

The BEACON

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

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In This Issue...

US Presidential race comes to Northeast PA

Alternative Spring Break Trips *Clinton campaign stops by Wilkes; Obama sets up shop*

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon News Editor

The "Old Bookstore" in the Henry Student Center was filled to capacity when Chelsea Clinton, daughter of presidential hopeful New York Senator Hillary Clinton, made a stop at Wilkes University on Wednesday, March 12, to answer questions from students, faculty, staff and the public about her mother's campaign.

Meanwhile, only two blocks away supporters of Illinois Senator Barack Obama, Clinton's rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, were busily setting up campaign headquarters for the area in Midtown Village.

Chelsea did not mention the Illinois Senator in her hour-long question and answer session. But she did say that, in her opinion, her mother was the most viable candidate for the Democratic nomination.

She was asked a series of questions from the audience, ranging in topics from the war in Iraq to the DREAM Act. Some audience members declined to ask a question, but showed their support for Hillary Clinton by telling Chelsea to "Go get them, kid!"



The Beacon/Cara Koster

Chelsea Clinton thanks the people who gathered for a question and answer session in the "Old Bookstore" at Wilkes University. She answered several questions about her mother, New York Senator Hillary Clinton, and the campaign's stance on several issues.

See **PRESIDENT** page 5

Three pharmacy faculty to leave Wilkes

BY NICOLE FRAIL

Beacon Asst. News Editor

At the end of the spring semester, the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy and Nursing at Wilkes University will lose three key faculty members in pharmacy.

After finals, Dr. Sheila Kang, assistant professor of Pharmacy Practice, will move to Chicago with her husband, who recently finished his fellowship at Geisinger Medical Center in Gastroenterology. Kang is currently negotiating a position with a school in Chicago.

Kang joined the Wilkes community in August 2005 and teaches the second half of the infectious diseases course. She also has an internal medicine clerkship rotation at Mercy Scranton Hospital.

"It's nice when you do a lot of mentoring and get to know [the students] as more than just students. Three years is definitely enough time to be able to develop a relationship with students in the class," said Kang. "I have no idea what kind of program I'm going to end up at when I get to Chicago, but I think the students that we have here are very professional and very ma-

ture. I think it'll be hard to find students like this again."

"She has been a great advisor over the years and has always been there when I needed someone to talk to. It didn't matter if it was about school or my personal life; she was always there with an open ear, and of course some helpful advice. Even just passing in the hallway, I always knew that I'd get a smile," said Nicolas Fisher, P3 pharmacy student.

Kang is the advisor to one-sixth of the pharmacy class of 2009. Her advisees called their team the Kangaroos. "The best way I can think of it is that it is almost like losing a parent. She's always been there for our team, looking after us with a careful eye and making sure that we were getting through the program fine and taking time out from her busy schedule when we needed someone to talk to. And now that she's leaving, it will be hard to get the same relationship with our new advisor," said Fisher.

In addition to Kang's departure, on June 1, Dr. Nicole Culhane, associate professor of Phar-

macy Practice, and Dr. Jim Culhane, associate professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, will begin new careers with the College of Notre Dame of Maryland (COND), which is located four miles north of downtown Baltimore. At COND, they will assist newly appointed Dean, Dr. Anne Y. F. Lin in the process of bringing the new School of Pharmacy to life. Lin was the founding chair of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy and Nursing at Wilkes University.

According to the COND website, the new School of Pharmacy "will be the first one established on the campus of a women's college in the United States." The school is currently seeking accreditation and hopes to welcome its first class in fall 2009.

The Culhanes were on board when Wilkes began developing its own School of Pharmacy in August 1997. Nicole is currently a practicing clinical pharmacist at Nesbitt Memorial Medical Center and also helped develop a post-doctoral

See **PHARMACY** page 5

Page 9

The Hardware Bar



Page 13

NBA

Doubleheader



Page 18

Inside

News.....	1-5
Opinion.....	6-8
Lifestyles.....	9-11
Arts & Entertainment.....	12-15
Sports.....	16-20

Center for Global Education and Diversity announces location, goals

BY MEGAN KRISANDA

Beacon Staff Writer

A new center that emphasizes international education and diversity is taking shape at Wilkes University. The Diversity Task Force proposed the idea of a Center for Global Education and Diversity to the Board of Directors in December 2007, and the Board unanimously approved its concept.

Currently, an implementation committee is discussing the structure of the center, staffing in its first year, and budget issues. Dr. Maria Suarez, special assistant to the President, is spokeswoman for the center. A final proposal will be presented to the Board of Directors in April of 2008.

University officials have housed the center on the third floor of Passan Hall.

The center has two major related goals which include overseeing global initiatives at Wilkes and addressing needs to meet the growing diversity of the Wilkes

community.

"We hope to increase the number of Wilkes students who have experiences abroad--not only study abroad in the classical sense, which is a semester or longer, but it is also looking at shorter term experiences, a week or 10 days, a summer," said Suarez.

Suarez added that some of these experiences are already happening now. However, the goal is to increase the participants significantly.

"Right now, about 3 percent [of Wilkes students] travel abroad, and we want to make that, within the next 10 years, 30 percent. It's a very ambitious goal. But we feel that it's important for our students to have an international experience...at least one... as they prepare for the global workforce," said Suarez.

This idea of increasing students' experiences abroad in hopes to gain competence in dealing with the global environment is a national movement.

"The other side of this center is providing support and resources for our faculty and bring a global perspective to what we do in the classroom, events, and speakers. In addition to that, there's also a need to address support for our international students. Those numbers are growing and they contribute greatly to the education of everyone here. They bring very different perspectives to the campus and the classroom," said Suarez.

Embracing and supporting international students will also be a goal for the center. The center will serve as a gathering place for these students and any student interested in learning more about studying abroad and the opportunities available.

Global education and diversity are interrelated said Suarez.

"There is a very important relationship between the two. It is not only ethnic diversity. {Diversity} encompasses gender, political views, age, interests...We want

to build a support structure and capacity to embrace all of the different groups that make up [the] Wilkes community," said Suarez.

Jasmine King, a freshman nursing major, is a diversity ambassador working part-time in Passan Hall. King, along with a number of other students will be trained in the near future to be a part of the Center.

"I just feel like this center will be a great place to learn about other students and what they have to bring to Wilkes. Diversity is a great thing, and I think that we can all learn something new as well as teach others things that can benefit them in the future. Also, I just

think that the Center for Global Education and Diversity will just be a fun and interesting experience," said King.

The center will be a space which will provide advice and resources. "This way it will be more of a cohesive approach to the development of our campus in terms of its growing diversity and how it embraces its community," said Suarez.

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The Beacon/Andrew Seaman

During the St. Patrick's Day parade in Wilkes-Barre on Sunday, March 16, several bagpipers walked down Main St. Joining them in the parade were political candidates including Congressman Kanjorski and his opponent, Hazleton Mayor Lou Barletta, Republican candidate for the 11th Congressional District. Onlookers lined the street to see several other organizations march. There largest group was "Parents in support of SDACT (Scranton Diocese Association of Catholic Teachers)."

Theresa Monaco named new Interfaith Coordinator

BY AMY FUSCO

Beacon Staff Writer

Wilkes University's Student Development Office has announced that Theresa Monaco, former religion teacher in New York, has been hired as the new Interfaith Coordinator for campus.

After a lengthy selection process, the Diocese of Scranton made the offer to Monaco. Though Wilkes is an independent institution, The Scranton Diocese funds the Interfaith Coordinator position and therefore runs the search. According to Philip Ruthkosky, the Associate Dean of Student Development, Wilkes will provide Monaco with an office and living accommodations.

According to Monaco, after spending eight years at the high school level first working in the library and then as a teacher, she decided that she wanted to interact with a more mature group. She also wanted to become more involved exploring multiple faiths, rather than only the Catholic religion. She checked out the Wilkes website several times and chose to apply for the position.

"She's going to offer an office that is very conducive to students feeling free to just wander in and have candid conversations

about faith, values, morals, whatever is on their mind," stated Ruthkosky, after meeting with Monaco. "She will be another trustworthy mentor where students can go in and really have these open conversations," he added.

"[Monaco] has a really diverse background in various different fields where she's done this kind of thing before and I think that will be a real benefit coming to the college," said Gabrielle Lamb, the Student Development Coordinator. "I expect that she'll put together a nice offering of programs to support the interfaith initiative on campus," she added.

"I feel that God is already working in the lives of the students and I want to encourage that development," stated Monaco.

She explained that in its mission statement Wilkes highlights the "constantly changing world" that we live in and the need for continuing learning so the students can survive in it.

"I see that the spirituality aspect, a relationship with God, to be the piece that helps you manage the constantly changing world. Without that firm foundation, it becomes more difficult," she said.

Andy Curry, a senior mechanical engineering major and co-president of Christian Fellowship Club, is eager to begin working with Monaco. He has been involved since "God started CFC in February of 2006." He explained that the previous Interfaith Coordinator, Angela Hermes, was a very active co-advisor for the group and anticipates the new coordinator to be similarly active.

"We are excited to become involved with the new coordinator, Theresa, in establishing a respectful relationship between the Christian Fellowship Club and Interfaith... though we strongly differ from the doctrine of interfaith as a whole," stated Curry.

Curry also said that, "Much like she would expect from us, we expect Theresa to be supportive of pointing students to seek a life of purpose. Also, we expect her to be respectful of the student ministry emphasis on Christian Fellowship Club, but at the same time willing to offer fellowship and support."

Ann Hofmann, a sophomore pharmacy student, is also looking forward to speaking with the new Interfaith Coordinator. She feels that the previous coordinator was very good at answering questions and helped her

explore the different churches in the area.

"I want her to somehow be involved in CFC and at least be able to make us aware of what is happening in the community [involving Christianity]," Hofmann stated.

"I want to be a vessel for information about religion," Monaco said. Students should be aware of her as a resource for finding out what is available in the area in reference to faith and religion, such as the locations of faithbased institutions and their schedules.

Monaco said that she is very excited to be a part of what is going on at Wilkes and to meet new people. Her main focus now is "trying to see what it is that the students at Wilkes see as the need [in respect to their faiths]."

Monaco is also excited about the community service programs she will be involved in. She has always wanted to have mission trips and believes that when people do community service "we get back more than we give."

Lamb said that she is happy to have a new member on the Student Development team. "Having an Interfaith Coordinator here just fits really nicely into the whole puzzle that is Student Development."



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PRESIDENT from FRONT PAGE

However, the majority of the questions asked to Chelsea were not particularly biased.

The first question came from a woman asking about Hillary Clinton's stance on smoking. The woman said that in her opinion the federal government has ignored the poorer areas when it comes to anti-smoking legislation.

Chelsea answered by explaining her mother's health care plan, which requires people to have health care coverage. Hillary Clinton allows people to remain under their current carrier but will also open up care under the Congressional health plan. Chelsea said that this plan would help smokers because they will be able to get treatment, even if they have a previously diagnosed condition, and they cannot be turned away. She also explained that, in her opinion, the plan would force premiums down. The premium paid by patients under the health plan would be "a little less than three-percent" of their income.

Many of the questions came from people who supported Hillary Clinton's campaign; however, they still wanted to know more about her stance on specific issues.

One Iraq War veteran asked Chelsea about her mother's plans for returning veterans.

Chelsea said that her mother wants to allow family members of returning veterans to take part in the Family Medical Leave Act, to take care of the returning veterans. Chelsea also said that her mother wants to make sure every veteran has health care.

Another question for Chelsea came from a young man who sat behind her during the session. He asked why Chelsea's mother voted for the DREAM Act, which he contended helps children of illegal immigrants obtain an education while putting them on the path towards citizenship.

PHARMACY from FRONT PAGE

pharmacy residency program with colleague Eric Wright. She was the recipient of The Outstanding Faculty Merit Award and the American Association of College of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year two times each. At COND, Nicole will act as the Director of Experiential Education in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

"I'll miss a lot of things, especially my colleagues and students," said Nicole. "I will always look back at my time at Wilkes with fondness and gratitude."

Caitlin Flaherty, P3 pharmacy student, will be affected by the Culhanes' departure. "As my advisor, Dr. Nicole Culhane has of-

The DREAM Act was created primarily as a way for children of illegal immigrants to gain citizenship, since there are currently no ways for a child brought into this country illegally, by his or her parents, to obtain citizenship. Currently, children of illegal immigrants must return to their native country and wait 10 years to re-enter the United States. This policy is true even if the child in question was primarily raised in the United States and has lived in the US



The Beacon/Jenna Stephens

Obama supporters stand outside Illinois Senator Barack Obama's campaign headquarters in Wilkes-Barre. The Obama headquarters is the first presidential candidate to set up shop in Wilkes-Barre.

for the majority of his or her life. This piece of legislation has been brought to Congress several times and has failed every vote so far.

Chelsea told the questioner, "I am proud of my mom for voting for [it]... I support that. I think we should be standing up for children who have been raised as Americans, [and] their right to live up to their God given potential."

At the end of the event, people rushed onto the stage to meet the 28-year-old wom-

an and ask for pictures and autographs. Dr. James Culhane is a great professor. He has always made class an enjoyable experience. It will be very difficult to replace such great professors and mentors."

Dr. Jim Culhane departs Wilkes to assume the role of Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences at COND. During his time at Wilkes, he received multiple awards, including the Carpenter Outstanding Teacher Award for the 2007-2008 year and the American Association of College of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year award three times.

"This is the job that I've always wanted to have... You start off in a position, you grow and develop professionally and personally, and you get to a point when you realize you're ready for that next challenge and step," he explained. "I've always thought

getting some stuff together for Chelsea from different offices in Student Development.

Zena Miller, director of Campus Catering was the one who actually came to Margy about it."

He added that he "spoke with [Miller] and... coordinated... the bag. In order [for Chelsea] to remember [her] visit to Wilkes, as well as give her something for the road since she will be traveling across the state all day, we had some snacks."

Dr. Tim Gilmour, Wilkes University Presi-

dent, also attended the session and said that, "I think the visits by candidates and their representatives are just great. There is no better way to get our students engaged in the electoral process and that is a key part of being a good citizen."

Currently, Gilmour said that there is no word on more candidates stopping by. "We have put out the word that we would like to host key candidates on campus. I am optimistic more will come."

The political invasion of Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) kicked off with Senator Hillary Clinton's visit to Scranton last week. Clinton's family, the Rodhams, once owned a small summer cottage at Lake Winola. Clinton greeted supporters at a rally inside Scranton High School after eating pizza in Old Forge. On Saturday, Clinton topped off her week of face time with NEPA residents by marching in Scranton's annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Thanks to favorable weather conditions and the promise of her presence, crowds were record-breaking, topping 100,000.

Obama, who is the first candidate to open a campaign headquarters in the Wyoming Valley, is set to make a few stops in NEPA next week. So far there is no word as to whether Arkansas Senator John McCain has scheduled appearances, though most anticipate all remaining candidates will spend a great deal of time in the state in coming weeks.

Videos @
WilkesBeacon.com



that I would always like to be chair of a department like this. The opportunity came when Dr. Lin called me and asked if I would be interested... and I said 'absolutely.' It's an exciting opportunity for me to do this."

"Wilkes University Pharmacy school will not be the same without the Drs. Culhane. I have learned so much from them throughout my years here. Not only have they taught me valuable knowledge about topics pharmacy related but have been very instrumental in motivating me to do better and always push to do better. I will miss them very much but wish them well with all of their future endeavors," said Morgan Kuhns, P3 pharmacy student.

Eryn Briggs, P3 pharmacy student, agreed. "I feel that the Culhanes will be two very difficult people to replace. I've learned

things from both of them that I'll carry with me throughout the rest of my professional career. Dr. [Jim] Culhane is one of the most engaging professors I've ever had, and I looked forward to classes in which he was going to be teaching in."

With three members departing from the pharmacy faculty, Dr. Edward Foote, chair of Pharmacy Practice, and Dr. Arthur Kibbe, chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, will have to work to fill the positions over the summer. Foote is currently recruiting for Kang's position and has described the faculty members as being "very valuable" to the department. Human Resources will assist Kibbe in the search for someone to fill Jim's position.

"We wish them nothing but the best," said Kibbe.

America's biggest threats: intolerance & hatred

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

If asked what the most harmful threat facing the United States is today, most Americans might name the Iraq war, a troubled education system, the looming threat of recession and job loss, immigration, or perhaps terrorism. The answers to the question would be as varied as the American people themselves.

But according to a March 10 CNN story, Oklahoma State Representative Sally Kerns believes that homosexuals are the biggest threat facing American society today.

In a speech to members in her district she said, "I honestly think it's [homosexuality] the biggest threat...that our nation has...Even more so than terrorists or Islam, which I think is a big threat." She added that she isn't gay bashing but, "according to God's word, that is not the right kind of lifestyle. It has deadly consequences."

Kerns even added for good measure that the American education system is indoctrinating children as young as two years old into the gay lifestyle and, "The homosexual agenda is destroying our country."

Her comments have predictably caused harsh backlash from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations, allies and advocates. Most have called Kerns's comments "hate speech."

Ultimately, what Kerns appears to want is an all-out war on the LGBT community, though she was somewhat vague about how such a war might be carried out. Regardless, any lesbian, gay, bi

or transgendered individual, any ally, friend, or supportive relative would be considered "the enemy" in terms that Kerns has laid out.

State Representative Kerns's statements are particularly disturbing considering that there have been many incidents of hate violence against gay and transgender youth reported by the media. The *Ventura County Star* recently reported that on February 12, a 14-year old boy in California, who was bullied and taunted by his classmates, was gruesomely murdered at school by one of his peers because he was gay. Moreover, the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* reported on February 23 that a 17-year old transgendered male was shot and killed, and police officials believe it may have been a result of a hate crime.

These murders are only a few of the ones that have actually received attention. Who knows how many incidents of assault and bullying occur on a regular basis across this nation, all in the name of hatred and intolerance?

Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign, recently said in response to Kerns's comments, "The FBI's most recent hate crimes report shows an increase in bias-motivated violence from the previous year. Hate crimes based on religion and sexual orientation are the second and third most prevalent, following only race in their frequency."

The *Beacon* staff believes that a federal law such as the Matthew Shepard Act needs to be passed by Congress to help combat and deter hate crimes against the LGBT community. Moreover, public schools

need to implement programs that deter bullying and promote a safe and accepting environment. For example, *The Denver Post* reported on March 13 that Denver area public schools are implementing a new program, titled "No Place for Hate," sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which will allow Colorado schools to implement anti-bias programs and projects.

The program will take one year for schools to complete the five steps needed to earn their designation as a "No Place for Hate" community.

The five steps include:

"1. Creating a coalition of administrators, teachers, staff, students, parents and community leaders to oversee the implementation of anti-bias programs and projects at the school.

2. Sign ADL's "Resolution of Respect" and display it in the school. The resolution says, in part, that "I firmly believe that one person can make a difference and that no person can be an innocent bystander when it comes to opposing hate."

3. Complete three or more activities listed in the ADL's "Positive Impact!" Resource guide's 101 Ways to Make a Positive Impact in your community.

4. Participate in one of ADL's "A World of Difference" Institute training programs.

5. Complete and submit the "activities and fulfillment forms" to the ADL."

Once these steps are completed, that school will then become a "No place for Hate" campus.

Other training programs include

focus on face-to-face bullying, cyberbullying, and peer training, which provides students with the resources to design and lead interactive programs that contribute to "respectful, bias-free schools and communities."

If other programs similar to the "No Place for Hate" program are implemented at public schools, the likelihood that bias motivated hate crimes against those of different race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity and social class would most likely decrease. More importantly, however, our elected leaders may have a better understanding of the need to be respectful, accepting and understanding of others and comments and attitudes like those made by Kerns could become a taboo of the past.

If America is to become a country that is accepting and welcoming for all, we must change the environment in which our children are taught. We encourage all students, faculty, staff and Wilkes-Barre community members to contact their federal legislators and emphasize the need for the passage of the Matthew Shepard Act. On a local level, contact the school boards in Wilkes-Barre and surrounding communities and express the need for programs like Denver's "No Place for Hate."

A federal law such as the Matthew Shepard Act and implementation of anti-bullying and anti-bias programs are a step in the right direction that will help build American communities to become a more accepting, more inclusive and more welcoming for all that could eliminate the detrimental threat of hatred.

Beacon

Poll Results

The following are results of a poll that *The Beacon* conducted online this past week. The poll was unscientific, and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on campus. Results are based on 83 responses.

The Beacon asked:

What fashion trend from the past should be brought back?

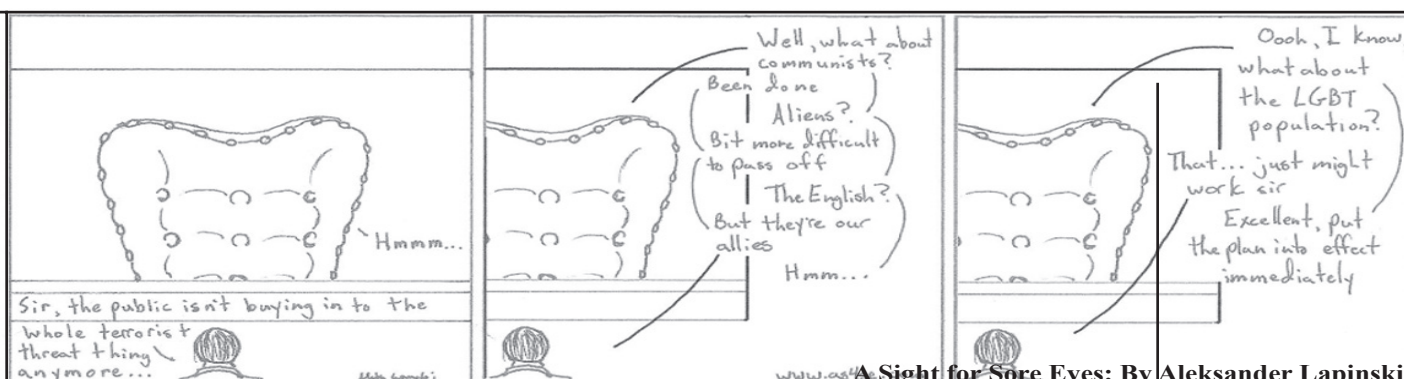
- The Mullet-13%
- Platform Shoes-4%
- Neon Spandex-11%
- Tie-Dye-14%
- Scrunchies-2%
- Slap Bracelets-19%
- Skinny Ties-8%
- Poodle Skirts-5%
- Muffs-12%
- Other-11%

Next Week's Question:

Who would you pay \$5,500 to spend an hour with?

- Ashley Alexandra Dupre (aka Kristen)
- Brad Pitt
- Jesus Christ
- Christopher Walken
- Ghandi
- Helen Keller
- George Clooney
- Marilyn Monroe
- Angelina Jolie
- Other

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



A Sight for Sore Eyes: By Aleksander Lapinski

The Angry Rant: Discipline your kids!

BY TIM SEIGFRIED
Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Remember high school? Remember when you would get a question wrong on a test, or when you would lose points on a project because you failed to follow instructions? Or when you were yelled at by the teacher because you weren't listening? Or when you were made to sit in the hall because you were being disruptive?

Those were all basic tenets of high school. It was essentially a four to six-year training program that got us ready for the "real world," with a very clear message: you're going to be punished if you mess up. Bad choices have consequences, whether it's a demotion at work because you botched a report, or a jail sentence because you took out a row of mailboxes with your Jetta after a night of hookers and cocaine.

There was a time when no one argued with it. If I got a bad grade on a test and was suspended, yelled at, etc., it was because I screwed up somewhere. On top of all that, I would probably be in trouble with my parents when I got home. That's how it worked. As we were growing up, we could reasonably expect castigation from by at least two separate parties for mistakes.

Being called out was part of what we could all expect when we were stupid, self-absorbed, or wrong-headed, and it was right.

These days, though, teachers can't discipline students or even give them bad grades without some parents calling up and complaining about it. I have several friends who teach at the high school level, and I hear horror stories about how parents call in and demand, not ask, demand, that a grade be changed or that the teacher shouldn't yell at little Johnny because it's embarrassing.

For whatever reason, parents have stopped being parents. They no longer teach their kids to work for their success,

they are instead teaching them that they are automatically entitled to everything, and that everyone else is wrong.

For example: a month or so ago, there was a high school student from Ohio who decided, in true high school fashion, to play a prank on his principal. But instead of writing "Mr. Principal Sucks" on the bathroom stall, he decided to make a MySpace page about the principal, in which he put some unflattering and downright insulting information, including listing Hitler and Saddam Hussein as his heroes, and also mentioning that he enjoys having sexual relations with the students in his spare time.

As a result, the student was expelled for the remainder of the school year for harassment, and rightfully so. But the parents of the student pitched a fit and fought the ruling, using the defense that it was only natural for students to disrespect their teachers outside of the classroom, and tried to get it dismissed because they contended that the school was in violation of the student's free speech.

Here's the thing: Free speech isn't the blanket law that most interpret it to be. If you make a public website that besmirches the reputation of someone with lies, you're not protected. That's called libel. What if I were to make a website that says that those parents enjoyed skinning babies and spitting on senior citizens? How would they react then? It's free speech according to these two geniuses, so why not?

Of course, the parents should know better; they are presumably full-grown adults who should have some sort of formal education, but who knows? They are clearly without any sort of internal barometer of how to discipline their kid, so I guess all bets are off.

But really, how can the parents just let their kid do this without any repercussions? The kid got himself expelled from school,

and all they can do is claim that their little angel's free speech has been violated?

Here's a suggestion: Discipline your kid! So the next time this happens, you won't have to drive 30 miles out of the way because the new school you're sending your kid to doesn't have bus service to your house.

Honestly, what has happened to parents? It seems they are more concerned with being best friends with their kids, instead of being parents. As a result, you have a lot of kids walking around thinking that they can get away with anything because mommy and daddy are their buddies and they'll understand.

What is the root of this problem? Was there a secret meeting among parents and they just decided to vote on this? "Hey, let's let our kids run around and do whatever they want!"

It's happening everywhere, too. Even the usually morally sound showbiz types are jumping on the bandwagon. Lindsay Lohan's mother has a reality show with her other, younger daughter, in which she tries to become an actress/singer/whatever. Really? Is that the best idea? Of course, Dina Lohan's excuse is that her daughter wants to be an actress. Fair enough. When I was seven, I wanted to fly. But my parents didn't tie a bed sheet around my neck and throw me off the roof. They had more sense than that.

It blows my mind that Dina Lohan wants to expose her other daughter to the same lifestyle that was the catalyst for her oldest daughter's scrapes with the police and stints in rehab. Parents need to decide what's best for their children, and that may mean making tough decisions when one of your kids gets busted for having blow in their car.

These days parents are trying so hard to be best friends, managers, agents, and coaches instead of being parents. As an adult and as a parent, you have a responsibility to guide

your children in the right direction on all levels.

So allow me to offer some advice and words of wisdom to the kids:

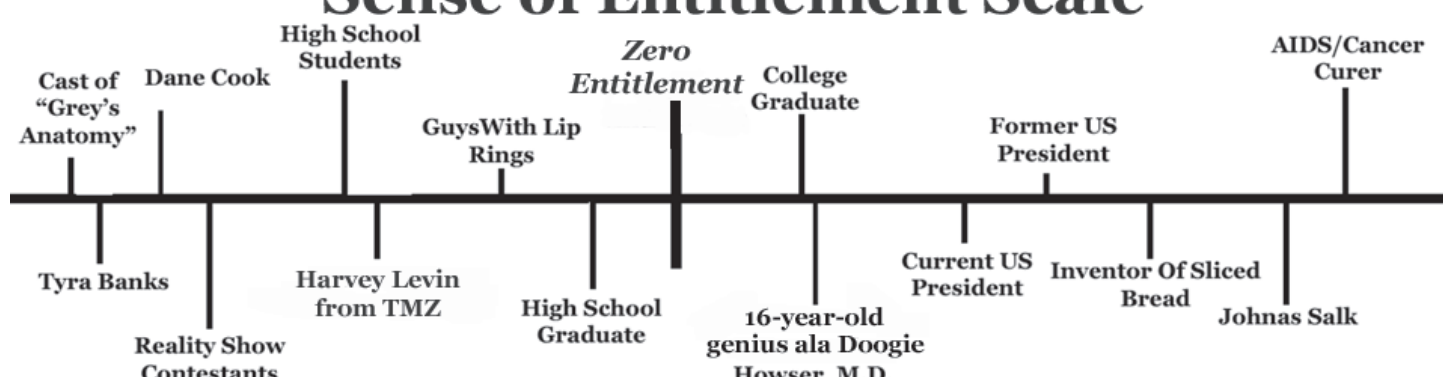
You're Not Special. Remember that; it's important. Until you find a way to differentiate yourself from the rest of the pack, you're just another booger-eater who spends too much time playing World of Warcraft or checking your MySpace page.

You may think you're entitled to something, but in reality, no one is entitled to anything (see chart below). Everyone has to *work* for basic things like respect, money, accolades. High school is a gimme. It's easy. In fact, it takes more effort to not graduate from high school. You have to earn what you get in this world, nothing is going to be given to you. You don't know it now, but high school is a cake-walk. When you take your attitude into the real world, chances are that you'll meet up with the harsh reality that you are a small fish in a very, very large pond that is populated with other fish that are smarter, faster, and stronger, because unlike you, they actually worked for everything they have. And those fish are going to chew you up and spit you out, and all that you're going to have to say is "Do you want fries with that?"

And to parents: **Get tough and parent.** When children do something wrong, make sure that they are aware of it. Don't immediately defend them, because it's setting a very bad precedent for the rest of their lives. If they failed a math test, it's probably because they're stupid or they didn't try. Stop calling and complaining to everyone because you don't want your precious demon seeds to be embarrassed when they are disciplined for talking on their cell phone during class. Discipline your kids; it will make the world a much better place for all of us.

And you don't have to be a genius to understand that.

Sense of Entitlement Scale



Just as people become more and more entitled as they accomplish more, entitlement can also be taken away. For instance, Tyra Banks ranks on the low end of the scale because she went from smoking hot supermodel to nausea-inducing talk show host, whereas the great Jonas Salk ranks high on the scale due to his work with the polio vaccine. As you can see, kids don't get their first sense of entitlement until they graduate from college.

Child sex trade: The sad truth about Cambodia

BY GINO TROIANI

Staff Writer/Photographer

The nation of Cambodia is located in Southeast Asia, just west of Vietnam. It is largely underdeveloped, poverty stricken, and lacks a strong central government.

To support themselves, many Cambodians live and work on farms, or in factories. In a nation where the average annual salary is around \$350 a year, some citizens turn to illegal activities such as narcotics or the sex trade to make money.

Brothels have been an easy way to generate revenue for Cambodian pimps since the early 1900's. When the United Nations (UN) entered Cambodia, sending troops to supervise the country's transition to the current democratic government, there was a large demand for prostitutes. Not long after the UN left, brothel owners discovered that they could market young girls to huge numbers of foreign clientele.

Today the sex trade in Cambodia is one of the largest money making businesses in the nation.

Out of an estimated 20,000 sex workers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital, the aver-

age age is around 15.

According to the U.S. State Department, sex trafficking is becoming a bigger business worldwide than drug trafficking. This means that every day thousands of young girls and boys are bought and sold into slavery.

The big question is, how do these young people find themselves as sex slaves?

According to a recent MSNBC article, one of the most popular ways of recruiting is by promising young girls steady work and shelter, an appealing prospect for girls who hope to help their families with much needed income. When they agree, they are brought to the brothel and sold for money. Because many young women in Cambodia are homeless and uneducated, one can imagine how easy this type of recruiting is. It is also not uncommon for a struggling family to sell one of their own children into the sex trade. The article reported that one woman recalls being tricked and sold to a brothel by her newly wed husband for \$200.

The majority of brothels are usually filthy, run down shacks, that offer subhuman living conditions. Upon arrival, the young women

are usually beaten, caged and drugged.

Dateline also reported that, it is also common for the pimps to show pornography to the youngest women, as "educational" background so they know how to service a paying customer. Because Cambodia is ravaged with HIV, AIDS, and numerous sexually transmitted diseases, it is considered good luck for a Cambodian man to have sex with a virgin. Because of this, it is not uncommon for the young girls to have their hymen re-stitched so that they can be sold as virgins more than once for a larger sum. Their ages range from 4 and up.

CNN recently reported that, a young girl only fifteen who was recently rescued from a brothel testified that she had been "locked in a cage," and forced to service at least fifteen customers a day. If she objected she was starved, and shocked with electric rods. She was also given a methamphetamine tablet several times a day to cloud her memory and keep her in an altered state.

What is being done?

There have been numerous efforts by both internal and external organizations to break up the sex trade in Cambodia, but the

struggle is far from over. The Cambodian government has set up an anti-trafficking department, but it is poorly funded, and many of the enforcement officers partake in the illegal activity themselves, such as taking handouts and tipping off the brothel owners.

For the girls who do find a way out of the sex trade, many of them turn to specialized shelters, which are dedicated to the rehabilitation of the young women. Here they receive both medical and psychological attention. The sad truth is that most of these girls die at a young age because of AIDS or other physical problems. Also a large number of the girls end up leaving and returning to a life of prostitution because it is the only thing they know.

Most of these young women have been exploited and abused on a daily basis for the majority of their lives. They have been stripped of their basic human rights, and demoralized to the point where there is nothing left but an empty shell. The United States and other developed countries have a moral obligation to educate and hold Cambodia to ensuring basic human rights for all.



The Beacon/Andrew Seaman

(LEFT) King's College students walk alongside a float featuring a balloon arch rainbow. One student was dressed as a leprechaun and danced on the float. (BELOW) The King's College mascot rides in the back of a security vehicle.

After much discussion at recent Student Government meetings, Wilkes decided not to place any floats in the Wilkes-Barre St. Patrick's Day parade. However, during the parade King's College was represented by several students and vehicles. Some carried flags, others walked alongside a float.

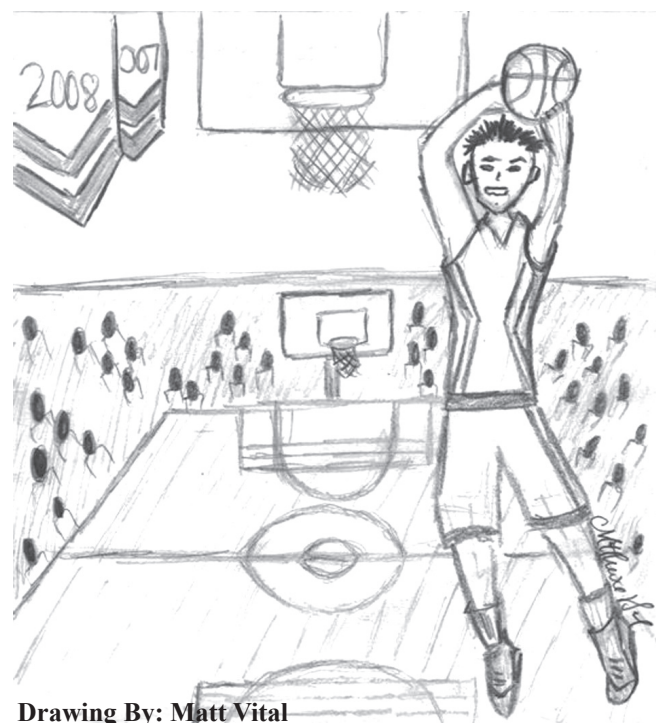


The Beacon/Andrew Seaman

Here's to you... Mr. Over Competitive!

BY GINO TROIANI

Staff Writer/Photographer



Drawing By: Matt Vital

To us, it's a game of pick up basketball at your cousin's bar mitzvah. But to you, it is as if the fate of the world rests upon this victory. We can always spot you out because while the rest of us are trying to have a good time, you're the only one yelling, flailing your arms, and looking like a complete fool. But that doesn't matter, because we all know you're the best. Right? Keep on, keepin' on!

Alternative spring breakers volunteer across the globe

BY LAUREN SALEM
Beacon Staff Writer

For some students at Wilkes University, spring break wasn't a time to relax on the beach or catch up on extra sleep. Rather, it provided time for week-long excursions to help the less fortunate in places around the world.

More than 20 Wilkes students split up and spent their spring break providing community service to the St. Bernard's community in New Orleans as well as the Succotz community in Belize. In each community, the volunteers heard inspiring stories from the people they were aiding.

New Orleans

"I think the person that affected us all the most was a volunteer named Steve," said Kelly Patchell, a junior psychology major involved in this year's Alternative Spring Break, in the New Orleans Journal 2008. "This man was both the most insightful and inspirational man I've met."

Steve, a cook at the St. Bernard Community Center, was one of the many victims of Hurricane Katrina. Three years ago when the hurricane hit, Steve helped his sick wife, whose heart was barely pumping, escape from the storm by pushing her wheelchair up into the attic.

He told his wife that "they will get out of it together or not at all." Steve's house flooded in 14 feet of water, but they both survived the hurricane.

"It takes a long time, but the people are so appreciative of students being there, because they keep coming back and the government does not," said Megan Boone, the coordinator of Student Development.

After the students arrived in New Orleans, they settled into a mansion on St. Charles Street, which had only two bathrooms that had to be shared between 42 people. They were each given an army cot to sleep on and an itchy prison blanket made out of "30 percent wool and 70 percent other fibers." Even though the living accommodations were uncomfortable, Boone says it helped bind the entire group emotionally.

The eleven students and two advisors who went to New Orleans volunteered to distribute food and clothing to the residents of the St. Bernard's Parish at the community center. On the first work day, they helped make a new trail in the city park, which had

been under 9 feet of water, by mulching the pathways and filling ditches with clumps of mud and clay.

"When we went to the St. Bernard Community Center, that started to change our students' lives and they could see the purpose of the alternative spring break trip," Boone said.

On the second day of work, the group split up again and half the students went to Children's Museum, while the other half went to help at the Animal Rescue New Orleans animal shelter.

At the Children's Museum, students helped kids with arts and crafts, face painting, and storytelling. When they finished at the Children's Museum, they met up with

the group at the animal shelter.

"In addition to our cleaning duties, we also pet the cats and took the dogs out for walks," said Jen Smeraldo, a junior majoring in musical theater, in the blog New Orleans Journal 2008. "I wish I could take every single cat and dog home."

Some of the cats and dogs picked up by the animal shelter after Katrina hit were not domesticated or needed socialization before they could be adopted. Students also worked with the St. Bernard Animal Shelter, which was operated by only two people, and will be receiving money from a fundraiser Megan Boone is planning to set up in the future. This fundraiser

will also give money to the St. Bernard Community Center.

"Hearing that we're the heroes made the trip worthwhile," said Kaitlyn DeFaci, a freshman majoring in nursing. "You can't imagine what these people had to go through unless you were there."



Courtesy Kelly Patchell

Belize

Students who spent their alternative spring break in Belize also saw firsthand the difficulties facing a poverty-stricken community.

"American tourists have given themselves a bad reputation which precedes them-having little respect for the local facilities and partying into all hours of the night," said Dana Lehman, a senior communication studies major, in the Belize Journal 2008. "I, an alternative spring break participant, am not the typical tourist."

Ten Wilkes University students and two advisors spent their spring break in San Ignacio, Belize, helping the community of Succotz build a 12 X 30 library, which at the time the group arrived had only a floor. Within four days, the students were able to lay nine rows of concrete block to create the walls of the library without the aid of a concrete mixer or any other modern technological tools.

"The building is actually also going to serve as a hurricane shelter and a traveling health clinic," said Amanda Kunkel, a junior elementary education major. "Knowing that children will have a place to go after school to read and that people will be safe in the event of a hurricane is very comforting to me."

Some of the tasks students performed while constructing the library included concrete mixing, mortaring, carrying blocks, laying blocks, sifting sand, carrying water, shoveling dirt and sand



Courtesy Amanda Kunkel

Twenty students from Wilkes participated in alternative spring break trips to New Orleans and Belize. They helped restore city park trails and they volunteered at an animal shelter in New Orleans, and aided in building a library in Succotz, Belize.

needed for mixing, and wiring with the rebar.

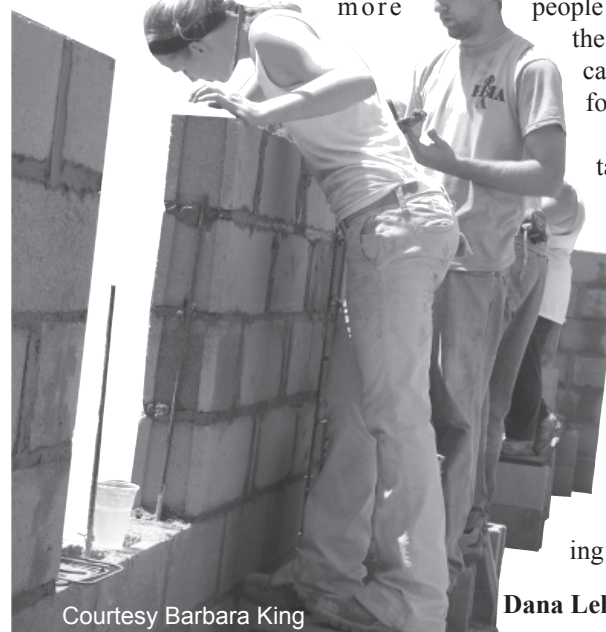
"I have never experienced heat like we felt in Belize," said Kaitlyn Taber-Miller, a senior musical theatre major. "There were moments where many of us experienced nausea, headaches, and dizziness. It's difficult to work in conditions like that." On average, the daily temperatures in the rain forest were above 90 degrees, and felt far hotter because of the high humidity.

The students also worked and interacted with the children of Belize in after-school activities almost daily.

Alan, a six-year-old boy, told junior communications and political science major Valerie Martinez about life with his parents and said that he does not have a curfew, because his parents work until very late at night. Another boy she spoke with, Orvin, 12, said he was joining the Belize Defense Force, because his mother would not be able to afford for him to go to high school.

Students were physically and emotionally challenged by hardships involved in understanding another culture as well as hardships involved in manual labor. Martinez, who is fluent in Spanish, translated messages to help the students and Belize residents communicate.

"The Belizean children truly touched me with their curiosity for life, their mannerisms, and their thirst for interaction," said Martinez. "They just reminded me of how privileged we all are and how beautiful life truly is."



Courtesy Barbara King

Dana Lehman and Justin Balint built a wall in Belize.

Student of the Week: Kaitlin Taber-Miller

BY CHRISTINE ZAVASKAS

Beacon Asst. Lifestyles Editor

For Kaitlin Taber-Miller, a senior musical theatre major, spring break last year was not just a chance to catch up on sleep and homework, but an experience that changed her life.

After serving as a coordinator for the Alternative Spring Break trip to New Orleans in 2007, Taber-Miller realized that she wanted to make her senior capstone project a script which would be written based on real interviews conducted with the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Last August, she returned to the city and began work on her project. Now in the process of staging the script, entitled "Project New Orleans," Taber-Miller has also been accepted to Teach for America, which she was inspired to apply for after seeing the inequality of education during her work in New Orleans.

For her work to bring the plight of the victims of Hurricane Katrina to greater attention, *The Beacon* has chosen Taber-Miller as this week's Student of the Week and sat down with her to hear more about her project.

The Beacon: Why did you take on this senior capstone project?

Taber-Miller: I had this concept about the United States...I knew that we had flaws as a nation, but I guess I didn't understand exactly how flawed we were until I had

gone down to New Orleans...I want to do this capstone because I was ignorant about how things were down there before I went. I came back and met all my friends, family, and peers and I was talking to them about how it was, and they had no idea...I wanted to change that, which is what inspired me going back, filming interviews, and then writing a script that will be presented in April.

The Beacon: How did you arrange the interviews?

Taber-Miller: Dr. Hebert-Leiter put me in contact with her sister, Dr. Hebert, who is a physician in New Orleans. She introduced me to a couple of people via email and gave me their phone numbers once she requested their permission. Then, Lisa Mulvey in Career Services also has a strong connection with New Orleans, so she helped me... Then the rest of the interviews, I literally would just walk up to people in New Orleans and say, "Hey, I'm here doing this thing from Wilkes University and would you please just give me a few minutes of your time and talk to me about your experiences with the hurricane?"

The Beacon: How did people respond when you approached them?

Taber-Miller: They responded in very different ways... One woman, we spoke with her, and I get a little upset about it. We asked her if she'd like to talk to us and she said, "No I can't. I'll cry. It just hurts too much..." Then some people I went up to were like, "Yes! Please, please tell people about

what's going on down here. Please tell them that we feel like we're ignored, like we've been forgotten about..." When I tried to speak with the firefighter, I had to go back five and six times just to get him to speak with me...I kept saying to him, "I'm not here to point any fingers...I'm here to find out about what you experienced."

The Beacon: What are your plans for the future?

Taber-Miller: I know that eventually I would really like to end up in higher education, either working in service programs like alternative spring break or perhaps teaching about education in terms of what I learn with my experience in Teach for America. I definitely know that I would like to work in higher education, I would like to travel, and eventually I would like to have a family.

"Project New Orleans" will be presented at the Black Box Theatre in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center on April 18 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and April 21 at 8 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. Admission is free, but donations for the victims of Hurricane Katrina will be accepted.



Photo courtesy Taber-Miller

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Young Scholars balance high school work, college demands

BY CHRISTA SGOBBA

Beacon Lifestyles Editor

When Julia Salem entered Wilkes University in the fall of 2007, she was already a step ahead of most of her freshman peers.

She already had a semester's worth of college credits under her belt.

Salem, an 18-year-old with sophomore status, took college courses at Wilkes during her senior year at Crestwood High School under the Young Scholars Program. The program, which was developed in the 1980s, gives qualified high school students the opportunity to take college courses at a reduced tuition rate.

Students who participate in this program must not only rank in the top 20 percent of their classes, but they must also demonstrate characteristics that show their guidance counselors that they can balance the workload of college classes and high school responsibilities.

"They're the ones who are more active in high school and interact more with their high school teachers and guidance counselors," said Henry Steuben, the director for the Center of Continued Learning, who is also in charge of the Young Scholars program. "They're a little more open, and are really wanting something more out of high school."

Over 80 students from area high schools are currently taking courses at Wilkes this semester. They represent schools including Crestwood, Dallas, Meyers, G.A.R., Coughlin, Wyoming Valley West, Hanover Area, and Holy Redeemer High Schools.

Young Scholars pay only \$70 a credit for their courses, and are allowed to take two courses each semester. They can take any course as long as they meet any prerequisites and have the recommendation of their high school guidance counselor.

Salem, who took four classes at Wilkes in her senior year at Coughlin, chose introductory courses in English, history, and psychology.

"It's good to get ahead and have these credits coming in," said Salem.

"It actually helped me out because I'm a double major in Spanish and business, so I can graduate on time because I got some of the requirements out of the way."

According to Steuben, the most popular courses for the Young Scholars are COM101, HST101, and introductory courses in sociology and psychology. Some even come to Wilkes to take advanced calculus classes.

J. Bartholomay Grier, an English professor at Wilkes, taught around 25 Young Scholars

during the past six years in his English composition class. He believes it was a popular choice for Young Scholars because it prepares them for college writing at whatever school they would choose.

"I think they want to be able to write the best paper possible by the time they actually begin college," he said. "The students who I've had in the Young Scholars program all indicated that they were going off to college, and they have gone off to a variety of schools like Bucknell, Gettysburg, and Susquehanna, as well as Wilkes."

Grier, who taught high school for 30 years, says he is familiar with the differences in college and high school learning that initially can cause the Young Scholars challenges in adjusting to the work.

"The interesting thing is that they are of course younger, and are not used to the give and take that exists in a college classroom that may not exist in high school classroom," he said. "Some of them are a little timid at first about speaking up, saying things, but they get right into the swing of things. They fit in with the other students very well, and they are quite bright."

Other challenges that Young Scholars face include balancing college courses with their high school work. They need to find courses offered at times that would cause the least disruption to their high school day.

Stueben says that most Young Scholars who take courses during the fall or spring semesters opt for the 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. classes so they can get back to their high

The students who do have the desire to take college courses are by and large a little more mature than their peers, so they fit in. In fact, I've heard from a number of faculty if we hadn't told them which ones were high school kids, they wouldn't have known.

Henry Steuben

Director of the Young Scholars Program

school and miss the least amount of work possible. Some who attend city high schools take evening classes, and others enroll only in summer courses.

Despite the challenges, Stueben believes that the majority of Young Scholars adjust well to college life.

"For the most part, they adjust very, very well," he said. "The students who do have the desire to take college courses are by and large a little more mature than their peers,



The Beacon/Christa Sgobba

This semester, over 80 students from local area schools are attending Wilkes University as members of the Young Scholars program. Young Scholars can take up to two courses each semester for \$70 each credit. Julia Salem, a dual business and Spanish major, entered Wilkes with 12 credits during her time as a Young Scholar.

so they fit in. In fact, I've heard from a number of faculty if we hadn't told them which ones were high school kids, they wouldn't have known."

When Salem first started the Young Scholars program, she didn't find it overwhelmingly challenging, but she did think that the

However, Grier hasn't seen grades give his Young Scholars much of a problem. Out of all his Young Scholars, he never had any withdraw from the course or do poorly. While one or two initially had difficulties, they brought their grades up after talking through the problems with Grier.

"I never had a weak Young Scholar Student. I don't want to say they're better than Wilkes students, I certainly don't mean that, but they are as good as an average Wilkes student," he said. "The students who come here are very well prepared and appropriately fit into the classroom and the learning environment."

Grier believes that the Young Scholars program is "tremendously beneficial" to high school students. It gives college-bound high school students a sneak peek at their next four years, and cuts down on the stress of worrying how they will adjust to college classes.

Salem believes that the Young Scholars program helped her not only adjust to college classes, but also gave her a head start to college life.

"We knew how to write papers from the English class, and we knew what college life would be like before we got there," she said. "We knew where things were on campus, that new students didn't know. They had to get their maps out, but we already knew where things were."

experience just felt different.

"The teachers expect you to know what you're doing, and they don't tell you every little thing you need to know," said Salem. "And you have to study more for the tests."

According to Steuben, another challenge for Young Scholars is they have to keep their grades up to a C or better for the course to count for credit. If they have below a C average, they have to withdraw from the course.

When the old becomes new again

Music's past heroes return to the spotlight

BY MARK CONGDON
Beacon Opinion Editor

Everyone knows that the old favorites never fail to inspire audiences. *American Idol* regularly tests new talent by challenging with songs from decades past. Artists such as Led Zeppelin and Queen are the models for many new, young performers.

But while Led Zeppelin and Queen won't be coming back anytime soon, some former pop stars have decided that they're not quite finished. Recently, there has been an explosion of bands and singers coming out of the shadows of the 80s and 90s and taking back the spotlight. The Spice Girls and Hanson are just a couple of these musicians returning to the spotlight and trying to recapture their audiences.

And locally, in keeping with the trend, 90s pop star Vanilla Ice opened the new Hardware Bar in downtown Wilkes-Barre on March 13. The bar was standing room only. When he performed his hit song "Ice Ice Baby" from 1991, the crowd went wild, and for about three minutes, it seemed like it Wilkes-Barre had been transported back in time two decades. Vanilla Ice also performed some of his lesser known songs, and even offered his own twist on Bob Marley's hit, "No Woman No Cry."

The Spice Girls also recently reunited and completed their world tour in Toronto, Canada on February 26. The band performed at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia on February 19. Everyone from the band, Baby Spice, Sporty Spice, Ginger Spice, Scary Spice, and Posh Spice was there, which wasn't the case when they performed at Montage Mountain back in 1998.

As the Spice Girls came onto the stage, the screaming and cheering crowd became hysterical. The band performed some new songs like "Headlines" and all of their hits including "Wannabe," "Say You'll be There," "Stop" and "Spice Up Your Life." The crowd was dancing and signing along like it was karaoke during the entire concert.

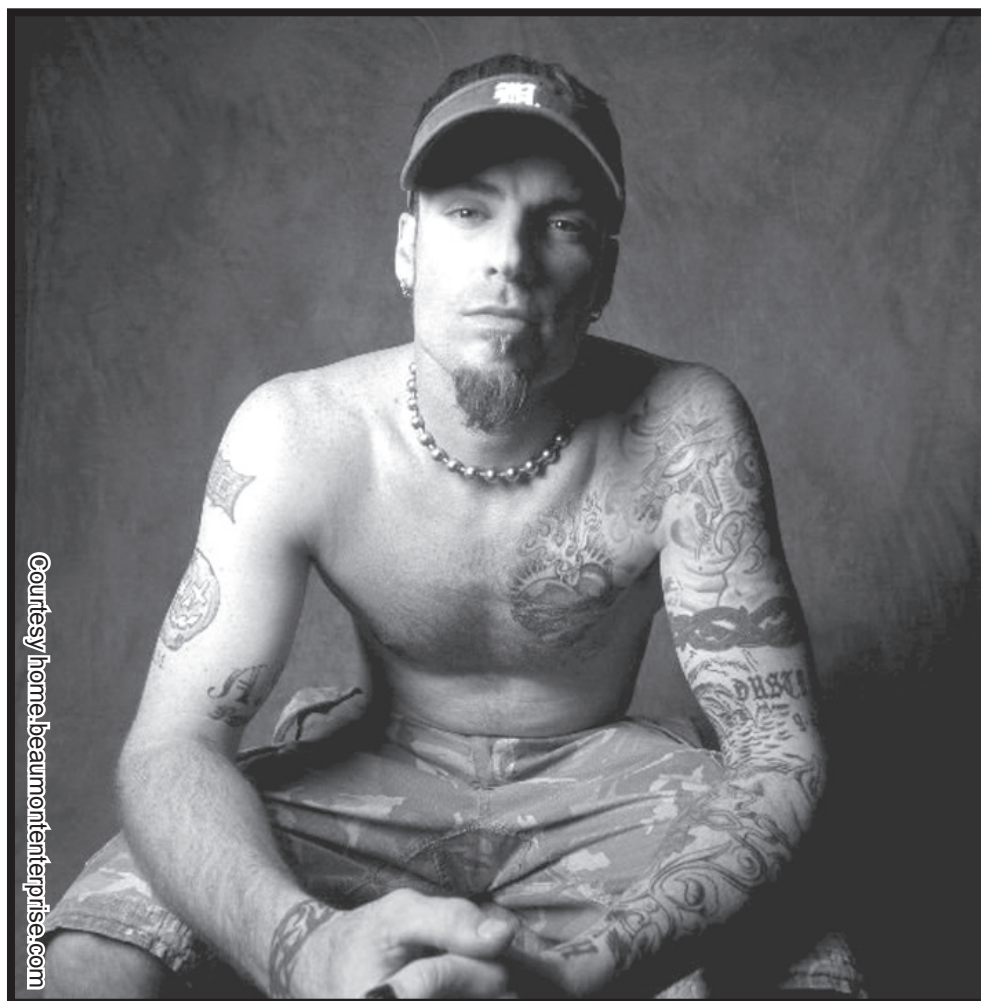
Jamie Gibson, senior communication studies major, said, "It was really fun; it had a lot of energy, and made me want to dance and sing. I felt like a 13-year old girl. It brought back many memories and made me feel like a kid again."

Becca Duttry, senior psychology major

agreed, "The Spice Girls were role models when I was growing up. A lot of girls looked up to them because they had diverse personalities, and almost any girl could, at least, relate to one of them."

missing in today's music!"

Duttry added that, "I would go see the Spice Girls if they went on tour again. I saw the Spice Girls in 1998 at Montage Mountain, and it was a really great concert."



Recently the music scene has seen a resurgence of 90s bands making new albums and comeback tours. On Friday, Vanilla Ice performed at the new Hardware Bar in downtown Wilkes-Barre and the Spice Girls just completed a world tour.

Considering that the Spice Girls are now in their 30s, and most are married and have children, their vocal and dancing ability was shockingly good. One would have never guessed that the Spice Girls were aging. In fact, they appeared to be in better shape now than they did at the height of their careers.

Gibson, enthusiastically summed up the concert by saying that, "The Spice Girls concert was an unforgettable pop culture event that brought fun, passion, and love back to the free-spirited fun-flowing pop music of the 1990's, and demonstrated that 'Girl Power' still lives on, something that's

The group Hanson has also been in the spotlight over the past few years. They are most known for their 1997 hit "MMMBop." According to Hanson.net, the Band's website, the band will begin touring on April 9 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Hanson will even be performing in Sayreville, New Jersey and Allentown, Pennsylvania on April 29 and May 2.

Gibson noted that she will attend two of their concerts this spring. "I love Hanson. I have seen them 12 times and am going to see them again in April and May in Allentown and Sayreville, New Jersey," she said.

People Magazine reported in January that there are speculations that the New Kids on the Block will be reuniting. The group is best known for hits songs "Hangin' Tough," "You've Got it (The Right Stuff)" and "Step by Step." The magazine even reported that the band has reactivated its website, and there's even a new, never released song with a video posted on the band's website, NKOTB.com.

Gibson is one of the thousands of fans awaiting their return. She said that if they reunite and go on tour, "I would be the first person in line buying tickets for New Kids on the Block. I know all the songs and all the dances."

With popular musicians from the 80s and 90s currently reuniting, what is the attraction that draws their old fans base and even a new fan base to come out and support them?

Susan Biskup, Wilkes University Campus Counselor, believes it's the way music resonates with others. "Music gives people the feeling of being young again... When you put on music from your past, it can illicit the feelings and memories you had when you were younger," stated Biskup.

Gibson believes that, "Everyone wants to go back to when they were younger. I think it has a lot to do with the culture now. If you look at the movies and fashion, many of them represent that of the 80's."

Biskup added, "If you're a person in your twenties and have grown up with a positive experience and relationship with music and your parents, you are more likely to embrace their music along with your own." This could help explain why some songs and styles of music have transcended from generation to generation.

"It brings back youthful memories because that's what I listened to when I was kid... I think the fans come out to support these musicians because it makes them feel young again," expressed Duttry.

Biskup said, "Some songs today are re-makes or remixes from the youth of baby-boomers and other generations which allows today's generations to enjoy the music with them. The wonderful thing about music is that it brings people from all different backgrounds and perspectives together."

Nightlife Review: The Hardware Bar

BY ALISON WOODY
Beacon Managing Editor

The Hardware Bar, located at 12 South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, had everything going for it before it even opened its doors. It is run by a successful owner who operates numerous other bars across Pennsylvania, it has a great "Coyote Ugly" theme and, lastly, it is a fresh face in a slow downtown nightlife.

It had everything going for it, that is, until I actually showed up.

The Hardware Bar was supposed to open up at 7 p.m. on March 13 for "VIPs" who held tickets, but when my friend and I finally arrived about 7:15 we were already welcomed by a long line that stretched down the street.



Bartenders dance on the bar to entertain guests in a "Coyote Ugly" fashion. The dancing is provocative and may alienate female customers.

About a half an hour later, we were finally let in. Let me just say people were not too pleased to be standing outside in the cold, some of whom were left to freeze for more than an hour. Strike One.

Once inside, the decor impressed me. Especially the huge wall of liquor stacked behind the main bar. While the bar slightly resembled Club Mardi Gras (the prior establishment located in the same space), it had a different feel to it. There were three separate areas where patrons could buy a drink and a staff of friendly cocktail waitresses. This resulted in efficient service, which I deemed a positive on such a busy night.

My main concern was the seating. As a female in extremely high heels, I found it terribly uncomfortable that there was not one place to sit in the entire room. I had to resort to sitting down in the bathroom. I understand that the majority of people come to a bar to dance and have fun, but every now and again one needs to take at least a five minute break. There was nowhere to do that here, unless, that is, you wanted to be surrounded by toilets. Strike Two.

The music was playing and there was great energy from the crowd when five of the female bartenders jumped on the bar and attempted to do their best rendition of a "Coyote Ugly" dance.

I've been to the real Coyote Ugly, both in New York City and Las Vegas, and I will be the first to admit that there is no true comparison. Ladies at the authentic bar work to empower the women in the crowd while still maintaining a sex appeal for the men.

I honestly feel that for the girls of The Hardware Bar, it must have been a prerequisite to have had some experience dancing with a pole before. I love dancing just as much as the next person, but their routines were raunchy and way too oversexed for me.

I noticed many of the female faces in the room turn to disgust when the girls started dancing, while all of the men, young and old alike, had their eyes glued to the bar. Now, I am not saying that these routines aren't

a great draw for a big crowd. However, I do feel that the bar should accommodate the likes of both genders. The Hardware Bar is truly a man's bar. Strike Three.

The alcohol prices were fairly reasonable. Three dollars a beer is what I would expect to pay almost anywhere else. However, The Hardware Bar was plastered with a ton of posters advertising their drink specials every night.

Wednesday is called "Cheap Beer Night" with 25 cent drafts and upcoming events include a pajama party, bikini bingo and visits from Coral from MTV's *The Real World* and Jess from VH1's *Rock of Love*.

The most expensive shot will cost patrons ten dollars. That will get you the liquor of your choice poured straight into your mouth, a seat in the barber chair on top of the bar, a male or female bartender straddling your lap and a belt spank on the behind.

Lastly, The Hardware Bar's management decided to engage the D-list celebrity, Vanilla Ice, as the entertainment for opening night. He may not be the best concert draw, but I would give anything to hear him sing "Ice, Ice Baby" up close and personal.

His concert was exactly what I expected after seeing him on television shows such as VH1's *The Surreal Life*. It was angry, had bad rapping and scary clowns, tons of swearing and it even had some unexpected female nudity. Overall, though, it was completely entertaining and totally crowd appealing. I feel the management picked the perfect first act and I applaud them for the live music groups they have coming up in the next few weeks.

While I did give The Hardware Bar three strikes, it also had some attractive qualities to it. Even though I was initially turned off to a return visit, I will rate it a "C". This is because I do believe it has the potential to completely revitalize the nightlife of downtown Wilkes-Barre and that is the most important factor of all.

Sigma Kappa Tau features rhythmic stepping

BY ALISSA LINDNER
Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Outside the meeting of Sigma Kappa Tau, the rhythmic sounds of stomps and claps beg passersby to stop and listen.

Those who do peek in, might soon find themselves moving unconsciously to the lively music and infectious beats.

Sigma Kappa Tau, a new Wilkes step club, was recently granted official status by Student Government. The group's founder and team captain Frantzddyn Pamphile explained that the club offers a different style of movement from the traditional dance team or cheerleaders at Wilkes.

that you do to express yourself," Pamphile said of Sigma Kappa Tau.

Pamphile, a sophomore nursing major, initiated Sigma Kappa Tau after freshman students came to the university looking for another place to express themselves with movement. Having been on the step team throughout high school, Pamphile believed a step club at Wilkes would be the perfect fit.

Sigma Kappa Tau performances offer a full body dance, including hand motions. Tracy Garcia, a sophomore accounting and business administration major, is a member of the step club and explained the difference in the style of dance. "It's [Sigma Kappa Tau] something different on campus from the dance team and cheerleading. [Stepping is] a different type of motion to express yourself," Garcia explained.

The faculty advisor to Sigma Kappa Tau is Brenda Stanley, Director of Residence Life at Wilkes. Pamphile said the step club

currently includes 12 members; however, it is open to anyone and always looking for new members.

"It's [Sigma Kappa Tau] something new and different," Garcia said. She added that the step club can be a way to meet new people on campus.

According the constitution, Sigma Kappa Tau "means individually unique together complete. This shall be a team created for school spirit through expressive dance and steps." The movements in the stepping are highly rhythm based.

Pamphile explained step club performances will definitely begin in the Fall 2008 semester; however she hopes, with practice there may be performances before this semester is done.

Sigma Kappa Tau plans to meet Tuesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center. Anyone interested should contact Pamphile at frantzddyn.pamphile@wilkes.edu.



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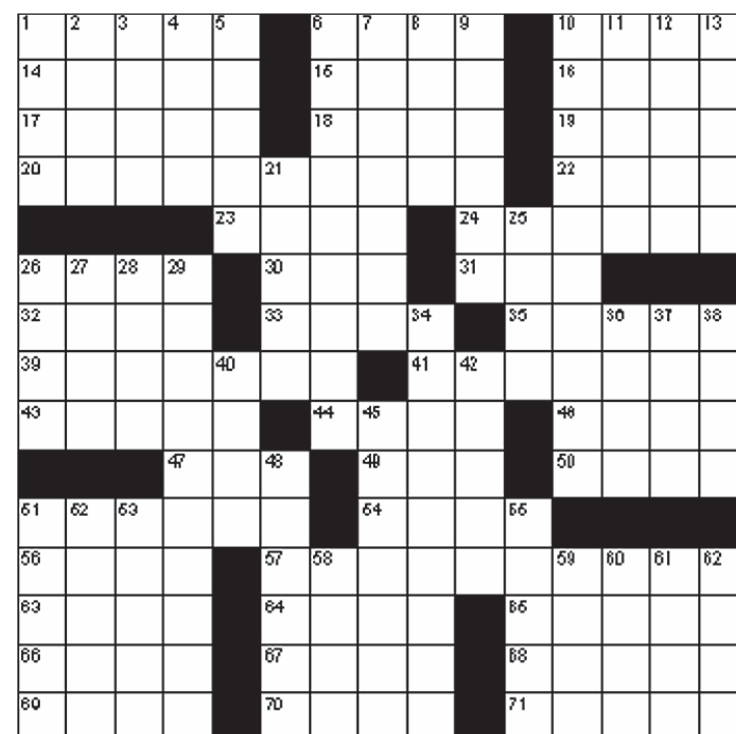
BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK

Beacon Staff Writer

ACROSS

- 1 Religious robes
- 6 Guitar ridge
- 10 Campus building, for example
- 14 Travel by walking
- 15 Back end
- 16 Random collection
- 17 Starbucks offering
- 18 Not difficult
- 19 Arm bone
- 20 Greek mathematician
- 22 Eyed
- 23 Cheers character
- 24 Current styles
- 26 Aroma
- 30 Asia ethnic groups
- 31 Evergreen fluid
- 32 Act by gestures
- 33 Suspects
- 35 Concerning the nose
- 39 Titanic's nemesis
- 41 Fertilizer ingredient
- 43 Belief
- 44 Electrified swimmers
- 46 Equine pace
- 47 Move slowly
- 49 Call from the Titanic
- 50 Sweet potatoes
- 51 Spacecraft designation
- 54 Forced government change
- 56 Type of skirt
- 57 Rear vehicle illumination
- 63 "____ the wild blue yonder"
- 64 Long, easy stride
- 65 To improvise
- 66 One of the South Park four
- 67 At all times
- 68 "____ truly"
- 69 Absorbs
- 70 Golf pegs

- 71 Land of Nod
- ## DOWN
- 1 Festival
 - 2 Out yonder
 - 3 Campus military organization
 - 4 One and the other
 - 5 Beer glass
 - 6 Roaming livestock
 - 7 Let in again
 - 8 Effortlessness
 - 9 Secret rendezvous
 - 10 Something done when parents are away
 - 11 Type of wrench
 - 12 Type of paper
 - 13 Bank offerings
 - 21 Automobile part
 - 25 Babble on and on
 - 26 Eliminate from text
 - 27 Vegas rollers
 - 28 Dark cloud or black cat
 - 29 Uprisings
 - 34 Bystanders
 - 36 Singer songwriter _____
 - 37 Barelilles
 - 37 Molecule component
 - 38 Allows
 - 40 List ending
 - 42 Political concern
 - 45 Prison fugitive
 - 48 Harry Potter and the _____ of Fire
 - 51 Out of proper order
 - 52 Spotted bean
 - 53 Drinks ready to be served
 - 55 Broadway happenings
 - 58 Presidential adviser Karl ____
 - 59 Object of worship
 - 60 Elmer's _____
 - 61 Employ
 - 62 Cooking meas.



Answers 2.26



Retrojunk.com

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Assistant Opinion Editor

Remember those toys you used to play with as a kid? How about the cheesy-yet-catchy commercials that enticed you to *want* them?

If so, get ready for a blast from the past on RetroJunk.com. This website compiles the greatest toys, commercials, people, public service announcements and TV shows from the 70s, 80s, and 90s that could inspire nostalgia in anyone who lived through any of those decades. I don't remember much of the 80's since I was born in 1987, but the artifacts from the 90's definitely brought back childhood memories for me.

When you click on the movies link, the website offers a list of movies from the era you choose and lists them by popularity. You can then read a summary, see a cast list, read memorable quotes, view still images and watch trailers. Site visitors can then read the comments left by other users relating the movie to their memories and even leave your own comments.

The television section allows visitors to watch the introduction and see the end

credits. It would be much improved if it offered full episodes but there are copyright laws against videos that are longer than 30 seconds.

My favorite part of the site is the commercial section. Users can choose a category and see the commercials that fall under each. The most memorable ones I saw were Little Caesar's "pizza pizza," Pizza Hut's Pizza Head, the infamous "He likes it, Hey Mikey," and my personal favorite Teddy Ruxpen.

The only down side to this site is the people section. The pages of many of the people listed are lacking the depth of information the website offers for others. The pages that are filled in offer quotes, biographies, photo gallery and roles played for each person. You can search people by profession or alphabetically. The people listed are actors, athletes, business people, criminals, directors, TV hosts, models, musicians, politicians and scientists.

RetroJunk.com is easy to navigate and offers plenty of information on the shows, movies, toys and commercials mentioned. It definitely serves as a great way to waste time and it takes you back in time. I give this website an N for Non-stop Nostalgia.

Movie Review: *There Will Be Blood*

BY MIKE WILLIAMS

Beacon Staff Writer

The way things are shaping up, it looks as though 2008 can forever be known, in movie terms at least, as the "Year of the Villain."

With many of this year's highest award nods going to people like Johnny Depp for his portrayal of a blood-thirsty barber in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* and Javier Bardem for his run as *No Country For Old Men's* murderous Mexican hit man, Anton Chigurh. However, these fiendish characters aside, there is one cinema heavy that outweighs them all.

In *There Will Be Blood*, the latest film from Paul Thomas Anderson (*Magnolia*), Daniel Day Lewis (*Last of the Mohicans*) turns in yet another jaw dropping performance as possibly the most ruthless character ever committed to film, Daniel Plainview. Lewis has an uncanny knack for portraying rogues and scoundrels. In fact, the worse they are, the more audiences become enamored with them. Just look at his turn as Bill the Butcher in *Gangs of New York*. Equally as evil, and equally as mustached, Plainview is every bit as captivating as the Butcher; however, he doesn't stab as many people. (Hey, nobody's perfect).

Set in the American West, the film begins in 1898 and follows the life of Lewis's character, Plainview, who begins as a simple silver miner before his life begins down

its slippery slope of greed and deceit. Opening with Plainview working tediously in a dark mine shaft, the film holds the viewer in its intense grasp for over ten minutes before the first lines of dialogue are spoken. From this point on we watch as a simple, hard-working man is transformed by wealth, as Plainview strikes oil and creates his own drilling company. Along the way, Plainview adopts the orphaned, infant son of a deceased co-worker. However, what seemingly starts as an act of good will and humanity soon becomes yet another money making scheme, as Plainview uses his innocent son (newcomer Dillon Freasier) as a selling point, hoping to create a "family man" image for prospective clients.

All is going well for Plainview and his son until they are approached by small town boy Paul Sunday (Paul Dano, *Little Miss Sunshine*), who tells Plainview of a town, Little Boston, Ca, where the oil is literally seeping through the cracks of the earth, and the land of the people living there can be taken cheap. After a quick negotiation for the whereabouts of this town, Plainview and son head off to Little Boston, where they swindle and smooth-talk their way into an incredibly lucrative land deal. However, Plainview finds himself opposed by the town's fanatical preacher, Eli Sunday (also played by Dano), which creates a fierce rivalry that begins to build from the first time the two meet.

From the moment the first oil derrick is constructed in the dry dusty landscape of Little Boston, the life of Daniel



Photo Courtesy of blogs.indiewire.com

Plainview transforms into an intense rollercoaster of deceit, death, greed and madness, as his wealth, mistrust and general disdain for all things living force him to alienate himself from every other aspect of his life other than his business, including his son and his long lost brother (Kevin J. O'Connor, *The Mummy*). In the end, the film boils down to an incredible character study of a good man driven to evil and madness by the stress of success, wealth, business and greed.

Based on Upton Sinclair's novel *Oil*, *There Will Be Blood* is an incredible piece of filmmaking. Not a single element falls short of breathtaking. From the cinematography and the score, which never fails to keep the audience on edge, to the awe inspiring performance of Daniel Day-Lewis. The film will no doubt solidify his place as one of the greatest actors/artists of all time. A film such as this comes along once in a great while, so go see this film. Now.

Grade: A+

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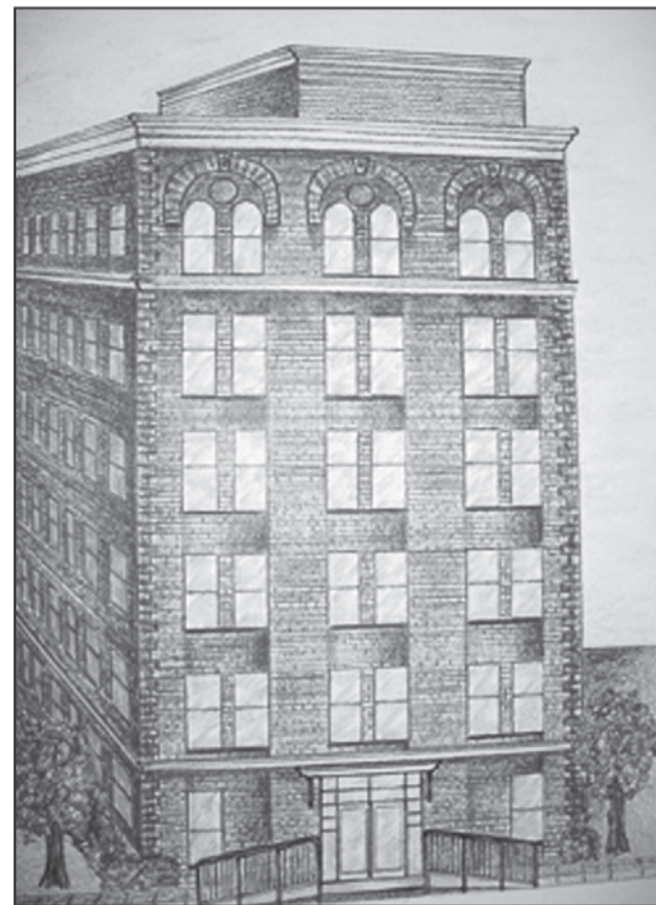
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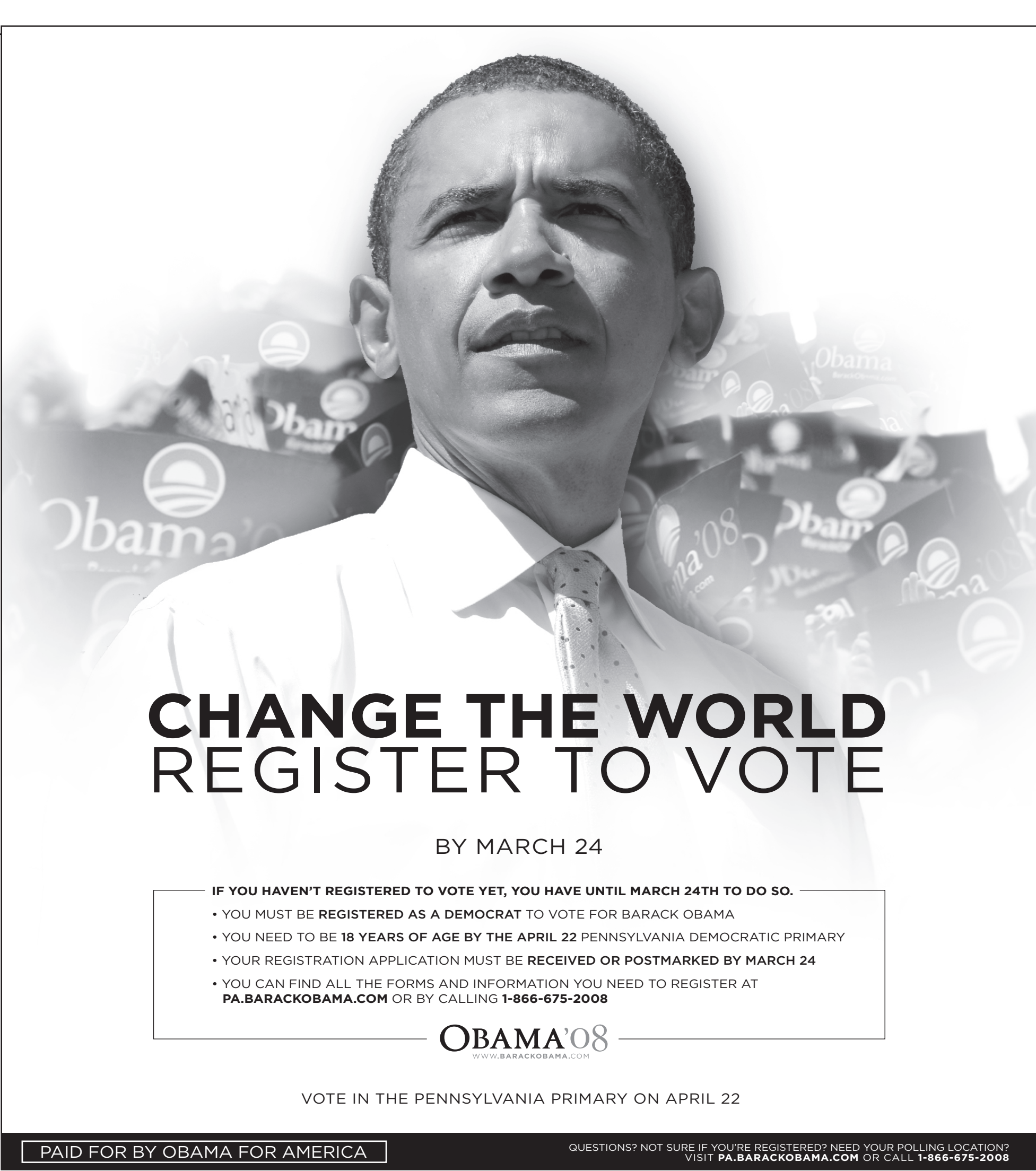
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Club begins season with loss to Lafayette

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Sports Editor

At the start of the spring semester, during training camp, coaches Matthew McCaffrey and Mike Fox set a goal for the lacrosse club this year to win three of its scheduled eight games. They aimed for that particular number due to the team's struggle to win games in recent years.

But senior captain Anthony Fortunato angrily intervened and set a goal of his own.

"We're going out there to win and go undefeated," said Fortunato. "We're not going to go and set a three game goal. That's not a goal any team should ever set. We're going out to win every single day and that's what we're going to do."

Unfortunately, the team lost its first game of the season 11-2 to Lafayette College, a team they have never played before, on February 24. But the bright side is the Colonels have seven games left to play which gives them the opportunity to accomplish the initial goal set by the coaches.

The lacrosse club is currently playing its

fourth consecutive season after the sport (which was once a varsity sport) was banned from Wilkes University for 22 years due to budget cuts.

But with financial help from alumni and the Student Government, the lacrosse club is back in business and will be looking to post their most successful season since 2004.

The team has made quality adjustments to their roster through recruiting and the addition of athletes who have played other sports on campus. According to the coaching staff, the 2008 team is solid compared to recent years. "Most of these kids had a stick in their hand most of their lives," said Fox.

"It's a different kind of sport," said Fox. "It's not as cut throat as a varsity sport where we can say, 'you need to be here all the time. It's more of a relaxed atmosphere but we still expect a lot out of the players."

The Colonels are part of the National College Lacrosse League and competes in the Eastern Pennsylvania Division which includes teams such as, Kutztown, Bloomsburg, Lehigh, Penn, and Albright,

just to name a few.

The team is mandated to play at least eight games to be eligible for playoff contention but can also pick up teams outside of the conference. Problem is, some non-conference do not foresee benefits from playing a club team like the Colonels. Therefore, it's difficult for the Colonels to schedule enough games to reach the postseason.

If all scheduled games are played, look for the Colonels to make a run for the postseason.



Freshman Tyler Pearson sweating it out during practice.

The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Spring Schedule

2/24 @ Lafayette College, Lost 11-2

3/15 V. Millersville University, PPD

3/16 V. Northampton County College

3/29 @ York College, 1pm

3/30 V. Bloomsburg, 4pm

4/5 @ Albright College/Kutztown University, 1pm

4/12 @ Penn College, 1pm

4/13 @ Lehigh University, 1pm

*Home games are played at Misericordia



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| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

NBA Doubleheader

Red Hot Rockets look to continue streak; Suns battle for playoff spot

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

With just under a month remaining in the regular season, it's time for all the contenders in the NBA to saddle up and clamp down the eight playoff spots in each conference, and with a very tight race in the west, each of the remaining games are getting to be more and more important.

Houston Rockets v. Golden State Warriors 3/21

The Western Conference is host to some of the best teams in the NBA, including the Los Angeles Lakers, the Utah Jazz and the defending champion San Antonio Spurs. While the Lakers and the Jazz are sitting somewhat comfortably atop their divisions, the Spurs have recently relinquished first place to the upstart Houston Rockets, who have been the best team in the NBA since January 27, when they played the Jazz. They lost that game by a score of 97-89, and haven't lost since.

As of March 16, the Rockets have been winners of 21 straight games. The wins have propelled them to the top of the Southwest Division, despite the fact that they lost their star center Yao Ming in late February to a broken foot. The team has apparently not noticed, as it is currently 9-0 without the big man.

One reason for that is the spectacular play from guard/forward Tracy McGrady, who has carried the team over the stretch with some great performances, including a 41-point game against the New Orleans Hornets last week.

While McGrady has been putting in a heavy workload, he's been assisted by the likes of guard Rafer Alston, who has been having solid performances lately, alongside the Argentina-born center Luis Scola, who has big shoes to fill (literally) as he takes over for Ming on the court. While Scola isn't a great scorer, he has been valuable under the glass, and has averaged over nine rebounds per game over the last six games.

If the Rockets hope to continue the streak, they're going to need big performances from Scola and Alston, along with strong minutes from the rest of the bench.

The Rockets begin the crucial home stretch of the season with a critical game against conference rival Golden State Warriors, who have some work to do of their own. The Warriors are currently in third place in the Pacific division, behind the Lakers and the Phoenix Suns.

Last season, the Warriors established themselves as a dark horse candidate in the Western Conference as they played their first playoff game in 13 years, with an upset win over the Dallas Mavericks in the first round.

They are keeping their hopes alive for another trip to the playoffs, but they have some work to do, as they are currently 8th in the conference standings, so a win over the Rockets will certainly improve their odds at another postseason berth.

The Warriors are led by the young duo of Baron Davis and Stephen Jackson, both whom are averaging over 20 points and 39 minutes per game.

The young core is rounded out by guard Monta Ellis (19.6 points per game) and forward/center Al Harrington (14.3 points per game) to help power the NBA's leading offense.

They are going to need all the offense they can get, as Houston's solid defense and winning streak is going to put Golden State's weak defense to the test.

The Pick:

Houston Rockets: 109

Golden State Warriors: 98



Phoenix Suns v. Detroit Pistons

3/24

Just over a month ago, the Phoenix Suns made the biggest move at the trading deadline when the acquired Shaquille O'Neal from the Miami Heat, in an effort to boost their team as the season comes to a close. The trade was well received, as the big center was expected to turn the tide in the western conference.

In his Phoenix debut, Shaq has averaged just over 10 points and 10 rebounds per game; however, the Suns stumbled out of

the gate after his arrival, going 2-6 in his first eight games. Despite that, the Suns remain poised for a playoff berth, and a recent winning streak, including a key victory over the Golden State Warriors, have put the Suns on the right track.

The Suns' offense, which has averaged over 109 points per game this season, is powered by two-time MVP Steve Nash (17.4 PPG, 11.5 assists per game), whose style of play lends itself nicely to the fast-paced offense which puts opposing defenders to work.

Behind Nash, is forward Amare Stoudemire (24.2 PPG, 9.3 RPG), guard Raja Bell (12.2 PPG), veteran forward Grant Hill (14.3 PPG) and guard Leandro Barbosa (16.2 PPG).

While the Suns are in good position to make the playoffs, they aren't there yet, and with a month to go before the season ends, they are going to have to play well down the stretch, as the Western Conference by far is not decided.

They're going to be put to the test in the last month, especially against the Detroit Pistons, who have already clinched a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

While Detroit can coast until the playoffs start, they are going to need to play tough to make ready for the playoffs, and a game against the high-scoring Suns is going to be good practice.

On the offensive side of the ball, they are led by guards Richard "Rip" Hamilton (17.8 PPG), Chauncey Billups (17.7 PPG) and forward Tayshaun Prince (13.8 PPG).

The real story behind the Pistons' success has been their defense, which has been the best in the NBA season, with opponents scoring just over 90 points per game against the team from the Motor City.

As the season winds down, the games are only going to get more and more meaningful, and this contest of the Suns' offense versus the Pistons' defense could very well be a preview of the NBA championship.

The Pick:

Phoenix Suns: 98

Detroit Pistons 95



Double Take

Steph examines the stats that truly matter...

BY STEPHANIE GERCHMAN

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

I've had a few weeks off from writing Double Take and what better way to get back into the groove than to take on a double header?

For game one we have the Houston Rockets v. the Golden State Warriors. Game two is the Phoenix Suns v. the Detroit Pistons.

The first game is definitely going to the Houston Rockets, hands down. I've noticed with all of the teams that I've come across the general form is city name, then some sort of mascot. The Golden State Warriors seem to think that they are the exception to this rule. I am not okay with this. First of all they chose to go with the state instead of the city, which is Oakland. Second, they couldn't even use the state name. They had to use a nickname for the state. I would have totally chosen the Oakland Warriors. I think that Warriors are way better than Rockets. Rockets aren't even human. But they Warriors blew it with lack of city pride, and for that they will be penalized.

The second game is going to the Phoenix Suns. The Pistons is an awful team name. It seems borderline inappropriate when it is said aloud. Personally I can't even understand what a piston technically is or what it does, mostly because I hate science.

The moral of my Double Take today is don't pick dumb team names that involve science and don't think that you are an exception to the rules and you won't get beat by the Rockets and the Suns!

Wilkes players honored by the Freedom Conference

Mayerski, Huff earns weekly awards

Courtesy of Sports Information

Wilkes University baseball players Chris Mayerski (Swoyersville, PA/Wyoming Valley West) and Justin Huff (Montrose, PA/Montrose) have been honored by the Freedom Conference for their efforts in the Colonels 5-2 spring break trip to Florida. Mayerski was named the Conference's Player of the Week, while Huff was selected as the Conference's Pitcher of the Week.

Mayerski enjoyed a solid week in Florida for Wilkes, hitting .407 during the seven-game stretch. The senior had an .815 slugging percentage after cracking two doubles and three homeruns for the Colonels. He also led the team with 12 runs scored and drove in eight runs. Mayerski's play defensively was also stellar, as he committed only one error at third base during the trip. Huff was outstanding on the mound for Wilkes in the two games that he appeared in. In his first start he tossed seven innings of three-hit ball and allowed only one run in a 13-1 complete game win over Franciscan University. Later in the week, Huff came in relief to pitch one and two-thirds innings to pick up the win in the Colonels 18-7 victory over Franciscan. In that contest he allowed only one hit. For the week he was 2-0 with a 1.04 earned run average and allowed only four hits in 8.2 innings of work.

Colonels Twinbill Cancelled

Due to unfavorable field conditions, the Colonels games scheduled for Saturday and Sunday against Rochester Institute of Technology (NY) were postponed.

The Colonels 5-2 record compiled over their spring break trip to Cocoa Beach, Florida puts them second in the Freedom Conference. Manhattanville College's 6-2 record tops the conference by a 0.5 game.

Moravian (PA), Baruch (NY) and Franciscan all fell short to the Colonels. Franciscan faced the Colonels three times and lost each game by more than 11 runs.

The Colonels opened their season with an 8-5 victory over Moravian in the first game of a doubleheader. Sophomore Tom Buckler pitched the initial five innings. He faced 26 batters, struck out three and gave up five runs on six hits. Senior Kyle Follweiler earned the save. Second baseman Geoff Miller scored three runs for the Colonels and short-stop Mike Andrews smacked in three RBI's. The Colonels lost the second game against the greyhounds 8-7. Junior Keith Rhinehammer started on the mound for Wilkes.



The Beacon/Gino Troiani

Wilkes sophomore Mike McAndrew takes cuts during practice at Ralson Field. The Colonels' next home contest is against Muhlenberg College on March 19 at 4PM.

Spring Break recaps

Courtesy of Sports Information

Men's Tennis

The Wilkes University men's tennis team opened its season on March 4 with a 6-1 rain-shortened victory over Eastern University in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The Colonels improved to 3-1 overall, while the Eagles saw their record slip to 0-3.

Wilkes swept all three doubles matches to take control. Wes McCollum and Jon Rohrbach gained an 8-4 win at first doubles over Eric Walter and Taylor Kiser. Josh Gardner and Brian Fanelli added an 8-3 victory over Dan Wilson and Sean McGuinness at the second position.

The third Colonels tandem of Chris Cozzillio and Tom Miller capped the sweep by disposing of Jon Falcone and Phil Smock, 8-0.

Cozzillio was a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Wilson at second singles and Gardner grabbed a 6-3, 6-2 win over McGuinness at number-four to give Wilkes an insurmountable 5-0 lead. Fanelli would add a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Falcone at sixth singles for the Colonels.

Eastern got its lone point at fifth singles when Josh Hall rallied for a 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (14-12) win over Miller. The first singles

match between McCollum and Walter, and the third singles match between Rohrbach and Kiser, were not completed.

Women's Tennis

Wilkes University lost only 14 games in the entire match on the way to a 9-0 rout of Lynchburg College in a non-conference women's tennis match on March 5.

The Lady Colonels, ranked 13th in the Atlantic South Region, improved to 14-1 overall and upped their current winning streak to 12 straight matches. The squad's only loss of the year came in September to Division II foe Bloomsburg University. Lynchburg saw its mark fall to 0-2.

Alison McDonald and Xiaoqiao Zhang began the onslaught with an 8-0 win over Elizabeth Eckert and Jessica Moore at first doubles. Kristin Wilt and Victoria Bybel added an 8-1 win over Krysten Bishop and Amanda Dennis, while Michelle Knight and Megan Bucher copped an 8-0 victory over Bridney Tune and Rachel Moore, as Wilkes bolted out to a 3-0 lead heading into singles play.

McDonald made it 4-0 for the Lady Colonels with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Eckert at number-one singles. Zhang cruised to a win over Bishop at second singles, 6-0, 6-2, to

give Wilkes an insurmountable 5-0 lead.

Wilt notched a 6-1, 6-2 win over Jessica Moore at number-three, and Bybel earned a 6-0, 6-1 win over Dennis in the fourth singles match to up the Wilkes lead to 7-0. Knight posted a 6-1, 6-2 win over Tune at number-five, and Bucher was a 6-0, 6-0 winner over Rachel Moore at number-six to conclude the sweep.

Wrestling

Wilkes University 149-pound wrestler Erik Smith (Danville, PA/Danville H.S.) and 165-pound wrestler Frank Heffernan (Slatington, PA/Northern Lehigh H.S.) were both eliminated in day one action at the NCAA Division III Championships at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Smith, who concluded his junior season with an overall record of 31-13 and was in the NCAA event for the first time, was pinned in his opening round match by second-seeded Willy Holst from Augsburg at 4:21 of the second period. In his first consolation match #7 seed Frank Camissa (25-3) from Bridgewater State scored the only point of the match to hold off Smith for a 1-0 victory.

Like Smith, Heffernan also had to wrestle

a pair of seeded opponents in his first trip to the NCAA event. In his first round match he dropped a 7-3 verdict to sixth-seeded Ben Youel (37-7) from North Central College. Heffernan then pushed #3 seed Gino Russo (25-2) from Baldwin-Wallace College to the limit before falling by a score of 9-7 in his consolation bracket match. He ended his sophomore season with a record of 32-12.

Women's Lacrosse

Wilkes University balanced its women's lacrosse record at 1-1 with a 14-10 non-conference win over Methodist College on March 4. The loss dropped the Monarchs to 2-3 overall.

Ashley Leggio had five goals and two assists and Justine Leggio contributed five goals as well to lead Wilkes offensively. Brittney Hodnik chipped in with three goals and seven assists. Wilkes also received a goal and an assist from Jennifer Powell and an assists from Chelsea Weinstein.

Andrea DiStefano and Christina Layson scored three times each to pace Methodist. Chrystal Bradley chipped in with two goals for the Monarchs.

Wilkes goalkeeper Stacy Fimmano picked up the victory in goal after stopping 12 shots.



Beacon Archives

Wilkes junior Sarah Elliot makes contact during a game last season. The Lady Colonels are 6-4 this season. They will play Lycoming College and the University of Scranton before opening up conference play against Arcadia on March 29.

Softball opens season with tough slate

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

As is the case with many of their fellow students, the Wilkes Lady Colonels softball team was able to enjoy some fun in the sun over their spring break period.

However, the women also made sure to mix in some very demanding contests to open their season along the way.

With nearly every player on the squad seeing significant playing time, the Lady Colonels were able to fashion a 6-2 record on their annual spring break trip, before dropping two games at perennial power Moravian on Saturday afternoon in non-conference action. After Saturday's contests, the Lady Colonels see their overall record slide to 6-4.

While the Lady Colonels dropped the first two games of their spring

break trip to Peace and Rowan, the team was able to rebound and rip off six straight wins over Albright, Neumann, Rutgers-Camden, Virginia Wesleyan and two wins over Averett. Although two additional contests at the end of the trip were cancelled due to weather, Wilkes head coach Frank Matthews was pleased with the progress his team made during the opening stretch.

"We have many positions that are still unsettled, and we were pleased by the play at many of those spots over the spring break trip. In terms of hitting, we took some time to adjust to being outside after our preseason practice was mostly indoors, but in the later games we hit very well. We were hot and cold on the defensive side—our squad would be error-free in one game and then commit 5 or 6 errors in the next game."

Wilkes came into Saturday's doubleheader in Bethlehem ranked 17th in the latest Division-III top 25 poll conducted by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, while Moravian had spent the previous week ranked in the same spot before falling out of this week's poll. Moravian pitcher Maria DeBonis tossed a perfect game in leading her team to an 8-0, six-winning game in the first contest of the afternoon. The second game would see Moravian build a 6-0 lead heading into the sixth inning, when Wilkes would score four straight runs to help narrow the gap. The Greyhounds refused to fold, however, and picked up six runs later in the inning to put the NCAA 8-run rule into effect and end the game.

"The losses to Moravian this weekend were very disappoint-

ing, but as with every loss, we'll look back and see what we can improve on for the next game" junior infielder Kathy Dalton said after Saturday's contest. "By doing that, we are better prepared for the next opponent we face."

While the Lady Colonels may only sit two games above the .500 mark, that team has faced a challenging schedule that, according to head coach Frank Matthews, is an excellent precursor to the demands his squad will face in Freedom Conference play this season. In addition to perennial power King's and upstart programs in Delaware Valley and FDU-Florence, Wilkes will need to content with two new challengers in Freedom Conference newcomers Arcadia University and Manhattanville College.

"Anyone who has followed our

program in recent years is familiar with Moravian's excellence in Division-III softball, and we knew that game would be a brawl with a very good squad. The new teams in our league this season, Arcadia and Manhattanville, are very talented, and the non-conference schedule we've played has been great preparation to face those challenges."

"The conference has not made our league schedule any easier by adding those two programs" Matthews added. "We expect to make the playoffs. That is—and always has been—our primary goal. Until then, we'll continue to take it one game at a time."

Wilkes-Barre Guardian Angels chapter in development

Volunteer organization offers to serve as watch group for community

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon Editor-In-Chief

Locals may have noticed them patrolling the streets decorated in red berets and jackets. But have no fear; the community has just gotten a lot safer.

The Guardian Angels, an unarmed citizen safety patrol unit born in New York City in the late 70s, recently opened a Wilkes-Barre chapter to help local law enforcement and the Crime Watch Coalition fight criminal activity with what coordinator Scott Koppenhofer calls a "visual deterrent."

"When you see a patrol of Angels coming along, anybody who's a criminal knows we're not just gonna let them commit a crime," Koppenhofer said. "We're gonna call the police."

A night manager at a troubled New York City McDonalds, Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa hired his employees based upon their ability to fight crime and eventually formed a group called the "Magnificent 13" who patrolled and fought crime in the subways, especially on the troubled number 4 express known as "Mugger's Row." After conducting a study, the city found an increase in crime on every train except for "Mugger's Row," which had dropped significantly. Receiving praise for their efforts, The Angels were officially established in 1979 and have grown to over 100 chapters in 14 countries worldwide.

"We know that throughout the world, we've made a difference. We're not gonna stop crime; it's never gonna go away, but we're just one option to be used to try and help prevent it," Koppenhofer said.

After receiving several calls from the area requesting assistance, Sliwa visited Wilkes-Barre last month and spoke to a crowd of about 20 people that did not include a member of local law enforcement or city administration, though both reportedly had been informed of the event via e-mail in advance.

Koppenhofer also said that despite repeated attempts to contact Wilkes-Barre Police Chief Gerald Dessoye and Mayor Thomas Leighton, neither has yet responded.

"According to the newspaper articles that I'm reading, they formed an opinion without even talking to me about what our organization stands for, and that's disheartening," said Koppenhofer.

Mayor Leighton recently commented in the February 21, 2008 issue of *The Times-Leader*, "It's not a matter of us working with them. We're always looking for an extra set of eyes and ears," Leighton said. "I just don't want any group to come in here and interfere with what the police department is doing."

Koppenhofer, though, claims to have plenty of credentials, which include dealing firsthand

with the most ruthless of gangs during his career, including the Bloods and the Crips.

"Where would they think that we're not qualified? I would venture to say, from my understanding; this Chief of Police has only been a police officer in the city of Wilkes-Barre. My background probably qualifies me to know more about gangs than he does."

Despite repeated efforts for an interview, Dessoye declined comment.

Dessoye has also received heat from the community for not releasing geographical breakdown of crime statistics in the downtown area.

"You can't tell me it's (crime) not there, because I've seen it firsthand. You could

try to change the perception, but you can't change reality. That's all there is to it," Koppenhofer said.

The Guardian Angels are unarmed and travel in groups of four around Public Square and surrounding areas. Though they can place an individual under citizen's arrest, the main goal is to notify the police department and diffuse the situation until they arrive. The use of force is a last resort, which is one of the main points they are taught in their training.

And just about anyone can become an Angel, from teenagers 16 years of age and up to college students to possibly former gang member who know the ins-and-outs of crime.



The Beacon/Andrew Seaman
The Wilkes-Barre chapter of the Guardian Angels walked in the Wilkes-Barre St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16. The group was originally started in the 1970s to help local law enforcement.

"We have a guy in his 70's still patrolling in New York and he's still probably in better shape than I am, Koppenhofer admitted. "We're looking for volunteers at all time."

Koppenhofer stressed the importance of community in fighting off the slumlords and drug dealers who are big fish in a small pond after coming to Wilkes-Barre from New York City, and hopes the police and city adminis-

tration will soon cooperate with him.

"Eventually, over time, I'm sure we'll earn their respect, but I would ask that they at least come and talk to us. I'm available anytime they want to set up a meeting. We can be a wealth of knowledge to them...a wealth of knowledge," Koppenhofer said.

Beacon Corrections

In the February 19 news article, "Wilkes creative writing graduate to head Council" the article stated that the Cultural Council of Luzerne County, "...is a non-profit advocacy program which began in 1999 as an extension of the Greater Chamber of Wilkes-Barre Business and Industry." However, *The Beacon* has learned that the Cultural Council was formed in 1989, and will soon celebrate its 20th anniversary.

In addition, the February 26 news article, "Final Dean of Law School Initiative candidate speaks," author was incorrectly identified as Andrew Seaman. The actual author of the article was Nicole Frail, Assistant *Beacon* News Editor.

Also, in the last issue *The Beacon* printed an opinion article, "Ah, the joys of Winter Weekend." The author of this piece made several assertions about events surrounding Winter Weekend including that over 70 freshmen had been cited for alcohol violations. The figure was not accurate. *The Beacon* apologizes for any incorrect information in this article. However, the views and opinions expressed in opinion articles are solely those of the author, and do not represent this paper.

The Beacon strives for balance and accuracy in all reporting and regrets the errors.

Dr. Andrea Frantz, Faculty Advisor
Nicholas Podolak, Editor-in-Chief