

**SUPERBOWL** ADS PAGE 9



SKI CLUB **PAGE 17** 

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FEBRUARY 10, 2009

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

Volume 61

program loses some funds in state budget Recyclemania

**BY AMY FUSCO** 

Beacon News Editor

On February 4, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell delivered a speech that proposed a \$29 billion Pennsylvania state budget plan for year 2009-10. Rendell acknowledged that, given the current national and state economic forecasts, his plan required cuts in programs, budgets, tax increases and jobs would be lost. With the decrease in state funding, programs such as Wilkes Science in Motion (SIM), among others, will be immediately impacted.

According to the SIM website, the program is a "science partnership between area secondary schools and Wilkes University, which began in 2000. It is "funded by the Pennsylvania General Assembly and is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Mobile educators, including Pete Stchur, chemistry educator,, and Len Ruotolo, biology educator,, travel across ten area counties to either assist high school teachers with labs or supply them with equipment the high schools could not otherwise afford."

Dr. Teresa Wignot, associate professor



Courtesy of Marketing Communications

Science in Motion conducts lab experiments for young students across ten area counties, which allows schools to utilize equipment they otherwise could not afford.

director. She explained that Dr. Don Mitchell, chemistry professor at Juniata College, started the program more than 15 years ago. SIM initially had National Science Foundaand chemistry chair, is the SIM program tion (NSF) funding for the program. It was

through Mitchell, who brought it to state legislation, that the SIM program became a statewide initiative.

See SIM PROGRAM page 3

#### Courthouse upheaval won't alter law school plans

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

Beacon Asst. News Editor

The recent discovery of corruption in Luzerne County involving two judges, Mark Ciavarella and Michael Conahan, has left many citizens with feelings of distrust concering our local legal system. Following a "guilty" plea by both former judges, and charges pending for others connected with the kickback scheme, residents and community leaders alike have questioned how deep the corruption may run in the Luzerne County Courthouse as well as the future of

law education and practice in the area.

Despite current events, Wilkes continues its exploration into the viability of a new

"I would like to think ... that the presence of a law school in Northeast Pennsylvania could contribute to the ongoing commitment of the legal profession to uphold its high standards of ethics and professionalism in an effort to minimize misconduct," said Loren D. Prescott, dean of the Wilkes Law School Planning Initiative.

The judges, Mark Ciavarella and Michael

Conahan, allegedly accepted more than \$2.6 million in kickbacks for rulings that sent juveniles to a detention center. Ciavarella and Conahan's federal court date is scheduled for February 12, which could result in 87 months in prison for each of the judges.

"When we see cases of corruption, it's just a small minority of individuals that are involved with that kind of thing. The fact that we are policing the situation is a good thing," said Dr. Anthony L. Liuzzo, profes-

See LAW SCHOOL page 3

## hits Wilkes

BY MELANIE THOMAS

Beacon Correspondent

In conjunction with a nationwide competition, Wilkes University is participating in Recyclemania, an environmentally friendly competition that promotes lowering waste generated on campuses across the country by reducing, reusing and recycling.

According to Recyclemania's website, the goals of the program are "to increase recycling on campuses, to bring awareness to our schools waste management and recycling programs, to expand economic opportunities, to address environmental issues in a positive way, and to influence other campuses to join recyclemania."

Organizers hope is to instill lifelong recycling habits in students.

In February 2001, Fred Newman of Ohio University and Stacy Edmonds Wheeler of Miami University decided something needed to be done to increase recycling on their respective campuses.

So the two challenged each other to a competition in recycling and Miami University won. Since then, participation has doubled every year and now there over 201 schools participate in the annual event.

The competition runs for ten weeks and is judged by the cumulative recycled weight that is submitted weekly, with the most weight accumulated as the winner.

According to Bob Swetts, manager of capital assets, "We have been trying to get Recyclemania up and running for three years now, but this year we're making a real

See RECYCLE page 5



#### ON THE WEB

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Established 1936 PA Newspaper **Association Member** 





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# CONTACT I amy.fusco cathryn.fregjacqueline.lu wilkesbeacon.I Remembering Matthew Zukoski and moving on BY ANDREW SEAMAN Beacon Editor-in-Chief CONTACT I amy.fusco cathryn.fregjacqueline.lu wilkesbeacon.I result of his love of and moving on

Beacon Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Ronald Pryor, visiting assistant professor for math and computer science, has reached for his phone numerous times to call his friend, only to realize that he is not there to answer.

"I used to call him on the phone about five to six times a day," says Pryor. "I find myself reaching for the phone and there's just not going to be anyone there."

On Saturday, January 31, Dr. Matthew J. Zukoski, associate professor of math and computer science, passed away unexpectedly. His death left the Wilkes community with memories of the past and questions about the future.

Pryor first met his friend Zukoski not as a colleague, but as a student at Hanover High School.

"He was always the kind of guy who didn't care if he got an 86...but he always made sure, and I noticed this as his seventh grade teacher, that he never let anything go by unless he knew what he did wrong - he didn't like anything unanswered," said Pryor.

In the wake of Zukoski's death, there remain many unanswered questions for Wilkes. His death has left a hole in the faculty and on the committees he served.

Dr. Reynold Verret, Wilkes University provost, said, "To their credit, the faculty as effective as they are, especially in math and computer science, are grappling with what they need. In fact, some of them have taken his courses over, so there has been an immediate response to make sure that the teaching needs are met both in

Pryor added that a lot of Zukoski's friends have stepped in as the teachers for his courses.

Dr. John Koch, a professor in the math and computer science department, will be taking over one of his classes. He explained that there are some challenges in picking up a course mid-semester, especially when the students have just been dealt an emotional blow.

"It was good that most of the students that are in the class I am taking over I've had before. So they know how I teach, and they know who I am. Basically, it is kind of a different perspective. So, I know it was a jolt and shock to them just to change a teacher," said Koch.

Like Pryor, Koch first met Zukoski as a student. Koch recalled that Zukoski came to Wilkes in the summer of 1982 to take a programming course. Over the years the two formed a close bond and eventually were placed in offices adjacent to one another. Koch offered a eulogy at last week's faculty meeting. He focused on Zukoski's quirky qualities, or as he called it, "the dark side of Matt."

Koch told his colleagues about Zukoski's journey to his Ph.D. "If it ever 'took a village' to get something accomplished, this was it. For about a decade, Barbara Belluci held the prize in the pool to guess when he would get his degree. Her guess was 'the 12th of never.' But in the end, he got it in September of 2007, narrowly making the cutoff for consideration for tenure, which he received in 2008." All joking aside, Zukoski's delays in finishing the dissertation were widely acknowledged as the direct

focus on, teaching at Wilkes.

Countless stories have been shared in the days after his death.

Jason Wagner, a senior math and computer science double major, said many students have been sharing their memories of their teacher and mentor.

"They didn't know what to do. Some of them skipped his just because they didn't feel right going there, and

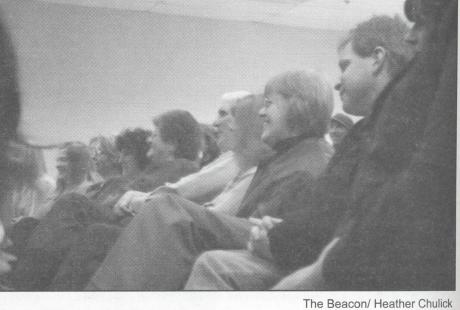
didn't know how they would be able to handle it. Others went and talked about him a little bit and kind of went early," said Wagner.

Pryor added that one of the trademarks of Zukoski was how he would schedule four different things at once, but he said his students would almost always get priority.

"When the announcements of his arrangements first went up, I thought, 'Oh, that's odd -It is at a church for the viewing, not a funeral home.' But when I got to the church that night, the line was out the door. Once you got inside, it went all the way around the church," said Wagner.

Verret said the school will offer some sort of formal memorial service, but it is still being planned.

Wilkes University President, Dr.



class on Tuesday, Members of the Wilkes community look on during a memorial service held on Tuesday, February 3, for Matthew Zukoski, who passed away last Saturday.

> Tim Gilmour, said, "Matt Zukoski was one of those wonderful, brilliant, unassuming people whose purpose in life is to serve others, have some fun along the way, and make the world a better place. And he did—for his students, his colleagues, his friends, and his family."

> One sentiment shared by his students, colleagues, and friend is the fact that Zukoski was always young at heart. Pryor said that he would always talk to Zukoski on the phone at night while watching television - usually during The Twilight Zone. And for him, Zukoski will always be the person who kept him and the rest of the math and computer science department young.

> "What reminded me of him was the episode 'Kick the Can.' It

takes place in an old folks home where...this one guy remembers, and asks everyone if they remember playing kick the can...and he said, 'I think if we play kick the can that would really reinvigorate us and make us young.' And there was one scoffer...well one night he took all the other people outside and started playing kick the can...the other guy sees them out there and he runs to get the administrator, and they both run out to the porch and all they see is a bunch of little kids running around playing kick the can," said Pryor.

He added, "Well, [Zukoski]... came up here and got all of us playing kick the can, and that is basically what I thought was the unusual thing about Matt - he kept you young."

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#### **Editorial Staff 2008-09**

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Jacqueline Lukas Asst. News Editor

Given the state budget plan, Wignot understood the inevitable cuts in funding due to the economic condition.

"I obviously hope we maintain our current funding. I have a feeling we will get reduced. I just pray that we keep some funding," Wignot said. "I would hate to see the elimination of the program. A complete cut would be devastating to our local schools that use us."

Jeanette Papiercavich, the SIM program coordinator, explained that in 2003, Rendell cut the whole program until SIM received the Innovation Award from the National Council of State Governments. The program was also not operating from September 2002 to January 2003 because the university would not bridge the salaries for staff of the program.

"We rely on our vehicles and gas to get around and that's a major cost for us," said Papiercavich. Faculty and participants travel across counties including Wayne, Bradford and Schuylkill County, among other surrounding counties. "Typically, we will have a little bit at the end of the year and that's used to purchase equipment and replace

stuff that is on its way out," she added.

**NEWS** 

The state funding allows the SIM program to purchase necessities, such as hightech science equipment, vehicles for travel, laptops, consumable supplies, bugs, animal cadavers for dissection, chemicals and maintenance and repair of the equipment. Wignot explained that when the program has more money, they hire student workers to help prepare the labs for the workshops at the schools.

Although there are not student workers this semester, there is one student volunteer working on her senior project with the chemistry mobile educator. Amanda Karaffa, chemistry major with a secondary education minor, is currently student teaching and has been working with SIM since August 2008, assisting in research and preparation. She believes the program is important because it provides schools with instruments and chemicals they cannot afford.

"I think it is a shame that the funding is being cut," said Karaffa. "It gives students an opportunity to use instruments and perform experiments that they otherwise would not be able to," she added. She noted that edu-



Courtesy of Marketing Communications

Governor Rendell's state budget plan cut \$13,000 from the SIM program's annual funding of approximately \$162,000 leaving less spending on repairs of equipment.

cation is so important and taking away some of the funding and opportunity from students is not fair to them. She explained that the program helps many different schools and school districts around the area.

"Schools receive a lot of funding from the state to provide for their students and without that money, schools may not be able to provide [students with] what they have now or even to pay their teachers," stated Karaffa. "That will then cause larger class sizes and less individual help for struggling students. Education is not something that should be sacrificed, but it may have to be."

Along with cuts in program funding in the

proposed state budget, Rendell discussed other important plans for Pennsylvania.

"I heard that he was proposing to close the Scranton School of the Deaf and I heard that he wants to try to eliminate 400 of the 500 and some school districts," said Papiercavich, "I just think that's insane."

"We've taken our 8% cut for this year and we are surviving it without much pain," Wignot said. "Due to the economic situation of the country, I understand the state has to be fiscally responsible and as long as we have some money from the state to function, we will try to provide the best service that we can to the teachers," she added.

## LAW SCHOOL from FRONT PAGE

thing," said Dr. Anthony L. Liuzzo, professor of business and economics and director of the MBA program at Wilkes.

The public perception is that the whole legal profession is corrupt, but it's really just a small percentage, according to Liuzzo.

"Ciavarella and Conahan are the exception to the rule. I think there are hundreds, if not thousands, of good, ethical lawyers in the area that would be very happy to help in the Wilkes law school initiative and be good mentors to our students," said Dr. Kyle Kreider, assistant professor of political science and the pre-law advisor.

People have told Prescott that they believe the presence of a law school in Northeast Pennsylvania can help the legal profession follow its ethical and professional guidelines.

"Now is probably as important a time as ever for the new law school.... The legal community is probably cleaned up more now than it's ever been in the past. So this is actually a good time to enter the field," said Liuzzo.

The law school initiative began in 2004 and its goal is to serve not only the Wilkes-Barre community, but also the entire Northeast Pennsylvania Region. The law school



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

The Luzerne County Courthouse has been a hot bed of controversy as of late. The presence of a NEPA law school may remind these professionals of their roots and keep them grounded and ethically sound, according to Dean Prescott and Dr. Liuzzo.

initiative is currently in the final stages of the process. The next step would be to produce a written report to the Board of Trustees and the full-time faculty at Wilkes. It must be approved by the Board and the faculty. The decision-making process should occur in the spring or summer of 2009 according to Prescott.

"My vision of the law school's mission is to serve all of Northeast Pennsylvania, not just the major population areas," said Prescott.

Prescott has traveled to many different counties in Northeast Pennsylvania, talking

to other judges and lawyers about the law school. Many practicing lawyers and federal and state judges from the multiple counties in Northeast Pennsylvania are on the Advisory Board for the law school initiative. The counties are well represented on the board and are enthusiastic about the possibility of having a law school in our area.

The curriculum for the school would follow the American Bar Association (ABA) standards. Courses in ethics will also be taught at the law school to point students in the right direction. There will be an advanced ethics course dealing with moral dilemmas encountered by lawyers. These dilemmas would be issues that lawyers may struggle with during their careers.

When students graduate, they should be well versed in all of the different fields of law, according to Prescott.

In addition to the students studying law, the Wilkes law school initiative would also offer courses for lawyers and judges, allowing them to enter into a law school environment that may remind them of their initial training.

"Those are things I think, naturally, people might lose sight of in the day to day of practicing law. Lawyers and judges are really busy doing their work and they don't have a lot of time to sit back and reflect on their role in a great profession," said Prescott.

### Student nurses commute for best pediatric experience

BY CATHRYN FREAR Beacon Asst. News Editor

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Wyoming Valley has Pennsylvania's most concentrated elderly population. TIn fact, the residents are not only the oldest in PA, but the area boasts the second oldest population in the entire country.

So, considering the area's demographics it's no wonder that nursing students who need to study pediatrics must travel outside the Wyoming Valley to get the experience. The Wilkes nursing department recently made the decision to look outside the Valley for sophomores to do their pediatric clinical training. Though they now have to make the drive to Danville to the Janet Weiss Children's Hospital, the students get a broader training there.

Dr. Bernard Graham, Dean of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy and Nursing, said that "There just are more cases there. Instead of seeing maybe two cases [in a semester], they get to see a lot more with a lot more variety. There are a lot more special cases."

Dr. Mary Ann Merrigan, chair of the nursing Hospital is specific to kids provides for department, explained, "When there are really a wide array of prediatric experiences no big cases, they're sent [to Weiss], so it made

sense to send our students there to follow the big cases.'

According to Graham, nursing majors at Wilkes have pediatrics and OB, each for a half semester period, during the spring semester of their sophomore year. However, last summer, students in the accelerated nursing program were the first to make the move to Danville.

"Our pediatrics clinical is in the spring... but we have an accelerated program for students who already have their bachelor's in something else and they had their pediatrics experience is in the summer and they reported back having had an excellent experience," stated Merrigan.

Sophomore nursing major Lindsey Baldwin said, "I definitely think it is worth the drive because we are getting a really good experience. We are there for 12 hours [on Fridays], so the hour drive there and back isn't too bad. We get to see kids with a variety of illnesses with things ranging from uncontrolled diabetes to cancer."

The fact that Janet Weiss Children's matter where the student is in the building.



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

Alyssa Sieden and Mareella Naguib, are two of the many nursing students who travel to Danville for their clinical experience.

Merrigan said, "They're rotating through an intensive care unit there...There's an oncology floor, a medical floor, a surgical floor...they're seeing and caring for children from infants to adolescents with some very interesting medical and surgical problems."

The value and variety is also already being felt by students. According to Baldwin, "We are assigned a patient, but are allowed to help our fellow clinical students with their

patients or even go play with other patients. Last week I got to play with the cutest little 8-year-old boy who had Down Syndrome. If we stayed in Wilkes-Barre to do this clinical rotation, we would probably only see common things, like the flu or things of that nature. Since PEDS is the area I want to go into when I graduate, I think this is an amazing experience for me.

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS

Beacon Asst. News Editor

Treasurer's Report All College: \$2,711.69

General: \$11,324.74

Special Projects: \$3,864.06

Spirit: \$1,000.00

Leadership: \$8,652.59

Conferences: \$19,530.09 Start-Up: \$2,100.00

**Club Reports** 

The following clubs presented updates on their events.

- Programming Board
- MSC
- -Equestrian Club
- -Fencing Club

#### **New Business**

Acceptance of positions Dr. Matthew Zukoski scholarship dona-

tion: motion passed to allocate \$500 Wilkes-Barre St. Patrick's Day Parade (Sunday, March 15, 2009 2 p.m.)

Winter Weekend update High Ropes training list

Spring Fling theme: "Dinner at Tiffany's"

Member of the month: Megan Dickinson

**Old Business** 

Lacrosse Club Paintball Club

SG Major Initiative

**Events** 

First Farewell, February 5, 7 p.m. SUB Ballroom

Monologues, Vagina

February 6 and 7, 7:00 p.m. SUB Ballroom

PA Student Government,

February 7

Winter Weekend, February

20 and 21

VIP Day, March 21, 1-2:30

\* At 7:30 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the SG meeting. The motion was approved.

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

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JOAN HENRY HALL

#### RECYCLE

#### from FRONT PAGE

push."

Swetts's office recorded that a total of 621 tons of waste was produced here on campus last year with 30.73% of that waste

Swetts noted, "I'm hoping to see an increase in recycling awareness...More things can be recycled than most are aware of."

Students will also be able to access progress by logging onto the Wilkes website. They will be able to track goals, the do's and don'ts of recycling, campus results, and much more.

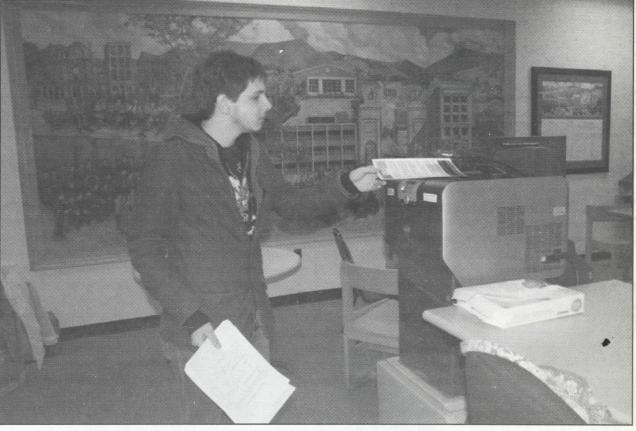
Elizabeth Roveda, assistant director of residence life, said, "There is a green push and it is growing each year... We are trying to motivate faculty, staff and students by publicizing [through] the website, Wilkes Today, and posters."

"We are a few weeks into Recyclemania so we cannot say for sure how well students are getting involved. The office of residence life has received many program planners from the RAs focusing on sustainability," she added.

"Right now, dorms are participating in 'Flyer Free February.' This is being done to decrease the amount of paper that is being produced. Instead of using a flyer to advertise a pizza party, they are recycling pizza boxes," said Roveda.

The competition will be judged by one bag per student. Each week waste management will collect recycling from dorms and will tally them to collect the data that will be registered on recyclemania's website.

declared and that dorm will win an ice cream or pizza party.



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

Eric Swetts uses the double-sided printer in Stark Learning Center. Students can save money on GreenPrint by At the end of the ten week competition, a winner will be utilizing these printers that can be found in computer labs, the library and classrooms.

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Chicken Caesar

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Mini Potato Pancakes (12) Jalapeno Poppers (6)

French Fries

Cheese Fries

Onion Rings

Chicken Nuggets (8)

**Bread Sticks** 



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## Home Rule: a chance to spread the power around

BY THE BEACON

Editorial Board

A unanimous decision by the Luzerne County Commissioners has agreed to attach a home rule referendum to the county-wide municipal primary ballot on May 19, 2009.

Home rule shifts local responsibility from the state legislature to the local community with a charter similar to a local constitution. Currently, seven counties in Pennsylvania operate with home rule. They are Allegheny, Clinton, Delaware, Erie, Lackawanna, Lehigh, and Northampton.

If the referendum is passed, a study commission composed of eleven elected members will analyze the form of government of the municipality to compare it with other available forms under the laws of the Commonwealth. They would then determine whether or not, in its judgment, the government could be strengthened.

Currently, Luzerne County is headed by three County Commissioners, Stephen A. Urban (R), Maryanne C. Petrilla (D), and Gregory A. Skrepenak (D).

Thus far, Urban is offering full support for home rule, although he did not favor the last propsed charter. On the opposite end of the spectrum is Screpenak, who believes that home rule would split the county and place mass amounts of power into the hands of one county executive. Screpenak also oppsed the last charterin

According to Dr. Thomas Baldino, Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, "A commission form fuses legislative and executive function.... the commissioners make the ordinances, pass ordinances, and they carry them out."

This is not the first time that home rule has been considered in



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Luzerne County residents will vote to decide if a home rule study commission will form in the May 19 election.

Luzerne County. Most recently, in 2001, a study commission was formed, but voters shot the idea down in 2003 with a 54 to 46 percent margin.

Baldino served on the previous commission. "It's hard to get people to vote for change," he said. When the previous study commission wrote its recommendations in 2001, members decided on a nine member council, which had six individuals representing districts, and three members at-large. The three at-large seats would be handed to the former county commissioners until their terms expired. At that point, anyone could run for those seats. Each council member would have an equal say, and the nine members would elect a president of council.

With the help of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) soft-

ware, the charter was also able to put population, municipality, and school district data into a program which divided the county into various districts.

Although a study commission has yet to be formed, The Beacon supports the idea of implementing a home rule system of local government. The current system gives no semblance of a representative government in which authority lies within the hands of the people. In addition, under the current system, the minority commissioner is not accorded enough power to influence decisions. The current corruption charges erupting from the Luzerne County Courthouse, as well as the suspicion that those problems are merely the tip of an iceberg big enough to sink another Titanic (except that our modern ship is called "Luzerne County"),

indicate that power is dangerous when so closely concentrated in the hands of a few.

"If a new study commission is formed, and it makes any kind of changes that make sense to me, I probably will support it...Almost anything would be superior to what we have now," said Baldino.

A home rule system will not only add more voices to the decision making process, but will strategically spread the power amongst more people.

Vote yes for home rule in Luzerne County on May 19 in the municipal primary.

#### Talking Points



**Home rule will** be voted on in the municipal primary on May



The current system places to much power in the hands of the **Commissioners**.



**The Beacon** supports a study commission for home rule.

## The Angry Rant: For the Love of Humanity

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Wilkes Alumnus

Just when it seemed that our culture couldn't go any further into the intellectual gutter, VH-1 throws us a curveball and produces yet another "celebrity" dating show.

This time around, the lucky (if you call being hounded by 14 crazies, lucky) man is Ray J.

Who? Exactly.

For the uninformed (and I assume that is everyone), Ray J is a rapper \*cue laughter\* who is best known for being in a sex tape with socialite and celebrity imposter extraordinaire Kim Kardashian, and for being the brother of former mediocre pop star, Brandy.

That's right, the guy who is most famous for having sex with someone who is only famous for having a gigantic a\*\*

The show, which is aptly named "For the Love of Ray J," documents the journey of one man and his attempt to find love in a world where love appears to elude all of

But seriously, he just tries to nail every one of these broads because they want to be on television.

Is that the best title they could think of? "For the Love of Ray J?" That's all you got? I can do better than that, so I will proceed to suggest more appropriate names based on Academy Award winning movies: The Skankfather, Citizen Skank, Casa-Skanka, the Skank-Parted, No Country For Old Skanks, Lord of the Skanks: The Return of the Clap, Skankheart, Nailing Miss Skanky, The Skank Hunter, From Skank to Skankternity, and finally, My Fair Skank.

Wow, that was fun. But how awesome would "Skankheart" be? Effing awesome, that's how much.

Let's get serious and ask ourselves, "Why are we giving this guy his own show?" Is it not enough that we had to suffer through Flava Flav and Bret Michaels? The talent is getting worse and worse as these musicians get their own shows. Whose next, William Hung? (Oh dear God, the suits at VH-1 didn't hear that, did they?)

But more importantly, who are these girls that want to be on the show? Do any of them even know who he is? Do any of them care? No. They want to be on television, because they want their 15 minutes of sexually transmitted disease riddled fame; that's why. If we were to send Ray-J (actually, I'm going to call him by his real name, William) to the moon tomorrow, and he was never seen again, would anyone say "Hey, what happened to Ray J?" Of course not! Why? Because nobody cares about someone who isn't best known for their chosen profession. William is best known for his gallivanting with the caboose of Kim Kardashain, and NOT his music.

If you are not known for your actual profession (in this case, talent-less musician), then you're not deserving of a reality show. Alex Rodriguez is known for being one of the greatest baseball players of all time, not for dating Madonna. See the difference?

Anyhow, if the show wasn't bad enough (trust me, it is), the website is even worse. It describes William as an "...acclaimed singer..."

Josh Groban is an acclaimed singer. Beyonce is an acclaimed singer. He is not.

...songwriter...

The lyrics for "Sexy Can I" aren't exactly setting the world on fire.

Sexy, can I hit it from the front? Can I hit it from the back? Know you like it like tha, Then we take it to the bed, then we take it to the floor/Then we chill for a second, then we're back for some more

Wow, I was misinformed. He is acclaimed.

But just for kicks, let me take a stab at this.

Let's hit up the club, sipping on the bub, moving all night, feeling so right. Lookin' fly in my ride, girl by my side, make them other ladies cry, do it to you all night.

Those lyrics took me 50 seconds to write, LITERALLY. And they are just as good, and if I didn't tell you that I wrote them, you wouldn't know the difference.

...actor...

His biggest claim to fame was starring alongside Shaquille O'Neal in Steel. In 1997.

...ultimate ladies man...

George Clooney is the ultimate ladies man; that's not even an argument. His track record isn't even that spectacular. Besides Kardashian, (who doesn't even count) who has he dated? Whitney Houston? Is anyone impressed by that? Congratulations, you allegedly dated Whitney Houston in 2007, which is more than a decade past her prime. Let's face it, that's like bragging about getting a pair of Reebok Pumps last Christmas.

Ok, let's recap: William = Not

For the Love of Ray J = Televi-

sion show where fame whores throw themselves at him.

Me = Arguably more famous than Wil-

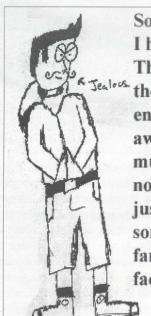
So where is my television show?

I'm serious about this. Nicole Richie, Paris Hilton and Brody Jenner get their own shows, why can't I? What have they done to deserve it? Except being born into favorable circumstances, they've done nothing.

I deserve my own show, too! Come on, it can be called "Rant of Love!" Or better yet, why not just call it "Hey Fame Whores: Embarrass Yourself!"

The reality is that there are people who would want to be in that show, and that is

But really, we totally need to make "Skankheart."



Sometimes I wish I had an evil twin. The kind where La Jealous the only difference is an awesome curly mustache. If nothing else it'd just be cool for someone in my family to have facial hair.

Zigas

## **ES** Re: Rant confusing sex with gender

I'm writing in response to "The Angry Rant" by Tim Seigfried in the January 27 issue of The Beacon. Usually I enjoy the opinion pieces and find them very funny. However, I was disappointed and offended at Siegfried's treatment of transgendered people in this editorial. I am not necessarily defending Thomas Beatie, since I think he should have been publicized more accurately as a transgendered pregnant male. However, Seigfried's rant went beyond criticism of Beatie and turned to an attack against all transgendered and transsexual people. He basically argued that transgendered people are frauds who are fooling themselves and others, and that Beatie was a woman no matter how much surgery he had.

Here Seigfried is confusing sex, the bio-

logical nature of a person's anatomy, with diced and close-minded. After all, someone its alienation of a whole group of people. gender, the cultural attitudes and meanings that define what it means to be a man or woman. Transgendered people are those whose gender does not match with their biological sex. Studies have shown that the brain structure of transgendered people look more like the opposite sex than their own sex. He likely began to feel that way when he was very young, and they are intense feelings of something not being right with one's body. Most psychologists agree that transgenderism is not something that needs to be "cured," but that surgery and hormones are the best way to help them feel more comfortable with their own bodies. Seigfried may just be uninformed on this matter, and probably doesn't know any transgendered people personally. I certainly hope he was not intentionally being preju-

who isn't transgendered couldn't possibly understand what it is like to feel that one's one body is wrong.

Another aspect of the rant that offends me was that Seigfried argued that we don't have the right to name our own identity. No one knows ourselves better than we do, and our subjective reality cannot be understood by anyone else better than it can by us. Beatie believes that he is a man, no matter what he was biologically born as. No one else has the right to say that he is not "really" a man. Gender is socially constructed, and refusal to see it for what it is undermines the vast spectrum that is human gender expression and sexuality. We don't all fit into a neat little binary.

I usually enjoy The Beacon's articles very much, but I was extremely disappointed in Transgenderism is still extremely misunderstood in mainstream culture, and I would hope that The Beacon would be more progressive in the future. Perpetuating hurtful and discriminatory attitudes will only cause further social problems. Transgendered people face enough challenges: they don't need to be attacked by their school paper in an environment that is supposed to be welcoming and accepting of diversity.

Wilkes has an LGBT Alliance club on campus that can provide a place for transgendered students to feel accepted and understood.

Thank you, Bethany Guarilia Pre-pharmacy major Class of 2014

## W-B Twp.: pay up or face a dry spring

BY GINO TROIANI Beacon Opinion Editor

A unanimous decision by the Wilkes-Barre council on February 2 declared that township residents who do not pay their sewer fees will have their water turned off.

Despite threats, over the last ten years, approximately 100 residents and businesses have racked up over \$130,000 in delinquent bills and fines, the highest totaling around \$4,000, according to the Township's business administrator. The apparent reasons for seems to be no formal or organized protest behind the lack of payments.

The passage of the shutoff ordinance means that anyone owing with the municipality... we can

for more than six months, or more than \$100, will face water shutoff by the Pennsylvania American Water Company. The annual sewer fee stands at \$84.

I would like to pose the question: how did the council let this get so far out of hand? One hundred thirty thousand dollars over a ten year period is a significant amount of money and time.

The new ordinance states residents have 30 days to pay their sewer bills or the township will simply turn off their water.

When asked if there are any non payment are varied and there health codes that deal with the termination of water service, Susan Turcmanovich, a spokesperson for Pennsylvania American Water Co. said, "If we have an agreement

shut their water off."

This is true, but there are some rules that can intervene. According to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Act 201 of 2004 states that water service cannot be shut off if someone living in the home is certified as seriously ill by a licensed physician or nurse practitioner. Also, heat-related water service cannot be terminated during the winter months without PUC approval.

If individuals possess the ability to maintain their households, they can surely afford an annual sewer fee of \$84, which broken down adds up to \$7 a month.

Surprisingly, many residents have been resisting the ordinance.

For residents who cannot pay their debt in full, the council has

passed a "hardship exception," which opens the option to a payment plan.

The money collected will be put towards a more than \$4 million loan that was taken out about fifteen years ago, on which the Township has been unable to maintain steady payments.

Many have fallen on hard times. The unemployment rate has jumped over seven percent this year, and continues to grow; however, many of these bills are long overdue. I am dumbfounded at how stubborn a large majority of these people have been when it comes to paying their bills. The council has taken a step in the right direction, and needs to continue to press these individuals for the money that is owed.

#### Beacon Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that The Beacon coducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overal attitudes of students on campus.

#### The Beacon asked:

Do you feel that Wilkes should offer more foreign language courses?

- Yes 100%
- · No 0%
- · Undecided 0%

#### Next Week's question:

Should Luzerne County implement home rule?

- · Yes
- · No
- Undecided

Visit www.wilkesbeacon. com to cast your vote. Results will be published online at wilkesbeacon.com

## Add a national holiday: Super Bowl Monday

**BY ANTHONY DORUNDA** 

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

The Pittsburgh public school system put all area schools on a two hour delay schedule for the Monday following the Super Bowl, similar to what many schools in Indianapolis did after the Colts' Super Bowl victoryin 2007.

What an absolutely brilliant idea.

So it got me thinking, the Monday following the Super Bowl should really gain holiday status.

The truth is, Americans spend the day recovering from Super Bowl Sunday, whether it be because our tummies are over nourished, our kidneys are filled with liquids of all kinds (to put "hangover" lightly) or our hearts are overcome with grief and misery because our hallowed Cardinals lost, and probably will have to wait another 61 years to get there. But I digress.

What I am saying is that the Monday after the Super Bowl is already a cultural holiday--why not make it official? I can guarantee that we could all count on knew who did not watch the Su- day off. per Bowl, and it would really take soft Word capitalized the "Super Bowl." Doesn't that say anything

about what a cultural phenomenon the game has become?

Let's look at the statistics, though, because they really do tell all. To begin: 151.6 million. That's how many people watched the Super Bowl. To put it into perspective, according to the most recent census in 2000, the United States is inhabited by 305,763,782 people. In other words, about half of the entire country was tuned into the spectacle also known as "The Big Game."

Here's another good number: Two. That two represents the nation's second largest day of food consumption, behind only Thanksgiving, according to consumernews.com. Now how can Americans digest after consuming mega amounts of saucy wings, greasy meat-lovers pizza, and double meat subs chowed down like they were going out of style?

One more quick number: 1.5 million. That's how many adults called into work sick this past Monday.

And allow me to speculate: 2,200. That's the number of Wilone hand the number of people we kes students who want to have this

Ok, so that last one is just my some monumental brain power. own survey that I conducted in people get a four-day weekend for Heck, as I was writing this, Micro- my head, but I'm sure it's pretty darned accurate.

Seriously though, I cannot think and staff alike already have enough

of any currently recognized holiday that brings together people of different races, creeds, orientations or genders as universally as the Super Bowl. We set our differences aside to relish in the pure joy we get from watching oversized behemoths squash each other to a pulp, and forget about everything else in the world for at least those four hours (or 12 if you count all the pregame buildup). It's a festival, a gala that everyone gets excited for, even if they don't understand.

How much are students worth to professors if they aren't paying attention or don't show up anyway? I know college kids don't usually go to bed early, but it would save everyone some time and struggle if this day were granted holiday

Don't think I am the only one advocating this, though.

Bob Cook, contributor for NBC sports, underscores my feelings.

"It's not very different from Thanksgiving as a football-centric holiday, except that you can eat chicken wings instead of turkey, and you're assured you will never have to sit through a Detroit Lions game," said Cook. "And most Thanksgiving."

So some say students, faculty

days off. And I would concur if not for one little day that most get off (although Wilkes does not, a lot of schools do): Columbus Day. Most city, county, state and federal government offices are closed around the country on Columbus Day.

That is ridiculous. I won't go into detail, but to learn more about the true hero Columbus was, I suggest the book Lies My Teacher Told Me. See the side of Columbus we never knew about when we painted pictures of the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria in our first grade art class; then get back to me.

"So many people do not make it to class because they are too tired and don't want to do much of anything," offered sophomore history major Tony Ferrese. "I would much rather stay home and get some extra sleep and relax a little."

We should follow in the Pittsburgh public school system's footsteps, except take it a bit further. We should just ax the day right off the school calendar. I assure you there won't be any complaining coming out of student's mouths.

Carpe Diem. Viva la chicken wings!

#### Speak Up! It's Your Right!

The Beacon wants your opinion. Concact us at WilkesBeacon.OpEd

> @Gmail.com with your Name, Major, Year, and

> > Opinion!

The Beacon reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for space and content.





## Short-term study abroad tours PAGE 11 LIFESTYCES

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## Super Bowl ads more costly, less memorable than usual

BY LEEANN SEARFOSS Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

Last Thursday, a sports writer for The Philadelphia Inquirer asked, "Is it just me or, as the years go on, are the Super Bowl ads getting worse as the game gets better?"

For some, the Super Bowl game itself may take a back seat to barrage of new advertisements released during the commercial breaks. In fact, many people can be heard chatting days in advance about the ads themselves rather than the game.

This year's Super Bowl ads were at their most expensive of all time, according to ad-

Advertisers from Anheuser-Busch to Walt Disney Pictures/Pixar bought up the 30second and 60-second commercial spots for \$3 million per 30 seconds. The \$3 million mark has never been the starting price for a commercial at the Super Bowl, though individual slots have sold for that much before, a Wall Street Journal report said. And NBC sold all of them.

"Companies are still profitable despite the recession. However, this recession seems to be the most severe since 1982," stated Dr. Robert Seeley, Wilkes University professor of economics.

Despite the current recession, companies put time and a large amount of money into getting their ads to viewers--all 94 million of them.

With such a large viewing audience comes a large budget for production. Commercials push the envelope in terms of comedy and satire, as well as try to keep Super Bowl advertising traditions alive, like the infamous Budweiser Clydesdales and Dalmatian dogs. However, several questions arise about the amount of money advertisers spend on Super Bowl commercials every year. For example, what is the budget?

As broken down by adage.com, several companies, including Anheuser-Busch, Coca-Cola Co., and Toyota Motor Sales USA, bought up more than one 30-second time slot to secure advertising space. However, one company, PepsiCo., secured five to six minutes of airtime, a minute of which will go to its Frito-Lay division. The large block of airtime is part of the company's "largest reinvention of its brands ever undertaken," according to company execu-

With such challenging economic times, some question why advertisers are still willing to pay \$3 million for 30-seconds

> of airtime. Seeley noted that there is one simple reason why companies undertake any expense. "They want to sell a product. They believe the ads will generate a greater amount of revenue," said Seeley.

Companies are spending millions of dollars to advertise to millions of viewers, but experts question whether the ads actually lead to larger sales. Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall, Wilkes University professor of com-



Photo courtesy of ABCNEWS.com

CareerBuilder.com released one of the most popular ads this Super Bowl. Its 60-second ad, which ranked number three on YouTube's most popular list, featured a repetitive list of reasons for when it is time to find a new job. One reason, pictured above, is when "you daydream about punching small animals."

munications, points out that while some ads may be memorable, they often lack product

Elmes-Crahall, who teaches courses on practical aspects of everyday communication, assigns her students the task of reviewing Super Bowl ads for content and memory longevity.

"When I asked my class which were their favorites, they could rattle them off no problem, but many had trouble remembering the product being advertised, which is the main point of buying such an expensive slot," said Elmes-Crahall.

According to Elmes-Crahall, effective ads included the General Electric advertisement, which portrayed a metallic scarecrow in a metallic Land of Oz dancing around and singing "If I Only Had a Brain", as well as the remake of the "Mean Joe Green" Coca-Cola advertisement from the 1970s.

Despite being more effective, Elmes-Crahall points out that "most of [her] students could not connect the song the scarecrow was singing with the purpose of the advertisement, which was to find more efficient ways to buy electricity."

"Also, if you didn't know Coke was trying to remake the 'Mean Joe Green' ad from the '70s, you were not going to get it. And that ad was considered to be one of the best ads ever run. And this year's was still very funny," stated Elmes-Crahall.

According to MSNBC.com, the Super Bowl Measuring Social Report outlined the top 10 and bottom 10 most effective advs. Teleflora "tops the list of winners due to the brand's association with Valentine's Day and Audi and Toyota came in last, because "in a down economy, buying automobiles is not a high priority for most Americans", according to the report.

Related to Elmes-Crahall's theory, some Wilkes students were asked at random what Super Bowl ads were their favorites and why. Of those polled, only two could remember the actual product and said they would purchase it because of the commer-

"I loved that one with the crystal ball. I can't remember the product, but it was really funny!" said Michael McAloon, junior engineering major.



Seniors gathered in the Henry Student Center Ballroom on February 5 for their First Farewell, which celebrated 100 days until graduation. Students enjoyed complimentary hors d'oeuvres and drinks with classmates and special guests.

## Marijuana debate focus of group vying for club status

BY MELANIE THOMAS

Beacon Correspondent

The debate regarding the legalization of marijuana has always been heated, and now that controversy is coming to Wilkes University.

On Wednesday, Student Government (SG) will meet to discuss whether or not it will approve the Cannabis Defense Movement, an organization whose intention is to promote the fair representation and knowledge of the cannabis plant and its benefits on campus.

"To put it simply, it is to inform and to oppose what we find to be an unjust legislation," said Kenneth Brown, a freshman individualized studies major and the Cannabis Defense Movement's representative at Wilkes University. "But in more words, we are an awareness group on the other side of the story. We want the Wilkes community to know the truths about the Cannabis plant, its uses, and its beneficial social, medical, economical, and recreational factors."

In order to obtain club status, all organizations need to follow a procedure established by SG. According to Jeffrey Bauman, student government treasurer, the first step in the process of obtaining recognized club status is to make a notice of intent around campus and hold an organizational meeting. Next, an advisor or professional staff needs to be selected. The third guideline is to establish a club constitution. Lastly, the club's representative must contact SG for the voting process to begin.

While the Cannabis Defense Movement has already gained campus-wide attention, it is still entitled to all the advantages other clubs enjoy, if approved. These advantages include participation in Club Day, the right to request funds from SG, guidance and support from student development advisors, and the ability to use Henry Student Center facilities upon the approval of the student development office.

"There is an initial \$300 one-time recognition fund that is given to any club that is approved," said Bauman.

Brown said several participants already have ideas about what to do with the start-up funds.

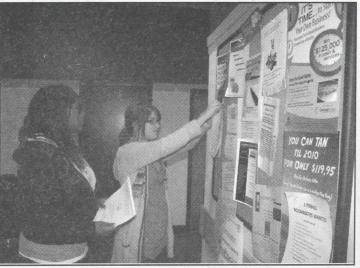
"It is still up to decision. There are ideas, but that will be something left up to club vote," said Brown. According to Brown, the movement is looking for members who are devoted, interested, creative and not afraid to stand up for what they believe in.

"[The club goals are to] reverse the current legislation on marijuana and its illegality," said Brown. "We believe the current legislation is unconstitutional, hurtful, and a large infringement of rights."

Dr. Michael Garr, rofessor of sociology and anthrope

professor of sociology and anthropology, was selected by organizers to serve as faculty advisor.

"I feel any student who wants to start a club open to all students should have a faculty advisor," said Garr.



The Beacon/Bethany Yamrick

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Wilkes students Sasha McDonald and Ashley Ford study the Cannabis Defense Movement's club poster in the SUB. On Wednesday, Student Government will decide its status.

If the Cannabis Defense Movement is not granted club status on Wednesday, Brown warns that organizers will be back next week.

"Victory is rarely a one shot deal," he said.



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## Short-term study tours promote global awareness

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA
Beacon Lifestyles Editor

Throughout their college careers, students plod through textbooks, piece together papers and commit a vast array of facts to memory. Over four years, students become well-schooled in all the aspects of traditional classroom learning.

However, many students have found their most important learning experiences come not from their campus classes, but instead by making the whole world their class-

In a world that has opened dramatically thanks to free trade, the Internet, and improved travel options, study abroad experiences for college students have continued to grow in popularity. A report published in November 2008 by the Institute of International Education (IIE) found that nearly 250,000 American students chose to study in a foreign country during the 2006-2007 school year.

The percent of students who earned academic credit for courses completed abroad rose 150 percent from 1996-1997, when under 100,000 students chose such an option.

"With study abroad, you are really, totally emerged," said Dr. Paola Bianco, a Spanish professor who previously served as the study abroad coordinator at Wilkes. "You learn about everyday life, things in other countries which are different than ours. And you can mingle with other students, students from Japan, Latin America, all over. It's a small world, and the benefits are endless."

Over the years, the face of study abroad programs for American students has also changed. Once confined primarily to Europe, study abroad options have popped up throughout the globe. According to the IIE report, the number of American students studying in China, Argentina, South Africa, Ecuador and India has each increased

by more than 20 percent from the previous year.

Along with the destination, the duration for study abroad has shifted as well. Now, less than five percent of all students who study abroad do so for a full academic year. The majority of students, 55 percent, choose short-term options, like summer or intercession programs spanning from two to eight weeks.

At Wilkes, short-term study abroad programs, or study tours, are gaining favor with students.

Dr. James Merryman, an anthropology professor, has led ten study tours during his time at Wilkes. Most of his trips feature places outside of standard tourist destinations in Europe, and have included Mexico, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and China. Over spring break, he will lead a tour that explores Mayan ruins in Mexico. In the summer, he will host a two-week excursion to China and Tibet via the Sky Train.

Merryman believes short-term options like those allow students the opportunity to see different places and cultures, which they may not have otherwise. In particular, students in engineering, pharmacy or professional studies may have difficulty going away for a semester or year because of their strict course sequences and practicum.

"For a lot of our students, studying abroad for that long is just out of the question because of their academic program," he said. "For me, the short term does not replace the long term, but it gives the students a taste and an exposure."

Kristen O'Brien, a junior nursing major, chose the week-long Mexican study tour during spring break because it would not disrupt her nursing sequence.

"I have a very busy schedule for school and work, which means I would not have time to study abroad for longer than one week," she said. "This was the practical

Garcia is the president of the Multicultural Student Coalition (MSC), which she describes as "an umbrella for all students." MSC is an affiliate with the Indian Cultural Association, Islamic Cultural Association, Chinese Association, and many others.

MSC plans events on campus for students from all cultural backgrounds, some of which have included an international fashion show and a talent show.

Garcia's role as a student leader in diversity education makes her *The Beacon's* Student of the Week.

*The Beacon*: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

**Garcia**: I will hopefully be the CEO of a company.

The Beacon: Describe yourself in three



Photo courtesy of Jim Merryman

Dr. Jim Merryman took students to visit a gorilla family in Rwanda on a previous study tour. This summer, he will host a two-week trip to China and Tibet.

choice for me."

For other students, a week or two-week study tour gives them a quick, intense, immersion into another culture.

Adam Rifkin, a senior psychology major, has traveled on four of Merryman's study tours. He says the short-term excursions mesh well with his desire to continually try different experiences.

"The idea of staying in one place for a full semester is tough for me. Even when I'm home, I'm constantly traveling," he said. "I can't stay in one place too long, so these trips are perfect for me. I get to immerse myself in a new place for a week or two and then go back to my life and do whatever other traveling I would like to do."

In addition to Merryman's cultural study tours, other courses at Wilkes also offer travel components abroad. Dr. Wagiha Taylor hosts the International Business Experience course, which gives

Garcia: Friendly, passionate, determined

**The Beacon**: Finish this sentence: "My friends would be surprised to know..."

Garcia: ...That I was not born in America.



business students insight into business practices in Germany, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. Over spring break, history and communications students will travel to Istanbul, Turkey, with the East Meets West class.

However, despite the benefits of a shortterm program, they still cannot totally encompass the experience of living abroad for an extended time.

"The drawback of a short program is that it is not a long program," said Merryman. "It's perhaps a little superficial, but the idea is to give students as much exposure in a brief amount of time, with the intent that they will catch the bug and want to come back and do it on their own."



Student
of the
Week
Tracy García
Stregthening its focus on diversity issues,

Wilkes is beginning to examine the ramifications and needs of an increasingly diverse body of students, staff and faculty.

Tracy Garcia, a senior business administration major, is one student who is taking an active role in strengthening diversity awareness, as well as creating programs for all students to learn and discuss all aspects of diversity.



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## Sordoni's new exhibition: American impressionism

BY YOHANNA DE LOS SANTOS M. Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Painting the Beautiful: American Impressionist Paintings from the Michener Art Museum Collection is the new exhibition at the Sordoni Art Gallery. The current show offers a wide range of impressionist paintings from local artists, and oil and canvas is the primary medium for the works.

The new exhibition at the Sordoni Art Gallery will run through March and will be open to the public from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. every day.

"ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance, is touring this exhibition, a selection from the world's most extensive collection of Pennsylvania Impressionism," Brittany Kramer De Balko, assistant director of the Sordoni Art Gallery said. De Balko is responsible for bringing the exhibit to Wilkes.

Most of the paintings feature Pennsylvania landscape from Bucks County. Junior English major, Megan Wenzel, who has worked for several years as a gallery attendant said, "It's basically impression-

ism and pretty much is set in Bucks County and is all landscape from the area. It's very beautiful."

"It [the gallery] gives students the opportunity to see the history and the way the area is. They might not have the opportunity to see what the area is about and to see it in that form is just pretty neat," Wenzel added.

The opening reception for the show was held at the gallery last Friday as was open to the public.

Trucksville resident, Alison Kole, who attended the opening reception noted that the show was, "Very tastefully done. Wilkes-Barre is fortunate to have this exhibition."

The local draw of impressionist art is a factor in the Sordoni art gallery. "I think it's a great opportunity for students at Wilkes to come and see art like this, especially since there is an actual art gallery on campus. Not many people get to have that opportunity and it's something to be appreciated," said Wenzel.



Wilkes University President Tim Gilmour attends the opening of the Painting the Beautiful: American Impressionism. Members of the Wilkes University community came to enjoy the paintings as well as local residents.



Local residents examine artwork created by impressionist artists mainly from Bucks County in the Sordoni Art Gallery.

### Got Art? other local options

BY YOHANNA DE LOS SANTOS M.

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

There are also other galleries in the area that offer high quality art work. Main Street Galleries is a fine art gallery that sells limited edition work, lithographs, engravings, original work, paintings in canvas, and mix media collages.

Sally Casey gallery director at Main Street Galleries said, "We are 40 years old this year. We did start out on South Main Street before the flood in 1972 and then when they reopened they had two locations one in South Main and one in Kingston corners. About 25 years the previous owners consolidated those two locations

to this much larger area. We have about 4000 sq feet now. We are a fine art gallery and expert custom framing."

Main Street Galleries offers a relaxed casual atmosphere. "Everybody is welcome, you don't need to think that you have to come in and buy something. I would encourage people to come and see what we actually have because people are usually surprised at what we have here in Kingston, Pennsylvania. There is a lot of work here," said Casey.

The paintings that are displayed in the gallery come from artists from around the globe. Local artists Vyacheslav Shevchenko, Diana Beckerman, and David Green are also featured in the gallery.

## Lennon to pen Mailer's life

BY MATTHEW GOGAS

Beacon Asst A&E Editor

How could anyone ever truly know another he co-authored with Lennon. person so in-depth to tell their life story? Is it tough questions, but also the ones that drive the gether several times over the past 30 years.

writer. Dr. Michael Lennon, Emeritus Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of English, hopes that he can answer those and other questions about American writer Norman Mailer in roughly 300,000 words.

Lennon is widely known as the country's foremost authority on Mailer, and was enlisted to write the first authorized biography of the distinguished Pulitzer Prize winning author in Photo Courtesy/ Michael Lennon Norman Mailer (Right) and Michael Lennon December 2006 by Mailer himself (Left) take a quick photo break while on a reafter the original laxing vacation. author of the biography, Robert

the

er's letters for publication. Lennon has also ed- Dean of the Faculty, Chair of the Humanities ited several of Mailer's books.

He began writing the biography in the sum- Professor, Acting Dimer of 2008 after collecting interviews that he rector of the Creative conducted with Mailer's family and friends as Writing well as literary associates.

Under Lennon's contract with publishing Emeritus Vice Presicompany Simon and Schuster, he expects the dent for Academic biography to be published in mid-2012, and in Affairs and Dean of it hopes to "tell the full, unvarnished truth about the Faculty. In addithe personal and literary life--and the inner life- tion to his impres--of one of the 20th century's great writers."

Lennon said, "[Mailer] confronted complex Lennon served as a and difficult issues with great style and energy United States Naval and was able to shift forms and rhetoric for ev- Officer, was a docuery new occasion. He was a connoisseur of nar-mentary filmmaker, rative forms, from the short story to the essay and literary critic. He and sports report to the novel and the biogra- is married with three phy. There is a great urgency to his style; it is a sons, and has two forcing style, full of brio and bristles and more grandsons. He curhumor than people expect."

In his professional life, Mailer wrote over 40 port, Massachusetts books, made four films, and won several major where he spends the literary awards. His most famous works were majority of his day Armies of the Night (1968) and The Executhere writing Norman tioner's Song(1979), both of which won him Mailer's biography.

the Pulitzer Prize. His most recent work was On God: An Uncommon Conversation, which

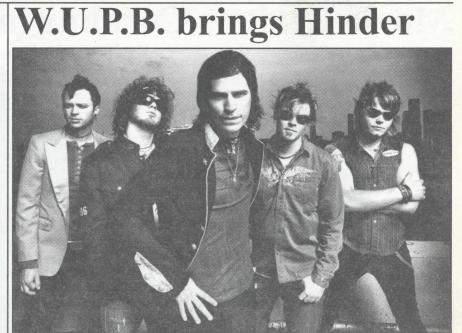
Lennon was formally appointed to write the possible to articulate the subject's hopes and biography months before Mailer died of acute dreams to a level that readers will believe and kidney failure in November of 2007. The two appreciate? For the biographer, these are the were good friends and had worked closely to-

> "I wrote to him in 1971 when I was writing my Ph.D. thesis on him at the Univ. of Rhode Island. Then in 1972, during the presidential election, he came to speak in Illinois where I was teaching a course on him at the University of Illinois at Springfield. My class and I went to see him speak and then I went to a bar with him and talked until 1 a.m.," said Lennon of the beginnings of the decades-long friendship.

The most imthing Lennon portant remembers about Mailer was that he was "a loyal friend, who was impetuous, brilliant and funny. He liked to debate and got angry if you missed."

Lennon served as the F. Lucid, suddenly died. At the time, Lennon Acting President, Acting Dean of Graduate Studwas Lucid's understudy and was editing Mail- ies, Vice President for Academic Affairs and

> Division and English Program, and is the current sive career at Wilkes, rently lives in West-



BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon Editor-In-Chief

Wilkes University's Programming Board will present the rock group Hinder at the Kingston Armory on March 20 at 8 p.m.

Hinder is probably best known for the song "Lips on an Angel," which was released on their album Extreme Behavior.

Hinder joins the ranks of other musical group that Wilkes has brought in the past, such as: Breaking Benjamin and Jack's Mannequin.

Students will be able to start purchasing tickets during the presale at the Henry Student Center on February 16 with their student identification card for \$15 a ticket. There is a limit of two tickets per student. General ticket sales will begin on February 23 for \$18.

Starting February 23, tickets can also be purchased online at http://www.wilkesuniversity.tickets.musictoday.com.





General Public: \$18 Available Feb 23 at

www.wilkesuniversity.tickets.musictoday.com

### Movie Review: Coraline in 3-D

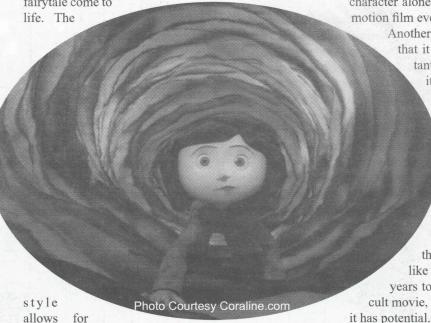
BY ANDREW SEAMEN Beacon Editor-In-Chief

Every few years there is a movie that helps define a generation. For my generation, *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is one that lives on inside us. For the upcoming generation the recently released Coraline, by the same director, has the potential to become just as important.

Coraline is based on the book of the same name by Neil Gaiman. The story centers on the classic plot of a child yearning for a much happier and carefree life. Coraline Jones (voice by Dakota Fanning), a young girl from Michigan, moves away from her friends to a new apartment with her family. There she finds quirky neighbors and a world of wonder. Coraline's mother and father (voices by Teri Hatcher and John Hodgman), are busy working on a gardening catalogue and never seem to have time for Coraline. As she explores her new home and area, she meets a young boy by the name of Wybie (voice of Robert Bailey, Jr.). Wybie gives Coraline a doll that looks amazingly like her. Upon the discovery of a door, Coraline finds a new world with her "other mother," and "other father." They seem loving, caring and attentive – but as Coraline soon discovers, things are not always as they appear.

While the narrative of Coraline's adventure is compelling, the movie is an artistic masterpiece.

Director Henry Selick brings his trademark style over from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* to make this dark fairytale come to



allows for some of the darker parts of the story to scare the audience without taking them too

Shot in stop-motion animation, everything seen on screen was made by hand. And considering the amazing

scenes, everyone must appreciate the work that was put into this movie. Over 250 people worked on the Coraline character alone. The movie is currently the longest stopmotion film ever created.

Another winning aspect of this movie is the fact that it is shot in REAL3D. I am typically hesitant to be a part of the 3-D experience, since it usually leaves me with a headache and a

queasy stomach; however, this movie is a winner. *Coraline* is the first movie to be shot in 3-D, but if others can replicate the quality of this movie, it won't be the last.

Unfortunately, the marketing for this movie was not what I would call big budget. I think *Coraline's* success will rely heavily upon word of mouth and viral marketing campaigns. Even with the lackluster promotions, *Coraline* seems like one of those movies that will resonate for years to come. I don't think that it will become a cult movie, like The Nightmare Before Christmas, but

For this critic, *Coraline* has found the perfect mixture of elements to create a classic tale. Even though the movie is rated PG, adults should not miss this experience. Out of ten stars, I would give Coraline an eight.

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7 Bridges Eagles Tribute Where: Penn's Peak When: Feb. 13, 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$13.00

Willie Nelson Where: F.M. Kirby Center-When: Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$75.00

Dennis Deyoung Where: Penn's Peak When: Feb. 14, 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$34-\$39

. . . .

#### February 3 Crossword Answers

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31 S	32 H	33 H		34 T	R	35 A	38 N	37 S	38 L	A	T	1	0	N
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85 D	A	Z	E		ee C	R	A	T	E		87 E	T	N	A
68 A	X	E	D		69 Y	E	S	E	S		70 R	Y	E	S

#### Crossword

BY DEVIN J. KING

Beacon Staff

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58			- 3		59						80			
81					82	-					63			

- Sound to get attention Capital of Pas-de-Calais
- October birthstone Low female voice
- 15 A clue or tip
- Opposite of went 17 Injuries or aches
- 19
- Abominable snowman
- 20 Finished in a draw
- 21 First assassinated president
- 24 Popular clothing store
- 25
- 26 Media's reception to Obama
- 29 Flat Mexican "bread"
- 34 Only known planet with life 35 Turn into gold by touch
- 36 Wrong number of electrons
- 37 Challenging social norms
- 38 Make sounds for film
- 39 Narrow strip in Venetian
- blind
- 40 "A Walk on the Wild Side"
- 41 Sensitive wounds
- 42 Sold at a deli
- 43 More than sneaky 45 To be "dandy"
- Noble, white, bold-faced

- Curved lines
- Phrase for "hopeless quest"

48

- 55 Bloody, juicy steak
- 56 To confirm/deny atten
  - dance
  - Greek slave's fables
- 57
- 58 An outward mass of rock
- 59 To the leeward side
- it's a box of chocolates 60
- Princess Mia actress
- Ex of Cher
- Not on time

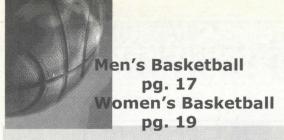
#### **DOWN**

- Father 1
- Thick slice of stone 2 3 Function of wooden
- spoon
- 4 interrelation of t tones
- Lime, prime, dime, time 6
- Currency of Cambodia
- 8 One that is opposed Winged, flat fish
- 10 Several 8-armed cepha
- lopods

tion

11 Bucket Declaration of affirma 12

- Low voltage light 13 18 To demand silence
- 22 100 square meters
- 2nd longest running musical 23
- 26 Byproduct of eating oranges
- 27 Poisonous indoor gas
- To debate 28
- 29 One who puts down tile
- 30 Complex lyric poems 31 Pale shade of purple
- 32
- Synonymous with unwilling
- 33 Fidgety, restless
- 38 Fattened goose or duck liver
- 39 Sold by the seashore
- 41 Car on an icy road
- 42 Holy city in Islam
- 44 To assert without proof
- 45 Prior to
- 47 Destination of Harry and Lloyd 48 "Look out!"
- 49 Neighbor of Iraq
- Norwegian capital 50
- Used for cooking 51
- Over 8% of Earth's surface 52
- 53 Baby's bottom
- 54 Fencing sword 55
  - TV company with dog mascots



## SPORTS

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wilkesbeacon.sports@gmail.com

## Wilkes ski club looks to increase student involvement

BY ALISSA LINDNER

Beacon Sports Editor

For five years Wilkes University has offered a little known Ski and Snowboard Club on campus. Although not many activities have taken place over the course of the five years, recently the club has become more organized and begun to organize ski trips for tinterested community members.

Assistant professor of chemistry, Amy Bradley is the faculty coordinator for the club, and believes the recent success of the ski and snowboard club is due to a shift in leadership. The current president is Clinton Fought.

The ski and snowboard club takes one major trip a season. For the major trips, Wilkes combines with King's College's Ski Club because approximately 40 students are needed to make the trip financially viable. Last season, the group went to Sugar Loaf Mountain in Maine. The major trip for this season took place in Killington, Vermont in early January.

Freshman Jenna Sarget went on the ski trip to Killington this year.

"Everyone was there [Killington] for the same thing. We all went to ski and have a good time with a large group of people," rgent said.

radley explained, although she did not and the trip this season, the group attended college week at Killington, which featured various activities and bands for a discounted week for college students at the mountain.

Sargent said the activities for the college students made the experience more enjoyable than just going to a local mountain and skiing for the day.

The ski and snowboard club met on Tuesday, February 3, to organize events for the remainder of the season. The club will begin posting sign-up sheets on the website for Friday night skiing at the local Sno Mountain. The group is also planning day trips over spring break to a few mountains which are a little further from campus. Among the possible choices. Elk

Mountain, Blue Mountain and Camelback Mountain.

One thing Bradley would like to see become more organized is having the more experienced skiers and snowboarders in the group help the beginners. Even if the experts only offer an hour of their time, the free lesson for the new skiers and boarders would be beneficial

According to Bradley, one of the problems the club has encountered is students not following through when signing up for events. In many cases, for group deals, at least 15 people are needed and if not everyone signing up attends, the group could lose their discount.



Photos Courtesy of Clinton Fought

Fought again in the air, practicing tricks while skiing with Wilkes Ski and Snow-Ski and Snowboard Club President Clinton Fought defies gravity as he heads board Club over winter break. down the mountain on the January ski trip to Killington, Vermont.

## Colonels get much needed win at FDU-Florham

CRAIG MERRIMAN
Sports Information Director

Tom Kresge became the second player in as many games to reach the 1000-point milestone with his 16-point performance, helping lead the Colonels to a 63-61 muchneeded win over FDU-Florham. Kresge finished with 12 rebounds on the day, one away from his career high and has now scored 1002 points in a Colonel uniform during his three-plus years with the team.

The Colonels survived a late 5-0 run in the final 1:02 of the game to secure the victory, improving to 11-9 overall and 7-6 in Freedom Conference play. Chris DeRojas, who put in 16 points as well, hit a jumper with just over a minute to play to give the Colonels a 63-56 advantage, but Ryan McPherson, who finished with 28 points, hit one of his five three-point baskets on the day with 53 seconds to go to bring the Devils within four. He would make the game even more interesting after making a layup with six seconds to go, but steal by Steve Kline at the buzzer sealed the win for Wilkes.

FDU-Florham was a two-man wrecking crew as McPherson and Ricky Fetske combined for 43 of the team's 61 points. The Colonels countered with 17 offensive rebounds that contributed to 18 second chance points. Wilkes dominated the glass with 43 total rebounds, while FDU had just 31.

The Devils led for most of the first half, including a 12-point advantage with 8:43 to go before the half when McPherson drained a three-pointer, giving FDU a 30-18 edge. A 17-4 run to end the half gave the Colonels

a 35-34 lead at the break, surviving six three's by FDU in the opening stanza.

The two teams exchanged buckets in the second half, with the Colonels losing the lead just once in the second half. A pair of free throws by Fetske gave the Devils a 36-35 lead 18:22 to go, but Steve Kline gave the Colonels the lead for good with a layup at the 17:50 mark.

A 9-0 run with 6:31 to play gave the Colonels a nine point advantage, their largest of the game, when Kendall Hinze hit the front end of a pair of free throws. Wilkes hit just four field goals in the final six minutes of action, but hit four free throws to help seal the victory.

The Colonels will be back in action Wednesday when they take on Manhattanville in the Marts Center at 8 p.m.

#### Wilkes

Tom Kresge: 16 points 12 rebounds

Steve Kline: 12 points 11 rebounds

Chris DeRojas: 16 points 2 rebounds

#### FDU

Ryan McPherson: 28 points 6 rebounds

Ricky Fetske: 15 points 7 rebounds

Isai Reyes: 3 points 10 rebounds

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Feb. 14 Alvernia 3:00 p.m.

Feb. 17 @ Misericordia 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 21 @ Lebanon Valley 3:00 p.m.

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#### RINKSIDE REPORT

## NHL experience pushes Penguins to improve

BY MIKE CIGNOLI

Beacon Staff Writer

Entering Sunday's game, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins ranked 2nd in the American Hockey League's East Division with 65 points.

While their 31-16-1-2 record is impressive in itself, there is an additional way to measure an AHL team's success. Can a team's prospects step up to the plate and make the jump to the National Hockey League?

For the Penguins, the answer is yes.

A total of 14 players have skated for both Wilkes-Barre/Scranton and the Pittsburgh Penguins this season. Seven of those 14, including rookie center Dustin Jeffrey, got their first NHL experience during the 2008-2009 campaign.

"By giving so many players down here an opportunity to show what they can do and have a shot there, it gives us all a little bit bigger fire to play a little bit better, to work a little bit harder over the summer," Jeffrey said. "It shows us what we need to (do to) stick up there full time."

During Jeffrey's 14-game stint in the NHL they're not ready yet," earlier this season, he got a pretty good look at what players had to do in order to secure a permanent roster spot in the majors.

"You have to make your decisions a lot quicker," Jeffrey added. "When to put pucks in, when to shoot pucks on net, when to get pucks out of the zone."

While he was in the NHL, Jeffrey averaged 10:47 of ice time per game. Pittsburgh assigned him to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton during the NHL's All-Star break. In the AHL, Jeffrey and his Penguins team mates will have the opportunity to play more minutes and work on their game in the hopes of ultimately getting back to the NHL.

"It's part of the maturation process, it's part of growing as a player," said Wilkes-Barre/Scranton head coach Dan Bylsma. "You need to sense what that level is, you need to see what that level is... and you need to make those adjustments. It's tough to do it in the NHL all the time."

"A lot of these guys that get called up would admit that it's a great experience, but said Penguins goaltender John Curry, who was called up to Pittsburgh in November after Pittsburgh goalie Marc-Andre Fleury suffered an injury. "To have the knowledge of what you need to do to step your game up, for me at least, that was priceless."

Although Curry only played in three games his NHL experience has

clearly impacted his performance in the GAA to 2.49 in the process. AHL.

Before joining Pittsburgh, the second-year pro was 3-4 with a 3.44 goals against average in the AHL. Since being re-assigned to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton in December, he holds a 15-3 record, lowering his season

Photo Courtesy of Chris Rutsch

during the three weeks Dustin Jeffrey is one of seven Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penhe spent with Pittsburgh, guins players to make their NHL debut this season.

"I feel a lot more comfortable," Curry said. "The game's slowing down a bit. I'm trying to do less in the net, to stay more efficient, stay square to the puck, and not waste energy and take myself out of position."

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## **Athlete Spotlight: Samantha Simcox**

BY GINO TROIANI
Beacon Opinion Editor

Meet Samantha Simcox, the 5'7 freshman guard from Reading, PA, and a large part of the Lady Colonels' success this season. Simcox has posted 34 steals, 40 assists, leads the team with 167 total rebounds, and has been averaging 9 points per game.

Currently the Lady Colonels are (10-11), and (5-8) in conference play, a huge improvement from their (2-23) performance last season. "I think that this year we have good leadership...Everyone on the team wants to be there and wants to win....We just want to be able to show up and show them what we can do," said Simcox

In high school, Simcox was a dual sport athlete, playing both field hockey and basketball, but made the decision to stick with basketball so that she could focus on school. "I miss field hockey, but I think it was a good choice just playing one sport,"

she acknowledged.

According to Simcox, the transition from high school to college basketball was definitely a big change. In addition to a higher level of competition, Simcox said, "College basketball is definitely a lot faster...With the shot clock you only have thirty seconds to get your shot off."

To prepare for the season, Simcox regularly hit the gym, and played basketball in a local women's summer league. She also said that her teammates are firing on all cylinders. "At practice everyone goes hard... we're just really committed to the team this season."

Despite her status as a relative newcomer as a first year student, Simcox had no problem fitting in, "Our team is very close. We all get along, and all of us are friends."

"She's a good role model because she always works hard, gives 100 percent,

and puts forth a good attitude," said teammate Mari Gabriel.

When asked her goals for the season, Simcox said that she would like to make the playoffs, and finish the season at least 500. "I think we should win a couple of games in the playoffs, but I think it's a major step for our program to be in playoffs this year."

"I think next year well be even stronger," said Simcox.

The freshman said that she will continue to play Wilkes basketball until she graduates, and plans to retire to an adult league.



The Beacon/Courtesy of Marketing Communications

### Trio lifts FDU-Florham over Lady Colonels

Courtesy of Craig Merriman Sports Information Director

Emily Cerankowski, Shealyn Taggart and Courtney Young combined for 40 of FDU-Florham's 50 points to lead the Devils to a 50-42 win over Wilkes University.

The two teams are now tied in Freedom Conference action with 5-8 marks as the Lady Colonels defeated the Devils 67-52 earlier this year. Cenankowski led the way with 15 points, while Taggart and Young contributed with 14 and 11 respectively. Only five players scored for FDU, while Wilkes had a more balanced attack with seven players putting in points with Lindsey Gosse leading the way for the second-straight game with 11.

FDU-Florham used a 12-3 run late in the second half to lead by as many as 14 with 5:32 to go then exchanged buckets with

Wilkes the rest of the way. The Devils' late run was similar to their scoring surge late in the first half as a 10-0 run gave FDU a 25-15 lead with 2:49 to go in the break. The Lady Colonels were able to recover with five-straight points to pull within five (25-20) at the half.

The Devils shot 41 percent for the game, including 44 percent in the second half. While Gosse was the only player to score in double-figures for Wilkes, Samantha Simcox and Khadija Bates both added eight.

The Lady Colonels will be back in action Wednesday when they host Manhattanville at 6 p.m. in the Marts Center.

#### Remaining Women's Basketball Schedule

Feb. 11	Manhattanville	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	Alvernia	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 17	@ Misericordia	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 21	Lebanon Valley	7:00 p.m.

#### WILKIES COLONBILS

Men's Basketball L @ DeSales 50-65 W @ FDU-Florham 63-61 Wrestling
W Elizabethtown 31-9
L @ Ithaca 10-29

Women's Basketball L@ DeSales 39-86 L@ FDU-Florham 42-50

## Wilkes wrestling team rolls Elizabethtown, 31-9

#### Eight wrestlers win bouts at team's last home match

BY DANIEL KAUTZ

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

The No. 20 Wilkes University wrestling team put on a display during what was their final home match of the season, defeating Elizabethtown 31-9. The Metropolitan Conference victory improved the Colonels' record to 16-5-2 on the season.

Senior Josh Pauling (133) kicked off the match for the Colonels with a 12-3 major decision win over sophomore Martin Harnish, winning the final home bout of his career in convincing fashion. Erik Smith (149) won his 99th career bout by major de-

cision (11-3), in what would also be his final home match. Freshman Anthony Dattalo (141), winner of six straight bouts entering the Colonels' match against Elizabethtown, helped extend Wilkes' lead after winning his bout via pin. The Colonels led 14-6 after their first four bouts, establishing a lead that they would never relinquish.

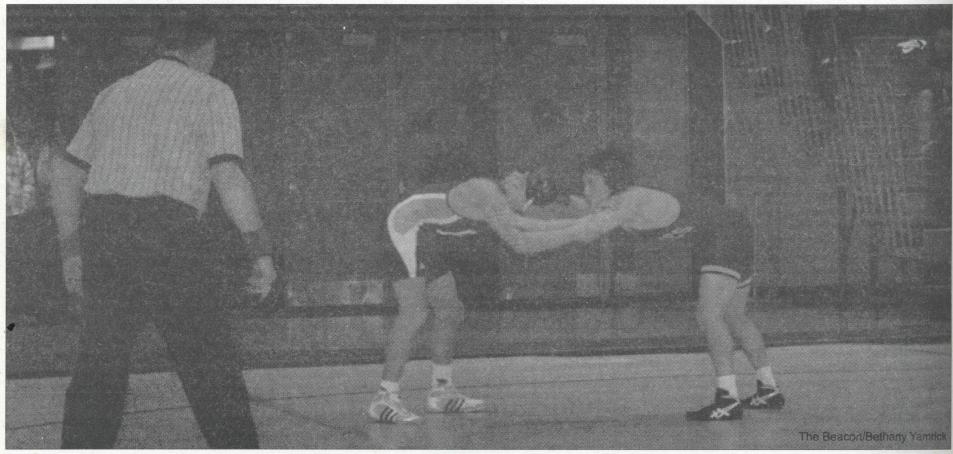
Sophomore James Histed defeated Brian Frantz 11-2 soon after to earn a major decision victory at the 157 pound level. Freshman Richard Sparks and junior Frank Heffernan followed his bout with decision wins of their own to help give Wilkes a commanding 24-6 lead. Freshman William

"Buddy" Gouger and junior Zach Pizarro helped finish off the Blue Jays by winning their last two matches 4-3 and 10-1, respectively. Their wins would give Wilkes the 31-9 victory.

"This match was important [for us to win] because it was a lot of guy's last time wrestling at home," said sophomore Jake Weinrich (285). "To get the conference win at the same time was just an added bonus," he concluded.

"I really didn't treat it differently than any other match, to be honest," said Pauling. "For those of us who knew it'd be our last time wrestling at Marts, it was a little exciting, a little nostalgic, but overall we tried to just maintain our normal attitudes before going in."

The loss dropped the Elizabethtown Blue Jays' record to 5-11 overall, with a 2-5 mark in the Metropolitan Conference. The Colonels were unable to carry over the momentum of their big win to the next night, when they lost their next match to No. 7 Ithaca 29-10 at Ithaca, New York. Their final home match of the season will be against rival King's College on February 13, at 7 P.M.



Wilkes senior Josh Pauling (right) recorded a major decision victory over Martin Harnish of Elizabethtown, earning the Colonels four points.

## What to see and do this week...

10

Come watch Sexual Jeopardy tonight at the SUB Ballroom at 8 P.M.

11

Check out "Arise and Ruin" and "This or the Apocalypse" at the Energy Night Club @ 5:30 P.M. \$10,00 12

Enjoy a cup of coffee with University President Gilmour at Weckesser Hall at 8:30 A.M.

13

Attend Wilkes vs. King's Wrestling @ 7 14

Have a happy Valentine's Day!