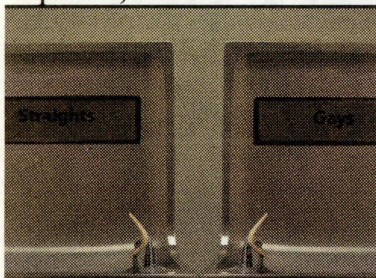
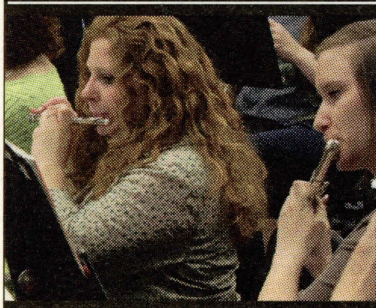


THE BEACON



CIVIL UNIONS:

The dirty fountain water of gay rights, page 7



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Students rehearse for spring concerts, page 10-11



TRUE GIRLY GIRL:

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HOT SHOTS:

Women's tennis continues unbeaten streak, page 16

'RECIPE FOR MEDIOCRITY'



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

At last week's budget forums, faculty expressed concerns about the proposed budget for next year, which includes reductions to the faculty retirement benefits and an absence of raises. Some fear these cuts will hurt faculty morale, saying it's a recipe for mediocrity.

Gilmour's paid sabbatical amid proposal of cuts disturb faculty

BY KIRSTIN COOK
Editor-in-Chief

A contract granting Wilkes President Joseph (Tim) Gilmour a one-year paid sabbatical following his retirement this summer combined with faculty compensation package reductions has created a rift between faculty and administration.

Faculty members are facing a reduction in retirement benefits and

another year without raises. In light of Gilmour's paid academic leave, some are saying it doesn't add up.

Fred Sullivan, associate professor of math and computer sciences, gave the example of an employee at a \$25,000 salary who could potentially lose about \$2,250 due to reduction in retirement funds and changes in the health care package — a 9 percent reduction in compensation.

"So my question is, 'How can the president and the cabinet and board sleep at night doing that?'" Sullivan said.

Last week, Faculty Affairs Council Chair Don Mencer addressed the contrast of these reductions from Gilmour's break terms with an email to Vice President Loren Prescott. The Beacon obtained this email, in which Mencer stated, "How can you justify the absence

of raises and reduced retirement benefits in contrast to a presidential sabbatical contract."

Mencer said most of the comments he had heard from faculty on the budget were negative. He said one of the faculty members went so far as to call it a "recipe for mediocrity."

"There's real concern that we're

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 4

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APRIL 24, 2012

CONTACT EDITOR: phatnguyen@thewilkesbeacon.com

Library extended hours a possibility

BY DEVONI NOVAK
Assistant News Editor

Students Government Total: \$10,448.21

Library extended hours project

Buffer Fund was granted \$5,000 to put toward the cost of making the library basement open 24 hours. Dean of the library, John Stachez, plans to raise another \$4,000 himself to make the needed accommodations. It is unspecified when the extended hours will begin.

HAWC Brings Shaun T to Wilkes

Health and Wellness Club was granted its requested \$1,750 to bring fitness expert, Shaun T, to Wilkes next semester. Shaun T who is the creator of fitness programs Insanity and Hip Hop Abs, will offer a 1 hour workout, a question-and-answer period and an opportunity to get autographs. The event is set for Nov. 3 in UCOM.

SIFE to participate in competition

Students In Free Enterprise requested

\$5,700 to attend a national competition in Kansas City, Mo.

Students request funds to attend conference in Utah.

Up to \$3,400 was requested for five students to attend a conference at the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies.

Terzaghi Lab requests funds to attend annual presentation in Austin, Texas

Four students from Terzaghi will be presenting at the annual American Society of Plant Biologists Conference this year. Considering the cost of travel, hotel rooms and registration, the club requested \$3,000.

Upcoming Events:

Mad Hatter Tea Party: April 24

Relay for Life: April 28-29

Mac Miller: May 1

Study Break Party: May 3

@devoninovak
devoninovak@thewilkesbeacon.com



Photo courtesy of Molly McDonough

Wilkes students saw the U.S. Supreme Court in action and met with Justice Ginsburg last week in Washington, D.C. Pictured from left to right are Sarah Seman, Ross Ramaley, Molly McDonough, Ashley Flaherty, Randy Keiser, Nour Elbattah, Brandon Wesneski, Morgan Palermo, Dr. Kyle Kreider and Brittney Grizzanti.

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WILKES
UNIVERSITY

Budget process raises additional questions

BY PHAT NGUYEN
News Editor

Faculty and staff still have questions following several budget meetings with Vice President of Finance Loren Chip Prescott. Concerns include cuts to retirement, health care and academic department budgets. Along side these concerns faculty have a sense that their input is not being considered.

They say one of the biggest problems facing Wilkes is the failure to adhere to the decision-making process.

"That was not done," assistant professor English Marcia Farrell said. "We were not given an opportunity to recommend, or even given a chance to review decisions that were being made."

Prescott held two budget forum meetings last week to present the proposed budget to faculty members. The budget is projected to include a 4 percent tuition increase, along with various cuts. He said these budgetary decisions incorporated feedback from the campus community.

"There probably will be an ongoing discussion on whether the judgments we made were the best ones, and sometimes you can revisit those, but I think we got through with a lot of discussion, a lot of involvement by the budget committee, and by the president's cabinet, and some interaction with others on campus," Prescott said.

However, faculty members are upset with the decision-making and lack of input outside of the president's cabinet.

Don Mencer, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, was hard-pressed to call this a standard operating procedure.

"It sounds like to me that they're reacting to circumstances," Mencer said.

Budgetary priorities have not been given to faculty, he added.

"We were not asked whether to fully fund depreciation or build revenue contingencies," Mencer said.

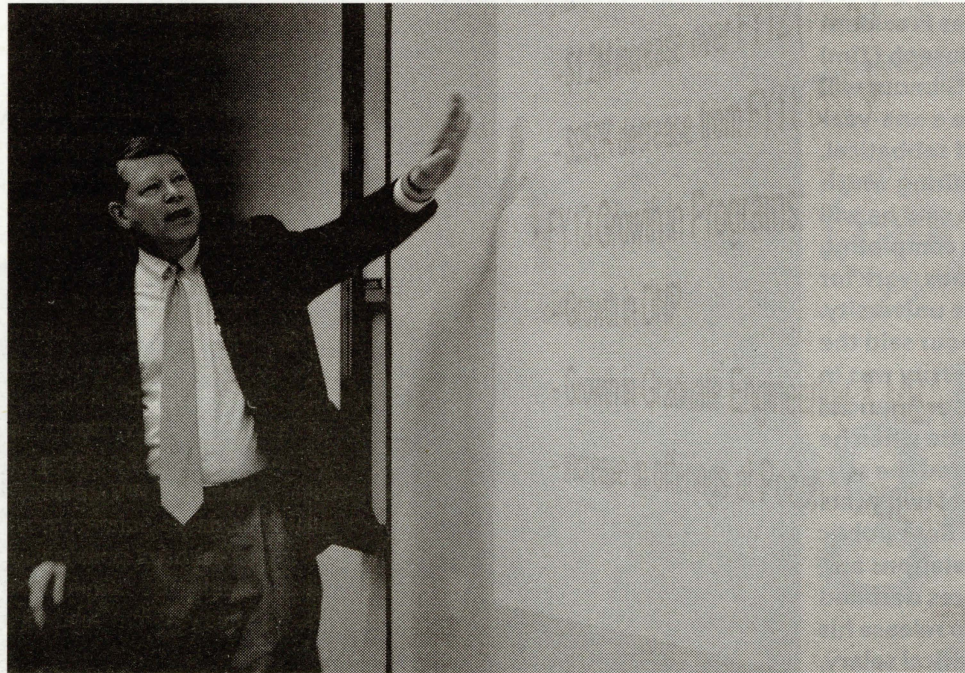
Associate professor of pharmacy practice Jonathan Ference added his concerns about the communication process.

"There is a lingering concern that the process of communication was broken between faculty and administration. We don't know what process by which decisions are made," Ference said. "If we're not familiar with this process, how are we able to make sure we are represented by part of that process?"

Ference said discussions about the 2013 fiscal year budget should not be happening in third week of April.

"We should be discussing the 2014 budget," Ference said.

Prescott said in past years the budget has



Vice President of Finance Loren Prescott held two forums to present the proposed budget for next year. Faculty members are upset with the decision-making process behind the budget and lack of input outside of the president's cabinet.

been reviewed and approved in April.

One of the biggest challenges that delayed the budget was state funding cuts to programs such as graduate teacher education. According to the Wilkes Fact Book, teacher education graduation enrollment has decreased from 3,720 in 2009 to 3,463 in 2010 and 2,673 in 2011. These losses have negatively affected the budget, Prescott explained.

Although losses and expenses are stemming from the graduate programs, the university still plans to expand some existing graduate programs and brand new graduate programs in nursing, engineering and education.

Despite budget cuts, Prescott said the university strives to continue to make progress reducing increases in tuition. According to the Wilkes Fact Book, the 2011 tuition increased 3.8 percent. The university is now planning a 4 percent increase, but hopes to eventually lower that increase in the future.

"One of the assumptions in that budget model was a tuition increase for the entire period to accurately project revenue," Prescott said.

Prescott said he was disappointed the school couldn't reduce the annual tuition increase as quickly as that model portrays. The model anticipates a 2 percent tuition increase in a couple years.

The budget is comprised of a combination of different groups including the president's cabinet and a budget committee — composed of president's cabinet, full-time faculty, student representatives and staff.

An ongoing process of meetings will exam-

ine expected revenue from a variety of sources, operating expenses and other expenditures — such as maintenance and new projects like the science building, Prescott said.

The finance administrator pointed out that 150 people on campus manage budgets, including academic areas such as deans for each of the colleges, who work closely with department chairs. Conclusions are then drawn to balance anticipated revenue sources and estimated operating expenses.

These savings are going to be different for each of the budget units depending on their mission and how they use resources.

"Budget managers know their operation best, they know their budgets best, and so they should be ones who in most cases are making judgments about where there are opportunities to save," Prescott said.

Prescott plans to try to turn this year's cuts into ongoing savings. He said there is a significant list of operating expenses that affect all the operating units such as food for on-campus events, office supplies and many categories of expenses that were reviewed by the finance office and budget committee with idea that they could operate more efficiently.

"As part of the budget process this year, we prepared, for the first time in a number of years, a long-range planning budget that projects, for budgetary purposes, the university's operations out to 2020," Prescott said.

Another issue that affects the budget is the \$35 million science building. A \$20 million capital campaign is intended to be ultimate source of funds, but construction will put the

university \$15 million in long-term debt, but donations and fundraising could lower that debt.

"The difficult thing with the last two years is that we didn't do as good as job as we need to do in accurately projecting revenue, but the problem is when you create a budget you're guessing on sources of revenue," Prescott said.

He said the basis is an educated guess from past experience with programs, but it really a guess with new programs.

"The budget for next year, I think, is more conservative on revenue estimates than it has been in the last couple years, and that's intended to address that problem," Prescott said. "The danger is being overly optimistic about revenue, and then later on having to come back to the budget and saying 'well it turns out we didn't have the revenue that we really thought,'" he said.

The handbook states that the Faculty Affairs Counsel should be consulted by administration before decisions are made. Faculty emphasized there should be an understanding in advance, which could have avoided what they are calling a very public and pesky quarrel.

Despite these issues, they say there are good things happening.

"There are people who are trying to do what they think is right for the institution," Mencer said.

Mencer believes the breakdown in communication has led to many of the faculty concerns.

"We all understand that we have to live within budgets," Mencer said. "There is no imaginary world that faculty live where they have unlimited salaries and budgets. However, there's no doubt there's deviation from this policy."

Mencer said these meetings and time consumption also come with an opportunity cost.


"Faculty, staff and administration are all attending numerous meetings over budgetary decisions affecting morale and grading," Mencer said.

In addition, he said faculty still works hard to uphold the values of the Wilkes community. Ference, a Wilkes alumni, has come back to Wilkes as a professor because he wanted to contribute to that community.

"I love being a Colonel, but part of this process is breaking my heart," Ference said.

The next step in the budget process will take place Tuesday, April 24 where the FAC will have a joint meeting with deans and president's cabinet regarding the 2012 fiscal year among other concerns.

Contributor: Kirstin Cook

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BUDGET

Continued from the front page

taking budgetary steps that are not in the best interest of the institution," Mencer said.

The 2013 fiscal year budget proposes a 3 percent cut to matching contribution for employee retirement plans. Mencer said there's fear this type of reduction will lead to a decrease in faculty efficiency and a loss of a strong faculty commitment to students that Wilkes is known for.

"It affects morale, low morale affects the service and quality of interaction that the students on campus have with staff and faculty."

Prescott said difficult budgetary choices were aided by discussion and campus participation.

"It's a balancing act, and you have to reach compromises when you're in a situation where you have limited resources and you have a lot of competing priorities," Prescott said.

Mencer outlined the main areas of concern of the FAC to Prescott, beginning with the financial details of Gilmour's sabbatical.

Though *The Beacon* learned of Gilmour's sabbatical two weeks ago, Prescott confirmed the contract at an April 17 forum.

According to Wilkes' 990 tax form, Gilmour's presidential salary was \$358,874 in 2009. Prescott would not release how much he would receive during his sabbatical.

Vicki Mayk, associate director of public relations, said Gilmour will be receiving less than his current salary. She said the sabbatical was negotiated between the board of trustees and a presidential compensation expert, who called granting this type of sabbatical a common practice.

During this sabbatical, Gilmour said he plans to do some work on the capital campaign that funds the new science building, providing background information to the new president and possibly writing a book.

Gilmour said when he agreed to the sabbatical contract two years ago, Wilkes was in a better financial state than today.

"It was a contract that we negotiated two years ago, and we certainly did not know we would be in quite the position we're in," Gilmour said.

However, in February 2010 *The Beacon* reported Wilkes was trying to close a \$2.2 million deficit. Also, according to the 990, many of the highest-paid employees at Wilkes received pay cuts in 2009, including more than \$24,000 in reductions in Gilmour's salary, compared to 2008 data that showed \$60,000 in bonuses for the 14 highest-paid employees.

And these days, faculty members are being told the university is financially sound. Mencer said undergraduate, transfer and in-

The Beacon/
Austin Loukas
**It was confirmed
Wilkes President
Joseph (Tim)
Gilmour will
receive a one-year
paid sabbatical,
during which
he said he will
be completing
various work for
the university.
Gilmour said the
university was in
a better financial
state when he
accepted the sab-
batical two years
ago. Both public
relations and
finances declined
to release his
sabbatical salary,
though public
relations stated it
will be less than
his current pay.**

ternational student enrollment is up, which he feels contradicts the slashes to faculty benefits.

"From the faculty perspective, when you keep telling them the enrollment indicators are high, then you begin to question, well if the things that positively impact on revenue are encouraging, then why is it we're being told we have to tighten our belts and have some reductions in compensation packages," Mencer said.

Mencer said faculty members have not been receiving salary increases in recent years to keep up with the cost of living. Prescott, however, said Wilkes has made a commitment to provide competitive salaries.

"The university has committed itself to trying – for employees, not just faculty – to try to continue to focus on making sure that all of the employees are paid a competitive salary," Prescott said.

Mencer said the main concerns faculty have are less about the contents of the budget, such as faculty compensation, and more about the lack of faculty input on the contents. He said this lack of involvement does not give the faculty the chance to deem the budget decisions as essential, a classification he doubts.

"If it's really essential, and it's the only way the institution can survive, then I don't think you would have people at the institution arguing against it."

Contributer: Phat Nguyen



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kirstincook@thewilkesbeacon.com



STRESSED? HEADACHE?

Headaches and back pain are two of the most common ailments treated at our clinic. Often, we can bring relief simply by taking the pressure off a pinched nerve. Here are other common symptoms of a pinched nerve.

Neck Pain Back Pain Shoulder Pain

Arm Pain Leg Pain Muscle Pain

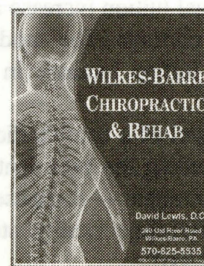
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Google Cloud takes over Wilkes University

System upgrade expected to be more efficient and reliable

BY ABBEY HALDEMAN
Staff Writer

Freshman nursing major Cheyenne Cassimore was forced to make a new password, not once, but two times this week because her Wilkes email denied her access.

"I had to change my password so it would let me in. It is really frustrating me," Cassimore said.

In addition to changing passwords, students and faculty have voiced other complaints, which include never obtaining outgoing and incoming emails.

There is a constant struggle among the students, the faculty, the staff and the university email. The login battle, messages getting lost in cyberspace and storage space — or lack thereof — are only a few major issues.

"We have been hearing a lot of concerns about email for quite some time," Chief Information Officer Gloria Barlow said regarding the current Microsoft Outlook Web email system. "It's a large undertaking to manage a mail system for thousands of students."

On top of all the struggles through the email itself, there has been one specific time when the entire system had to be shut down. During this time the flood evacuation in the Fall of 2011, the university had to completely shut down the system in order to preserve and protect it. In doing so, the only way to communicate with students was through Facebook or some sort of web-based system.

"I've been in this business a long time; I've never needed to turn off my machines, shut off the light and leave and not know when we were coming back," Barlow said.

In order to ensure that something like completely shutting down the system would never happen again and in an effort to ease the ongoing struggles, the IT department realized it was time for some adjustments. Email would be switched to "the cloud."

"At this point in time about more than 60 percent of colleges around the country have migrated some portions of their campus to the cloud," Barlow said.

Cloud systems are a simplified operating systems that run as a web browser, providing access to a variety of web-based applications that allow the user to perform many simple tasks without booting a full-scale operation system.



Cloud systems are a simplified operating systems that run as a Web browser, providing access to a variety of web-based applications that allow the user to perform many simple tasks without booting a full-scale operation system. The operating

system is designed for Netbooks, Mobile Internet Devices and PCs that are mainly used to browse the Internet. From Cloud the user can quickly boot into the main OS because Cloud continues booting the main OS in the background.

Because of its simplicity, Clouds can boot in just a few seconds. The operating system is designed for Netbooks, Mobile Internet Devices and PCs that are mainly used to browse the Internet. From Cloud the user can quickly boot into the main OS, because Cloud continues booting the main OS in the background.

Cloud can be installed and used together with other operation systems, or as a standalone operating system. When used as a standalone system, hardware requirements are relatively low.

After evaluating the current email via student response surveys, a committee of 12 decided that the switch to the cloud would be the most beneficial for everyone.

The initial debate was whether to go with Microsoft Live or Google mail. The ultimate deciding factor for the conversion to Gmail came when Microsoft made a change in its offerings with universities,

granting free use only for students and not faculty. For the campus, Gmail met the criteria and was the most cost-effective option.

"There was a unanimous recommendation from the IT committee, which never happens," Barlow said.

After Barlow presented the report and the recommendations to the president's cabinet they were given the go-ahead. The mass of migration to Gmail will be. Start this summer.

Many students believe the switch to Gmail will help fix the frustrations they have been facing.

"I think that Gmail is a bigger network than Microsoft, so it is going to be faster," Allison Bitner, a freshman pharmacy major said.

Gloria believes the size limitation issues will be solved by the switch, due to the massive growth in space. With the change

to the cloud, students will have more than 250 times the space that they have with the current email. She also believes that students will enjoy having a Gmail account because it can be personal to them, which many students have requested previously.

"It is a service and interface most (students) are already familiar with, comfortable with and like," Barlow said.

The move to Gmail will allow students and faculty to keep their @wilkes.edu domain. The cloud system will also allow better mobile access due to its simplicity.

"If we ever had an emergency again, as long as you are somewhere with an Internet connection, we as a campus will still be able to communicate with all wilkes.edu addresses, which is very important for us," Barlow said.



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APRIL 24, 2012

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President Gilmour says farewell to the Wilkes University community

BY TIM GILMOUR

Wilkes University President

The title of my inaugural speech was "The Courage to Be Great." Throughout my presidency, I've challenged our University community to have the courage to work together to build a truly great institution. And as a community – our students, faculty and staff – I think we have been courageous. I look back over the past 11 years and see so many achievements. We've been able to accomplish them because of the courage, the talent and the hard work of the people here at Wilkes.

As an institution, we've grown significantly, setting records for enrollment on the undergraduate and graduate levels. We're a more diverse institution, doubling our minority population and drawing more than 100 international students representing 21 countries.

We've earned significant honors such as the grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and research grants to our faculty from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Several of our faculty has been recognized by their national associations as leaders in their field. There have been additions to our program offerings – such as the Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, four master's degree programs, and two doctoral degrees. And recently, we've opened the Pocono Center and begun construction of the new, state-of-the-art science building.

We're making a lasting impact in the city of Wilkes-Barre and in the region, with over \$20 million in investments in the Downtown and initiatives such as the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development and the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research for Northeastern Pennsylvania. And we sent an Army of Colonels out to help our community after the flood last fall.

So before I say farewell, I want to say thank you to everyone who made these achievements, and so many more, possible. There is no way I could list all of our successes in one article. And no president accomplishes these things alone. The members of the University community are who



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

President Tim Gilmour will retire this summer after 11 years at Wilkes. Above, Gilmour celebrates at a goodbye party at Fenner Hall with faculty, staff and students.

make it all possible and deserve the credit.

I've talked about some of the changes and accomplishments during my tenure at Wilkes. But one thing endures: This is really a wonderful place that brings a lot of people great joy. I've been honored to be a part of it.

Here at Wilkes, we care about the people we serve. We remain focused on our mission of educating our students. It's what is great about this institution. Our faculty members come to work every day, committed to doing a good job. You, our students, are the beneficiaries of their commitment. Your growth and achievements make it all worthwhile.

I feel a bit like a graduating senior as I prepare to take my leave. I have enjoyed being here. Now this time is coming to an end and I don't know what it's going to be like when I leave. I have always been what I would describe as a "Point A to Point B" kind of person. I've always known where I was go-

ing next. As I anticipate leaving Wilkes, I have an opportunity to do new things. And this time, I'm trying to leave myself open to opportunities that have yet to present themselves.

The field of higher education will continue to be a focus for me: I'm planning to write a book about its future. We are going to have to re-think the way we do things at our colleges and universities and I'll be spending the next year talking to people about how they see that future. New ways of teaching students and new ways of delivering instruction will surely be part of what's on the horizon.

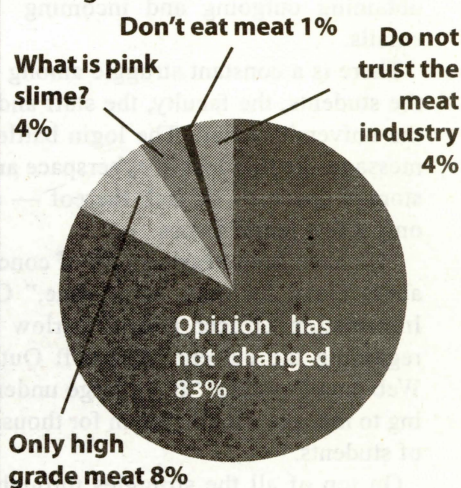
In closing, let me say thank you once again for the privilege of serving this institution. I'm optimistic about the future of Wilkes – and about the future of you, our students. If there's any thought I leave you with, it's the same one that I shared when I started my presidency: Have the courage to be great!

BEACON POLL

The Beacon poll is unscientific and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. These poll results are based on 24 responses.

Last week's question:

How has the "pink-slime" controversy affected your meat eating habits?



This week The Beacon asks:

Do you plan to vote in the 2012 Pennsylvania primary?

- Yes, I already have
- Yes, I plan on voting
- No, I do not plan on voting
- No, I am not eligible

Cast your vote online at:
www.thewilkesbeacon.com

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

And God said 'Let there be marriage': Inequality of civil unions

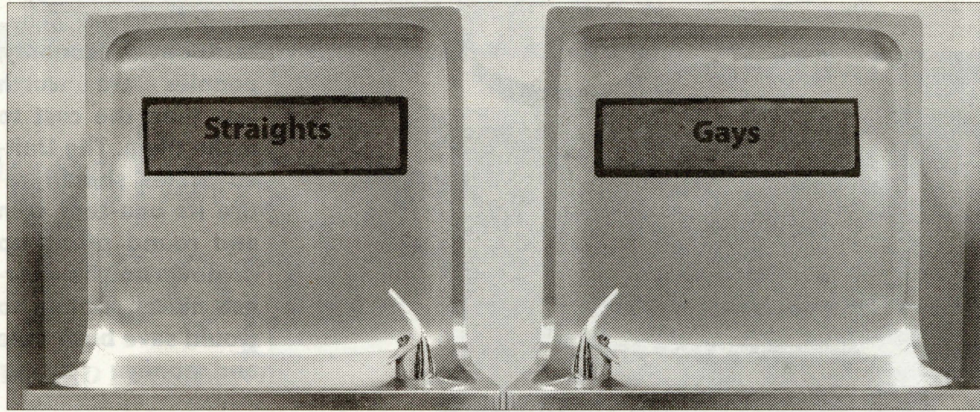
BY CATHRYN FREAR
Staff Writer

In the United States of America, people have certain "unalienable" rights. According to the Declaration of Independence, anyway. In fact, the exact wording as written in the preamble is, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

Regardless of word choice, what they meant was there are rights our government couldn't take away. It's important to note this is past tense. The government up and decided to ignore the grounds to which this country was founded on in search of God in government.

The word "Creator" in the preamble seems to be the focus of those opposed to marriage equality. But, you will notice it is this "Creator," God, who has guaranteed these "unalienable rights," including marriage. So how that reasoning makes sense, I will never understand.

Nowadays, we generally hear such Creator-given rights referred to as "inalienable." And those rights include the right to be single, married, separated, divorced or widowed but not civilly unionized. Go ahead and see for yourself. Pick a legal document, any legal document. Generally,



The Beacon/Kirstin Cook

Civil unions can be compared to the Civil Rights movement. Civil unions do not offer any legal protections and responsibilities that married couples have.

there is no box to be checked marked with the option of "civilly unionized."

Why? Yes, the federal government leaves it to the states to decide on issues regarding marriage. But this only goes so far. Not all rights with regards to those obtained through marriage remain at the state level.

According to the National Organization for Women, marriage offers up a minimum of 1,049 legal protections and responsibilities on the federal level. Civil unions offer exactly zero. This is because civil unions really are only state-by-state.

What this means is, if you could get married in Vermont, it would be recognized as legitimate regardless of where you are in the

country. However, Vermont only gives prospective lawful homo-citizens the right to a civil union with a partner. Not a husband or a wife. But, travel to somewhere such as the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and your rights are officially null in that location.

It's tax time, folks. Time to fill out all those W2s and cross your fingers for big money, no whammies. But civil unions offer up plenty of whammies. Taxes are a mix of federal and state government.

This is comparable to mixing oil and water, respectively. The oil is generally going to rise to the top.

In other words, the federal government can force those in civil unions to fill out their tax-

es as if they were single. This also applies to benefits such as medical insurance and pension programs, both of which are extended to one's family. A civil union does not make a family.

Divorce is such a dirty word, isn't it? Well, compare divorce which can be filed and completed in any state which those parties involved reside to what civil union contracts will do, and it sounds beautiful.

In order to break up a civil union, those parties involved instead must establish residency in the state in which the civil union was declared.

Many who discuss obtaining gay civil rights compare it to the Black Civil Rights Movement. I only see one definite similarity: second-class status.

Getting a special water fountain sounds excellent, doesn't it? But if the fountain isn't maintained and the water isn't as clean, it's not exactly excellent.

It's way less cool to have your own water fountain because people believe you are dirtier than they are or less-deserving of basic needs. What all of this comes down to in either civil rights movement is second-class status.

Civil unions are very much the dirty water fountain of the Gay Civil Rights Movement.

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Mitt Romney: too wealthy to represent middle-class America

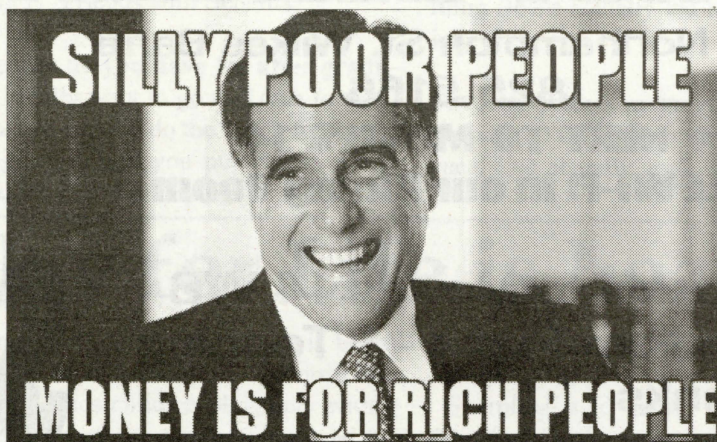
BY BRITTANY BATTISTA
Advertising Manager

When you think of the word "politician," what first comes to your mind? A tall man with slicked-back hair? Does he wear a suit with a price tag no middle class person could afford? Is he one of those people who only tells you what you want to hear? Mitt Romney fits this stereotype.

Mitt Romney is that classic politician you are warned about. One whose opinions change depending on the people he's speaking to and whose accent changes depending on the state he's in. It's all a ploy to get votes.

I firmly believe that Mitt Romney is in the position he is now because of his money. That's all these campaigns are. The more money you put in, the better the outcome. It's not the 2012 Presidential Race, but the 2012 Money Race to see who can get the most money. It is completely outrageous that it is legal to raise millions and millions of dollars when the U.S. is so in debt.

I once heard Romney say the word "poor"



during one of the past GOP debates. I have never witnessed anything more frightening. I don't think he knows what poor is. He must only hear about us in rumors being spread around Bloomfield Hills, Mich., one of the top five wealthiest cities in the U.S. which Romney grew up in. Then again, we all would have more money if we had Romney's tax rate, which is less than what most middle class families pay. It makes sense if you don't think about it.

His income does not come from a salary, but earned money through stocks, shares and other investments taxed under the special rate. Romney doesn't play by the same rules as the rest of us and it doesn't stop there. A study by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center stated that under Romney's plan the top 1 percent of taxpayers would get a tax cut of more than \$150,000. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Why would we want a president who has

Photo Courtesy of
blog.quickmeme.com
Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney fits the classic politician stereotype, raking in money and votes in every way possible. Romney cannot relate with middle-class America and does not represent us properly.

no idea what the middle class is like? He has not gone through the struggles of living paycheck to paycheck with dreams of sending kids to college. We cannot elect a president who cannot represent us properly.

Mitt Romney is a candidate for the rich. With the nation's middle class becoming extinct, I think it's important for the United States to have a leader who understands what we're going through. We don't need someone who can easily bet \$10,000 like its pocket change. I'm all for working your way to the top, but when you come from money it's pretty easy to get the kind of education that can take you places.

So all I ask is that come Election Day you all take a moment before handing in that ballot and think of yourself. Who can best represent YOU. Don't vote for who has the most "electability," vote for yourself. We have a voice and Romney can't hear it while counting his money. He can't represent majority of America. If he wins, we lose.

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Cash in your pennies for change that makes cents

BY CARLY YAMRUS
Opinion Editor

See a penny, pick it up, all day long you'll be carrying around a worthless piece of copper-plated zinc.

According to the U.S. Mint's annual report, it costs 2.4 cents to make a penny that is worth 1.0 cent. Each year, the United States produces approximately 7 billion pennies. Over the years, the cost of producing and distributing the one-cent coin has actually cost us money; 60 million dollars in 2011. This price is sure to go up due to the rising costs of zinc and copper used to produce the penny.

Last month, Canada decided it was time to call the quits on their one-cent coin. CBC news reported that it costs them 1.6 cents to produce their penny, costing them about 11 million dollars a year.

The United States penny support group, "Americans for Common Sense," says that two-thirds of Americans wish to keep the penny. They provide reasoning such as, "The penny is sentimental," and "Prices will be rounded up if we eliminate it." It's a pretty safe bet to say that most of these people hardly use the coin that they hope to save.



The amount of pennies in circulation is unknown due to the large amounts of hoarding over the years. What can a penny buy you these days? Nothing. Maybe half a drop of gasoline but that's about it. Pennies are so useless that they are now offered for free at almost any store. Many people physically toss their pennies in the trash because they are a burden to carry. A penny for your thoughts these days is basically like saying "your opinion is worthless."

As a waitress, I find it extremely annoying having to wait for customers to fish out several pennies from the deep dark depths of their purses and pockets. Many people firmly believe that the entire country will go

into disarray the very minute the U.S. mint stops cranking out the coins.

If we do ditch the penny, prices will have to be rounded to the nearest nickel. The pro-penny argument will always be that prices will always be rounded up and never down. No fear! Canada has a solution. Prices ending in 1, 2, 6 or 7 will round down to 0 or 5, and if the price ends in 3, 4, 8 or 9, the total will be rounded up. This may take a week tops to get used to.

For those of you who wish to keep the penny because it honors Abe Lincoln, last time I checked he was on the \$5 bill! I am sure Abe would be honored seeing that his penny is typically thrown on the ground, in sewers,

on train tracks, under your car seat, in water fountains...

My favorite argument is "But it teaches children the value of saving money." The only reason children save pennies is because they buy nothing in today's economy. Give a child 100 pennies and they will probably laugh at you. Even if they do make it to the dollar store with a pound of pennies, the cashier will most likely not accept them as a method of payment. By giving up pennies you are actually saving time, which is more valuable.

It is silly to hold onto a useless coin that costs us millions of dollars annually to sustain. There have been plenty of coins in U.S. history that have served a purpose at one point but were discontinued for one reason or another. Of course it will take time to adjust to life without the penny, but commerce is sure to continue and America will find something else to be upset about after the nickel becomes the norm.

That's my two cents on the great penny debate.



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APRIL 24, 2012

CONTACT EDITOR: billthomas@thewilkesbeacon.com

Give her a hand: Ashley Gibson drives men 'Mad' in TV, movies

Wilkes alum follows entertainment industry dream all the way to Hollywood

BY BILL THOMAS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Sometimes, opportunity knocks at the most unlikely moments.

For instance, Ashley Gibson was a corpse when she found her calling. Or, rather, it found her.

"I was playing a dead body on the TV show 'Monk,'" she explained. "It was when I first moved (to California from Pennsylvania). I had only been out here for two months, and the lead actor Tony Shalhoub told me I had beautiful hands."

"He kept talking about them, and he told me I should get in touch with his agent because I could make a lot of money. So I met with his agent and she signed me, and I've been working as a hand model ever since."

Though Gibson, a 2007 Wilkes University graduate, admitted hand modeling isn't exactly something she ever imagined herself doing, the experience has turned out to be a rewarding one. It's also something that's proven more challenging than she initially expected.

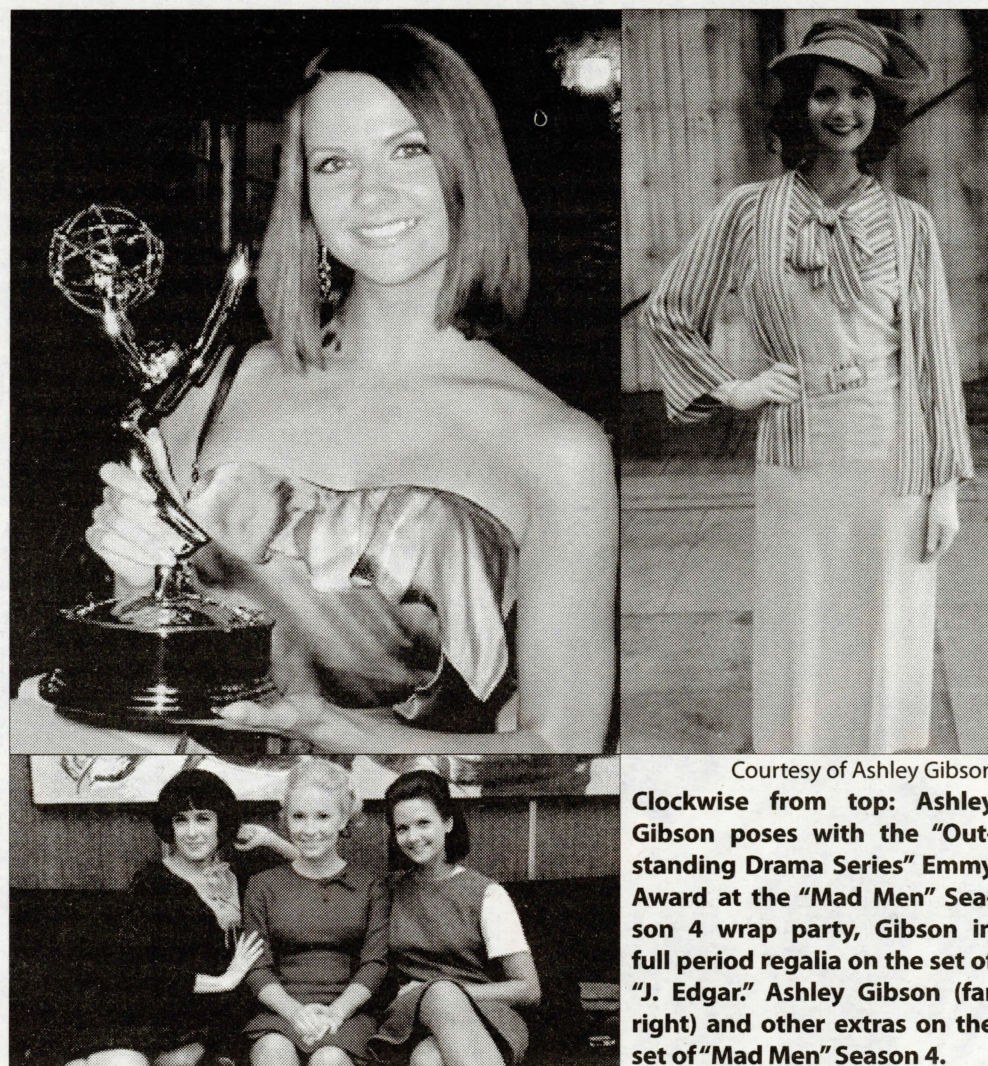
"I do both print ads and commercials. For commercials, they'll bring me in to do things that are very precise. I know it sounds silly, but I did a Häagen-Dazs commercial where I had to get the ice cream to roll onto the spoon in this perfect shape. You have to do it all day long and it's just you, so there's a lot of pressure."

"I didn't realize everything that went into the job, but I'm pretty good at it now," she said, laughing.

More than anything, Gibson's modeling — which includes work for Avon, Mazda, Charmin and the movie "Friends with Benefits," where her hands doubled for Mila Kunis' during the end credit sequence — along with her work as an extra in television and film, represents for her another step deeper into the world of show business.

It's a world Gibson had wanted to be a part of for a very long time. Without the support of her Wilkes University teachers, though, the one-time communication studies major confessed she may never have been able to take that first step.

"The best thing about Wilkes is that you



Courtesy of Ashley Gibson
Clockwise from top: Ashley Gibson poses with the "Outstanding Drama Series" Emmy Award at the "Mad Men" Season 4 wrap party, Gibson in full period regalia on the set of "J. Edgar," Ashley Gibson (far right) and other extras on the set of "Mad Men" Season 4.

can really get to know your professors. I got a lot of backing, specifically from (communication studies professors Jane Elmes-Crahall and Bradford L. Kinney and assistant business professor Matthew J. Sowcik). They let me come into their

offices all the time to talk about this crazy idea I had about moving to California and working in entertainment," she said.

"There were a lot of people who told

"I was 'bit by the bug,' as they say. I really can't imagine myself not being on a set now. I can't imagine myself not doing this."

- Ashley Gibson

me 'Don't do that. Just stay in Wilkes-Barre and work for the newspaper or something.' I'm so appreciative of all (my teachers') help."

Inspired to chase her dreams, Gibson moved to California in 2009, intending at first to find

work in public relations.

It was a task that turned out to be easier said than done. However, her efforts would quickly lead to new ventures which

Gibson said she found far more fulfilling.

"It's really difficult to find a job out here if you don't have any connections, so I started exploring other areas," she explained. "I heard about an open casting call they were having for 'Entourage,' looking for extras. I'd been here for a couple months and still not found anything in PR, so I figured this might be something fun to do and also make some money."

Spoiler alert: Gibson got the gig. From there, she said, it was just a snowball effect of getting to know more people in the industry and picking up more jobs as an extra and stand-in on TV shows and movies like the Golden Globe-nominated biopic "J. Edgar" and the upcoming Paul Thomas Anderson drama "The Master."

Most recently, Gibson's been rubbing shoulders with the likes of Al Pacino and Christopher Walken on the set of "Stand Up Guys," an action-comedy due out next year. Of all the projects she's appeared in, though, Gibson said her favorite is undoubtedly the critically acclaimed AMC television series "Mad Men."

"I was a secretary in the office throughout Season 4," she said. "The people were great and I loved that it was a period piece. It was the first time I'd ever done anything like that. It was really fun being in period hair and make-up every day, completely transformed into somebody else."

"It was also amazing to see how talented the cast members on that show are. I was basically going to work, but I felt like I was getting free acting lessons every day."

Though she had no prior experience as an actress or model of any kind before her westward pilgrimage, Gibson hopes to continue doing both in the future, and is already ambitious about getting parts in bigger projects, including more film work.

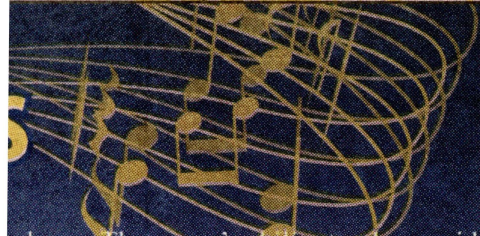
The time she's spent in the entertainment industry, it seems, has proven quite addictive.

"I was 'bit by the bug,' as they say. I really can't imagine myself not being on a set now," she said.

"I can't imagine myself not doing this."



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The group's ability to play a wider variety of music will be on full display at 3 p.m. on Saturday, when it performs in the Upper Lobby of the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for a free concert. Among the music the group will perform are compositions by Beethoven and Mozart, waltzes by Strauss and even a pair of mariachi numbers.

Before spearheading the group's expansion, Simon himself was a member of its strings-only incarnation, playing string bass for several years. It's a perspective which Simon said afforded him a unique understanding of what the ensemble needs to grow.

Sophomore environmental engineering major Kristen Chorney plays flute for the Chamber Orchestra. She's witnessed the group's sound evolve firsthand.

"I think we support each other really well," she said. "In the beginning, you could hear the different, individual sec-

tions. But the other night, when we got together, we played pretty much every piece we're going to play in the concert, and it sounded really good. All the sounds are coming together nicely and blending very well."

Simon already has plans for the future of the orchestra, including a possible fundraiser event in the fall. In his view, the more robust, well-rounded sound and new educational opportunities are just some of beneficial side-effects of the group's expansion. Another is an increased sense of unity, bolstered by the feeling of strength in numbers.

"There's a level of confidence you feel when you know someone's got your back," he said.

CIVIC BAND

As the Chamber Orchestra is cementing its sense of unity, Civic Band members Earl and Nancy Orcutt are already more than 40 years deep in their own. That's how long it's been since the two first met. They were both music majors at Wilkes. She needed to learn how to play the trumpet, and he taught her. Their shared passion for music led to

romance and they've been almost inseparable ever since.

Their love affair with the Civic Band has proven just as strong, with the pair being members almost continuously since the late 1960s.

"It's definitely one of the premier musical organizations in the area, especially of non-professional groups," Earl said, explaining what kept he and his wife coming back again and again. "We also have one of the best music libraries of any college in the region."

More than anything, though, it's the love of playing, and playing alongside similarly passionate musicians, that attracts them.

"It keeps us young," Earl said.

The Orcutts will perform with the Civic Band – Earl on French horn and Nancy on bass clarinet – at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 29, as part of the Cherry Blossom Festival in Kirby Park. This event is free and open to the public.

Civic Band director Simon appreciates the Orcutts' dedication to the group. He also pointed out that the Civic Band's status as a joint college-community ensemble means that students have had

the chance to play alongside adult professionals and semi-professionals like the Orcutts, music teachers and even former members of The Metropolitan Orchestra.

"I think what makes this the perfect set-up for what we do at Wilkes is that the experience of the older folks ... rubs off on the younger folks who are just coming out of high school," he said. "It gives them the confidence to play and to take some chances and develop and grow as musicians."

The material the group will be playing on Sunday includes pieces ranging from circus marches to arrangements from "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," with the pièce de résistance being Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

"The '1812 Overture' is one of the one most difficult orchestral transcriptions in the entire literature," he said. "If you come to the concert and hear what this band is playing, I think you'll be pretty impressed."



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The Beacon/Dan Lykens and Austin Loukas

the Civic Band. Center: Wilkes chorus members join with members of City of Northeast Pennsylvania to practice for their upcoming concert plays viola as part of Wilkes' new Chamber Orchestra.

Don't slap yourself for missing out, give 'Three Stooges' a shot

BY BILL THOMAS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

What about Shemp?

That the biggest complaint to be leveled at "The Three Stooges" regards the absence of the original third Stooge (replaced in 1932 by the now more well-known Curly) is a minor movie miracle.

With a self-imposed PG rating, as well as the uneven output of writing-directing team Peter and Bobby Farrelly conspiring against it, this flick could easily have taken a pratfall right off the map. That it manages to somehow stumble its way into the heart is nothing short of sweet cinematic surprise.

Telling the life story not of the performers beneath the bad haircuts but rather of their fictional Stooge personas, the generic plot sees our trio on a long, meandering quest to save a nun-run orphanage from foreclosure. Along the way, they get hired as hitmen, become reality TV superstars, give a dolphin the Heimlich and use the flammable power of their own flatulence to save the day.

Will Sasso (best known for "Mad TV") is Curly, Sean Hayes (best known for "Will & Grace") is Larry and Chris Diamantopoulos (best known for, um, nothing) is Moe. Despite such debatable comedy pedigrees, a better gang to play the iconic nyuk-nyuk-nyuk-leheads you'd be hard-pressed to find. Sometimes they try too hard, sometimes not hard enough. But, more often than not, the ruse is damn near "poifect."

For some, seeing the second greatest comedy ensemble of stage 'n' screen (the Marx Brothers being the first, natch) practice their elaborate

ately choreographed vaudevillian chop-sockey on Snooki is downright blasphemous. Ultimately, though, the original trio had misfires worse than this ("Snow White and the Three Stooges" springs agonizingly to mind). And if this nostalgic love-letter inspires a new, younger audience to rediscover the real deal, all the better.

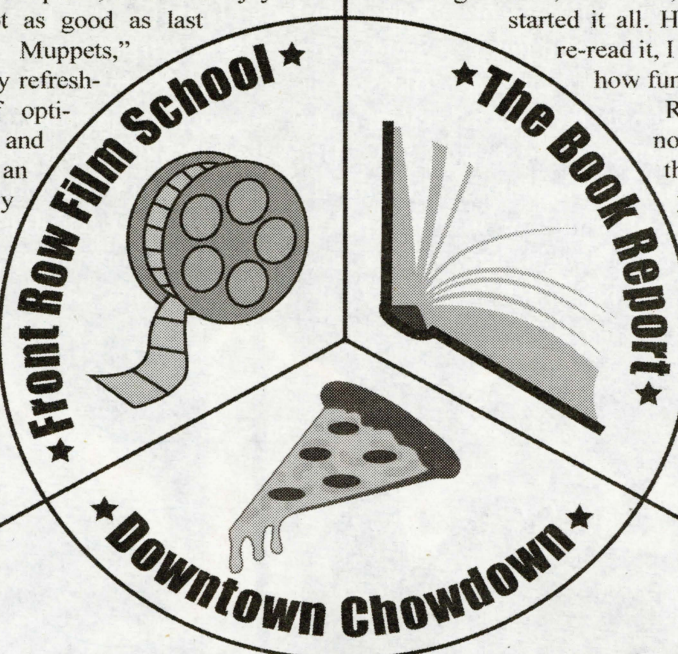
Admittedly, the Farrellys' bright, modern style diminishes the claustrophobic kinesics of the Stooges' Depression-era cartoon anarchy and the overall pacing is a mess, with long stretches that drag on tiresomely. But when the film hones in on the same rapid-fire shtick, roughneck slapstick and corny puns that made Moe, Curly and Larry household names in the first place, the film is a joy.

While not as good as last

year's "The Muppets,"

it's a similarly refreshing dose of optimism, kitsch and simplicity in an increasingly cynical genre.

Like its titular heroes, "The Three Stooges" is dim of wit, but pure of heart.



Get what you pay for at Café Toscana

BY DOMINICK
CONSTANTINO
Staff Writer

Café Toscana is the perfect restaurant to end a semester of great food reviews. Located right on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre, this Italian restaurant's menu ranges from appetizers like shrimp cocktail to full meals like Gamberi Toscana. I decided to get something that I never had before: Lobster Ravioli.

Before the meal came out, each diner received a piece of bruschetta with a tomato spread. It was so good that when I was finished, I wished I had about five more. The tomatoes were very sweet but the diced onions offset that sweetness. We also got a half-loaf of warm, homemade bread with a tasty seasoned olive oil-based dipping sauce.

The main course was outstanding. Though the pinkish-orange sauce over the ravioli was less than appetizing in appearance, it was utterly delectable. The flavor was reminiscent of vodka sauce, but with a little bit more tang. The fresh-grated Parmesan cheese added to the flavor.

The ravioli were cooked al dente — just how I like it — and came loaded with lobster and a variety of seasonings. Though lobster isn't normally my go-to grub, the chunks of tender, well-seasoned lobster mixed with that wonderful pink sauce made me a fan. The meal only came with five ravioli, but they were very filling because of how jam-packed each one was. There was enough extra sauce that I was able to dip the bread in it.

My sister Bethany joined me and ordered penne pasta with shrimp in a pesto sauce, topped with freshly grated Parmesan cheese. The dish was very rich and creamy, and the shrimp were tender and not overcooked. The portion was big enough that she had some to take home.

The atmosphere here was extremely nice, with decor from the fancier end of the spectrum. The classic Italian music playing through the sound system added to the ambience. Customers came well-dressed; no shorts or sweatpants here. This isn't the kind of place you go to on a leisurely afternoon when you're hankering for Italian, but it's a great place to go for special occasions or when the parents come to visit.

Of the
restaurants



'Bitter is the New Black' gives hilarious life tips, fashion quips

BY ANNIE YOSKOSKI
Staff Writer

Jennifer Lancaster has been fired from her job. Her cozy life in her upscale Chicago apartment is in jeopardy. What is a girl to do? In this case, the solution would be to involve yourself in some mischief and hijinks, adopt some pit bulls and blog all about it.

In her first memoir, "Bitter is the New Black," Jennifer Lancaster honestly tells the story of her fall from grace, the lengths she went to in order to restore it, and how she ended up happy with a new career in the end.

Reading this book several years ago and following her career ever since, I have laughed many times at Lancaster's writing. "Bitter," however, is the one that started it all. Having recently re-read it, I actually forgot how funny it was.

Readers take note: Don't bring this book with you to a public place if you are self-conscious. I laughed so hard at the idea of a grown woman

army-crawling down the hall of her apartment building to see who was stealing her paper, so she could paint-bomb them, that I practically fell out of my chair in our own Farley Library.

The lengthy subtitle, "Confessions of a Condescending, Egomaniacal, Self-Centered Smartass, or Why You Should Never Carry a Prada Bag to the Unemployment Office," pretty much describes the book perfectly. It may all seem shallow, but Lancaster does find herself at the end, and sees what is really important in life: Family, friends, happiness, passion and integrity. Also, the discount rack. A memoir with a moral is always an interesting twist — and an unexpected one, based on the title.

I try to stay away from "chick lit," and tend to read more serious material, but I am a person who likes to laugh. A man might not enjoy this book, being less able to relate to some of the girly tendencies Lancaster portrays, but anyone with a sense of humor is nevertheless guaranteed to crack a smile.

Lancaster may speak about "shallow" topics, but she is a very intelligent woman who expresses herself through snarky footnotes and hilarious text.

Currently, Lancaster is releasing her fifth book, "Jeneration X." The memoirs keep rolling and the hilarity continues, but "Bitter" is the book that launched her writing career and subsequently her happiness. The blog that Lancaster started, and still runs, is Jennsylvania.com.

If you want a light-hearted read for finals or summer vacation, pick up this book and laugh until you cry.

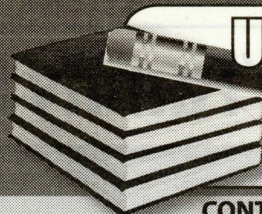
I've reviewed over the course of the semester, the menu here is the priciest. My lobster raviolis were \$18, though that price included the bruschetta, bread and the entrée itself. If you want a soup or salad from the menu, it is an additional \$6. The lunch menu is a little cheaper than the dinner menu, pricing soups and salads around \$5 and meals starting at \$9.

The old adage, "You get what you pay for," rings true, however, as the excellent quality of the food makes Café Toscana worth the price-tag.

I ate at a lot of great restaurants this semester, but I definitely saved the best for last.



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Unimportant Questions with Important People

JESSICA SHORT, PROGRAMMING BOARD PRESIDENT

BY CHRISTINE LEE
Life Editor

Year: Junior
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Forest City, Pa.

Programming Board president Jessica Short is a familiar face to many on campus. Short has been the driving force behind many entertainment activities on campus including the upcoming Mac Miller concert at 8 p.m. on May 1 at the F.M. Kirby Center. Short's responsibilities this year as president have been mostly to get ideas out of students and think of what the school wants.

What are some upcoming Programming Board events? Tuesday April 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. we're having street signs and a fortune teller come in. Like the ones that say so-and-so street and so-and-so boulevard, like I have one that says Cheerleader Boulevard. The next day on April 25 we're having black light mini-golf, which is regular mini-golf but all the lights will be out and there will be a black light and all the glowing stuff. We're actually doing it partly with Relay for Life and we're doing a bake sale at it for Relay for Life. Then that Thursday, April 26, we're having an ice cream social

at 8 p.m. in the SUB lounge, and of course the concert.

Favorite hobbies? My favorite hobbies are definitely cheerleading, dance and baton; definitely a girly-girl.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? I've been to the Caribbean a lot so my big interest is going over to Europe, like Italy. I come from an Italian family so I'd really like to go visit the Mediterranean.

What is in your refrigerator (favorite food)? Pickles. My roommates always laugh at me cause there's always pickles no matter what. Our fridge might be bare but there are always pickles.

Favorite TV show or movie? TV show-wise I watch a lot of the stuff people hate like the "Teen Mom" and all that. Movie-wise, one of my favorite movies that's kind of recent is "Friends with Benefits."

What plans do you have for after graduation? I really want to go to Korea to teach English, or I want to do the Teach for America program, where you put you in a bad school district, so I'm hoping for somewhere



south like Texas, or my third back-up plan is going to graduate school for student development and doing something like Jamie (Miller) and Missy (Howells), and Programming Board actually led me to that kind of job.

Favorite Wilkes memory? Probably when we went to the Programming Board conference. I've actually gone twice but there's a

small group of us with our advisers (who go) and we all got to know each other really well and it's kind of fun because we got to see different bands and comedians, just stuff that would be able to come next year. This year there was a Bowling for Soup concert at it and you could feel the floor shaking cause everyone was dancing.

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This year's Relay for Life is board-game themed

BY ROBERT GRABOSKY
Correspondent

Each year millions of Americans are diagnosed and die from cancer and don't get to see their next birthday. But one nationwide event is hoping to give people with cancer more birthdays to celebrate.

This year, the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life will make its way to campus from noon April 28-29.

This event is one of the biggest fundraisers on campus. It brings many local residents out to campus to participate in the event. Community service coordinator Megan

Valkenburg said this year's theme is board games. She said it would be very much like the board games children play, only with a more serious purpose. Students involved are trying to raise enough funds for the American Cancer Society.

This year's theme includes games such as Monopoly, Password and Risk.

"There are two reserved locations. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved indoors to the gym," Valkenburg said.

Junior p1 pharmacy major Bethany Sharpless is co-coordinating Wilkes Relay for Life with Valkenburg, having personally

experienced dealing with cancer within her family.

Sharpless said more than 200 people signed up for the event so far, but explained these numbers are only an estimate as the list continues to grow day by day.

"There's no way knowing the exact number of people," Sharpless said.

Sharpless said there has been a lot more success in recent years than ever before and said although most proceeds go to the American Cancer Society, a percentage of the proceeds go to Wilkes as well.

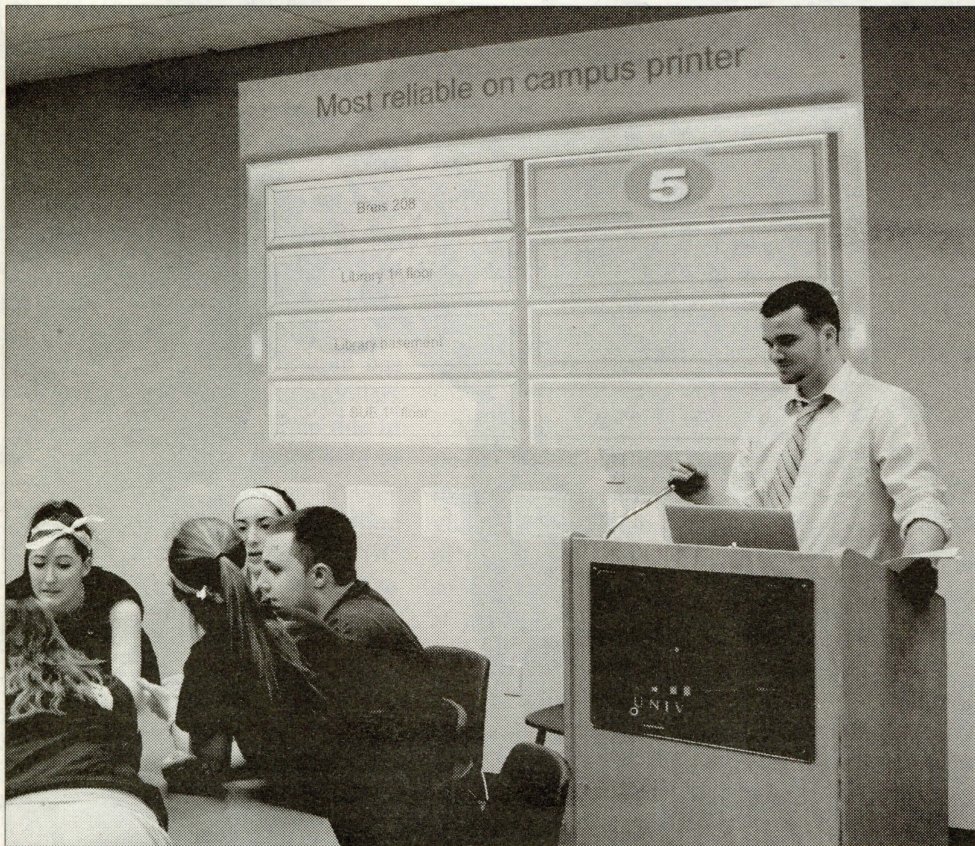
This year's Relay for Life will contain events such as a survivor ceremony, lumi-

naria candle ceremony in memory of lost loved ones, a talent show and the Mr. Wilkes pageant -- where men from each team compete for the best imitation of a woman. Each team will have at least one member walking around the Greenway for the 18-hour event. Team members are rotated throughout the event so everyone gets the chance to walk.

Each year millions of Americans lose out on another birthday due to cancer, but Relay for Life is hoping more Americans will beat cancer and celebrate another birthday.

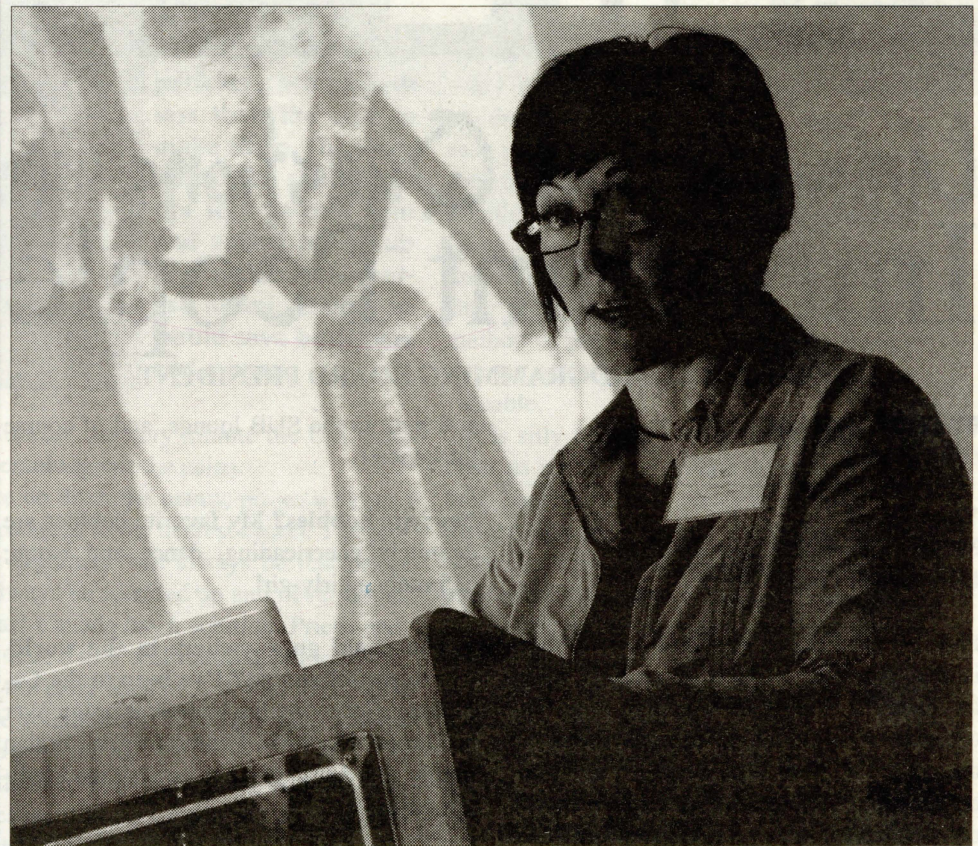
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Wilkes version of 'Family Feud' Comedian talks women issues



The Beacon/Dan Lykens

Psi Chi, the Psychology International Honor Society, hosted a "Family Feud" to try to become more involved on campus. Pictured is Psi Chi President Nick Zinskie, who ran the event with Willie Eggleston and Psi Chi Secretary Justine Adams. Adams said the event was made possible by a Student Government donation. All questions were Wilkes-themed and based on a spring 2010 campuswide survey. "Team Pink" won in first place and took home the \$100 gift card.



The Beacon/Brittany Battista

Local comedian and Wilkes alumnus Teri Granahan presented "A Conversation with a Comedian - Who Just Happens to Be a Female" Tuesday, April 17, as part of this year's Women's and Gender Studies Conference. The presentation combined spoken and visual elements with Granahan's trademark wry sense of humor in an effort to look at the messages women receive from the media and encourage them to be confident in knowing that they are, in fact, "good enough."

Adventures in Science gives students promising opportunities

BY REBECCA BOLUS
Assistant Life Editor

From making Gak slime and fire to encountering an amphibian, Adventures in Science has it all.

On April 27, Wilkes University will be holding the 11th annual Adventures in Science event, which has invited 250 fifth grade students from Fairview, Rice and Susquehanna Prep elementary schools. Students will travel through six labs, doing hands on experiments.

"The goal is to have fun while they're doing science and learning," Debra Chapman, biology education specialist, said.

More than 200 Wilkes students and multiple faculty members have volunteered for this event.

"We have no problem getting people to help with this because it is just so much fun," Chapman said.

Chapman said this is not just a science program. Adventure in Science gets a lot

of help from all across campus from different majors and especially from Student Government.

"Student Government is our major sponsor for this and we do thank them," Chapman said. "They've sponsored us for years to allow us to bring the kids in."

There will also be some special appearances at Adventures in Science from volunteers who dress up as Einstein and Madam Curie to entertain and interact with the fifth grade students.

"We're also trying to get the Colonel to come so the kids can take pictures with him," Nimi Patel, a criminology sophomore and coordinator for Adventures in Science, said.

Patel is returning for her second year volunteering and her first time coordinating the event. Her duties vary from getting volunteers, setting up and to making sure things go as scheduled the day of the event.

Many local businesses in Wilkes-Barre

help out with this event, as well.

"A lot goes into this. We get donations every year," said Greg Castelli, a p4 pharmacy major in his sixth year of volunteering.

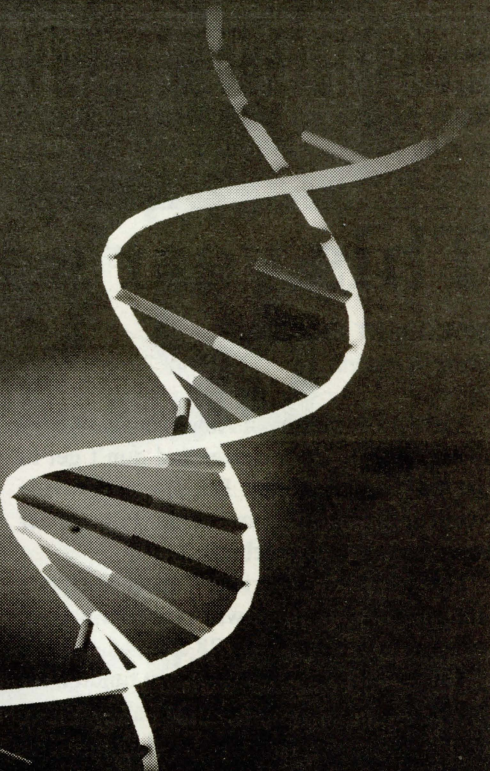
These donations vary from businesses such as Price Chopper, Wal-Mart and Wegmans.

This event has displayed such a positive turnout in the past that schools are lined up to attend Adventures in Science. Chapman has schools booked until 2015.

Chapman is very enthusiastic about the learning experiences that result from this event.

"I love to watch the interaction between the Wilkes students and faculty with these kids," Chapman said. "They learn from each other, and it's like they've been friends forever; it's just a really nice day."

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Unusual and useful study habits to use for upcoming finals week

BY ALYSSA STENCAVAGE
Staff Writer

Finals week is fast approaching, and that means one thing: lots of studying. Some specific and different, unique study habits exist out there, even songwriting to better remember information.

"When I study I like to make songs up so it's easier to remember the material," Miranda Godlewski, a freshman English and political science major said.

Other means of studying include listening to music while studying.

"When I study, it's with music on," Kate Wedman, a freshman communication studies major said.

It's no surprise that making charts to organize information or using index cards are common strategies, especially for those who have to deal with biology or science on a daily basis.

"I use index cards, make charts to compare things especially for bio, and organize important points into study guides and study quizzes and home works," Kimberly Price, freshman biology major, said.

Reading over and writing the material is another way for students to prepare for exams.

"Writing the material usually helps me

study. For bio I usually make charts to organize the material and study it. It also can't be silent when I study because I will fall asleep," Sarah Brozena, a freshman pre-pharmacy major, said.

Despite these common study patterns and techniques, some may still be wondering what the best strategies are. University College learning specialist Katy Betnar offers some helpful tips and advice for studying so students can effectively master their studying and reduce their stress at the same time.

Betnar suggests starting early, especially with cumulative finals, saying it's not a good idea to cram. She recommended that students begin studying two to three weeks in advance. They should figure out what and when things are going on and then form a management system and study plan, like a "divide and conquer" strategy.

"It is important to take a look at the big picture and start to break down piece by piece," Betnar said.

Staying calm is also important. One way to do this is breathing exercises, which Betnar said is best for students to reduce test anxiety and get into the

mental mindset of the test, as well as knowledge of the information.

Betnar also advises that students take last minute use of the tutoring facility, which shuts down during the last week of classes.

In order to prepare for finals, students should find out where they stand currently in their classes as far as grades, which can be done by consulting the syllabus and/or meeting with the teacher. Much of a student's grade is determined before finals week. She said knowing current grades can help with motivation and goals to boost grades and study harder.

Betnar also suggests simple habits like healthy eating and getting enough sleep, as she said not having a healthy lifestyle can affect mental sharpness.

"People forget the importance of eating and sleeping as well," says Betnar. "A lot of students stay up late and they can be worse off, therefore keeping a balance of regular, sufficient sleep patterns is always good."

Research shows that studying in shorter chunks of time and when one is

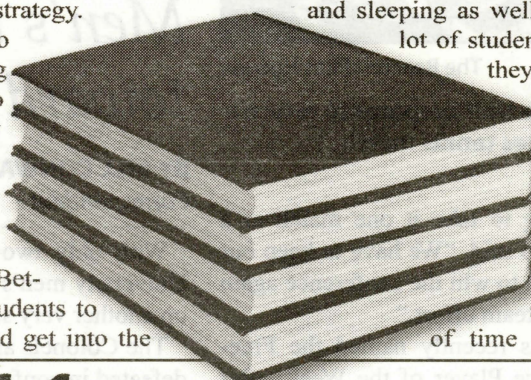
more alert are among the most important ways to accomplish successful studying. Studying in 30 to 50-minute intervals with a 10-minute break is recommended. Betnar said students should figure out which learning strategies work for them, such as color-coding, flashcards, graphs, etc, and to stay organized.

Budgeting time and studying the hardest subjects first are some of the time management tips Betnar gave.

Other tips include finding a quiet place to study, identify what materials are going to be tested, if you don't understand to ask for help, put together a study guide to collect and organize the material and practice self-testing. Another tip Betnar suggests when it comes to the end of the semester is to simply attend class.

Betnar said the final thing for preparing for finals is to visualize success, because after all, if one can see it, one can achieve it.

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Block Party full of fun



The Beacon/Dan Lykens

Block Party was held on the first and second floor of the Student Union Building from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 21. The event was hosted by Off-Campus Council and featured inflatable games and obstacle courses, such as the bungee run pictured above. Prizes for raffles and door prizes included a television, a Nintendo Wii and a Kindle tablet. Raffle tickets were won at various carnival-style games. Free food ranged from gyros to cotton candy, which tied into the carnival theme.

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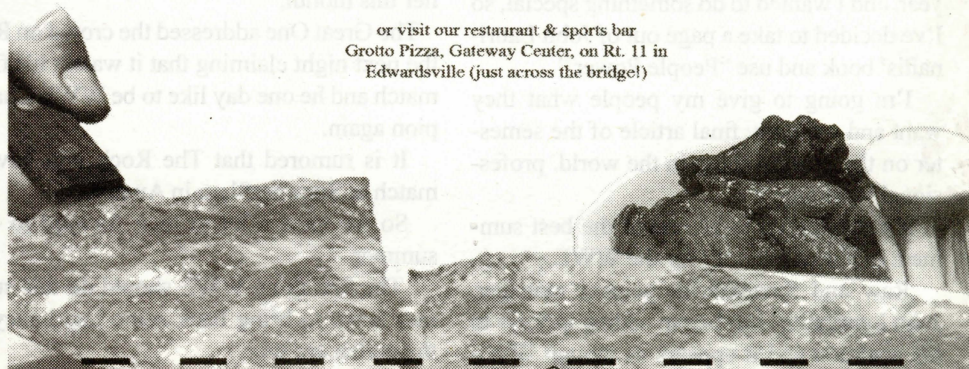
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Wilkes tennis continues winning ways on court

Women's team remains unbeaten

BY MIKE DARGATIS
Correspondent

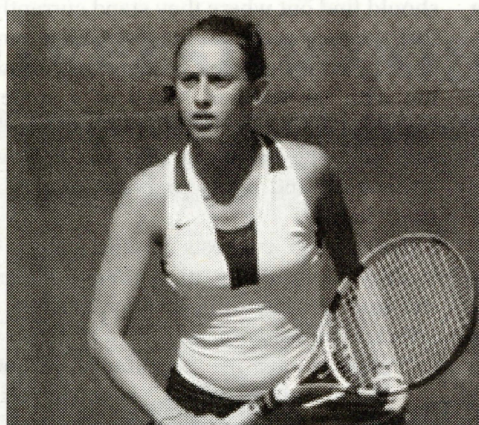
The women's tennis team at Wilkes University has continued its dominance this season, compiling a perfect 15-0 record and earning the 18th ranking in the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

The Colonels have shown they can play with some of the top teams in the region, defeating two Division II schools and six regionally ranked teams.

Coach Chris Leicht credits the teams' success to depth, leadership and how close the team has become.

"We have great upperclass leaders who have helped keep the team focused," Leicht said. "Also, these girls are a very close-knit group and do a great job supporting and helping each other succeed."

Another key to the Lady Colonels' success has been the play of sophomore Ally Kristofco, who has a 17-1 individual record



The Beacon/ Phat Nguyen

Junior Melanie Nolt prepares to return a serve in a Wilkes tennis match.

this season.

"We're trying to take it one match at a time," Kristofco said. "We have to keep our motivation high to win the conference again this year, it's a team effort."

Kristofco was recently named the Freedom Conference Player of the Week, after a 3-0 week with wins at King's and NYU.

"It's really nice to have others notice that your hard work is paying off," Kristofco said of her player of the week honors. "I wouldn't

have been able to earn it if my teammates weren't pushing me on a daily basis at practice."

Wilkes continued its quest for another conference championship by beating Manhattanville this past Saturday.

The team's final match is at 1 p.m. on April 28 against FDU-Florham at the Ralston Athletic Complex.

Freedom Conference semifinals begin May 1.

Men's team looks toward playoffs

BY BILL CONWAY
Correspondent

With only two matches left, the Wilkes University men's tennis team looks to wrap up another very successful season.

The Colonels are 10-3 overall and are undefeated in conference play as of April 20.

"We have played a difficult nonconference schedule," said head coach Christopher Leicht, "that has really helped us succeed in the conference matches."

Over the past weekend, Leicht was hoping to maintain dominance over conference opponent Manhattanville.

"This Saturday we have a big conference match at Manhattanville, who we have defeated in the last few conference championship matches," Leicht said.

Leicht's squad has confidence heading into the final matches two matches and will be gearing up to play in the conference tournament where players are hoping all of the hard work pays off.

"We are really happy with the work ethic and dedication of this year's team," Leicht said. "I can say that we have improved so much from the beginning of the year and we will be playing our best tennis entering the conference tourney."

Leicht and his squad are no strangers to postseason play as they strive to win another conference title.

"This team will be very ready for the conference playoffs, which start soon," said Leicht, "We are excited to try and win our fifth straight conference title, and get back to the NCAA National Tournament again."

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The Broad Street Breakdown: WWE summer plans

BY BRYAN WISLOSKY
Columnist

Well sports fans, this is my last article of the year, and I wanted to do something special, so I've decided to take a page out of John Laurinaitis' book and use "People Power."

I'm going to give my people what they want and write my final article of the semester on the greatest thing in the world, professional wrestling.

It's shaping up to be one of the best summers in recent memory for the WWE.

Raw and Smackdown general manager, John Laurinaitis, has begun adding lackeys to his coalition and it appears as though WWE may soon have another faction like The Corporation to deal with.

The faction will wreak havoc on the babyfaces of the business much like how the original tried to make life miserable for Stone Cold Steve Austin.

At the forefront of this group is the returning Brock Lesnar, who has made it clear his first goal is to overtake John Cena as the face

of the company.

Also, keep an eye out for The Rock to make some appearances this summer, after defeating John Cena at Wrestlemania XXVIII earlier this month.

The Great One addressed the crowd on Raw the next night claiming that it wasn't his final match and he one day like to be WWE Champion again.

It is rumored that The Rock will have a match at SummerSlam in August.

So we have a lot to look forward to this summer.

The first thing WWE should do this summer is try to bring back some legitimacy to the undercard titles.

Although I like Santino Marella, he is a joke of a United States Champion.

He does have great in ring skills, but Vince McMahon refuses to utilize that.

Santino would be a great United States champion if he only had a more serious character.

He could still do his wacky antics after the match and outside the ring, but needs to be all

business when competing in a match.

Big Show on the other hand, is a good pick to try to reestablish the once prestigious Intercontinental Title.

Big Show is a veteran, and in my opinion a future hall of famer, so when he beat Cody Rhodes for the title at Wrestlemania, it may have started a chain reaction to bring better competition to the IC title hunt.

I think giving one of these titles, either the United States or Intercontinental Title, to Daniel Bryan would be a good move.

He's a former world heavyweight champion, and produces a great reaction from the crowd, whether they love or hate him.

Now let's move on to main event storylines that will develop over the next couple months.

I firmly believe that Lesnar will beat Cena at Extreme Rules next week in an effort to try and get the crowd behind Cena once again.

After this Laurinaitis will focus the attention of his faction on WWE Champion CM Punk, but Punk needs to finish things off against Chris Jericho, which he will do in his

hometown of Chicago at Extreme Rules.

Some believe that Johnny Ace will have Punk defend his title against Lord Tensai, but I just don't see him in the main event.

I think CM Punk will defend and lose his title to Brock Lesnar at Over the Limit next month.

Lesnar will then hold the title throughout the summer, and will defend the title at SummerSlam against The Rock.

This will be a rematch of their first encounter for the WWE Championship at the same event in 2002, where Brock defeated Rocky for his first title.

For the first time in a good while, I'm excited to see what unfolds in the WWE this summer.

The faction John Laurinaitis is forming reminds me of the Attitude Era, which got me interested in professional wrestling in the first place.

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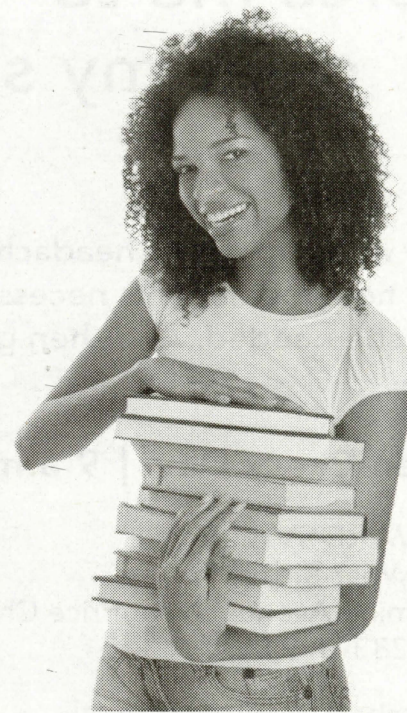
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Wilkes Colonel athletics: 2011-2012 in review

Coaches reflect on memories, fans and achievements; look toward future

BY JUSTIN FRANIAK
Sports Editor

As finals begin and the semester winds down, athletes are beginning to pack up their bags. Fields are being prepared for summer and gyms are being newly waxed.

Graduating seniors take one last look at the field, gyms and mats where they spent the last four years making memories. The future graduates reminisce on the times they had and look toward the future. Their success does not go unnoticed.

The Wilkes football team had some memorable times this year. Coach Frank Sheptock said that beating an undefeated Widener team was a high point of the season.

Wilkes captured this year's Mayor's Cup beating crosstown rival King's College with a late interception by senior Joe Chrismer.

Sheptock nominated all his graduating seniors as his team MVPs. He also cannot wait to report to pre-season camp on Aug. 11.

Women's field hockey coach Mollie Reichard said that the bonding the team experienced this year was her greatest memory.

"We were a very young and inexperienced team with 11 newcomers," Reichard said. "The team's greatest achievement was coming together as well as what they did and the welcoming attitude that our upperclassmen had with the freshman."

She also said the bonding has helped the team develop and mature during this past offseason.

Reichard is looking toward next season as a new freshman class comes to Wilkes, set on adding to the team's success.

"I am most looking forward to the great group of players we have returning and the addition of another freshman class that will be able to have an immediate impact," Reichard said. "I feel the current group of players will be able to provide much insight to this freshman class."

Women's soccer also experienced great success this past year going 4-1-2 in the MAC.

Coach John Sumoski said that clinching a playoff spot was the most memorable moment this past season. Sumoski also said senior Katy Fissel was the team MVP.

Sumoski will look to capture another playoff spot next season as he returns almost all of his first team.

The winter season saw great competition and extended success through all teams.

The Wilkes University men's basketball team saw itself in a playoff race at the end of the season. Coach Jerry Rickrode said that team becoming a family was their greatest achievement and the best memory was in the playoffs.

"When the guys won a classic battle in the MAC semifinal game with Eastern," Rickrode said. "It was such a back-and-forth game and when they sealed it with clutch free throws down the stretch it was very rewarding."

Rickrode said that seniors Kendall Hinze and Paul Huch were the teams MVPs citing that they both had outstanding years and provided leadership to the team. He also looks forward to getting next season underway.

"We may be overlooked by many, but those people may be surprised," Rickrode said.

Rickrode also wanted to give a shout-out and thank you to the men's basketball fanbase.

"They were outstanding and were a great help to our team here at the Marts center," Rickrode said.

Both Wilkes tennis teams are still in action, but are both on the road to making noise in the postseason.

Coach Chris Leicht said that the teams current records are their greatest achievements so far. Both women's and men's tennis are in first place in their conferences and the women's team is currently undefeated.

Leicht said the best memory from this season is the annual spring break trip to Hilton Head in South Carolina.

"We had fun, and played great tennis," Leicht said.

Leicht said he doesn't like to single out players for

MVP awards and said that every team member adds a certain something to the success of the team.

Although in season currently, Leicht is excited for next year's seasons.

"We have strong returning players next year, and it will be fun," Leicht said.

The Wilkes women's lacrosse team is also currently playing their season out, but Coach Kammie Towey said their greatest achievement so far happened at the beginning of the season.

"I think our team's greatest achievement this year started on spring break when we beat Sweet Briar in a thrilling overtime victory," Towey said. "That sense of accomplishment carried through March as we went undefeated proving our growth as a team as well as our talent."

Towey also talked about the team's spring break trip to Washington, D.C., and Virginia. She said the team bonding and activities, like visiting the famous Georgetown Cupcakes and tubing, led to the team's 2-0 record on the trip and helped contribute to its success down the road.

Towey said that at this point in the season the MVP race is neck and neck.

"I think the team MVP would be a tie at this point," Towey said. "I think Gabby Ford and Keri Meeholz would be our team's MVPs. Both bring a ton of talent, versatility

and knowledge of the game."

Much like other coaches, Towey is looking forward to a new freshman class and getting experience under their belts. She hopes the new group of players will bring another level of competition to the Colonels.

"With the incoming freshman, it will help to make the team more competitive amongst themselves," Towey said. "I think next year holds a lot of promise for us both in non-conference play as well as conference play."

The Wilkes wrestling team saw three wrestlers qualify for nationals, with one becoming an All-American.

Coach Jon Laudenslager said that national finalist and senior Anthony Dattolo was the team's MVP and said his run through the post season and competing on the "Big Stage" was his greatest memory.

Laudenslager said the team's 19-4 record was its greatest achievement and he is looking forward to having more All-Americans and cracking the top 10 in team rankings.

As the school year winds down, the gates will be closed on another year of Colonel athletics. The summer months will bring hard work mixed with relaxation as the Colonels set out to conquer their challengers next year.



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Members of the Wilkes basketball cheering section, the "Blue Army," pose for a picture. Coach Jerry Rickrode said the fan support gave the Colonels home court advantage heading into the team's playoff run.

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