

The BEACON

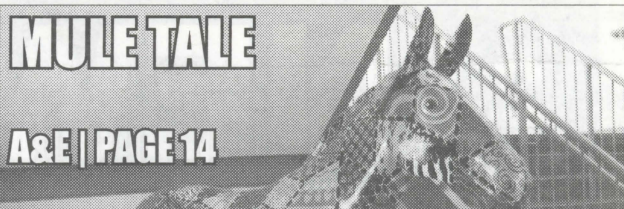
Tuesday, February 15, 2011

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

Volume 63 Issue 13

MULE TALE

A&E | PAGE 14



No text notifications for on-campus robbery

BY KIRSTIN COOK
News Editor

A Wilkes student was assaulted and robbed by three men outside the Eugene Farley library round 10 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7. According to public safety, the robbers confronted the student in a driveway to the library along South Franklin Street, stole his backpack and fled.

Public safety described the suspects as African-American males between the ages of 18 and 25 years.

Jerry Rebo, public safety manager, said that the victim was punched and kicked but received only minor bruises and declined medical atten-

tion. He added that the only contents in the stolen backpack were textbooks.

E-mail notifications were sent to all students and a notice was posted on the MyWilkes portal, though paper notices and text messages through Wilkes' Emergency Contact System were not used to notify students, which caused some concern.

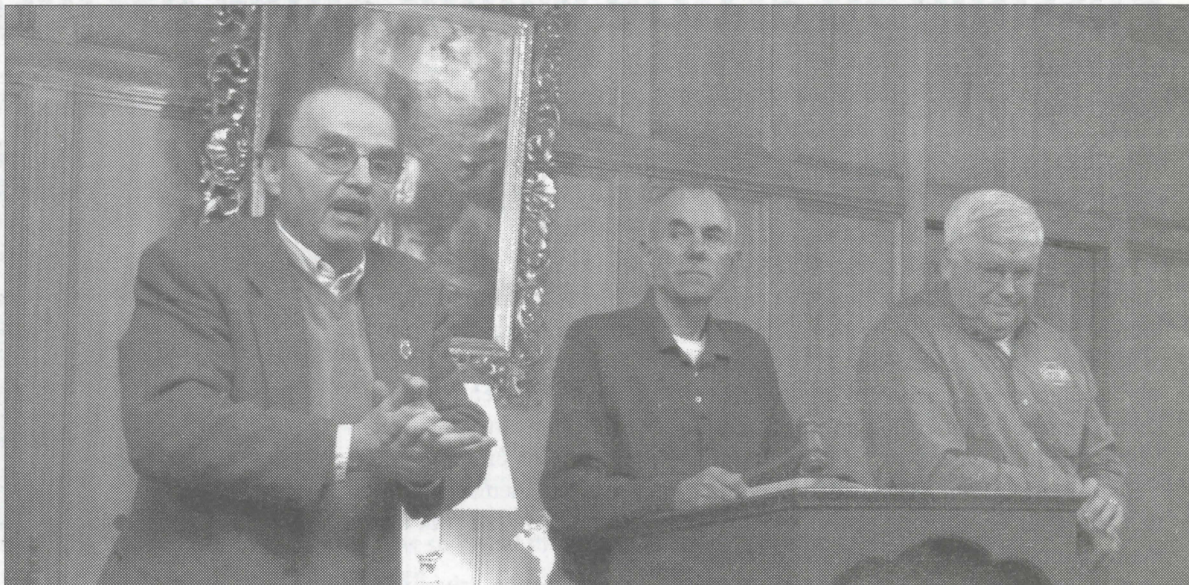
Mark Allen, dean of student affairs, said that there should have been other forms of notification sent and that it was his understanding that a text had been sent to students.

SEE TEXTS, Page 3



A strong-armed robbery was reported to University officials and the Wilkes-Barre Police Department on Feb. 7. The incident was reported to have occurred near this driveway leading to the Eugene Farley Library on South Franklin Street.

The Beacon/Kirstin Cook



The Beacon/Bryan Calabro

Jim Casey, left, speaks during a concerned citizens meeting on Thursday. Terry Davis, right, wants to purchase Casey's building on South Main Street and turn it into a community corrections center.

University turnout at work release program meeting low

BY MICHAEL CIGNOLI
Editor-in-Chief

While members of the Downtown Residents Association raised their concerns about a proposed work release program during a public meeting on Thursday night, the handful of Wilkes University community

members that attended took more of a wait-and-see approach.

About 100 concerned citizens packed the lounge of the First Presbyterian Church on Thursday night to listen to Keystone Correctional Services owner Terry Davis discuss his plan to renovate Jim Casey's 50-bed transitional living center at

199-203 S. Main St. into a 130-bed community corrections facility.

Davis and Casey fielded questions raised by the DRA and other concerned citizens about the proposed building's potential impact on downtown Wilkes-Barre.

SEE KEYSTONE, Page 4

Wilkes' spam filter does job too well

BY AMANDA LEONARD
Assistant News Editor

On Sunday, an administrative department sent out an e-mail to a large number of alumni who have external e-mail addresses.

After receiving a large amount of error messages in return, Information Technology Services then

realized that something was not right.

An e-mail from ITS was sent to the campus community stating that e-mails sent from Wilkes accounts may not be delivered to off-campus recipients.

Gloria Barlow, chief information officer of ITS, explained that the symptoms initially looked like

Wilkes may have been blacklisted, but Wilkes' spam filter was simply doing its job too well.

Technicians discovered on Sunday that when e-mails leave Wilkes' system, they pass through a spam filtering device called the Barracuda, which was installed

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Opinion Pages 6-8

Stand behind Egypt

In light of recent events, *The Beacon* calls for U.S. citizens to stand behind the people of Egypt

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Life Pages 9-12

Think positively

Dr. Edward J. Schicatano tells about the power of positive thinking and how it can directly benefit one's life.

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Arts & Entertainment Pages 13-15

Music Spotlight: Aim to rock

The musical group Astorian Stigmata aren't focused on being an ordinary radio sensation.

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Sports Pages 16-20

FotoFink

Photographer Steve Finkemagel has been the man behind most of the pictures filling the Colonels athletic website.

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FEBRUARY 15, 2011

CONTACT US: wilkesbeacon.news@gmail.com

Possible SG article would allow exclusive groups to receive funds

BY KIRSTIN COOK
News Editor

Student government is writing an article that, if approved, would allow groups that have exclusive membership to request funds.

The exclusivity clause in the SG constitution currently requires any clubs that receive money from student activity fees to be open to all undergraduate students. This excludes any professional academic organizations, such as honor societies that are specific to a certain major or career.

Dean Mark Allen, SG adviser, explained that the club exclusivity clause would remain intact, but these entities would be created as separate from clubs though on the same level, just with different regulations.

"SG is trying to find a way to open up to these organizations with possible restric-

tions to maintain the spirit of the original exclusivity clause," Allen said.

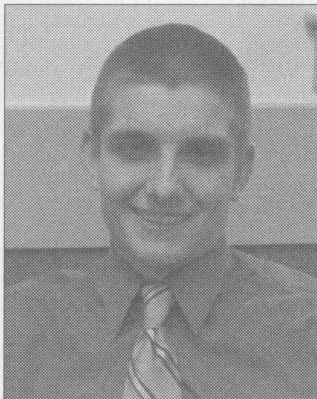
A recent fund request from the pharmacy senate has prompted this discussion, which Allen said has been brewing for a while.

"It's been kind of germinating for the last couple of years from the school of pharmacy," Allen said.

Allen explained that pharmacy groups used to be able to support themselves without the aid of SG, but that is changing.

"Some of the driving forces that make it timely now is that pharmacy, their organizations used to have alternative funding sources, and those have dried up

over the years because of certain economic conditions," Allen said.



BEIDEL

Ben Beidel, president of SG and senior pharmacy major, said that this will open new opportunities for many groups to request funds, which may lead to difficult decisions on fund allocation.

"With this committee working on a constitutional discussion we're paving the way. You could say we're creating a problem, but we're creating a solution," Beidel said.

However, other exclusive professional groups have been denied in the past without prompting a change to the constitution.

Beidel that there are some differences that separate the pharmacy request and past cases, stating that pharmacy has been focused on the exclusivity clause and the argument that pharmacy students pay the activity fee, too.

SEE ARTICLE, Page 4

Beacon Correction

In Issue 11, *The Beacon* incorrectly referred to one of the alumni interested in starting an investment club. Daniel Cardell, an alumnus from the class of 1979, was misidentified. *The Beacon* regrets this error.

SG Notes: SAM club requests funds for Orlando

BY AMANDA LEONARD
Assistant News Editor

The Society for Advancement of Management requested \$300 to fund the organization's participation in the International SAM Club annual conference in Orlando from March 31 through April 3.

The 20-member SAM Club only needs \$112.46 to successfully take part in the conference. However, additional funds were requested so that the club will not have an account balance of zero after the conference expenses are paid.

Club President Lindsey Fernald said, "The \$112 will be needed for this year and the rest of the money will be put in our account for next year so when new students join they will have money to fundraise."

The club plans to rent Student Government vans and drive to Orlando a day before

the conference. Club leaders were originally told that all gas for rented vehicles would be paid for. Although SG vehicles are generally rented for local events, there is no set limit on gas mileage for which clubs may use the pre-paid vehicles.

Due to the amount of mileage and gas needed, Student Government is unsure of funding the extra money that will not be needed until next semester. The length of the trip also brought up safety concerns.

Ian Foley, freshman class president, voiced his concern on the funding.

"We can't agree with giving them the full \$300, because that is essentially budgeting them for next year," Foley said. "If they want to fundraise next year, then they can simply request for money next semester."

William Eggleston, SG treasurer, said that SAM Club should be funded their full request, realizing the difficulties of being in a

club and having to fundraise with no budget.

"Giving them \$112 and bottoming out their account would essentially end their semester on March 31," Eggleston said. "If we give them \$300, we are giving them a small amount of money to which they can work with for the rest of the semester and begin to fundraise for next year."

The fund request for SAM Club will be a two-week process and will continue discussion during next week's meeting.

New Business:

Adventures in Science - Requested a donation of \$2,500 for an annual event held at Wilkes for fifth grade children that involves science labs, experiments and mentoring opportunities. The requested money will be used toward shirts, refreshments and a drawstring bag. Motion passed 36-0-3.

Wilkes Paintball Club - Requested

\$496.54 to fund the registrations and traveling fees to a sanctioned paintball tournament in Syracuse, NY. Week 1 of 2.

Treasurer's Report:

All College: \$23,869.92
Conference: \$12,800
General: \$6,550
Leadership: \$3,341.20
Special Projects: \$3,500
Spirit: \$2,000
Start-Up: \$1,500
Total: \$53,561.12

Old Business:

MSC committee - Cultural clubs have been requested to submit their decision by Feb. 17 on forming MSC sub-sets.

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Meet the Staff



Allison Roth
Photo Editor

TEXTS

Continued from FRONT PAGE

"I think we have to take a look at why that happened because obviously just the e-mail alone was not sufficient," Allen said. "There should have been some other vehicles for those people who are not regularly monitoring their e-mail."

Dean Paul Adams, vice president of student affairs, was working with public safety during the incident. He said he did not know if sending out a text notification was discussed.

"In hindsight, perhaps that was something that we should have done," Adams said.

Adams said that the texts are typically reserved for serious incidents.

"You want to save them for the most severe incidents, and I'm not saying that this wasn't," Adams said. "I think we probably should have sent it out in a text, but we didn't, and we will next time."

Some students who were in the library at the time of the event expressed concerns about not being aware of the situation, as they had not checked their e-mails.

"I think those are good concerns and we

learn from every incident we go through, and thankfully nothing else happened that evening, and we did send it out as quickly as we could and through the most reliable means that we have and we will know for next time," Adams said.

Rebo said there is a good chance the attackers could have committed another crime the same night.

"You can't say they would never commit another crime right after they committed that one, because they actually didn't get anything. All they got was textbooks, and they probably can't read," Rebo said.

Allen said he would like to see a move towards more electronic notifications to connect with students.

"I do think that we want to try to focus more on utilizing our electronic information, because that's what students gravitate to, that's the most immediate, with the texting, and apparently there was a problem there," Allen said.

The student affairs office is responsible for deciding to send notifications, which public safety then creates and distributes, Allen said. Several factors go into these decisions.

"Usually those decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, depending on proximity to campus, risk to the community, those

You can't say they would never commit another crime right after they committed that one because they actually didn't get anything. All they got was textbooks, and they probably can't read.

— Public Safety Manager Jerry Rebo

sorts of issues," Allen said.

Adams said that the text notification is a newer form of alert, and the specific situation determines whether they are sent.

"I think the text messaging was something that's still a little bit new for us, but in this instance we didn't end up doing that, but it's not like we would not do that in the future, it depends on the incident and the time of day and just exactly what the circumstance was," Adams said.

The Wilkes-Barre Police Department, as well as public safety, was notified of the incident, though the victim decided not to file a police report. Rebo said that police cruisers searched the area, but because the description was so broad they were unable to catch the men.

Rebo said this was an isolated crime and that Wilkes has been fortunate to have rela-

tively low rates of crime on campus. He said this is mainly due to the precautions that students take, such as walking in groups and being aware of surroundings.

Rebo suggested that students take caution when strangers are approaching, stay in well-lit areas at night and always have a planned response to an assault.

This was a crime of opportunity, Rebo said, and the attackers most likely decided to rob the student when they saw him exiting the library.

After speaking with the victim, Allen was unable to link any motive to the attack.

"I don't think there was any targeting or anything, just wrong place at the wrong time for the victim," Allen said.

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Students test sexual knowledge



The Beacon/Allison Roth

On Feb. 8, the Bacchus Club sponsored Sexual Jeopardy, a program designed to educate students on sexual issues and concepts. Pictured above are participants during the session.

SPAM

Continued from FRONT PAGE

the summer of 2010 to ensure the safety of the campus and to prevent Wilkes from being blacklisted.

"The irony is that the Barracuda did it is job too well, as it recognized a large mailing to non-Wilkes addresses, and thought that somebody might be sending spam from a Wilkes address," Barlow said.

The spam filter was installed for the protection of the entire Wilkes campus. If a Wilkes e-mail address begins sending spam, it is likely that the receiver will put Wilkes on his or her spam list and pertinent e-mails will no longer be able to be delivered correctly.

Barlow also explained that the filtering system that Wilkes has is doing its job correctly. However, it may be protecting the campus too much.

"It was a little bit of an inconvenience on Sunday, but Wilkes was not blacklisted, e-mail was sending correctly and as soon as we saw the problem, e-mail technicians went in and safe-listed the alumni list," she said.

Brandon Clegg, remote system administrator, was one of the few technicians who investigated the problem early Sunday afternoon. He and others agreed that the system Wilkes currently has works too well, and often times against the campus.

"We're trying to address the different policies on who can send mass mailings to non-Wilkes recipients without any problems," he said.

If one wishes to send an e-mail to a large number of external addresses, there are two things that he or she can do. The first is to simply send the e-mail in increments, merely to break up the large number of addresses. Currently, the limit of addresses one may send to at one time is set at 50, but ITS is in the process of increasing that number since it is too low for a college setting.

The second option is to contact ITS for aid in creating a group that will allow e-mails to be sent to a large amount of addresses, without being considered spam. A technician would be needed to safe-list the e-mail group.

Barlow said that ITS is exploring what the best practice is for colleges and universities of Wilkes' size in terms of setting the number of external addresses allowed before they are considered spam.

ITS is also looking at ways to safe-list departments or student groups that send larger mailings to external addresses on a regular basis.

Those that need to send a large mailing can be set up with a proper address that will be safe-listed so that the spam filter will not hinder it by contacting ITS.

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ARTICLE

Continued from Page 2

"They've continuously brought up the fact that the exclusivity clause may be outdated, they've been persistent in that fact," Beidel said.

There are currently 10 pharmacy sophomores, juniors and seniors on the SG board, including Beidel. Beidel, however, is not a voting member.

The nursing student organization is one of the clubs that has requested funds but was denied because of exclusivity.

"We have traditionally, and I still stand by this, turned them away because they are exclusive, because they required their students to pay to join the national organization," Beidel said.

Beidel said the difference between NSO and pharmacy was that NSO accepted the judgment that they were exclusive and could not receive funds.

"They didn't push back, I guess would be the best way to put it. They really saw it the way we did, which may not have necessarily been the right way," Beidel said.

One request from NSO asked for funds to allow students to travel to the National Student Nurses' Association convention in Orlando. Beidel said there were several reasons why this request was denied, including sending conference members a day early to spend at Disney World.

"If we're spending money, we want it to come back and benefit the students, whereas if we're spending money for somebody to spend a day in Disney World and go to a test that's going to help them and not bring it back to the students at Wilkes ... it just didn't make sense," Beidel said.

Beidel said that the test was only going to benefit four or five nursing students. However, Megan Dickinson, senior president of NSO, felt that the convention had benefits.

"The NSNA convention in Orlando had several purposes. Our students served as delegates to our state and national association. This gives Wilkes a large number of votes on proposals that affect nursing students, professional nurses, and the health care system in both Pennsylvania and the U.S.," Dickinson said.

Dickinson said that the students were also able to attend workshops on topics such as community service, mentoring and leadership. She said the information from these workshops were brought back and incorporated in NSO activities.

Allen said there is potential for other exclusive clubs that could be facing funding problems similar to those that pharmacy is dealing with.

"That's not to say, as we look at this, there may be similar challenges in education, certainly there would be in nursing, so because pharmacy may be driving this it gives us pause to look at other conflicts," Allen said.

Allen said that, depending on how many groups that emerge will similar financial needs, SG will have to weigh fund decisions while avoiding an increase in activity funds.

"If you add money because you've got additional organizations to be concerned about, money's going to have to be taken from some other thing that you're currently funding," Allen said.

An SG committee is currently forming a potential constitutional amendment that will be presented to the general board. The amendment would require two-thirds board approval for it to be passed, Beidel said.

Beidel said that he plans on taking the majority of the semester to resolve this issue.

"At the onset of this whole thing I said 'I don't care how many weeks it takes, we need to make sure that it's done correct,'" Beidel said.

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The Beacon/Kirstin Cook

Student Government members conclude their meeting on Feb. 9. The idea to create a new article was a response to a pharmacy fund request at a recent meeting.

KEYSTONE

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Student Government Freshman Class President Ian Foley was the only Wilkes student who attended the meeting along with about five Wilkes administrators. Those in attendance included Paul Adams, vice president for student affairs, Chip Prescott, vice president of finance and support operations, and Jack Chielli, executive director of marketing communications and government relations.

"I think the most important thing that we can do is model behavior for our students that we believe that they should emulate," Adams said. "If there's an issue in our community, we should stand up, we should listen, we should evaluate, we should discuss, we can disagree — there is no one single point of view that's going to represent everybody on campus."

Foley said he wasn't there because SG told him to be, but because he received Wilkes President Tim Gilmour's message that informed the campus about the date, time and location of the meeting. Foley hoped students would attend two campus forums regarding the issue.

One forum was held yesterday. The other is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Feb. 15, in Marts 214.

"I think it's important," Foley said. "If you don't go to the forums, you have no idea what's going on. ... People don't even read the 'Today' e-mails, so they don't even know what's going on on campus, let alone these larger issues such as this. That's the real issue."

Gilmour did not attend Thursday night's meeting due to a fundraising call in New York, according to Adams. Adams said university officials had the opportunity to meet with Davis and Casey for two hours on Thursday before the public meeting and Gilmour participated in that meeting via conference call.

Adams said the university still does not have enough information to take an official stance on the proposed project. Prescott agreed.

"I think I've learned more about the proposed program, but I still have questions," Prescott said. "I'm trying to keep an open mind."

Although Davis said his new facility would have higher security measures than the one that Casey has operated at the same location for 10 years without incident, members of both the Wilkes community and the DRA feel that perception of safety in downtown Wilkes-Barre is already a problem.

"I don't know how it would affect that perception," Chielli said of Davis' proposed program. "Certainly it's not going to help it. The best thing that would help it is crime stops happening in Wilkes-Barre for two years, five years or something like that. These kinds of perceptions die hard."

Another concern voiced by the DRA was they were previously informed that the facil-

ity directors of Keystone Correctional Services Wilkes-Barre would be Casey and former Wilkes adjunct professor Doug Albertson.

Albertson is the facilities director of MinSec, a controversial residential parole center in downtown Hazleton. Its residents, former residents and absconders are alleged to have committed dozens of crimes and many Hazleton residents are dissatisfied with its effect on the city.

"I'm not saying I'm hiring him or not hiring him," Davis said of Albertson. "I could. I might. If I find someone better than him I might hire them, but at this point I haven't even picked an employee. I haven't even gotten that far."

Even if Albertson did get the job, Davis emphasized that his program is vastly different than what MinSec does. Unlike MinSec, he doesn't accept high-risk offenders into his rehabilitation centers and believes that the key to rehabilitation is boosting an individual's self esteem and getting them motivated to go to work.

"I'm doing it right," Davis said, adding that a facility he operates in rural Dauphin County was just unanimously approved for a 100-bed increase. "I'm not copying other programs in the state that are doing it wrong."

The only time that Keystone Correctional Services residents are allowed to leave the building is if they are going to an approved location, Davis noted, adding that he plans to invest "millions" into the building if the zoning board approves his request. Doors and windows would be secured and additional security would be installed.

However, Davis said he could not "guarantee that every person that will leave the building will come back." After all, no one could. But if an individual does not follow the procedures that Keystone Correctional Services has in place — one of them being that residents have to be back in the building at a certain time — he or she can be sent back to prison.

"When you give them an opportunity to succeed, many of them succeed," Davis said.

Casey said one of the main reasons he is looking to sell his current facility is that he can no longer afford to keep operating. Although Davis' offer was not the best one he received money-wise, he said that Davis' program is legitimate and can help rehabilitate people that made mistakes at some point in their lives.

He made an impassioned plea to members of the DRA.

"If we can't reach out and help somebody, then what are we even doing here?"

Not everyone bought it.

"Your altruism doesn't justify the degradation of the community," South Street resident Mark Cohen said.

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Video contest offers students chance to win \$500

BY DEVONI NOVAK
Staff Writer

Wilkes is offering students the chance to show their creative sides and possibly win \$500. The Wilkes marketing communications department is searching for two student-made promotional videos.

"Current students can put together a video for upcoming students through the perspective of their own eyes," said Craig Thomas, web assistant of the marketing communications department.

The original deadline was Feb. 11, but it was moved to Feb. 18 because of a lack of initial interest.

The contest is open to all Wilkes students. Contestants must produce a three to four minute video that reflects their experience at Wilkes. Participants may compete individually or in a group. Judges are looking for an authentic video with a fun vibe that will attract incoming freshman.

Jack Chielli, executive director of marketing communications, said he hopes the videos will be fun and showcase "what it's like to be at Wilkes."

Wilkes students, faculty and staff along

with the NEPA community will vote on videos. The two grand-prize winners will receive \$500 and their videos will be posted on YouTube and www.wilkes.edu. Voting will take place March 21 through April 1. In the case of a tie, the marketing communications department will choose the winners. Winners will be announced on April 4.

To get started, participants should first review the contest rules and fill out the "Intent to Compete" form on the Wilkes website. After the form is complete, contestants can begin creating their masterpiece contest submissions.

Videos may portray any creative aspect to promote Wilkes. Chielli suggested that videos be anything fun that students like to do and others want to see.

All productions must have a title and be turned in by mail or hand delivered to the Marketing Communication Department in UCOM 208. DVD format is required for the final video. Upon submission, videos will become property of Wilkes University.

The marketing communications department asks that all productions be new and unique to the contest. Unfinished, late or damaged videos will not be accepted. If any

technical error inhibits viewing, entries will be invalid. Students should keep in mind that if no entry is seen as adequate, no winner will be chosen.

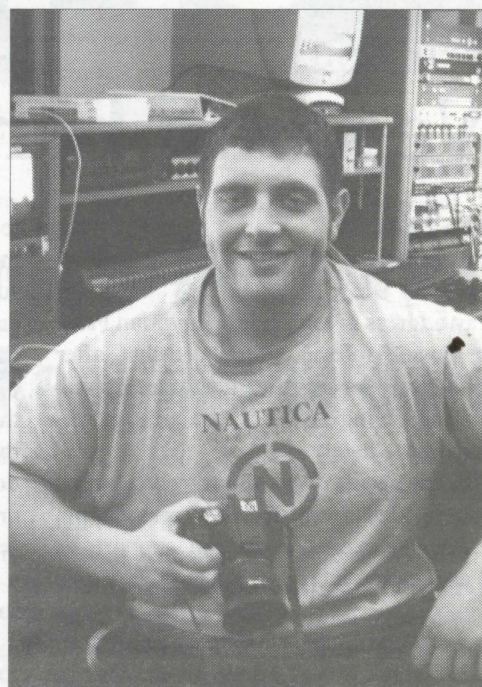
Integrative media junior Jared Nesi was the first of five students to show interest in the contest. Last year, Nesi worked with Thomas on the dorm tour videos currently posted on YouTube. Since they were a success, Nesi thought he would give the contest a shot. Nesi would like the prize money to buy a new camera and production software for film school.

The video competition is a new idea of the marketing communications department. Chielli explained the two major benefits of the contest: Wilkes would get positive publicity and students could win much-needed funds.

Chielli said that prospective students are more likely to trust a fellow student than a professional, commercially created video.

"They are really not commercial; (the videos) are by a source that you trust," Chielli said.

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The Beacon/Devoni Novak
Jared Nesi, integrative media major, was the first student to express interest in submitting a video to the promotional video contest. Four other students later expressed intent to compete.

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We stand behind the people of Egypt

BY THE BEACON
Editorial Board

In an address given Friday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced that, after almost 30 years of rule, he was stepping down and giving power to the military, effective immediately.

With the recent weeks-long protests that ultimately led to Mubarak's resignation, *The Beacon* expresses its full support, as well as congratulatory salutes, to the people of Egypt.

The protests against Mubarak started on Jan. 25, which is now known as the Day of Anger. The people of Egypt started the protests in demonstration against the oppression that had been slowly escalating over the years within the country.

Egypt is a republic. Republics give their people ultimate say over the government, generally through elections of officials to represent said people, much the way the United States does. However, in Egypt, there have instead been presidential appointments. In fact, had Mubarak not stepped down, it was widely concluded that he would be naming his son as his successor, which doesn't exactly scream "republic." In fact, Mubarak was appointed by Egypt's previous president, Anwar El Sadat. When Sadat was assassinated, Mubarak stepped in.

This ignoring of free elections, in addition

to emergency laws that have been domineering to the people, as well as other factors such as inflation in food prices and high unemployment, has been brewing anger in the country for some time.

The recent demonstrations have shown that the people of the country are tired of the status quo and that they are willing to do what it takes to have a say in their government. *The Beacon* stands behind this. We feel that it is important to allow the people of a country to have a voice and for that voice to be heard, loud and clear.

After all, what is a government for if not to represent and support the needs of its people? That pretty much just makes it a group of people playing the hustler in a game of Fast and Loose.

There has been some unnecessary looting by people who are trying to take advantage of the distracted military and the lack of police. However, even much of that has been prevented by the people of Egypt. They have been literally making human shields around locations of some of the world's oldest and most significant artifacts.

It is important to note that this is just one of a series of recent uprisings of peoples in the Arab world. In fact, it's grouped into what has been called quite literally the Arab World Protests. Countries all over Northern Africa and the Western Middle East have had citizens standing up in protest against their country's governmental regime. People

are sick and tired of being oppressed, as they should be.

One of the main reasons that Egypt has been more of a center of attention than the other countries is because of the size of the protests. They have had millions of people protesting day and night all over. The main protests have been happening in Tahrir Square, which appropriately translates to Liberation Square. And that is what the people of Egypt deserve: liberation.

One of the other reasons that this particular country is getting so much attention in the American media is that Mubarak was an ally to the United States. Egypt has put into place a lot of other policies that the U.S. has backed. That's partially why it took President Barack Obama so long to announce his feelings on the matter. In the end, he also sided with the people, thankfully.

We would like to call on the American people to also express their support for the citizens of Egypt. While it may not seem like being in another country across the world and saying that the Egyptians deserve their constitutionally guaranteed rights makes a huge difference, it does. Maybe not as individuals, but as a whole.

We call on our people, our nation and our president to either start or continue to support the people of Egypt as they start restructuring their country into what they want it to be. We cannot forget about them in the difficult times to come.

BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. This poll is based on 8 responses.

Last week's question:

Does the current terror alert system affect your life?

- Yes 25%
- No 75%

This week's question:

Do you agree with Mubarak's decision to step down?

- Yes
- No

Cast your vote online at:
www.wilkesbeacon.com

SPEAK UP!

The Beacon wants to hear your voice.

Send your name, major, year and opinion to:
wilkesbeacon.oped@gmail.com

The Beacon reserves the right to edit submitted pieces for space and content. Anonymous letters will not be published.



Zune HD outstrips iPod Touch in many ways

BY TONY GORECZNY
Correspondent

I am going to assume you know what an iPod Touch is. If you don't, you may want to crawl out from under your rock and talk a walk (or drive your horse and buggy) down to the nearest Best Buy or any other store with an electronics section.

Many iPod owners either purchased one because everyone else has one or someone else told them to.

Some people claim that the large majority of people using iPods over other mp3 players proves the iPod is superior. The only thing this proves is that iPods are a fad. There are a number of other companies that

make quality music players including Microsoft, Creative, SanDisk and Sony.

Microsoft has always been the main competitor of Apple in all things computer. A few years after the introduction of the iPod, Microsoft developed a response: the Zune. Although the iPod seems to be a near-monopoly in the world of portable music, the Zune has found its niche in a small, but dedicated and growing group of fans.

The newest release from Microsoft is the Zune HD, the closest thing the iPod Touch has seen to a competitor. I do not mean to imply that the Zune HD is an inferior product, simply that it is a different product with a slightly different intention behind its design. The iPod Touch is a device designed

to do almost everything depending on what apps are downloaded.

The Zune HD on the other hand was designed primarily as a personal media player. Both the Zune HD and the iPod Touch have 8GB, 32GB and 64GB versions. If you compare the media storage monsters that are the 64GB version, the Zune has a clear advantage. The price for a brand new 64GB Zune HD on Amazon.com is \$303.86 while the 64GB iPod Touch costs \$364.95.

The Zune HD was released between the second and third generation iPod Touch and far outstrips both of these iPods. Apple made some improvements on the fourth generation

SEE ZUNE, Page 8

Worst-dressed lists moot

BY CATHRYN FREAR
Assistant Opinion Editor

It's awards season everybody, and you know what that means: Joan Rivers is judging everyone.

Weren't we all taught in elementary school and by our parents that it's what's on the inside that's important? Well, that doesn't seem to apply to worst-dressed lists.

For those who don't know what these are, they are basically one person or a group of people who decide who is dressed the worst, just as the name implies.

That is absolutely ridiculous.

First of all, this takes away from individuality. It's been historically proven that change in industry causes evolution which leads to breakthroughs. Therefore, when people wear things that are different, they cause important change—even if in a small way and simply in the world of fashion.

It wouldn't be so bad if people didn't actually mull over whether they would end up on these lists while they were picking what they wanted to wear to major events.

It is also my personal belief that people who wear what is considered unconventional, which is usually what gets put onto these lists, stand out the most. And, depending on your opinion, they look the best a lot of times, as well.

That's another thing, this type of list is all about opinions. None of this worst-dressed business is based in fact. Why are these people given any kind of authority? Shows like *El's "Fashion Police"* just sound like a bunch of catty and snobbish high school girls—even the males on the show—picking over who wore what that day and picking on the goth kids and the punks.

A great and recent example of someone who wore something distinctive and was criticized for it was Helena Bonham Carter

at the Golden Globes. She wore a multi-dimensional—literally—floral-pattern dress by Vivienne Westwood and paired it with two shoes of the same style but different color, one pink and one green. When asked why she wore two different shoes she said blamed it on indecision and being a Gemini.

The point isn't even why Bonham Carter wore what she wore, it's that she wore what she wore. The different shoe-wearing has already got the same fashion critics who criticized the shoes wondering what she is going to wear to the Academy Awards. She is continually on worst-dressed lists and has recently said, "I'm meant to act well, not dress well."

That is ridiculously true. Actors and actresses go to these award shows as themselves, not as a character. If they want to wear something they should be able to wear it, so long as it suits the black tie dress code. It's an individual choice and not something one should be judged on.

Having said that, whether we like to admit it or not, celebrities do reflect on our society and if they all look the same, what does that say about the rest of us? Where is our individuality? Where is our sense of adventure? Who cares what Joan Rivers has to say? Why is she still relevant?

These are the real questions people should be asking themselves when picking out what to wear, not whether or not they'll get bad press. Isn't there supposedly no such thing and all press is good press? Therefore, through the transitive property of congruence, if bad press equals good press, then badly dressed equals well-dressed. OK, that's not really how the transitive property works.

The point is, being catastrophically dressed should be acceptable because at least you're being yourself. Besides, two shoes of opposing colors show range.

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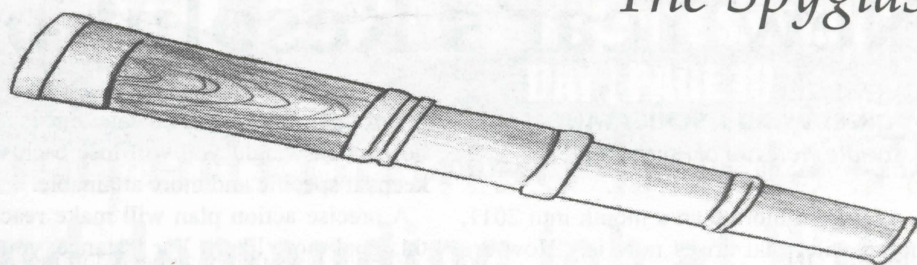
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The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

Everywhere people go, they are constantly being shown how and how not to dress. People need to ignore this so-called advice and dress however they desire.

The Spyglass



WikiLeaks brings to light what should not be kept in the dark

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO
Opinion Editor

Since its launch in 2006, WikiLeaks has become one of the most controversial websites on the Internet. The website has increased in popularity over the past year and continues to receive considerable praise as well as criticism.

WikiLeaks is a great extension to American freedom, in that as free citizens, we should be guaranteed the right to know exactly what is happening in our world.

WikiLeaks is a nonprofit news organization that publishes private, secret and classified media regarding topics such as war, government trade, corruption, censorship technology and even nature and science.

The journalists working for WikiLeaks accept documents from anonymous sources and then create news stories based on the received documents.

People can submit information to WikiLeaks without fear of being traced, as WikiLeaks offers top-of-the-line protection to all sources with its electronic drop box.

According to an article published in *The New Yorker*, WikiLeaks made its first post in December 2006, which was a document signed by a Somali rebel leader for the Islamic Courts Union calling for an assassination of government officials. One year later, WikiLeaks claimed to have more than 1.2 million documents.

One of the biggest misconceptions about WikiLeaks is that the website has been spreading lies. The website's employees, however, go through great pains to ensure the authenticity of all documents.

According to WikiLeaks, all documents are assessed through investigative journalism techniques, forensic analyses and detailed forgery investigations. External verification is also conducted, such as interviews of people mentioned in the received document.

On the WikiLeaks About page, it is stat-

ed that "WikiLeaks' interest is the revelation of the truth."

Another major qualm about the website is that it creates unnecessary panic. Although some will certainly be frightened by the website's content, their releases can aid in raising awareness of corruption in both micro and macro level societies. The more people learn about the unethical actions taking place in a society, the more likely change is to occur.

I feel that the biggest advantage to WikiLeaks is the power the website brings to the anti-war movement. Among the most compelling information is a list of every death that has taken place in the Iraq War. The data reveals some disturbing figures, specifically in its disclosure that from 2004 to 2009, civilians accounted for more than half of all deaths in Iraq, nearly one-third having been killed by improvised explosive devices.

Although many do not support WikiLeaks, the website has won several awards from prestigious media outlets and organizations. In 2008, the website was awarded *The Economist's* New Media Award. One year later, WikiLeaks was granted the UK Media Award by Amnesty International. In 2010, Julian Assange, the self-proclaimed founder of the website, was named Reader's Choice for *Time's* Person of the Year.

Unfortunately, some of the higher-ups in the U.S. have taken negative action against the website. The Library of Congress has blocked all access to WikiLeaks as of December 2010. The U.S. Army, FBI and Justice Department are contemplating criminal prosecution against Assange for possession of stolen government property.

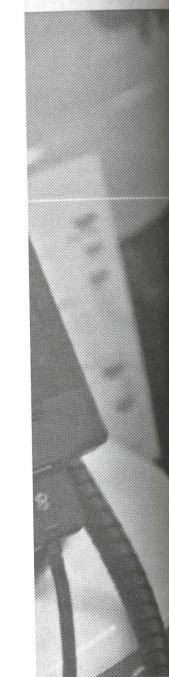
Even though many may argue that publishing private governmental documents is unethical, I believe that the intentions of WikiLeaks are to improve the societies in which we live and that the website should continue to exist and develop.

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9 | LIFE

FEBRUARY 15, 2011



INT'L PIPE SMOKING
DAY | PAGE 10

CONTACT US: wilkesbeacon.lifestyles@gmail.com

Resident assistants: a fun and demanding job at Wilkes *Residents Life in the process of interviewing prospective RA's for next year*

BY LAURA PREBY
Staff Photographer

Whether a student lives on campus or commutes, he or she probably familiar with the position of a resident assistant, or RA. A desirable position on campus, the job of an RA is to build a community in the hall to which that they are assigned. It is a job which comes with responsibility, and a few perks such as having room and board paid for in full by Wilkes. Around this time of year, new applicants are submitting the proper paperwork and being interviewed for the 40 positions available in campus dorms.

"As an RA, you play a larger role in the community-building process, not just with your hall, but with the campus itself," said Ian Foley, a freshman political science major and prospective RA for the Fall 2011 semester. "I would like to become an RA because I believe I could give back that greater sense of community."

The process of becoming an RA begins by signing up in the fall at a desk in the SUB, where previous RAs sit and talk about what the position involves. Interested students are informed about three information sessions they are able to attend during that semester, where they have the opportunity to learn about the position, how to apply to become an RA, and what the requirements are.

Once this orientation session is completed, students must wait for online applications to come out at the beginning of the spring semester. Once the applications are avail-



The Beacon/Laura Preby

Evans first floor RA Mike Ogar stands outside of his room with freshman elementary education major Amber Konopka, who interested in becoming an RA for next year.

able, there are three steps: first is to fill out a series of questions, next you get two electronic recommendations, and the final step is an filling out an entry form, which includes submitting your name, contact information, and GPA. After those three components are submitted, the prospective RAs go to Group Process.

"Group process brings old RAs and prospective RAs together, so the more experienced ones can observe the new applicants and see how well they interact and work together as a group," said Mike Ogar, a sopho-

more integrative media major and one of the two RAs for the first floor of Evans Hall.

"I liked the idea of helping first year students transition into college life, because it wasn't an easy process for me," Ogar said. "It's a good job, and you get to be involved in the community and meet new people. As cliché as it sounds, I like helping people. I like to be the guy people come to with their problems."

However, not everyone can become an RA. There are requirements, such as a 2.5 GPA needed to submit an application, as well as

maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or above for every semester that you hold the position. In addition, students need to have lived on campus for at least a year and be involved around campus to be considered for the job.

After submitting an application and attending Group Process, applicants are then given individual interviews, where they meet with Residence Life staff. It is then determined if the student is a good candidate for the job.

Once selected to become an RA, accepted students begin their journey the following fall. The job is fun but occasionally demanding.

"The easiest parts for me are the creative projects, such as decorating bulletin boards and making name tags," Ogar said. "However, you're always going to have situations that you have difficulty dealing with. With both small and big problems, you have to treat everyone the same and help them through it. Especially with a lot of first year students, the transition is hard. There is a lot of home sickness and missing their families. You have to help them meet new people around campus and make sure Wilkes becomes their home."

Ogar is hoping to get rehired next year. "If you've done a good job, you are usually rehired," he said. "Hopefully, I will be. It's a really worthwhile job, and you learn a lot from the experience."

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Connecting the Dots: a way for students and alumni to connect

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

On Thursday, Feb. 3, 25 Wilkes graduates returned to speak with students about life after Wilkes and potential career choices during the "Connecting the Dots" event hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations. Alumni were enthusiastic about returning to campus to speak with students and students felt that meeting alumni in their

career field of choice was beneficial for them in seeking a career. This event is one of many such events and opportunities on campus sponsored by the Alumni Relations Office for students and alumni to connect with each other.

Associate alumni director Bridget Giunta Husted ('05) said that events that bring students and alumni together achieve great success because they benefit both parties. Alumni enjoy coming back and speaking to students to find out what the campus is like

now and students get to hear about life after graduation.

"Alumni enjoy coming back and speaking with students to find out what (the) campus is like now and how it compares to Wilkes when they were students here and students get to see what life is like after Wilkes," Giunta Husted said. "Anytime that we can bring students and alumni together is a great opportunity for us."

Connecting the Dots is an opportunity to bring alums back to campus but to also an

opportunity to gather more alums for the Alumni mentoring program that is in place this year, according to alumni relations coordinator Mary Balavage Simmons ('10).

"We're always in need of mentors for different majors so it allows us take from that pool of alumni," Balavage Simmons said. "If they enjoy Connecting the Dots, then most likely they will enjoy the mentoring program."

SEE CONNECTING, Page 12

The many facets of pipe smoking with Dr. Garr

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS
Editor-in-Chief

An ordinary trip to the drugstore 12 years ago sparked an interest that has now become more of a lifestyle for Dr. Michael Garr.

Garr, a professor of sociology and anthropology, adopted the hobby of pipe smoking after he and his wife went to the drugstore and she saw a tin filled with cigars that she really liked. Garr bought the tin of cigars and because they were in the tobacco section, his wife mentioned that she liked the smell of a cherry pipe tobacco and suggested that he buy a pipe.

With that one suggestion and his first puff, Garr has been involved with pipe smoking for 12 years and is now involved with pipe smoking promotional organizations and research.

"I knew there was something more to (pipe smoking) than what I was getting," Garr said.

So throughout those years, Garr has become the vice president of the United Pipe Club of America and the president of the Pocono-Intermountain Pipe Enthusiasts. Garr has also honed his pipe smoking skills and is ranked third or fourth in the longest American pipe smoking time, but Garr says that his record of one hour and 34 minutes is meaningless compared to other pipe smokers.

"The world record on three grams of tobacco is three hours and 30 minutes," Garr said. "Well, Europeans are quite good at it. We Americans, we kind of suck at it."

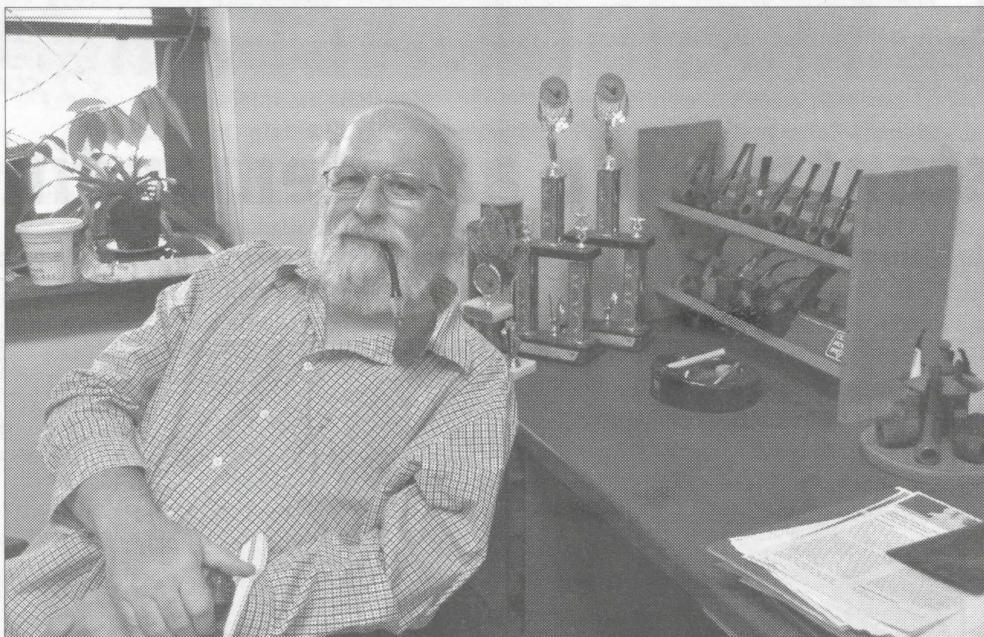
This is the second year that Garr is celebrating International Pipe Smoking Day. On International Pipe Smoking Day, Feb. 20, Garr will hold a pipe smoking contest at El Humidor on Route 315 at 1 p.m. to honor the day.

During this contest, everyone who attends and pays the \$30 fee will be given the same type of pipe, three grams of tobacco, two matches, a tamper, and a piece of paper. Five minutes will be given to prepare the tobacco by finely shredding it and then contestants will be given one minute to light the tobacco with the matches. The person to keep their pipe lit the longest is the winner.

Two students, Matthew Duffy, a senior history major, and Patrick Ritter, a junior history major, are both interested in pipe smoking, but they won't be attending Garr's contest on Feb. 20 because they feel that they are a little inexperienced compared to other people.

"It's really intimidating," Duffy said in response to the contest. "Those guys can keep their pipe lit for a really long time."

Garr said the largest pipe convention is in



Dr. Michael Garr has a collection of about 100 pipes and about 20 of them reside in his office where he also has trophies displayed from his pipe smoking contests.

Chicago and the largest pipe smoking contests are in Europe, some with more than 300 people lighting their pipes simultaneously.

In addition to his positions with pipe organizations, Garr has also devoted research to pipe smoking and has presented at conventions and conferences, such as the American Sociological Association.

And although pipe smoking is thought of as a thing of the past, Garr regards it as a relaxing pastime.

"Pipe smoking is something you can do by yourself or with others, it's relaxing; to smoke a pipe will take about two hours," Garr explained. "It's a slow breathing kind of thing. You are not inhaling."

Garr explained that all smoking is ritualistic, but pipe smoking and cigarette smoking differ and are similar in a few ways.

Firstly, both cigarettes and pipes relax in a ritualistic manner, being that if a person is a regular cigarette smoker, a person will go to a cigarette to relax, said Garr. A pipe has the same relaxing effect without inhaling.

Secondly, Garr said a cigarette smoker wants a quick fix, but smoking pipes isn't all that simple.

"The pipe smoker has to set aside a special place, a special time so he can devote the hour and a half to two hours he needs to smoke a pipe," Garr said.

Although pipe smoking is much more difficult than smoking a cigarette, Garr says if a person appreciates pipe smoking, then that person won't mind dealing with the steps that it takes to prepare the pipe, the fact that pipes can be hard to light and the fact that pipes can be difficult to keep lit. Duffy and

Ritter said it does take time to pack a pipe and smoke it, but it is more of a social thing for the two of them.

Garr said that smoking tobacco from a pipe is not bad because a person is not inhaling. In addition to that, the pipes themselves are a form of artwork and can also be thought of as a collector's item. Garr has close to 100 pipes, which are a mix of hand and machine made.

There are a number of reasons why they like it, but for the most part, Duffy and Ritter agree with Garr in that it is a relaxing, but not damaging pastime.

"It's better for you than cigarettes; you don't really inhale it," said Duffy, 22.

Ritter and Duffy agreed that their pipe smoking, which started about a year ago, has evolved into something more than just a quick fix. It is now a hobby for them both. Now, Ritter has many different types of tobacco for his pipes.

"I have a lot (of types of tobacco), I just haven't tried all of it yet," said Ritter, 20.

Garr said that his interest in pipe smoking has even earned him a slap on the wrist. About a year ago on the first day of classes, one of Garr's students asked him what he liked to do. Garr went to his office, got a pipe, came back to the classroom and lit the pipe.

"And I said, 'This is what I like to do.' So, I was smoking for about 10 minutes and I said, 'If anyone has an objection to this, please raise your hand, and I'll stop,'" Garr said.

No one raised his or her hand, but someone did report him to the dean. Since then, he hasn't smoked in any of his classes.

In today's anti-tobacco climate, Garr believes that people should be educated on pipe smoking versus other modes of administration.

"When you lump all smoking as a variation of cigarette smoking, you miss the important differences between pipe and cigar and cigarette smoking," Garr said. "To me, I've always thought of pipe and cigar smoking as a safer form of smoking."

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2011 Vagina Monologues



Photo courtesy of Milana Grigoriev

On Friday, Feb. 4 and Saturday, Feb. 5, Wilkes' annual production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologue" was held. Seen here is senior secondary education major Ariel Miller, who recited the monologue, "Reclaiming C***!"

Professors say positive thinking is good for overall health, well-being

Negative attitudes often based on how one is brought up

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

In the book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," the main character, Charlie Bucket, is poor and can't afford the cherished Wonka Bars. But despite this, he and his family still manage to keep their heads high and always think positive.

But we are so caught up in our stressful lives that thinking in this manner is pushed aside. According to associate psychology professor Dr. Edward Schicatano, having negative thoughts can affect overall health and well-being.

"People who are negative thinkers tend to make the worst decisions," Schicatano said. "A lot of evidence (has) shown that stress compromises the immune system, meaning you're more likely to get sick."

By thinking positively, one can become more relaxed, meaning less stress. But it can be hard because people have stress every day, especially on college campuses.

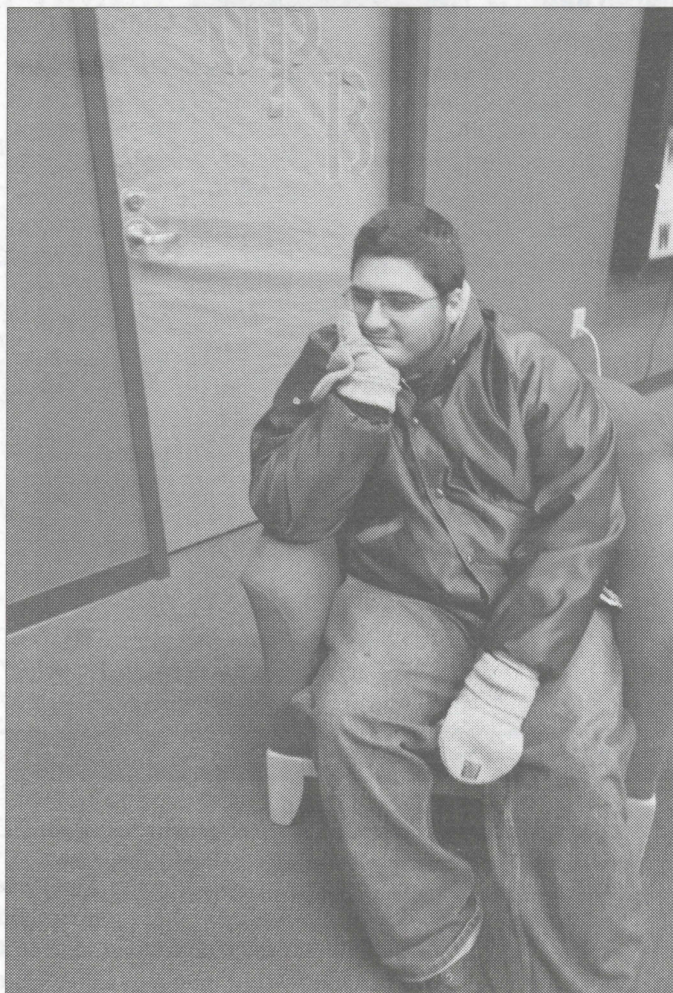
"(By) just being on a college campus, the highest stressors you can have (are) starting or ending school and living conditions, and we do that twice a year at least here at Wilkes for all the students," said Dr. Michelle Anthony, an associate professor of English, who also leads weekly meditation sessions on campus.

Anthony says that past experiences and how we are raised will influence how one thinks and deals with stress in their lives. The ways in which one thinks will affect how he or she handles difficult situations in the present in a positive or negative manner.

"How you're raised determines in a lot of ways your life pattern and patterns that you develop early on in the first 18 years of your life," Anthony said. "The ways you think about things will affect how you deal with (situations) in the present."

Dealing with negative thoughts is often difficult because many of the contributors to negative thoughts and emotions are all around. The biggest contributor is the media because there are often more negative stories being shown than positive ones. Often it is because negativity sells to audiences because it is a way to be safe and it is more interesting and compelling to listen to, hear, and talk about.

Schicatano said a lot of why a person thinks negatively might have to do with



The Beacon/Laura Preby

One method of breaking the cycle of negative thinking involves correct posturation. Standing straight and strong will help gain confidence.

their past experiences and beliefs. Past experiences will determine how you interpret your surroundings but they can also affect one's social well-being and is bad thing for you long-term.

"Socially you're going to have less friends, less support (and) something bad happens to you, who's going to support you? One of the best ways to get through life and all the stress is support; family or friends," Schicatano said. "It's sort of like a vicious cycle, no one's there to help you, you become more negative."

Schicatano said breaking the cycle of negative attitude can be difficult because we are surrounded by negative people every day. But he emphasizes that one thing one should recognize is that you can't control the way other people think and behave around us. One can control their own thoughts and emotions.

"I would say you're responsible for your own emotions, so take responsibility, take accountability (for them)," Schicatano said.

Anthony offers some ways of combating negative thinking around us that have worked for her, including yoga, making time for friends and family, doing things you love every day, and meditation. She said instead of just doing these activities, you prioritize them as your number one things to do every week.

"It's those simple things, recognizing that those aren't extra things that you do if you have time, those are the number one things you do at least every week," Anthony said. "You set those as right up there with your top priorities along with getting enough sleep."

By doing activities you love, Anthony said we are more productive when we are positive and relaxed and it is refreshing to do those things we enjoy.

"If we allow that time for refreshment then we can actually be more productive. Lots of psychological studies, workplace studies have shown that," Anthony said.

Anthony said people get into a spiral of thinking about negative things and they can't get out of it. Doing something relaxing can get you out of that cycle and able to look up out of their stressful situations.

"When you take that 15 minutes a day and do something you love, if you really follow through with that and actually do it and set those priorities for yourself, it's not selfish, it makes you more productive and it makes you a more positive force in the world and that's what helps people," Anthony said.

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Wilkes University's Health & Wellness Corner

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

Q: I am having a difficult time falling asleep and/or staying asleep even when I am very tired. What can I do to increase my sleep?

A: Fortunately, there are several practical behaviors that are proven to increase sleep and/or quality of sleep. This can include keeping a sleep diary that allows you to observe your sleep schedule and develop or improve on a regular sleep routine.

Behaviors such as going to bed and waking at approximately the same time, taking a warm bath/shower, listening to soothing music, breathing exercises, reading a relaxing book and reducing or eliminating artificial light exposure before bed (computer and TV use) encourage sleep.

It can also be helpful if a person creates a daily "worry time" to journal or talk out loud about life challenges earlier in the day to reduce night anxiety and troublesome thoughts. Conversely increasing our exposure to light during the day and regular rigorous exercise earlier in the day as a way of coping with stresses or life will increase our need for sleep while reducing our anxiety.

Our sleep environment needs to be as free as possible from any work related clutter which can trigger anxiety. Additionally, it is important to pay attention to food and drink intake before bed. A full or empty stomach is not conducive to restful sleep.

If you drink caffeine, the effects can last up to eight hours. If these changes in lifestyle do not increase sleep quality/time, it is time to make an appointment with your therapist and/or family physician for further evaluation.

Do you have a question for the Health & Wellness Corner? E-mail your questions to wellness.services@wilkes.edu, and you may see your question in next week's Wellness Corner. Your privacy will be protected. You can reach those working at Health Services at 570-408-4730 or by visiting their office on the first floor of Passan Hall.

STREET BEAT

What is your favorite thing about winter?

Photos: The Beacon/Laura Preby & Allison Roth



Ashley Bringmann

Sophomore English and psychology major

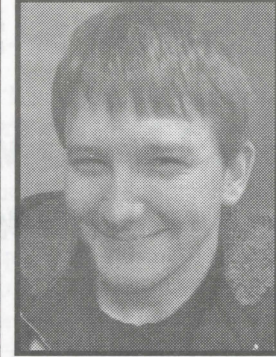
"Hot chocolate."



Dr. Barbara Bracken

Associate Professor of Computer Science

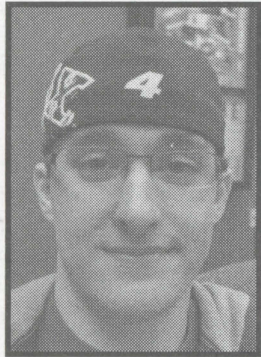
"The fact that it ends."



Jeffrey Homschek

Freshman history major

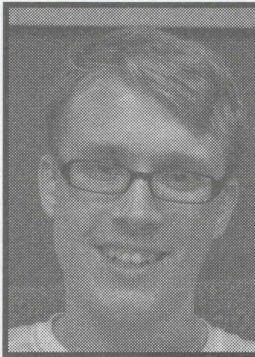
"The frigid conditions and the slippery roads."



Greg Nothstein

Junior undeclared

"Pretty snow on the trees, and yelling at people who can't drive."



Patrick Killian

Freshman computer science major

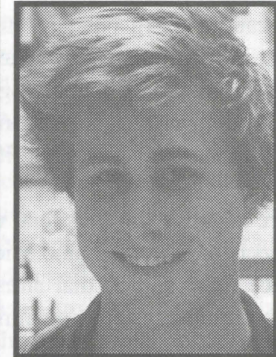
"Snow!"



Justine Adams

Junior psychology major

"I like to go snow tubing. It's fun!"



Dan Sekera

Junior integrative media major

"I like the cold because I hate being hot."

CONNECTING

Continued from Page 9

Besides the Connecting the Dots event held two weeks ago, other opportunities for alumni-student connections include the alumni mentoring program, in which alumni are matched with students to help with networking connections, reunions throughout the year. The program currently involves more recent graduates but will seek to bring older alums to the program.

"During Homecoming we have reunions that are not only for class years but also for affinity groups and student organizations so there's opportunities for students who for instance are currently in the Programming Board to meet with alumni who served on the Programming Board when they were here," Giunta Husted said. "At events such as First Farewell we do invite board members from our Alumni Association back to those events to interact with students and just serve as a welcome from the Alumni Association."

Both Giunta Husted and Balavage Simmons said that relationships between students and alumni are important because there weren't programs like the alumni mentoring program at the time when they graduated.

"They weren't around when I graduated or at least they were just starting and I didn't know about them," Balavage Simmons

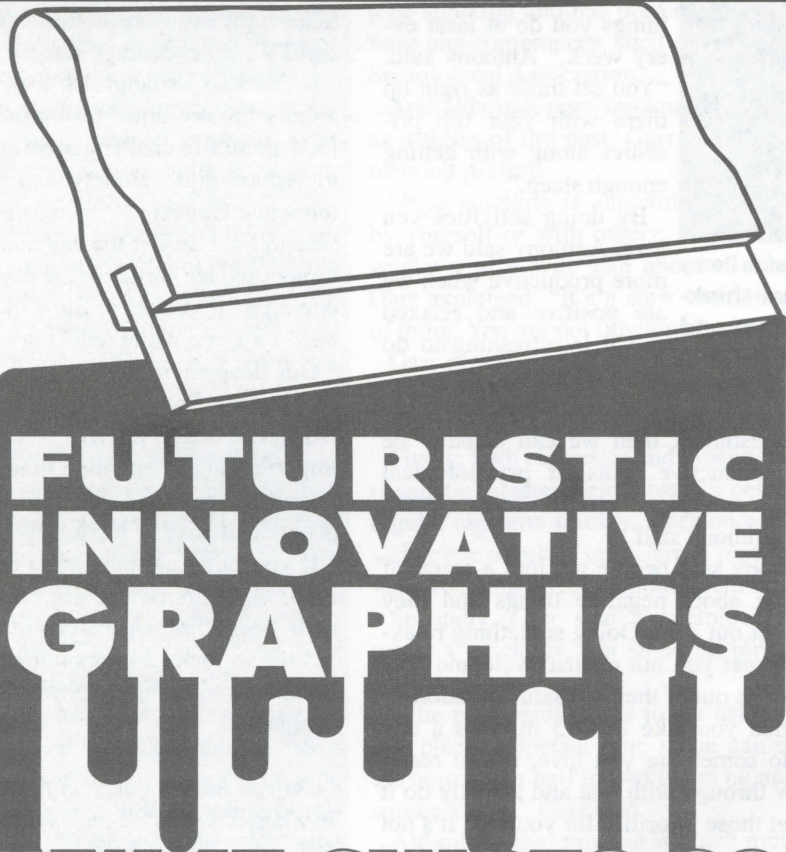
said. "Now that they're in place I think that's a great thing to have one more contact out there."

"Networking is so important especially now with the down economy that the more people you know and the more places you've been and the more experience you have the better," Giunta Husted said. "This is just one more way to meet another person, get your name out there, have another experience to put on your resume so I think for a student it's a no-fail situation, you can only benefit from it."

The Office of Alumni Relations seeks to find ways in which students and alumni can connect and this is done through the various programs offered, which includes visiting with faculty in their classrooms. But they say they are willing to take advice from students on how they would like to interact with alumnae and they can consider it. For alumni, if the opportunity arises they find a way to involve alumnae back on campus, for which Connecting the Dots is a central facet.

"If you're only going to do one thing as a student I would recommend that you come to (Connecting the Dots) cause you meet a lot of people all in one place," Giunta Husted said. "It gives alumni an opportunity to come back on a low-commitment basis; it's just a one-night thing."

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Music Spotlight: Local band's passion to play

Astorian Stigmata vows to never be your ordinary radio 'same old thing'

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

There are no pre-show rituals for the band Astorian Stigmata before they perform, but one thing that makes them stand out is their strict "no cover songs" rule. The band formed in 2008. Since then, it's been nothing but music. Insisting that they never want to sound generic or like any song played on the radio, all songs on their recently released album are original and deliver a message about today's society.

Although the name alone suggests a harder rock genre of music, Astorian Stigmata seems to perfectly fit the band, which consists of three guys and one girl, Dennis Condusta (lead guitar/vocals), Sean Carey (bass guitar), Amanda Malia (keyboard) and Albert Martino (drums). The interesting combination of members creates an entertaining and likeable quality that proves why they have gathered such a large fan base within the area.

Performing in a variety of venues including New York and Philadelphia, they aren't strangers to performing in front of large crowds and are hoping to make a name for themselves in the music world. They have already released two EPs and two full-length albums.

According to Astorian Stigmata's website: "We are not trying to sell you \$35 T-shirts. Our music is available for free download. Not because it sucks, but because corporately filtered music sucks. And it's expensive."

Their dedication and passion for their music is apparent, but what is even more interesting is the message they are trying to deliver to their fans.

The Beacon: How did your band originate?

Sean: Dennis wrote music by himself for a while and wanted to start a band. He needed a bass player so I decided to play bass. We met Albert and found out he played drums and met up a couple times and starting jamming. Then Amanda came in the picture and she's been with us for a year and a half.

The Beacon: What type of music do you play?

ALL: Indie Alternative Rock



Courtesy of Astorian Stigmata

Pictured above Astorian Stigmata band members, from left to right Amanda Malia (keyboard), Albert Martino (drums), Dennis Condusta (lead guitar/vocals) and Sean Carey (bass guitar). The band has played in a variety of venues across the area including New York, Philadelphia and it's hometown Wilkes-Barre.

The Beacon: What has drawn you to do music?

Albert: It's just a passion we all share.

The Beacon: Any significant person you idolize?

Dennis: Modest Mouse.

Amanda: Michael Jackson.

Albert: Michael Jackson.

Sean: The creator of the NECCO candy company. I'm heavily influenced by candy.

The Beacon: What person is your dream duet?

Albert: You can't exclude Michael Jackson, but Paul McCartney would be pretty cool.

Amanda: Billy Corrigan.

Sean: I would like to hit some riffs with Matt Pike.

Dennis: Robert Smith.

The Beacon: What is your favorite song to perform?

Amanda: Our new reggae song, it's untitled, but we call it the reggae song.

Dennis: I think we can all agree that.

Sean & Albert: It's just a fun song to play.

The Beacon: What is it like performing in places like New York and Philadelphia?

Sean: It's definitely a harder crowd.

Albert: In places like that, there's oversaturation because there are so many choices. It's like being a small fish in a big pond, but it makes us work harder.

The Beacon: So you said you have no pre-show rituals. Do you ever get nervous before a performance?

Albert: We do get nervous. You know, weird and shaky for a bit.

Dennis: Everyone gets nervous.

Sean: Are you nervous right now, giving this interview?

The Beacon: Any love songs?

Amanda: No way. Our songs are more about real-life issues, more social and environmental.

The Beacon: Where is your favorite place to perform?

Albert: Stroudsburg.

Sean & Amanda: The River Street Ale House in Pittston.

The Beacon: What do you want your fans to get most from your music?

Albert: A positive message. If you want to go out and get something done, just do it.

Sean: We want people to expand their mind to different types of music and not get caught up in what's played on the radio. We have a different ethic when we perform and when you come from a town where you only play covers, it's interesting. Were trying to set a new path.

Amanda: When we play were not trying to sound like another band, we're just playing because we love it.

For more information on Astorian Stigmata and it's next show, visit astorianstigmata.com or find the band on facebook.com/astorianstigmata.

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Multiculturalism represented in colorful patches

BY CATHYRN FREAR
Assistant Opinion Editor

On the first floor of the Henry Student Center, near the first stairwell, sits a curious fellow named Jean Michel.

For those who don't know, Jean Michel is a ceramic mule. He is a bright and colorful piece of art that brings smiles to the faces of those who encounter it. Not only is it something delightful to look at, each individual patch has its own message.

Brittany Kramer, a recent alumnae and director of the Sordoni Art Gallery, said Jean Michel was named after the famous half-Haitian, half-Puerto Rican painter Jean Michel Basquiat, whose paintings reflected on the way he saw the world and what he saw in the culture of his time.

"He's sort of this multicultural artist and is actually one of my favorite artists," Kramer said. "The theme from the beginning was ... (about) different cultures and different time periods that we turned into all of these designs."

Kramer said the name came after the project was started.

"In his work, he uses a lot of symbols and cultural references," Kramer said. "I don't think the theme came from the name, I think the name came from the theme."

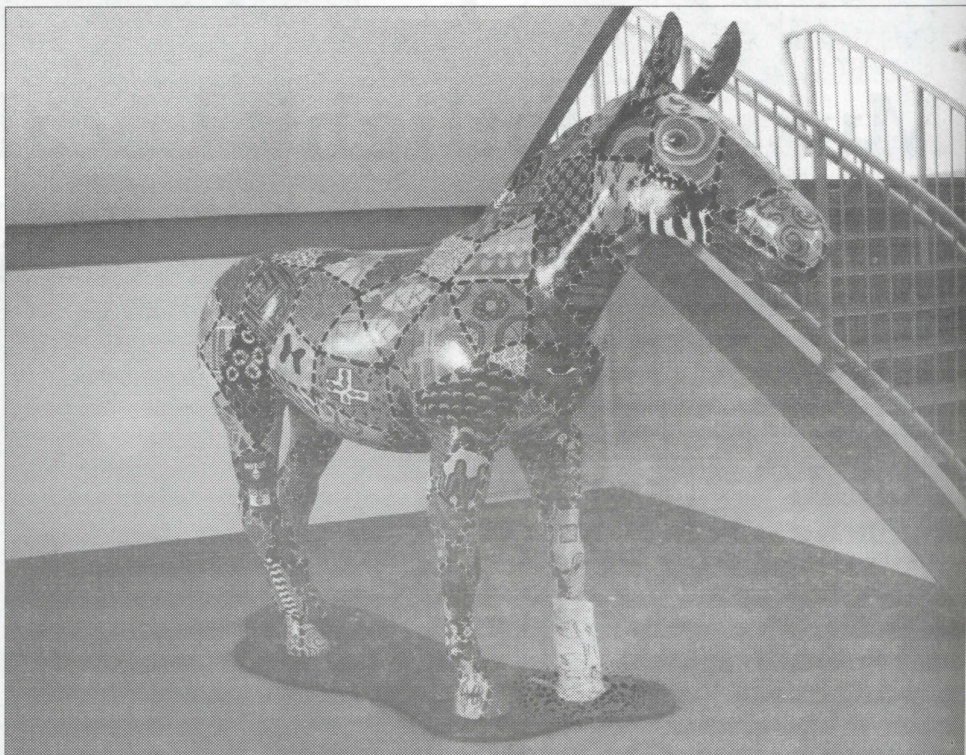
Kramer was a work study student for Sharon Cosgrove when the mule painting began.

"I kind of got put in charge of it," Kramer said. "I was in charge of not only the painting, but also getting other students and faculty members involved."

The project was open to the Wilkes community at the time. Whoever wanted to create a patch got the opportunity to become an artist for a day. Kramer roughly estimates that the number of people who helped work on Jean Michel was somewhere in the 50 to 100 range.

"The room would just be open and people would come in and we had the supplies there for them and they could just paint right on a patch," Kramer said.

Throughout his life, Jean Michel has traveled extensively around campus and even spent some time at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the "Miles of Mules" project, where he was assaulted and his foot was broken. However, he currently resides in the SUB, where he is safe to offer some bright



The Beacon/Kirstin Cook

The cultural mule located in the student center delivers a historical message of art.

color and a taste of culture to those who cross his path.

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Student weekly entertainment

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

the material addressed deal with cultural, sexual and social responsibilities of today's youth. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On-Campus

On Feb. 18, the theater department will present the musical "Songs for a New World." Centered on a variety of characters and day to day issues, the show offers musical performances and narratives.

The performance will take place on the Main Stage in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center at 8 p.m. The cost is \$15 for general admission, \$5 for students and seniors, and free to all Wilkes faculty, staff and students.

Show dates are Feb. 19, 25, and 26 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 20 and 27 at 2 p.m.

On Feb. 23, the theater department will be also holding auditions for "A Midsummer's Night's Dream." Everbody is welcome to audition.

On March 19, 20, 25-27, The Little Theater in Wilkes-Barre will be presenting their performance of "Sweet Charity." Admission is free for Wilkes students that show ID at the door.

MSC will be holding a unique presentation on Thursday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. from titled "Poetry to the People." Much of

Off-Campus

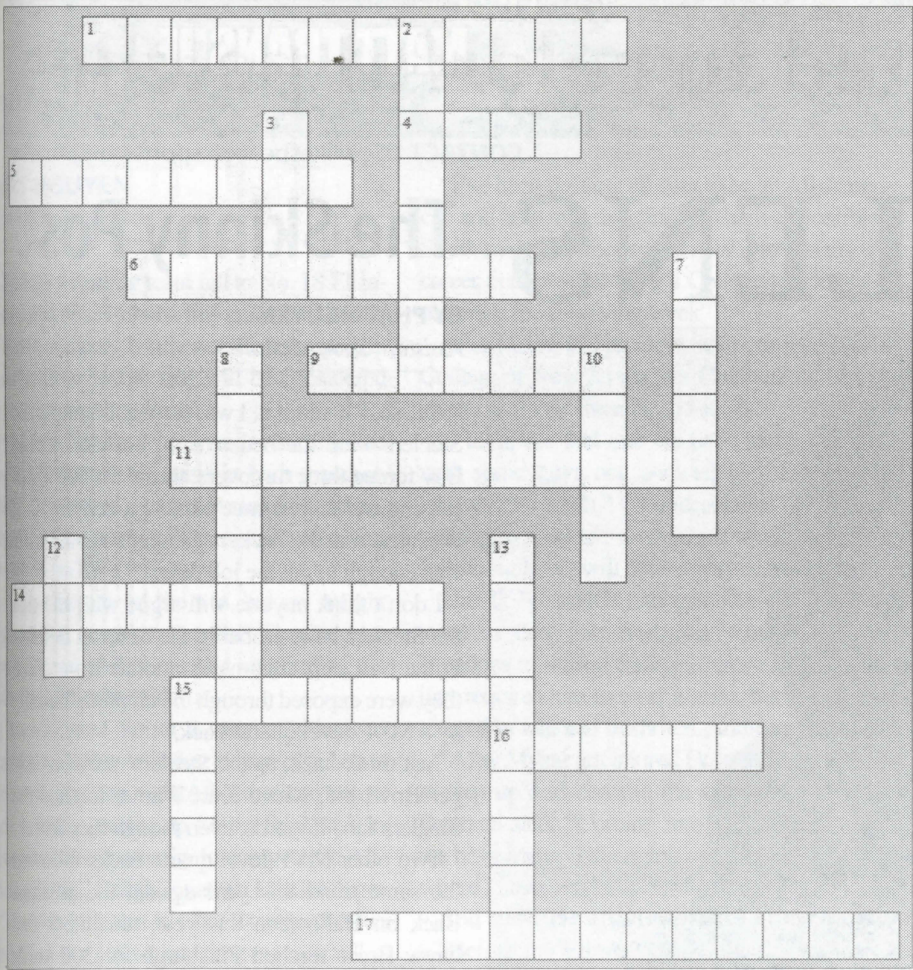
"Gnomeo and Juliet" - Elton John's musical variety show about two lawn gnomes from the opposite side of the fence that fall in love, despite their families' hatred for one another.

If you're a fan of John's music, you will appreciate the light humor the movie has. Emily Blunt and John Mackavoy lend their voices. Rated PG.

"Just Go With It" - Another Adam Sandler flick that centers on a huge lie and this time he brings Jenifer Aniston with him. A once hot shot womanizer falls for the girl of his dreams, but mistakenly leaves his 'fake wedding ring' (he uses it to pick up girls) in his pocket.

To prove to her that he is not married, but rather divorced, he asks Aniston's character to pretend to be his ex-wife. Whom he chooses is highly predictable, but it's worth watching to see Sandler and Anniston in action. Rated PG-13.

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ZerCross "Winter Time"

BY ASHLEY ZERFOSS
Correspondent

1. Downhill sport where one's legs are required.
4. Sometimes used for fashion, but really used to keep your body warm.
5. Grab some friends and do this down a steep hill.
6. Infinite repeating patterns of ice.
9. Gloves minus fingers.
11. Great with marshmallows on a cold winter day.
14. Great date in the winter time at the local rink or pond.
15. Heavy snowfall with hard winds.
16. Downhill sport where one's legs are not attached together.
2. Great for roads, but horrible for the bottoms of cars.
3. The fluffy white stuff.
7. Coldest season of the year.
8. Fun things to throw at friends in the winter time.
10. Very long, few inches wide and fringes at the ends.
12. Don't slip on the ...
13. An old-fashion way to keep the house warm.
15. Put these on your feet to keep warm and dry.

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Celebrity Chatter

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI
A&E Editor

MTV turns down Conrad for show

Apparently teen reality queen, Lauren "L.C." Conrad was in negotiations to star in another reality show like "The Hills," but more focused on her career goals. However, MTV wasn't interested. Of course this comes as shocking news, because Conrad was a gold mine for MTV, but when it came down to discussing the plot of the series, MTV wanted "The Hills" drama whereas Conrad wanted it to stay out of her personal life. Sorry L.C., apparently MTV only likes the drama-based shows like "Jersey Shore" and "Teen Mom." MTV producers even suggested that it might be too boring to watch Conrad manage her fashion line. This might be true, but Conrad has a large fan base and drama seems to find her wherever she goes, so MTV might regret turning the pitch down. Just pitch it to Bravo, Conrad. It can have a prime spot before any of "The Real Housewives" series.

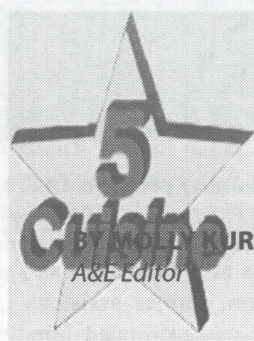
New "Angels" series for ABC

I'm not sure how much I like this, but it has been confirmed that there will be a "Charlie's Angels" series to air for Fall 2011 on ABC. The remake will include Australian model Rachael Taylor ("Transformers"), Minka Kelly ("The Roommate") and Annie Ilonzeh ("General Hospital"). The most interesting part of the series will most likely be Ramon Rodriguez ("Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen"), who was cast to play Bosley. I was a fan of the films as I am sure even more were fans of the original TV series, but it might be interesting to see how it plays out as a modern-day TV series. Especially if Drew Barrymore's production company is attached.

Lindsay Lohan weekly drama

When is Lindsay Lohan going to clean up her act so that we don't have to hear about another "Mean Girls" movie without her or Rachel McAdams' name attached to it? After being accused of stealing a very pricey necklace worth almost \$900, it seems as if Lohan will never learn. The good news is the accusations seem to be all over the place and their are several inconsistencies in the story, so Lohan might be telling the truth.

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BEHIND THE LENS

The Skinny Post

BY PHAT NGUYEN
Assistant Sports Editor

The Beacon/Melissa Polchinski

Local photographer Steve Finkernagel has been the man behind many pictures that appear the athletics website.

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA
Special Projects Editor

They say a picture is worth 1,000 words. For local photographer Steve Finkernagel, it's worth something much more than that. "A thousand words?" Finkernagel asked. "I suspect at least that."

For the last seven years, the Pocono Lake resident has been capturing moments – and memories – through the lenses of each of his three Canon cameras. After beginning his career in sports photography, he has since ventured out into different platforms.

Between weddings, senior pictures and special events photography, he has done it all.

But it remains, the stills he captures at sporting events especially – his favorite sport, soccer – that have his heart.

"I love sports," Finkernagel said. "There's something about a sports action photo that I just really love. Some of my best pictures ever were from soccer games. When I see I get a really good one – that's where I get my biggest thrill."

It's also what got him acquainted with Wilkes. After taking photos at a women's basketball game last season, former assistant coach Meredith Alexis name-dropped him to then Sports Information Director Craig Merriman.

Merriman was impressed with his work and asked him to shoot some events for the school. When Merriman vacated his post and current Sports Information Director, Ryan Rebholz came in, not only did he keep Finkernagel on board, but he utilized his talents even more.

"I spoke with [graduate assistant] Rich [Cloeter] about him and liked what I heard," Rebholz said. "I had him come out to some of our home events and really liked the quality of photos that we received."

"It's really been important to me to expand our photo collection of each sport and having Steve come here to take photos to add to our collection helps us tremendously with that."

His career, however, is not in photography. Finkernagel is a self-employed financial advisor. Throughout the day, 'Fink' works

with clients out of his home, planning a secure fiscal future for them and their families.

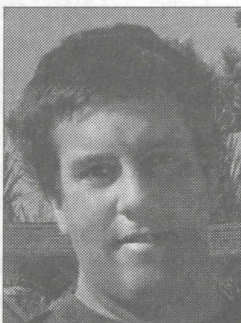
At night, 'Foto-Fink' comes out.

FotoFink, interest from other parents who saw his work and wanted to have his pictures for their own. From there, it skyrocketed.

"It was really just wanting pictures of my own kids when they played sports," Finkernagel said. "I started taking more and more pictures of them and other kids would accidentally be in there so I would give pictures to parents on the sidelines. Then one thing led to another and here we are."

Now, Finkernagel has his own website, www.fotofink.smugmug.com, as well as his own blog, fotofink.blogspot.com, where viewers are able to view his latest work. But unlike many other photography sites,

SEE FOTOFINK, Page 17



FINKERNAGEL

OK so, I'll admit it, I was wrong. I thought the Steelers were the better team, but after Green Bay forced three turnovers, threw for 300 yards passing and scored three passing touchdowns, it was clear that the Packers game plan to air it out was enough to get the job done.

I don't think anyone will argue with me that the Steelers have probably the best run defense in the NFL, but this marks another time when they were exposed through the air pretty handily by a MVP-level quarterback.

Just think back, to the Steelers' previous Super Bowl bid, where Kurt Warner torched the Steelers for 377 yards, even though they lost.

Two other MVP-level quarterbacks followed the same trend this year against the Steelers. Back on Halloween this year, remember that Drew Brees torched Pittsburgh for 302 yards with two passing scores leading the Saints to a win. Tom Brady had similar success throwing for 350 yards and connecting with rookie tight end Rob Gronkowski for three scores against that same Pittsburgh defense for the win.

This year's Super Bowl MVP Aaron Rodgers has a few things to think about this offseason. I'll start with his the most obvious unoriginal "People's Champ" belt celebration that ironically was started by wide receiver Freddie Mitchell Eagles against the Packers in 2006 in an infamous fourth and 26 yard conversion.

Note that Brett Favre was starting quarterback at the time, and Rodgers was the guy with the clipboard on the sidelines. I hope Rodgers can think of something more original for next season, this belt celebration is just really lame.

Bigger news includes wide receiver Jordy Nelson whom we would all probably be talking about if he had not dropped three catchable passes. Nelson did end up with nine catches for 140 yards and a score, but easily could've had two scores and possibly close to 200 yards receiving. I'll still stick with Greg Jennings as the goto guy who put the team on his back with his clutch catches and two scores.

The Packers have a legitimate chance at repeating a Super Bowl run for next year, if they can just stay healthy. Just think about how badly they struggled with injuries all season. They basically lost their rushing game when running back Ryan Grant was announced out for the year in the first week of the season.

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Colonels wrestle with injuries, lose 2 matches

BY PHAT NGUYEN
Assistant Sports Editor

The Wilkes wrestling team fell to No. 18 Elizabethtown and No. 4 Ithaca this past week while shorthanded to injury. Many wrestlers stepped up and won smaller battles that will be considered for the next national rankings.

Senior Chris Smith, who wrestles at 285, had a huge week getting big wins in both matches, including an upset of a wrestler ranked sixth nationally. Smith's strategy was simple: tire him out, and then go for a big move.

"It was exciting to get the win, but my weight class is one that is open to anyone. They're a lot of guys not ranked that are just as good as the guys who are," Smith said.

That match gave Smith a taste of things to come and now he knows what to expect in hopes for that prestigious top eight All-American status.

"Chris is really gearing up for the final push in his career and an opportunity to compete for All-American status," Coach Jonathan Laudenslager said. "The win at Ithaca is what we expect from him and all of our guys every time out, a win."

"I've been fighting all year to be an All-American and help my team finish as high as possible," Smith said. "My focus right now is to win my last career dual meet at King's College and to get to nationals the following week"

After losing the previous week to then-No. 14 College of New Jersey, the Colonels moved up in poll rankings from No. 15 to 13.

"I think the fact that we have battled so hard with some guys out, showed we have a great amount of depth," Laudenslager said. "The ranking committee recognizes when we are at full strength, we will have a very solid line-up."

The TCNJ match had quite an effect on the team as they lost freshmen sensation Myzar Mendoza to season ending surgery. Myzar's injury requires him to wear a sling, but it gave rise to another talented freshmen, Anthony Peterson.

"After Myzar got injured I knew it was my turn to step up and become the starter at 125 lbs.," Peterson said. "Coming into this week, I knew we have some challenging opponents and this is where I have to step up for the team."

And that's just what he did.

"Before the Elizabethtown match, coach told

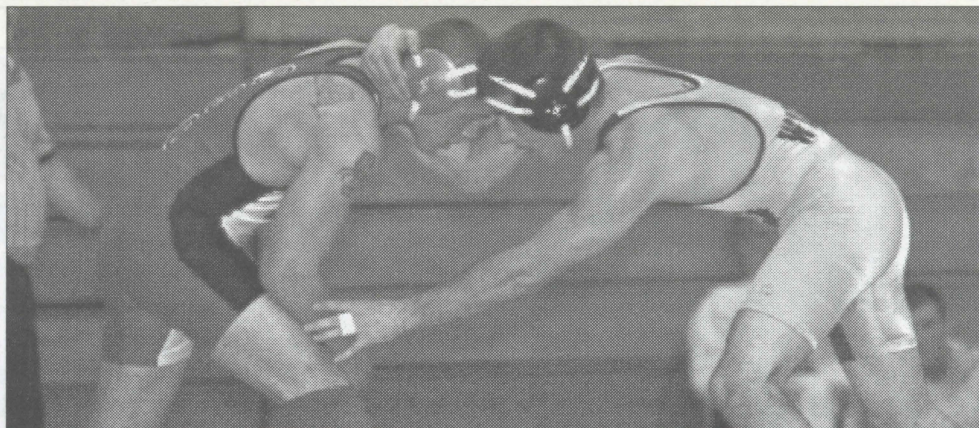


Photo Courtesy of Marketing Communications

Matt Ellery got a 3-1 decision win in his match against Elizabethtown on Tuesday.

me to use my moves and wrestle tough and that's what I did," Peterson said. "After a tough first period, I managed to gain points and become more relaxed on the mat."

While Peterson did lose the match 7-10, it will only give him more fuel for his fire for the rest of this season until conferences.

The No. 7 Colonel Anthony Dattolo, who on paper was going to face Tye Boyer of Elizabethtown, winner of his weight at conferences last year, and Blaine Woszczak of Ithaca, who is currently ranked second at 149 lbs., but sat out.

"Unfortunately, we needed to hold Anthony out this week, but with the spatial season he has had to date, we didn't want to wrestle him when he wasn't at full strength," Laudenslager said.

"He will be ready and excited to contend for the conference title."

With the team having half of its starters out, it was clear this season's end carries much more weight than these dual meets.

"The ultimate prize is the Metropolitan Championship Crown, and we needed to hold a few guys back this week to get them ready for that," Laudenslager said. "The dual meet record is important, but having the guys competing in the qualifying tournament as healthy as possible is much more important."

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FOTOFINK

Continued from Page 16

instead of copyrighting his pictures so individuals cannot steal them, he encourages the pictures to be copied – even giving a tutorial on his website explaining how to effectively rip the pictures off his page.

But why?

"This isn't how I pay the bills," Finkernagel said. "This is a hobby-turned-real-small-business. Back when music was being pirated and everyone was upset about it, one of the artists said I'd rather be pirated than unknown. That's how I feel. Somehow these kids are going to figure it out."

"I don't really feel like I'm losing a sale because they're not going to buy that picture, so I might as well let them use it, let them show it off, let them get excited about it and make the whole thing viral. Any little swell of interest helps – the key to selling them is to get the interest to the parents."

Even as his popularity soars, Finkernagel manages to keep his prices at or below the average rate – even [repetitive] with much of his work not being bought from people heeding his advice and snatching photos off his websites.

"The pricing is kind of a balancing act," Finkernagel said. "It's funny I was on Facebook the other day and I saw a girls profile picture was a picture of her I took. She took a picture of it off the computer with her phone. See, they're going to do it anyway, so I might as well just let them."

"I try to keep with that philosophy that I would rather be hung in everyone's living room than get snobby."

With his images, he's made a name for himself outside of the financial industry. But did he ever expect his hobby to become something that gained him notoriety?

"Yeah, I kind of did," Finkernagel said. "I kind of hoped. It's kind of neat. Ya know, the other day I was at the [Holy Redeemer] game and the kids start cheering 'FotoFink! FotoFink!' I kind of get a kick out of that."

That picture – that feeling – is priceless. "A good picture is worth at least 1,000 words," Finkernagel says. "But the 1,000 words that I may use are probably different than you, or anyone else. It's our ability to interpret a photo that makes it unique to all of us."

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SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2/9 vs. Eastern 73-53 W
2/12 vs. Delaware Valley 81-82 L

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/9 vs. Eastern 58-70 L
2/12 vs. Delaware Valley 69-60 W

WRESTLING

2/8 Elizabethtown 12-23 L
2/11 @ Ithaca 7 p.m. 5-29 L

WEEK AHEAD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2/15 @ DeSales 8 p.m.
2/19 @ King's 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/15 @ DeSales 6 p.m.
2/19 @ King's 1 p.m.

WRESTLING

2/18 @ King's 7 p.m.

UPCOMING

WRESTLING

2/27 Metropolitan Conference
Championships @ King's 10 a.m.

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For up to the minute reports on your favorite Colonels teams throughout the week, follow *The Beacon Sports* on Twitter at www.twitter.com/BeaconSports



FACE OFF



Who is the most influential African-American athlete?

Eye of the Tiger



Sports Editor
CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS

With February being Black History Month, my partner and I, thought this would be a great time to look back in the wide world of sports and revisit a topic that, quite honestly has been dominated by one answer for as long as I can remember. Who is the most influential African-American athlete?

If you were to ask this question to just about anybody, their immediate response would most likely be Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier in professional baseball in 1947 when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. It would be hard to argue their case here, being Robinson had to put up with more than a few hardships to show he belonged and to not give into the numerous threats put against him.

However, I'm going to fast-forward about 50 years to a different athlete in a different sport,

who came surging into a sport primarily considered to be up until this point, "a rich, white men's sport."

Tiger Woods began his professional career in the PGA in 1996 when he was only 20 years old. He immediately signed huge contacts with Nike and Titleist, which together totaled \$60 million, and was well on his way to becoming arguably one of the greatest golfers of all time.

It's no secret that Woods had been learning golf from his father at a very young age, so when he reached the pros at the age of 20, Woods could have been considered a seasoned vet.

Today, Woods has accumulated a total of 97 professional wins, including 14 Masters titles. Most importantly to this argument, Woods, with the amount of success he has had in his career, has transformed golf from a sport that had been dominated by rich, white Americans to a sport that is now popular among all races and socioeconomic backgrounds. A sport that was once solely limited to country clubs has now reached a level where it brings in major endorsements

for its golfers and reaches a worldwide audience with its deals with ESPN and other major networks.

Now it's easy to say that with the recent off-the-course allegations against Woods makes a case against his legacy. Sure, these actions and mistakes hurt the good name Woods had built for himself all throughout his illustrious career, but it doesn't change the fact that he has transformed golf into the sport it is today.

Woods has been named the Associated Press Sportsman of the Year four times and Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year twice, making him the first athlete ever to be named by SI more than once. Tiger Woods has changed a sport for the good and opened a door that had previously been limited to the upper class, to every one of all races.

So although Jackie Robinson may be the first choice that comes to mind when asked this question that sports shows around the country bring up every February, Tiger Woods certainly deserves credit for everything he has done for the world of sports, too.

Striving to be like Mike



Assistant Sports Editor
PHAT NGUYEN

Well, I'd say it's pretty hard to pick a wrong answer here, more often than not, you'd probably hear the names of Jackie Robinson, Arthur Ashe, and Jesse Owens as some of the top dogs if you were asked to name a few of the most influential African-American athletes of all time. I, however, will fast forward to our current generation to make things more applicable to our lives.

While I do think Tiger Woods is a good answer, I feel that even with his dominance in golf for the past decade, he is not really inspiring young African Americans to go professional in golf.

I believe a better choice would have to be the Chicago Bull's all-time great, Michael Jeffrey Jordan, and here are a few reasons why:

He made slam dunk contests and dunking in general quite entertaining. As you may recall, Jordan is the guy who sticks his tongue out when he dunks.

His influence even changed some of the rules and traditions of professional basketball. If I recall correctly, it was Jordan who started the trend of the longer length shorts. For those of you who have seen his movie "Space Jam" (1996), he tells the "Looney Tunes" that he used to wear his University of North Carolina shorts under his Bulls jersey in every game he played, which he actually did do as a good luck charm.

Long shorts became very popular after Jordan's switch, and soon mostly everyone in the NBA wore their shorts like Mike. A new rule also was invented where a player could take one extra step if he was in the process of shooting, passing, or driving to the hoop. This was another Jordan mannerism that he often employed during his career without getting a "traveling" call.

I think most people feel a special connection to Jordan because of his determination to win in any situation due in part to his extreme work ethic to be always the best possible player. He was an extremely driven individual who bloomed in college basketball at the University of North Carolina. His dedication to practicing and being the best he could be, led him a very successful professional basketball career.

In his first NBA season, he won the Rookie of the Year award and finished his career in Chicago with an average of 31.7 points per game, which is an all time team record. He also holds nine NBA scoring titles. Jordan, the five time regular season MVP, helped the Chicago Bulls win six championships with six also winning finals MVP. He is also known as arguably the world's greatest clutch basketball player for his numerous big game winning shots.

Last but not least, Michael Jordan's legacy lives on with us today most significantly as the number "23" which he wore for most of his career. The number "23" when worn by athletes, seems to take on a meaning of Jordan-like greatness, where an individual will work towards becoming the best. For that reason, you will almost always see a "23" on a basketball team ranging from all skill levels male or female.

Notable current players who wore 23 include LeBron James, who wore 23 until he went to the Heat this season, but changed his number to 6 (2 x 3 perhaps) and Kobe Bryant, who now wears 24 possibly suggesting he wants to be greater than Michael.

Michael Jordan will leave us with his lasting impressions as long as there is basketball.

Getting to know...

Matt Transue

197 lb. Wrestler

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA
Special Projects Editor

Meet Matt Transue, a freshman 197-pounder for Wilkes' No. 13 wrestling team. Last week, Transue pinned two wrestlers, in back-to-back matches, in 11 seconds and 35 seconds, respectively. No sweat.

Since his move up a class to 197, Transue has responded in a big way, sporting a 7-1 record. His prowess on the mat is obvious, but there's more than just wrestling to this aspiring FBI agent.

Age: 19

Major: Criminology

Year: Freshman

Hometown? Stroudsburg, Pa.

Favorite Athlete? Michael Vick

So you must be a big football fan? Yes, I actually wanted to play football, and then Wilkes talked to me and I decided to wrestle.

Favorite Movie: Steven King's "It."

Steven King fan, huh? Yeah, and I like scary movies. I was born in October, so naturally I'm a Halloween fan. When I was a kid, that was the first one that really scared me. I guess I conquered my fear because I watch it once or twice a week now.

Nicknames? T-Zoo and Trans-Am.

What was the first one, T-Zoo? Yeah, people for some reason can't pronounce my first name, they say Trans-zoo instead of Tran-soo.

Favorite part of Wilkes University? I love the facilities, I love the students, the wrestling team — they're amazing guys. They're why I'm here, why I try every day — they're like family.

You pinned the kid from Scranton in 11 seconds ... then the next match you pinned the kid from TCNJ in 35. Kind of fell off a little, what happened? Well the kid from Scranton was an OK wrestler. My dad and coach told me to make it quick. The match was dragging on so I went for the big move early and I got it. The kid from TCNJ was a little bit better, so it was tougher to pin him as fast.

You were three seconds away from the school record, you think you can pin someone in seven seconds? That's the goal for next year. Even in the upcoming matches. I left Stroudsburg (High) with a few records and I plan to leave Wilkes with a few records.

What kind of records did you leave with? 119 career wins and I tied the fastest pin — 10 seconds. And I took eighth at states my senior year.

Cael Sanderson wrestled 184 his freshman year ... You get Sanderson in a match, who wins? Definitely Cael Sanderson, he would whoop me.

What if it was a cage match with unlimited amounts of weapons? I still think he would beat

me. He was relentless, he would beat on you with his bare hands. You give him a weapon and he'd kill me.

Even now when he's out of his prime? He's still in his prime, don't let him fool you.

What's the best part about being a freshman? A new experience. I grew up in a smallish town. I'm in a city now, I have access to so many things. Meeting new people is always fun. I was nervous to adjust to classes, but I've adjusted to them well. It's better than my high school freshman experience.

Speaking of being a freshman, how does it make you feel that you are beating kids older than you, but not just beating them, embarrassing them? You don't really think about how old they are, you give them your respect. You shake their hand before and after the match even if you lost. It's like combat. You're literally told to beat the crap out of somebody and the one who gets his hand raised wins.

Who has been your toughest opponent, either in college or back in high school? Mike Riley from down the street. He beat me in the King's tournament — my first tournament in college. I've been dying to get a rematch with him.

What's your dream job? I plan to apply to my local PD and transfer to a tactical force within four years and hopefully work for the FBI with the credentials.

Why the FBI? There are a lot of people in my family that are police officers and it's a noble profession with great benefits. You can't really pass that up. And I get to stay physically active.

Do you have any pre-match rituals? Not really, I just pace really. When it's my turn I'll jump around a little bit and go in there and get it done quick and over with.

In my spare time I love to ... drive around. If I get bored at home, I just hop in a car and just go.

Are you one of those people who can just drive to one place and remember exactly how to get there? Yes, photographic memory.

Best wrestling memory? I had probably been wrestling for about 5 to 6 years, and when I was 12-years-old I won this thing called the Valley Elementary wrestling league. It was a big deal when you were a little kid. My dad and coach picked me up, it was just a good memory. I got an all-star jacket because of it — it was a good time.

What is your go-to move? Cross-face cradle. It works very well for me. I had 75 pins in high school — 50 of them were out of the cross face cradle. I'll try it on anybody at least once. If I feel like I can get it I'll go to all match if I have to.

Goal for the rest of the season? Be an all-American. Win conferences and be an All-American.

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The Beacon/Melissa Polchinski

DeRojas ranks among school's best shooters

Colonels guard looks to finish strong atop record books

BY CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS
Sports Editor

Ever since Chris DeRojas can remember, basketball has been the one thing that he has aspired to do. Whether it was on the court, in his backyard or in his ambition to one day become a college coach, basketball has been DeRojas' subject of interest.

Today, DeRojas, a senior guard on the Wilkes men's basketball team, sits at 1,481 points, placing him seventh on the all-time leading scorers list in school history. The prestigious list includes names of athletes dating over 60 years back.

"Coming in, Coach (Jerry) Rickrode said I could have a really good four-year career if I worked at it," DeRojas said. "It was one of my goals to finish up strong here."

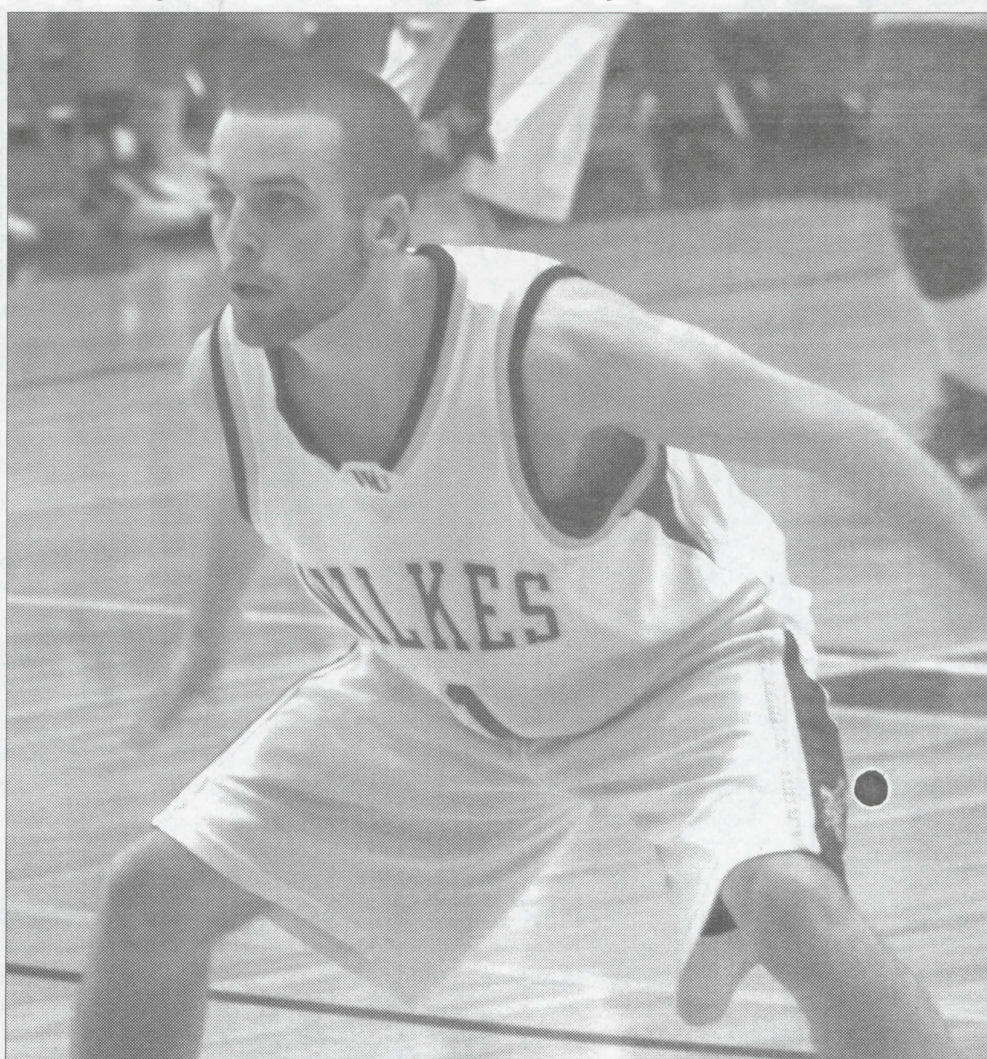
Through four years of working together, Rickrode can look back and appreciate the bond he and his top point guard have built on and off the court.

"We have a pretty strong and close coach/player relationship," Rickrode said. "Much of it is based on a mutual respect as we both realize how much effort and time we put in to playing and coaching and that basketball is a main focal point in both of our lives. He also knows that I am probably harder on him than any other player. It comes with the territory when you play the point guard position."

DeRojas has been a key contributor to the Colonels roster since his freshman year. In his first year at Wilkes, he recorded 14.2 points per game, which was good for second best on the team. He was recognized for his efforts when he won the MAC Freedom Conference Rookie of the Year award. However, it was long before his freshman season the Rickrode knew what sort of talents he could have with DeRojas. When DeRojas was just in the third grade, Rickrode got his first glimpse of what he could do in one of his basketball camps.

"The camp was for older kids, but his dad brought him in and said to me, 'Coach, you can play him with the fourth through sixth graders. He can handle it.' He was right," Rickrode said. "Then I followed him through high school. I always knew that he was going to be a special player."

Since then, DeRojas has continued to get better. He reached the top 10 scoring list this season and has continued to climb in the record books. This season, he is averaging a career high 18.3 points per game and even ranks fourth in all of Division III basketball,



The Beacon/Phat Nguyen

Chris DeRojas was honored for his four years in a Wilkes uniform on Saturday during senior day. He ranks 7th on the Colonels all-time scoring list with 1,481 points.

shooting 92.6 percent from the foul line.

One goal that DeRojas had coming into Wilkes was to take home a MAC title, something the Colonels have come up short on through his first three years here. However, this season Wilkes is making a strong push to finish on top.

"I've wanted to win a MAC championship ever since I've been here," DeRojas said. "We missed out on it my first three years, but this year we have a really good shot at it. With this being my last year, it would just mean that much more to me."

DeRojas looks back at all the wins the Colonels put together against King's College as one of his favorite memories while donning the Wilkes blue and gold because of the strong rivalry and a little personal grievance he had with the Monarchs.

"Those wins were great because of the bragging rights that come with a win in a rivalry like that," he said. "It feels that much

better, too because they always told me I was too short to play at this level."

DeRojas added that even the small things like going to practice is something he will always remember.

"The camaraderie with the guys that we built coming in every day is something I'll never forget."

With only a handful of games left in DeRojas's career, it's fair to begin tallying up his numbers and looking for his place in Colonels history. For Coach Rickrode, his place is up there with the others.

"I have been blessed to coach some really good ones. Chris is one of those. At this time, he is playing as well as anybody I have ever had."

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BY THE NUMBERS

1,481

Career points to date guard Chris DeRojas has scored in his Colonels career, placing him 7th on the school's all-time scoring list.

92.6

Shooting percentage from the foul line DeRojas is averaging this season, good for 4th in all of division III basketball. So far this year, he has gone 75-81 from the line.

55

Number of wins since DeRojas' freshmen year. The team has fourteen wins this year and are currently tied for second place in the conference.

216

Number of three-pointers made by DeRojas, which places him third all time in Wilkes basketball history. He is trailing Dave Januzzi at 251 and Chad Fabian at 232.

