

The BEACON

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

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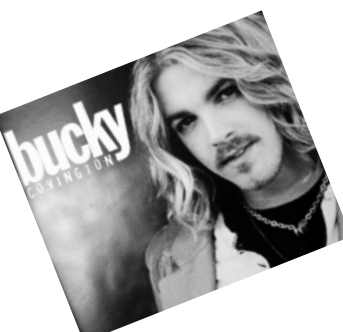
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Rosenn lecture focuses on the Sudan crisis

BY ANDREW SEAMAN
Beacon Asst. News Editor

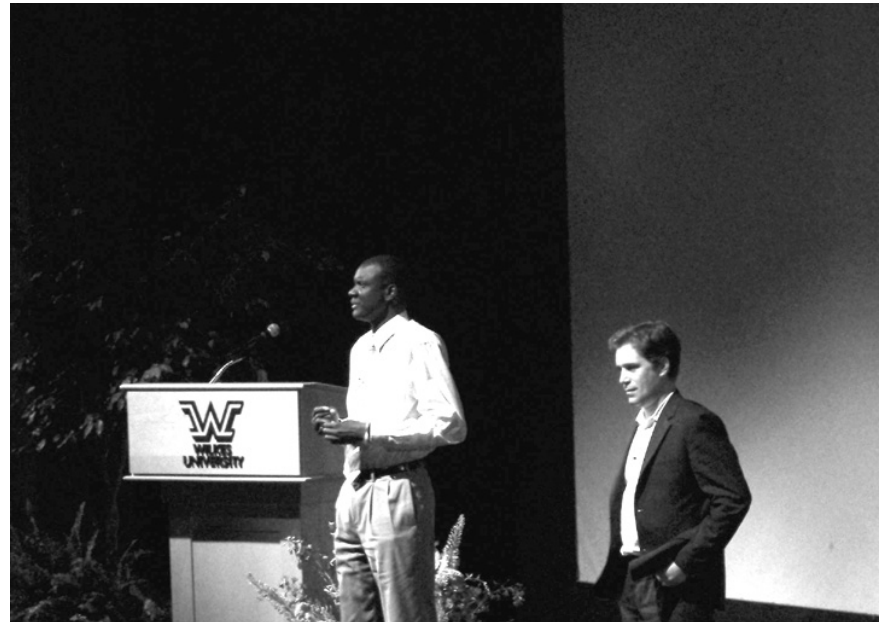
Film can do many things. It can make you cry, laugh, scream in terror and think. A good film will make you do all four, and the audience of the 26th Annual Max Rosenn Lecture saw such a film Sunday evening.

In an unusual move for the annual lecture, the evening included both the screening of an award-winning film, *God Grew Tired of Us* and lectures delivered by two individuals associated with it, director Christopher Dillon Quinn, and one of the subjects of the film, John Bul Dau. The film won two awards at the Sundance Film Festival.

The movie focuses on three "Lost Boys" of Sudan, their escape from a civil war and their relocation in the United States. Dau was one of the "lost boys."

The film, which was screened before the lecture, depicted the compelling story of the Lost Boys who fled their homes when the northern Sudanese government tried to kill them. The group of 27,000 fled to neighboring Ethiopia and arrived emaciated and near death. The group's stay in Ethiopia was short; they were then forced to flee again when civil war broke out there. The group, reduced by starvation, drowning

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The Beacon/Cara Koster.
Christopher Dillon Quinn, lecturer of the 26th annual Max Rosenn Lecture, stands with one of The Lost Boys of Sudan, John Dau (left). Dau is featured in the movie that was screened at the lecture, *God Grew Tired of Us*.

Text notification system planned

BY MARK CONGDON JR.
Beacon Staff Writer

The Virginia Tech massacre caught the country by surprise, though it appears that even local universities were already in discussions about how to best inform campus constituents about emergencies using the latest technologies.

Before the Virginia Tech tragedy, Wilkes University officials were already investigating how best to inform students and faculty in the event of an emergency. Thus, Public Safety officials acknowledge that they are now in the process of implementing a phone-based, text messaging notification system for both communication and emergency purposes weeks ahead of the nationwide trend in reaction to the tragedy.

Wilkes students, faculty and staff should be able to enroll next week, said Christopher Bailey, Director of Campus Support Services. "A few departments have been investigating a text based messaging system, both for emergency and non-emergency communications, for the past year or so.

See TEXT page 4

Retention rate of diverse students dips

BY NICOLE FRAIL
Beacon Staff Writer

Twenty-three full- and part-time students of culturally diverse and international backgrounds chose not to return to Wilkes University at the end of the fall semester in December 2006.

According to Brian Bogert, Assistant Director for Institutional Research, those 23 students accounted for a combined 12.2% of the university's multicultural students.

Mark Allen, Dean of Student Affairs, noted that there could be a number of reasons for the retention drop-off among minority students.

"Regardless of ethnicity, the reason why a student would leave would be a lack of academic success, changes in financial circumstances or they just don't care for the environment," he said.

Homesickness may also play a key role, according to Alberto Prado, Interim Director of the Multicultural Student Coalition (MSC). Along with the Diversity Ambassadors, the Indian Culture Association and the Islamic Interest Society, MSC has sponsored a number of events this year to

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try to help students feel more at home and accepted among the Wilkes community.

Even though events are scheduled, and multicultural and ethnic clubs and organizations are offered on campus, some note that students don't appear to utilize what's available to them.

Yohanna De Los Santos, a transfer student from the Dominican Republic, admitted that she noticed the missing students on campus when she returned for the spring semester and considered applying to different schools for the upcoming 2007-08 year.

"I thought of applying somewhere else like New York or Miami, you know, like a big city where it's more diverse with different people," the sophomore said. Having never heard of groups like MSC, she wasn't aware that there were places she could go to feel closer to home while she worked on adapting to an incredibly dif-

ferent culture and school.

Though there may be many explanations as to why the number of ethnic students attending Wilkes University has fallen off, Allen said that it's difficult to pinpoint one specific reason.

"In what we've looked at between semesters in terms of students leaving, we've not been able to identify any single factor that's raised a flag that says we really need to focus and do a better job on this particular aspect in order to improve retention," he said.

If a student doesn't inform the university that they don't plan on returning for the upcoming semester, then there is no way of identifying the cause for why he/she has left. If a student formally withdraws from the school, then there is an exit process so that they can provide a reason for leaving.

It is still unclear whether the percentage of ethnic or diverse students who left Wilkes mid-year will affect the decisions of minority students to come to the university next year. In response to this,

Allen said that the university is always interested in building a more diverse population.

"The Diversity Task Force is taking the lead role in identifying a lot of issues on campus so we can see where we can do a better job, not just with students from underrepresented populations but also from the staff and faculty standpoint so we can have a more healthy population with respect to diversity," said Allen. The Diversity Task Force was formed at the end of the first semester and is comprised of faculty, staff, students, Board of Trustees members and community members. The group is engaged in evaluating Diversity Survey results as well as interviewing constituent groups about their perspectives on needs in the diversity arena at Wilkes.

Prado noted that once finals are over and the stress of the semester is lifted, the student leaders of MSC, Diversity Ambassadors and other organizations will meet to make plans that will hopefully draw more students of every culture together for the fall semester.

SG Notes

At the April 25, 2007 Student Government (SG) meeting:

Treasurer's Report

The remaining SG funds exist in the following lines:

All College: \$2,406.21
General: \$4,034.73
Special Projects: \$131
Spirit: \$3,405.15
Leadership: \$4,540
Conferences: \$7,469.10
Start-up: \$3,200

New Business

Matt Brown accepted his position as SG President, Sherri Homanko accepted her position as Off Campus Council President and Kate Baas accepted her position as Inter Residence Hall Council President. The next SG meeting will be managed by both the current president, Jenna Strzelecki and incoming president, Matt Brown.

Charles Siarkowski and Andy York presented a song that they wrote to commemorate the SG's year.

Emerging Leaders asked for a donation to clean up Charles Street Park and hold a grand re-opening. The total project cost is \$605 and the request was for \$300. The money will go to food, cooking, ice and serving utensils for the re-opening. The money will also go towards the revitalization with the purchase of paint, flowers and mulch. SG allocated the \$300 to Emerging Leaders with a vote of 34 for, 0 against and 5 abstaining.

A tentative SG budget was presented with four clubs taken off of the budget for next year because of concerns that they do not help all the students or that they did not hand in the proper forms in time. The clubs excluded from the budget include: Concert and Lecture, Crew Club, Speech and Debate and Lacrosse.

Jonathan McClave presented a proposal to buy their own tables for casino night. They will be personalized with Wilkes logos and the total project will cost \$15,067.80 to \$15,567.80. It will take seven casino nights to pay for the purchase and passed with a vote of 36 in favor and 1 opposed.

There was a presentation to trade in SG's current vans and purchase two used models. The money will come out of the buffer fund. The vans are 2007 Chevy Uplanders with an extended wheel base. The vans will seat seven and have dual climate control. The purchase will cost \$39,998 and passed with 31 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstained.



The Beacon/ Cara Koster
Tiny wooden crosses adorn the lawn across from Kirby Hall with an "Our Future?" banner hanging in the background. The display sponsored by S.A.V.E brings attention to endangered species.

The BEACON

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

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University Towers to undergo renovations for 'life safety'

BY NICK PODOLAK

Beacon News Editor

Several renovations for life safety will take place over the summer at University Towers on South Main, including new fire suppression systems, smoke detectors, a clean-down of the elevators and an upgrade in the voice data system.

"Our engineers are working on the specifications and final documentation of the life safety issues, and have completed the specifications for the voice data upgrade," said John Pesta, Director of Capital Projects.

The building, which was constructed in 1977, does not have any detectors according to Pesta. Just last semester, a student became incapacitated due to smoke inhalation after she left something cooking on the stove and it caught fire. Public Safety officers had to step in and pull the student from the smoke-filled room.

"Early intervention in a fire is the best. When you're able to quickly contain and put out a fire prior to the fire department arriving on the scene, you're ahead of the game," said Chris Bailey, Director of Campus Support Operations.



The Beacon/Cara Koster

A fire extinguisher stands next to of fire hose in University Towers on South Main Street. Renovations for the summer will include a new sprinkler system, smoke detectors and an elevator clean-up.

Though residents have long complained that the elevators in University Towers are painstakingly slow, it is still uncertain whether or not a full upgrade will be completed by the end of the summer.

"A full upgrade would digitize the elevators, increasing the speed," Pesta said. "But that depends on if it fits in the budget or not. That's a pretty big chunk of work to try and do all in one summer."

Due to the renovations, however, political science major Karyn Perestam was informed by Residence Life that all on-campus students living in the Towers must not only vacate their apartments for the summer, but move out all of their furniture as well.

"This is a huge burden placed on students who thought they were moving into apartments, which would allow them to avoid the annoyance of moving in and out of a dorm every

year," Perestam said.

However, a contract that on-campus students must sign clearly states that students must vacate the University Residence Hall within 24 hours after his/her final examination or within 24 hours after the termination of the residence hall contract.

Director of Residence Life Brenda Stanely explained, "The terms of this contract have not changed since the apartment-style living environment was introduced at Wilkes and so we are unclear as to why students living at University Towers would think differently," she said. "On campus students that reside in University Towers sign the same contract as on-campus students that reside in any of our other residence hall and mansions."

Aside from the life safety renovations, one of the biggest changes students will notice upon return is that they will have access to the campus networks, giving them access to the H-drive without having to make a secure link from off-campus to on-campus.

"You could use any campus service as if you were sitting on the campus," said Chief Officer of Informational Technology Services Mike Salem. "We're making it just like any other dorm."

SEXUAL ASSAULT: PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING TO YOU

5 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR RISK

- When you go to a party, go with a group of friends. Arrive together; check in with each other and leave together. Don't be isolated with someone you don't know or trust.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn't the best place to be.
- Don't feel obligated to do anything you don't want to. "I don't want to" is always a good enough reason not to do something.
- Practice safe drinking. Don't leave your beverage unattended, pay attention to your drink while it's being prepared and don't accept drinks from someone you don't know well.
- Make sure your cell phone is with you and charged. Know what parts of campus are well lit and where people hang out. Use a campus shuttle at night and carry cab money when you go out.

IN AMERICA. 1 IN 6 WOMEN AND 1 IN 33 MEN HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

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ROSENN
from FRONT PAGE

and war, was left with less than half of the original boys, bringing their numbers to about 12,000. The boys charted their journey to Kenya where they established the Kakuma Refugee Camp in 1992.

The Lost Boys formed their own village until the United States agreed to place them in homes and jobs in this country. The movie then begins with the story of John Bul Dau who learned he would be moving to Syracuse, New York.

The film followed him and other Lost Boys as they travelled across Africa, Europe and the Atlantic until they reached New York City. The boys then separated and went to either Pittsburgh or Syracuse. The film touched everyone in the audience with its comical elements, including scenes about the boys not knowing how to use things that we take for granted, like a light switch.

The boys were given assistance for three months until their visas and Social Security cards were taken care of and then began looking for a job. The film also shows the culture shock the boys experienced, especially because they lacked the interaction they had previously in the camp and because they were alone for long periods of time. There was enough pressure on them to drive one of the boys insane.

The community’s reaction to the boys was also depicted. Store owners asked that they didn’t enter their store in large numbers. Neighbors asked them not to sit or dance outside under the tree near their apartment like



The Beacon/Cara Koster

Wilkes University President Joseph E. (Tim) Gilmour introduced Christopher Dillon Quinn, award-winning director of *God Grew Tired of Us*, and John Bul Dau, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, at the annual Max Rosenn Lecture Series Sunday, April 29th, at the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center. Dau was featured in Quinn’s film, and the film was showed to the audience prior to both Quinn and Dau speaking. Quinn stressed the importance of the United States’ involvement in the crisis in Sudan, while Dau spoke to the audience about the power of perseverance.

they did back in Kenya.

The film ends with the Lost Boys either working on graduating from college or trying to get their families to come to the US. Dau was someone who worked and put his education on hold to bring his family to the

US and the film showed the reunion.

The film did not have a definite ending, because the Lost Boys of Sudan’s future is still in question. Many are still in Kenya or are afraid to go back to Kenya in fear that they will be shot or burned along with their village.

When the lights came up on the packed Dart Center, many in the audience were wiping their eyes while offering a standing ovation.

Quinn began his part of the lecture by making the format very conversational. Neither man stood behind the podium and instead walked around the stage. Quinn spoke

about his inspiration for the film, which started in seventh grade when he learned about the holocaust. “I always remember in seventh grade saying ‘well at least that will never happen again.’ And for me Africa is not only something that is in turmoil but is also something that is being ignored.”

Quinn also told the story about how hard it was making the film. He had to call around and ask for donations until he finally called enough “friends of friends” to get a screening in Los Angeles where Brad Pitt was in the audience, who decided he wanted to be part of the project.

The floor was then turned to Dau who spoke about his experience and his progress. Currently, he has worked to raise \$400,000 to build a clinic in his village in Africa, which was completed the day after the lecture, April 30. He also talked about the future of Sudan which, according to him, lies in the hands of the United States, because “the U.N. is not doing its job.”

Dau also talked about what he saw in America that could be improved. One thing he mentioned was how students need to persevere. “You are not getting good grades or your mom is not buying jeans or computer games, it’s not a big problem. All you have to do is persevere.” Dau said that is the key to success.

After the speakers concluded, the audience was invited to the lobby for a reception where they could purchase Dau’s memoirs and meet the speakers. The gentlemen were immediately swarmed by people who were fascinated by their stories and experience.

This lecture is named for the Honorable Judge Max Rosenn who passed away last year.



The Beacon/Cara Koster

John Bul Dau signed a copy of his book, *God Grew Tired of Us*, during the meet and greet after the 26th annual Max Rosenn Lecture. Dau is one of the Lost Boys of Sudan whose story is told in the film of the same name as his book. Dau moved to Syracuse, New York with the help of the United States and worked in order to bring his family to the US as well. The film was showed at the lecture and depicted the reunion between Dau and his family.

The Beacon corrections

In *The Beacon’s* April 24 article “Brown wins SG Presidential post with 30% of student vote,” the winners of Inter Residence Hall Council (IRHC) President and Off Campus Council (OCC) President were misprinted as Student Government (SG) Vice President and other positions. For clarification, Kate Baas will be the president of IRHC and Sherri Homanko will be president of OCC.

Last week, the photo of the SG presidential candidates was printed as being taken by Andrew Seaman. This photo should have been credited to Kathy Dalton.

The Beacon strives for accuracy and good sourcing in all of its stories and regrets the errors in the past issue. Editors are grateful for readers who take the time to point out inaccuracies.

Andrea Breemer-Frantz, Faculty Advisor
Curran Dobson, Editor-in-Chief




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Cronyism poses a challenge at all levels of government

Student government policies leave room for corruption

BY THE BEACON
EDITORIAL BOARD

Do we ever really trust our government?

All politicians lie--that's the old adage--but we still hold elections and hope for the best. Wilkes University's Student Government (SG) is no exception to the rule. SG members have promoted worthy causes, represented on important issues, and also made mistakes. Scandal and redemption are mere inches apart.

Recently, it was reported that newly elected SG President, Matthew Brown, was involved in controversy because he allegedly lied to obtain information from a local business. While the exact details of the case remain slightly cloudy, the case occurred just before campuswide elections for SG Executive Board positions. Brown was evaluated by his peers in an SG hearing, allowed to remain on SG and continue his quest for the position. He was elected to the top post days later.

The scenario is one for which no federal government candidate for office could ever hope: evaluation by peers and friends who determine your fate and a general election in which the majority of the voting body is unaware of the news until after casting their ballots. Some students expressed their displeasure with having the elections open before the news was available. Many even admitted they would have changed their votes. It should be the primary goal of our government to be as

candid as possible, given that this is a much smaller scale than a national election where one must vote with only as much information as is available by a single day.

among representatives.

When Hillary Clinton voted for the war in Iraq, it left a mark on her reputation that she is still trying to shake from the minds of future voters while she campaigns for the Democratic presidential nomination. In SG, no member need be concerned with a damaged reputation for helping a friend. In

fact, such loyalty is usually rewarded socially. As representatives, the default is simply to use one's best judgment, which is complicated by peer pressure and friendships on a small college campus.

But while the Wilkes SG constitution has been adequately followed, it still seems strange that the election was not postponed. In national elections, this is much more difficult, but the story broke just as elections were opening online and it easily could have been changed, especially since the candidate could have potentially been disqualified after the fact. At least three students approached *Beacon* staff members and said that know they would have voted differently. Since we have the unique ability to prevent such scenes by postponing elections or rerunning elections, since we are on a small and private scale, our SG should consider such options in order to take into account a possible change in the sentiment of the student body toward a candidate.

The greatest conflict of interest is that our constitution supports the entire SG membership to determine the fate of a fellow member. Aside from the potential for peer pressure, there are few checks and balances built into the system to ensure accountability

Many positions in the university have a code of conduct. Some faculty advisors for clubs and teams warn their students not to have compromising photos of themselves on Facebook or MySpace as a way to keep respectable appearances. When someone slips up, it has resulted in losing a position or leaving a team. Why should our government be different?

To Brown's credit, he has offered a full acknowledgment and apology for his actions. Such public mea culpas require fortitude and leadership. It is unlikely that SG members will be asked to account for their votes, however.

We must set a standard against cronyism and peer pressure and develop standards with actual consequences. Without them, we leave ourselves open to unethical behavior running rampant. It is not only about being honest and open to the student body, but also about the public appearance of the entire university.

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 42 responses.

The Beacon asked:

What are your summer plans?

- Work -55%
- Travel -16%
- Spend time at the beach -15%
- Take summer classes -8%
- Volunteer -2%
- Nothing special -2%
- Sleep -2%
- Visit old friends -0%
- See summer blockbusters -0%
- Other -0%



A Sight for Sore Eyes

Aleksander Lapinski



Should NBC and other networks have focused on Cho?

BY ANDREW SEAMAN

Beacon Asst. News Editor

What else can I say about the tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech? I am sure I could go on and on about gun control laws and how good/bad they are but what will that really accomplish in the long run?

However, I feel the need to write about this topic because something bothered me today as I walked past the news organizations in New York City on Saturday. They were still talking about what happened. It is not that I expect to never hear of this again. It is just a question of where do audiences draw the line of what we need or want to know?

The responsibility for determining what constitutes news generally should fall to the trained gatekeepers at the news organizations, but too often it falls into the hands of the company's CEOs. This is because the companies are still pursuing the act of scooping other news organizations and unfortunately it can't be done accurately. However the companies still

believe that this model equals big money, because to change the model successfully to a more community minded one, all news organizations must act together and in harmony.

Currently all news organizations grab at whatever information is available and

shootings. The package contained writings and disturbing video in which Cho made his case for how and why he felt compelled to visit such violence on the beautiful campus. At times during the video, Cho raves about the injustices visited upon him. At others, he brandishes weapons and looks menacing.

violence.

What should have happened is this: In news accounts of the shooting, news organizations should have offered an account of what happened but not focused too much on the killer. Instead, more focus on the victims might help to prevent

copycat events. By showing the images of Cho holding guns and reading his manifesto, other people will see this and think, "I can be famous, too."

News organizations need ask themselves, "Why are we giving this to the public and what will this do to the community?"

Once this happens, these organizations may earn the respect of the community again and the news they report

will be even more accurate. And yes, the unwanted materials like the pictures of the gunman reading his manifesto will surface through the internet, but the number of people viewing the material will decrease tremendously. News organizations need to simply ask, "If we put this out to the public, what is going to happen?"

The responsibility for determining what constitutes news generally should fall to the trained gatekeepers at the news organizations, but too often it falls into the hands of the company's CEOs.

regurgitate it to you, the audience. The ideal model should operate as one that has the community's best interests that guide such choices. In general, news organizations need to more carefully screen news items and check their prominence before presenting it to their audience.

Take the package of information created by the shooter, Mr. Cho, that he mailed to NBC apparently between his first and last

That package should not have been given to every single news company in the world. It should have been examined and given directly to the police involved in the ongoing investigation. Nothing in that package was necessary for the public to see. However, the news organizations contended that it did have relevance and importance for audiences wanting to better understand the madness that had spurred Cho to such



The Angry Rant: Stupid People

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

Let's face it: people are stupid.

In a society that exists in a world of logic and reason, we are hard pressed to find much of either one.

In other words, common sense isn't that common.

Case in point: I was at Wal-Mart at one in the morning a few weeks ago, and as I was walking in the main entrance I passed a young mother pushing her one-year-old son in the shopping cart.

I'll let you think on that for a moment.

It was after midnight, and this genius had her infant awake and at Wal-Mart. Not only that, but after she wheeled him out the front door, she started to light a cigarette not six inches from the child's head!

Question: When they were accepting enrollments in "Good Parenting" classes, were you sick that day or were you too busy getting your current boyfriend's name tattooed on your neck?

Not only that, but parents in general seem confounded by how to take care of their

kids, especially the screaming and crying ones. Nothing is more annoying than when a screaming child is left to scream while the parent just stands there like nothing is going on.

As far as the younger generation is concerned, how is it that 17- and 18-year-olds are allowed to parade around wearing virtually nothing? Do the parents who raised these kids have any ideas what their daughters or sons are wearing? I was at the library some time ago and saw two girls whose shorts began and ended somewhere around their waist.

If that's not bad enough, these same girls have the audacity and gall to get defensive when comments are made about how they dress.

Mind you, these are the same people who put provocative pictures of themselves on websites like MySpace and Facebook, and are somehow surprised when the emails from 35-year-old men start pouring in.

"But I'm just expressing myself and my womanhood! I am not a whore!"

That may be true, but as the great Dave Chappelle once said: "You're not a whore..."

but you're wearing a whore's uniform, and that is confusing."

The lack of common sense isn't an affliction that we normal people own; it also affects celebrities. Case in point: Sheryl Crow.

Ms. Crow is one of a recent slew of celebrities who have joined the cause to combat global warming. Now I'm all for famous people using their star power to draw attention to a cause, and global warming is no exception, but what she is proposing might be one of the worst ideas in the history of bad ideas: One square. That's the idea. Just one square of toilet paper per bathroom visit. Really, I didn't make that up.

Apparently, she feels that the excess waste of paper products can be cut down if, as a society, can ban together and use just one square per visit.

Really? One square? I don't know about anyone else, but after I down a delicious meal that consists of surf and turf, I'm willing to bet that I'm going to be needing more than one square of toilet paper.

Ok, time for the lighting round:

Cell phones: People's habits concerning cell phones have become increasingly poor. If you're in a crowded waiting room, then perhaps you should turn your phone on vibrate so no one can hear "Baby Got Back" every time your phone rings.

Bad drivers: When did turn signals become a thing of the past? Nothing is worse than when you're heading down the turnpike and some fool cuts in front of you without using any sort of signal.

Self checkout: If you can't operate a computer, then you shouldn't be using the self checkout, what with all the fancy gizmos and servos.

Poor grammar: Like, it's really annoying, when, like, people don't know how to like, speak, and everything, right? It's like, so bad when someone can't complete an entire sentence without, like, saying like, like, every other word. It like, drives me crazy.

One more thing:

People who are needlessly critical about every little thing...and irony.

Have a great summer.

Graphic by Kristyn Ostman

Be every color that you are: a senior's farewell

BY KRISTYN OSTMAN

Beacon Opinion Editor

It is a bittersweet fact that for many of us college is ending.

Some have more schooling to look forward to. Others have jobs or prospects...

Then there are people like me. The proud, the few...the absolutely terrified.

It's not that I haven't any thoughts about my future; I have plenty and even a few possible jobs. The sad fact is that my only definite plans are to move back home and watch Spanish telenovelas until I am fluent.

A lot of people tell me that it's okay. Everyone moves home and has that uneasy feeling in the pit of their stomachs. But it's cool, kiddo. You'll get a job soon enough and, ya' know, continue working for the next 40+ years.

Okay, I get it that being nervous about my uncertain fate is nothing new. Everyone goes through that post-college malaise. Sadly, I have little advice for anyone other than to offer my understanding and a possible seat beside me during *Corazon Salvaje*. The most frustrating thing is that floating along the river of uncertainty is as much the learning experience as the past four years.

I suppose that the only shred of advice I can offer is to be open to change. Whether it's changing your plans, your mind, or your clothes, just try to allow room for yourself

to grow. As much as everyone has grown through the course of college, it never truly stops. If my first job turns out to be in an environment I don't like or not exactly what I want to do, I hope I have the courage to

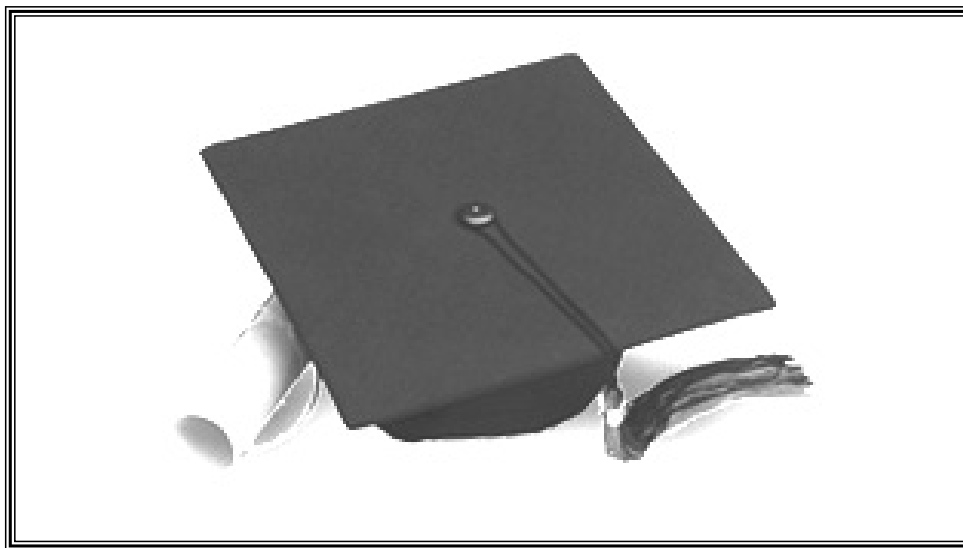
nior, was the issue of marriage. It seems like everyone I know is either engaged or planning on it soon. Recently, some divorce lawyers reported that the number one cause of divorce boils down to: "We got married too

your other half.

Sure, it sounds nice to say that we should all be willing to go out there and embrace our dreams. I know I must sound like a cheesy poster about grad school or going abroad, but it's the best advice that few people actually follow. We kind of get stuck in the daily routine of work, school, or in some cases unemployment. It happens. Try to not be satisfied with everything, strive for more, the majority of goals are not unattainable (I say "most" as I have finally come to terms with the fact that I will never be Mrs. Richard Dean Anderson.)

My high school history teacher once said to us, this is the only country that guarantees you the right to try to be happy. Go forth and pursue happiness however you can and whatever that means.

Without getting overly nostalgic, I would like to say that the past years have been fantastic. Even the really awful parts. At the same time, I'm ready to be done. Granted, I have no job and my parents still wait up for me even though I am approaching age 22. But at least I have a car and that puts me at slightly cooler than the 14-year olds. I will be buying beer for as a side business. While it still saddens and frightens me that nothing seems stable or constant right now, I'm kind of glad for that. Sometimes things need to get shaken up so everything can fall into place.



Courtesy of <http://unet.ollusa.edu>

quit and go somewhere else. Lots of people get stuck in their comfort zones because random career changes make them feel like a flighty college student. Don't worry about it. Go out and make sure you are who you want to be.

Something else I thought was still a long way off, but that came up as I became a se-

young."

Please think about that before the wedding. Sure, I'm not one to talk, as the idea of getting married before the age of 27 makes me uncomfortable, to say the least. But this is the time people change and it's still okay. Give yourself the room to change and then make sure that the new you still fits with

Ivy League no guarantee of success for college grads

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Correspondent

As the semester comes to an end, we all look forward to catching up with friends from our hometowns and high schools.

While some of those friends may have also wound up at Wilkes, many others moved on to other colleges and universities, each with its own unique profile and mission. When we're catching up with the old crowd, some of our friends will begin talking about the schools they attend and the excellent level of education they are receiving there.

At the tail end of Christmas break, I caught up with an old friend of mine who's now in her second year at the University of Rochester. One of the first things we discussed was that Rochester had recently been named one of 25 "new Ivies" by *Newsweek*- schools that receive strong consideration from applicants who normally look toward the Ivy League schools.

During our conversation, I began to wonder how people at schools like that viewed Wilkes and our academic programs. More

importantly, I wondered if graduates from a small, regional school like Wilkes would face a disadvantage if applying for jobs and other opportunities against applicants from a more nationally-known institution.

perience at nearly any college or university- small or large, local or national in scale. Just because a school requires high SATs or sends tons of kids overseas to study isn't a guarantee that an alumnus will become a

of the Emerson Electric, Inc. He's pursuing his MBA from Wilkes and is off to a tremendous start in a career that he seems set to excel in for many years. Coming out of high school, Mike also considered attending a number of schools with national prestige including Rochester, Johns Hopkins, Lehigh and Lafayette. Yet after attending Wilkes, Mike is taking off in his career and doing just as well

Just because a school requires high SATs or sends tons of kids overseas to study isn't a guarantee that an alumnus will become a success in the working world.

In my research for this op-ed, I decided to question the people who are often at the forefront of promoting their schools' images- admissions directors. I chose six schools in Pennsylvania that are of similar size to Wilkes, and e-mailed the admissions directors at each institution, asking, "Do you believe a school's academic reputation and prestige leads to a better education for students?" While I only received two responses, those gentlemen stressed that an individual can get a quality educational ex-

success in the working world.

The responses received lined up perfectly with my long-standing belief that a student can excel at whatever school they choose-- be it a nationally-known scientific institute or a locally-based liberal arts school. As proof of my theory, I offer the case of my good friend Mike Liberski. A 2004 graduate of Wilkes with a degree in mechanical engineering, Mike is now employed by an international company with local roots, Inter-Metro Industries, Incorporated., a division

as graduates from many of those other institutions.

So when you get together with friends and family and the topic of your education comes up, don't forget to give Wilkes a nod of endorsement. The opportunity is here for each of us to follow a similar path to Mike's and succeed at whatever we intend to do, just as it would be at nearly any other institution of higher learning.

Wilkes walks for a cure

24-hour Relay for Life event at Ralston Field brings students together



From 5 p.m. on April 27 until 5 p.m. on April 28, Wilkes University held its first Relay for Life event at Ralston Field. Team members walked around the track in shifts to keep at least one participant from each team on the track at all times.

Students and sponsors purchased luminaries in honor of relatives who have been affected by cancer. Some of the luminaries were placed around the track, and others were used to spell out "hope" on the bleachers around the field. Junior Blaine Madara, above right, read a poem to his aunt and grandmother, who are both cancer survivors.

Many teams stayed overnight, opting to pitch tents for shelter. Other team members stayed for a while after or before their allotted walking time, socializing with other teams, partaking in karaoke, listening to music, and playing soccer and whiffle ball on the adjacent soccer field.

Baja team places in Florida competition

Society of Automotive Engineers students build all-terrain car

BY MEGAN KRISANDA

Beacon Asst. Features Editor

Four wheels and a team of dedicated engineering students from the Wilkes' Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) brought success home after a competition in Florida.

At the University of Florida on April 13-16, 75 teams from all over the nation competed in designing and building 4-wheeled all-terrain Baja cars that were tested in a variety of events.

Wilkes' SAE placed 3rd in the Mud Bog competition and 30th in the overall competition. Acceleration, strength, water maneuverability, suspension and land maneuverability were among the criteria that were tested.

Paul Benulis, team captain and sophomore mechanical engineering major, saw the competition as both exhilarating and challenging. "It was fun just watching the car competing because we worked so hard to get it there. Mud bog was tough. We watched a lot of cars get stuck when we were in line, but our car did great. When we received the trophy at the awards banquet on Sunday, I think we surprised a lot of people," he said.

During the endurance race, the car had a close call after taking a turn too fast and hitting a tree. Luckily no one was hurt in the crash and the car was towed and fixed very quickly. "I hit the tree at top speed and I was fine. After it hit, the car spun around and slid about 20 feet down the track, but it's fun and would've been great to watch," said Benulis.

Benulis added that the team used a safety harness belt system, helmet, neck collar and wrist straps in order to prevent any injuries.

Mary Opalka, sophomore mechanical engineering major and Baja team member, was in charge of the cost and design reports that each team had to submit in order to gain points for the total score. She was surprised at the size of the competition.

"The competition was so much bigger than I had expected; there were over 70 teams that attended, but it wasn't just them, they also brought spectators. One team had almost 20 members, most of whom were just there to watch. It was astounding," said Opalka.



Wilkes students who are a part of the SAE organization travelled to Florida in April to compete in the Baja car competition. The team placed 3rd in the Mud Bog competition and 30th in the overall competition.

The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

Members of the Baja team continue to work on the car in a room near the machine shop in the basement of Stark Learning Center. Some members are also working with technical advisor Mitch Adams to design a car for next year's competition

Opalka is the only female member of Wilkes Baja team, but noted that a team from Alabama was entirely female.

There were opportunities to meet other teams in between technical inspections. "We met the most people through the borrowing and lending of tools. You had to bring all yours with you, but of course you forget something," said Opalka.

Designing and crafting the vehicle to meet competition requirements was a long process but enjoyable, said Benulis. As captain, his responsibilities included purchasing parts, tools, safety gear and anything else needed throughout the year.

"Specifically, I built body panels, floatation, water propulsion fenders and safety equipment mounts. I kept a close eye on the rules and design requirements to make sure what we were doing was right," said Benulis.

Benulis added that the team learned a lot from the national competition. Members of the team learned they were able to successfully compete with the best schools.

Mr. Mitch Adams served as technical advisor and "helped out the students in every way," said Benulis.

Both Benulis and Opalka are excited for next year's competition and are close to finishing the final design of the new vehicle.

"We worked great together under pressure. All my expectations were exceeded at the competition and I am proud of our team and am proud to represent the Wilkes Engineering program," said Benulis.



Photos: The Beacon/Nicole Frail

The League of Woman Voters and Zebra Communications sponsored Poli-palooza as a way to encourage young people to vote. Communication studies professor Jane Elmes-Crahall served as keynote speaker at the event. Students who attended were given the opportunity to register to vote.



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Wilkes chorus joins forces with NEPA Philharmonic

BY SHANNON CURTIN
Beacon Staff Writer

After experiencing rock show benefits for both SPAFapalooza and Get Loud for Lupus, students may find themselves in the mood for a different musical enjoyment experience.

Luckily, Friday, May 4 and Saturday May 5 will offer an escape back to classical music as the Wilkes University Chorus will be one of several choral groups joining forces with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic in a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

Wilkes University Chorus, as well as the College Misericordia Choral Society, and the Bloomsburg University Concert Choir, will have the opportunity to sing this famous piece with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic and the Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania, thanks in large part to the coordination efforts of Wilkes University's own Dr. Steven Thomas.

Dr. Thomas, the Director of Choral Activities and the Coordinator of Music at Wilkes is also the Chorus Master for this performance. As Chorus Master, Thomas is responsible for a variety of activities including recruiting the participating choirs, organizing the rehearsal schedule and serving as a liaison between the singers and the performance's conductor Lawrence Loh, the Music Director of the Philharmonic. According to Thomas, "Each of the participating choirs prepared the work separately, and then I and Maestro Loh worked with the combined choirs to create a unified conception of the piece."

The performance includes the notable work of Ludwig Van Beethoven's 9th

symphony. Beethoven's No. 9 Symphony, dated 1824, was the composer's final complete symphony and composed when he was completely deaf. It has since become one of the best known pieces of classical music of all time, and one that many musi-

cians hold dear. magnitude there are undoubtedly multiple challenges as well as benefits.

With respect to working with a professional orchestra Thomas acknowledged that the greatest challenge is "reaching the high artistic level that the Philharmonic ex-

seem just as psyched about it as I am is absolutely priceless."

Of course, Taber-Miller is not without some apprehension about performing with the Philharmonic. "Having the opportunity to work and perform with Maestro Loh is, well, exciting and somewhat intimidating all at the same time. It is challenging to join so many individuals together, especially because we all have our various interpretations of the piece, but that's half the fun. That's the point of participating in an event like this- watching a bunch of people come together to perform an absolutely tremendous piece and perform it well," she said.

As the members of the Wilkes chorus ready themselves for a once in a lifetime performance opportunity, what can their audience expect from such an interesting orchestral and choral performance? Taber-Miller promised "a lot of sound! There's a ton of us up there, plus the NEPA Philharmonic."

And Thomas concurred, "Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 is one of the great masterworks of western music. Hearing it live is an experience not to be missed!"

Friday's performance will be held at the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre, while Saturday's performance will occur at the Scranton Cultural Center. Both performances will begin at 8:00 p.m. and ticket prices range from \$18-\$55 dollars. Students will receive a 50% discount. Tickets are available from the Philharmonic website at www.nephaphil.org or from Philharmonic box office at 457-8301. Interested parties are encouraged to buy tickets early. Both shows are anticipated to sell out. More information about the concert is available at <http://www.nephaphil.org>.



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

The Wilkes University Chorus, seen here rehearsing with director Dr. Steven Thomas, will be performing with the NEPA Philharmonic, along with other area choirs this weekend.

cians hold dear.

Combine the performance of a well-loved piece of music with the opportunity to work with the Pennsylvania Philharmonic and the event takes on an even greater importance to the participants, both students and faculty alike. As Thomas noted, "It is a terrific and rare opportunity for college singers to be able to perform with a professional orchestra of this caliber and I'm very happy to have been able to provide that experience for my students." And, as can be expected with a performance of this

pects." However, the Wilkes singers have been working on this piece since the beginning of the spring semester and Thomas insisted they are "ready to put on a great performance."

Kaitlin Taber-Miller, a senior musical theatre major who serves as both manager of the chorus and the president of the choral club, has her own reasons to be excited about the upcoming performance. "I've grown up listening to this piece," said Taber-Miller, "and having the opportunity to perform it with other individuals who

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, May 1

- Jazz Orchestra Concert in the Darte Center at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

- Tibetan Monk will be talking in SLC at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 3

- Comic Book Club unveiling in the Old Bookstore at 11 a.m.

Friday, May 4

- Northeast PA Philharmonic at the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.
- Lewis and Clarke and Strand of Oaks performing at Café Metropolis at 8 p.m.
- Chorus Concert: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 5

- Flute Ensemble concert in the Darte

Center at 1 p.m.

- Urban Cowboy at the Kirby Center at 9 p.m.
- Slightly Askew, Aww James and Backflip Journeyman performing at Café Metropolis at 8 p.m.
- Chorus Concert: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in the Kirby Center at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 6

- Live to Laugh event at ArtsYouniverse

at 2 p.m.

- The Independents and the Von Horribles performing at Backstage Enterprises at 6 p.m.
- The Slackers, the Phenomenauts and the Menzingers performing at Café Metropolis at 7 p.m.

Monday, May 7

- Karaoke with Scott Stevens at Slainte

CD Review: *Bucky Covington*

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO

Beacon A&E Editor

Kellie Pickler, Josh Gracin and Carrie Underwood have all enjoyed a great deal of success in the country music industry after stints on the FOX series *American Idol*. With his first full-length, self-titled album, it seems like Bucky Covington is trying to get a piece of that action as well.

Covington's current single, "A Different World," has already experienced some radio airplay, as anyone purchasing the album can plainly see. And yes folks, in case there was any doubt, "He's the Bucky you've seen on national television!" Apparently there has been some past confusion, and media execs felt it necessary to inform potential buyers via the cover.

Uttering the name "Bucky" amongst a group of friends usually causes at least a few snickers. And maybe he isn't the next Alan Jackson, but there are many people (including one editor) who actually enjoyed his *Idol* performances and are rooting for this album to be decent.

The verdict? Overall, without really lis-

tening to the lyrics, the songs are pretty catchy and could easily hold their own on country radio. And Covington definitely has a certain tone to his voice that lends well to the style of today's country music. Unfortunately, though, he really seems to be prone to clichés.

"American Friday Night," a song dedicated to the Friday night football game, is laden with them. "I'll Walk" is not much better, as it describes the plight of a girlfriend who decided to walk home after a fight and ended up injured and-surprisingly- unable to walk. And he really seems to be a fan of the Pledge of Allegiance, which is mentioned in at least two different songs.

While "A Different World" is certainly a

catchy tune, its sentiment is quite strange. Covington basically waxes poetic about the good old days, where pregnant mothers drank and smoked and kids didn't wear seatbelts or bicycle helmets. That may explain why his parents named him Bucky.

And the cynics in this town who can't wait to break free probably won't appreciate "Hometown," in which the chorus declares, "Lord, I hope Heaven's a lot like my hometown." Again, this song also pays homage to those clichés of which

Covington (or his songwriters) are so incredibly fond.

The most radio-worthy of the bunch might just be "Ain't No Thing" or "It's Good To Be Us." Both songs are fast

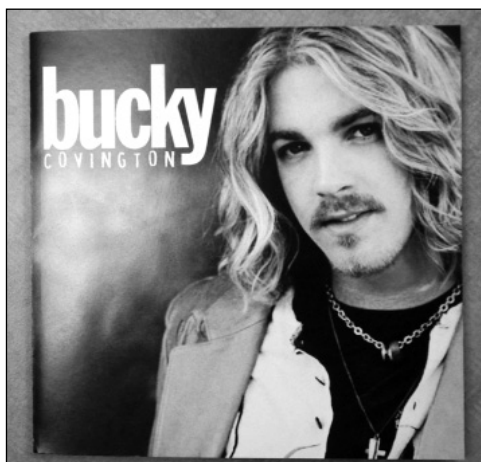
and punchy and are lacking the feeling of forced sentiment some of the other songs have.

Based on title alone, one would probably expect "The Bible and the Belt" to be, if not the worst, then at least the strangest song on the album. In actuality, it's one of best offerings Covington makes here, and is definitely worth a second listen.

Even though plenty of the lyrics on this album are a bit corny, it's hard to ignore Covington's talent. In fact, it's his voice and authenticity on most songs that make up for the clichés sprinkled across the board.

One has to hand it to Covington for finding his niche in the music industry. Country is definitely the genre for him, and the grittiness that often shines through in his voice hints at some potential for future success, when he is better able to develop his personal style. Considering this is really his first attempt at defining himself musically, Covington could have done a lot worse.

Grade: B-



The Beacon/Nick Zmijewski

August | 2007

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We have a winner!
(Well, actually three winners.)

The final vote on the MyWilkes logo was option #2.
The overwhelming choice for site layout was option #3.
Junior Morgan Kuhns wins the iPod
(which, of course, she'll fill with songs acquired legally, right?).

Thanks to all those who voted.

Go to mywilkes.wilkes.edu to view the winning designs and to learn more about the MyWilkes portal.

Top 10 can't-miss summer 2007 movies

BY MIKE WILLIAMS

Beacon Staff Writer

It's almost summertime!

And we all know what that means: Fun, sun and huge box office blockbusters.

Unfortunately, The Beacon won't be publishing again until September, so we can't tell you which films to see, which to skip, and which ones to wait until they come out on DVD.

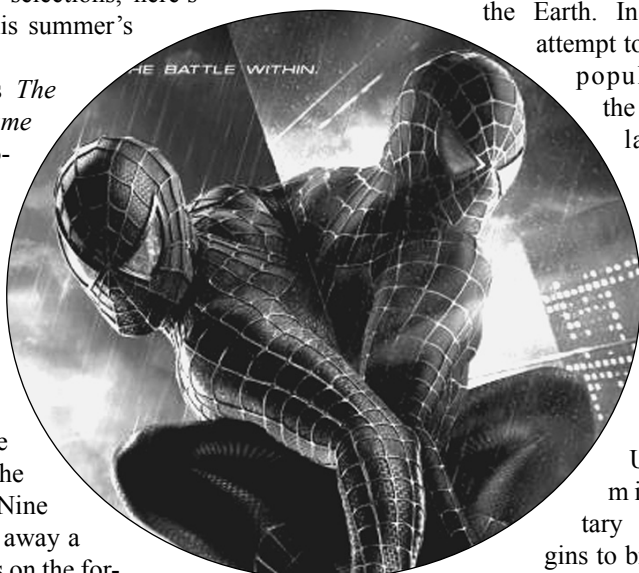
However, in order to help you make informed summer movie selections, here's a quick overview of this summer's can't miss flick picks.

The Condemned- It's *The Most Dangerous Game* meets *Survivor* as professional wrestler "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, and a cast of other very large scary men, play a group of 10 death row convicts forced to battle to the death on a remote island in front of a live audience viewing via the internet. Ten will fight. Nine will die. One will walk away a free man. (Our money is on the former heavyweight champ.)

Spiderman III - Old Spidey is back and this time he faces his greatest challenge yet. As Peter Parker's (Toby Maguire) struggle to find a peaceful balance between his life as mild-mannered photojournalist and web-slinging superhero seems to be coming to an end, his world is turned upside

down when he comes in contact a strange black substance from another world. While dealing with the substance's ability to bring out his dark side, Spiderman must face three new enemies: New Golin (James Franco), The Sandman (Thomas Haden Church) and the long-awaited Venom (Topher Grace).

28 Weeks Later - Six months after the rage virus decimated England, the horrible disease and its victims have been all but eliminated from the face of the Earth. In an attempt to repopulate the island, the



U.S. military begins to bring civilians back

to "safe" sectors of the island, while they mop up any problems outside the designated living areas. But, wouldn't you just know it, the virus still lives, and quicker than you can yell "Aim For The Brain!" the nightmare begins all over again.

Pirates Of The Carribean: At World's

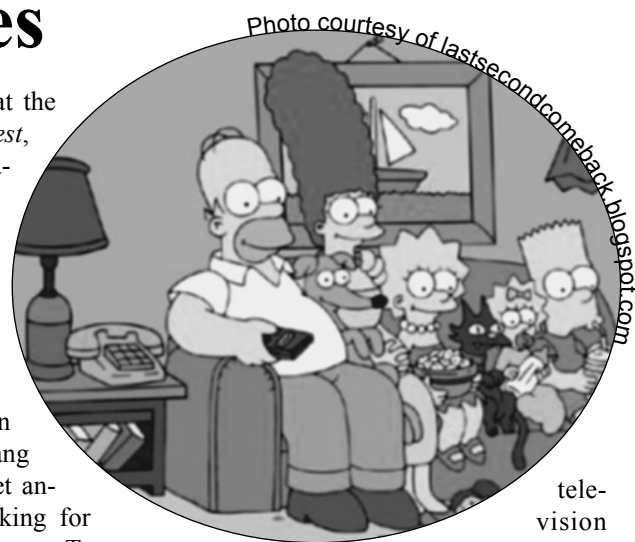
End - In an alliance formed at the conclusion of *Dead Man's Chest*, Will (Orlando Bloom), Elizabeth (Keira Knightly) and Capt. Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) go in search of Capt. Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp), attempting to rescue him from the diabolical, squid faced Davey Jones (Bill Nighy).

Oceans 13 - Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and his gang return to Las Vegas to pull yet another high-profile score. Working for their old nemesis, casino tycoon Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia), the crew plans to take down a rival casino owner, played by Al Pacino.

Hostel II - A group of young female college students backpacking through Europe are lured into a hostel by a mysterious young man, where they are promptly mutilated by sickos and sadists. Hey, that sounds a lot like the first *Hostel*!

Live Free or Die Hard- Det. John McClane (Bruce Willis) returns to take on a group of internet based terrorists who are attempting to destroy the computer and technological mainframe that supports the U.S. economy. Some people would attempt to discretely deal with a situation of this magnitude, but McClane has his own brand of dealing with those who threaten our country: shooting people, jumping away from explosions in slow-motion and spouting one liners. AWESOME!

Transformers - Giant robots from outer space bring their war to Earth. Based on the 1980s



television

show, this promises big budgets, big explosions, big robots and tons of computer generated mayhem.

The Simpsons Movie - Besides a short 30-second teaser trailer, nothing is known about this long awaited jump from small screen to the theater for America's favorite animated family. The suspense is unbearable.

The Bourne Ultimatum- As Jason Bourne (Matt Damon), the super-spy who can do anything except remember his own name, digs deeper into the Treadstone project, a government spy training program that may hold the secret to his identity, he finds himself the target of a deadly assassin (Edgar Ramirez). If the gun fights, fist fights and car chases of the first two installments of the series are any sort of indication for what number three has in store, this one should leave all espionage/adventure/action fans' heads spinning (and maybe bleeding).

Photo courtesy of www.iwatchstuff.com

Lupus Benefit Show



Sound the Alarm, Enbloc and Last Conviction all performed at the Lupus Benefit show, Friday, April 27, where proceeds went to the Lupus Foundation.

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Answers 5.1

Kudracross

BY CHRISTOPHER KUDRAK
Beacon Correspondent

- ACROSS
- 1

High plateau
- 5

Mom’s partner
- 8

Having a likeness to something
- 13

Electric current units
- 14

Frosty
- 15

Hospital workers
- 16

Builder’s fastener
- 17

Not he
- 18

Crew boats
- 19

Ceramic square
- 20

Fix up
- 22

DNA sequence
- 24

Squid secretion
- 25

Cooking abbreviation
- 28

Internet Annoyances
- 31

Insecure
- 33

Beer vessel
- 36

Happy hour establishments
- 38

By mouth
- 39

4840 square yards
- 41

Completely
- 43

Head towards
- 44

Robert Frost, for example
- 45

Prom transportation, for short
- 47

X
- 48

Appeals
- 50

Spreads
- 52

Abet
- 53

Confucian principle
- 55

Technique
- 59

Certificate for graduation
- 62

Preakness stakes, for example
- 63

C2H6
- 66

H.S. exam
- 67

Adam’s son
- 68

Playground equipment

- 69

Caustic substance
- 70

Italian car
- 71

At the present
- 72

Crew necessity
- 73

Italian volcano
- DOWN
- 1

Large ray
- 2

Postal service foe
- 3

Overflow
- 4

Unconscious
- 5

Neglected
- 6

Advil target
- 7

Pigments
- 8

Mannerisms
- 9

Compel
- 10

Wood for baseball bats
- 11

Tennis unit
- 12

Orbiting research facility, for short
- 15

Bright sign
- 21

“My country ____ of thee”
- 23

Throw
- 25

Fortunetelling card
- 26

Emulate Gretzky
- 27

Egyptian gateway
- 29

Large decorative vase
- 30

Sacred song
- 32

Large, heavy motorcycle
- 33

Tenth letter of the Greek alphabet
- 34

Intestinal bacteria
- 35

Midas’ undoing
- 37

Wilkes to graduates
- 40

Seventh letter for the Greek alpha bet
- 42

False statement
- 46

Miner’s find
- 49

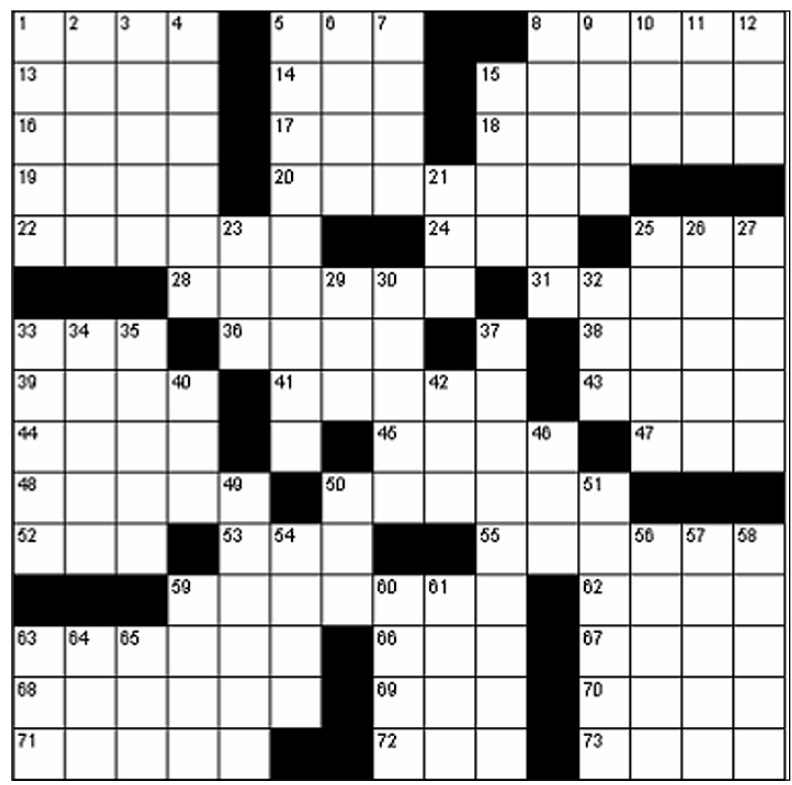
Penny-pinching
- 50

Peruvian currency “Nuevo ____”
- 51

Attack by airplanes with machine-gun fire
- 54

Imitates
- 56

Behavior pattern



- 57

Arctic, for example
- 58

Fourth letter of the Greek alpha-bet
- 59

Actor ____ Carvey
- 60

Norway’s largest city
- 61

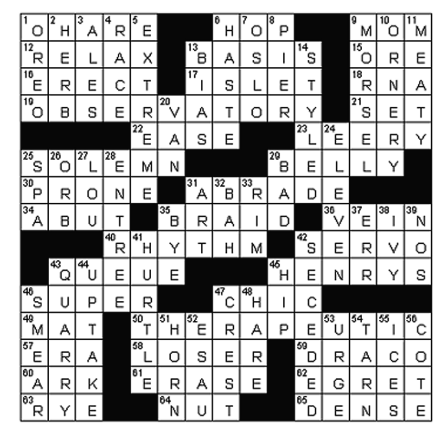
Yucatan Indian
- 63

New York time (abbr.)
- 64

II
- 65

Concealed

Answers 4.23



This Week In History

BY MICHAEL GIONFRIDDO
Beacon Correspondent

- Brought to you by the History Club.
- April 30
- 1945: Holed up in a bunker under his headquarters in Berlin, Adolf Hitler commits suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule and shooting himself in the head. Soon after, Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allied forces, ending Hitler’s dreams of a “1,000-year” Reich.
- May 1
- 1898: At Manila Bay in the Philippines, the U.S. Asiatic Squadron destroys the Spanish Pacific fleet in the first battle of the Spanish-American War. Nearly 400 Spanish sailors were killed and 10 Spanish warships wrecked or captured at the cost of only six Americans wounded.
- May 2
- 1933: Although accounts of an aquatic beast living in Scotland’s Loch Ness date back 1,500 years, the modern legend of the Loch Ness Monster is born when a sight-

- ing makes local news on May 2, 1933. The newspaper Inverness Courier related an account of a local couple who claimed to have seen “an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface.” The story of the “monster” (a moniker chosen by the Courier editor) became a media phenomenon, with London newspapers sending correspondents to Scotland and a circus offering a 20,000 pound sterling reward for capture of the beast.
- May 3
- 1952: A ski-modified U.S. Air Force C-47 piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph O. Fletcher of Oklahoma and Lieutenant Colonel William P. Benedict of California becomes the first aircraft to land on the North Pole. A moment later, Fletcher climbed out of the plane and walked to the exact geographic North Pole, probably the first person in history to do so.
- May 4
- 1979: Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party, is sworn in as Britain’s first female prime minister. The

- Oxford-educated chemist and lawyer was sworn in the day after the Conservatives won a 44-seat majority in general parliamentary elections.
- May 5
- 1821: Napoleon Bonaparte, the former French ruler who once ruled an empire that stretched across Europe, dies as a British prisoner on the remote island of Saint Helena in the southern Atlantic Ocean.
- May 6
- 1937: The airship Hindenburg, the largest dirigible ever built and the pride of Nazi Germany, bursts into flames upon touching its mooring mast in Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 36 passengers and crewmembers.
- Note: All information is provided by the History Channel and can be found at <http://www.history.com/tdih.do>
- Picture courtesy www.lochnessaccommodation.co.uk.

Cumberland

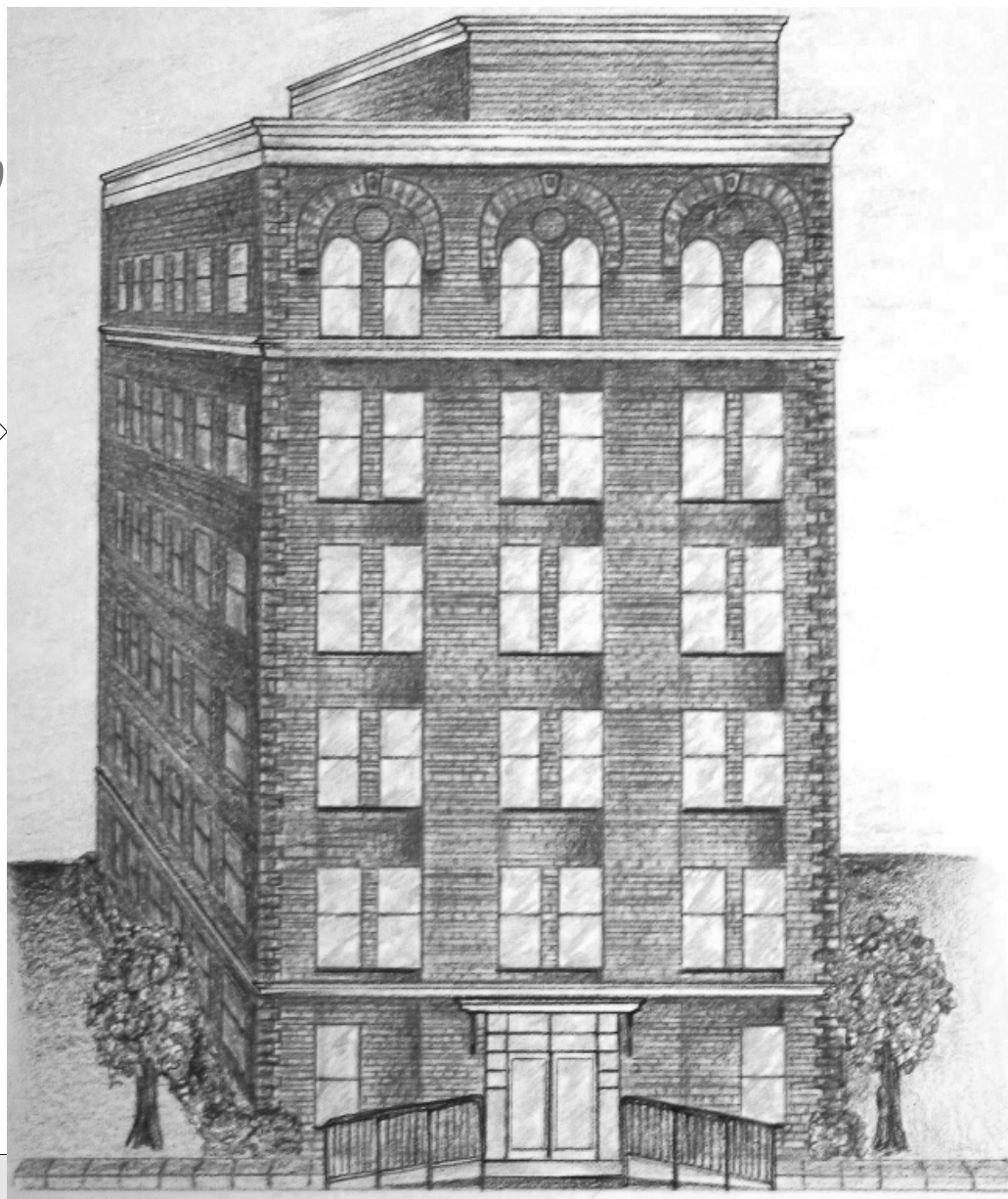
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Team addresses issue of public communication on Facebook

BY ADRIENNE RICHARDS

Beacon Asst. Opinion Editor

In February 2004, cyber communities were revolutionized by two Harvard sophomores, Mark Zuckerberg and Chris Hughes, who brought to life the world of Facebook.

On April 19, 2007 Ashli Rentzel, a member of the Wilkes women's soccer team, was dismissed for material she posted on Facebook.

Eighty-five percent of college students have a Facebook profile, and nationwide the line between appropriate and inappropriate material has become blurred as employers, professors, coaches, and other authorities have acknowledged that they not only scan Facebook posts, but make judgments about the content they view. Should there be an ethical standard Wilkes athletes have to meet?

Head women's soccer coach John Sumoski adopted the "no alcohol policy" for his team in spring 2005. But the "dry" policy was just the beginning for an overall public behavior standard set for women's soccer players, a team that has maintained the highest grade point average among athletic

teams at Wilkes. During the fall 2006 season Sumoski sent an e-mail to his players recommending they delete any "questionable material" from their profiles. Questionable material included references to alcohol use and abuse, sexually explicit references, foul language and provocative photographs.

The second e-mail was sent in January directed to specific individuals who had not yet complied with Sumoski's request. The third, and final e-mail, was sent in mid-April explaining that the material gave the team a bad name and was inappropriate.

"I sent an e-mail in the fall and then I talked to the captains and said, 'I would like you to go on Facebook and MySpace and talk to the individuals who are in jeopardy of getting in trouble,'" said Sumoski. "I was concerned about any inappropriate stuff that could possibly give our team a bad name."

On top of a dry season, members of the women's soccer team co-creates a team policy, collectively, at the beginning of each season. They are required to sign the contract in agreement. Attendance, study hours, drug use, and foul language are among the issues addressed in the team policies. As well, they have a team vision, "to be a

cohesive, emotionally intelligent, and nationally ranked NCAA Division III women's soccer program."

"On our team we believe in accountability, not just in athletics. Each player is held responsible and told upfront the team policy that we developed as a team," said team captain Briana Bertoni. "We developed our policy as a team, every part, even the consequences. We agree to these standards to make us a better team."

It should be understood that Rentzel was not excused from the team because of Facebook alone. There were compounding variables that led to her dismissal. Rentzel's exit took place just three days before the team's spring game day causing mixed emotions among players.

Sophomore Lauren Cirilli commented, "I was upset and shocked and don't understand why it was done. I didn't comply [with] or meet some of the deadlines."

Regardless of the exact reason for Rentzel leaving the team the issue of information an athlete has on Facebook continues to be a struggle between player and coach. Athletes walk a fine line as key figures representing the university. Prospective athletes

who check team rosters and then search players' names on Facebook and MySpace are not the only ones searching.

"There are employers out there hiring D1 and D3 athletes and [they] now have the ability to go on to cyber communities and google someone's name and an array of information comes forward. Everyone needs to be forewarned, not just student athletes," said Addy Malatesta, Director of Athletics.

Malatesta added that Wilkes athletes have an obligation to their teammates who do not support this particular behavior or do not want to be represented in such a way. "Taking that negative representation and expanding it creates dissension on teams. When it goes public you have an obligation to NCAA, future employers, alums, teammates, and the institution," she said.

Wilkes athletics representatives and members of the Student Life and Media (SLAM) committee are working together to review the guidelines for student conduct and address the issue of policy on cyber communities.

"This is part of college life, but it does have effects in the long run," Rentzel said. "I learned my lesson."

Changes in store for Wilkes football schedule

BY GERARD HETMAN

Beacon Staff Writer

As fans of the Wilkes University football program begin discussing the team's outlook for the 2007 season, they may be quite surprised at the slate of opponents that are set to challenge the Colonels as they set out to repeat as Middle Atlantic Conference champions and make their third straight trip to the NCAA playoffs.

Due to the off season exit of Juniata College, Moravian College and Susquehanna University from the MAC, each of the 8 teams left in the league needed to schedule 3 non-conference games to start their season. Wilkes will open their season with 3 non-conference games, all at home, against teams from the New Jersey Athletic Conference- William Paterson, Montclair State and Rowan. Following the Rowan game, the Colonels will enjoy a bye week before traveling to Lebanon Valley to begin competition against each of the 7 other MAC football programs.

Entering his 12th season at the helm of the Colonels, head coach Frank Sheptock views the new schedule as an excellent opportunity to continue to build Wilkes football on a regional and national scale. "As our program continues to develop, we look to challenge our players to rise to those expectations," Sheptock said of the quality of opponents on this year's schedule. "New



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Al Karaffa runs downs the field last season, but changes in the schedule will change what teams he and the rest of the team will face in the fall.

Jersey is a prime recruiting ground for us, and the ability to play more teams from that area will be of great benefit to us in recruiting."

Wilkes fans who have followed the team during the past several years will see two familiar names a bit earlier in the schedule this season. The Colonels have been eliminated from the NCAA playoffs each of the past two seasons by Rowan University, one of the nation's premiere programs at the Division III level. This season, Rowan joins the schedule in week 3 as a non-conference opponent. In addition, the annual Mayor's Cup game between Wilkes and rival King's College moves to week 7 from its normal

season-ending spot in week 10. The Colonels will also be tested late in the season as they close out their schedule against Delaware Valley and Widener, who have each been highly successful in recent seasons.

When asked, many Wilkes players are looking forward to this year's schedule. "A rivalry is still a rivalry, no matter when it's played," offensive lineman Mark Liberski said of the Mayor's Cup game. "The intensity will defiantly still be there."

Other players are also looking forward to the later weeks of the schedule. Fullback Paul Signora has numerous classmates from high school who are playing for Widener, and is excited to match up with them in the

regular season finale. "I'm good friends with a lot of those guys- many of us started to play more last year, and I'll look forward to our game against them," Signora says of the match up with Widener.

While the road to defending the conference championship and returning to the NCAA playoffs will be more challenging this season, Wilkes players and coaches believe they are up to the challenge. And with six home games on the slate for 2007, the schedule also offers an outstanding opportunity for fans to catch some great action at Ralston Field. So make sure to swing by and catch a game at Ralston- you certainly won't be disappointed.

| Commentary |

GAME OF THE WEEK

New York Mets v. Arizona Diamondbacks

National League hopefuls square off in the West

BY TIM SEIGFRIED

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

The New York Mets have their work cut out for them this season.

Coming off a season in which they were 97-65 and the heavy favorites to win the National League pennant, the Metropolitans have come into the current season with similar hopes.

Those hopes were dashed, however, as the NL East rival Atlanta Braves have proven to be a tougher opponent than originally thought, and subsequently have risen to the top of the division.

Things are only going to get more difficult for the Mets, however, as the young Florida Marlins and resurgent Philadelphia Phillies are making runs toward the top.

One of the biggest liabilities for the Mets this season has been pitching, as their top gun, Pedro Martinez, will be sidelined for most of the first part of the season as he recovers from shoulder surgery.

That leaves the brunt of the responsibility on Tom Glavine, the 41-year old veteran, to lead the pitching staff throughout the season.

Glavine is backed by veteran Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, as well as youngsters John Maine and Oliver Perez.

Maine has been stellar so far in this young season, going 3-0 with an ERA of 1.71.

Perez, on the other hand, has been good, but not great, posting a 2-2 record with an ERA of 3.86. The biggest problem of Perez this season has been his inability to locate

the plate, often walking several batters a game.

On the other side of the ball, the Mets have much less to worry about, as their offense is one of the most dynamic on all of baseball.

One of the reasons for that, of course, is leadoff hitter Jose Reyes, considered by most to be the most exciting player in the game.

In 21 games, Reyes has 5 triples and 13 stolen bases, both tops in the National League.

The middle of the lineup is home to Carlos Beltran, Carlos Delgado, and David Wright, one of the best 3-4-5 tandems in baseball.

One of the biggest surprises for the Mets this year is the offensive contribution of 40-year old Moises Alou, an off-season pickup to fill a void in the outfield.

Alou is leading the team in batting average with .397, and is contributing with 2 homeruns and 11 RBIs.

The Mets are certainly going to need their offense as they head to Arizona for a four game series.

The Diamondbacks, considered early contenders to win the NL West, have not lived up to the expectations, as they are currently third in their division.

A main reason for their success is a strong pitching staff that includes 2006 Cy Young winner Brandon Webb and multiple Cy Young winner and veteran pitcher Randy Johnson.

Johnson, acquired in a trade from the New York Yankees, struggled in his first start this season, giving up six earned runs in five innings of work.

Webb has fared much better, going 1-1 with a 3.60 ERA and 34 strikeouts in five starts this season.

The pitching of the D'Backs is solid, with veterans Doug Davis (2-2, 2.79) and Livan Hernandez (2-1, 3.94) rounding out the rotation, but their real talent lies in their young offense.

They are led by the offensive catalyst Eric Byrnes, whose blend of power and speed makes him a great addition to an offense.

Along with Byrnes, the infield duo of Orlando Hudson and Stephen Drew combine to form a great offensive and defensive combo for the club.



Offensively, the Diamondbacks don't win games with their power numbers, but more with speed and timely hitting, both of which they will need in taking on the power heavy New York Mets.

Arizona's strength lies in its pitching staff, but don't count out the young offense, who can do a lot to disrupt opposing pitchers.

The Pick:

Game 1: New York 4, Arizona 2

Game 2: Arizona 9, New York 3

Game 3: Arizona 3, New York 0

Game 4: New York 8, Arizona 7

Probable Starters (as of 4/29)

5/03

Tom Glavine (3-1, 2.80 ERA)

vs

Edgar Gonzalez (1-2, 4.45 ERA)

5/04

John Maine (3-0, 1.71)

vs

Randy Johnson (0-1, 10.80 ERA)

5/05

Orlando Hernandez (2-1, 2.53 ERA)

vs

Brandon Webb (1-1, 3.60 ERA)

5/06

Mike Pelfrey (0-2, 7.90 ERA)

vs

Livan Hernandez (2-1, 3.94 ERA)

Double Take

Steph examines the stats that truly matter...

BY STEPHANIE DEBALKO

Beacon A&E Editor

I really don't understand how they name baseball teams. Ordinarily, I couldn't care less about the inner-workings of "baseball society" or whatever you want to call it. But when I have to analyze the Game of the Week using my spectacular problem-solving skills, these inner-workings directly affect my life.

Ok, so I get where they got the Diamondbacks from—it's Arizona and there are snakes there I guess. But the New York Mets? What the heck is that about? Don't get me wrong, I love New York, but I'm thoroughly irritated by their choice of team name in this instance.

So, for the purposes of this, my last Double Take, I am going to rename the Mets the Loch Ness Monsters and the Diamondbacks will be the Sasquatches. How could I possibly pit two amazingly fascinating creatures against one another and expect one of them to win, you ask? Well, I admit it won't be easy, but we're going to try.

While the Sasquatches would have the on-land advantage, with the added benefit of being able to see over trees and stuff, I think the Loch Ness Monsters might end up taking it all in this case. Think about it—they have the opportunity to escape into the deep, murky waters and emerge when they so choose. And come on, the Sasquatches aren't going to be able to swim that fast, what with all that fur weighing them down.

It pains me to have to choose between these two marvelous mystical (and real) creatures, but I think the Loch Ness Monsters are going to win. So that means I think the Mets will win. But if they don't at least their competitors (the Sasquatches) are a worthy match.



SOFTBALL from PAGE 20

will we get them in? Because in the playoffs every team goes up a notch so you have to take advantage of everything that you can possibly get," said Matthews.

As the second seed in the playoffs, the Lady Colonels will maintain home field advantage until the championship round which could be a repeat of last season as the Lady Monarchs stand atop of the conference with an 11-1 record. The Lady Colonels finished with a solid 9-1 record at home this season making it tough on opponents to snatch a win in their backyard. If the Lady Colonels sweep Drew University in their last contest,

they will be at home against FDU in the first round this Friday. Now is the time for the players to put on their hard hats, because it's time for battle with the seniors leading the pack.

"As a senior, my ultimate goal is to win another championship; however, for now I just take it one game at a time," said Agresti.

It's playoff time, softball fans, and the Lady Colonels are back again for another date with the Freedom Conference Playoffs. The playoffs will begin Friday at 11 AM, and Saturday at 9AM at Ralston Field.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Wilkes senior Laurie Agresti is 30 strikeouts shy of becoming the fifth player in Division III history to reach the 1000 strikeout mark. "She is one of the best D-3 pitchers in the area and probably one of the best D-3 players in the country and she is on a level all by herself," said softball head coach Frank Matthews.



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

A Wilkes baseball player slides safely into second base in a game against Scranton.. The Colonels won the games 8-2 and 15-4 to advance to the Freedom Conference Championships, which begin on Saturday.

WEEKEND RECAPS

Golf

The Wilkes University golf team sits in sixth-place after the opening 27 holes of the 54-hole Freedom Conference Championship being held at Shawnee-on-the-Delaware Golf Club. The Colonels finished the day with a team score of 507. Scranton holds the lead after the opening day with a team score of 473. FDU-Florham is just one stroke behind at 474, while King's is third with a 492.

Men's Tennis

The Wilkes University men's tennis team saw their season come to a close on Saturday as all of their players were eliminated from the MASCAC Individual Championships being hosted at the Ralston Complex and Kirby Park.

Men's Baseball

Wilkes University needed just one win during Saturday's Freedom Conference baseball doubleheader against the University of Scranton to clinch a conference playoff berth. Instead, the Colonels won both ends of the twinbill by scores of 8-2 and 15-4. The two wins improved Wilkes to 20-10 overall and 10-8 in the conference and secured the number-four seed for the upcoming playoffs that will be held from May 4-6 in Quakertown. Scranton saw their records fall to 12-22 overall and 5-11 in the conference.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

23

The combined number of runs scored by the Colonels' baseball team in the twin bill against Scranton.

6

Place that the golf team was in after the first 27 holes of the championships.

970

Number of strikeouts for senior softball pitcher, Laurie Agresti as the team heads into the playoffs.

8

Total wins for the men's tennis team this season before they were eliminated in the playoffs.

Preview of the Week: Freedom Conference playoffs

Lady Colonels softball back for another playoff run

BY CARLTON HOLMES

Beacon Asst. Sports Editor

When there are no more regular season games remaining on the schedule, you know what time it is. Some teams experience the excitement of advancing to the post-season, but for others, it's time to clean out the lockers.

It's playoff time, ladies and gentleman, and now it's all about having the heart to separate the wheat from the chaff. As for the 2nd-seeded Lady Colonels softball team, this Friday marks the beginning of the postseason. Tighten your seatbelts, because it's going to be a wild ride as the Lady Colonels look to become Freedom Conference champions for a second consecutive season.

In the Lady Colonels playoff run last year, they swept through Lycoming in the first round beating the Lady Warriors 3-0. Freshman

Samantha Evanich, also known as last season's playoff MVP, led the way for the Lady Colonels with solid allowing only four hits from 25 batters. Evanich also posted 7 K's on the team's way to face cross town rival King's College in the second round.

As teams advance, the games are supposed to get tougher. But for the Lady Colonels last year, that wasn't the case. Wilkes smacked the lady Monarchs 7-1 at Ralston Field to secure a spot in the championship round. Centerfielder Nadine Taylor led the team piling up 2 RBIs on 3 hits, and also managed to step on home base twice for the Lady Colonels. Laurie Agresti led Wilkes on the mound with a monstrous 11 strikeouts, and frustrated a determined Lady Monarch team by giving up only 3 hits throughout the entire seven innings.

After taking a beating from the

Lady Colonels, King's regained its composure and won a 6-3 match-up with FDU just to lose it again in the championship round against the Lady Colonels.

The reigning champs came out victorious by a small margin beating the Lady Monarchs 4-3.

Head Coach Frank Matthews led his troops to the promised land last season, and afterward received Freedom Conference Coach of the Year for his efforts. Matthews will look to coach the Lady Colonels to another championship, and would truly cherish holding up that championship trophy, but he realizes that winning involves having an effective strategy.

"We have to maintain our pitching, because we have been getting excellent pitching, and our defense has been playing well. The key to the playoffs is going to be when we get runners in scoring position,

See BASEBALL page 19



The Beacon/Todd Weibel

Last season's Freedom Conference Tournament MVP Samantha Evanich will look to help guide her team to another championship.

Campus Calendar

All Week:

*Wilkes University Faculty Exhibition, Sordoni Art Gallery

Tuesday 5/1

*Men's baseball vs. PSU Berks - 2:00 PM
*2007 Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Grant Program, HSC Ballroom - 6:00 PM
*Jazz Orchestra Concert, DDD - 7:30 PM

Wednesday 5/2

*Tibetan Monk speaker, SLC - 7:00 PM

Thursday 5/3

*No events scheduled

Friday 5/4

*Finals

*Women's softball Freedom Conference Championships, Ralston Field - 11:00 AM

*Alumni Event, River-Crest Golf Club - 6:00 PM

*Chorus Concert, Kirby Center for the Performing Arts - 8:00 PM

Saturday 5/5

*Finals
*Women's softball Freedom Conference Championships, Ralston Field - 9:00 AM
*Flute Ensemble Concert, DDD - 1:00 PM
*Chorus Concert, Scranton Cultural Center - 8:00 PM

Sunday 5/6

*Finals

Monday 5/7

*Finals

Tuesday 5/8

*Finals

Wednesday 5/9

*Finals

Thursday 5/10

*Finals

Friday 5/11

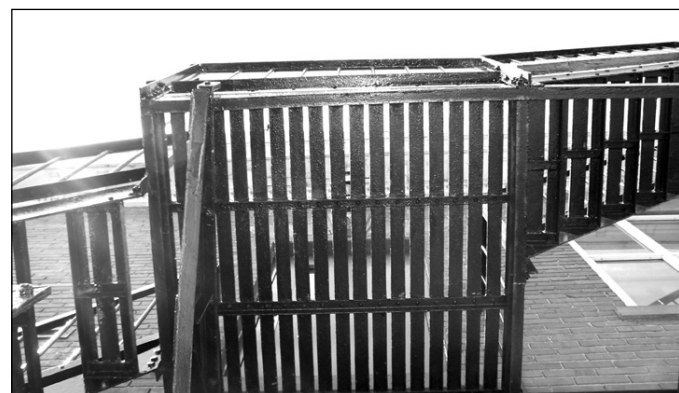
*Little Women: The Musical, DDD - 7:00 AM

Saturday 5/12

*2007 Academic Awards Ceremony, HSC Ballroom - 6:00 PM
*Parlor Games, DDD - 8:00 PM

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Congratulations to Pat Nardone who correctly identified last week's photo which was of a plaque outside of Stark closest to Evan Hall.