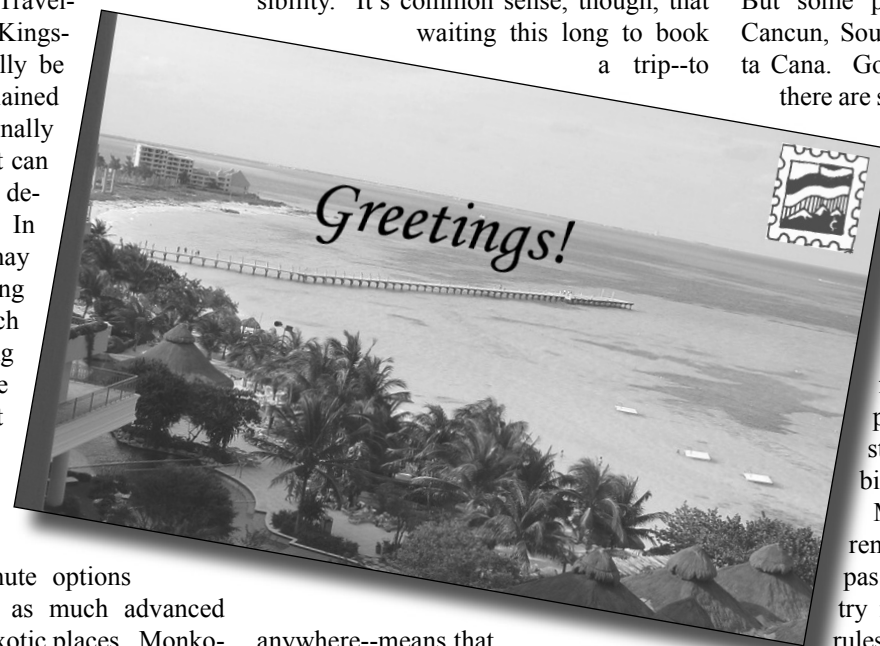
Travelworld also has city packages, such as New York City, that might be another possibility. It's common sense, though, that waiting this long to book a trip--to

As far as deciding where to go for spring break, that's mostly up to the individual. But some popular destinations include Cancun, South Beach, Jamaica and Punta Cana. Gorham warned, however, that there are some hotels that do not accept

people on spring break, for fear of too much partying and overall hassle, which is another reason why booking in advance is much easier. She also recommended getting trip protection and making sure fellow travelers all have deposits down so nobody gets stuck with a non-refundable bill.

Monko-Nagle also added that remembering to bring a valid passport when leaving the country is vital. International travel rules have recently tightened and now require a passport of all individuals traveling beyond United States borders. And, since getting a passport can take upwards of about six weeks, it wouldn't be possible to book a Mexican or even Canadian trip for this break if the person doesn't have a passport. She also advocated taking the trip with a few people to help lower the cost.

Overall, spring break can and should be a fun experience to remember, but there are certain precautions everyone has to take to be safe, and there are a lot of details that need to be taken into account. As long as you keep those in mind, it will be all "cocktails and moonlit nights." You didn't really expect a spring break article without a Beach Boys reference, did you?



anywhere--means that it might be difficult to get certain necessities, like hotel rooms. Because of that, and the short time span one would have to book a trip for this year, basically all of these packages depend on availability.

Both Gorham and Monko-Nagle advocated that booking as early in advance is key to getting the best deals and least headaches. They also both mentioned all-inclusive packages, where food and drinks might be included. Monko-Nagle noted that although the price for an all-inclusive package might be a bit steeper, it's worth it in the long run because "at least [you'll know] you can eat and drink." She also added that Sea The World offers certain packages that have a "party bus" at the destination, which may take spring breakers from club to club.

Tips for planning a trip:

- Book early
- Choose all-inclusive
- Travel with a lot of friends
- Look for a resort that is spring break friendly
- Make sure traveling companions have their deposits down

Schedule of Events

Monday, February 26

- Alzheimer's panel presentation at 6:30 p.m. in Breiseth 107
- Karaoke with Scott Stevens at Slainte

Tuesday, February 27

- Robb Brown and Friends performing at Slainte

Wednesday, February 28

- Film: *The History Boys* showing in the Kirby Center at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

- Sound the Alarm, The Transit War and Until June performing at Cafe Metropolis at 7 p.m.
- Go Go Gadget performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Thursday, March 1

- To Outlive the Beginning, Passion, Sun Up/Sun Down and Catapult Rome performing at Cafe Metropolis at 7 p.m.
- Celtic Women performing at the Kirby Center at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 2

- Hoods, My Children My Bride, Furious Styles and Landmine performing at Backstage at 6 p.m.
- Movie Night at Cafe Metropolis at 8 p.m.
- Sam I Am performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Saturday, March 3

- 21 Rounds, Ambergris, The Project and Trashcan Circus performing at

Backstage at 6 p.m.

- The Irish Tenors performing at the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.
- Captain Random, Backflip Journeymen and Precident performing at Cafe Metropolis at 8 p.m.
- DJ Godfather performing at the Woodlands at 10 p.m.

Breaking Benjamin drummer offers spring lessons

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO

Beacon A&E Editor

The drums tend to be an underrated instrument. Sure, everyone knows that there are drums in most bands and that without them, a song would sound different, but it's not likely that most listeners acknowledge how important they are to the sound and heart and soul of a song.

So learning how to play the drums could actually be considered a necessity of life—for a musician, that is.

Aspiring drummers who may also happen to be Breaking Benjamin fans will have the unique opportunity to take some lessons from one of their heroes this spring, when drummer Chad Szeliga rolls back into town after Breaking Benjamin's nationwide tour with Nickelback. Szeliga plans to offer lessons to beginning, intermediate and even advanced drummers who are willing to learn from a local artist who has been undoubtedly successful in the past few months. (Being a fan is not a requirement, though.)

For about \$30 a lesson (probably a small fee for anyone who is really looking to get a solid foundation on the drums), musicians can sign up to learn techniques and skills from Szeliga for about a half hour in his very own studio, with the added possibility of a jam session or two. This is likely to be an exciting and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most fans who are also interested in becoming known for their own musical abilities. Szeliga, who lists Guns 'N Roses, The Police and Stewart Copeland

among his influences, hopes to be an inspiring teacher for those who enlist in the lessons and wants others to experience the same success he has had in his music career.

He said, "I'm doing [this] to inspire younger drummers and make them set goals that they [can] and will achieve."

In addition to teaching basic techniques, Szeliga plans on "dissecting the kit and breaking it down to teach students the basics." He added that there is no skill or age requirement to take these lessons—everyone from beginners to those looking to take their drumming to the next level are welcome to sign up. Szeliga does ask, however, that students keep in mind the fact that his schedule is demanding and constantly changing, and so there may be instances when he would be out of town for periods of time.

As for how well these "classes" will go over, only time will tell, but it's likely that there may be a Breaking Benjamin fan or two who is willing to learn the drums for a chance to hang out with one of their very own musical influences. John Polson, senior biology major, doesn't play the drums but thinks the idea behind the lessons is interesting.

"I think it's cool that, even though he is in a band that's doing pretty well and is probably really busy, he's still willing to take the time to teach other people who are interested in learning how to play the drums."

Szeliga, along with the rest of Breaking Benjamin, is currently working to promote their new single, "Breath" and is continuing to gain popularity not only locally but nationwide. Breaking Benjamin is a Wilkes-Barre based quartet that is signed with Hollywood Records and has shared the stage with the likes of 3 Doors Down and Godsmack.

For more information regarding the drum lessons or to sign up, please e-mail Joe Rutkoski at joseph.rutkoski@wilkes.edu.



Photo courtesy Matt Rutkoski



Academic excellence through mentoring.



As a wrestling coach, he pushed me in sports and in academics. At the nationals in Minnesota he told me not to be overwhelmed by the situation and the crowds — just focus on the opponent in front of me and get the job done. He's been there and done that. It worked.”



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Jeremy '06 and wrestling coach Jon Laudenslager



Dinner and a Movie

Dinner: Tasty Buffet

BY MARISSA PHILLIPS

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Some restaurants boast about their romantic atmosphere or ambient lighting. Then there are those restaurants that take pride in their obnoxiously over-the-top and energetic servers, or their kitschy themed decor.

While Tasty Buffet may not have all of these unnecessary frills, what this restaurant can boast is good food, speedy service and prices that are lower than you'll find in most other places.

At a distance of about a 6 or 7 minute walk from campus, Tasty Buffet is an easily accessible dining alternative for students. And with a lunch buffet that costs \$4.95 and lunch combination plates running between \$4 and \$5, the prices definitely won't be putting much of a dent in your wallet.

Tasty Buffet offers 16 different entrees, such as chicken and broccoli, fried rice and dumplings and two different soups. The only disappointment was that the menu boasts a variety of desserts, yet there were none available. Also, the drinks

aren't included in the buffet price, but then again, when are they ever? My friend Dennis ordered a soda alongside his buffet, which ran his bill to \$6.10, but that still keeps the price fairly low.

If you are looking for something other than buffet, Tasty Buffet has you covered with countless other options. It is also a take-out restaurant and offers huge orders of Szechuan Beef and Kung Pao Shrimp, which may be too much for a suitable lunch, but if you opt for a lunch special, along with the main meat or vegetable, it includes either pork-fried rice or white rice, and a side of either wonton, egg drop or hot and sour soup.

For the health-conscious eater or vegetarian/vegan, Tasty Buffet has a health food section and a vegetable entrée section on the menu. While these items are slightly higher in price than the classic staple entrees, they come with a side of rice and the portions are large.

I opted to go on the healthy side, and order a large order of vegetable and bean curd soup. While soup is generally unlikely to fill someone up, they managed to pack enough

vegetables in there that it was more than enough for a hearty eater like myself, and it happened to cost only \$3.25. It's also worth noting that my order came out in about 5 minutes or less.

In terms of atmosphere, Tasty Buffet is very casual and family-friendly. The tables are a little small, and would probably feel crowded with a large group, but in a group of two, it's perfectly comfortable. While the décor is pretty simple, as my friend noted, "You just come here to eat, you don't come here to soak up the atmosphere."

So if you're a fan of Chinese food, and don't mind a little walk, Tasty Buffet is a good destination to get your money's worth. The owner is incredibly friendly, the service is almost instantaneous and they have a rather extensive menu. With the only criticism being small tables and a lack of buffet desserts (although that may be crucial to some), it's probably one of the best restaurants you'll find at a distance so close to the school.

Grade: A

...And a Movie: *Feast*

BY MIKE WILLIAMS

Beacon Staff Writer

Horror fans rejoice!

In a time plagued by lame, watered down PG-13 horror flicks, fans of the genre have been forced to settle for whatever teen-idol ridden garbage the movie industry is willing to give us.

Luckily, somebody has finally broken the tired, played-out mold that has seemingly shaped the past five or so years of shock cinema. *Feast*, directed by John Gulager, offers up something fresh and new, in both his ideas and his delivery of the material, brought to us by Project Greenlight 3 winning screenwriters Marcus Dunstan and Patrick Melton.

Originally offered in limited theatrical release, *Feast* has thankfully been released to home video, allowing those not fortunate enough to see it in theaters a chance to bask in its 92 minutes of pure, pulpy horror enjoyment.

Set in an isolated tavern somewhere in the American Southwest, the film follows a group of strangers who must band together (*a la Night of The Living Dead*) to fend off a horde of mysterious creatures hell-bent on satisfying their seemingly unyielding hunger, and too bad for our heroes, they fit the bill for the monster's main course.

At first glance this may not seem like the most original concept for a film; however, the manner in which *Feast* handles its otherwise familiar plot is what makes it such a breath of fresh air. For starters there are no major stars in the film, only a handful of familiar faces such as rocker Henry Rollins, Duane Whitaker (*Pulp Fiction*), Krista Allen (*Anger Management*) and Jason Mewes (*Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*), who plays himself. Horror buffs may also recognize the bartender as the director's father, Clu Gulager, from his role in *Return of the Living Dead*. This lack of star power makes it extremely difficult for the viewer to predict who's a survivor and who's going to end up dead meat, which has become all too easy in the genre's recent years.

Another intriguing device used that makes *Feast* so original is the fact that throughout the film, none of the characters are given a name, settling instead for quirky titles such as Beer Guy, Bartender, Bossman and Coach. Though it has no real effect on the film's story, the concept of being this removed from the characters who seemingly have no back-story, no motivation, not

even a name, is quite foreign to this type of film, as it is generally one of the goals of a filmmaker to get audiences to connect with the characters, especially in the "life or death" situations so commonly found in horror films.

For those hoping to see a little excitement along with their scares, *Feast* comes through big-time, as it jumps directly into the action with very little build up and doesn't stop until the end credits begin to roll. Gore-hounds will be sure to enjoy the film's relentless, pull-no-punches style, as the motley crew of strangers do battle against the ravenous monstrosities, using anything and everything they can get their hands on as a weapon as heads start to roll and blood begins to spill (spray, spurt and gush).

But it's not just the humans taking all the punishment, as the desperate survivors dish out some punishment on their other-worldly assailants that, in some cases, will have the viewer feel-

ing the monster's pain. In addition to top notch gore and creature effects, *Feast* also packs a whole lot of genuine laughs, which is what makes it so appealing; one minute it'll have you hiding your face in horror/disgust, the next it's got you holding your ribs with laughter. Who knew being eaten alive could be so amusing?

As far as horror movies go, *Feast's* got it all: good story, great effects, tons of gore and just the right amount of humor. So for audiences tired of the mundane, predictable "thrillers" being churned out, film after film, by Hollywood, consider skipping the theater and heading to the local video store to pick up *Feast*, which is sure to fill the appetite of even the most voracious horror fan...that is, if you think you can stomach it.

Grade: A

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Crossword Puzzle

BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

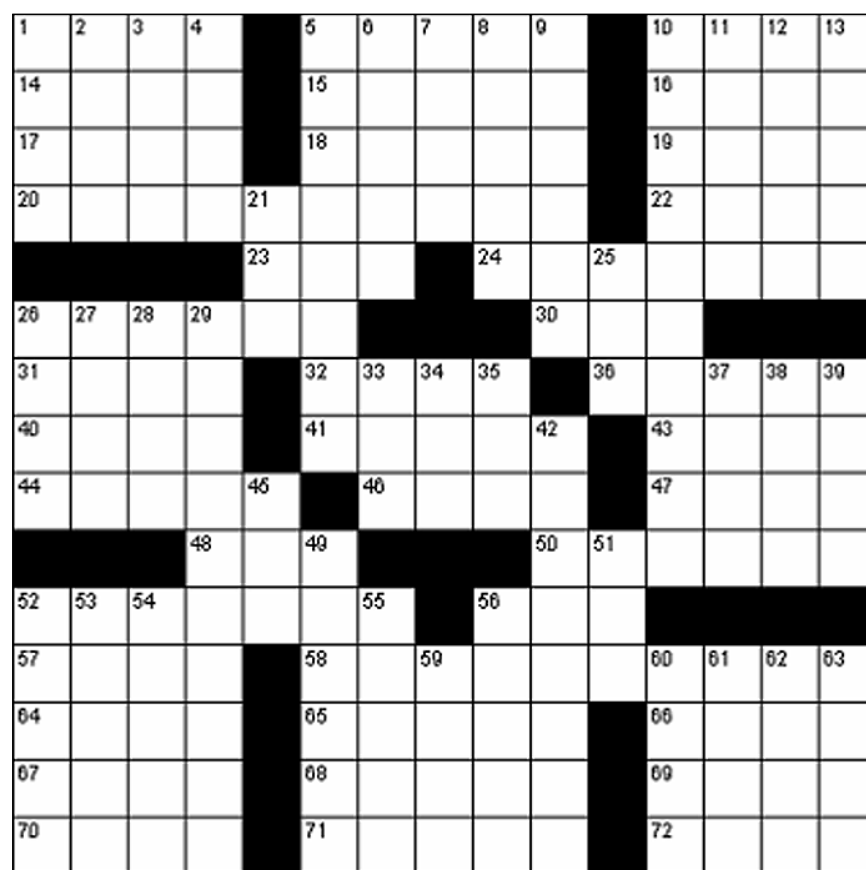
Beacon Correspondent

ACROSS

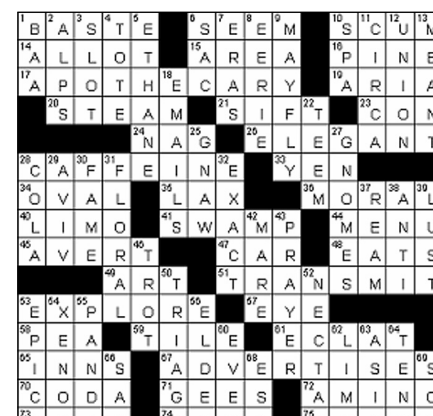
- 1 Axis of a plant
5 Bakery emanation
10 Broad flat stone
14 Surface a road
15 Prolonged periods of unconsciousness
16 Des Moines state
17 Allies' foe
18 Mary Kate and Ashley
19 Lab medium
20 Outline of an object
22 A.M. time, for short
23 American Revolution, for example
24 Is present
26 1984 author, George _____
30 Distress signal
31 Seabiscuit strap
32 Steady, easy gait for a horse
36 Himalayan country
40 Loud, sudden, explosive noise
41 Common road sign
43 Ice cream holder
44 Long, stabbing weapon
46 Erie, for example
47 Steak sauce
48 Card game
50 Oedipus killed him
52 Whole number
56 "Goodnight, don't let the _____ bugs bite."
57 Polite address for a woman
58 Can not be changed
64 Rocky Mountains explorer
65 Style
66 Freud stage
67 Equal
68 Sudden forward thrust
69 Hawaiian flower wreaths
70 Easter prelude
71 Come in
72 Clinton opponent

DOWN

- 1 Hot baths
2 Danny DeVito sitcom
3 Black hearted
4 Become interlocked
5 In reality or fact
6 Crew participant
7 Leave out
8 Large ray
9 Belongings
10 Popular feline
11 Access a computer
12 Emmy, for example
13 Farm buildings
21 Bird often heard at night
25 Two thousand pounds
26 Spheres
27 Harvest
28 Zinfandel, for example
29 Appointment
33 Black gold
34 Type of soup
35 Deer type
37 Christopher Robin's friend
38 _____ Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII
39 Sinister look
42 Protector
45 Manipulate fraudulently
49 Lie close and snug
51 TV commercials
52 Urge to action
53 Lacking experience
54 Stolen
55 Repeat on TV
56 Bout of excessive indulgence
59 Camper's abode
60 Informed
61 Popular cookie
62 Builder's fastener
63 Do what I say, or _____



Answers 2.19



This Week In History

BY MICHAEL GIONFRIDDO

Beacon Staff Writer

Brought to you by the History Club

February 26

1993: At 12:18 p.m., a terrorist bomb explodes in a parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York City, leaving a crater 60 feet wide and causing the collapse of several steel-reinforced concrete floors in the vicinity of the blast. Although the bomb failed to critically damage the main structure of the skyscrapers, six people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. The World Trade Center itself suffered more than \$500 million in damage. After the attack, authorities evacuated 50,000 people from the buildings, hundreds of whom were suffering from smoke inhalation. The evacuation lasted the whole afternoon.

February 27

1827: A group of masked and costumed students dance through the streets of New Orleans, Louisiana, marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi Gras celebrations.

February 28

1953: Cambridge University scientists James D. Watson and Frances H.C. Crick announce that they have determined the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule containing human genes.

March 1

1932: Charles Lindbergh III, the twenty-month-old son of aviation hero Charles Lindbergh, is kidnapped from the family's new mansion in Hopewell, New Jersey.

March 2

1807: The U.S. Congress passes an act to "prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States...from any foreign kingdom,

place, or country."

March 3

1820: After months of bitter debate, Congress passes the Missouri Compromise, a bill that temporarily resolves the first serious political clash between slavery and antislavery interests in U.S. history.

March 4

1789: The first session of the U.S. Congress is held in New York City as the U.S. Constitution takes effect. However, of the 22 senators and 59 representatives called to represent the 11 states who had ratified the document, only nine senators and 13 representatives showed up to begin negotiations for its amendment.

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

Graphic courtesy of <http://alacostacenter.org>

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Winter Athlete Senior Tribute



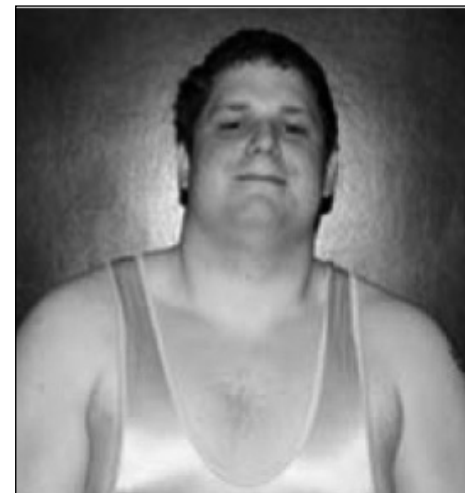
Tyler Jenkins
Senior Year Stats
Games Played: 8
Minutes Played: 19
Points: 6
Rebounds: 4



Dan Adams
Senior Year Stats
Games Played: 23
Minutes Played: 567
Points: 141
Rebounds: 140



D.J. Giancola
Senior Year Stats
Weight Class: 174
Record: 15-17
Duals: 3-5
Falls: 2



Matt Carey
Career Stats
Weight Class: 285
Record: 20-16
Duals: Not available
Falls: Not available



Mike Sciulara
Senior Year Stats
Weight Class: 157
Record: 1-5
Duals: 0-1
Falls: 0

BY ARIEL COHEN
Beacon Sports Editor

This year's graduating class of winter senior athletes, although few in number, have made a big impact on their teams.

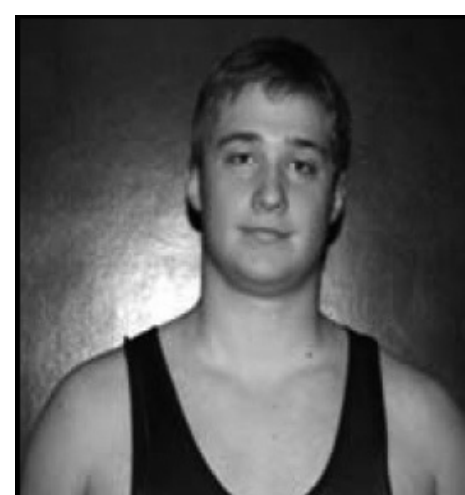
For these seniors, their seasons consisted of many ups and downs, celebration and frustrations, but when it came down to it all were proud to call themselves Colonels.

Coming into this season, the wrestling team was ranked one of the top teams in the country

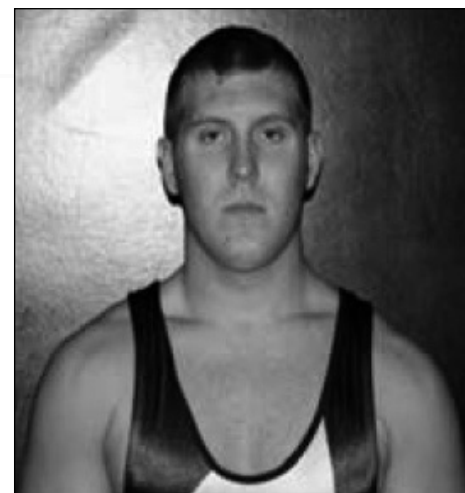
in D3 wrestling, but late season injuries and tough losses undermined advances.

For the men's basketball team, the story was the same. While the team was young, there were still highlights, such as Wilkes' 66-58 win over King's here at home on February 13. The two senior members of the team stuck together, kept their heads high and led the team to the best of their ability.

Thank you for all of your leadership and contributions.



Keith Altieri
Senior Year Stats
Weight Class: 285
Record: 5-11
Duals: 3-9
Falls: 1



Brandon Kelly
Senior Year Stats
Weight Class: 197
Record: 8-2
Duals: 4-2
Falls: 2

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| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

Nascar: A look into the upcoming season

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon News Editor

Boogity! Boogity! Boogity! Let's go racin', boys!

For all you gear heads out there, Darrell Waltrip's trademark phrase at the Daytona 500 two weeks ago officially dropped the green flag on yet another exciting year of NASCAR Nextel Cup action. But so far down the stretch, there have been plenty of "cautions" to keep your interest during the off week.

Now before we even get into the heart-pounding climax of the Great American Race, a photo-finish between seasoned veteran Mark Martin and hotshot Kevin Harvick, a couple of issues that took place before the race even began needs some addressing.

Daytona 500 "Bone Head of the Year" Award

Whether it's Sterling Marlin getting out of his vehicle to kick in the side of his right front fender, or something else stupid, the Daytona 500 always has its token bonehead. This year, it's a toss up between Kyle Busch who took out a pack of cars at the end of the race and Michael Waltrip, who unfortunately, was caught with jet fuel in his engine. Unfortunately, this year's award must go to Waltrip.

"Mikey" is arguably the nicest guy at the track (when he actually finds it), and who

Not only did Waltrip have to explain his inexplicable behavior to his daughter, but it cost him 100 championship points, not to mention the \$100,000 that was slapped on his crew chief. So congratulations, Michael Waltrip, you are the Daytona 500 "Bone-head of the Year."

To make matters worse, Waltrip failed to qualify for yesterday's Auto Club 500 at California speedway.

Now I don't know about anyone else, but does anyone else find it ironic that Matt Kenseth, Mark Martin's protege when they were both affiliated with Rousche Racing, bumped Busch to the lead of the pack? I was really pulling for Mark Martin here. In perhaps his last Daytona 500 ever, one would think the NASCAR officials would have given it to him. Oh, well. At least he's not still rolling in the Viagra car anymore.

This week offered no further solace for Martin as he lost again on the final lap to of Saturday's Craftsman Truck series race.

Double Take

Steph examines the stats that truly matter...

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO

Beacon A&E Editor

So normally, the logic I use in determining the winner of the Game of the Week is slightly... absurd. This week, however, I think I've actually got a pretty solid line of reasoning behind my opinions.

First of all, let me begin this by saying that I don't know who is racing in this Nascar event, and I don't really want to waste the time to research it-no offense- so I'm not really offering my choice for the winner this week.

I guess I can see why car races would be fun to watch, but I still never got into it, and I don't really see a purpose for it. The more I thought about it, though, I started to realize-this seems to be a huge waste of fuel and thus an entirely unnecessary strain on our resources.

Don't worry, even though I'm currently very interested in environmental issues, I'm not going to get up on my soapbox and preach to everyone who loves Nascar. I can't, however, just ignore the fact that this seems to be a colossal waste of our precious resources. We are facing what I'm fairly certain some have deemed to be the 6th mass extinction, and it seems kind of crazy to be spending so much fuel on something that is so minute in the grand scheme of things.

Of course, since I haven't researched it, I don't really know if Nascar uses some sort of special fuel that is ok for the environment. But I sincerely doubt it.

If I'm wrong, then I apologize to the Nascar officials who I'm sure are reading this, but if I'm not, then... they should probably look into changing some things.



Who really won the Daytona 500?



I must admit; I only caught the last three laps of the Daytona 500, but in

reality, what else do you really need see? Just think about all of the great photo-finishes of years past that took place on the very last lap of the race: The Cale Yarborough/Donnie Allison demolition derby that ended up in a fist-fight on the greenway, or and the Ricky Craven/Kurt Busch



neck and neck fight to the finish in 2003 at Darlington.

This year's Great American Race was no exception. It was thought that Mark Martin would have gotten his first Daytona 500 win and 36th career victory on the penultimate lap of the race when Harvick shot like a rocket from the middle of the nowhere to take the lead. Just before Harvick could take the lead on the final lap, Kyle Busch spun out taking out six cars and bringing out the yellow flag. Now usually the rule of thumb is that if there is a caution on the final lap of the race, whoever is leading at that point in time should be declared the winner.



doesn't love all of those Aaron's commercials? However, when you're representing Toyota, who was making its Nextel Cup debut, it's probably not the best idea to cheat by putting jet fuel in your intake system.

Current Nascar Standings

1. Kevin Harvick (190)
\$1,563,469

2. Mark Martin (175)
\$1,170,416

3. Jeff Burton (175)
\$865,216

4. Mike Wallace (160)
\$615,658

5. David Ragan (155)
\$529,350

6. David Gilliland (147)
\$489,764

7. Joe Nemechek (138)
\$302,008

8. Jeff Gordon (134)
\$403,497

9. David Stremme (130)
\$294,758

10. J.J. Yeley (127)
\$308,541

SPRING SPORTS from PAGE 20

have been looking really strong. The young guys are starting to develop and every body on the team is starting to look good and come through with everything,” stated Wozniski.

The Colonels will head to Florida on March 4th where they will look to bring their “A” game as they begin their 2007 season.

Softball

After winning a championship, the next season gets tougher. Every team will put on their best performance just to have the glory of beating the number one team. But when you’re as solid as the Wilkes University lady Colonel softball team, winning is not hard to do. Boys and girls it’s the 2007 season, and last year’s MAC Freedom conference open their 2007 season Friday March 2nd for the Wesleyan Tournament in Virginia Beach.

Two-time Freedom Conference Coach of the Year Frank Matthews enters his seventh season as the lady Colonels head coach. Last season, Matthews led the lady Colonels to an impressive 28-15 overall record including winning eleven out of 12 at home. The lady Colonels breezed through Freedom Conference with a 12-2 record leaving them ranked 8th in the entire region under Matthews.

“We have a good group of seniors that are

excellent ball players. They lead by example and they are doing a very good job.”

Speaking of seniors, retiring for the lady Colonels is first team Academic All-District II College Division Softball star Laurie Agrestie. Agrestie led the lady Colonels pitching staff with 15 wins and 6 losses. She pitched a total of 139 innings, sent batters back to the dugout 241 times on strikeouts. Leading the lady Colonels offensive attack is sophomore Samantha Evanich who drove in 42 RBIs and 14 HRs.

The lady Colonels open the season on a gruesome 10 game road trip. The first six games are played at Virginia Beach, and the final four are in Salisbury, Maryland. The lady Colonels will be in for a fight to the finish in their first three contest where they face three NCAA tournament teams from last year. The lady Colonels finished 2-2 in their NCAA appearance last year.

“They all are very good. The first three teams made the NCAA tournament and two of them more of them won 30 or more games. It’s going to be a challenge coming out of the gate and playing teams that good. We think we can play with just about anybody pretty evenly”, said Matthews.

It’s time for another exciting season of softball. The lady Colonels will look to pick up where they left off last year as reigning MAC Freedom champions, and come out victorious in their 10 game road trip in the south.

Spring 2007 Softball Schedule

3/13 vs. Marywood

3/16 vs. King’s

3/17 @ King’s

3/21 vs. Muhlenberg

3/23 vs. Drew

3/24 @ Drew

3/25 vs. PSU-Berks

3/30 @ FDU

3/31 vs. FDU

4/2 vs. Baptist Bible

4/5 @ DeSales

4/9 vs. DeSales

4/11 vs. Misericordia

4/13 vs. Delaware Valley

4/14 @ Delaware Valley

4/16 vs. Moravian

4/18 @ Misericordia

4/19 @ Susquehanna

4/22 vs. Alvernia

4/24 @ Marywood

4/27 @ Scranton

4/28 vs. Scranton



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

The Colonels baseball team will look to get off to a hot start in Florida on Sunday March 4.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Reigning MAC Freedom Conference champions return to the field for more action on Friday March 2 in Virginia Beach.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

16

The number of times that Freedom Conference Rookie of the Year, Tom Kresge scored in double figures this past season.

5

Place that the Wilkes grapplers earned at the Metropolitan Conference Championships.

6

Total wins for the women’s basketball team this season including 4 of those wins at home.

10

Matches that the Wilkes wrestling team won this season. They ended their season with an overall 10-9 record.

Colonels baseball and softball teams ready themselves for spring

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Baseball

March is just around the corner and that means baseball season is rapidly approaching. The anxiety from all of the off-season practices and preseason talk will cease as soon as the umpire says those famous words, "play ball." Baseball fans, the time is almost here. Following a strong finish to last season, the Colonels will look bring the heat to Florida as they start their 2007 baseball season.

"Last season we finished strong and we're hoping to build on that going into this season. They (the players) have worked hard, they are ready to go and now it's time to get on the field and start winning some games," stated head coach Joe Folek.

Folek enters his 12th season as Colonels head coach with 217 wins under his belt. During his

tenure as coach, Folek has led the Colonels to a successful season, posting a 28-15-1 record which is the most wins in school history. Not only does he have a winning record, but his coaching strategy has proven effective, sending five players to the major leagues. Folek will look to lead this year's Colonels to a successful season.

"It's a good group and we're expecting to do very well this year. I think our biggest strong point is going to be our offense. We have a couple veteran guys, Chris Mayerski, Kyle Follweiler, Brad Wozniski, that are now in their junior year and have been all conference players. We are expecting them to continue to do well and have a number of the new and old guys fall in line with them to have a good season," said Folek.

The Colonels capped off last season with a 19-14-1 record and were 7-11 in the Freedom confer-

ence. Despite the fact the Colonels finished under .500 in the conference and did not reach the playoff contention, they won eight of their last ten games.

Leading last season's offensive attack for the Colonels was returning junior from Swoyersville, PA, Chris Mayerski. He managed to bring in 43 RBI's for the Colonels, and smacked a total of 10 balls out the park. Mayerski will prove to be a problem for the rest of the league. The Colonels football and baseball beast Kyle Follweiler will also be top priority on opponents scouting report after batting .383 on 133 times at bat.

Colonels pitcher/catcher Brad Wozniski will also look to lead the Colonels to victory with effective batting. Last season Wozniski turned 30 hits off of 85 at bats.

"I'm real thrilled about this season. So far, at the UCOM we

See **SPRING SPORTS** page 19



The Beacon/Todd Weibel
Wilkes University's softball and baseball teams get ready for their season.

Campus Calendar

All Week:

*Sudan: The Cost of Silence, Sordoni Art Gallery

*The Later Works of William Utermohlen, Sordoni Art Gallery

Monday 2/26

*Alzheimer's Panel Presentation, Breis 107 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 2/27

*No events scheduled.

Wednesday 2/28

*No events scheduled.

Thursday 3/1

*No events scheduled.

Friday 3/2

*Women's softball @ Vir-

ginia Wesleyan Tournament - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday 3/3

*Women's softball @ Virginia Wesleyan Tournament - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday 3/4

*No events scheduled.

Monday 3/5

*Women's softball @ Averett - 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday 3/6

*No events scheduled.

Wednesday 3/7

*Sales development: Climbing the Sales Ladder, UCOM - 8:00 a.m.

Thursday 3/8

*Crucial Conversations, Woodlands Inn & Resort - 9:00 a.m.

*Women's lacrosse @ Bryn Mawr - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 3/9

*Crucial Conversations, Woodlands Inn * Resort - 9:00 a.m.

*Women's softball @ Salisbury Tournament - 10:00 a.m.

Saturday 3/10

*Women's softball @ Salisbury Tournament - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 3/11

*No events scheduled.

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH



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



There was no winner from last week's campus photo. Next week's prize will be \$20.