



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

"The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow."

Fifth Annual Douglass Day Transcribe-a-Thon

By Emma Broda
News Staff Writer

On Thursday Feb. 15, students and faculty participated in the Fifth Annual Douglass Day Transcribe-a-Thon. This event takes place yearly on the birthday of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, in order to celebrate his life and Black History Month.

The goal of the event is also to aid in making historical documents more accessible by transcribing difficult to read handwritten documents.

The event focuses specifically on documents from Frederick Douglass and his associates during the nineteenth century.

Students and faculty went online to a collection of documents from the Library of Congress that needed to be transcribed and got to work. Transcribing the documents is not always an easy task for both beginners and experienced transcribers.



Aiden Hermon, first year pharmacy major, working to transcribe a document with Dr. Jonathan Kuiken.

*Transcribe
continued on p. 3*

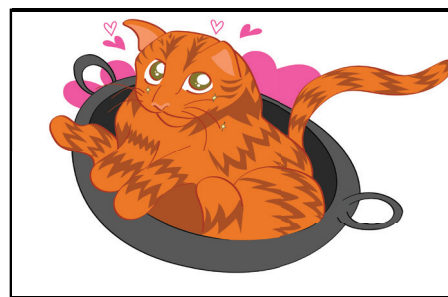
The Beacon/Emma Broda



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Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Amanda Montgomery: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

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Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Alumni Scholarship Opportunity
The Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a current Wilkes undergraduate student who has a parent or grandparent who graduated from Wilkes, has at least a 3.0 GPA and has a FAFSA on file for the 2024-2025 academic year. Deadline to apply is March 17.

Use this link to apply: www.community.wilkes.edu/alumnischolarship. Contact alumni@wilkes.edu with any questions.

Kappa Kappa Psi Talent Show Interest Form

Wilke University's music fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi, would like to host a talent show this semester. Anyone is allowed to sign up.

Fill out this form if you are interested: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnAmAtuUyJOxInXXPiLyKY9pzb_uMCsOenMyDopx-6RT6lVQ/viewform.

Lavender Graduation Ceremony
This spring, GSA will be hosting a Lavender Graduation Ceremony for the LGBTQ+ members of the class of 2024 on May 3 at 3 p.m.

Use this link to fill out the interest form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccGu5bgXa1Ll-w7bju5jLEZaezizB34svSyqPwqacpI2io3w/viewform>.

CCDI Resume Workshop

The Center for Career Development and Internships is hosting a resume workshop on Thursday, Feb. 29 in the JPAC Ballroom starting at 11:15 a.m.

Students are encouraged to bring their laptops/tablets to create their own resumes during the presentation.

Contact Jenna Weiss at jenna.weiss@wilkes.edu with any questions.

Register on Handshake with this link: <https://wilkes.joinhandshake.com/edu/events/1467525>.

HPSC Soda Tab Collection

Join the Honors Program Student Committee for a soda tap drive. Donate your soda tabs in the marked boxes located on the first floor of the SUB, outside the Honors Office and in the lobby of the SIMMS Center.

The donations will be taken to a recycling center in exchange for funds that will benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

2024 Outstanding Adult Learner Award

The Office of Admissions is seeking nominations for the 2024 Outstanding Adult Learner Award.

To be considered for the award, the adult learner must be 24 years or older, graduate with a bachelor's degree in January, May or September 2024, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, have overcome obstacles and be an active member in the community.

Upcoming Events: 2024 Spring Semester

February
22 - Family Feud
25 - Ice Skating at Revolution Ice
29 - Giveaway One

March
14 - Adventure BINGO
17 - Orangetheory Fitness Class
21 - Laser Tag

April
4 - Everything but the Kitchen Sink
7 - Bye Bye BINGO

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Transcribe, continued from p. 1

Starr Sandt, junior psychology and sports management major, shared her experience with the event.

“This is my second year, and it is definitely a challenge every year, but once you get the hang of it, it does get a bit easier,” said Sandt. “It is really interesting and I really enjoy doing it.”

While Sandt had prior experience, other students shared that this was totally new and different for them.

The documents included correspondences to and from Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, James G. Blaine and Ida B. Wells-Barnett.

Aiden Hermon, first year pharmacy major, shared that the difficulty was in the way documents were written.

“I cannot read cursive very well, so it’s been a little difficult,” said Hermon.

These documents highlight factors of abolition and offer insight into an important aspect of American history. Students and faculty’s work across the country aid in keeping this history alive through these important documents.

Another student, Kamea Paresa,



Members of the Wilkes University community came together to honor Douglass’ birthday and help make historic documents more accessible at the Fifth Annual Transcribe-a-thon. The event took place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first floor of the Farley Library.

sophomore math major, said, “I have never transcribed before, and I came because I wanted to try something new.”

“I’m reading a letter from Frederick Douglass’ wife, and she was saying that she’s not really in a letter writing mood,

but wanted to write to her niece saying she hopes she stays in school,” said Paresa.

Paresa mentioned that it is a rather difficult task, but that it is also a

rewarding one.

The documents can be found on the Library of Congress’s website under “Yours truly, Frederick Douglass.”



Mia Decker, junior history and secondary education major, transcribing.



Dr. Akira Shimizu reading a document during the Transcribe-a-Thon event.

What is... the U.S. Fulbright Program at Wilkes University?

By Morgan Steiner
News Staff Writer

Most on-campus organizations focus on advancing the undergraduate experience, but what about answering the question of “What Next?” While there are many options for students after they earn their bachelor's or PharmD, an amazing international opportunity can be found right here on campus. Wilkes University is a participant in the global program called Fulbright.

The U.S. Fulbright Program is a cross-governmental attempt to increase cultural competency and allow US students to travel to other countries and advance their own education, while working on meaningful projects in their host country. There are two types of awards open to recent and soon-to-be graduates. The first

is as an English teaching assistant, or ETA. Those who are selected for this role move to their chosen country for a year and assist an English teacher in a classroom setting.

These classrooms could vary from kindergarten all the way to university-level English classes. These types of awards allow students to travel, assist different global communities and practice classroom engagement and cultural competency. These types of awards are the most popular, with the most open spots. One example of this award would be the four available grants to work as an ETA in rural areas of Nepal.

The second type of award is an open study/research award. These awards are more flexible, allowing students to work on their own original research project in-country or pursue a Masters degree at an international university. These awards are

more competitive than the ETA process. For example, Taiwan has four open study/research awards and an additional 28 awards in various degree programs at different national universities. On the other end of the spectrum, Denmark has ten open study/research awards with no specific specialty programs.

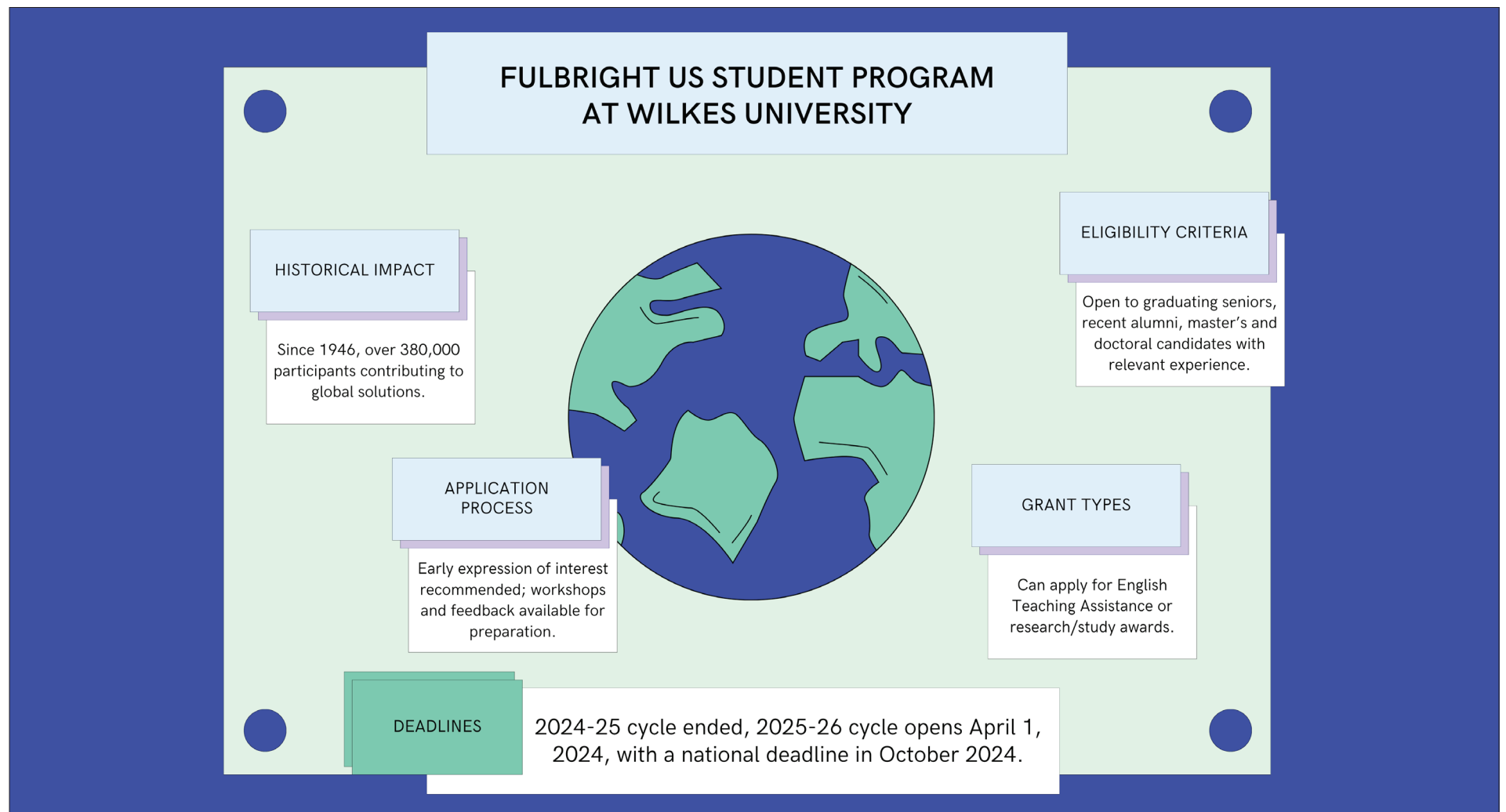
How does Wilkes University prepare students for the Fulbright application? Wilkes has a Fulbright Advisor, Dr. Gina Morrison. Her role is to mentor students through the application process and ensure they understand what the entire process looks like. In addition, Wilkes University is currently offering a one credit class, GC-298: Writing for Fellowships, which focuses on guiding students through the process of writing a Fulbright Application. Beyond that, Fulbright typically has a table at events like Open Houses and Accepted

Colonel's Day.

Other than providing students with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study or work abroad, Fulbright has other benefits. These include: accident and sickness benefits, 12 months of non-competitive eligibility hiring status with the U.S. government, a stipend based on the host country's cost of living and a lifelong Fulbright email address. Depending on the country or program, Fulbrighters can also receive transportation, research allowances, full or partial tuition and various enrichment activities.

As of the publication of this article, Wilkes University has never had an undergraduate student successfully qualify for the Fulbright Program. You could be the first. For more information, contact gina.morrison@wilkes.edu or check out the US Fulbright Program website.

Graphic: The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery



That's So Honors: Life in Waller, first-year housing

By Morgan Steiner
News Staff Writer

One aspect of life in the Wilkes University Honors Program is the living situation itself. Residential students are required to spend their first year in Waller Hall, a mansion-style residence hall on West River Street. Though Honors students don't get the typical "Evans Hall experience" that so many are familiar with, they get to experience a unique living-learning experience.

Waller Hall is divided into a "north" and "south" side, affectionately dubbed "guys side" and "girls side" by residents, both past and present. As a mansion, the building is unique, with winding corridors, chandeliers and yes, fireplaces in certain rooms. The building is full of character and ghosts. Residents, including former resident assistants (RAs), report hauntings and strange occurrences. Despite the supernatural (and a lack of air conditioning), students love their building.

Ozzie Priebe, a first-year political science and history major, also shared the benefits of living in a building that isn't as crowded as other first-year buildings.

"I have the entire third floor of the north end to myself" said Priebe. "I have a bathroom that I don't have to share with other people as well. Honestly, I like my room more than the other freshman dorms. I've been to Roth and Evans, and those rooms are much smaller and there's way more people."

For the RAs living in Waller, the experience is unique. Since 2021, the Waller RAs are honors students who spent their first year in either Waller or Doane Hall and have returned to fulfill a mentor

role in the hall. One of the Waller RAs this year is Gabriel Sawarynski, a sophomore pharmacy major.

"In my opinion, living at Waller as an RA is like living as a resident just with some extra perks," said Sawarynski. "Not only do I have a room to myself, but I also am the one who gets to create the fun activities we do at Waller. Being able to use my creativity, I can give my residents fun opportunities that I wish I had last year, and an overall great first-year experience."

These activities and experiences include the regular hall meetings, educational and community events that occur in every hall on campus, but also some that are unique to Waller.

One such event is the Waller Haunted House, sponsored by the traditions committee in residence life.

"Waller Haunted House is a tradition held every year either close to or on Halloween," said Sawarynski. "It is a great opportunity for Waller residents and other RAs to get in on the fun and scare people walking through the decorated haunted mansion. It's a fun time and I had such a great time decorating the hall with my residents."

The residential experience is just as special as in any other building. For many students, this is their first time truly living away from home. Sharing a room, bathrooms and kitchen with so many people is a different experience and presents a learning curve, even for those who come from large families. But, Waller residents create their own family with those who live just down the hall. The group is close knit, often enjoying dinner together or nights in, playing pool in the Northside lounge. Residents are also quick to praise

their RAs, Gabe and Kaelin Hughes.

Priebe shared that both RAs are "great" and always there to help with problems, big or small.

"Gabe was a blessing on my life when I started a new medication and was having trouble obtaining and administering it (he is a certified pharmacy technician)" said Priebe.

"Waller residents are either hanging out watching a movie, studying, or, most fun, singing when it's karaoke night," said Sawarynski.

Priebe echoed the sentiment, sharing that when he returns from work, it is nearly impossible not to talk to other students studying in the lounges or hallways

of Waller Hall. No one has a "perfect" experience dorming on campus, but life in Waller can seem idyllic.

One of the foremost goals of a Residence Hall is to create a community that is welcoming of all students and helps those residents grow, both as people and academically. While other buildings on campus, particularly those reserved for first-year students, provide a safe, nurturing environment, few are able to foster as close knit a community as Waller Hall, though not to the detriment of residents or RAs. There is something special in the walls of Waller Hall, and it is not just the ghosts.



From left to right it is: Liz Keller, Michael Santini, Julia Kapitula, Kensington Edmond, Analiese Monteiro and Luke Mauro

Photo Courtesy Gabriel Sawarynski

We're Looking For News Writers!

Join our team and build your resume

If you are interested, contact our News Editor
Amanda Montgomery at amanda.montgomer1@wilkes.edu

GSA hosts educational “Anti-Valentine’s Day” event

By Erin Kowalski
Contributing Writer

The Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) recently held an Anti-Valentine’s Day event Thursday, Feb. 15.

The afternoon was open to all Wilkes faculty, staff and students and was filled with a mixture of informational learning and crafting where informational videos were played that discussed aromantic and asexual orientations while students painted.

Morgan Steiner, president of GSA and a junior majoring in political science, international relations and history, hosted

the event to educate students and come together to have some fun after Valentine’s Day.

“I like doing some of our events on a smaller scale, especially because the majority of our events are larger,” said Steiner. “This one is more intimate where we will learn more while having fun and enjoying some painting.”

Ozzie Priebe, a freshman political science major, attended the event and shared that this was very important when it came to teaching those outside the community what the identities are.

“I think it teaches people outside of the community what aromantics and other

identities are that way others can have a better understanding,” said Priebe.

The informational videos shown were meant to inform those who did not already know what aromantic or asexual orientations were and how they can differ from others. Aromantic orientations feel little to no romantic affection and asexual orientations feel little or no sexual attraction.

Dr. Helen Davis, English and women and gender studies professor and advisor for GSA, thought this was a great event to hold especially with it being the day after Valentine’s Day.

“The educational component to

this event is so important because these identities are often not understood and by educating students about what they are, it will help us all to better understand,” said Davis. “It is nice to be able to get together and do this event the day after.”

Davis mentioned that this holiday comes with a lot of pressure associated with it, especially to form romantic relationships, and it is important for students to understand and learn that there are different identities other than the traditional romantic ones.

Photos: The Beacon/Erin Kowalski



From front to back is Brian Guzman, Eza Chaudhry, Taylor Mattei and Ozzie Priebe. Students had the opportunity to work on fun crafts and activities while also being educated on aromantic and asexual orientations. There was a mixture of informational videos and informational crafting to reduce stigma and to better understand one another.



GSA hosted their "Anti-Valentine's Day" event in Breiseth 207 from 4 to 6 p.m. Pictured here is one of the educational videos played where students could learn more about aromantic and asexual orientations, and how they differ from traditional romantic identities. Also pictured is one of the crafts students could make during the presentation and event.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: anthony.cazun@wilkes.edu

The gift of giving at the annual Wilkes Giving Day event

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

For many years people have shown their love and appreciation for each other by giving gifts.

From cave people giving their family members unusual rocks to the Statue of Liberty, gift giving has been a way to say you care without actually saying it.

Giving Day at Wilkes recently served as a way for the Wilkes Community to show its appreciation for the university.

On Feb. 14, Colonel alumni, current students and community members shared the Valentine's Day love through donations to the University. Giving Day is a 24-hour fundraising event where people in the community can donate money to Wilkes.

There are different areas to donate to. These areas include athletics, the college of arts and sciences, the college of business and engineering, the college of health and education, student success, student wellness and various scholarships. A total of 932 donors gave to Wilkes on Giving Day, going over the Giving Day goal of 850 donors.

A total of \$118,740 was raised from Giving Day. Of that, \$40,416 was raised for athletics from 378 donors. Wilkes athletics raised the most money out of all of the areas of need. After athletics the Wilkes Fund raised the most money.

In addition, 176 people donated to the Wilkes area of greatest need: the Wilkes Fund. The Wilkes Fund goes to the university's essential needs, such as financial aid, supporting academics and student development and mentoring. \$13,787 was raised for the Wilkes Fund on Giving Day within just 24 hours.

Many people donated through the

Giving Day website, but tables were also set up across campus.

Brooke Coleman, junior business management and marketing major, and Brie Friedman, associate director of alumni relations, worked the Giving Table in the Henry Student Center. They provided students with information on how to donate, along with candy set out on the table.

"It is our biggest philanthropic push," said Friedman about Giving Day.

"It is about the number of donors," Friedman explained that even by donating a dollar students and alumni could make a huge impact. For example, if 850 people donated one dollar, that still counted toward the Giving Day goal.

"I gave a dollar," said first-year musical theater major, Charley Cain, while talking about her experience on Giving Day.

First dog, Walter Cant, also made an appearance at Giving Day. Walter and Angela Cant were set up in the Simms Center for Giving Day.

Shawn Evans from Simplest Expressions Photography set up a photo booth to shoot pictures of students and faculty with the presidential dog. As a favorite among students, Walter did his part in gaining donations.

While Giving Day has ended, donations are still accepted and encouraged. The Wilkes Giving Day website is accepting donations for anyone interested. Along with helping to improve the University, Giving Day also brought some cheer on Valentine's day with help from the Wilkes community and of course, Walter.

Photos courtesy of Shawn Evans and The Beacon/Cally Williams



Angela Cant, Walter and Greg Cant posing for a photo on Giving Day.



Wilkes Giving Day stand overseen by Brooke Coleman and Brie Friedman.



By Anthony Cazun

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

There are a few bands that may automatically come to mind when it comes to visceral, angry protest songs or records.

Rage Against the Machine, Public Enemy, Refused, N.W.A. or maybe even Metallica, but there is a more contemporary group that is destined to join the ranks, and that is Run The Jewels. Killer Mike and El-P make up the rap duo Run The Jewels, and although their first LP together was released in 2013, both are veterans of the rap scene.

Killer Mike, or Michael Render comes from the Atlanta, Georgia southern hip-hop scene, releasing various highly acclaimed solo records, and also featuring on several tracks of the popular Atlanta

rap duo Outkast. EL-P, or Jaime Meline is from the east coast hip-hop scene, more specifically Brooklyn, New York. EL-P has spent much of his career producing hip-hop beats for artists, including Aesop Rock, DJ Krush, Cage and himself among many others.

EL-P and Killer Mike first came together through a mutual friend, that being the at the time vice president and creative director at Adult Swim on air. They collaborated on Killer Mike's solo album "R.A.P. Music" which blossomed into a friendship that then became Run The Jewels. The duo have released four albums under the title Run The Jewels.

Their albums have always had an edge, but nothing in their discography reaches the height of their fourth studio album, RTJ4. RTJ4 was released on June 3, 2020

Album of the Week: RTJ4 - Run The Jewels

amongst the immense civil unrest and reemergence of the Black Lives Matter movement within much of the world due to elections and the abuse of power by law enforcement. Run The Jewels released the album early for free on their website, as the record had much in common with the current unrest, so common that one would be understood for believing the album was written about it. The album lambasts corruption within politics, law enforcement and capitalism.

Tracks such as "JU\$T" contain lyrics like "Look at all these slave masters posing on your dollar" while calling out corrupt and hypocritical politicians. Songs such as "walking in the snow" speak of various power imbalances in America, and how it will continue to come for everybody.

The album also has moments of

personal sentimentality, much of the closing track "a few words for the firing squad (radiation)" is the duo letting out their final words as if they were being subjected to a firing squad. They reflect at their life, they speak of regrets, things they wish they could have changed, things they have endured as a result of corrupt establishments. It is a powerful ending to an incredibly potent record. Allowing these grander sentiments of anti-establishment to a small, personal scale that makes it connect deeply with the listener.

RTJ4 would receive immense critical and commercial acclaim, releasing at possibly the most critical time.



Graphics/Lara Mullen

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Our very own Anthony Cazun has put together a Spotify playlist where you can scan it and listen to the Beacon's staff weekly picks!

Morgan Rich, Editor-in-Chief:

Cherry - Lana Del Rey

Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:

Missing Out - Maya Hawke

Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:

Morning Comes - SASAMI

Anthony Cazun, LA&E Editor:

Getting Smaller - Nine Inch Nails

Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:

My Love Mine All Mine - Mitski

Natalia Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:

Dos Cuerpos Un Alma - Jessie & Joy

Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:

Dame Beso // Muévete - Kali Uchis

Samara Carey, Asst. Opinion Editor

Springsteen - Eric Church

"Freeze," Opinion Staff Writer:

Buckshot - UAV

Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:

Crash into Me - Dave Matthews Band

Sam Mullen, Sports. Asst. Editor:

Carol - Forêt de Vin

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Ripple - Grateful Dead

Wilkes University Theatre presents Fun Home

From a University press release

Wilkes University Theatre will stage *Fun Home*, the Pulitzer-Prize nominated musical based on Alison Bechdel's best-selling graphic novel of the same name, at 8 p.m. on Feb. 22, 23 and 24, and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 24 and 25, at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

Based on Bechdel's life, *Fun Home* moves between past and present to tell her queer coming-of-age story. The musical explores how Bechdel's understanding of her identity connects to her volatile, intelligent and obsessive father, his death and the secrets he held.

Director Alison Morooney explained that she finds *Fun Home* to be an especially important and timely musical to stage. "It is so vital to be telling queer stories especially right now while, in some parts of this country, novels that contain such narratives are being removed from our schools and libraries," said Morooney. "In the medium of musical theatre, there are so few stories that focus on the queer female experience, so this story feels especially important to share as a way for the theatre arts to participate in the promotion of diverse representation in our stories."

The musical provides students with the opportunity to portray complex characters and challenges design students with the intricate technical demands of the show.

In addition, the cast and crew will have the unique opportunity to meet Bechdel during her visit to campus. The cast will perform a scene from the show following the author's public reading at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27, in the Darte Center. Bechdel will visit the English senior seminar course in Queer Theory and Literature and present a craft talk in the Sordoni Art Gallery.

She will also have dinner with the cast and crew, as well as some faculty and students from English and theatre.

The cast features Rachel Kern (Alison), Kasey Karoll (Medium Alison), Sarah Pugliese (Small Alison),



Sarah Pugliese, a first-year student, plays Small Alison in the university's production of *Fun Home*.

Jack Flynn (Bruce), Jay'na Johnson Scoates (scenic, lighting and projection (Helen), Maddie Meier (Joan), Jahel designer) and Caleb Gething (assistant scenic designer). Wilkes theatre students will serve as stage crew.

In addition to Morooney as director, production staff includes Isabella Ruiz (stage manager), Cally Williams and Caleb Flannery (assistant stage managers), Joshua Harper (music director), Joel Graham (pit director), Lisa Liebetau (costume designer), Lee Michaels (sound designer and technical director), Vandy

Scoates (scenic, lighting and projection designer) and Caleb Gething (assistant scenic designer). Wilkes theatre students will serve as stage crew.

"This was a bucket list musical for me so I am grateful every day we get to work on it," said Morooney. "The students are highly passionate about this material, and it is so expertly written that we discover new complexities every rehearsal."

Morooney acknowledges that while *Fun Home* may be challenging, with content warnings for verbal

abuse, suicide, adult language and sexual content, she believes that audience members will find a personal connection to the musical.

"I think everyone will take away something a little different depending on where they are in life, whether that be a reminder to reach out to a distant loved one, to appreciate the quiet labor of a caretaker or to celebrate a discovery in your life," says Morooney. "Personally, what this musical has to offer about self-healing and loving younger versions of yourself is what grips my heart."

Tickets are available online at wilkes.edu/theatre. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for students/senior citizens and free with ID for Wilkes students, faculty and staff. The box office will open one hour before curtain for purchases in person.

Questions? Call 570-408-4540.



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The oversaturation of the “Biopic” within the film industry

By Natalia Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

Over the past few years we have witnessed biopic films rising and have taken over the film industry.

With movies like “Elvis” (2022), “Priscilla” (2023), “Bohemian Rhapsody” (2018) and films that are soon to be released like “Back to Black” (2024), showing the life of music star Amy Winehouse and “One Love” (2024) which is spotlighting the life of music legend Bob Marley.

According to Nashville Film Institute (NSI), Biopics generally focused on historical people such as Peter the Great, Joan of Arc, Napoleon Bonaparte and even Jesus of Nazareth, who were the first films ever made. Over time these films started covering more public figures. These types of films have seen to be taking over the box office and are well loved by audiences worldwide. But why are they starting to trend and what does this mean for the film industry?

A biopic is a biographical motion picture. It is essentially a biography, but put in film format. These films are a portrayal of an individual's life. Biopics put a spotlight on a public figure's life, whether it is a legendary singer/entertainer, political figure or a historical figure.

They ultimately display what a person went through by showing the good and the bad, to gain the success that they had.

They give us a glimpse of a person's life and show us things we didn't know about them.

Biopics often receive hit or miss reviews. For fans that know about the person they made a film about, they are more than often going to pick apart the movie. Whether it is the casting, the accuracy of the film or the overall performance of the actors and actresses. Others are often well made, receive good feedback and portray the life of a public figure accurately.

Biopics have a pattern of making a lot of money. Films such as “Oppenheimer” (2023), which is about J. Robert Oppenheimer portrayed by Cillian Murphy, who is credited as the “Father of Atomic Bombs” and is known for his role in the Manhattan Project. The film soared in box offices across the country and went on to make \$912 million, gaining the title of the highest grossing biopic of all time.

With the continuous pattern of biopics doing well in the box office, film studios and filmmakers have noticed the trend and are starting to realize that these movies seem to be easy cash grabs.

This surge of these movies, however,

may not be a positive thing. Filmmakers and film studios are noticing that these movies are an easy way to get good money from the box office and good ratings, but many are noticing that all of the movies that are coming out seem to just be biopics. With the influx of these films it seems like it's coming to a point where that's all studios want to create and it is causing a lack of creativity in film.

First-year nursing major Anthony Vissotski said, “I think they're cool, I don't think they're taking over because there's still a bunch of movies coming out” he followed this up by saying, “It's interesting to see a documentary on someone famous.”

Gabrielle Morris, a first-year nursing Major also said, “I feel like there's definitely been a surge in them. I don't necessarily think it's a bad thing. I like seeing how people adapt to different things.”

They are noticing how easy it is to create and do well with audiences without having to develop or come up with original story lines.

The surge of these films can start to cause little to no innovation in the film

world. It can cause moviegoers to want more original and new movies with new and fresh storylines. All we are seeing these past couple of months are remakes, live action movies that were originally animated and sequels

“I do think there has been an increase in sequels and live action movies,” said first-year middle-level education major, Erin Danko.

These types of films also already come with an audience. For instance, the biopic “Michael” which portrays the life of Michael Jackson, which is to be released next year, already has Michael Jackson fans worldwide ready to flock to movie theaters to see the film.

Biopics are simple to create since they are following a person's life and already have a guideline on what to do. With all of these biopics coming out, it seems very repetitive. It raises questions about the future of the film industry and whether or not creative movies are dying down. Although they are educating audiences about public figures they might not know, movie lovers want to see more than just stories about famous people.

Hopefully in the next coming years, we can start to see more original movies and a comeback of creativity in the film industry. It is important and detrimental for filmmakers to continue to push new innovative ideas in the film world and entertain movie lovers all over the world.

Graphic by Anthony Cazun



Blind date with a book event does not judge by its cover

By Anthony Cazun

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

For three consecutive days, Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honors society, hosted an event that sold books of various genres to students, but with an interesting twist: the cover was hidden.

Instead of merely glancing at the cover, the books were wrapped in paper and labeled with the genre and tropes found within the pages. This encouraged attendees to pick up and read books they may have not read otherwise. The books themselves were picked out from the event coordinators and

the English department's own libraries.

“Since we pulled from our own libraries, there were a lot of romance, fiction and fantasy classics,” said Olivia Wychock, fourth year English major and vice president of Wilkes' chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. “Surprisingly, the genres that went the fastest were the young adult fiction/fantasy novels.”

The fundraiser was to raise funds in order to build a little free library on campus near Kirby Hall, ideally by the end of the semester. Little Free Library is a non-profit organization that aims to provide communities with access to books through a public bookshelf.

“We are both from the area and have

seen little free libraries around town and wanted to provide that access to not only those we interact with at Wilkes, but also to those passing by or through campus,” said Kelci Smith, fourth year English major and president of Wilkes' chapter of Sigma Tau Delta.

The event was a massive success, and the organizers aim to return

“The fundraiser was a great success,” said Wychock. “We sold out of books in less than an hour both days we were set up in the SUB, and sold around 80 books in total. Lots of people asked if we were doing the event again, so we are definitely looking into it.”



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Our Voice

Each week, The Beacon's editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

Why it is important to respect quiet hours

For students who live on campus, it is common knowledge that all resident halls have designated quiet hours. Quiet hours are in effect Sunday night through Thursday night from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. As there are no classes the following day, quiet hours change on Friday and Saturday nights and become midnight to 10 a.m. to accommodate students' social lives.

Despite having these hours posted on multiple walls of each resident hall and the reminders resident assistants (RAs) give at each hall meeting, the allotted quiet hours are not followed.

Quiet hours were created to support students' education by allowing them time to relax, study and sleep peacefully. However, various disturbances occur frequently during quiet hours throughout the week, including but not limited to parties, random screaming, loud music, loud knocking on doors and floors and many other distracting noises that can interfere with academic life on campus.

Although quiet hour obligations are posted in resident halls and declared by RAs, loud noises during these times continue with little to no consequences for students who are disrupting the peace. Throughout quiet hours, most importantly the quiet hours

allotted during weekdays and nights before classes, students are subjected to joltingly random and chronically loud noises, voices and music. Two of the most significant freshman residence halls, Roth Hall and Evans Hall, experience these quiet hour disturbances most severely.

The third-floor resident assistant at Roth Hall, Ashley O'Connor, gave her thoughts on quiet hours and how they are implemented as both a student and as a resident assistant.

"As a student, I believe they can be regulated. I also believe people do not call the RA on call enough to report their problem," said O'Connor. "As an RA, it is difficult to tell what noises are simply inconsiderate to rule-breaking. Overall, I just want people to be respectful to others," O'Connor said.

The RAs display strength in their best attempts to adhere residents to quiet hour rules in the resident hall or building they are responsible for, but the problem cannot be placed solely into their hands.

Junior sociology major, Rebekah Livermore, lived in Evans Hall during her first year. She reflected on her experiences with quiet hour disturbances and rule enforcement.

"Quiet hours can work to a certain extent,

but it is hard to enforce a building with over 100 people to be quiet after 10 p.m.," said Livermore.

Quiet hours are an important time for students to relax, study and sleep peacefully. The disturbances in these hours can impede the academic success and emotional health of students living in resident halls.

Sophomore marketing major and a resident of Evans Hall during the fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters, Seth Williams, encountered disturbances during quiet hours during finals week.

"It was tough," said Williams. "I had so much work to do, and I understand that there's nothing to do sometimes during finals week, but I wanted to work in my room some days and there was just so much noise during the day and the night that I couldn't get as much done as I wanted to and couldn't sleep without some music or yelling happening."

Although resident assistants are within the closest proximity to student behavior, they cannot be expected to consistently police every student in their hall. Instead, resident assistants should be given more support by their direct superiors and administration to help them succeed.

Letter to the editor policy: *The Beacon* welcomes letters to the editor from differing viewpoints. Letters must contain contact information, including name, city, state and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published but may be used for verification purposes.

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The Icebox: An in-depth review of “Hollow Knight”

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Many may be familiar with the “soulslike” genre of video games. This genre was dubbed after the infamous “Dark Souls” because a player’s repeated failure is highly expected.

Soulslike games rely on making progress bit-by-bit and improving with each mistake and each death. If you ask me, the real reason it’s called soulslike is because the game eats away at your soul until there is nothing left. The good news: there is a game that gives you the opportunity to recover your soul after you lost it. That game is called “Hollow Knight,” one of the masterpieces of our era.

“Hollow Knight” is a two-dimensional platform-adventure game where the protagonist is a mysterious creature who travels into the deep underground to fight monsters. The entire game takes place in a lost underground kingdom called Hallownest. As you make more progress, you unlock more of the map and discover more secrets. Most of the areas seem like they were once occupied by civilians but have been abandoned long ago. The caves and pathways are riddled with creatures, all of which have designs like that of insects and beetles. If that bothers you, don’t worry. The design in this game is hand-drawn and cartoonish, and some of the creatures are rather cute!

Wait? Hand-drawn? That’s right. The game was created by indie developers who poured their heart—and soul—into the design. Each character, object, background and frame animation was done by hand in software like Photoshop.

The voices for all of the creatures are done by the human voice, and the music was developed by Christopher Larkin, a talented composer who primarily works for indie animation. The atmosphere that the team created through “Hollow Knight” is truly wondrous. Not only did they nail the dark theme of a “hollow” world, but they managed to incorporate aspects of coziness and mystery. It is hard not to appreciate every second of the game.

With the design alone, it’s easier to maintain your soul while playing the game. The reason I mentioned soulslike games is

because “Hollow Knight” could count as part of the genre. Though it is not a three-dimensional open-world game, it practically fits every other criteria, which is that a player will die multiple times, learn from their mistakes and get to fight really cool bosses.

The mechanics in “Hollow Knight” are very simple. The character has a sword which can be used to defeat enemies. The sword can strike in any direction, even while the knight is in midair. The basic enemies take about two or three hits before dying, while stronger enemies require a much greater amount of hits. Each enemy defeated drops some amount of currency, called Geo, that can be used to purchase some items. There are stamps and upgrades to the in-game map for navigation and charms that enhance or provide different abilities when equipped.

The special thing about the knight is that he is mysterious and possesses a dark side. The knight only has a certain number of hits he can take before he dies himself. When this happens, he drops all of his Geo and his soul escapes his body. The player respawns at the last location where they rested and has the chance to recover their Geo by finding their wandering dark spirit and defeating it. If you fail to retrieve your darkness and die again on the way, you can say goodbye to the Geo and your spirit will relocate.

This particular mechanic makes the game sound a bit difficult, right? Fortunately, there is another mechanic that is available for players. This is the ability to collect “soul” into a gauge that can be used to perform special attacks or to recover hearts. The soul comes from defeating enemies and its efficiency can be enhanced with charms.

From my experience with the game, the hardest part is keeping track of where you should or shouldn’t be going. Players need to manually find parts of a map and the skill of navigation is necessary in order to succeed. On top of that, the boss fights can be really difficult and losing to them repeatedly, only to get teleported far away, can be frustrating. On the bright side, each of those deaths is a moment for learning.

The Return of The Red Raven: an original story

By Leah Smith

Opinion Staff Writer

PART 11

Isabelle called in for backup to find Vivian Keller before the mystery killer could. Officer Nathan found the location and pinned it to Isabelle’s phone through her messages. Isabelle drove furiously in her truck to Vivian’s location. Her knuckles were red and started to turn white on top of the steering wheel. She tried to focus on the rescue itself rather than her emotions because she was on her way to save the woman that helped ruin the relationship with her father.

Years ago, before Isabelle joined the police force, she was returning home from her first year in training. She knocked on the door and it was Vivian who answered in nothing but a see-through blue nightgown.

“I’m sorry, who are you?” Isabelle asked.

“Oh, your father never told you about me?” Vivian replied.

“I’m afraid not. Are you a friend of his?”

“Well, that’s complicated.”

Isabelle arched her eyebrow. “What does that mean?”

Then, Rick approached the door. “Viv, who is it?” he asked drunkenly.

Isabelle pushed Vivian to the side and confronted her father. She saw that he had baggy red eyes, disheveled hair and was wearing only boxer briefs and a tank top.

“When were you going to tell me about this?” Isabelle demanded.

“I was...well, I was going to tell you... sometime,” Rick mumbled.

Isabelle frowned, “Seriously? You’re cheating on dad with some woman and you were just going to never speak about it?”

“She’s not just some woman okay? Vivian Keller is a bombshell and she and I are really, really close,” Rick said.

“I can’t believe you. Did you even have anything planned for me or was your late night ritual more important?”

“Izzy, sweetie, don’t get mad at me, but I forgot you were even coming home.”

Isabelle was speechless. Meanwhile, Vivian was walking back and forth in the bedroom, putting her clothes back on.

“Rick, I’m leaving. Don’t call me back, I don’t want to do this anymore,” she

announced. Soon, she finished dressing herself and left Isabelle and Rick in a standoff.

Isabelle fought back tears. “You forgot?”

Rick raised his hands in surrender, “Look, I know that sounds bad. Now that you’re here though, we can go out for dinner and it’ll be my treat. If you really want to know about Vivian, I’ll tell you the whole thing-” Isabelle cut him off by running into the bedroom.

She saw on the TV an episode of the Red Raven playing quietly and clothes sprawled out on the floor. She shook her head.

“How it happened is that she called me to tell me that she wanted to see me again and she made the move on me, okay? I didn’t want to do it. She forced me into it. Then, I told her how much I loved her and how I felt about her when we filmed the show. I promise, Izzy, it’s nothing,” Rick tried to defend himself again.

“Not only did you just contradict yourself but you betrayed my trust. It hurts, but I can forgive you for forgetting about me coming home, but I can’t forgive this. Not only did you hurt me, but you hurt dad.”

Rick began reaching his arms out to her.

“Izzy, please-”

Isabelle interrupted, “Don’t you dare. If you’re not telling dad, then I’ll tell him.”

“Izzy, he can’t know about this, nobody can. My reputation will be ruined! You know what the tabloids will say about this?!”

“You care more about what the press will say about your affair than your own husband? Wake up, dad. You’re not the Red Raven anymore, you’re not the A-list actor you used to be anymore, you’re just Rick Greenblatt, an old, washed-up man who, apparently, wants to return to his youth so bad that he’ll ruin his marriage.”

“That’s not fair,” Rick protested.

“You want fair? Fine, you know what’s fair? Me leaving right now and telling dad about all of this because that’ll be fair for all of us,” Isabelle said. She began to storm out until Rick grabbed her arm.

“Izzy, please, don’t be like this.”

Isabelle nudged his hand off of her, “Dad, you’re hurting yourself by doing this and I want you to seek help, but I can’t be a part of this. Goodbye.”

Then, she walked out.

To be continued...

Here are three reasons why cats make better pets than dogs

By Sydney Allabaugh
Opinion Editor

It's a question that leads to heated debates, tears apart friendships and puzzles even the greatest thinkers: "Which are better pets, cats or dogs?"

To me, the answer seems obvious. Cats are better, and it's not even close. Here's why.

Cleanliness

One reason why cats are better pets to have in the house is because they are cleaner. Dogs spend a lot of time outside and tend to bring the outside in. They track in mud after they roll around in it, get the floors and furniture wet after being out in the rain and may even bring in bugs after a hike. Owners must frequently clean up after them.

Cats spend most or all their time indoors, meaning they are much less likely to become dirty. If they become dirty indoors, most cats consistently groom themselves, and they almost never stink like dogs do.

Some may argue that cats still shed and have dirty litter boxes to clean. However, both issues can be resolved in all of about 10 minutes with a routine

brushing and daily litter box scooping.

Also, on top of the already existing issues, dogs shed too, potentially more than cats depending on the size and breed, and they have something to that of a litter box to clean too: the yard or the sidewalks when on a walk.

Lower maintenance

Adding onto the fact that dogs are to be frequently cleaned up after, dogs are higher maintenance in many other ways. They require a lot of attention and stimulation. They need to go on daily walks, must be let out of the house many times a day to go to the bathroom and almost always want to play or be pet, which makes it very difficult to leave them alone in the house for more than just a few hours at a time.

Although some dog owners enjoy that dogs are more needy, it may take a physical or emotional toll on a dog if owners do not have free time or energy to fulfill all their dog's needs all the time.

Cats, on the other hand, can spend more time alone without it being detrimental to their well-being. They do not need to be let out every few hours as they have an indoor litter box, nor do they require daily walks. There are also

many ways cats can be entertained and exercise by themselves.

Sure, cats still need to be cared for, cleaned up after and played with daily, but cat owners have more flexibility when accomplishing these tasks and most routine tasks take little time or energy.

Personality

One of the most common criticisms of cats is that they are unfriendly or boring, but to me, that couldn't be further from the truth. Cats have a variety of different endearing quirks and personalities that make each one interesting, unique and charming.

Cats can be just as friendly as dogs, but they just show it without all the barking, jumping and licking. Potentially, they may walk across your lap or rub against your legs as you walk by.

Other cats may be more shy, mellow and sleepy, spending their time curled

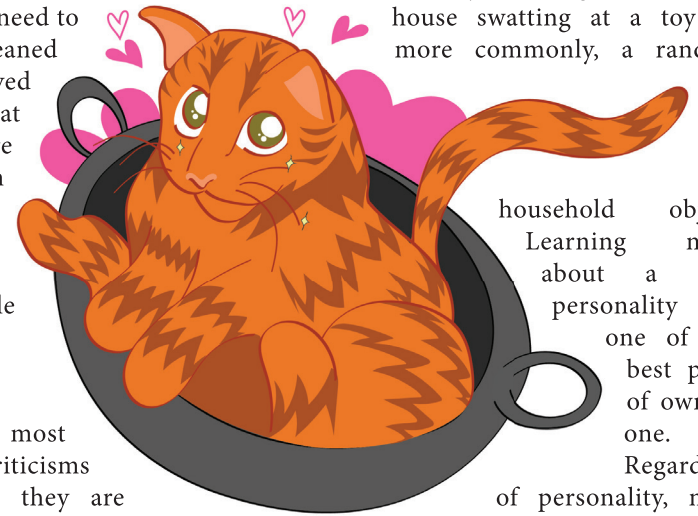
up in a box, or playful and rambunctious, commonly running around the house swatting at a toy or, more commonly, a random

household object. Learning more about a cat's personality is one of the best parts of owning one.

Regardless of personality, most cats enjoy spending time with their owners just like dogs do; they just show it in different ways. They do not need us to survive yet still enjoy spending time with us, which makes the companionship between humans and cats even more genuine and meaningful.

These are just a few of the likely endless reasons cats are superior. You know what they say, cats rule, dogs drool.

Graphic by Laura De Lora



Campus Suggestions: the avoidable craziness of a noon start

By Samara Carey
Asst. Opinion Editor

As many of you know, we recently received quite a bit of snow for our area. When having snow in the forecast, those of us in school are usually hopeful for a snow day, or at least a compressed schedule.

As we saw snowflakes falling from the sky and covering the roads, I am sure I wasn't the only one hoping for the first full day campus cancellation of the semester. However, on Feb. 13, at 5:45 a.m, students received a message saying that we were starting classes at noon. This was obviously a shock, considering I do not know anybody on campus who has ever experienced a noon start to classes.

Since it was a noon start, all of our morning classes were either canceled or put on a Zoom call. For the classes in the afternoon, many professors had the choice of keeping their classes going on as normal, having an online instruction day or being canceled completely. For myself, my afternoon class went on as normal, and I still had to drive to campus in the snowy weather.

That leads to my main point, which is that commuters are typically the ones who have to suffer the most when it comes to campus closures or delays. Being a commuter myself, I have had my fair share of waking up early, getting ready for class, driving to campus and then getting an email or text message saying my class was canceled or delayed.

Since about half of the students here

at Wilkes are commuters, I still find it quite shocking on the university's end that they don't really seem to consider all of the issues, like the hazardous driving conditions and having to leave earlier to account for them. As for myself, I am grateful for not living that far away from campus, so driving on the roads is not bad for me.

However, when we are considering the entire commuter population here on campus, there are so many other students here on campus that live further away than I do. I personally know some students on campus that commute to school every day and they live more than 45 minutes away from campus.

So, when the school announces that they are still having class at a time like

noon, it directly affects commuters and is risking their safety by having them drive on the roads, especially when they live farther away from campus. This then makes commuters at this school question if going to class is worth risking both their lives and cars in the snow. So, even if their class was not canceled originally, they are still missing a day of class since the school decided not to cancel in the first place.

Students have discussed this matter multiple times, whether it was to the school, with our peers or just to ourselves, but it is no secret that this needs to change in order for the commuter population on this campus to feel like they are included in the campus community and that their safety is at top priority to the campus administrators.

Netflix live-action “Avatar” and change for the sake of change

By Shawn Carey
Contributing Writer

The 2000s were truly a great time for television animation. Channels such as Disney, Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon were constantly playing some amazing shows, especially when it came to action cartoons.

“Danny Phantom,” “Ben 10,” “Samurai Jack” and “Jake Long: American Dragon” are just a handful of some of the great animated shows that were being released at the time. These shows were action-packed, heartfelt and plot-driven, a sharp change in direction from the comedies that were released the decade prior.

To me “Avatar: The Last Airbender” has always been the standout cartoon of this era. The show followed 12-year-old Aang, the current Avatar and last survivor of the Air Nomad, and his friends as they strived to put an end to the Fire Nation’s Hundred Year War. During his journey, Aang must also master all four elements, water, earth, fire and air.

While it was similar to other shows that were airing at the time, there was something special about it. The characters were complex, the world was rich in lore and it covered some pretty dark themes.

The show was a massive hit among audiences of all ages. Viewers quickly fell in love with the unique setting and inspiring characters. Nickelodeon, the show’s network, took full advantage of its popularity.

Several sequel comics, prequel novels, video games, guide books and other spin-offs would be released to capitalize on the show’s success. The most famous of these spin offs would be its sequel series “The Legend of Korra.”

The network didn’t stop at just expanding the series canon material, they would go on and start to retell the story of the show in different media formats. This would lead to the most infamous piece of Avatar media, M. Night Shyamalan’s “The Last Airbender.”

The 2010 movie was critically panned by both fans and critics alike. The movie

did so much wrong. It whitewashed the main cast, had awful acting, barely followed the plot of the show and had terrible use of CGI. As you can imagine, the movie was a failure and all plans to continue adapting the series into live action came to an end.

That was the case at least. In 2018, Netflix would announce that a “reimagined” live-action TV series of Avatar would start production the following year. The series’ original creators, Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko were set to act as executive producers on the show.

Fans felt some hope for a proper live action adaptation upon release of the news. Not only was it a television series, a medium that fits the original show much better, but they brought the original creators back to work on the show, something that the movie didn’t bother to do.

The casting would be announced soon after the initial announcement. Once again, unlike the movie fans were pleased with the casting choice. The actors actually matched the appearance of their character. Dallas James Liu as Zuko and Daniel Dae Kim as Fire Lord Ozai were by far the fan favorite castings.

Things were looking good for the show. Mostly everyone was excited for it. It had a lot to live up to, and it actually looked like it was going to be able to be a worthy successor to the original cartoon.

This didn’t last long. As development of the show continued, we would be faced with some truly upsetting news.

First and foremost, DiMartino and

Konietzko released a public statement in 2020 announcing that they would be leaving the show’s production. They stated in their announcement that it was over creative differences, stating “it ultimately wouldn’t be the show (they) set out to make.”

While it did seem like all parties involved were still on good terms, fans didn’t take the news well. Many questions were asked, such as what were the creative differences? What was changed and why?

We wouldn’t receive any answers to these questions until recently, a few weeks before the show’s premiere. The show’s creative team made a fair amount of changes to the source material, changes that honestly seem unnecessary.

By far the biggest change can be found in Aang’s personality. In an IGN interview with showrunner

Albert Kim, it was revealed that the Netflix team made the decision to make Aang’s narrative more straightforward than it was in the animated series. She stated “He’s kind of going from place to place looking for adventures, we wanted to make sure he had that drive from the start.”

The solution they found was giving Aang a vision right from the beginning; they wanted to make the stakes very clear to him, so he would be imminently motivated to reach the Northern Water tribe. This was something he didn’t even think about doing until a few episodes into the original series.

Doing this fundamentally changes Aang’s entire character arc. Aang is a 12-year-old boy who received the most

important job in the world overnight. For a good portion of the first season he didn’t even want to be the Avatar. The only thing we wanted to do was to mess around and play with his new friends.

Aang had to learn responsibility and what it truly meant to be the Avatar. He spent so much time running away from his responsibilities until he was left with no choice but to face them.

Giving Aang a clear goal at the start of the season throws around an entire part of his character. There was a message about facing responsibility in the original show, a message that is no longer there.

He wasn’t the only character that was changed. Main cast member Sokka also faced some pretty big changes as well.

In the original cartoon Sokka was pretty sexist towards many of the women they came across in their travels. This was mainly in the context of him trying to make himself sound cooler than he actually was.

The Netflix show is planning on removing that entire aspect of his personality entirely. This is something I would normally be OK with them doing. However, there was a point to him being that way in the first place.

Sokka learns over the course of the show that women are just as capable as men and that he didn’t have to try to elevate himself higher to them. In fact, he starts to date a skilled martial artist named Suki, a character he acknowledges is a better fighter than him.

While we don’t know the full extent of the changes the series has to offer yet, there’s word that Katara and Zuko also faced pretty big changes to their characters.

These character traits may seem childish on paper, but they were there for a reason. They were used to elevate the story of these characters.

When it comes to adapting an animated piece of media into live action, we are so often faced with showrunners missing the original point of the story. Netflix’s “Avatar” is shaping up to be another example of this.

Graphic by Laura De Lora



Reviewing "VULTURES 1" by Kanye West and Ty Dolla \$ign

By Logan Colonna
Opinion Staff Writer

After countless delays, the first volume of Kanye West's and Ty Dolla \$ign's collaboration album "VULTURES 1" has finally made it to streaming platforms and into listeners' ears.

The album is coming after Kanye released the abysmal "Donda" sequel named after the 2021 record. This album in particular was easily Kanye's worst to come, so he certainly needed to up his game with "VULTURES 1."

Starting off this album not so strong is the performance of Kanye. Various times throughout the album, we see the "newer" Kanye shine dully and bring about subpar lyrics and odd bars. The most outrageous, but honestly really catchy, part of the album is Kanye's verse on the fifth track, "BACK TO ME." In means of sampling the 1999 comedy "Dogma," Kanye falls short lyrically as he's seen talking about how "beautiful big-titty, butt-naked women just don't fall out the sky." And yes, this goes on for a while throughout his verse. Seven times to be exact. Now while it is awful lyrically, it's still somehow catchy to me. I truly don't know how he does it.

On the other end of the spectrum are his performances on songs like "BURN" and "CARNIVAL."

"BURN" brings back the old Kanye that everyone knows and loves, even sonically. In this song, we see Kanye touch on his divorce with his now ex-wife Kim Kardashian, mention his 2020 presidential run and take shots at designer brand, Balenciaga.

Going onto "CARNIVAL," we have Kanye talking about the whole industry as he's name-dropping several celebrities, such as Bill Cosby, R. Kelly and Taylor Swift, within his verse. On top of this, we see him doubling down on him being a terrible person. This is easily the grittiest we've seen Kanye since this new era he's in.

Moving onto Ty Dolla \$ign's performance, I believe he did so much better than Kanye. A lot of people have the belief that Ty is playing second fiddle to Kanye here. However, when really looking at it, Ty easily has the better and more consistent performances throughout the tracklist.

I personally view the album more as a Ty Dolla \$ign album than a Kanye West album because of this. While he was used as a "chorus boy" for most of the tracks, the choruses were easily the best part of some of the songs, bringing everything together.

If I was to say which tracks he excelled on, I'd be forced to list every one of the 16 on the album. With this being said, his absolute best performance is on "BEG FORGIVENESS" with Chris Brown. He delivers a tear-jerker of a verse on this track.

Then we have the features of the album. The best feature for me is either Freddie Gibbs or Rich the Kid, as both bring their best performances in a while to each track they're on. Freddie on "BACK TO ME" goes so well with the instrumental provided and goes above and beyond what Ty and especially Kanye bring to the table.

As for Rich's performance, he starts off "CARNIVAL" with nearly the best verse on the track. He shows so much emotion and hype through his runtime.

Now to the bad. First up, we have Kanye's daughter, North. She's on "TALKING" and truly makes the song worse. Everytime I listen, I have to fight the urge to not skip her verse. It's simply just very annoying.

Production-wise, the album was phenomenal. Some great standouts were "CARNIVAL," "BEG FORGIVENESS" and "DO IT."

"CARNIVAL" started off booming with chanting that could've been ripped out from the Super Bowl. On top of this, there's an electrifying bass in the background also looming around. This sets the scene as the song is primarily there to hype the listener up. While nothing sticks out like a sore thumb, the

song as a whole conveys such emotion from the instrumental alone.

Next, we have "BEG FORGIVENESS." To begin, we do have two halves of production. The first half of the song shows off 808s that seem like they've been taken from Kanye's 2008 album, "808s & Heartbreak." The song overall is very reminiscent of the album. Moving on to the true show-stopper, the second half of the track. There's a dreadful voice saying "Beg forgiveness" being looped countless times as Ty and Chris Brown pour their souls out over it. As weird as it sounds, it's one of the most powerful songs in terms of emotions being conveyed.

Ending off this segment with "DO IT," we have this weird Brazilian funk soundscape here, and I adore it so much. It's so energetic that it makes me groove to the beat instantly. The instrumentals go so well with Ye, Ty and YG.

Wrapping this up, nearly everything on "VULTURES 1" is amazing. The only apparent downsides of the record are some of Ye's performances and a handful of features. I'm glad the runtime of the album (55 minutes) is much shorter than Donda's (1 hour and 48 minutes), making the album much more cohesive and actually listenable.

Overall, "VULTURES 1" is a solid 9 out of 10.

Lastly, as a disclaimer, it's important to separate the art from the artist. Kanye himself is a beyond-awful person, but most agree that his music is more than decent.

Graphic by Laura De Lora



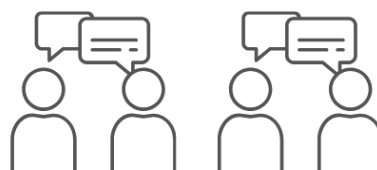
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Women's Lacrosse team ready for Landmark

By **Samatha Mullen**
Contributing writer

The Women's lacrosse team's season is set to start on February 21st at Schmidt stadium. This is the team's first season in the Landmark Conference and going into the conference they are ranked number 10.

Coach Mccarver is ready to work hard and play hard this season.

"Going into the Landmark conference ranked at number 10, we are pumped. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose. The team is fired up and ready to compete. This should be a good season and a good introduction to the conference."

The lacrosse team welcomes 4 freshmen this season. One of those freshmen is Halie Albright; she is from Taneytown, Maryland and plays midfield. Her position requires a lot of running and she works hard to stay in good shape during the off season.

"I've always been a runner and it's my favorite way to workout during the off-season. I also like biking because it's a great way to stay in shape without putting as much strain on my legs."

Albright will be a force on the field this season. She feels confident going into her first season at Wilkes because of the team's chemistry. The team's chemistry helps them read each other on the field.

Along with the freshmen, the team also welcome's fifth year Ava Ward. She is from Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and plays midfield.

Before coming to Wilkes University she was a Division 1 athlete at Presbyterian College. During Ward's last season at Presbyterian she scored seven times with an additional assist. She has already proved that she is going to be a major asset to the team.

The team is very close fit and has a bond unlike any other. They feel very

comfortable around each other and that shows even during their pre-game ritual.

"Before every game the team gathers together to get pumped by blasting music and hyping everyone up. There is nothing that will boost your adrenaline." stated junior Samantha Scott.

Last season senior Breanne Fulling had 51 shots on goal which was the highest amount of any player on the team as well as 25 goals.

She is a captain alongside senior Maleah Cobham, junior Samantha Scott and junior Alexis Guttilla.

This is Samantha's Scott's first season as a captain. She is a goalie from Binghamton, New York. Scott has a lot of goals this season and is hoping to bring the team together on and off the field.

"I want to work on bringing the team together as a whole. My goal is to get the team focused on working together, on and off the field to succeed together. Most of all, I want to promote a team atmosphere where we can excel in our play and have fun playing the sport we all love."

A player to watch out for this season is senior defensive player Taylor Quackenbush.

She has improved tremendously through her time at Wilkes. For instance, Quackenbush has noticed her "technique

has improved in that I can read the ball and attackers a lot quicker. In addition, I think working with so many different teammates my ability to communicate on the field and make split game time decisions is a lot better."

Quackenbush thanks her teammates and coaches for her improvement throughout her past seasons.

Overall last season the team scored 109 times and 268 ground

balls. Last season their overall record was 3 wins and 14 loses.

They are hoping to improve these scores this season starting Wednesday, February 21st at home against Kean University starting at 5 p.m.



Photo by Samatha Mullen

Men's basketball getting ready for postseason

By Lexi McHugh
Contributing Writer

With the basketball season nearing a close, the Wilkes Colonels hold a record of 18 wins and 7 losses, including an 11-6 record against Landmark conference opposition. Their first match was on November 9th against Keystone College where they won with a score of 86-61. This early success has secured them a spot in the upcoming Landmark Conference tournament.

The Colonels were on a five day winning streak in December, beating Lycoming College, Juniata College, Clarks Summit University, Centre College, and Hamline University all back to back. From there, they continued into conference play, where they faced other schools in the Landmark like Susquehanna University

and the University of Scranton.

Head Coach Izzi Metz is on his tenth season coaching for Wilkes basketball, accumulating a 112-106 record over the past nine seasons. "Our preparation for this season started back in September with 6 a.m. conditioning workouts at Schmidt Stadium as well weight training with Coach Keith Klahold. We then started basketball workouts and practices in early October," said Metz.

So far, the team has had an amazing season with 18 wins, but with wins come losses. Junior business and sports management major Cayden Merrifield, who has accumulated 369 points this season, shares his team's recovery from the few losses they had this season.

"Next play, next game mentality. Be

ready to come to practice the next day looking to improve and get better," said Merrifield. After close losses, the team were able to bounce back and show that despite a loss, they wouldn't let it affect their upcoming games.

Metz believes that he coaches for a great team. "We have good veteran leadership with 5 seniors and a graduate student. We also have plenty of experience from previous seasons. Our players enjoy playing for each other that usually produces a positive result on the court," said Metz.

It's not hard to tell that Wilkes basketball team appreciates their seniors and are very grateful for each of them. "The seniors do a great job every day setting a good example for us underclassmen. When we see the energy and hard work

they bring everyday, it makes everyone else boost their intensity and match the energy they bring," said Merrifield.

Merrifield believes his team will be prepared for playoffs by following simple steps. "The biggest thing is coming to practice everyday ready to work and get not only yourself but your teammates better. Our coaches will get us prepared with their game plan, it's up to us players to step up and compete at a high level," said Merrifield.

Wilkes basketball had their regular season finale game against Goucher on February 17th this game was also Wilkes senior night. The seniors on the Wilkes basketball team, dance, and cheer team were honored with gifts while surrounded by their friends and family.

Wilkes lost this game with a final score of 55-76 while trailing close behind the first half.



Photo by Steve Finkernagel

GO TEAM! LACROSSE

AWAY
AWAY
HOME
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AWAY

2/25 MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE
2/28 MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY
3/02 UTICA UNIVERSITY
3/06 LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE
3/09 ROSEMONT COLLEGE
3/13 ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY
3/16 HOOD COLLEGE
3/20 KING'S COLLEGE
3/23 MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY
3/28 JUNIATA COLLEGE
4/03 DREW UNIVERSITY
4/06 GOUCHER COLLEGE
4/10 LYCOMING COLLEGE
4/13 SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY
4/17 UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON
4/20 ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE
4/27 CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



KEAN UNIVERSITY 2/21 HOME
MOUNT SAINT MARY COLLEGE 2/24 HOME
GWYNEDD MERCY UNIVERSITY 2/28 AWAY
MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE 3/02 AWAY
MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY 3/05 HOME
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY 3/09 AWAY
KING'S COLLEGE 3/13 AWAY
MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY 3/23 HOME
DESALES UNIVERSITY 3/27 HOME
JUNIATA COLLEGE 3/29 AWAY
DREW UNIVERSITY 4/03 HOME
GOUCHER COLLEGE 4/06 AWAY
LYCOMING COLLEGE 4/10 HOME
SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY 4/13 AWAY
UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON 4/17 AWAY
ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE 4/20 HOME
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA 4/27 HOME

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Photographers and
videographers are
also encouraged to
apply.

Athlete of the Week

Haylee Bouchard

First Year, Forward, Women's Ice Hockey

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week

Bouchard totaled four points in the double-header weekend against Neumann University. She had two goals and two assists for the weekend.

Major: Business

Hometown: Sioux Lookout, Ontario, Canada

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

Miracle

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

My favorite sports memory as a Colonel was when we swept Lebanon Valley. It was a great moment for our returners, breaking their previous record and being a part of that was very moving.

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

I would like to try tennis.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Getting into our 10th game win streak.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

Montreal Canadiens

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Definitely Chick-fil-A.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

I love playing games like Chess and Fortnite.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

Being selected as athlete of the week is pretty cool. It is definitely a shared mention as I couldn't have achieved these records without my linemates and overall team.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

Definitely being on the Vice team, we have such a strong atmosphere and couldn't ask for a better group.

The Beacon//Samantha Mullen

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

Athlete of the Week

Jackson Shafer

Senior, Men's Volleyball, Outside Hitter

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

Shafer recorded 54 kills over four matches, taking over the program record for career kills. He recorded 63 points, 13 digs, 8 blocks, and 4 aces. In the tri-match against Widener University, Shafer tied his career high with 22 kills.

Major: Financial Investments
Hometown: Milford, PA

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

Breaking the single season wins record last year and being on pace to do so again this year.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

The Philadelphia 76ers.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

I enjoy reading, hanging out with friends and going to the gym.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

The lifelong friendships and connections I have made along the way.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

The first Rocky movie

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

Golf or football

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Everytime I jump into Paul Binner after he does something crazy.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Applebees

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

I feel thrilled to be chosen for this but this is more of a testament to how well the team has been performing thus far this season.

The Beacon/Sam Mullen

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."



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