

The BEACON

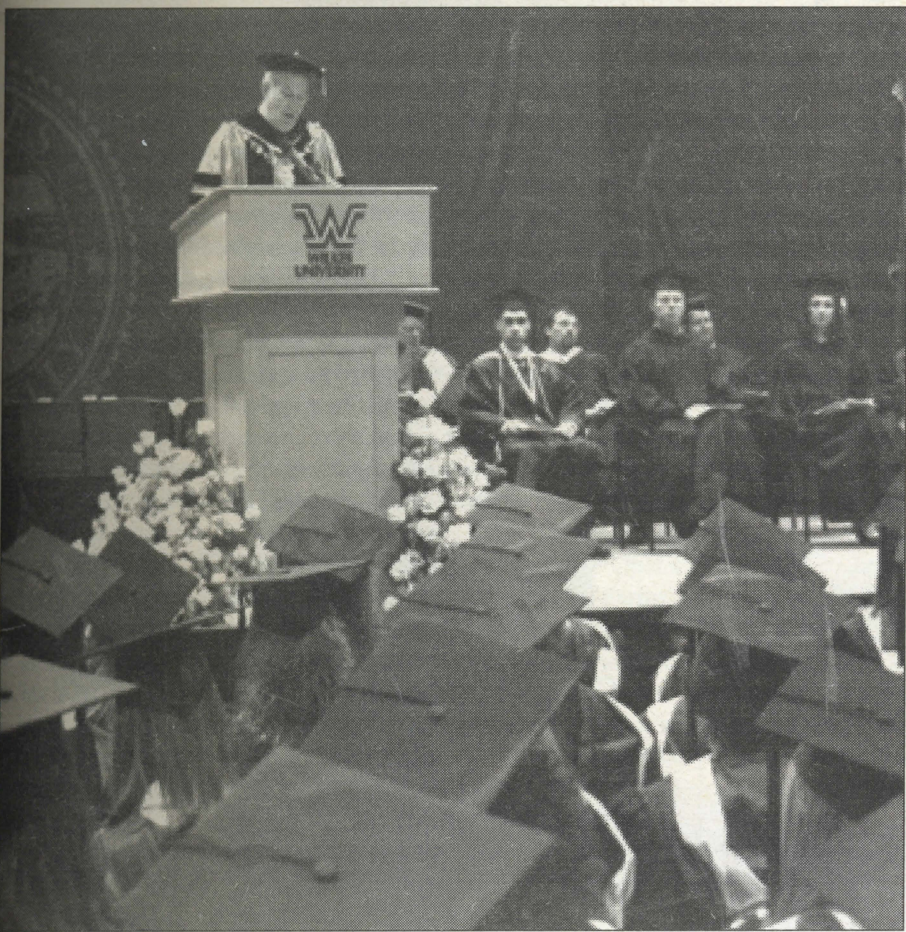
THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

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Wilkes University Wilkes-Barre, PA



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

The President's Cabinet recently decided to eliminate the winter commencement ceremony for three reasons: sports schedules, weather and low winter graduation numbers.

Low mid-year grad number nix Winter Commencement

BY JAMIE BABBITT
Beacon Advertising Manager

Wilkes University will no longer be one of the few area universities to offer three commencement ceremonies each year. The President's Cabinet recently made the decision to eliminate the winter ceremony.

According to Dr. Paul Adams, vice president of student affairs, the decision was made for three reasons: sports schedules, weather and low graduation numbers in the winter.

Adams said scheduling around basketball and wrestling creates a challenge in the logistics of planning the event, and commencement often causes an interruption in the routine of sports games and practices.

In addition, unforeseen weather complications also create a challenge in the planning of the ceremony, something that is not a factor in May or September. Winter commencement was cancelled two years ago because of a snowstorm.

Finally, according to Adams, the number of graduates in winter commencement is often half of the September and May numbers.

He notes that eliminating winter commencement will allow for greater investment in September commencement. "Our intention is to be able to put more emphasis on the September commencement and be able to invest a little bit more there so we can make that a bit more special," he said.

Eliminating winter commencement was not just one person's decision. Members of the President's Cabinet spoke with representatives in several offices on campus who work closely with students and also got some student feedback.

"Hopefully it's not going to impact people to a great extent. We want people to go through the ceremony and we hope that anyone who is scheduled to be part of the January ceremony will be able and willing

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Famed journalist, Bob Woodward delivers Max Rosenn Lecture

Law clerks, Rosenn family announce \$400K addition to endowment

BY KRISTIN KILE
Beacon Editor-in-Chief

What many may recall most from the lecture held in the Marts gym last Sunday was the surpris-

ing prediction: Democratic New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton v. Vice President Dick Cheney in the 2008 showdown for the presidency. But the evening was filled with far more

subtle political insights and media analyses.

Pulitzer prize winning journalist Bob Woodward, assistant managing editor of the *Washington Post*, offered the keynote for the 25th

annual Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities on April 23.

The series was established in 1980 by Judge Max Rosenn's former law clerks, family and friends

in recognition of Rosenn's 10th anniversary as Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for

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Campus Interfaith coordinator tenders resignation

BY JEANNE STAPLETON
Beacon Staff Writer

Kevin Gaughenbaugh has been at the helm of campus interfaith for four years, but that is about to change

Recently, Gaughenbaugh announced his resignation from his position as campus interfaith coordinator. Gaughenbaugh will be leaving the university in order to further pursue his education. He will begin his graduate studies at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte in counseling this coming August.

Campus interfaith is a program funded

by the Diocese of Scranton that allows students, faculty and staff resources to both express and practice the faith of their choice.

"We have kept a partnership with them [the Diocese of Scranton] for the past fifteen years. They have provided a campus interfaith resource for us and we have been very grateful for that," said Mark Allen, Dean of Students.

"From a standpoint of working at a college, I think it is good for students to see someone carrying on their education, even though I am going to have to be leaving. I almost feel like a model of education. I took some time off and I am very glad that I went out and got a job and worked for a while before go-

ing back to school because now I feel that I appreciate education more. Wilkes, however, will be greatly missed," said Gaughenbaugh.

While Gaughenbaugh will miss working at the school, the sentiment will also be returned by university members who admired his ability to communicate effectively with students on faith-based issues. These individuals have also expressed their excitement for his future plans.

"We will miss Kevin greatly. He has such a calming demeanor and personality. I think Kevin works very well with students on faith issues and other problems that arise that Kevin is seen as a resource. From that standpoint

we will certainly miss him, however, I am very thrilled for him that he is moving on and going on into the next chapter in his life," said Allen.

According to Gaughenbaugh, the interfaith program at Wilkes will continue. The Diocese of Scranton has opened a search for Gaughenbaugh's replacement and hope to have someone by the beginning of July.

"The University feels that faith issues are very important for our students, especially in this time of uncertainty in terms of world dynamics and what have you. And we fully intend to make sure that there is a person there to help assist the students with their faith issues," said Allen.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Current Campus Interfaith Coordinator, Kevin Gaughenbaugh, spoke with students at Tuesday night's "Talk it Out." Every Tuesday, Gaughenbaugh hosted "Talk it Out" to allow students a venue for talking about different societal issues and how faith may play a role in their perceptions of the issues. The purpose of the evening is not necessarily to talk about faith, but to allow students the opportunity to do so if they choose.

The BEACON

Serving the community through fair and accurate reporting
while supporting the views and opinions of our readers.

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News in Brief

Historic Hillside Farms the site of restoration project

BY JEANNE STAPLETON
Beacon Staff Writer

Most know it as the source of the best ice cream in the region.

But Hillside Farms, located in Shavertown just off of Route 309, has always been about more than just making great ice cream.

The farm was purchased in 1881 by William Conyngham, a coal broker from Wilkes-Barre. Its 400 acres of rolling hills and grassy, tree dotted fields became a magnificent summer and agriculture estate.

The farm was famous not only for its dairy but also its award-winning Clydesdale and Belgian draft horses, pictures of which still hang in the popular ice cream parlor and gift shop.

The estate has remained in the Conyngham family for over a century. In the past several years, however, the family saw a great opportunity to allow the farm to evolve into a site of education and historic significance. A non-profit organization, called The Lands at Hillside Farms, was developed in December 2005 to help to restore the buildings on the land and create a space where students of history, science, culture and agriculture

could contribute and learn.

Living history farms--largely outdoor museums of agriculture--have popped up all over the nation since the early 1970s, notes the Association for Living History Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM), but restoration of the land, building preservation and community engagement are challenging and expensive ventures that require enormous commitment from community members.

Building clean up and stabilization at The Lands at Hillside Farms is mainly carried out by volunteers. Each Saturday is a volunteer day in which people from the community come out to help in the restoration. Volunteers range in ages from their teens to their 80s. According to employees, usually the turn out is about 25 to 50 volunteers.

"Many of the volunteers that come out have ancestors that had something to do with the farm," says William Conyngham, Manager of Operations and Development of Hillside Farms. Conyngham is also the great grandson of Will Conyngham who originally purchased the farm.

The space offers unique opportunity for local students for study and service.

"We hope that our students, faculty and

staff will find this a great place to visit and retreat to. There may also be some opportunities for us to help with the development of project- through service learning, internships and faculty and staff consulting," said Wilkes University President Tim Gilmour.

According to its website, the mission of The Lands at Hillside Farms is to preserve the land and its history and to promote choices that are healthy, conservation-minded and practical. "The Lands at Hillside Farms is dedicated to...creating an invaluable educational, cultural and historic resource, a place with a community-driven purpose."

"I believe their plans will provide a venue that will add much to our community and preserve a significant amount of acreage in a natural state. As this region grows in the near future, we are going to find land conservancy efforts such as this to be extremely important," said Gilmour.

"The Lands at Hillside Farms advocates for farming that will last. Giving local farmers a place to market their produce, which in turn provides local customers healthy locally produced food. Today farming has become very large scale, on average produce travels 1,500 miles from production to

consumption," added Conyngham.

Since October 2005, The Lands at Hillside Farms has sought to draw patrons in its weekly offering of local music, storytellers and artisans. The programs are aimed at providing cultural events to benefit the community.

"These programs help to provide the community with a non-commercial experience, a way that life should be," said Conyngham.

This project may take over \$20 million to complete. To this point, the management team at The Lands at Hillside Farms have relied on being honest and earnest, telling people what they envision and what community members could do to sustain the efforts.

"This project has been a life lesson. It has helped to adjust our thinking from, 'there is no way this could happen' to figuring out how to make it happen. Each little step is helping work towards making a dream come true. It is amazing to see a group of people that says 'I am not only going to dream this but I am going to make it happen,'" said Conyngham.



The Beacon/John Mishanski
Hillside Farms, located in Shavertown, has been transformed into a site of historic significance. The Lands at Hillside Farms, a non-profit organization, was organized in December 2005 to restore the land and make it into an area where individuals can engage in a learning experience in the fields of agriculture, history, science and culture.

Student Government Notes

April 26 Meeting

-Delta Epsilon Chi appeared for second reading to attain club status. Rich Hannick made a motion to recognize Delta Epsilon Chi as an SG club and to transfer their \$800 from existing club account. Jon McClave seconded the motion and the motion passed 26-1-8.

-Choral Club appeared for second reading of a fund request to support singing venues in Lowville, New York and Toronto, Canada. Meghan Badach made a motion to allocate \$3,000 to the Choral Club and Matt Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 14-12-9.

-S.I.F.E. appeared for second reading of a fund request to pay for National Competition in Kansas City. Jon McClave made a motion to allocate \$4,500 to S.I.F.E. and Josh Swantek seconded the motion. The motion passed 21-2-10.

-Biology Research group appeared for a donation request in order to help pay for nine students to attend the American Society of Plant Biologists confer-

ence in Boston during August. Kristina Erat made a motion to allocate the full \$2,881.78 to the group and Jenn Cerra seconded the motion. The motion passed 26-3-4.

-Courtney Amrhein made a motion to allocate up to \$250 to be spent at the last SG meeting of the year, next week, on food and snacks for the meeting. Tony Scerbo seconded the motion and the motion passed 26-3-4.

-Dr. Mencer received the faculty choice award voted on by the students during the presidential elections survey.

-Study Break Party will be held May 4 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the ballroom.

-Executive Board nominations were accepted.

Vice President: Andrew Eckert, David Sborz

Recording Secretary: Sarina Kapoor, Meghan Badach

Treasurer: Jon McClave, Tony Scerbo
Corresponding Secretary: Stephanie Victor, Jenn Cerra, Jeff Bauman

Mentoring Task Force grants to support research, programs

BY JOSEPH DEANGELIS
Beacon Staff Writer

As mentoring has emerged as the unique brand for the institution, Wilkes officials have now put their money where their mouths are. New mentoring project and mini-grants have now become available for faculty and staff who are engaging in unique projects that advance the concept of mentoring students at all levels.

Appointed a year ago by Wilkes University President Tim Gilmour, the Mentoring Task Force is now offering grants for members of the Wilkes community to im-

prove upon the means by which they reach and establish academic partnerships with students.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the campus's creative juices to really flow and to the benefit of our students," said Mike Frantz, the Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing and a member of the Mentoring Task Force. "The benefits there are enormous."

"I think the university came to realize that we are characterized by a culture that is very rich in learning through relationships and mentoring has been a characteristic that goes back through the institution through the decades... It seems to be a defining element

in Wilkes education," said Paul S. Adams, the Vice President of Student Affairs. "So we've decided how we can do it even better."

There are two different types of grants available. One is a mini-grant for one-time mentoring opportunities, worth up to \$1,000. The other is a Project Fund Grant, which can be awarded for mentoring projects anywhere between \$1,000 to \$50,000.

"We have the money available and we want people to make use of it and we're excited by some of these projects," Adams said.

One of the approved projects was a mini-grant for Dr. Terese Wignot, an associate professor of

chemistry and the Director of Science in Motion, for her students to present their papers at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society.

"It really helps the students financially," Wignot said. "The students would have had to pay out of their own pockets." Wignot also notes that the grants allow students to be able to experience things they could not have experienced without the program.

The mentoring grants may serve as a way to bring new ideas into the campus and the community at large as they allow for faculty, students, and possibly alumni to fund creative initiatives.

"If students have ideas, I would encourage them to speak with their faculty members as well as with staff members," Frantz said. "If they have ideas, bring them forward so we will serving students' needs the best."

Adams has high hopes for the Mentoring Task Force.

"It is our hope that we can distinguish Wilkes and help it become the premier small university in the mid-Atlantic region that focuses on mentoring," he said. "It's our hope that all of the students are touched in one way shape or form by these mentoring initiatives."

Student Government proposed 2006-07 budget discussed

BY VICTORIA WHITE
Beacon News Editor

The Student Government (SG) proposed budget for the 2006-2007 school year was presented at the April 26 SG meeting. Executive Board treasurer, Jon McClave provided SG members with copies of the proposed budget at the April 19 meeting in order to give members the opportunity to look over the proposed budget before it was discussed.

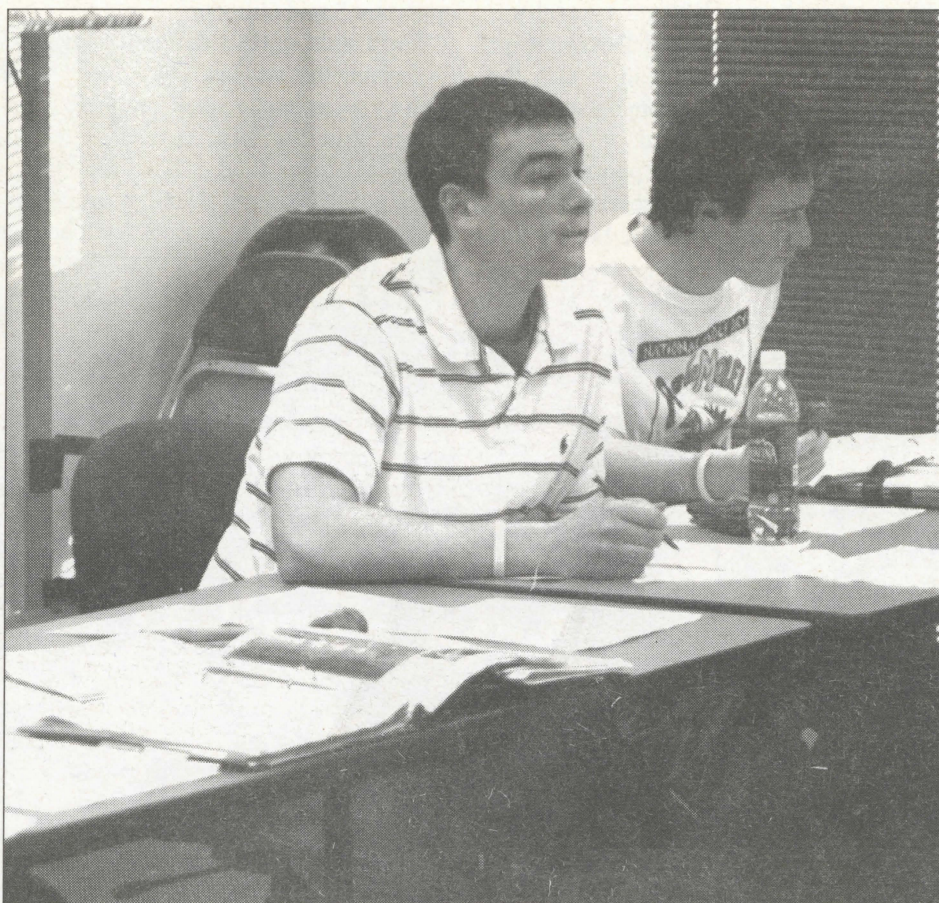
At the April 26 meeting McClave went over the budget details and answered questions about the proposed budget in order to ensure everyone was informed for the vote at the last SG meeting of the year on May 3. This year's SG budget totaled \$420, and many of the budget amounts remained the same as previous years, with only a few changes.

Those clubs proposed to receive the same amount of funding as in the 2005-2006 budget are: Amnicola, Circle K and Crew Club. The amounts in the SG All College Fund, General Fund, Special Projects Fund, Spirit Fund and Conferences Fund are proposed to remain the same, as well.

There are many clubs and organizations on campus that are receiving increases in their budget amounts. Alternative Spring Break, Bacchus, Community Service, Commuter Council, MSC, Residence Life and the Speech and Debate team are all slotted for increases in the amount that SG will be allotting them for the 2006-2007 school year.

The budget proposes a significant increase for cheerleading, going from \$3,700 to \$8,000. McClave explained the increase, "The cheerleaders are receiving new mats and uniforms that are NCAA required."

Another large change was in the decrease



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

At the April 26 Student Government meeting Executive Board Treasurer Jon McClave described the budget increases as well as those aspects that will remain the same. Some clubs are slated to receive the same amount of funding, while others will receive budget increases. One of the largest changes involves the transfer of funds from Programming Board to Off Campus Council (OCC) to cover the cost of Block Party, which will be run in the future by OCC. Due to a lack of spending, a cut in underclass budgets has also been proposed.

of the Programming Board budget by \$20,000 and the subsequent increase of the OCC (Off Campus Council) budget from the proposed \$3,000 to \$23,000.

"The big change is that OCC is taking over Block Party, so we took the money from Programming Board that would have been spent on Block Party and put it in the OCC," McClave said.

The 2006-2007 OCC president, Andrew Steinberg said, "We are extremely excited about taking over Block Party, this is something that was originally meant for OCC. We are extremely excited that it is coming back home to OCC. We are excited to accept the challenge of Block Party. We realize that it is a big challenge for a little club, but we are excited about that challenge."

The only accounts that will be decreased are internal SG funds. The leadership fund will be decreased as well as the club start-up fund. Each of the underclass budgets is also proposed to receive less money than in previous years.

"The amount that the classes receive will be heated, but they are not spending the money that they currently receive and they are trying to hold it over until their senior year and that is not what the money is meant for. We budget for the senior socials by allotting the senior class \$5,000," McClave said.

With the discussion rather minimal at the April 26 SG meeting, the proposed 2006-2007 budget is expected to be voted on and passed at the May 3 meeting.

WOODWARD from FRONT PAGE

the Third Circuit. This year's lecture held particular significance because it is the first since Rosenn's death on February 7, 2006.

President Tim Gilmour said Rosenn was missed at this year's lecture. "All of us who knew him, missed him and wished he could be there. Still, there is this wonderful legacy of his law clerks who return annually to the event and were there in great force this year in his memory," Gilmour said.

At a dinner before the lecture, the judge's sons Dr. Daniel Rosenn and attorney Keith Rosenn announced that the law clerks and Rosenn's family had raised more than \$400,000 to add to the lecture series endowment since the judge's death.

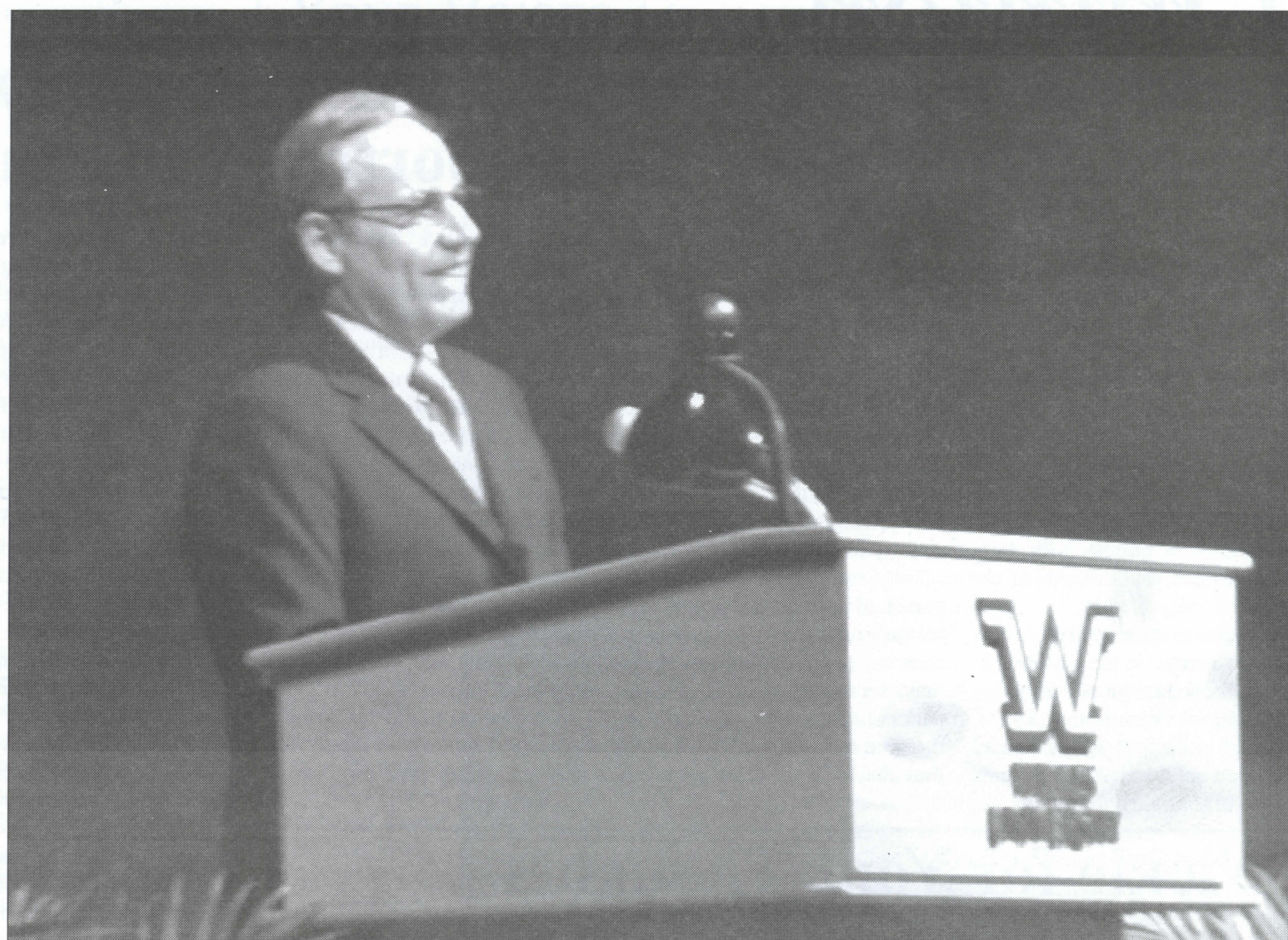
"This is a major accomplishment and goes well towards bringing the lecture to self-sufficiency," Gilmour said.

The endowment has brought many significant leaders in law and humanities to Wilkes University for the past quarter century, including Woodward this year.

During his career, Woodward has received many awards and accolades. *The New York Times* referred to Woodward as "the most famous investigative reporter in America." He is the only contemporary American writer to author or co-author at least eight number one national best-selling non-fiction books. The books include *All the President's Men*, which was made into a movie; *The Final Days*; *The Agenda: Inside the Clinton White House* and *Bush at War*.

Woodward noted that he had particular pride in participating in the lecture series because his father was a judge. He began his speech by asking a series of "poll" questions including: how many audience members supported the policies that led to and sustained the Iraq war; how many Democrats and Republicans were in attendance; and how many felt that the government was justified in its secret surveillance of Americans following 9/11. Woodward's subsequent confession that his poll was designed to see how many "rich, nosey, warmonger Republicans" were in the audience received the first of several hearty crowd laughs throughout the lecture.

Woodward's speech was conversational in tone and structure and touched on Wa-



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Washington Post assistant managing editor Bob Woodward presented the keynote for the 25th annual Max Rosenn Lecture series in Law and Humanities on April 23 and discussed political and media related issues.

tergate, press responsibility and the current presidency. Woodward shared the 1973 Pulitzer Prize with fellow *Post* journalist, Carl Bernstein, for their series of investigative reports that began with the break-in at Democratic headquarters at the Watergate hotel and followed through reports of lies, financial mismanagement and illegal surveillance that led to the eventual demise of President Richard Nixon's administration.

Woodward recently released *The Secret Man: The Story of Watergate's Deep Throat*, which examined the Watergate scandal and the disclosure of former FBI operative, W. Mark Felt, as "Deep Throat," Woodward's anonymous deep background source for the investigation. Woodward had maintained Felt's anonymity until Felt's family

publicly acknowledged last year his role as informant.

In the lecture, Woodward acknowledged he had sent President George Bush a 21-page memo that outlined his findings for a book he was writing about the war in Iraq. He joked by saying co-workers told him the President never read anything that long when he was a student at Yale. But the President did, in fact, read the memo and invited Woodward to interview him at the White House. After over 500 questions, Woodward completed what he claimed is the longest interview in history with a sitting President on a single issue.

At the end of his speech, Woodward opened the floor for a question and answer session. Questions ranged from how

Woodward, as a young journalist, was able to uncover the Watergate scandal, where the media was headed and advice to aspiring journalists.

For journalism students and media aficionados alike, perhaps Woodward's most important message of the evening was that the media all too often rush a story to the public before it is ready and before the facts are fully uncovered. He emphasized that it is more important to be full and accurate than to report the story first.

"Woodward said that the most important skill a journalist can have is to be a good listener. As a future journalist myself, I found his advice to be very meaningful," Adrienne Richards, junior communication studies major said.

COMMENCEMENT from FRONT PAGE

to be part of the May ceremony," Adams said. "We certainly provide far more activities in May and it creates a more celebrative

spirit."

Jennifer Haberek, senior communications studies major, is scheduled to graduate from Wilkes next winter. She thinks it is unfair to eliminate winter commencement. "We work just as hard, take the same classes, we do the same

activities, and we are not getting the recognition we deserve as college students," she said.

Haberek plans to come back for the May commencement, but feels it will be very different because she will have left the area and hopefully begun her career.

"It will feel more like a homecoming instead of a graduation," she added.

Adams stressed that eliminating winter commencement does not delay someone's graduation date. "All it would simply delay is if they want to participate in a ceremony, it only affects the ceremony that they are in. If somebody finishes their degree as of the end of next fall semester, they are still going to graduate from the university at that time. It's not that they have to wait until May to say that they have their diploma."

Student protestors miss opportunity to enact change

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

At the height of the end-of-semester craziness, a handful of students found time to protest the issues of increased tuition, parking and laundry costs on Friday, April 21. These students set themselves up in the most visible, high traffic area on campus and remained there most of the day with posters, pins and lots of honking car horns.

This marks the second protest on Wilkes campus in the past month, and it does represent a healthy sign of campus interest and debate. And on a campus where faculty and staff are worried that students

are becoming apathetic towards important issues, we must take a moment to look at what the protest attempted to achieve and what it attempted to call into question.

The protesting students took issue with increasing costs that come out of their pockets--tuition, the promised parking fee hikes and the threat that students would face having to pay for their own laundry for the first time.

Truly, tuition hikes are part and parcel of attending a university; as the cost of living rises (as it does each year) and the university makes plans to renovate and expand, students need to recognize the need for tuition hikes. And, if they don't like it, there are much

more inexpensive state schools they can attend.

While we applaud student engagement with issues at any level, Wilkes students seem especially concerned with issues of parking and laundry, perhaps because these are services that they pay for directly out of pocket throughout the school year. And, yeah, no one is denying that the parking increase isn't difficult to bear.

The fact remains, however, that the protests did not accomplish any change for the campus with their shouting and honking. And we find it interesting that it's the issue of having to pay for laundry that drives students to create slogans and create their own varia-

tions on "We Shall Overcome." We haven't seen anything close to such engagement on issues like the Iraq war, civil rights or even local challenges with racial profiling. Three dollars a week for laundry is apparently far more personal.

As the counter-protestors attempted to convey, those students protesting rising costs should have attended the informational meetings at Student Government in order to better understand the motives behind the increases. Additionally, they should have attended the meetings to get their questions answered and put the right people in the hot seat to demand explanations. Instead, they waved signs in students' faces and clamored for passers-by to honk their horns.

University administrators have removed the laundry issue from the table and will instead return to it next year. This small gain for students opposed to the hikes was achieved not by the waving and yelling, but instead by the mature individuals who regularly attended the meetings and let their voices be heard in the appropriate manner. And while the protestors may have thought they were being influential with their choice

of venue and date, allowing their protest to coincide with the meeting of the Board of Trustees, truly their protest did little more than annoy students attempting to get to class and get the local press excited.

At a university like Wilkes, students will protest issues of concern from time to time. And, in some ways, students should feel comforted by the fact that administrators and public safety officers tolerated such protests. It is always healthy to let the community know when you disagree with something. However, it is more important to let your voice be heard with the intention of enacting change. Those students quietly sitting in the SG meetings and respectfully commenting on the issues they were concerned with enacted change.

And, for future students, just as we can all expect protestors to take to the streets time and time again on campus, so should we continue to expect tuition hikes and increases in costs. It is a simple fact of life. However, the lesson is that change *can* be enacted, if it is undertaken respectfully and in an informed manner.

Nickle for Your Thoughts

By Jason Nickle

Schools out for summer
Schools out for Ever!



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 52 responses.

The Beacon asked:

Which celebrity would be the worst date?

- Courtney Love - 12%
- Carrot Top - 17%
- Gilbert Gottfried - 6%
- Janet Reno - 12%
- Anna Nicole Smith - 6%
- Paris Hilton - 7%
- Marilyn Manson - 10%
- Bill O'Reilly - 21%
- Danny Bonaduce - 6%
- Other - 3%

It’s A Dog’s World

Dear Editor:

As I read Seth Barnetsky’s letter in the opinion section to my beloved companion, Oliver (my golden retriever), Oliver just sat on the sofa in my living room and rolled his eyes.

Yes, Oliver does wear a choker chain, but it is more of a fashion statement rather than a device to curtail his freedom.

Any of my friends, colleagues or students who have visited my home will attest to Oliver’s cushy lifestyle. While I am at school, Oliver rests at home and spends the days listening to classical music and news reports on WVIA FM; he is probably more cultured and more informed of current events than most of us.

After school I take him to a local park where he runs freely and visits with his friends, Doc and Csoki, two chocolate labs. Most evenings I have a myriad of students or friends at our home for dinner.

Oliver is pampered by all of our visitors, and he is served hors-d’oeuvres and dinner with the rest of us. Last evening I went to dinner at one of my favorite restaurants. My food server, June, came to my dinner table with a 12 ounce filet mignon, medium rare, for me to take home to Oliver.

Apparently the customer who ordered the steak wanted her meat rare and sent back the somewhat overcooked filet. So Oliver fed on filet mignon and steamed asparagus for dinner. I had chicken parmesan! On late afternoons during the summer, Oliver can be spotted on the Link/Candelario dock at Harvey’s Lake while enjoying the breeze and a cool swim. On weekends during the summer he joins his Aunt Cathy and Uncle Jimmy on the dock and snacks on fresh shrimp and baked brie. He’s vacationed on the Outer Banks of North Carolina and at the Jersey shore, and he has traveled to most of the states in New England. He receives more Christmas gifts than I, and most of my holiday cards are addressed to Oliver Harrington. When I am away at a conference or am out of town without my dear companion, he is cared for by some of the nicest Wilkes students in his own home; he has never set foot in a kennel!

Mr. Barnetsky, you would probably enjoy having the type of lifestyle that my dear Oliver has; I know I would!

Jim Harrington
Wilkes University Advising Coordinator

Chronic campus protestors miss the point

Dear Editor:

Once again another thing has happened on our campus that has me ashamed to be called a Wilkes student and should make a lot of my fellow students feel the same way.

On April 21, a group of Wilkes students stood on South Street outside of the SUB and shamelessly yelled at the cars that passed by to honk for them. Their purpose for acting like madmen? Apparently they were protesting the rising cost of tuition and how their programs are being terminated as a thing our school is offering. What really happened out there that Friday afternoon was a bunch of chronic protestors--you know the people who will always find something to scream and holler about--yelling and screaming incomprehensible words to cars as they went by.

Luckily for my sanity and for the dignity of our fine institution, there was an island of calm in this stormy sea. Andrew Steinberg and a few associates led a counter-protest, “fighting the power that fights the power.” These counter-protestors, or six percenters, made some signs and stood amongst the yelling, foaming at the mouth and unreasonable protestors and let their message get spread in a different kind of way. The six percenters stood calmly and waited with signs saying things such as “Support Reason, money needed for change.”

Everything was going fine until one of the rabid chronic protestors realized that the signs were not supporting their cause. Then the trouble started. What happened was one of the chronicers started shouted obscenities at the 6-percenters. Other chronicers took up the cause and tried to start various arguments with the 6-percenters. What did the 6-percenters do? All they did was try very hard not to laugh in their opposition’s faces.

What the chronicers were doing was just making fools out of themselves. They were incomprehensive, irrational and at times resembled a rabid dog, foaming at the mouth and growling. Whatever happened to coming together as reasonable people to discuss issues? Seems to me that that would be the best thing to do in this situation. Why not, instead of yelling and screaming and making fools out of yourselves, hold a meeting or set up a table in the SUB to get that petition signed? Presenting a reasonable, rational front is a lot better then shamelessly yelling at cars to honk for you.

Another thing about your protesting, try to get all of your information right. One of the things you were screaming about was the laundry issue, which had already been taken care of. One last thing before I lose my patience: when done protesting at an event, clean up after yourselves. The 6-percenters had to pick up all the extra signs and blank petition papers that you left behind. Thank God you weren’t protesting something environmental because then you would have made hypocrites out of yourselves. Thank God that there were some reasonable people on that street on that Friday.

Jim Morrison
Junior History major

Protestor responds to critics

To the Editor:

Last week, two letters in *The Beacon* raised objections to the donkey basketball protest that occurred in early April. In my experience, whenever there is a protest, certain objections arise. One is that the cause is silly or misguided. This claim was, in effect, made by Seth Barnetsky, claiming that those of us protesting are hypocritical and should be doing volunteer work. Another common objection is that there are better ways of achieving one’s goal (in this case, improved treatment of nonhuman animals). This was expressed by Meagan Brown. In this case, both objections are confused.

Let’s consider the latter first. Why is it necessary, as Meagan seems to suggest, that we make a choice between saving individual animals and working to increase awareness of inappropriate or unjust practices? Many of us do both and I would argue that both are important. I applaud Meagan for her efforts in improving individual animals’ lives. She is making a real difference in the world. Protesting practices that one regards as unjust is also important, however, and protesting is an American tradition going all the way back to the Boston Tea Party. In many protests, the ultimate aim is to better the condition of individuals by changing harmful practices. This generally requires causing controversy, which Meagan objects to. Social practices are rarely changed, however, without controversy and the disruption of society. Consider the abolition of slavery, women’s suffrage, civil rights struggles, etc.

As for Seth’s comments, I fail to see any hypocrisy in our protest. Oliver, the dog who accompanied Jim Harrington to the protest, has an enviable life. And, while I don’t know everyone who was at the protest, I do know many of them and they are people who work for the better treatment of all animals, human and nonhuman. Many do volunteer work on a variety of causes, including domestic violence, gay rights, women’s and children’s rights, animal rescue, spay and neuter programs and more. But even if this were not the case, it would fail to affect the truth (or falsity) of our claims about the donkeys. That has to rest on the evidence and the moral claims. When harm is being done to individuals against their will, the cause of stopping that harm is not silly.

We all need to think carefully on these issues, realizing when we are dragging in red herrings (something that I would oppose both on grounds of philosophical irrelevance and the mistreatment of the herrings themselves) or when we are just not thinking clearly. For example, a person holding a protest sign that reads, “Don’t Be An Ass! Don’t Be A Protestor!” is implying that he, himself, is an ass. Personally, I like asses, but a sign such as that is either an error or a very curious strategy...

Linda Paul
Associate Professor of Philosophy

Is it too soon for a 9/11 movie, America?

BY ALISON WOODY

Beacon Asst. Features Editor

Last Friday, those Americans looking to venture out to the movies had many options to choose from. However, there was one film that caused a buzz, even while reports noted audiences were frequently stunned to silence.

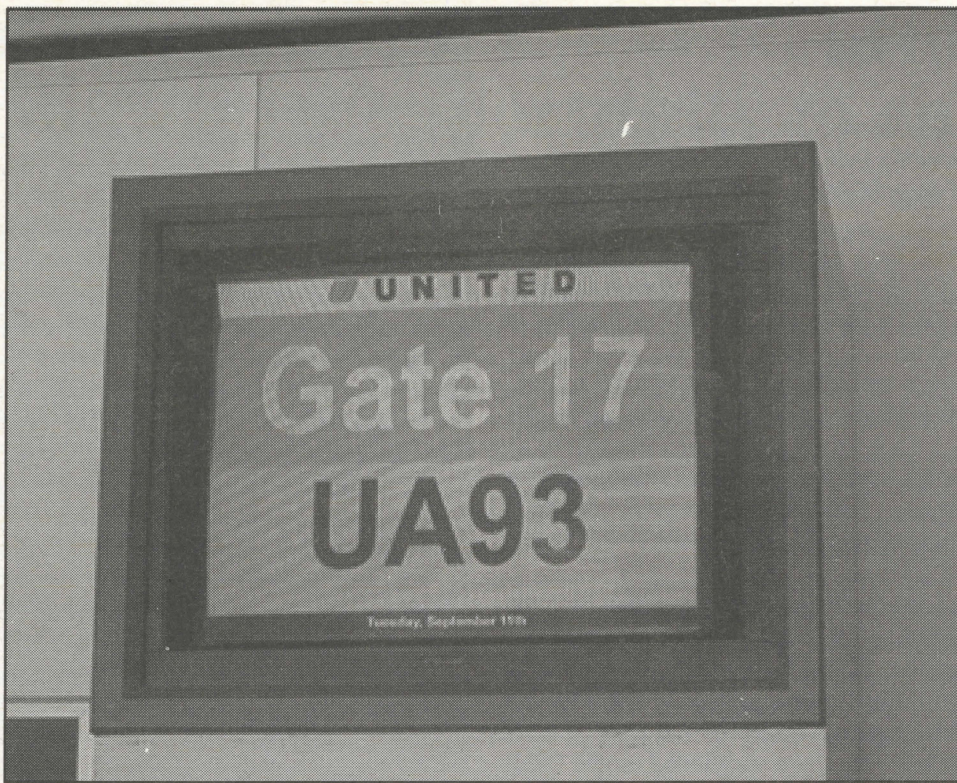
United 93 stands out not only for its name or controversial theme, but because it has raised a nationwide question: is it too soon for a movie that delves into the September 11, 2001 tragedy?

The fact that the film depicts the day that will forever be etched in Americans' minds is enough to have many people up in arms. I, however, am not one of those people.

It was inevitable that a film about 9/11 would eventually make its way out of Hollywood. The actual day was filled with the sorts of stories that normally draw audiences--tragedy, heroism and action. In fact, when I watched the planes crash into the World Trade Center on television, it seemed like I was watching the latest Hollywood blockbuster. That sort of thing happens when Will Smith is facing down aliens or when Harrison Ford finally sees something bad enough to spur him to action. It doesn't happen in real life.

Five years seems like a long time to most, but has it been long enough that audiences can deal with the inevitable emotional drain that reliving the day's horrific events will bring?

An examination of film industry and its treatment of world-changing events offers the answer: yes.



Courtesy of Yahoo!Movies.com

We all remember the epic, top-grossing of all time film *Titanic* that came out in 1997. However, most might not be aware that a mere 29 days after the *Titanic* actually sank, a black and white picture entitled *Saved from the Titanic* was released.

Another example of the rush from reality-to-film can be found in the Vietnam War. The war ended in 1972 with a death toll of over 200,000 Americans. Seven years later, *Apocalypse Now* won two Oscars.

In April, 1942, the first movie about Pearl

Harbor, *Secret Agent of Japan* was released, and on its heels the next year the film *December 7, 1941* won an Academy Award.

These examples suggest that audiences will not think it is too soon for a 9/11 movie. I feel that it is time for America to remember and embrace this defining moment.

In addition, this isn't the first movie dedicated to the events of September 11. *Fahrenheit 9/11* is the most successful documentary of all time, grossing over \$200 million. Also, *9/11*, the two hour made for television

documentary, had over 39 million viewers, making it the most watched non-sports broadcast in history. So, if so many wanted to see these films, why wouldn't they want to see *United 93*?

Along with *United 93*, another movie presently titled *World Trade Center* is set to debut later this year. The film industry clearly believes America is ready.

I was not going to see this film. I took it as a way for the rich producers and actors of the movie world to cash in on the pain of fallen family members. I then found out that the makers of *United 93* received the approval of each and every relative of passengers who were on the flight.

So, if those closely effected by 9/11 can give their thumbs up to this project, why, too, can't the rest of us?

This is an opportunity for Americans pay respect to those who gave their lives so some could be saved. Yes, some images may be painful to watch and yes, some dialogue will be hard to listen to, but it is time to remember the heroes and the fact that there is still an enemy out there.

Hopefully this movie is a way for America to cope with 9/11. I personally feel drawn to this film, like I need to see it. It's a need that says, "Honor this tragedy and those involved," and use it as a way to let go of those horrible images still in the back of my mind.

There may be some people who are emotionally not ready to see this film. To them, I say simply do not go to the theater, but don't question integrity of this film because there are many Americans who are ready to process the events of 9/11.

Jealousy causes unwarranted attack at Harvard

BY MYLES RUMBEL

Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Those who don't read the "Entertainment" section of Google News religiously may have missed this story. Recently, Harvard sophomore and published author, Kaavya Viswanathan, was accused of plagiarism.

Her novel, *How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life*, was thought to be a rip off of author Megan McCafferty from her books *Sloppy Firsts* and *Second Helpings*.

Apparently, different passages had "similarities" between the works. The *Harvard Crimson*, Viswanathan's school newspaper, broke the story. I have some skepticism as to whether or not this author actually plagiarized or is simply being roasted by her fellow students.

First, let me point out that both are chick-lit novels. Anything after *Bridget Jones Diary*, *The Devil Wears Prada* and possibly

Legally Blonde is pretty much plagiarism. All involve a woman who is naive to the world, but learns to get out of her comfort zone and try something new. Typically, that transition involved finding at least one new friend and of course a boyfriend. These books inevitably chronicle the humorous and fairly embarrassing screw ups along the way.

That's the genre. It's hard to dispute if you've read any of these novels. So, I ask if it is so hard to believe that Viswanathan and McCafferty have similarities between them? The books probably follow a similar plot structure and more than likely, if pressed - I could probably go out and find at least one other book that is similar.

In addition, the passages in question, while similar, are not exact and occur in very different parts of the novels. One of the cited passages is from page 6 in McCafferty's novel and 39 of Viswanathan's. Another

is 237 and 51, respectively. Essentially, Viswanathan is being accused of reading, stealing and rearranging certain passages in a novel. I'm wondering why someone would need to do such a thing? Wouldn't it be easier to write it? Even if you're not creative, think about the hard work it would take to steal solely 14 or more passages and fit them into your work? I would never be that determined.

Even though I'd side with Viswanathan because of how simply idiotic someone would have to be to do the above, there's a larger issue here. Viswanathan's college newspaper "outed" her. This happened on April 23. A quick visit to *The Crimson's* online site and it is obvious it hasn't let up. Look at the six editors "sharing their thoughts."

However, I'd like to point out that on April 19, in the "Arts" section of *The Crimson*, a writer, Elizabeth W. Green, stated,

"A little-known fact about Harvard students is that we hate each other almost as much as the rest of the world hates us--maybe more. When one of us succeeds, the rest of us go berserk. Public congratulations barely conceal private disgust, which turns out to be an even poorer mask for deep, soul-burning jealousy and crippling self-doubt." This was before going into a review of Viswanathan's novel.

To say I am shocked at this attack is an understatement. If in fact she did plagiarize, publish a story. However, to begin this witchhunt with what Harvard had is ridiculous. It is easy to determine "similarities" from the chick-lit genre. Maybe the Harvard students aren't aware of it. Maybe they should be. It's just a shame that Viswanathan was destroyed by her own school.

FEATURES

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SIFE team to compete in nationals

BY RICH HANNICK
Beacon Staff Writer

The Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) group is taking its talents to on the road to Kansas City, Missouri from May 19-24, at the national competition that celebrates business entrepreneurship.

Dr. Jeffrey Alves, Allan P. Kirby Professor of Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, has been the advisor for SIFE for close to a decade. "I like to get students doing stuff rather than just bookwork," said Alves. He also noted that this trip to nationals is the third one in four years for Wilkes University.

Jenna Strzelecki, junior business administration major decided to join because one of the former presidents of SIFE spoke to her about all of the great opportunities it included. Matt Brown, sophomore entrepreneurship major decided to join SIFE because he discovered an enthusiasm for business.

Whatever the reason for joining SIFE, the organization has been challenging young entrepreneurs to think outside the box (and outside the classroom) for many years. The SIFE team was able to get to the national stage by competing in regionals where members formally present various projects to a panel of judges. "We conduct about... fifteen projects a year. They deal with market economics, free enterprise system, entrepreneurship and business ethics," said Strzelecki.

This year's team competed against many schools from various states throughout the



Courtesy of SIFE

The members of Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) recently attended a regional competition in Boston. After presentations about the fifteen projects they completed this year, the team earned a spot in the national competition in Kansas City. For the third time in four years, Wilkes University will be represented at the national competition.

nation. Strzelecki added, "The top two schools in each region advance to nationals."

Brown explained that the presentation students must prepare runs about twenty-five minutes and is delivered by four presenters. He added the importance of teamwork and stressed that students must, "Practice, practice, practice until we know it."

Alves acknowledged that even though

this group is quite young, with one senior, they have many talents that have carried them this far. Alves said, "They are very energetic, they are very dedicated and our presentation was smoother at regionals than it ever has been." Four of the people on this year's team actually have some experience at nationals, so they were able to fill in the first timers about what to expect.

Strzelecki noted that other than the pre-

sentation itself at nationals there will be many conferences and seminars that the participants could attend.

Brown felt that SIFE gave students a good opportunity to get involved in the community to make a bigger difference.

"Not only the school community, but the Wilkes-Barre community," Brown added.

Wilkes Idol showcases the talented and the talented-at-heart

BY ALISON WOODY
Beacon Asst. Features Editor

The hit reality show *American Idol* has captured the nation's attention for the past five years, inspiring thousands of would-be singers to dream a little. Wilkes officially joined the scores of other communities to offer its own local version of the popular talent contest.

Last week, the sophomore class sponsored Wilkes Idol, a singing contest that mimicked the actual show. A total of 15 contestants participated, and the event lasted a little over two hours.

Each participant sang a song of his or her choice *a capella* for the first round. Though Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul were no-

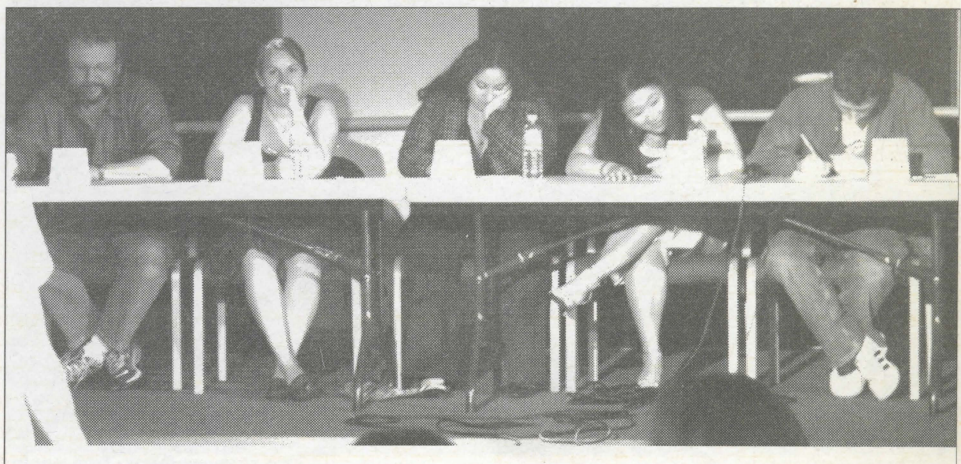
where to be found, a panel of five student and faculty judges split the contestants into the best eight and the worst seven.

Unlike *American Idol*, "Wilkes Idol" allowed the worst participants to duke it out for an iPod Nano.

In the second round of the competition, the participants sang with musical accompaniment and the top three were selected in both categories.

Many students showed up to root for their friends and show their support. Matt Brown, sophomore business major and one of the coordinators of the event said, "For our first time, it went pretty well. I'm happy with the turnout."

See IDOL page 10



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

The panel of five Wilkes Idol judges included both faculty and students. The judges were responsible for scoring contestants' performances. They also made both pleasant and discourteous comments to the singers in the second and third rounds.

Campus renovations hinder room selection process

BY ERICA LEO
Beacon Staff Writer

It's that time of year again.

Spring flowers are blooming all over campus, students are prepping for finals, graduation is right around the corner and the university is busy making sure that all returning students (and new admissions and transfers and maybe even some commuters who have decided to dorm) have on-campus housing for the Fall '06 semester.

That's right, it's time for "room selection," a rather involved process that requires a ton of planning, communication and, most of all, patience.

Every year, Wilkes University's residence life office makes it a point to allow students to have input regarding where they would like to live the following year. Given the number of apartments and dormitories available on campus, it is always a challenge to meet every student's demands and, according to Gretchen Yeninas, director of residence life, this year hasn't been any easier.

"On-campus housing was more popular for next year than I had expected," said Yeninas. "We had estimated that we would have about 550 returning students and we had just over 600 contracts turned in, so we're on a waiting list right now."

To accommodate the number of returning and new students who are planning on living on-campus next semester, and to compensate for Delaware and Chesapeake Halls which will undergo renovations this fall,

the university has leased twelve new apartments in the University Towers building and seven new apartments at the University Commons building.

According to Yeninas, making sure that each student has a place to stay is "not something that happens overnight."

"We've been talking about it for a while, making plans to ensure that we'll have enough beds for everybody," said Yeninas.

Because seniority and the number of credits a student takes during a semester can be the deciding factor on whether or not they get the room of their choice, Yeninas advises students to act early in the room selection process to make sure they get the room they want.

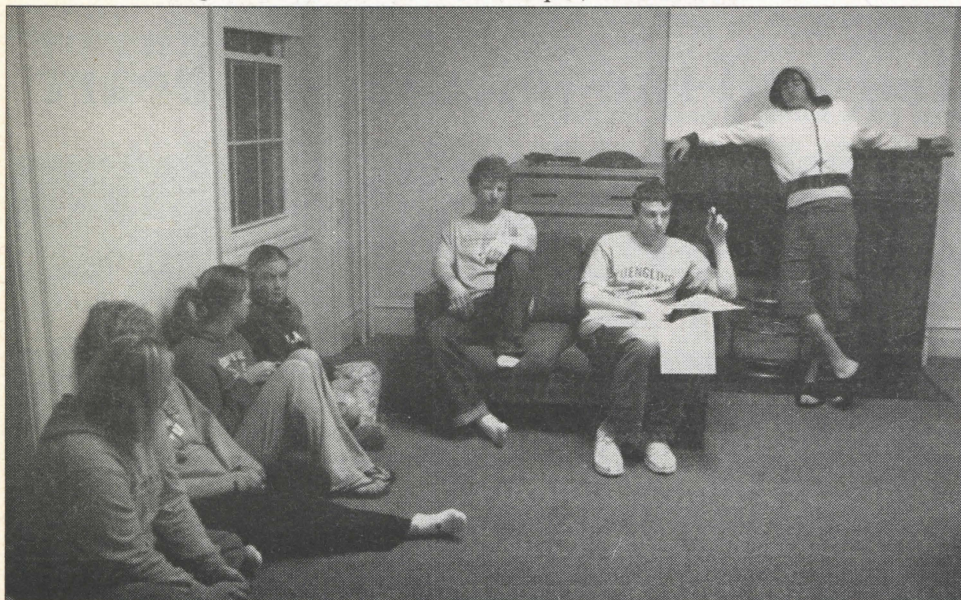
Yeninas noted that getting deposits in and asking questions early on could make a difference in whether or not a student gets their desired arrangement.

Elizabeth Roveda, resident director, also implied that in the room selection process, timing is everything.

"As long as students pay their deposit, we'll hold their chosen spot on campus," said Roveda.

Roveda also noted that there will be a lottery on Tuesday, May 2 at 9:00 a.m. in Stark 101 for those who have been displaced due to next fall's renovations and at 9:30 a.m. for those who have not yet made living arrangements for next semester.

"Most people have already applied for housing but we urge those who didn't to come on May 2 to try to find a room on-campus," said Roveda.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski
Students in Sturdevant Hall go over room selections and living details for next year with their Resident Assistant. The residence life office allows students to have an input as to where they live and who they live with on campus.

IDOL from PAGE 10

The participants chose songs from various musical genres and covered everything from the standard American gospel "Amazing Grace" to a rocking single by Bon Jovi.

While all of the participants demonstrated enthusiasm for the event, Keith Heim, P2 pharmacy major stole the show and took first place in the best category.

Heim sang "I'm Already There" by Lonestar, "I'll Be" by Edwin McCain and Bon Jovi's "It's My Life."

"I think it was really fun. I know this is something small, but I get to show people what I like to do," said Heim.

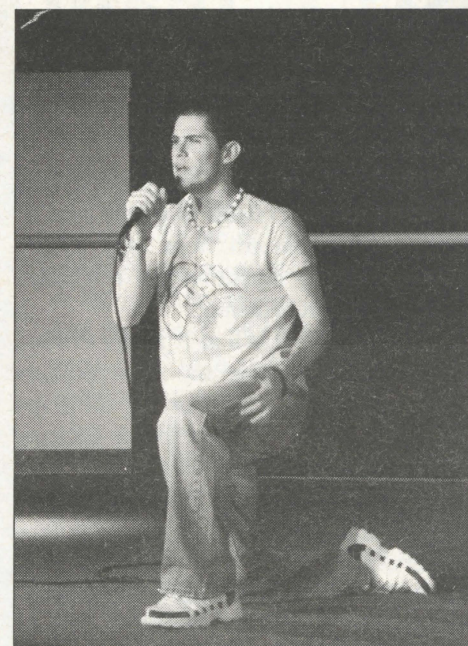
While this may have been a small public display of talent, Heim actually made it to the third round of the real *American Idol* two years ago. He took away the grand prize in the "Wilkes Idol" competition, an iPod Video.

In the worst category, freshman pre-pharmacy major Leslie Centeno entertained the crowd with his not so smashing rendition of "As Long As You Love Me" by the Backstreet Boys.

Centeno does not see his title as the "worst competitor" as an embarrassment. "It's

great. I feel like a winner," he said.

Both Heim and Centeno were asked to give an encore performance at Saturday's Block Party.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski
Pat Nardone, freshman business major, sings "You Remind Me" by Usher in the second round of the worst competition for Wilkes Idol.

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Sunshine ensures over the top fun for Block Party

BY ALISON WOODY
Beacon Asst. Features Editor

The greenway was bustling with noise and the rich aroma of cheese steaks wafted in the warm April sunshine this past Saturday, signs of a successful Block Party.

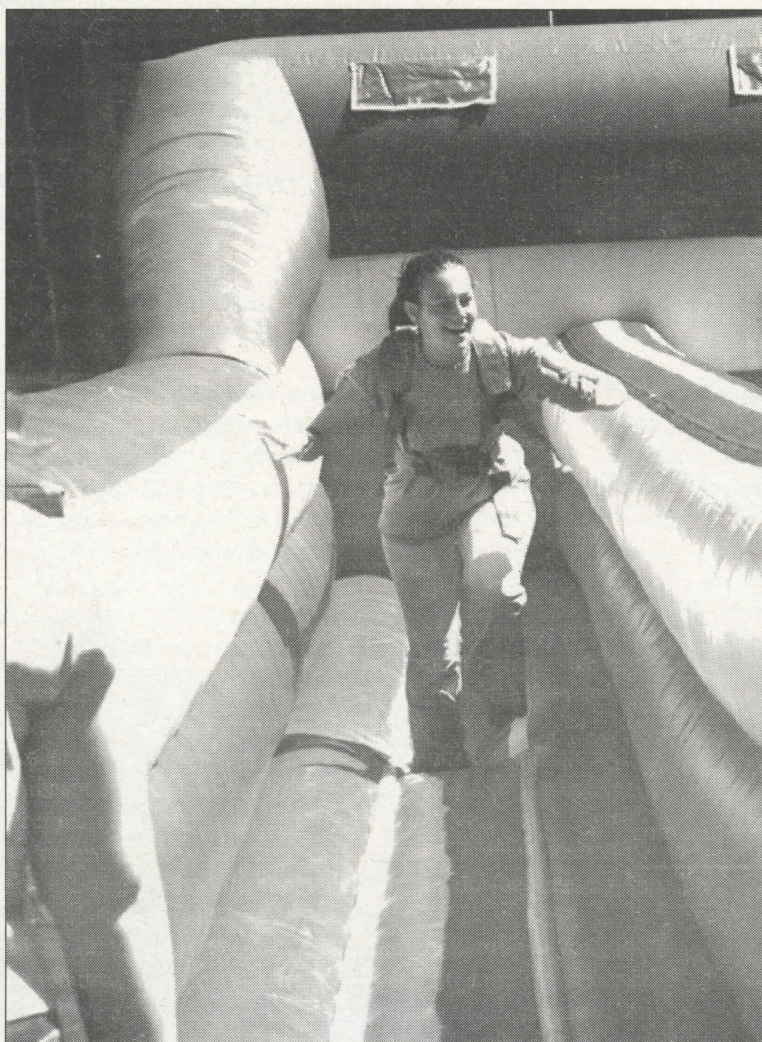
Block Party is a long-standing Wilkes tradition that allows the student body to come together for a day of great food, games and over the top fun--and offers a break from the end of semester academic stress.

There were many reasons to venture out to the Greenway for Block Party. First, the food: the menu featured cheese steaks, Rita's Italian Ice and a buffet of picnic food.

Students also had a variety of options to choose from when it came to games. There were inflatable slides, bungee harnesses and toilet seat races to name a few.

And what would a picnic be without music? Five Percent, along with three other local bands, provided live tunes to the masses all day long. The huge crowds made it obvious the students were enjoying themselves. Matt Brown, sophomore business major, agreed. "I really enjoyed the bands, especially The Five Percent."

Jenn Cerra, P1 pharmacy said,



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Jenn Prell, senior biology major, enjoys her time on the bungee harnesses. This was one of many activities offered to students at Block Party. Inflatable slides and other games gave students the chance to relax and relieve some stress before the end of the semester.

"I think Block Party turned out great. The music, food and inflatable games provided a lot of fun for everyone."

Amanda Grippio, sophomore nursing major, enjoys coming to Block Party and its accessibility for commuters. "Being a commuter, it is hard to attend a lot of the activities Wilkes has on campus. However, Block Party is a great

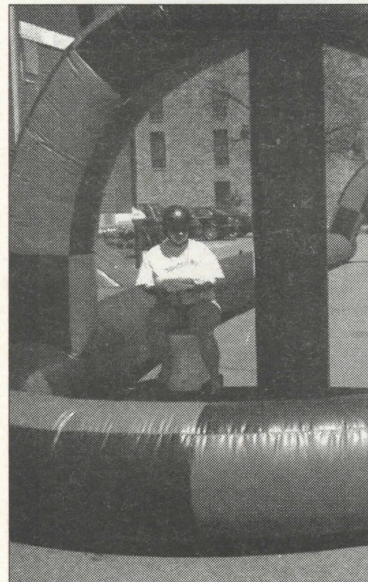
way to get all students together for a day of good fun," she said.

Kate Baas, sophomore English major, summed up why she felt Block Party was successful. "This year's Block Party was definitely successful. I think a lot can be attributed to the beautiful weather, but it was also extremely well organized with many activities for everyone to enjoy."



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

The John Frinzi Band performs for students on the Greenway. This band, along with other local bands such as Five Percent, were one of the many highlights of Block Party on Saturday afternoon.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

A student takes his turn in participating in the activity of toilet seat racing, which became a huge hit at Block Party.

Just the FACTS COLLEGE DRINKING CONSEQUENCES

60% of college women who are infected with STDs, including genital herpes and AIDS, report that they were under the influence of alcohol at the time they had intercourse with the infected person.



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* Certain instances, further evaluation may be required

Trendspotter: Warm weather fashions

As spring gives way to warmer weather, the fashions shift to playful, light attire.

Last year was all about the bohemian look, this year the look is much classier and sophisticated.

Men

BY MYLES RUMBEL
Beacon Asst. A&E Editor

Bigger and better - sunglasses are back this year. Styles like "Aviator" offer a sharp and sleek look especially matched with a short haircut or fun visor. For countless options, look for shades at H&M or the Sunglass Hut.

As is the case for the women's fashions, polos have been gaining popularity among men for a couple of years now this summer they are a safe way to look fun and trendy. Stripped polos are the rage, and even though they are horizontal stripes, try them on for size. Trendy polos can be found anywhere from places like Abercrombie, American Eagle and Hollister.

As always, flip flops/thongs are a huge. They make a great, comfortable footwear no matter where you go. They make for easy transitions from the beach to the boardwalk. While these can be found at most stores, checkout AE.com and pick the colors you want.

Women

Cropped pants are back with a vengeance this year. Capris and Gaucho pants have given way to the return of cropped pants, also known as Bermuda shorts. This long and skinny version of regular shorts can be touched up with pin stripes or sailor-style buttons. To keep warm on cool nights, cropped pants look great with a form-fitting jacket or light sweater. Knee high boots, ankle boots, or even sandals look super trendy too! To add some color to the wardrobe, throw on a pair of opaque tights and some open toed sandals for a look that's sure to stand out.

Preppy polo tops have always been a "safe" article of clothing that is both cute and trendy, but now polos are again emerging as a major fashion statement. Printed oxfords and colorful polo shirts look great with jeans or skirts with a cute pair of sneakers or flats. The preppy-cool look is easy, and not terribly expensive, especially with a cute t-shirt over the polo and of course a popped collar. Don't have a lot to spend on the look? Hit up Old Navy where they have tons of prints and colors for prices that won't burn a hole in the wallet.

Sticking with the classy and sophisticated theme, tulip skirts are back. Last spring's bohemian skirts became a little more form fitting and shorter, and Voila! the birth of the tulip skirt. These skirts are so versatile because they are great for evening outings, as well as with a blazer and pair of pumps to wear to work. Falling right at the knee, these tulip skirts are classy and chic and will be sure to make a major fashion statement.

Get The Look!

Hollister, Zuma Beach Polo, \$29.50

Fossil, Darren Flip Flops, \$30

Sunglass Hut, Vogue Sunglasses, \$99.95

Get The Look!

Jil Sander, Viscose Tulip Skirt, \$178

Old Navy, Distressed Polo, \$16.50

Juicy Couture, Stretch Twill Bermudas, \$138

Photo Researcher, Stephanie DeBalko assisted this article.

Summer movies promise thrills, chills and a few laughs

BY ALISON SHERRY

Beacon Correspondent

Believe it or not, the summer holiday is nearly upon us. The official start is usually marked by Memorial Day weekend. For some, the promise of summer means graduation, a job search, vacations, or friend and family time. But no matter what the summer holds in store, don't forget to get out of the heat and check out some of the summer's most promising flicks.

The DaVinci Code - opens May 19

May 19 will never be the same after the movie release everyone has been waiting for. Directed by Ron Howard and based on the bestseller by Dan Brown, *The DaVinci Code* holds great promise to be one of the hottest films of the summer. And naturally with Ron Howard directing and Tom Hanks leading an impressive cast, whisperings of "Oscar" have already begun. For those people who haven't yet been hooked by symbology-mania or read the book, Brown's plot centers on Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon (Hanks) who is awakened by an urgent phone call that an elderly curator of the Louvre has been murdered inside the famous French museum. The call, and Langdon's subsequent investigation, launch a story that moves at breakneck speed with endless trails of clues hidden in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci that lead to a dark and secret society. Along with cryptologist Sophie Neveu (Audrey Tautou), Langdon races through London, Paris and beyond to solve a stunning historical truth before the mystery is lost forever.

Pirates of the Caribbean 2 - opens July 7

Fans of the Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom duo will definitely have a great reason to hit theaters this summer with the release of *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*.

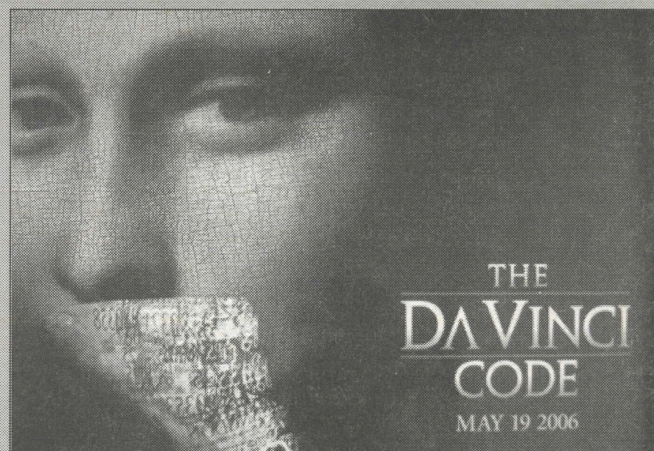
The sequel picks up where the original left off following the story of Jack Sparrow (Depp), Will Turner (Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) and their ongoing battle with Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) and the gang of supernatural pirates.

Jack finds himself once again tangled in a web of supernatural intrigue when he discovers that he owes a bloody debt to the legendary Davey Jones, ruler of the ocean and captain of the ghostly Flying Dutchman. Unless Jack uses his unique wits to get out of this one, he will be cursed to an afterlife of servitude and damnation. As if that isn't enough, Captain Jack's problems prove to be the thorn in the blissful wedding plans of Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann who quickly find themselves in the midst of Jack's misadventures.

Cars - June 9th

What would the summer be without a little computer animated fun? Disney and Pixar have followed in the tradition of *Finding Nemo* and *Toy Story* to bring us the newest computer hilarity, *Cars*. With voices by George Carlin, Owen Wilson, Cheech Marin and Larry the Cable Guy, *Cars* is sure to be the next Disney and Pixar hit that draws both adults and kids alike.

The story tracks Lightning McQueen, a rookie race car. While speeding his way to the big race, he crashes into Radiator Springs, doing a little too much damage. The cocky roadster is sentenced to community service and although he'll do anything to get away from the hard labor, McQueen soon learns to respect the kindness of Radiator Springs inhabitants and finds a way to get out of the town and back to the race.



Courtesy Yahoo! Movies

Other movies slated for a summer opening:

- X-Men: The Last Stand*- May 26
- Omen 666*- June 6 (yes, that's 06/06/06)
- Fast and the Furious: The Tokyo Drift*- June 16
- Garfield 2*- June 23
- Superman Returns*- June 30
- You, Me, and Dupree*- July 14
- The U.S. vs. John Lennon*- July 21
- Apocalypto*- August 4
- World Trade Center*- August 11
- The Night Listener*- August 18

Memories of watching movies through a windshield

Nostalgia meets today's Hollywood at surviving drive-ins

BY DONNA TALARICO

Beacon A&E Editor

I once attended a township meeting in Nescopeck Township. The new township building is in the former concession stand of an old drive-in. A woman at the meeting suggested that supervisors make the old screen into a sign for the municipal building, as most seem to miss it the first time they drive past, thinking it's just a roadside memory.

There is nothing quite like the drive-in, especially on a nice summer night. Catching a brand new movie on an old screen offers just the right blend of nostalgia and appreciation for today's advances in film. Sometimes, when I am really capturing the moment, for a split second I swear I could blink and see nothing but '57 Chevys around me, carrying guys in leather coats and gals with pony tails having a swell time.

Sadly though, I keep seeing more and more empty screens, weed-filled driveways leading up to them. There is one in West Wyoming and another in Larksville. And the three I mentioned are just in Luzerne County. We are lucky to have one surviving and very active drive-in, although it suffers from the occasional flood. Last September the Garden Drive-In in Plymouth Township was closed temporarily thanks to Ivan's wrath. But, it was able to reopen for the rest of the fall season.

The Garden reopened for the 2006 season in mid-April. The drive-in is a tradition for many. My boyfriend's parents, in their mid-50s, still go each Friday night to relive their youthful days. And, like his dad does for his mom, my boyfriend often buys me a chili dog, soda and a ticket for an outdoor flick. Okay. We actually bring a six-pack.

Sure, the seats aren't as cozy. But the food is cheaper- and fresh and hot. (In fact, you can get cheesesteaks, hamburgers and more.) And, you won't even get in trouble for bringing in your own snacks and drinks. The tickets are cheaper too. \$6.00 each. And that, my friends, is for a double feature. That's right. Two movies for one price. Two current movies, too. Last weekend, it was *Ice Age* and *The Sentinel* on screen one and *Scary Movie 4* and *Larry the Cable Guy's Health Inspector* on screen two.

I've met many people who have never been to a drive-in. I would encourage everyone who is near a drive-in this summer to take in one of the latest box office hits, to pull into the drive in with snacks and soda in tow, tune in the radio dial to the station broadcasting the audio, recline the seat a little and gaze through your windshield just like our parents and grandparents did. And, for those on dates... it is a little more private.

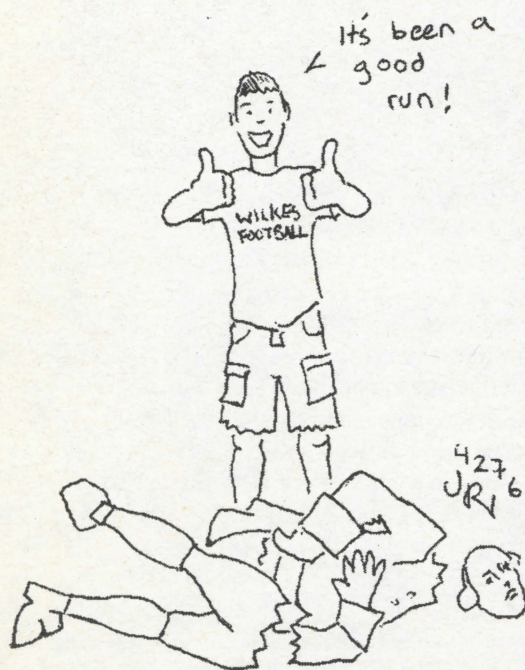
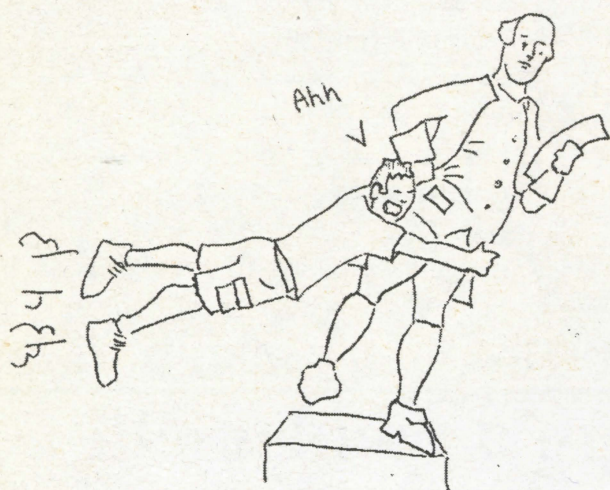
Indulge in the nostalgia while you can. Before you know it, you may be attending a township meeting in a converted concession stand.

FYI:

The Garden Drive-In is open rain or shine every weekend. Plus, each Saturday, there is a flea market during the day. Visit them at www.gardendrivein.com.



BY JASON NICKLE
Beacon Cartoonist



Quick Hits: Rounding out the Semester

BY DONNA TALARICO
Beacon A&E Editor

Here's a glimpse into what is happening in and around campus during the final weeks of the semester:

Monday: Chamber Winds Concert

Directed by Phil Simon, the Chamber Winds Ensemble will play pieces by Franz Joseph Haydn, Giovanni Gabrieli, Paul Dukas and Gordon Jacob. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. in the Henry Student Center Grand Ballroom, with a reception to follow.

Tuesday: Manuscript unveiling at Sordoni

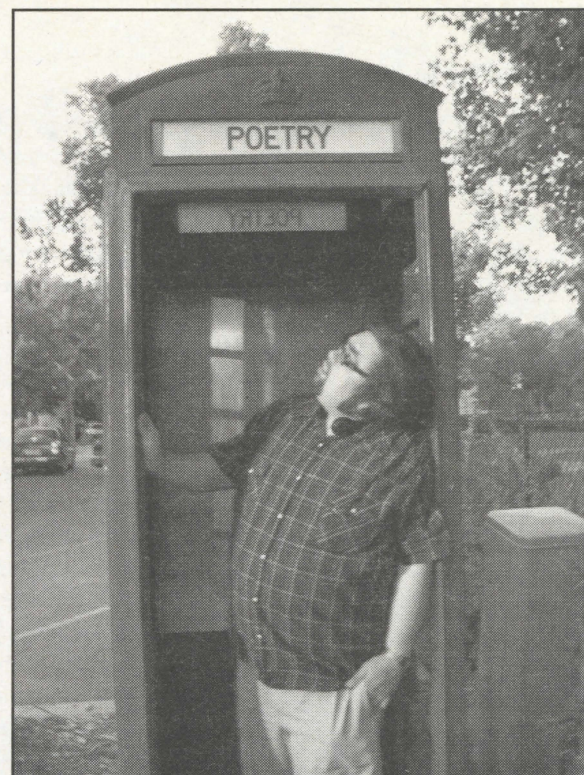
Authors and artists featured in the spring issue of Wilkes University literary magazine *The Manuscript* will read their works during an unveiling ceremony Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Sordoni Art Gallery. An art piece graces the cover, and inside, there is poetry, artwork, photography and short fiction. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

Friday: Cinco de Mayor at Public Square

That is, "Sink da mayor." The second annual Leadership Wilkes-Barre scholarship fundraising event allows residents to dunk Wilkes-Barre mayor Tom Leighton and other local municipal leaders as they take turns in dunk tanks starts at 11:00 a.m. There will be food vendors and that evening starting at 5:00, the event rolls into Lowe's on Market Street for a night of drink specials and celebrity bartending. Wilkes University is a co-sponsor of this event.

Saturday: Arts Madness concert at the mansion

Arts Madness in the Mansion, a continuing visual and performing arts concert series, will host its third event of the season Saturday, May 6. The concert will feature a blend of music, creative writing, comedy food and more throughout all four floors of the former Stegmeier mansion, including a poetry reading from Wilkes University's MA in creative writing program assistant, Jim Warner and jazz from WYOU's Diane Lee. The show runs from 6:30 to 9:45 p.m., and is \$10 (\$8 for students with ID). For more information, visit artsyouniverse.com



Courtesy Arts YOUNiverse
Poet Jim Warner is one of the performers taking part in Arts Madness this Saturday.

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75% of male students
involved in acquaintance rape
admit to having been drinking
or using drugs when the
incident occurred.

Montage, other music venues tune up for concert season

BY DONNA TALARICO

Beacon A&E Editor

If there is one thing that NEPA promises each summer, it's a few months full of concerts, big and small for music lovers of all genres. From one mountain (Montage) to another (in Jim Thorpe) and venues in between, here is a look at what tickets you may want to hop in line for:

MAY

11- Bill Engvall of "Here's Your Sign" fame hits the Kirby Center.

12- The Disco Biscuits--also at the Kirby Center. This is a hot electronic rock band out of Philly. These guys are great--just got their new CD.

JULY

1- Toto, best known for 80s hit "Africa," will play at Penn's Peak

1- Michael Buble will play the Wachovia Arena.

2- Sammy Hagar and the Wabo's - sure to play stuff from Van Halen as well will hit Montage. Lawn tickets are just ten bucks!

3- Pat Benatar, the 80s chick rocker, will belt out songs like "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" at the Penn's Peak. If she doesn't blow you away, the view here will.

5- They're back. The Dave Matthews Band will play their second consecutive summer at Montage Mountain.

7-8- Briggs Farm Blues Fest on the Briggs Family Farm in Nescopeck, this event draws hundreds and gets bigger every year. This A&E editor worked the fest last year and can vouch for the nonstop entertainment and great food.

15- Lynryd Skynyrd will make Montage Mountain its 'sweet home' for one night, along with 3 Doors Down.

25- Keeping with the trend of 70s and 80s rock, Poison returns to a place where it is most welcome, year after year- Montage Mountain.

26- Might as well not clean up because things will be just as wild the day after Poison. OzzFest, bringing over a dozen rock groups, including the Black Crowes and Disturbed will once again hit Montage Mountain.

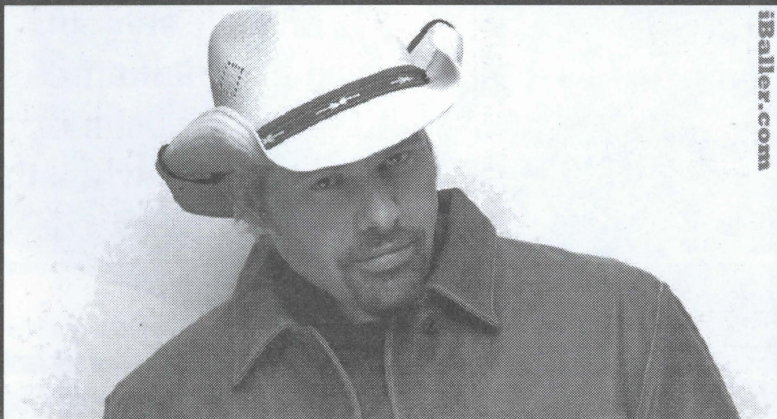
30- The Pocono Blues Fest at Big Boulder- tons of blues music, vendors, ski life rides, food and more. The most fun you'll have at a ski mountain without snow-- just grass. (No pun intended by the way, but do with that description as you wish.)

AUGUST

4- Vans Warped tour treks onto the Mountain with several dozen bands, including Less than Jake, Saves the Day, Bouncing Souls and Anti-Flag. It's like a college radio dream come true.

11- The Goo Goo Dolls and Counting Crows are sure to be a smash at Montage.

12- Toby Keith, bound to be a sell-out, will bring his country attitude and American pride- and a boatload of hits to Montage.



Ticket Information @ Venue Websites:

Montage-mountain.org KirbyCenter.org
PennsPeak.com ScrantonCulturalCenter.org
WachoviaArena.com Jfbb.com (for the Blues Fest)
Briggsfarm.com Pollstar.com (general)

JUNE

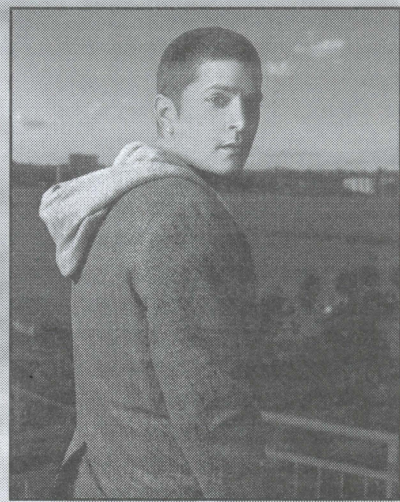
7- Rob Thomas (Matchbox 20) and Jewell make a nice pair for a show at Montage.

24- Comedienne Kathy Griffin brings her wit to the Scranton Cultural Center.

26- The Gin Blossoms, who you may remember from their mid-90s hits, "Alison Road" and "Hey, Jealousy" roll into the Kirby Center

30- Judging from our Beacon 80s hair band poll from a few months ago, many are sure to enjoy Ded Leppard and Journey, who will play to the Toyota Pavilion at Montage Mountain.

30- NRA supporter Ted Nugent will play to a crowd at Penn's Peak.



Courtesy of PopEntertainment.com

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Colonels battle it out in annual Charity Challenge

BY ARIEL COHEN

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

The fastest, the strongest and only those with the most endurance were among those who competed in the Colonels' Charity Challenge on Sunday afternoon.

The event which included a 200-yard dash, sand bag relay, and the team van or shuttle pull is in its second year after an overwhelming amount of support in its debut year.

The Charity Challenge, which is organized by Wilkes fitness facilities coordinator and strength coach, Keith Klahold is the athletics department benefit event that raises money for both the Geisinger Children's Hospital and the Gift of Life Donor program.

"We chose Geisinger because they are a local charity while the other charity changes from year to year," stated Klahold.

When the events kicked off around noon on Sunday at the Ralston Field Complex all

that could be seen was a sea of blue and yellow. This year the teams wearing blue were competing for the Geisinger Children's Hospital, while the teams wearing yellow were competing for the Gift of Life Donor Program. After all the events were over and points were tabulated, the winning team received extra money for its beneficiary.

"[The original idea for] the events came from an event created by Penn State but was always geared towards football. [Here] it is related to fitness and the strongman," said Klahold.

Last year the event raised \$3,015 and organizers are hoping to have a definite increase this year. In order to make sure that there was a decent amount of donations made from the event, each competitor was required to bring a minimum of \$10 to give to their designated charity.

With over 200 students and around 25 staff members participating, organizers expect a large donation to come out of the charity events that took place on Sunday.

Senior Alicia Vieselmeyer commented



The Beacon/Todd Wiebel

Tire throwing was one of eight events that Wilkes University athletes competed in during the second annual Charity Challenge on Sunday afternoon at the Ralston Field Complex.

that, "All of these activities and the money raised from the Charity Challenge go to a good cause therefore making the Colonels' athletic teams feel good about what they are doing."

Other events at this year's competition included the kettle ball throw, an 800-yard run, the tire throw, the tire flip, the farmer's walk and the obstacle relay. The winners of the events were not available at press time.



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Senior Tribute

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

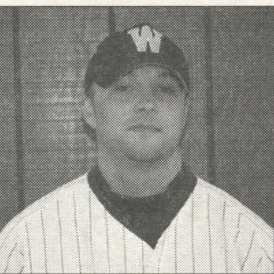
As the sun sets on another spring sports season, *The Beacon* bids farewell to the thirteen senior athletes who have graced the field with their presence throughout the years. Though they are leaving Wilkes, their hearts will remain on the playing field.

Baseball

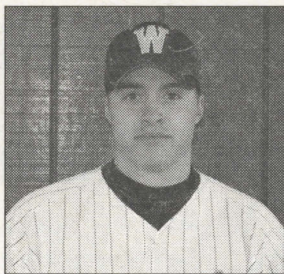
The baseball team proudly salutes eight seniors from Artillery Park, each playing an integral role for the Colonels. Leading the pack is pitcher Kevin Konschak, who went undefeated, posting a 3.54 ERA with six wins this season.

The "Work Horse." Over four year with the Blue and Gold, middle infielder Kyle Stover's work ethic developed him into a team leader as he gained the respect of his teammates with his on-field play.

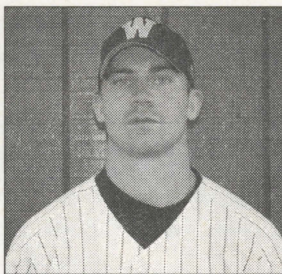
The "Gym Rat." Usually the first one to walk in the gate and the last one to leave, Josh "Soup" Campbell was never discouraged by the fact that he's never started. "Josh is a team player's team player, second to none," said head coach Joe Folek. "He



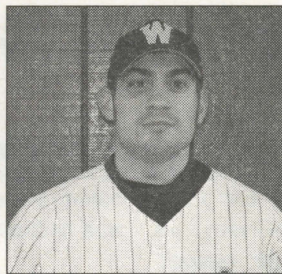
Kevin Konschak



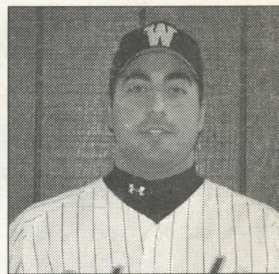
Casey Kulago



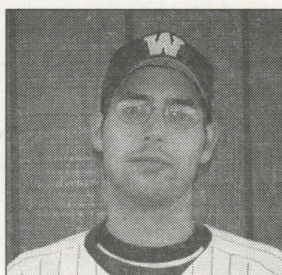
Mike Toomey



Josh Campbell



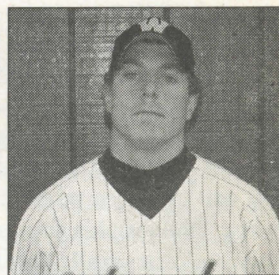
Paul Migliorino



Mike Quinn



Chris Yonki



Kyle Stover

will be greatly missed at Artillery."

The "King of BP." Who says pitchers can't hit? Paul "Migs" Migliorino was known to hit some bombs in BP. "I throw a lot of batting practice over the course of the years and 'Migs' has hit some of the farthest tape measure shots off me in awhile," Folek said. "He's is a versatile performer who is well liked among his teammates and has helped us to win a number of games since joining the team."

Memorable: Infielder Casey Kulago made quite the impression in his first game starting with the Colonels. During a spring training game, he made a diving catch into a concrete dugout which coach Joe Folek regards as "one of the best plays I've seen in my 22 years with the Colonels. He im-

mediately knew that Kulago "plays baseball the old-fashioned way."

After playing golf at Wilkes for three years, Chris Yonki joined the Colonels' baseball team as a third baseman. In his debut season, Yonki batted .286 and three RBIs. Coach Folek said, "I wish we would have had him for four years because he's a good hitter and very knowledgeable about

the game."

Anchoring the bullpen was relief pitcher Mike Quinn, who played four years for the blue and gold. This year, Quinn pitched in the starting rotation where he tossed two complete games. He also accumulated two saves as a closer. Quinn finished the season with 210 at bats and a .333 batting average.

Also graduating: P Mike Toomey (see Athlete of the Week)

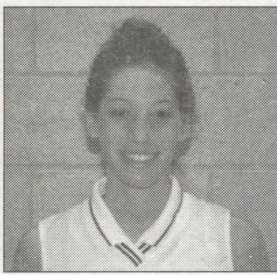
Softball

The Lady Colonels will be losing its peanut butter and jelly with the departure of Nadine Taylor and Jan Nunemacher. Taylor, last season's Freedom Conference Player of the Year, and Nunemacher served as team captains, helping a young squad with 16 freshmen make the Freedom Conference playoffs for the third consecutive year.

"As much as they have contributed from a skills perspective, they have added even more from a leadership perspective. They have provided invaluable leadership to this group through knowledge of the game, insight, and on field efforts," said head coach Frank Matthews.



Erica Buchholz



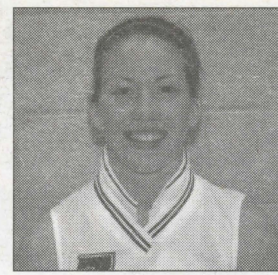
Lyndsay Asinelli



Jen Compton



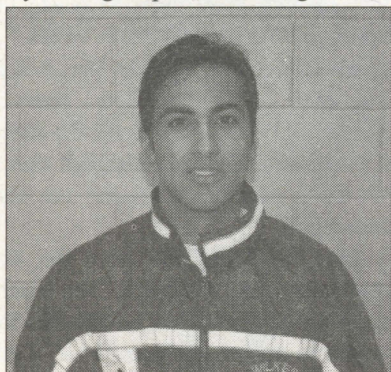
Pam Carey



Cassie Malone

Women's Lacrosse

The Lady Colonels were successful in their first year under new coach Peggy Stauffer. Despite a sub .500 record, the season still had plenty of bright spots, including a 14-5 whupping of Moravian for the team's first Middle Atlantic Conference victory of the season.



Arvin Narula

Men's Tennis

Arvin Narula and John Lowe went deep in the Middle Atlantic Conference Individual Championships, advancing to Sunday's semi-finals in singles play.



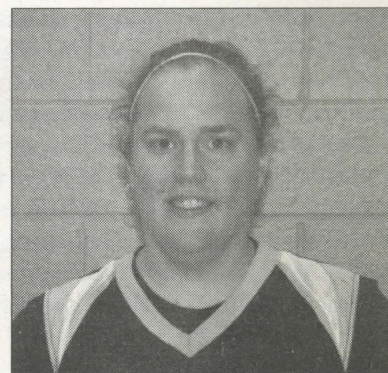
Josh Behler

Golf

Josh Behler was the lone senior on the men's golf team, which had its first (four) matches postponed due to inclement weather.



Nadine Taylor



Jan Nunemacher

| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

MLB: San Francisco Giants versus Philadelphia Phillies

Unfriendly confines: Bonds visits Philadelphia

BY KEVIN REED
Beacon Staff Writer

Philadelphia, affectionately called the "City of Brotherly Love" is anything but kind and charming when it comes to their sports. Philadelphia fans are some of the most passionate in all of professional sports, irrespective of the team. However, in certain instances, the love for their hometown team is reflected inversely in their hostility toward the visitors. And if a visiting athlete is lucky enough to be disliked by the boisterous fans from Philly, they will make sure that athlete has as long of a night as possible. See a prime example in former St. Louis Cardinal J.D. Drew, who refused to sign with the Phillies after being drafted, had batteries thrown at him when he returned as a visitor in Philadelphia.

Lucky enough for Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants, he gets to spend three nights facing the wrath of those same Phillies fans. For those who do not know, Barry Bonds has been the center of steroids investigations across Major League Baseball. An average player might be able to shrug off such a distraction, but Barry Bonds is a superstar in the baseball world as he is gradually approaching the all-time home run record of Hank Aaron. All of the steroid rumors surrounding Bonds gives one the popular idea that perhaps his endeavors are not as credible as they once were. Although he consistently denies that he used performance-enhancing substances, fans are not buying it. Take for example the first game of the Giants season. As Bonds was jogging off the field between innings, a San Diego Padres fan threw an empty syringe at Bonds' feet, abruptly signifying what a lot

of people in the sports world were thinking. Even looking at his statistics for the season, it can be dictated that he lost some "juice" in his game. For a player that hit 73 home runs in 2001 and averages at least 40 per year, Bonds is on pace to only hit around 20 home runs this year with steroid rumors all around him. Coincidence?

The Philadelphia Phillies play host to the San Francisco Giants in a weekend series May 5-7 at Citizen's Bank Park and although much attention will be paid to Barry Bonds, do not lose sight that this series should be a good one.

Starting with the Phillies, their starting pitching has been suspect at best through the first three weeks of the year. Their starters' collective earned-run average yields about six runs per game, clearly their achilles

heel so far. Starter Brett Myers (2-0, 3.04 ERA) has been their only bright spot in the rotation as he has easily been their most productive pitcher. When the Phillies can hand over a lead to their bullpen late in a game, they seem to be in good shape as their bullpen pitching has cancelled out some of the starters' deficiencies through

the early season. Offense is undoubtedly what is going to win games for Philadelphia. 1 through 6 in their lineup is comparable to any in the Majors with hit-machine and shortstop Jimmy Rollins, center fielder Aaron Rowand, all-star right fielder Bobby Abreu, second baseman Chase Utley, and power bats Pat Burrell and last year's NL Rookie of the Year, Ryan Howard.

The Giants are opposite in their strengths. They have good pitching and a lackluster offense. Their pitching staff is led by all-star starters Jason Schmidt and Matt Morris and former Phillie, Giants' closer Tim Lincecum. Offensively, the Giants are led by veterans: shortstop Omar Vizquel, outfielder Moises

Alou, and some guy named Bonds.

Citizens Bank Park is a hitter's paradise, so expect a lot of home runs in this series. It will be up to both teams' pitching to dictate their success.

The Pick: Phillies win series 2-1.

BONDS HOME RUN TRACKER

1. Hank Aaron - 755
2. Babe Ruth - 714
3. Barry Bonds (x) - 711
4. Willie Mays - 660
5. Sammy Sosa - 588
6. Frank Robinson - 586
7. Mark McGwire - 583
8. Harmon Killebrew - 573
9. Rafael Palmeiro - 569
10. Reggie Jackson - 563

(x) Active Players



Double Take

Sarah examines the facts that truly matter...

BY SARAH HERBERT
Beacon Features Editor

To quote Shakespeare, "parting is such sweet sorrow." Unfortunately, this will be my last Double Take. Hopefully, the sports editors can find someone to fill my shoes next year.

My farewell column features the San Francisco Giants and the Philadelphia Phillies. I'm confused already. When I heard Giants vs. Phillies I thought the NFL was taking on the MLB. Much to my dismay, the Giants are a baseball team, too. Much to their dismay, they have to waste their time playing the Phillies.

I'm usually not a Phillies fan, but I'm picking them this time around. Their colors are far more appropriate for the season. Plus, I still can't get over the fact that the Giants are a baseball team and not just a football team.

It's kind of weird the way the color scheme works out for Giants. The baseball team dons black and orange while the football team sports red, white and blue. I think that they should be switched. Since football is a fall sport, black and orange would be more appropriate.

In any event, the Phils will look more stylish. They probably won't play any better, but at least they'll look better than the other team. Go Phils.

| Commentary | Dueling Editors

Two Sports editors fight for their Athlete of the Week picks

BY ARIEL COHEN

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

O.K., so it may be true everyone can't always agree, but seriously, that Dippre kid might have been hit in the head one too many times on the field.

Now let's think about this carefully and take a look at the stats of sophomore utility man Chris Mayerski. The extremely talented and fairly young player finds himself all over the field as one of the most versatile players for the Colonels this season.

In his relatively short college career, he is already appearing on the leader board in the Freedom Conference in 10 categories. He is currently ranked first in homeruns with eight, runs batted in with 35 and has a .740 slugging percentage. Mayerski also ranks in the top five in six other categories.

The thing that makes him worthy of this week's standout player--and possibly one of the team's standout players of the entire season--is the fact that he can play almost any position and produce exceptional results. In fact he was named Freedom Conference Player of the Week during the early part of this season for his performance at third base.

Now, I am not saying by any means that Toomey is not a good player because he

definitely has his strengths and is able to perform out on the field when it comes to his pitching.

What has to be considered here is that Mayerski is an all around talented player. Throughout his career at Wilkes which is only at the end of its second season, Mayerski has been a leader in the outfield, the infield and up at bat. Being able to adjust to playing in different positions is going to take Mayerski extremely far and gives him the potential in the long run, the opportunity to be picked up by a minor league (yeah, I know it is kind of out there, but hey everyone can dream).

Starting the season a little rough with a record of 5-9, the Colonels needed some sort of an offensive boost which Mayerski has provided, rallying the team to an overall season record of 17-14-1 through April 29. Mayerski was the lone two-time hitter or had a double and a single to pace the Wilkes offense.

Mike Toomey has provided the Colonels baseball team with great leadership and great athletic ability over the past four years, but as we look to the future of the team, Mayerski appears to be following in Toomey's footsteps as the next great leader of the team, therefore getting my vote for the final athlete of the week for this year.

BY RYAN DIPPRE

Beacon Sports Editor

Ariel Cohen wouldn't know a solid choice for Athlete of the Week if one punched him in the face.

Nothing against Mayerski--this writer has just been itching to see "Ariel Cohen" and "punched in the face" together in print all year--but there isn't a player at Wilkes during the entire spring sport season who has earned an Athlete of the Week sendoff at the end of a distinguished athletic career as much as Mike Toomey.

Despite Mayerski's brilliant season both on defense and at the plate, I must regrettably disagree violently with my assistant editor. Although to give Mayerski the Athlete of the Week award wouldn't be outrageous, the one person that justly deserves the final Athlete of the Week honor for the 2005-2006 year is senior pitcher Mike Toomey.

Toomey has been playing solid all year, and two of his last conference games in particular exemplify, in my opinion, how he has continued to improve throughout his final campaign. His earned run average this season is at a solid 3.98, and seems to be dropping after every game. In the Colonels final conference doubleheader of the season, Toomey tossed a five-hitter and led Wilkes to an 11-1 victory over the Univer-

sity of Scranton.

The win over the Royals, which came a scant two weeks after another five-hit victory over Delaware Valley College, brought Toomey up to 30 strikeouts on the year. The senior has allowed only 31 runs in 208 at-bats.

But it isn't only the stats that matter in a team sport. The Colonels started off the year in a tough spot, and were unable to transfer their early spring baseball success over into conference play. Wilkes dropped three of their first four conference games against King's College and Drew University.

It is a credit to the team mentality that the Colonels were able to rebound from this and knock out another strong season at Artillery Park, but it is an even bigger credit to the leadership that allowed that team mentality to flourish. Toomey helped bring a team that was struggling early on in the conference to a 17-14-1 record thus far.

Mayerski has had an amazing season for Wilkes this year, and has several more in him before his time as a Colonel expires. An Athlete of the Week honor for him would be justly deserved. For the final *Beacon* issue of the year, however, it is only fitting that we honor a man who gave four years of effort to keep an excellent program at the top of its conference.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

23

Total number of regular season wins for the women's softball team after sweeping Drew University 2-1 and 3-1 on Saturday.

4

Men's tennis team players that played at the MAC Individual Championships at Lehigh University this past weekend.

11

Saves by goalkeeper Cassie Malone in women's lacrosse season finale match against Lycoming.

15

Number of runs that the men's baseball team scored in Saturday's twinbill against Freedom Conference rival Scranton.

WEEKEND RECAPS

Baseball

The Colonels split a doubleheader against University of Scranton on Saturday afternoon at Connell Park in Scranton. Mike Toomey's five-hit performance on the mound lifted Wilkes to an 11-1 win in the first game, but the Colonels fell 5-4 in the nightcap. Wilkes is now 17-14-1 overall, and ended their conference play with a 7-11 record.

Women's Lacrosse

The Lady Colonels closed their season with a 18-6 loss to Lycoming in Williamsport on Saturday afternoon. Stacy Fimmano and Catherine Simone each had a pair of goals, while Shannon Chlebus and Jen Compton each had one goal apiece. In her final game in the net, departing senior Cassie Malone snagged 11 saves.

Softball

The Lady Colonels finished their regular season with a sweep of Drew University at the Ralston Field Complex on Saturday afternoon. Agresti didn't give up a hit through the first six innings en route to a 2-1 victory in the first game, while Evanich only gave up a single to give Wilkes a 3-1 win in the night game. The Freedom Conference tournament begins for the Lady Colonels on May 5.

Men's Tennis

Arvin Narula and John Lowe remained alive into the semi-finals of the MAC Men's Tennis individual championships at Lehigh University. Kyle Ungvarsky and Julian Taibi are also still alive in the doubles tournament.

Preview of the Week: Softball at Freedom Conference Playoffs

BY RYAN DIPPRE

Beacon Sports Editor

With a locked-in number two seed and an inspired sense of urgency, the Wilkes softball team heads into the Freedom Conference playoffs eager to take the championship they feel they so justly deserve.

The Lady Colonels, who swept a double-header on Saturday night to secure their number two seed, will be hosting the tournament for the second year in a row. Wilkes ended the season with a 23-11 overall record and a 12-2 conference record. The Lady Colonels were tied for first place in the conference with King's College, but the Lady Monarchs' tiebreaker over Wilkes gave them first seed throughout the tournament.

"I feel we have two strengths heading into the playoffs," said head coach Frank Matthews. "First, of course is pitching. Our pitchers have been nothing short of outstanding and should they be able to keep it up we'll be very tough to beat. The second thing is maturity. We have a large num-

ber of freshmen who had to make several changes and adjustments from high school."

Maturity is impressive on a team as young as the Lady Colonels, but more impressive is the performance of the pitching staff throughout the course of the 2006 campaign. Leading the way, of course, is strikeout queen Laurie Agresti. Her miniscule .40 ERA and 185 strikeouts are only two of many stats proving how she has dominated the mound through her 104 innings pitched.

The outstanding pitching doesn't end with Agresti, however. Freshmen Samantha Evanich and Kaitlyn Kormanik are also dominating the mound with a 1.28 and 1.87 ERA, respectively. Sophomore Sarah Plavchak has also posted a 2-1 record this season, with a 2.33 ERA. "They're excellent," said junior Katie Orr of the pitching staff. "Their depth gives us the chance to rest Laurie more, so she's not exhausted when the playoffs get here."

The forte of the Lady Colonels may be defense and pitching, but

their offense will be far from lacking as they roll into the playoffs on May 5 and 6. Eight different players are batting over .300, and Kaitlyn Kormanik has batted an outstanding .400 through fourteen games. Senior co-captain Nadine Taylor is also a few singles away from .300, as she has batted .299 through 31 games.

As Wilkes prepares for the tournament, Matthews' focus will remain largely on eliminating weaknesses in the team's game. "We have to focus on the one thing that has been a weakness for us all year: our inability to score with runners in scoring position with less than two outs," he said. "With the limited number of opportunities we'll have in playoffs, we'll have to improve on this to win."

The Freedom Conference championship tournament will begin on May 5 at the Ralston Field Complex. With some dominating pitching and plate skills, the Lady Colonels look to make themselves the third Wilkes team this academic year to make it to the big dance.



The Beacon/Todd Wiebel

The Lady Colonels finished the regular season with a 12-2 conference record, and a 23-11 overall record. The Freedom Conference playoffs take place on May 5 and 6 at the Ralston Field Complex.

Campus Calendar

Monday (5/1)

*Concert, Spring Chamber Winds - 8:00 p.m., HSC Ballroom

Tuesday (5/2)

*Wilkes Manuscript Unveiling- 11:00 a.m. Sordoni Art Gallery

Wednesday (5/3)

*Conservatory Voice Recital - 7:00 p.m. DDD

Thursday (5/4)

*Dinner for George

Ralston - 6:00 p.m., Ralston Inn

*Flute Studio Recital - 8:00 p.m., DDD
*Study Break - 6:30 p.m., HSC

Friday (5/5)

*Softball Freedom Conference Championship - 11:00 a.m., Ralston Field Complex
*Cinco de Mayor - 11:00 a.m., Public Square

*Piano Studio Recital - 7:00 p.m., Kirby Hall

Saturday (5/6)

*Softball Freedom Conference Championship - 9:00 a.m., Ralston Field Complex
*Voice Recital - 7:30 p.m., Kirby Hall Salon

Sunday (5/7)

*Hillel Study Break - 7:00 p.m., HSC Miller Conference Room

Find this Picture on Campus and... WIN CASH



This photo was taken somewhere on Wilkes University's campus. When you find it, email us the answer at: wilkesbeacon@gmail.com. Be sure to put "Campus Picture" as the subject heading, as well as your name, phone number, and either campus mailbox or mailing address in the body text. A random winner will be picked from the correct responses and will receive a \$10 cash prize courtesy of the Programming Board.

Congratulations to Karen Atiyeh, who correctly identified last week's picture of the radioactive sign in the basement of the Stark Learning Center.