

ek



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quote

"Just knock three times and whisper low, that you and I were sent by Joe. Then strike a match and you will know that you're in Hernando's Hideaway...OLÉ."

...Hernando's Hideaway" from *The Pajama Game*

WILKES UNIVERSITY The Beacon

A Student run publication serving the Wilkes Community.

February 22, 2001 ♦ <http://wilkes1.wilkes.edu/~beacon> ♦ Volume 53 ♦ Issue 16

Where have all the SG Members Gone?

By Amanda Leigh Brozana
Beacon Managing Editor

It was 49. Now it's 31. In two weeks, where have 18 people gone?

"Our numbers were a little off," said Student Government President, John Boshia when questioned after last evening's Student Government meeting.

"Ideally, we would have 49 members if every slot was filled, but we only have 31 seats filled now," Boshia commented.

But more curious to the large change in number of Student Government members is the extra large Executive Board meeting held before the 6 p.m. regular meeting.

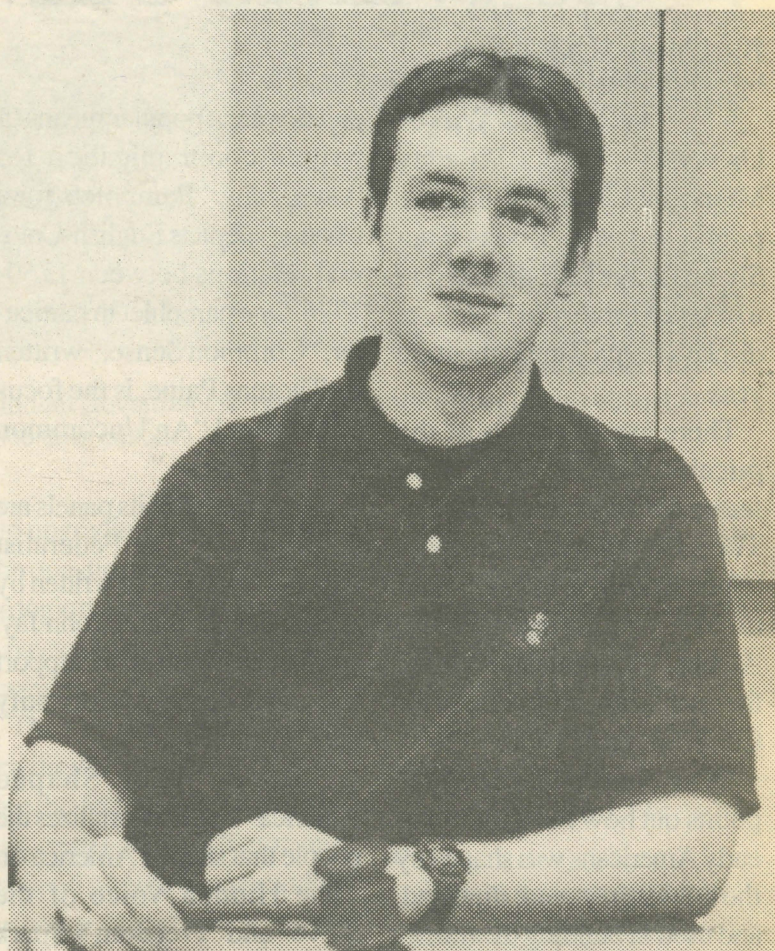
The only people allowed in an Executive Board meeting are board members and those who they call in to discuss confidential Student Government

issues. This week, seven extra people were seen in the meeting.

"They addressed some issues including leaving early and coming in late (to meetings)," said Eli Philips, Freshman class Vice President and one of the seven extra people seen inside Student Government quarters during the Executive Board meeting.

Boshia said after the public meeting that the executive board session addressed "funding, personnel, and upcoming business." But, he would not disclose any further information. He just stated, "Action was taken."

Meg Stevens, an executive board member, confirmed speculations about what was discussed with the member who were summoned to the executive board meeting. She stated,



Adam Polinger - Beacon

John Boshia presides of Student Government meeting Wednesday. Action was taken against missing members.

"Members who missed two or more meeting were asked to come in for inquiry on their whereabouts."

Out of 11 members originally
Continued on Page 3

Student Government Goes to NACA

By Josh Liebner
Editorial Assistant

Six members of Student Government are going to Nashville, Tennessee. Student Government President John Boshia heads the list of attending members. Meg Stevens, and Brian Sheakoski, as well as three others, will join him.

Erica Trowbridge will attend as an advisor. Jeff Brittain and Fran Johanson will represent Programming Board.

They will be giving a 75-minute presentation at the National Association of Campus Activities. They were given this opportunity because they came up with a way to raise the activity fund. They want to let others know how they achieved

this feat.

Boshia and Stevens attended a Summer NACA Conference this past year. While there, they were asked about the current state of Wilkes' Student Government. They mentioned the hike in the activity fee and were encouraged to be present at Nationals.

John Boshia will represent the Student Government. Meg Stevens invented the fund raising technique. Brian Sheakoski serves as the treasurer of the operation. Erica Trowbridge must go as the advisor. Jeff Brittain stands as the executive from Programming Board and Johanson is a member.

The trip was funded solely by Student Government and the Programming Board. \$2000 will come from Student Government and \$1000 from PB. Additional funds will be taken from a "buffer fund."

When asked his opinion on attending the conference, Boshia said, "I'm excited for the opportunity, not only to go back to the National NACA Conference, but more so to represent Wilkes in the National Student Government scene."

Boshia will be the "head presenter," but the speaking will be split evenly. They will speak before 50 to 100 people representing 100 or more schools.

This is a very big honor for the university, and those in attendance. As Boshia put it, "This is the first time Wilkes has made a significant contribution like this, and I'm glad to have spearheaded it."

Stevens added, "I think this is a great way to represent Wilkes. We will be sharing our ideas with other college students, and bringing back as much as we can."

They will be staying at the Opryland Hotel. The trip will last from Saturday, February 24 to Wednesday, February 28. They present on Sunday, the 25.

Library of Congress Comes to Wilkes University

By Casey K. O'Brien

Head Copy Editor

The staff of Wilkes University's Eugene S. Farley Memorial Library invites the public to view "Books That Shaped America," the latest in a series of Library of Congress displays featured throughout the year.

There are 16 panels of the priceless historic records are featured in the thematic display. The presentation begins with "Such Books As May Be Necessary," referring to John Adams' recommendation for the establishment of a library for Congress, circa 1800.

"The Shapers are Shaped" points out how the thinking of early Americans was shaped by the books they read, digested, and used in building the framework of a new nation. Prior to the American Revolution, pam-

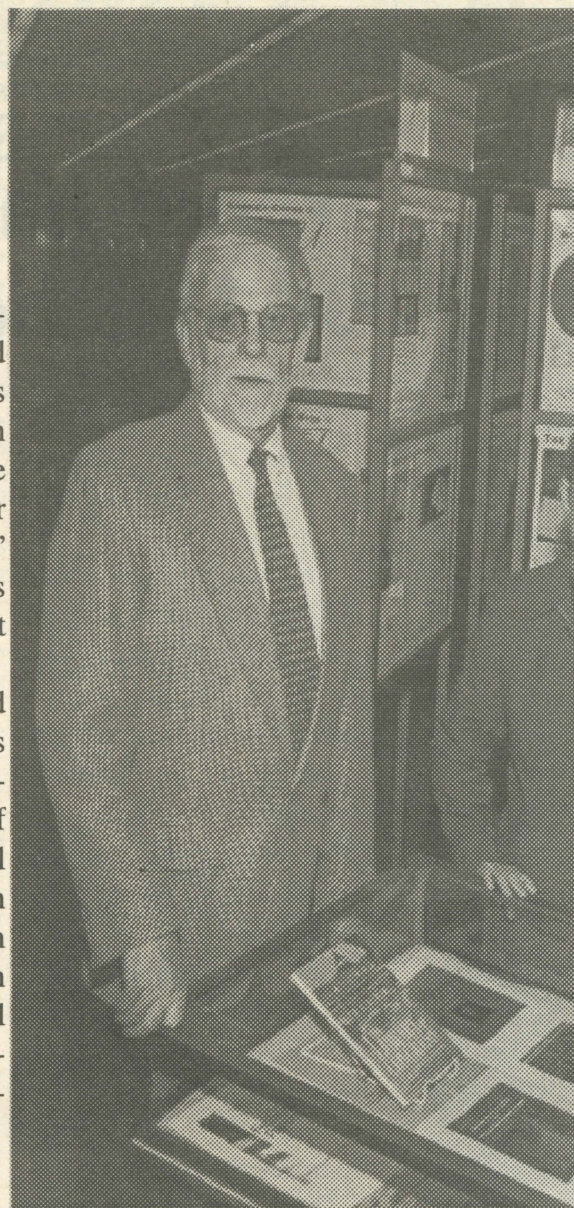
phlets were a popular means of written communication for Americans. "Pamphlets for a Change" depicts English-Colonial relations between 1750-1776. One pamphlet in particular, "Common Sense," written by Thomas Paine, is the focus of the panel "An Uncommon Common Sense."

Two of the exhibits panels are dedicated to "The Federalist Papers," which were written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison to support and convince the states to ratify the Constitution.

"Books That Shaped America" also immortalizes the people that shaped America. In "The Hidden Voice of the Slave" and "Freedom's Spark is Literature," the story of Frederick Douglass is told.

Harriet Beecher Stowe is featured in "The Cabin That Started a War." Henry David Thoreau's literary career is documented in "To the Walden Woods." The inspiring story of Helen Keller is found in "A Miracle Work," and, journalist Rachel Carson is honored in "Investigating Silent Springs."

"The Books That Shaped America" Library of Congress Display is located in the reference section on the first floor of the Eugene S. Farley Memorial Library, corner of South Franklin and West South Streets. For more information or library hours, contact Janell Carter, Reference and Bibliographic Instruction Coordinator, at 408-4250.



John Lindgren and Janell Carter show off new d

Photo by

Wilkes-Barre Weather

Today

Sunny
High 27, Low 24

Friday 23

Partly Cloudy
High 38, Low 19

Saturday 24

Mostly Cloudy
High 31, Low 14

Sunday 25

Rain and Snow
High 40, Low 27

Monday 26

Scattered Showers
High 41, Low 26

Tuesday 27

Cloudy
High 35, Low 26

Wednesday 28

Partly Cloudy
High 38, Low 19

Beacon Prediction: We at *The Beacon* would like to inform our readers that Mother Nature is very irritated with us. We have predictions on her actions for the past three weeks, something which even most "trained" meteorologists do not have the luxury of. Therefore, we at *The Beacon* are going to reserve our predictions this week so as not to make Mother Nature hurl large bolts or tornadoes in our path. Thank you. *The Beacon* Staff.

All "real" weather was found at weatherchannel.com

The Beacon

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Background Info

- Established in 1947
- Member of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association
- Printed on Thursdays with the exception of school holidays
- 1,500 papers distributed weekly

The Beacon is the student newspaper of Wilkes University. All editorial decisions are made by the student editors. All opinions expressed within The Beacon are those of the author or source quoted.

NEWS

The Beacon 3

As continued from page 1

under questioning, nine were asked to attend last evening's meeting. Seven actually attended.

It was said, for the two members who did not appear at the inquiry that it "did not look good."

The reason behind the formal questioning, stated Stevens, "was to encourage quorum be met at all times." Currently, quorum is still set at 17."

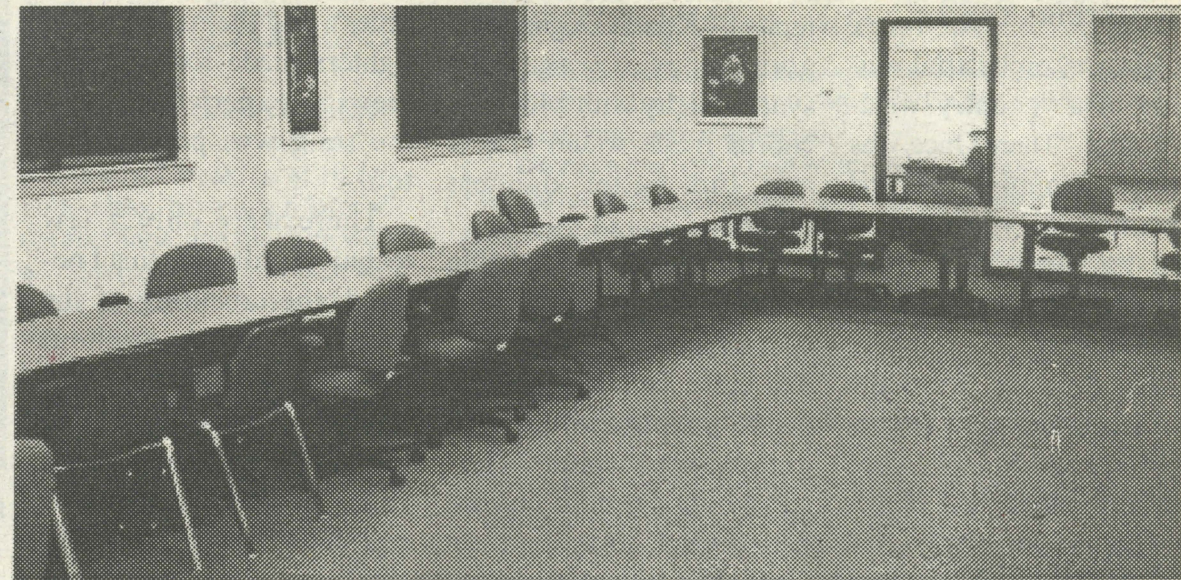
During the general meeting, quorum was met with 26 members in attendance.

A point of contention last evening was the payment of \$48,000/year to the YMCA for all students to get a year's membership. The money will come out of a newly imposed fee on tuition of \$10-\$12.

The fee would go to every student and be added to tuition statements in Fall, 2001. All Wilkes U students, including commuters, would then attain membership to the Wilkes-Barre YMCA.

The "Y" anticipates 15% of the student body will take advantage of this offer.

Questions were raised as to



Adam Polinger/Beacon

Vacant chairs are a symbol of what Student Government is trying to change. After not meeting quorum twice this semester, they have begun to take action.

using the money to enhance our own gym, rather than give the money to another institution. Though \$48,000 would not build a new gym, or even pay for an addition to the existing one, over 10 years and almost a half of a million dollars later, we may be able to reach that goal.

Dean Allen commented that the decision to link Wilkes and the YMCA may lead to "expanded intramural offerings."

Freshman treasurer, Cassie VanLuvender inquired, "Couldn't we put the money

into upgrading what we have?" The question was contested by the logic that we would not have to pay to repair and upgrade our machines.

The "Y" also has announced that they are planning to renovate the 5th floor into a new fitness center, add a full gym and a second pool to accommodate the new influx of bodies into the center, which is now filled to capacity most nights with members.

When taken to a vote on the floor, it was passed with seven opposing votes and 19 "yeas."

There was a first reading of a fund request by the Business and Accounting Club for \$650 towards their bi-annual trip to New York.

Also discussed were Winter Weekend plans and the Alternative Spring Break Trip to India.

Student Government meetings, which are open to the public, are located in the Student Government suite on the first floor of the SUB, held every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Pajama Game was Viewed and Reviewed

By Ann Marie Miller
Beacon Copy Editor

Picture it...the Edward Darling Theatre in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center on Friday, February 16, 2001...8 pm...Opening Night for "The Pajama Game," a musical that ended its Broadway run in 1956.

The orchestra began to play for the crowd, which consisted of about 100 eager people waiting for a good time. And a good time is what they got. After the Overture was complete, out of the seam of the curtain, into the spotlight, came a stumbling Mr. Vernon Hines, played by Rhys

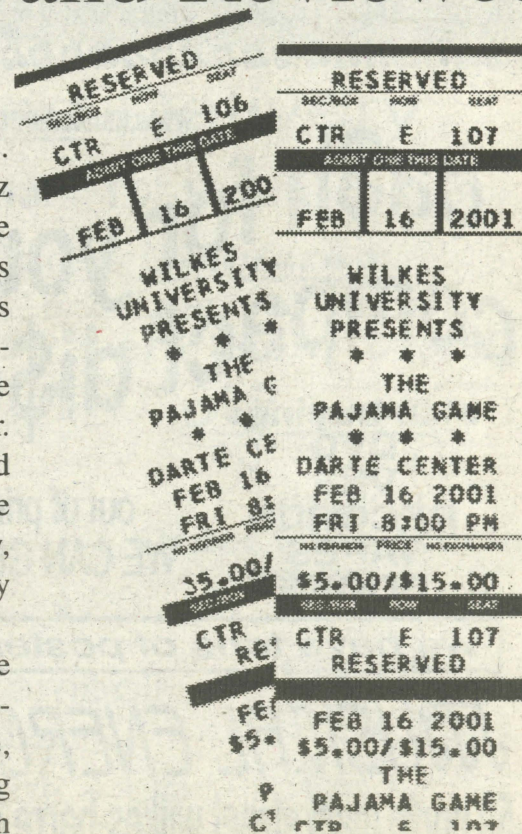
Shovlin.

Hines briefly explained the setting for the musical over a tune played by the orchestra, which, unfortunately, drowned out his voice. The musical proceeded to the actual pajama factory where the audience is introduced to the workers and the general order of things in the factory.

The relationships among the co-workers are exposed during the remainder of the first act. Babe Williams, played by Tiffany Smith, denies her love for superintendent Sid Sorokin, played by

Paul E. Mitchell; Prez (Brian Burke Toll) reveals his love for Gladys (Christie Gilbert), who is the secretary for Mr. Hasler, the head of the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory, who is played by Dale R. Heller.

Sid and Babe eventually become a couple, after confessing their love to each other in a comi-



Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 2

cal, bizarre, orchestral rendition of a "country western" song: "There Once Was a Man." Coupled with the grammatically incorrect "Her Is," these two songs were my two favorites from the first act.

Also, to note, from the first act, is the duet featuring Hines and Mabel (Alice Y. Fink) called "I'll Never Be Jealous Again." Sid sings a solo, which becomes a duet with himself, called "Hey There." The sound effects were good here, as Sid's voice, which he accidentally recorded, comes in over the loudspeaker, and he responds to what he just sang.

The second act begins with a song called "Steam Heat," in which the workers display their disgusted attitude towards the union and the company. The choreog-

raphy by Kristin Degnan was good, as was the synchronicity with which the chorus made sound effects and the ballet dancers danced.

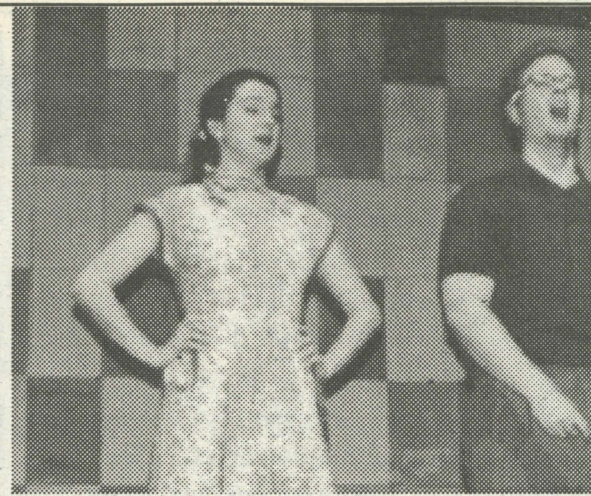
I had a hard time figuring out what the purpose of the six ballet dancers was, but I had some help deciphering their purpose, which I greatly appreciate. They served as a sort of chorus, dating back to the ancient Greeks, who sang or chanted verses while performing dancelike maneuvers. In "The Pajama Game," the chorus seated on the platform on the stage did the "chanting," and the ballet dancers did the "dancelike maneuvers."

The best part of the Second Act of the musical was the "Hernando's Hideaway" scene and song. The blackness of the set, the steam (which was excessive at

times), and the matches and lighters made for a unique viewing experience. And the song was pretty good too.

There were only a few technical problems that I noticed: the crackling of the microphones throughout the performance; the overpowering orchestra during the opening song with Hines, as well as during several other scenes in the musical, and the conspicuous scene changes during the course of the musical. Not really a technical mistake, but rather a costuming error, is the girl with the very short blue shirt. It doesn't exactly fit the time period; judging from the rest of the costumes, modesty was the policy, and that shirt is far from modest.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the musical, as did the people I went to see it with,



Jason M

Sid and Babe bring stage to life.

on both Friday night and Sunday afternoon. The visual and sound effects were great, as was the acting. I thoroughly enjoyed everyone who performed vocally, especially Hines, Babe, Mabel, and Sid. The orchestra was wonderful as well.

If you haven't already, I definitely recommend going to see "The Pajama Game" this weekend. It will be performed on Friday, the

23rd and Saturday, the 24th, at 8:00 pm, as well as Sunday, the 25th, at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 admission, \$10 for students and citizens and free to all Wilkes-Barre students with more information. I served tickets at the office at 405-406 can "just know" and whisper to me. I were sent by

Antibiotics Are Not Miracles

By Megan Stevens

Beacon Staff Writer

Sore throat? Aches and pains? Congestion? Can you feel a cold begin to overtake your body like an enemy breaking through your ranks? Is one of

your first thoughts "I better catch it before it gets worse"? Or maybe you have waited a few days, and it hasn't gone away. All you want is to feel better. Maybe an antibiotic is the miracle you need.

Sorry, friends, antibiotics are not miracles.

An antibiotic is a chemical that destroys or inhibits the growth of bacterial organisms. Different antibiotics are designed specifically for a particular organism whereas others can have a broad spectrum that is effective for several types of bacteria.

Perhaps you have gone to see a physician because your symptoms are unbearable. Once, a doctor walked into the exam room, briefly looked in my mouth, and handed me a prescription. Many health care providers feel that some physicians give out antibiotics too quickly, simply to quiet the patient's complaints. There is a harmful danger in taking antibiotics when you really do not need them.

Antibiotics can only treat a bacterial infection. An antibiotic will not effect viral infection, which are more common on a college campus. Those who in-

sist they felt better after taking an antibiotic only experience a placebo effect. The danger of taking an antibiotic for viral infections is that you will develop a resistance to antibiotics.

Nursing Professor Brigette Zielinski commented, "There is an increasing bacterial resistance to antibiotics because they are being over-prescribed." It is important as a health care consumer to know that seeking out a prescription for antibiotics could be more harmful than the viral infection, which will eventually go away on its own.

Dr. David Maize, a Pharmacy professor at Wilkes, adds, "If you use an antibiotic as little as two to three times a year you should be safe from building up a resistance."

Diane O'Brien, a Nurse Practitioner at Health Services, says many students come in with symptoms of viral infections, and they are looking for a pill to make them feel better. After being fully

assessed and still no improvement, O'Brien refers treatment of

"I wouldn't want to depend on an antibiotic," claims O'Brien. "Antibiotic resistance does not go away in a few days the student returns to Health Services for more evaluation. So for every headache, stomachache, and fatigue, you likely have a viral infection that will pass. You need to know before you take a viral infection. The health care providers are definitely not to the common

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Editorial: Meal Plan Offers Many Bones

Amanda Leigh Brozana
Beacon Managing Editor

The Meal Plan: It is one of the most prevalent topics to complain about on campus. If you have nothing to say, mention the word "cafeteria" and you're sure to spark a conversation.

Each day you can walk through the Student Union building and hear a discussion about it. Each issue of *The Beacon* seems to have some comment regarding it. Even classrooms have become a territory for the topic.

Why, then, am I just reiterating what has already been said countless multitude of times through several mediums, by so many different individuals?

I have chosen the meal plan as a topic for further analysis because, obviously, our complaints have fallen onto deaf ears, or if they have found listeners, they have been pushed aside. Not at Metz, but also Wilkes University, has taken our justified arguments and brushed them under their imperial rug.

As resident students, we are forced to "subscribe" to a meal plan. The only way out of this is to lie to our doctors about our intolerance (or intolerance, we must say). Our religious beliefs and dietary differences count as nothing in our favor when hoping to save money on

wasted meals, and take our eating habits into our own hands.

Therefore, already angered, we see the few changes in item choices, silent rules, and inconvenient hours as bones of contention. The entire food service plan as a whole, as leaves much to be desired.

Policies such as an allotted number of meals for a week, are good.

Many problems have come to the surface on campuses which have a set number of meals for the entire semester, rather than dispersing them evenly throughout the weeks classes are in session. One of the biggest issues with that system is the fact that some students use all of their meals too quickly, not budgeting for the entire term, and begin to go hungry by midterms.

Our system of allotted meals per week has made this a non-existent problem. The problem at Wilkes, however, is that we cannot get food when we are hungry because of the strange hours and "meal time" policies.

Why are we not allowed two dinners? First, let me back up and address the fact that there is no time for them unless we ate both at the same time.

Why is breakfast open only until 9am on weekdays, when lunch doesn't open until 10:30?

I know many students who have 11:00 classes who would love to grab a small breakfast at 10:15, go to class, have lunch later in the afternoon, and finish up with a 7:30pm dinner. However, because of cafeteria hours, that is impossible.

Another possible, and maybe a better solution, for this problem is to open the Rifkin Café as a 24-hour deli. We could use our meal plan or munch money to purchase coffee, chips, fruit, sandwiches, and other products.

Some points to advocate this suggestion include health and safety. If we are hungry after 9 p.m. we have to order "fast food," because, let's face it, how many all night markets deliver fruit baskets to your "residence hall?" Though my diet has come to consist of over 50% pizza in the past few weeks, I come to attribute this to the fact that my hours of action and the cafeteria's are just not on the same schedule.

I mentioned safety as well. Many students find themselves with cravings for chips or soda after the café has closed. To "satisfy the craving," they walk to the A-Plus or some other local mini-market that is open to purchase snacks. This is dangerous and not as cost-efficient as having an on-campus 24-hour

WU Food Plan Patrons Bill of Rights

1. We have the right to a variety of foods that service our religious and personal ideals.
2. We have the right to eat when we are hungry.
3. We have the right to use our pre-paid meals whenever we want, as we want.
4. We have the right to choose to invest in the meal plan or not, without having to lie to a doctor about lactose intolerance.
5. We have the right to a reasonably priced sandwich in the café.
6. We have the right to substitute two sides for another entrée.
7. We have the right to more than one slice of cheese on a sub without getting charged more.
8. We have the right to purchase one 20oz bottle of soda, one sandwich, salad or hoagie, and one bag of chips or candy bar as ONE meal without being charged extra.
9. We have the right to decide where we will eat our larger portions allotted by the cafeteria via the use of "to go" packaging.
10. We have the right to health and safety when we are hungry.

shop.

Does Wilkes believe that we are only hungry from the hours of 7am-9pm, or do they believe we sleep from 9pm until 7am? I disagree with this theory, and I believe most students on campus would agree with me.

We have looked harshly on Metz this entire time, but we must realize that if Wilkes University put enough pressure behind the food service, there would have been changes made.

We must move into action if we feel strongly about our rights

as meal plan clients. The stand students took last semester by going to Student Government and the Administration as well as Metz was not enough, so I am suggesting we state our rights and demand that Wilkes University, as well as Metz Food Service, meet them.

The following is a "Bill of Rights" that I have devised. If you feel that these rights must be met, demand them. *The Beacon*, as well as many members of the student body will stick together and stand behind you.

Letters to the Editor:

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with the name of the author as well as with contact information (either phone number or email). If you wish for the letter to be printed anonymously, you must still include the above information, but add "PRINT ANONYMOUSLY" to the bottom of your letter. Contact information is only used to confirm the author's identity with the editorial staff and will not be published.

All letters must be received by Tuesday at 4 p.m. if you would like your opinion to be in the current week's edition of *The Beacon*.

Thank you,
Editorial Staff

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Editorial: The Best Defense

by Casey O'Brien

Head Copy Editor
obrienck@wilkes.edu

Did you know that we all create an average of four pounds of garbage day?

Because of this disturbing statistic we will cover our planet in layer upon layer of disgusting filth in the next century.

Did you know that you live in the past or you live in the future; and are thereby ignoring the present moment?

Because of this limited focus you will live a less enjoyable life and cause others pain due to your lack of focus.

Did you know that every time you speak and breathe, you poison the world?

On account of your routinely speaking and breathing each day the world is being degraded.

There is no need to argue the validity of these statements. Whether they are completely

true or a lie doesn't really matter. The point is we are not surprised or shocked by these declarations.

Why not?

Because we are commonly accused of ignoring one critical issue, while feeding our greed and materialism. Defending ourselves from attacks on our job, school, significant other, goals and our character is a normal occurrence.

How many times are you forced to defend yourself against someone's accusations?

1. "Did you really say that about her/him?"

2. "Don't you think that by purchasing that product you are supporting a company that is basically evil?"

3. "When you send money to that organization aren't you are supporting the policy to invade the state of Montana?"

The aforementioned questions/accusations are just a few of the inquiries we encounter daily.

ter daily.

But I've decided not to use this editorial space for complaining. I think the time has come for a discussion about solutions, not problems. We need a scapegoat. Someone or something we can blame for everything bad in the world.

So for the overall well being of all the inhabitants of the planet Earth and for the betterment of society you can blame me for everything bad that has ever happened, ever.

Don't get mad at the girl\guy who placed a restraining order on you for stalking.

Blame me.

Don't accuse all those throwing paper away for causing the end of the rainforests.

Blame me.

Don't accuse society of bombarding people with so many commercials that the true meaning of life is lost.

Blame me.

Perhaps you find my solution

a bit shallow. In that case its time for us to learn to defend ourselves.

Granted some accusations are well founded. Criticism is an integral part of learning and growing as a human being. Attacks upon government policies and laws continue to wage a battle against fear, mistrust and hatred. There is a time and place for examining the mistakes we have made, scrutinizing the structure of our society and determining whether we are living each day to the fullest.

But there is also a time to enjoy how far we have come already. Criticism is not always constructive.

Must we defend ourselves for every mistake that has ever been made? Have we become so negative in general that we can only accuse, berate and tear down? Are we a society of complainers, or a society of praisers?

Wilkes University has several weak spots. I've been here

for less than a already make of complaints. school have to move it makes I'm pretty happy that freshmen can on school paper tions, while at l is only possi classmen.

I could that's for other written than my

The Beacon fect. I personal a good deal of is printed. Yet I explanation of c error made. I re takes are made and hope for in I also recogniz aside, the last th Beacon have be able.

I don't dese everything ba happened in the Neither do

Letters

Consideration should be given when taking network

Dear Editor

I would very much like to know whose decision edly take the Wilkes campus network offline on T I certainly understand that maintenance on the necessary, but it is generally considered only pr bother to inform the users of a system in advance c It's also generally considered wise to do such mai off-peak hours, when few will be likely to use the

I'm not sure how to break this, but 10:30pm on is not off-peak in the context of a college campus. a shock to the people responsible, but some of trying to do work at that time. If we'd been told al downtime in advance, then we'd have had warning around that downtime, but we weren't.

It sure would be nice if someone could explain It would also be quite the surprise.

-Brian Trosko

More options should be given to

Editor:

I am an on-campus freshman. I am not ass theatre in any way, not have I been involved in any tions to date. I would like to audition for a play, he prohibits me. There are no plays, only musicals.

I have gone to see all three productions this tage, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *The Pajama Ga* are musicals. I understand that in April, the depart *Much Ado About Nothing*, but the musicals stil plays three to one.

Perhaps the unbalance would be justified if th to-one ratio of musical theatre majors to theatre not the case. In fact, of the 21 declared theatre m majoring in musical theatre, which happens to be Wilkes. That means that the ratio of theatre to majors is 20-to-one.

One explanation that I have heard is that musi many music majors. People majoring in music pl tra pit and are used as singers on stage. That al The music department puts on its own productions Ensemble, Percussion, and Jazz Ensemble.

I am not trying to cause a divide or criticize t ever I am still curious as to why they perform so As a fan of theatre, I enjoy watching plays, and audition for a role in a play. I doubt my success, t fact that there is only one play per year.



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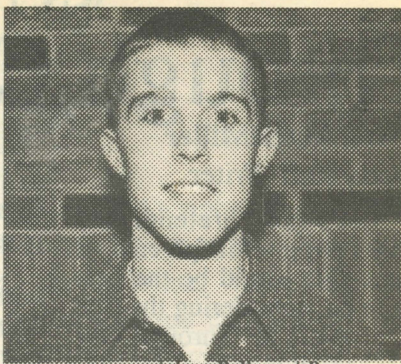
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Opposing Viewpoints

Beacon name change debated



Adam Plinger- Beacon



Adam Polinger/ Beacon

(was it?) I'm not even sure they had planes. That couldn't be it...

Jeff: True, but it could be something more related to Wilkes. If we were "Lighthouse University" then *Beacon* would be acceptable.

John: So, being Wilkes University, you propose the Colonel Chronicle?

Jeff: Yes.

John: That's weak.

Jeff: Or something else, perhaps military related. I think Colonel Chronicle sucks worse than *Beacon*...

John: OK, we agree on one thing.

Jeff: I'm not a COM major, ask one of them to come up with a better name.

John: [laughs out loud] But, when you change titles, the problem in-

evitably rises of people using the old name. Honestly, though, how many people do you talk to that say, "Oh, you go to Wilkes College?" Changing names isn't easy.

Jeff: And all the barcode tags on all the equipment says that too...

John: That's a WHOLE other point-counter point...

Jeff: But look at this... on the cover of "The Beacon", there is a lighthouse. Where is the nearest lighthouse?

John: Massachusetts?

Jeff: Did I miss that stretch of coastline PA has?

John: Guilty as charged. So, is your issue (no pun intended) with the title or logo?

Jeff: Definitely the logo, but

titlewise, you know the Batman symbol in the sky? Is that a "beacon"?

John: Yes, I guess it would be. But, Batman is cool...

Jeff: Well why don't we have a logo with the W on it?

John: OK, not a bad idea. No trademark problems. We should be good. But it stays *The Beacon*, right?

Jeff: Well I see it this way... people will refer to it as *The Beacon*, except next year's freshmen. It will take a minimum of 4 years to really "change" the name.

John: Not counting pharmacy students, administration, faculty, staff...

Jeff: Exactly. If they change the symbol, I could live with that.

John: I have no real attachment to

the cheesy clip art lighthouse.

Jeff: Jeez, they still refer to the Bon-Ton as Pomeroy's.

John: Don't get me started on "The ACME"... or is it Insalaco's?

Jeff: [laughs out loud again] So, change the symbol. Although I am a big fan of lighthouses, Sterling is the closest thing to a lighthouse that Wilkes has.

John: Yeah, Sterling does, and we know there's nothing bright in Sterling. :)

Jeff: Grrrr...

What We Heard

There was only one e-mail response to last week's Let's Hear It! section, coming from Tim Millard. *The Beacon* would like to thank Tim for his responses. Tim did read *The Beacon* last semester, and commented that "with the exception of a few hot spots, [*The Beacon* was] poor." However, Tim noticed that during this semester, *The Beacon* has "noticeably improved." Not surprisingly, Tim's favorite feature is Crazy Bob, who he would personally like to see more of.

Students interested in voicing their opinions are encouraged to do so. They can respond to Let's Hear It! via e-mail at wilkesbeacon@hotmail.com.

Let's Hear It!

We would like to hear from our readers. Email us your responses for the following questions to: wilkesbeacon@hotmail.com

Do you go to the gym regularly?

Do you think we should pay for each student to get a membership to the "Y?"

Would you be willing to pay an extra \$12 for a service you may not partake of?

Do you think that our gym facilities should be renovated? If so, how?

Do you feel that Student Government made a wise decision by giving the "Y" \$48,000 for a projected 15% of our student body?

What is your favorite sport or type of exercise?



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Wilkes Special

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Mon -Thur - 11:00am - 12:30am

Fri - Sat - 11:00am - 1:30

Sunday - Noon - 11:00pm

Through ^{My} Our Eyes

By Ann Marie Miller

Beacon Staff Writer

Let's play pretend, ok? Today I am a schizophrenic. I figured this would be the best way to go, considering the title of the article is "Through Our Eyes," and it is only I who will be writing the article this week, and every week herein, because Chris decided to quit.

I haven't decided what I'm going to do with the whole thing yet. I may keep it as just an article that I will do by myself (which will, consequently, require me to change the name...unless I want to remain a schizophrenic). The other thing I was thinking of doing was having one of my friends co-write the article with me, a different friend each week. The only problem with that is that I may run out of friends.

Now that I got all of that out of the way, I'll move on to the meat and potatoes of this article.

I know that, in the past, Chris and I had been quick to judge people, namely Crazy Bob, for voicing their opinions in *The Beacon*, but as I learned this past week, we should not have been so critical. After our article last week, and Chris' voicing of his opinion about the Alternate Spring Break Trip, I realized that we had been wrong

to judge Crazy Bob, after the same sort of judgment was passed on us.

It seemed as if we were ok with the idea of objecting to the opinions of others, until someone did it to us. This someone will remain nameless (I'm sure he knows who he is), but I would like to thank him for opening my eyes to the hypocrisy of which I had become a part.

The purpose of Chris voicing his opinion was to spark controversy, and that is exactly what he did. For me to not acknowledge Crazy Bob's right to spark controversy would make me a hypocrite.

I can't speak for Chris here, but at this time, I would like to apologize to Crazy Bob for criticizing him during the first semester of this school year. Only when the tables were turned did I realize my ignorance.

Ok...enough of the sentimental crap.

Considering the little story I just told, which represents an author's legal right to practice his/her first amendment rights, this week I thought I would talk about censorship, and how it ticks me off.

So we have the first amendment, right? What is

that? Hmm...let me rely on some information covered by cobwebs in my brain that I never thought I would have to use. Oh yeah...there it is...First Amendment: The right to freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech...I think. If I'm wrong, don't tell me...let me go on thinking I'm right, otherwise you'll crush me! Thanks.

Freedom of assembly...yeah...we can protest in a non-violent manner or something (And no, I am not insinuating that we should start a protest against the...well...you know...the thing on the third floor of the SUB, but I won't say it, so I don't offend anybody. WAIT! This is an article about non-censorship. The Cafeteria! The Cafeteria! There I said it.)

I covered freedom of the press for the most part already, when speaking of *The Beacon*. I don't think it should be censored. People should be allowed to say whatever they want, even if they make no sense at all (as I often do, or don't...whatever). If you don't want to read it, by all means, PUT THE PAPER DOWN!

Freedom of religion is one of the fundamental rights that

allows for a city as great as Wilkes Barre to exist. (Maybe we should revoke this freedom? Ah. Nevermind.) Like I was saying, with all the great religious diversity in Wilkes Barre, everyone should thank God, or Allah, or Yahweh, or Buddah, or Confucious, or Satan, or no one (for those atheists out there) that we all have the opportunity to practice our religion, or lack thereof, free of persecution. We let other people die so that we could enjoy that freedom. And people tell us that we aren't smart?!?!?

Now to my favorite topic: freedom of speech. The thing that bugs me the most about the freedom of speech and expression is the lack of it. When listening to the radio, as opposed to the illegally pirated songs I have from Napster, (shhh...you didn't hear that) I get ticked off when the all high and mighty radio gods bleep out words! I think they do it to make the music "more suitable for the population as a whole" or some crap like that. Now, I don't know about you, but when I listen to music, I want to hear it in its original form. And it's not even like they do a good job of censoring the music! Take for example Alanis Morissette's hit "You Learn" from her album *Jagged Little Pill*. You can hear the word they bleep out, or at least the first letter and the last letter of it. You hear "ssss—ttt," and they bleep out the two letters in the middle, as if we are stupid and can't recognize what the word really is.

Another example is Shaggy's recent hit "It Wasn't Me." Why does it have to be "love on the bathroom floor," instead of "banging on the bathroom floor?" What's so wrong with the word "banging???" And the radio gods aren't even consistent, well, maybe they are, but some stations use their first amendment rights. I have heard "banging on the bathroom floor" on certain radio stations. Maybe I'm not looking out for "the population as a whole and what they would deem to be respectable music," but I'd much rather apply my theory: IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, CHANGE THE STATION!

My point here is that it is our first amendment rights, as citizens of the wonderful United States of America, to have the four basic freedoms, and most importantly, the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. Without these two freedoms, we would all just be a bunch of stuck up Americans with no sense of reality or of things that actually matter to the people. To make this part of the article "pleasing to the population as a whole," I would just like to say that Censorship is poop, and we should have the right to listen to whatever kind of music we want to when we are banging on the bathroom floor, or anywhere for that matter.

Until next week, remember: "If you don't expect too much from me, you might not be let down." Cheers to the wet dog pants!

The F-Files

By Mark Falanga

Beacon Staff Writer

Here at the F-Files, I try to tackle issues that are closely related to this city and this university. But there is a growing concern in the city of East Stroudsburg, my hometown and location of East Stroudsburg University, over college drinking parties. I figured this was all relevant to this area seeing as there are two colleges within four blocks of each other. The following is hopefully an answer to age-old question, what exactly goes on at these parties?

I spent the previous weekend in East Stroudsburg to take care of a number of things ranging from English to laundry (thanks mom), but more importantly, I went to one of these parties to explore the reasons why they are so fun to our kind. While at the party I caught up with a 14-year-old named Scott Florio, a member of the local area junior high school basket-

ball team and who still can't beat me in WCW/NWO Revenge, who was just mingling at the party trying to be social. He also doesn't drink which intrigued me as to why he would take part in the party. When asked about why he enjoys the parties, he said, "I really don't mind them at all. It's just a way to unwind after a hard week at school and see all my friends."

There were a great deal of other people who didn't drink at these parties. Scott's older, more "sensitive" brother Frank and his friend Travis Hanf. Their activities consisted of computer games and other various forms of entertainment while still being social at the party as well. So is the true fun of the party held for those who didn't drink? I had to ask the drinkers just to be certain.

Among those who drank, the good times were had not with

the alcohol but with the friendly banter that went around in their conversations. Talking about what funny things happened in the week, which teachers they hated, and plans for the rest of the weekend. The reason for the alcohol was to ensure that the participants always had something to say, not for the sole reason of getting drunk.

As far as this university goes I'm afraid the story is completely different. I've been to these parties here and I must say they lack class. The music is always too loud and nobody is social. It's all about the alcohol.

In conclusion, East Stroudsburg has many flaws but this one example proves that even they are better at this than we are. I hope we can do better in the future but then again that's a topic for another F-Files.

Is this what you wanted?

This is what you get

By Chris Schmidt

Former Beacon Staff Writer

I'll keep this brief. The inevitable has finally happened. Managers have been angered, some people have been amused, some people have not been amused, and an entire group has been offended. Through my eyes, this has been the underlying purpose to the weekly column, "Through Our Eyes."

Along with getting out a few complaints about the junk I have seen going on around campus, I was also interested in ruffling a few feathers...just because I could. I knew there had to be a reason why I chose to attend this institution, rather than a state school in New York, which would have been thousands of dollars less in tuition each year. I think that one of my purposes here has been to deceive, inveigle, and obfuscate, which the weekly column has allowed me to do.

Now that I have managed to accomplish this little goal of mine, I will stand aside and close this set of eyes forever knowing that I was able to agitate several people. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to break open a vein.

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The Main Event

with *Crazy Bob*

She came rolling down the alleyway like butter dripping off a hot biscuit. Then she smiled and whispered in my ear, "Crazy Bob, you so crazy, I just wanna have yo baby." I'm Crazy Bob and you're reading the Main Event, the only column in *The Beacon* where you can fly higher than an eagle, because I am the wind beneath your wings. This week we will jam like only the Wilkes crew can, leading into Winter Weekend CB style.

I'm going to share a secret with you guys but you have to promise not to tell anyone. I don't want this spread around campus, but since I've lost my job and am short for cash, I'm considering donating my sperm. I looked in the phone book under "sperm," "bank," "artificial insemination," "donor," and "planned parenthood" but I got nothing.

My mother rules. Although she's probably not too proud

after that last paragraph, Crazy Mom is the coolest mom this side of the Susquehanna. This weekend I visited Crazy Mom and Crazy Dad in Fake Home, Pennsylvania. My folks are loaded and have a second home in a small private community for old people called Hemlock Farms in Lords Valley, PA. I call it Fake Home because it's not my real home (when you read "it's not" quickly it sounds like "it's snot"). Last year I lived in a dorm which was School Home but was getting ready to move into my apartment, New Home. Eventually my house in NY, Real Home, became Old Home and New Home became Real Home.

Fake Home however is a timeless classic. Even the fireplace is fake; the logs are plastic and pre-burnt. But nothing was fake about the bountiful feast Crazy Mom made for me.

She baked brownies, made ziti with garlic bread, and gave me twelve meatballs and chicken cutlets to take back. I hate to steal from Ned Flanders but this was scrum-diddly-umptious. I got potatoes, salsa, brownies, pineapple juice, and some extra fabric softener to boot. So this week's Main Event is dedicated to Crazy Mom. Moms like her choose Jiff.

My bank teller is hot. I go a mile out of my way to the First Union in Kingston, because the one bank teller with the short brown hair is cute, probably in her late twenties to early thirties, and just at her peak. The GNC lady is nice too. I am now a GNC Gold Card member just because she's chatty and has a poster of Deidre Hall who plays Marlena on "Days of Our Lives." The GNC lady is pretty decent, and lonely too, so

maybe Vitamin B is the only vitamin she needs, if you dig. This week in wrestling I won a Triple Threat Match in Maryland. I kicked a dude in the face and rammed some punk's head into a door. That will teach them to mess with the Bobman. I even debuted a new move, the Wilkes-Barre Driver, where you hold a guy upside down on your shoulder and marry your cousin.

Today marks the birthday of a great man. Some of you may know him as a founding father of our nation. Some of you may have idolized him as a child, and wanted to grow up to be a leader just like him. He is famous for never telling a

lie. That's right, today is my birthday. I turn twenty-one during Winter Weekend; that's just a recipe for disaster. The Wilkes University Health Services people send you this little card when you turn twenty-one. It warns me not to drink excessively and engage in unsafe sexual behavior. Lets be honest Health Services. Everybody knows that Health Services is the most evil, maniacal, corrupt organization at Wilkes University. These twisted backwoods politics won't brainwash me you hate-mongers. Stay away from me or I will scream like a little girl. This is Crazy Bob, be safe and go nuts.

Greetings from the Hot Box...

By Josh Liebner
Beacon Editorial Assistant

All right, I made it through two articles without a single complaint. I must be pretty good at this stuff. Stick around folks. It's only going to get better.

As I promised last week, I will tell you about my other problem with the city of Wilkes-Barre. Are you ready for this? I sure hope so, because here I go again.

I was taking a break from the steady stream of cartoon watching which I am accustomed to and I watched the news. No, really, I was actually watching the news.

I believe it was WBRE 8 news. They ran a story on the evening's City Council meeting. They had some video from the gathering.

This is where the whole shabang got interesting.

The honorable Mayor of this grand city was addressing the Council. Then, out of nowhere, the meeting turned into a full on playground fight complete with name-calling.

I felt like I was in Kindergarten again. The entertainment level was outstanding. I honestly have never enjoyed watching the news that much in my life.

In one corner, we have our mayor. On the other side, we have some white-haired lady, and I have no idea who she was. Regardless, there they were, the two people who make all of the important decisions regarding this city, fighting like five-year-olds.

I don't know, maybe I have a problem, but I loved every minute. The whole idea of two members of City Council going at each other like two kids fighting over the Sky Blue Crayola crayon was hilarious to me.

I am not kidding about the name-calling. They actually did that. I don't remember exactly what was said, but it was rather childish. I kept waiting for one of them to threaten to go tell mommy.

That's it. I am finished ranting this week. I think I will finish this article like they adjourn a City Council meeting when I say...

I'm taking my ball and going home!

(Peace out Mortimer!)

Cafeteria Qualms

with Mr. Food

eat_this_slop@hotmail.com

Are you sick and tired of being violated day in and day out courtesy of the Metz Food Service? Well, from now on your complaints will be heard! Let's all be done with that laughable "suggestion box."

I, who for the sake of avoiding death by Malcolm, shall remain known only as Mr. Food, will risk life, limb, and acid reflux in an attempt to right the wrongs of said "eating" establishment. (I'm probably going to reiterate some of the things Ann Marie and Chris ripped, but maybe they need to hear the complaints more than once to get them through their thick skulls.)

Can anyone tell me why breakfast stops upstairs at 9:00am? Is it that hard to keep eggs warm until, maybe 10:30? A lot of people don't have class until late this semester, and they're getting screwed out of breakfast. Come on, an hour and a half won't kill you.

Let's talk silverware, shall we? Is it so hard to clean a few forks? There is no reason for water spots, let alone food still on them (and yes, I have found food). I've seen the bus boys drop silverware, then pick it up and toss it right in with the rest of them.

My last major complaint for the week is regarding the new "bundles" in the café. Are we rabbits? Why does everything come with a salad? It looks like you save so much money, but staring at a Wilkes McMuffin (?) and a 12 oz (no refill) drink looks so pitiful for \$1.85. The expense of this stuff is ridiculous.

Thank you and eat in peace.

If you like this column and want to see it on a regular basis, email the above address.

Are you Stressed

By Erick Bourassa-Lavoie
Beacon Staff Writer

Well, it's that time of the semester again. MIDTERMS. This is one of the hardest times of the semester. With all the exams that must be taken, the final reports that must be written, and the presentations that must be given, it can be a very stressful situation.

But what is stress? By definition, stress is any response from the body brought about by a change in our physical environment. It can be positive or negative.

Positive stress gives us an adrenaline rush, thus increasing our heart rate, our breathing rate, and our physical strength, and thereby giving us the motivation to complete the task at hand. After a stressful period, such as having a report to do for the next day, the body needs time to re-

lax, more commonly known as "down time." If we do not have this necessary down time for our bodies to rest, stress can build up.

When this happens, it is called negative stress. Negative stress, as denoted from the name, is not good for us. It can cause physical, mental, and emotional changes that are not healthy, and need to be dealt with.

Symptoms of negative stress are:

1. Fatigue
2. Sleeplessness
3. Irritability, anxiety, or depression
4. Changes in appetite
5. Headache, backache, or chest pain
6. A negative attitude
7. Numbness in extremities

8. Feelings of being overwhelmed or out of control.

9. Poor concentration

10. Little things bothering you

11. Frequent crying

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you might be under too much stress. As stated earlier, a little bit of stress can be a good thing, giving us the motivation we need to get goals and responsibilities accomplished. Though when stress becomes too much, it can make it harder to accomplish even the smallest of tasks.

Although stress is an unhealthy syndrome that should not happen, there are ways of dealing with it. Talking about your worries and stressors (the things that cause the stress) can help you recognize what is causing the

stress, and help you decide which stressors you can eliminate, and which ones you cannot. Once you decide which stressors can be eliminated, eliminate them. It is as simple as that. Then, you take the stressors that cannot be eliminated, and you devise a plan in which you deal with them.

Another way to relieve stress is to release your anger. Sometimes we hold grudges against people over incidents that are over and done with. You cannot let these people or incidents get the better of you. It will only result in more stress.

More physical things that you can do to defeat stress include making sure that you are eating healthy, taking your vitamins, and exercising regularly. While these may seem irrelevant, they are important. Stress causes reduction in vitamin and mineral levels, and

increases your need of certain vitamins, minerals, and macronutrients (amino acids, carbohydrates, and water). So make sure that you are eating healthy and taking your vitamins should be the top priority in relieving stress. Lastly, exercise is an excellent way of combating physical symptoms of stress. While exercising, your muscles will use the extra adrenaline, thereby reducing muscle cramps, slowing down heart rate and breathing rate, while giving you the feeling of accomplishment.

If these stress remedies prove not to be enough, Dr. Sowick is available for counseling sessions to help you combat stress. His office extension is 4732. Don't let midterms, or this semester get the better of you. You can get through it, with a good grade.

Roving Reporter

"If we were to change the name of *The Beacon*, what would you want it to be?"

Photos by Adam Polinger
Interviews by Amanda Leigh Brozana



"Colonel Talk"

Justin Lewis
Junior



"The Rabid Pit Bulls"

Mike Figueiredo
Junior



"Ya Mom's Box"

Ryan Gurian
Senior



"What's The Beacon?"

Phara Charles
Freshman

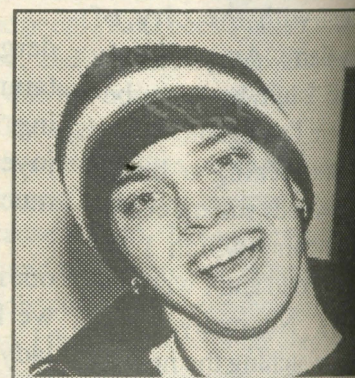


"Vic Schelba"

Vic Schelba
Shoulda Been Outta Here by Now

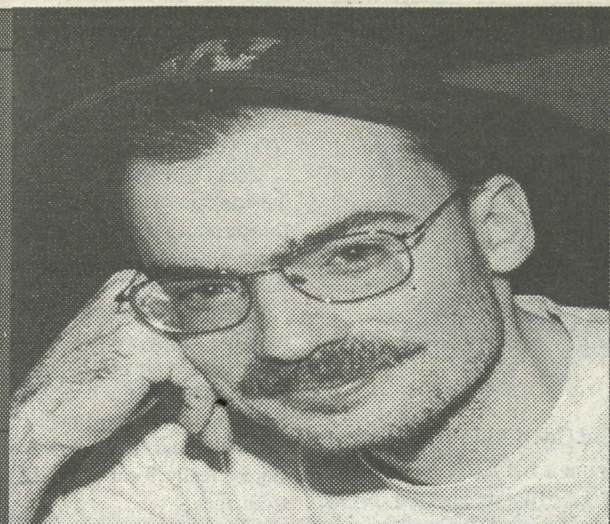
"Reeb erom knird"

Becky Gubanich
Senior



"Ralph Machio doesn't drop his Beer"

Kyle Mastiller
Junior



Name: Nathaniel Martin
Nicknames: Nate, NateDogg, Maintenance
Favorite Music: Country
Person You Most Admire: Riley (Bob Villa's Mastercarpenter)
Favorite Life: Knowing that I can make a difference if I try.
Life Two Years in the Future: I would like to be employed at some firm, and hopefully be working on building my own house.
Favorite Cartoon Character: Fred Flinstone
Favorite Peeves: I have to do everything perfectly. I don't do anything I can't put 110% into.
Most Embarrassing Moment: Being called a sexy lady live on CNN.
Greatest Achievement: Fireworks in the rain at the homecoming pep rally. (Some people said it couldn't be done, they were wrong)
Favorite Quote: Two roads diverged in a wood and I, I took the one less traveled. (Whitman)
Favorite T.V Shows: TLC's Junkyard Wars and Bob Villa's Home Again.
Favorite Sports: Equestrian, Crew (rowing)
Inspirations For a Long Range Future: To open my own recording studio and production company.
Favorite Movie and Why: Star Wars - because it shows what you can do if you believe in an idea hard enough to make it succeed.
Best Comeback: Not Printable.
Person Who Helped You Most and Why: Summer Spadafore. She helped me see that there is more to life than busting butt for everyone else. She also helped slow my life down so I didn't kill myself before I was 30 years old.

King's Corner

By William Heckner
 King's Correspondent

What is King's up to over there? This new section of *The Beacon* will be answering just that question. What events does King's have that Wilkes doesn't? Are there any clubs that they have and we don't? Maybe I'd be interested in joining a King's club. If you are asking yourself any of these questions, this section is being written for you.

Recently there have been new clubs popping up at King's, and clubs that were in existence before are accepting of students and faculty from Wilkes University. The French club is in the process of electing new officers, and members are wanted. Students don't have to be French or have to be majoring in a foreign language or culture, but any interested student or faculty member is more than welcome to join. For more information, email Jennifer Szczesniak, the club's student president: jszczesn@leo.kings.edu.

King's' fencing club, covered in the last edition of *The Beacon*, has also opened its doors to Wilkes students and faculty. Practices are held Wednesday nights from 7pm-9pm in the Scandlon Physical Education Center at King's. There is a small fee, which covers uniform rental, fencing glove, and the use of a blade, however it is well worth it! I'm involved with it, and it's a lot of fun. If you're interested, call Angela Kane at 208-8384.

As far as experiencing the arts, King's sponsors programs on a regular basis. Starting February 21st and running to the 24th, "They're Playing Our Song" will be presented by the King's Theatre department. The play itself is based on a book by Neil Simon, with music by Marvin Hamlisch. For more information, contact King's College at 208-5900, or the theatre department by email: boxoff@kings.edu.

In future editions, this section will hopefully expand with its content, especially with spring edging closer and closer. King's Corner is here for you, so that you know what is happening at your neighbor college. Being a student at King's College, who would be better to tell students and faculty from Wilkes about what's going on at King's? I am here to give you information. What do you at Wilkes want to know about us, King's College? If you have any questions at all, either general or specific don't hesitate to contact me through email: wheckner@kings.edu. I will also be writing about queer issues on campus; so any questions about that particular subject in relation to King's College will be happily answered, either by me, or by someone more qualified on campus. Look forward to updates in King's Corner next week!

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Broody's Box Office Reviews

Gladiator

Summary:

In the savage time of Ancient Rome, the decorated General Maximus is a loyal soldier to Emperor Marcus Aurelius and has been chosen as the heir to the throne. However, before the announcement is made, Marco's corrupt & scheming son Commodus slaughters his father and banishes Maximus who is forced to leave Rome and become a slave. Vowing to return to Rome one day and take revenge, the slave trains to become a fierce gladiator, aiming to eventually fight in the Coliseum in front of his enemy Commodus - and settle his vendetta against the young monster.

Review:

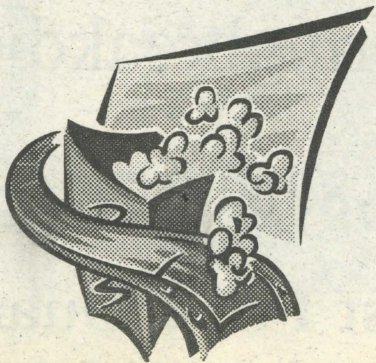
Massive statues & buildings, thousands of extras and a 160 minutes running time, "Gladiator" is an epic in every sense of the word. Be warned though if you go in expecting a Ridley Scott masterpiece along the lines of "Alien" you'll be disappointed. What you will find though is what is one of the best blockbusters of the year and certainly a smarter and more intelligent action movie than most movies out on the video shelf this year.

Crowe seems born to play this kind of role - the rogue hero who is thrown to the ground and climbs his way back up to seek his vengeance. Maximus is a man of few words, rather letting his fists do the talking, but has a good heart - a perfect larger than life hero. Phoenix also does very well as the evil Commodus who is a deeper and more complex villain than most blockbusters. There's a great scene where Maximus, spurred on by the crowd, confronts Commodus for the first time in years and the Emperor trembles in shock - a very effective scene showing how insecure his character is. The Saffron Burrows-lookalike Connie Nielsen does a star-turning performance as Commodus' sister whom is having an implied incestuous relationship with her brother (it was Rome after all), but truly has Maximus' heart. Derek Jacobi makes a great cameo as Roman Senator Gracchus, and even manages to squeeze in a humorous in-joke to his work on "I, Claudius". Honshou on the other hand gets about two lines of dialogue, while Oliver Reed is also only in a small part.

The production values are exquisite. From the thousands of cos-

tumes, the lavish sets, and the FX-enhanced scenery, Scott has always shined in his attention to detail and ability to create great atmosphere. The first 40 minutes of the film are set in the cold & muddy German highland woods with a "Braveheart" style battle that has some astonishing pyrotechnic effects and plenty of gore. After that comes a 20-30 minute segment in a Roman province in North Africa which is effective, and stands next to an old city ruin which is either a real place or a completely flawless computer effect. Then comes the jewel in the crown - Rome, though here is where the FX sometimes gets a bit patchy. Most of them involve computer-enhanced settings and while some are spectacular (eg. Maximus entering the arena), others such as Commodus horse ride into the city look very washed out (i.e. everything looks like a monotone gray). The gore is spectacular with no-holds-barred maiming and carnage including one way cool death scene where a blade attached to a chariot wheel chops a guy right in half.

On the downside the few minor problems there are all tie back to one thing - the script. The writers have crafted an interesting story with some good sub-plots, but the dialogue is quite banal and ordinary at times. The main problem though is with the layout of the action - it's much like "Saving Private Ryan" with an intense opening sequence and a non-stop last hour, but there's about 90-minutes of basically just pure talking in between where the pace really begins to drag until Maximus finally gets into a Gladiatorial battle. Character development is needed, but there are scenes which just seem to repeat themselves while other sub-plots (e.g. the Senate's control) are brought up but hardly explored. If another writer had been brought in to polish and tighten these scenes and make the dialogue snappier, you could've fit just as much development into 60 minutes thus making the pace faster and reducing the running time to a less bladder-busting length.



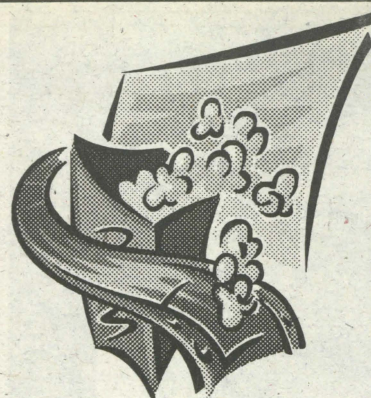
O Brother, Where Art Thou

Summary:

A unique modern-day spin on Homer's classic tale of "The Odyssey" from the creators of "Fargo" and "The Big Lebowski": Taking place in the Depression-era deep South, three escapees from a Mississippi prison chain gang, Everett Ulysses McGill, sweet and simple Delmar, and the perpetually angry Pete, embark on the adventure of a lifetime as they set out to pursue their freedom and return to their homes. With nothing to lose and still in shackles, they make a hasty run for their lives and end up on an incredible journey filled with challenging experiences and colorful characters. However, they must also match wits with the cunning and mysterious lawman Cooley, who tracks the men, bent on bringing the trio back to the prison farm

Review:

I've only ever been a so-so fan of the Coen Brothers. Whilst I liked its dark edge, "Fargo" I found only funny in patches. On the opposite side, I quite enjoyed "The Big Lebowski" and loved it even more after numerous viewing with its great characters and just 'out there' moments. That said 'O Bro' lies in an entirely different direction - its not hardcore dark comedy or far out eccentric. Rather its a musical with some odd elements and on that level it works with some really catchy tunes befitting the time & place its set in. The credits say it's based on Homer's Odyssey tale though only two segments (Cyclops, Sirens) are really used. Nevertheless there's moments that are touched with that



very weird Coen style - the best example being a Ku Klux Klan meeting that looks like its about to break into a kick line.

On the downside the humor is lacking, especially toward the beginning when they try several gags which just fail completely (the packed theatre I was in remained silent pretty much throughout the movie). The songs may be catchy, but many are so annoyingly repetitive (e.g. The Sirens who just repeat one chorus over and over). Americans won't notice it, but international audiences will have trouble deciphering some of the accents in this, which are very strong. Of the actors, Clooney fares the best, though Tim Nelson, as the totally stupid 'Delmar' is quite likable. There's also a subplot involving the local Governor, which is well played and fits in at the end effectively. The cinematography is perfect with lighting and atmosphere really befitting the sun burnt Depression-era area. Really in terms of technical merit this is a superbly crafted movie without any real weaknesses. That said the subject matter would affect one's level of entertainment. American History in the 30's and chain gangs were things I've never been interested in - yet I found this quite enjoyable. Those who do like that field of study, or really get into the Coens brothers work will really get a kick out of this. It's not up there with 'Lebowski', but it's still a darn good tale.

Catchin' Catch 22

By Josh Liebner
Editorial Assistant

Do you guys remember back a couple of weeks ago when I told you all about the concerts coming to Wilkes-Barre? Do you remember when I told you I was checking a couple of them out? I did that this past Sunday.

I went to see Catch 22 at Café W. In the words of Wesley Willis, "The concert was awesome!"

I got there a little late, so I missed the first band. They were called Witness. I heard the end of their last song, but cannot really form an opinion on it from that.

The second band to play was called Berlin Project. They are based out of Orwigsburg, Pa., which by the way is minutes from my house.

As far as a stage show goes, this is a strong point for them. They brought a lot of energy to the stage. They talked to the crowd a lot, but not too much. I hate when a band talks for ten minutes out of a thirty-minute show.

To top it all off, their music was pretty good too. They did a cover of Sade's "Gin & Juice". I thought it was great. My favorite song was "Crash Down."

If you like bands like Blink 182, you will enjoy The Berlin Project.

Finally, Catch 22 took the stage. When I say this, I mean it literally. They came on and brought such an energy to the stage that they owned it. The crowd was all fed off of them.

My favorite part of the show was when a fight broke out in the front row. It happened in the middle of what turned out to be my favorite song as well "D. Sergio." Without missing a beat, the band stopped, mid-song, and told the jerk in the front row to calm down. Once everything was settled, they picked right back up in the exact spot they had left off at.

Keep your eyes out for this band. I think that they have a lot of talent. I would love for them to take off and be heard. They were flat out impressive.

Overall, it was a good time. Once you get past all of the morons that gave their all to spoil everyone's fun, it was a blast.

Catch 22 will be coming back to the area again, and I will let you know when. If you like ska music, or if you just enjoy a live show with a lot of energy, check them out.

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Eye

Aquarius - Jan 18. This week a wonderful out not let this "high you. It will strength you ne things that you done.

Pisces - Feb 20 This week, are living a d people this week they are stran enjoy the perf prove quite hu

Aries - Mar 2 feel the urge t ship qualities but make sure you are getting leading you, a know down th

Taurus - Apr Your life this v has hit a dead

Compiled by:

Top 5
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5) Hollow

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2) Down t
3) Recess
4) Sweet
5) Crouch
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2) The B
3) Sound
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4) Jennife
5) Ja Rule

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Catch 22 Eye of the Future

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Top 5's...

led by: Josh Liebner

Top 5 Rentals

Me, Myself & Irene
What Lies Beneath
Gladiator
The Cell
Follow Man

Top 5 Movies

Hannibal
Down to Earth
Recess: School's Out
Sweet November
Crouching Tiger,
Ten Dragon

Top 5 Albums

Shaggy: Hotshot
The Beatles: 1
Soundtrack: Save The
Dance
Jennifer Lopez: J. Lo
a Rule: Rule 3:16

Top 5 Singles

oe featuring Mystikal:
tter"
Shaggy featuring
ardo "RikRoc" Ducent:
asn't Me"
ennifer Lopez: "Love
t Cost a Thing"
enny Kravitz: "Again"
OutKast: "Ms. Jack-

basically right. But, you have an option. The only option you have open is to retrace your steps that got you here in the first place. A very special friendship is in danger right now, but that will all change in the near future.

Gemini - May 21 - June 21 You are having a great week Gemini. Feel lucky. Your positive energies are attracting people around you. You may also feel deeply bonded with all the good things that are happening to you. Don't let it go to your head, but feel free to have a little fun with the positive things happening this week.

Cancer - June 22 - July 22 You are full of emotion this week, but do not let it get the better of you. You may take many things to heart this week, but it could lead to an explosion of emotion that is not necessary.

Leo - July 23 - August 23 You may have many relationships going on right now in your life, but this week, they will take an unexpected change (again). The more people that are involved in this situation, the more hectic it will become. Watch what you say this week, as it will affect everything that happens with these relationships, that you desperately need in your life.



by: Arden of the Stars

Virgo - August 24 - September 22 This week, you realize all the things that you need to get done. Your social life seems to be getting in the way, and it is hard for you to close the door on them. Well, in this instance, you have to. You cannot let your social life interfere with the rest of your life, especially with all the things that need to get done. Take a break from your friends, they will understand.

Libra - September 23 - October 22 You may feel like you need time alone with your loved one. You're right, you do. Do not take your loved ones for granted this week, as it will lead to arguments. But, if you play your cards right, many "delightful" things will come out of it.

Scorpio - October 23 - November 21 You are having many problems in your home situation. You have many things that you

could do to divert your mind elsewhere, but it is not advisable. All the answers that you need will come from a very unexpected source, so do not scoff at the advice given to you this week.

Sagittarius - November 22 - December 21 Your social life is at an all time high this week, and you are loving it. Anyone in your presence seems to brighten your day. Take advantage of this, as a simple conversation will become an in-depth personal conversation, maybe leading to a little more than talking!

Capricorn - December 22 - January 19 You had big plans for this week, but they may not be going as planned. Try making your plans work again, before you move on to the second, more attractive option. Also, someone may be trying to get you to do something. It is okay to say "no" in this situation without hurting anyone's feelings.

Window to the Past

With Casey K. O'Brien

February 22, 1949 - Gorgeous George and Ernie Dusek ushered in a brand new era in professional wrestling, with the debut of "flying leaps, sequins and schmalztz," according to the sports scribes covering the event.

February 23, 1968 - Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia 76ers wowed the home crowd at the old Philadelphia Arena by becoming the first pro basketball player to score more than 25,000 career points

February 24, 1940 - "When You Wish Upon a Star" was recorded on Decca Records during a session in Los Angeles. Frances Langford recorded the classic song that would become a Walt Disney trademark.

February 25, 1964 - Twenty-two-year old Cassius Clay won the world heavyweight boxing title by defeating Sonny Liston in the seventh round in Miami, Florida. Clay had been an 8-1 underdog. In fact, only 8,297 fans showed up for the bout.

February 26, 1907 - Members of the U.S. Congress raised their own pay to \$7500 each. Both House and Senate members received the same salary. The Cabinet members and the Vice President would earn twelve grand.

February 27, 1963 - Mickey Mantle of the New York Yankees signed a baseball contract worth \$100,000. Back in 1949, Mantle had signed his first Yankee contract for \$1,100. Mickey Mantle died in 1995 in Texas.

February 28, 1993 - U.S. Federal agents engaged in a shoot out with members of an armed religious cult in Waco, Texas and didn't fare very well. Four agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and two cult members were killed and another 12 agents were wounded. The agents had planned to arrest cult leader, David Koresh on federal firearms charges, but were surprised when the cult members opened fire with heavy weapons.

You Might Be a Beacon Staffer If...

The Schuylk's

1. You refer to Thursday as your "sleepy day."
2. Spending 24 straight hours awake is really no big deal to you.
3. Your computer has become your best friend (or worse enemy).
4. Your friends regularly file missing person's reports on you on Wednesdays.
5. Your Thursday morning professor has no idea who you are.
6. You actually shed tears when you see *The Beacon* at the SUB on Thursdays.
7. Pizza is your first and only food group.
8. You've actually used the phrase "off the record" in normal conversation.
9. When you walk down the street, people actually run from you to avoid being asked to write a story.
10. You truly appreciate the joy of a "spinnny chair."
11. You go comma nuts at 2:30 in the morning.
12. You see layout guidelines in your sleep.
13. You're affluent in caveman talk.
14. You actually know "Old English."
15. You know to be aware of superfluous usage of the word "it."
16. There is enough jelly in the fridge for everyone.
17. You look forward to new front page layouts every week.
18. You know what "wet dog pants" are.
19. Crazy Bob is a subject of political debates for you.
20. You refer to Amanda Brozana as "Mom." (Except for Casey who is contrary to everything)

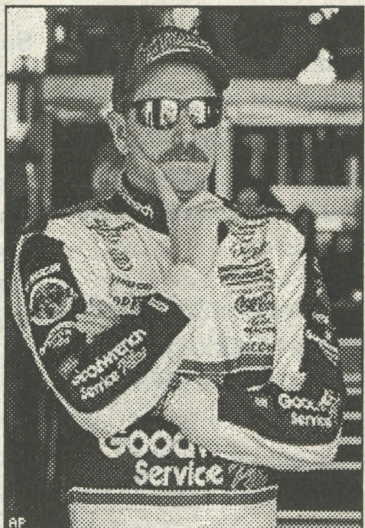
Out in Leftfield: A Tribute to Dale Earnhardt

Life. One day it flourishes, the next, it's gone. In no other sport is this transient quality more true than in the world of motor sports, more specifically NASCAR. After losing three racers last season, the nation's most popular sport lost one of its all-time greats, Dale Earnhardt.

On the last turn of the last lap of the sport's greatest race, The Intimidator found himself riding up into the wall at 180+ miles an hour. What, to the common observer, seemed like a minor accident was actually harder to survive than a tumbling crash like the one Tony Stewart was in, one that resulted in no major injuries.

Much talk on ESPN's RPM 2nite, along with SportsCenter, other sports programs, and newspaper stories focused on the tragic death of Earnhardt.

What was rather unprofessional, however, was that in the wake of such a tragedy, while everyone in the racing world was still in shock, the analysts were discussing what could have been done to prevent Dale's death.



Dale Earnhardt 1951-2001

The Earnhardt family doesn't need thoughts of "what could have been" in their minds. They have just lost a loved one. Racing fans have lost a role model. Instead, I think that, as will be done today at the funeral, everyone should focus on the life of Dale, the good things he did, both on and off the racetrack.

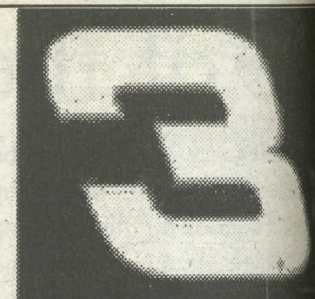
Dale Earnhardt joined the NASCAR Circuit full-time back in 1979. He made his presence felt immediately as he took home Rookie of the Year honors. Earnhardt proved he was no fluke as he went on to win his first Winston Cup Series title the following year. This made him the first driver to ever win ROY and the Series championship. Dale went on to win seven Cup championships ('80, '86, '87, '90, '91, '93, and '94), tying him with the great Richard Petty for the most titles. Along the way, Earnhardt became the first driver to amass \$30

million in American Motor Sports winnings, arriving at that mark during the 1997 season. He ended up taking home \$41,538,362 in prize money over his 27 years of NASCAR. He also became the first NASCAR driver to have his likeness on a Wheaties box.

What eluded Earnhardt for 19 years was a victory in the Daytona 500. Dale went on to win 34 times at Daytona International Speedway, but for 19 long years, the big prize eluded him. On February 15, 1998, on his twentieth attempt, Dale Earnhardt fought hard and crossed the finish line first to secure his first ever Daytona 500 victory. "This one tops them all," Earnhardt said after that victory. "It puts the icing on the cake." To celebrate, Earnhardt carved a number 3 in the tri-oval grass with a few zealous donuts. NASCAR's greatest prize was now his. "This one tops them all," Earnhardt said after that victory. "It puts the icing on the cake."

Earnhardt will be remembered for his #3, his sunglasses, and his push-broom mustache, but what will be remembered most is his intimidating demeanor. You saw it in his eyes. You saw that he wasn't joking; he meant business. Earnhardt's smirk got the best of most drivers. "Kyle Petty knew what it meant. Dale Earnhardt was telling you he was the best. He knew it, and he knew you knew it. Or, was he? A lot of times, you wouldn't know what he was thinking but you thought you did. And it might not mean a thing in the world, but he knew you were trying to figure it out." (Earnhardt Tribute: The Last Cowboy By Jack Arute, ABC Sports Online, February 20, 2001)

As much as he was viewed as tough and rugged on the track, Earnhardt was loved and adored off it. Dr. Jerry Punch, a long-time friend of Earnhardt's had this to say about the legend shortly after the crash: "It's ironic that people talk about how selfish Dale Earnhardt was on the race-track. He was...focused on winning. But those of us who knew him off the track know how unselfish he really was. The irony is that Sunday, for the first time on the track, you saw him be very unselfish in the final laps. In my opinion...He could have pulled up in front of Sterling Marlin and



By Kevin Sickle
Beacon Staff Writer

maybe Kenny Schrader, probably drafted by and won his second Daytona 500.

"What Dale Earnhardt did in those final laps is what a father would do for a son (Dale Earnhardt, Jr.), who was running right in front of him, or a brother would do for a brother. And Michael Waltrip (the eventual winner) was like a little brother he never had. (Dale) kept the others behind him so that his son and his friend could have an opportunity to win. It was a very unselfish move and one that many of us who have known him for years understood," said Dr. Jerry Punch during an interview on ESPN's RPM 2nite, Sunday, February 18, 2001.

The Intimidator's loyal fan also loved him for things he did off the track. A crying Earnhardt fan said between tears, "He was a humanitarian. He gave a lot to the people of Kannapolis (NC, Earnhardt's hometown). There's a road named after him. He was our local boy done good."

Dale Earnhardt, Sr. had a tremendous impact on not only NASCAR, but also the entire sports world. He was a great racer, a great man. I can testify to the effect this man had over non-NASCAR die-hards. I don't follow the sport much, but Dale is my favorite driver. I say that because he always will be, just because of how he handled himself: professionally, but aggressively. When I was informed that he had passed away, something hurt. No tears were shed, yet something just wasn't right. The empty feeling still isn't right, and it won't be right for a long time. I just can't imagine tuning into SportsCenter and not hearing about who Earnhardt was bumping this week or looking at the wrap-up in the paper the day following a race and not seeing his name in the top-10.

NASCAR will never be the same without its Intimidator.

We miss you already Dale.

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The Back Page

Men Advance to Freedom Conference Finals with win over King's

By Kevin Sickle

Beacon Staff Writer

Sometimes a loss in a rival game can be more of a positive than originally thought. Any coach will tell you it is tough to beat one team three times in one season. Last night, Wilkes went up against cross-town rival King's for a third time this year, and the loss last month to the Monarchs at home may have been the learning experience the Colonels needed. The loss was their first of the season, which is good to get out of the way before the pressures of the play-offs come around, but Wilkes also saw what needed to be improved to come out on top in the semi-finals of the Freedom Conference tournament.

From the tip, it didn't look as though Wilkes was able to change much as some sloppy play kept them scoreless for the first two minutes. Fortunately for the Colonels, King's couldn't buy a shot either for those first minutes. Once Wilkes settled down, Kevin Walsh was able to put one up and in for the first points of the ballgame. King's standout Corey Dickerson then finally connected to knot the score, but that would prove to be as close as King's would get over the next seventeen-plus minutes.

Brad Sechler hit the first of his three trifectas to give Wilkes the lead back. After a pair of King's free throws and a bucket, Kevin Walsh hit two shots of his own to push the Wilkes lead back to three. On

the following Colonel possession, Sechler canned another triple to give Wilkes a seven-point spread.

Wilkes came up dry on their next five possessions, allowing King's to get within two, 15-13, at the 9:36 mark. Two Walsh free throws and a fast-break lay-up by Dave Jannuzzi got the lead to six. Walsh then continued his scoring by adding another two, cranking the lead to eight, their largest of the contest.

King's then began to chip away at that lead for the remainder of the half. A bucket by Kasim Holloman with 2:46 to go in the half tied the game, but a pair of Jannuzzi free throws gave Wilkes their lead back. The teams then exchanged a free throw apiece and Holloman was fouled as he hit a fast-break lay-up. His charity toss gave King's their first lead as the half came to a

close.

King's came flying out of the locker room as they went on an 11-4 run to open the second half, taking a nine point lead. Dave Plisko was then the first to cut into the Monarch's lead as he nailed the money ball to move the Colonels to within six. Following a pair of King's free throws, Ron McIntyre brought the home crowd back into the game as he slammed one down.

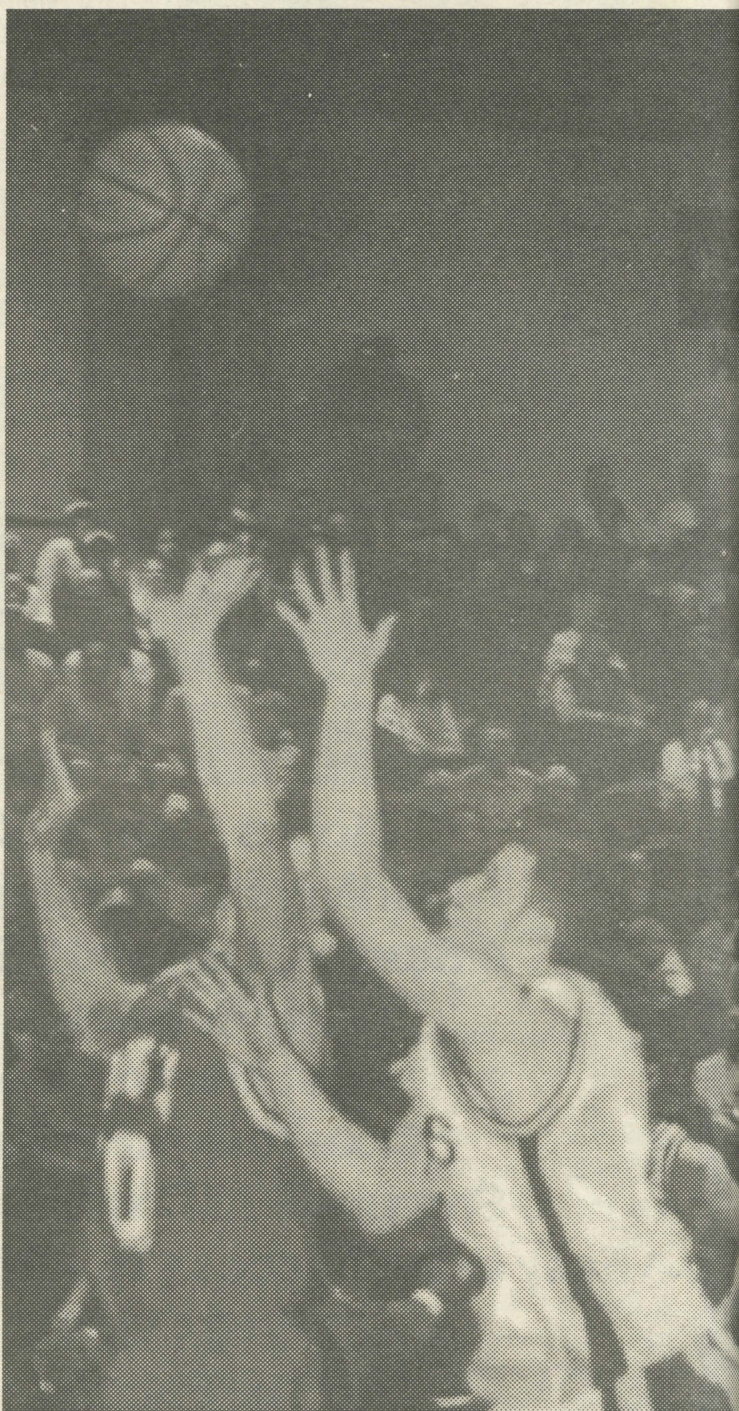
Brad Sechler's block and defensive rebound of a King's shot further involved the crowd and Plisko then drained another triple to make it a three-point game. A pair of baskets pushed the Monarchs' lead to seven with 11:09 remaining. Another bucket by Plisko and a hoop and free throw from Sechler made it a one-possession game at 53-51.

Baskets by John Boylan, Walsh, and Jannuzzi kept the Colonels within a bucket until

Sechler hit his third three of the game to give Wilkes their first lead of the second half.

After another exchange of baskets, Wilkes decided to end the seesaw battle when Tom Stambaugh hit two from the stripe to solidify the Colonels lead. With 1:31 to play, the Wilkes lead was pushed to five as Dave Jannuzzi connected.

King's head coach Jim



Travis Keck/Beacon

Wilkes goes up for rebound.



Ron McIntyre goes up for score.

Travis Keck/Beacon

Casciano had about all he could handle as he quickly called for a timeout. By this time "Marts Madness" was in full affect as the crowd was on its feet, where it would remain for the rest of the contest. A McIntyre lay-up with twenty seconds to play all but ended the Monarchs' chances. A pair of free throws by Jannuzzi finished up the Wilkes scoring as the lead grew to seven. A three-pointer with two seconds to play wasn't going to be enough for King's. The game was over, and Wilkes finished on top, 79-75.

Leading the way for Coach

Rickrode's Colonels was Dave Jannuzzi with 20 points and nine assists. Kevin Walsh followed with 18, Brad Sechler threw 14, and Dave Plisko added 11. Kasim Holloman paced King's with 23 and senior Corey Dickerson had 21 in his final collegiate game.

With the win, the Colonels move on to the finals of the MAC's Freedom Conference tournament, where they will face the Scranton Royals, who defeated Lycoming last night. The championship contest will be held Saturday at 2 PM in the Marts Center.