



AS WRESTLING'S POPULARITY SOARS, FEARS ARISE



TIMES LEADER/CHRIS ADAMAM

Action figures, rings, T-shirts, cutouts — and that's only a sampling of products pro wrestling fans gobble up. Clockwise from front, Christopher Brinzo, 12; Matthew Brinzo, 9; Seth Brinzo, 11; and Brett Millard, 7, show off their array of pro wrestling paraphernalia in their parents' Larksville home.

T.L. 1-30-00

A headlock on the soul?

By MARK FITZHENRY | markf@leader.net

The nation will get its first glimpse of First Union Arena tomorrow night. Live from Wilkes-Barre, broadcast across the country on cable television, it's World Championship Wrestling.

It's a sign of the times.

Or maybe it's a sign of the apocalypse.

Regardless, pro wrestling never has been so popular.

Jesse Ventura is a governor and Ric Flair wants to be. Mick Foley and Dwayne Johnson — aka Mankind and The Rock — have penned No. 1 bestsellers. The World Wrestling Federation sells stock on NASDAQ and has produced two platinum CDs of entrance themes. Performers are guests on late night shows, sitcoms, action shows, even "The View."

Anyone with basic cable — that's 80 percent of this market — can see pro wrestling

every night except Tuesday. On Monday, 13 percent of all people who watched television between 9 and 10 p.m. tuned in to WCW's "Monday Nitro" and the business' most popular program, the WWF's "Raw Is War."

Local stations, including cable, show 17 hours of original pro wrestling programs a week. For the February sweeps period,

See WRESTLE, Page 13A



POLITICAL FUTURE?: Whooooo! Ric Flair, possibly the future governor of North Carolina, is among the many action figures pro wrestling fans buy.

WRESTLING

Continued from 1A

WSWB Channel 38 has added Extreme Championship Wrestling's "Hardcore TV" to end a four-hour pro wrestling block to run Saturdays from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Tomorrow, local viewers can catch a glimpse of Ted Turner's WCW, which is struggling against chief rival WWF but still has one of cable TV's most popular shows. "Nitro" broadcasts live at the arena on TNT from 8-10 p.m.

Curious adults who haven't watched since childhood are in for a surprise. Pro wrestling's popularity has coincided with emphasis on soap-opera storylines, sex appeal, coarse language and violence. Headlocks don't cut it anymore; today's offense includes tables, metal chairs and stop signs.

Fans say they enjoy the plot twists, theatrics, well-endowed women and over-the-top characters that include a pimp, porn star, mobsters and Backstreet Boys wannabes. Consider it an ensemble drama with no reruns.

However, a nationally respected TV critic says the genre's popularity affirms the dumbing-down of America.

"These are times when low-brow, no-brain, even no-brow entertainment flourishes. Hence wrestling," Tom Shales wrote in Monday's Washington Post. "Our magnificent technological advances have zoomed us forward into a new primitive Neanderthal state of gruntings, groanings, clobberings and head-butts."

Robert Tuttle, a sociology professor at Wilkes University, said Shales' assessment is broad. But he adds: "You can parallel (pro wrestling) to watching Jerry Springer. Put them on a stage, they fight and people watch."

Indeed they do. Since the summer of 1996, either "Nitro" or "Raw" has been cable TV's most-watched show almost every week, with "Raw" winning the ratings battle for well more than a year. ("Nitro," normally a top-five program, is struggling and was ranked 11th in cable last week.)

Virtually every week, the most



Seth Brinzo, 11, of Larksville, shows off action figures of Badd Ass Billy Gunn and Road Dogg Jesse James. A sensor in the pro wrestlers' feet trigger the Titan Tron and play their entrance music.

popular programs on USA Network, TNT, The Nashville Network and UPN are pro wrestling shows. That's part of the reason WSWB is going with four hours of pro wrestling Saturday night, including a repeat of "WWF Smackdown!" from UPN's Thursday lineup.

Plus, Saturday night's TV audience is largely male, said Mike Yanuzzi, general manager of WOLF Channel 56 who also oversees programming for WSWB.

"A lot of advertisers are trying to reach the male demographic," Yanuzzi said. "It's a tough demographic to reach, but wrestling does reach it. And it reaches teens."

Oh yes, the teens. An assistant manager at KB Toys in the Wyoming Valley Mall said pro wrestlers probably are the top-selling action figures, gobbled up mostly by young teens.

Even though their shows contain adult themes, pro wrestling companies have produced a large array of toys including action figures, water bottles, talking dolls, and play accessories including a wheelbarrow, coffin and trashcan.

"They're always coming out with new stuff, which keeps it popular," said Corey Phillips, manager of the Toys R Us in Wilkes-Barre.

Debbie Millard's four children, ages 7 to 12, have more than 100 action figures in their Larksville home. All four dressed as pro wres-

ters for Halloween. Even Millard is into the act, as owner of numerous beanies and an Undertaker action figure.

Vito Perugino, 10, likes Stone Cold Steve Austin because of "how he uses foul language and smashes beer all the time."

Vito's father, Mark, of West Wyoming says he often tells Vito pro wrestling is staged and should not be mimicked. Ditto Millard, who said she also makes the children watch news shows that document how pro wrestling is acted out.

Some say the willingness to be accepted as show rather than sport has added viewers. Rich Gray, 18, of Wilkes-Barre declared that the WWF's performers are "amazing actors." That prompted his friend, Amanda Poeperling of Mountaintop, to say, "They should have WWF Emmys."

The Internet has capitalized on this approach. A Yahoo search for "pro wrestling news" yielded 160 sites that discuss storylines, wrestlers' contracts and rumors.

Thus, pro wrestling's appeal is greater and wider than ever, even if critics question its methods.

"With the increased violence and increased sexual nature, that's not a very good combination there," Tuttle said. "Hopefully the parents have the responsibility. The industry is going to do whatever sells."

Call Fitzhenry at 829-7218.

Wilkes University News

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WILKES UNIVERSITY SOCIOLOGY

HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS 7 NEW MEMBERS

Wilkes-Barre-- The Wilkes University chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, an international honor society in sociology, recently inducted 7 new members.

The sociology honor society is composed of students who attain an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.0 in sociology.

-MORE-

1ST ADD-- ALPHA KAPPA DELTA INDUCTEES

PHOTO:

Sitting from left: Michelle Tufaro, Warren, NJ; Kandyss Bau, Nanticoke; Evelyn Marshall, Lady Lake, FL and Tessa Lalonde, Wyalusing.

Standing from left: Dr. Michael S. Garr, Wilkes-Barre, Chairperson & Associate Professor of Sociology; Anita Zaboski, Sugar Notch; Erica Kramer, Barnesville; Kerrie Barney, Wilkes-Barre; Dr. Robert C. Tuttle, Kingston, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology; and Dr. James L. Merryman, Bear Creek, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of International Studies.



WILKES SOCIOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS MEMBERS — Wilkes University's chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, an international honor society in sociology, recently inducted seven new members. Seated, from left, are: Michelle Tufaro, Kandyss Bau, Evelyn Marshall and Tessa Lalonde. Standing: Dr. Michael S. Garr, Wilkes-Barre, chairperson & associate professor of Sociology; Anita Zaboski, Erica Kramor, Kerrie Barney, Dr. Robert C. Tuttle, associate professor of Sociology and Anthropology; and Dr. James L. Merryman, associate professor of Sociology and director of International Studies.

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West Siders receive honors at Wilkes University

P125PF

Several West Side residents recently received tenure, promotions or were honored with emeritus status at Wilkes University.

In the School of Business, Society and Public Policy, Dr. Robert C. Tuttle, Kingston, received tenure and was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of sociology.

In the School of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences tenure and promotions went to: Dr. Ann Marie Kolanowski, Kingston, promoted from associate professor to professor of nursing; Dr. Douglas J. Lynch, Kingston, associate professor of education, received tenure.

Receiving professor emeritus status was John G. Reese, of Kingston, professor of physical education and wrestling coach.

Wilkes University News

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Wilkes University Sociology Honor Society Inducts New Members

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The sociology honor society is composed of students who attain an overall grade point average (G.P.A.) of 3.0 and a G.P.A. of 3.0 in sociology.

PHOTO: Sitting from left to right; Kristin Graham, junior, Scranton; Sandra Brown, junior, East Stroudsburg; Ann Marie Grumblis, junior, Pringle; Nicole Mack, junior, Kingston; and Karen Kline, junior, Laureldale.

Standing from left to right; Dr. John Natzke, associate professor of sociology and anthropology; Lynda Lyons, senior, Scranton; Cheryl Stauffer, junior, Bethlehem; Joseph Lutkowski, Old Forge; Shannon Savakinas, junior, Shenandoah; Linda Tirpak, senior, Shavertown; Dennis Durkin, freshman, Scranton; Dr. Robert Tuttle, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.

Dr. Robert C. Tuttle

Dr. Robert C. Tuttle, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, has been at Wilkes University since 1989. Dr. Tuttle received his bachelor of arts degree in sociology from the University of Kansas and his master's degree and doctorate in sociology from Notre Dame.

Prior to coming to Wilkes, Dr. Tuttle taught sociology at Indiana University at South Bend.

Dr. Tuttle has written numerous articles on the economic situations of families. In addition, he has been published in several sociological journals, including Lifestyles: Journal of Family and Economic Issues.

Dr. Tuttle's memberships include the National Council on Family Relations and the American Sociological Association.

Dr. Tuttle currently resides in Kingston with his Margarita Rose.

TL 2/5/95

Teenage pregnancy



Mistl Grady gets her daughter Rebecca, 3 1/2, ready for bed.

Where do our children live?

■ 11,428 Luzerne County children — or 16.42 percent — lived in poverty in 1989.

■ Luzerne County was one of 10 counties with the highest number of children living in poverty, an increase of 20 percent between 1970 and 1989.

■ Luzerne County was one of 10 counties with the highest number of children placed in foster care or group homes because their parents abused or neglected them, an increase of 61 percent between 1980 and 1990.

Source: 1993 The State of the Child by Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children.

Teenage Pregnancies

	State	Luzerne County
Total reported pregnancies	211,203	4,375
Ages 15 and less	89	8
Ages 15-17	9,955	181
Ages 18-19	16,130	336

Pregnancy Facts:

■ Almost 13% of all pregnancies in the state were among women 19 and younger.

■ 12% of all pregnancies in Luzerne County were among women 19 and younger.

Source: State Department of Health.
Year 1992 latest statistics available for state.

Parenting center would help teens, says doctor

By JENNIFER LEARN

Times Leader Hazleton Bureau

HAZLETON — Fresh from another troubling case, pediatrician Robert Childs reaffirmed his plans to deal with teen pregnancy.

"I just dealt with a 15-year-old and her baby yesterday. She had no prenatal care and the baby was flaccid and limp," said the Hazleton pediatrician for 20 years. He's seen enough similar cases to want to devote this year

to helping pregnant Hazleton-area teenagers.

"There will be a great deal done with this issue over the course of the year," Childs said.

His solution: A parenting center in which pregnant teens can learn job skills, network and support each other and connect with available programs.

Also, some pregnant teenagers who don't attend school or visit a doctor may not know

about available programs at the Hazleton Area School District and Hazleton-St. Joseph Medical Center.

"I'm always worried these children will get lost in the cracks," Childs said. "With four obstetricians [in the Hazleton area] each dealing with different cases, services are disjointed."

Childs is still busy scouting for a location, funding and programs that could be offered at the center.

He is also trying to spread the word that teenage pregnancy is a problem here.

About 30 percent of the 600 babies born at Hazleton-St. Joseph Medical Center in 1993 belonged to unwed mothers. About 10 percent of the total number of births — or 60 — were births to teenagers.

"That's felt to be considerably better than the big cities, but we still have a problem," Childs said.

Programs offer guidance to teen parents

Here are two free instructional programs for pregnant Hazleton-area teenagers:

■ **"Parenting Program for Teen Parents,"** a 9-year-old program of classroom and counseling sessions run by Hazleton Area School District Supervisor of School Health Services Mary Spear along with a Luzerne Intermediate Unit teacher. The goal is to help pregnant students to stay in school and pursue careers. Students learn ways to wash, feed, discipline and find day care for their babies. They may also receive assistance locating job programs or colleges. For more information, call Spear at 459-3221.

■ **Healthy Beginning Plus,** a statewide program of medical and instructional services for low-income women at Hazleton-St. Joseph Medical Center, including medical care reimbursed by the Medical Assistance Program. For more information, call the hospital at 459-4444.

Moms

(Continued from Page 1A)

now 3½, to her mother and started using drugs. "I didn't know how to be a mother," she says. "I wanted my life."

The young mother illustrates a point made by conservative Wilkes-Barre attorney Bob Davison, who served as a special assistant to the secretaries of Labor and Housing and Urban Development in the Reagan administration. "How do you teach someone how it feels to go three months with two hours of sleep each night? How do you teach someone that having a baby means you won't have money to go out this weekend?"

Peer pressure

Christine Dougherty, 19, of Hazleton was 14 when she started having sex.

"My friends were doing it. I didn't want to be left out," she says. "There was a lot of peer pressure."

During her childhood, Christine's mother was unable to care for her and Christine never knew her father. For a time, she lived with her grandparents, then a friend, then a teacher.

Luzerne County Children and Youth Services intervened and placed her in a group home in Kingston, and later in a group home in Hazleton.

"That was really hard," she says. "I was used to being on my own. I wanted to be free."

At 15, she began dating a 21-year-old. At 16, she became pregnant by him while living in a group home.

"I was just young and naive and wanted someone to love me," she says. "It's not that I wanted to have a baby that early. I was on the pill. Maybe I missed one or something."

Parenthood frightened her, but it seemed to be the only answer. She refused to consider an abortion or adoption.

"I had to take responsibility for what I'd done," she says. "This was my baby and no one was going to take my baby away from me."

After son Billy was born, her relationship with his father turned violent and ended. Christine started dating someone else and when Billy was 14 months old, she became pregnant again despite using birth control.

Now, the 19-year-old mother of Billy, 2½, and Alexandria, 8 months, lives in a Hazleton apartment. Welfare pays the bills.

"I'm not proud to be on welfare, but what bothers me the most is that I have two different kids from two different fathers," she says.

She cradles her son who is sick with the flu. "Everyone thinks I just sit around watching TV all day," the teenager says. "No one has any idea what it's like to raise two kids. I work my butt off every day."

Seeking escape

In Luzerne County, babies

"I didn't try to get pregnant, but in my heart, I knew I wanted a baby. I knew it was selfish to bring a child into the world without being able to support it."

Misti Grady
20-year-old mom

born to teenage mothers accounted for 9.25 percent of all births in 1990, according to Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children.

Sometimes, teen pregnancy is an accident, the result of misusing birth control. Sometimes birth control is ignored. But sometimes, the pregnancy is intentional as young girls seek to escape from troubled homes.

"Many times, they are victims of abuse. They, in turn, want a child who will give unconditional love," says Cynthia Muroski, juvenile court attorney for Children and Youth.

"They don't want to love the baby; they want the baby to love them."

Muroski encounters many of these girls when Children and Youth places them in foster care because they cannot care for their babies by themselves.

"These kids need to be educated about the concept of responsibility," she says. "Having a child is not like having a pet, but these kids just don't understand that."

Davison says that message should come from parents.

"Too often, parents abdicate their responsibility — especially when their child becomes pregnant," he says. "They abdicate being with and helping their child at a time when their child needs parenting the most."

Therese Mulhern, pro-life director for the Catholic Diocese of Scranton, agrees. "I think a lot of parents are well-intentioned and model a good life for their teenagers," she says. "But everyone needs to be more vigilant."

From MTV to magazines, kids are exposed daily to media images of sexuality.

"If they're watching 'Melrose Place' and '90210,' those are very slick, very powerful images," she says.

Robert Tuttle, assistant professor of sociology at Wilkes University, says teen pregnancy is a symptom of other problems — poverty and lack of opportunities.

"Kids who don't see anything in the future for themselves view a baby as something they can say is theirs," he says.

Pregnant again

A year after the birth of Rebecca, Misti was pregnant again, despite using birth control. But this time, the teenager allowed her



TIMES LEADER PHOTOS/CLARK VAN ORDEN

Misti Grady, 20, plays with daughter Rebecca, 3 1/2, during a visit at Misti's home. Two years ago, a teenage Misti started using drugs and gave up custody of her child to her mother and Rebecca's father. Now, she says she's ready to be Rebecca's mother again.

baby to be adopted.

"I didn't want to bring another baby into the environment I was living in," she says. "But I thought, 'Why should I kill an innocent baby when I can make someone else's life happy?'"

She showed Rebecca her newborn sister through the nursery window. Then the adoptive parents took the infant away.

"They let me name her Carly Rae," she says. "I held her, but I shouldn't have done it. I made it harder on me."

Under the terms of the adop-

tion, Carly Rae will be told who her natural mother and sister are when she turns 18. In the meantime, the adoptive parents occasionally send Misti photos of Carly Rae.

"Rebecca says, 'That's my sister,' but I'm not sure she knows what a sister is," Misti says.

Last March, the young mother completed a drug rehabilitation program. Last week she had a job interview at a Hazleton department store. Now, she is trying to work out a custody agreement with her mother and Rebecca's fa-

ther, who share custody of Rebecca.

As a teenager, Misti gave up being a mom to hang out with a drug dealer. At 20, she says she's ready to be a responsible mother.

Misti doesn't know how she'll handle a teenage Rebecca 10 years from now. She pauses, remembering how her own mother had urged her not to have sex so young.

"The more she would tell me not to," she recalls, "the more I would do it."

“I didn't know how to be a mother”

TL
2/5/95

Teen moms struggle in adult reality

■ Local birth rate among teenagers soared from 1980 to 1990.

By CECE TODD

Times Leader Staff Writer

Like a playground merry-go-round, teenage pregnancy spins in a dizzying circle as one young person after another jumps on for the ride.

Girl has baby, drops out of school, goes on welfare. Baby becomes teenager, gets pregnant, goes on welfare...

kids having kids

Part 1 of 2

With its legacy of poverty and taxes, it's a ride that offers no amusement for the children who hop on board or the society that can't stop it.

■ One in 11 Luzerne County babies — a total of 351 — was born to a single teenage mother in 1990, according to Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children.

■ Births to single teens in the county nearly doubled from 1980 to 1990, ranking Luzerne County among the 10 highest in the state.

■ In Wilkes-Barre, the percentage of births to single teens increased 83 percent between 1980 and 1990.

The 1994 national Kids Count research shows that children born to teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of school, give birth out of wedlock, divorce and become dependent on welfare.

But government leaders are hoping to put a stop to the teen pregnancy-go-round. Republicans, in their Contract with America, hope to use their new control of Congress to discourage teen pregnancy by "prohibiting welfare to minor mothers."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich has touted orphanages as a way to care for children whose parents cannot support them.

President Clinton promised to



TIMES LEADER/CLARK VAN ORDEH

As daughter Rebecca, 3½, plays in their Hazleton home, Misti Grady, 20, says that at 16, she wasn't ready to be a mother.

wage war on teenage pregnancy. On Thursday, he nominated Henry Foster Jr. as surgeon general, putting him in charge of a national campaign against teenage pregnancy.

Conservative or liberal, adult or teenager, most agree the battle won't be easily fought.

"I didn't try to get pregnant, but in my heart, I knew I wanted a baby," says Misti Grady, 20, of Hazleton, who had her first child at 16. "I knew it was selfish to bring a child into the world without being able to support it."

Two years ago, Misti relinquished custody of her daughter Rebecca.

■ See MOMS, Page 12A

NEWS



TALK

■ Should welfare be denied to teen mothers?

Call the NewsTalk phone line at 829-7259 and give us your opinion.

More/Inside

■ Part of solution: Hazleton parenting center would help area teens, says pediatrician. /12A

■ Fuel for the fire: Nation's growing welfare rolls drive the debate about teenage pregnancy and the welfare cycle. /12A

Coming/Monday

Most days, Jane Grogan cherishes her job. She holds hands, boosts spirits. Grogan has a positive impact on young lives.

Some days, however, she wishes her job were obsolete. Grogan is executive director of Project M.O.M., a school-based outreach program for pregnant teenagers. It's one of more than 10 government and private agencies in Luzerne County providing money, education and counseling to teenage mothers.

FRIDAY
MAR 25 1994

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CPCB **BURRELLE'S** 21

Girls more likely to be abuse victims

By KELLY P. KISSEL
Associated Press Writer

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — State figures showing girls as the favorite target of child abusers could either mean that beating is gender-biased or that abuse against boys is under-reported, sociologists say.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center in Harrisburg said Thursday that 61.5 percent of the state's substantiated abuse cases had girls as targets. Females make up just 48.7 percent of the state's under-18 population.

Girls also were the targets of sexual abuse 76.5 percent of the time.

"It's very consistent with gender-focused abuse and discrimination and deprivation," said Ed Gondolf, a sociology professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"From what we understand of the dynamics of battering, and how that is often directed by a penchant for control of females ... it's a spillover from beating the wife," he said.

Robert Tuttle, an assistant professor of sociology at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, said that ignoring physical abuse of boys could account for the difference.

"We tend to notice injuries on girls more, thinking they wouldn't get them while playing," Tuttle said. "With boys, roughhouse play is more accepted as an excuse for bruises" and often isn't questioned.

The data center, using figures from the state welfare department, said the number of substantiated abuse cases was up 8 percent between 1991 and 1992, to 8,419 among 2.8 million Pennsylvanians under age 18.

"Anything over zero is alarming," said Janice McElroy, the executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women. The commission helped identify topics for the data center's report on "Taking Women into the 21st Century," for which the figures were compiled.

Also, 51 children were killed by

by abusers, the data center said. The report found, too, that 1,240 of the children abused in 1992 had been abused before.

McElroy wasn't sure whether the increase indicated an actual rise in abuse or just more reporting.

"We're finally to the point where we are talking about it and asking questions about it," McElroy said. "It was never reported and people in the family structure didn't want it reported. They were conditioned to lie."

The state figures said women aged 20-29 were the more likely to physically abuse their children. The sociologists said the numbers could be linked to mothers having the most contact with their children and, especially regarding the age, under stress because of financial or marital trouble.

Fathers aged 30-39 were the more likely to sexually abuse. The abusers' age were linked to the older ages of the children, primarily female.

"Sexual abuse tends to occur at a later age than physical abuse," Tuttle said.

The report said children were more likely to be abused by their parents (47.7 percent) than by others. Babysitters were responsible for the highest number of injuries to someone not related to the victims.

Of the 1,465 substantiated cases by babysitters in 1992, 85.3 percent of the abuse was sexual, the report said.

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Girls likelier to be victims of abuse

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STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania girls are 1.6 times as likely to be abuse victims than boys, and three times as likely to be sexually abused, according to state data.

Figures released by the state data center Thursday showed that 61.5 percent of the state's young abuse victims were female. In substantiated sexual abuse cases, the figure jumped to 76.5 percent.

The report also said children were more likely to be abused by their parents (47.7 percent) than by others. Babysitters were responsible for the highest number of injuries to someone not related to the victims.

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Girls more likely victims

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Data Shows Abuse Strikes Mostly Girls

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — State figures showing girls as the favorite target of child abusers could either mean that beating is gender-biased or that abuse against boys is under-reported, sociologists say.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center in Harrisburg said Thursday that 61.5 percent of the state's substantiated abuse cases had girls as targets. Females make up just 48.7 percent of the state's under-18 population.

Girls also were the targets of sexual abuse 76.5 percent of the time.

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Also, 51 children were killed by abusers in 1992, down from 60 in 1991. In 1990, 58 children were killed by abusers, the data center said. The report found, too, that 1,240 of the children abused in 1992 had been abused before.

McElroy wasn't sure whether the increase indicated an actual rise in abuse or just more reporting.

The state figures said women aged 20-29 were the more likely to physically abuse their children. The sociologists said the numbers could be linked to mothers having the most contact with their children and, especially regarding the age, under stress because of financial or marital trouble.

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Report: Girls more likely to be abused

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FRIDAY
MAR 25 1994

230

BURRELLE'S

2F

Girls Most Likely Abuse Victims

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Figures released by the state data center Thursday showed that 61.5 percent of the state's young abuse victims were female. In substantiated sexual abuse cases, the figure jumped to 76.5 percent.

"From what we understand of the dynamics of battering, and how that is often directed by a penchant for control of females ... it's a spillover from beating the wife," said Ed Gondolf, a sociology professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The report also said children were more likely to be abused by their parents (47.7 percent) than by others. Babysitters were responsible for the highest number of injuries to someone not related to the victims.

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McElroy wasn't sure whether the increase indicated an actual rise in abuse or just more reporting.

"We're finally to the point where we are talking about it and asking questions about it," McElroy said. "It was never reported and people in the family structure didn't want it reported. They were conditioned to lie."

The state figures said women aged 20-29 were the more likely to physically abuse their children. The sociologists said the numbers could be linked to mothers having the most contact with their children and, especially regarding the age, under stress because of financial or marital trouble.

Fathers aged 30-39 were the more likely to sexually

IRWIN, PA
DAILY 9,704FRIDAY
MAR 25 1994209 BURRELLE'S ZF
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Young girls more likely to suffer sexual abuse

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Fathers aged 30-39 were the more likely to sexually abuse. They were more likely to target older children, mostly female, the sociologists said.

EVENING BULLETIN

PROVIDENCE, R.I.
DAILY 100,500

MONDAY

FEB 21 1994

20
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PJ

End the pretense of college sports

203NW
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Historically, athletic directors and coaches exercised almost total control over athletic programs at many universities. In recent years, given many of the problems in college sports, college presidents have attempted to exert more control over their athletic programs.

This has resulted in controversial policies such as Proposition 48 (the raising of academic standards in order to receive an athletic scholarship), and cost-containment measures such as cutting back scholarships and coaching positions. Unfor-

ROBERT TUTTLE

tunately, these policies have sparked rebellion from coaches, and have done little to solve the problems in college sports.

Attempts at reform have been largely ineffective because "big-time" college sports and education are incompatible. College is supposed to be about educating people; the goal of sports at this level is to make money. These two goals are often in conflict.

Currently, coaches are rewarded for winning, not educating. There are few examples of college presidents who have retained coaches because their players did well academically. Thus coaches are primarily interested in getting the best players, not the best students.

Thus there are large numbers of athletes who are not prepared for

college, or are not interested in being in college. When this is combined with the time pressures that these student-athletes face, they do not perform well academically. In effect, college football and basketball are professional sports. Winning and making money are the major goals. Colleges serve as minor leagues for the NBA and NFL.

Players who are interested in pursuing a professional career are forced to attend college. Unfortunately, they are not paid for their work, even though colleges are making a great deal of money from their efforts. Although they receive scholarships, they are often unable to take or are uninterested in taking advantage of this opportunity.

If we really want to deal with some of the problems of college sports and get back to educating people, radical change is necessary. One possibility is to eliminate ath-

letic scholarships. Financial aid would be based solely on need and merit. Another possibility would be to reward those schools and coaches that educate people rather than those who win the most games.

However, given our society's obsession with winning, these possibilities seem unlikely. The final alternative is to admit what everyone already knows: that big-time college sports is a business, and should be treating it that way.

If the goal is to win and make money, eliminate the pretense that the athletes are there mainly for academic reasons and create a minor league system. Paying athletes is not wrong. But it is wrong when we pretend colleges are educating athletes when often they are not.

Dr. Robert C. Tuttle is an assistant professor of sociology at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He teaches a course on the sociology of sports.

DISPATCH

YORK, PA
DAILY 40.017

FRIDAY
MAR 25 1994

596 BURRELL'S ZV
CHECK

State data: Girls more likely to be victims of abuse

By KELLY P. KISSEL

The Associated Press *PARSF*

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percent.

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The report also said children were more likely to be abused by their parents (47.7 percent) than by others. Babysitters were responsible for the highest number of injuries to someone not re-

lated to the victim.

Of the 1,665 substantiated cases by babysitters in 1992, 85.3 percent of the abuse was sexual, the report said.

Robert Tuttle, an assistant professor of sociology at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, said under-reporting of abuse against boys could account for the difference in numbers.

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DOMINION POST

MORGANTOWN, WV
DAILY 20,600

FRIDAY
MAR 25 1994
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Girls more likely to be abused

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — State figures showing girls as the favorite target of child abusers could either mean that beating is gender-biased or that abuse against boys is under-reported, sociologists say.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center in Harrisburg said Thursday that 61.5 percent of the state's substantiated abuse cases had girls as targets. Females make up just 48.7 percent of the state's under-18 population.

Girls also were the targets of sexual abuse 76.5 percent of the time.

"It's very consistent with gender-focused abuse and discrimination and deprivation," said Ed Gondolf, a sociology professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

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MAR 25, 1994

DELAWARE COUNTY
DAILY TIMES
PRIMOS, PA

AM - 60,000

Abusers likely to target girls

By KELLY P. KISSEL
Of The Associated Press

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FRIDAY
MAR 25 1994

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P225FF
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RECORD-HERALD

WAYNESBORO, PA
DAILY 10,200

FRIDAY
MAR 25 1994

563
ced. BURRELLE'S ZX

Pa. girls are more likely to become abuse victims

1235F
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WILKES DAILY SUN

WILKES, PA.

DAILY 10 CENTS

WEDNESDAY

FEB 23 1994

BURRELLE'S

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robert c. tuttle

Be honest about college sports

203NW
The recent threatened boycott of college basketball games by the Black Coaches Association is the latest indication that there are serious problems in "big-time" college sports. This current controversy involves a battle between college presidents and athletic departments over control of college sports.

Historically, athletic directors and coaches exercised almost total control over athletic programs at many major universities. However, in recent years, given many of the problems in college sports, college presidents have attempted to exert more control over their athletic programs.

This has resulted in controversial policies such as Proposition 48 (the raising of academic standards in order to receive an athletic scholarship), and cost containment measures such as cutting back scholarships and coaching positions. Unfortunately, these policies have sparked rebellion from coaches, and have done little to solve the problems in college sports.

Attempts at reform have been largely ineffective because "big-time" college sports and education are incompatible. College is supposed to be about educating people; the goal of sports at this level is to

make money. These two goals are often in conflict.

In the current system, coaches are rewarded for winning, not for educating. Sadly, there are few examples of college presidents who have retained coaches because their players did well academically. Thus, coaches are primarily interested in getting the best players, not the best students.

Because of this, there are large numbers of athletes who are not prepared for college, or are not interested in being in college. When this is combined with the time pressures that these student-athletes face, they do not perform well academically.

In effect, college football and basketball are professional sports. Winning and making money are the major goals. Colleges serve as minor leagues for the NBA and NFL.

Players who are interested in pursuing a professional career are forced to attend college. Unfortunately, they are not paid for their work even though colleges are making a great deal of money from their efforts. Although they do receive scholarships, they are often unable or uninterested in taking advantage of this opportunity.

If we really want to deal with

some of the problems of college sports and get back to educating people, radical change is necessary.

One possibility is to eliminate athletic scholarships. Financial aid would be based solely on need and merit.

Another possibility would be to reward those schools and coaches who educate people rather than those who win the most games.

However, given our society's obsession with winning these possibilities seem unlikely.

The final alternative is to admit what everyone already knows; that big time college sports is a business, and start treating it that way.

If the goal is to win and make money, eliminate the pretense that the athletes are there mainly for academic reasons and create a minor league system. Paying athletes is not wrong. But it is wrong when we pretend colleges are educating athletes when often they are not.

Robert C. Tuttle is an assistant professor of sociology at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He teaches a course on the sociology of sports.

DICK JONES COMMUNICATIONS
P.O. Box 497
Dalton, PA 18414
(717) 563-1150
FAX: (717) 563-2806

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: Mark Davis, Public Relations Director
FROM: Steven Infanti
DATE: March 28, 1994

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This fax is 2 page(s) including this cover sheet.

I saw an op-ed in this morning's USA Today about college level sports. Thought there might be an opportunity to send an edited version of Dr. Tuttle's op-ed to them. We're at the maximum length right now.

You may notice the second sentence. I added in his "I teach a course on..." so the editors would keep in Wilkes-University at the bottom.

Could you get approval from Dr. Tuttle?

Stef,

I spoke w/Bob - he made correction
+ I faxed corrected copy back
to Steve
- Jeanie

To the editor:

"Big-time" college sports and education are incompatible [Stop Asking Coaches To Pretend]. ~~I teach a course on the sociology of sports and have noticed~~ *(are us)* a great deal of hypocrisy in college sports. College is supposed to be about educating people. However, the goal of sports at this level is to make money.

Coaches are rewarded for winning, not for educating students. There are very few examples of college presidents who have retained coaches because their players did well academically. Thus, coaches are primarily interested in getting the best players, not the best students.

It's time to admit what everyone already knows. Big time college sports is a business, and start treating it that way. Eliminate the pretense that the athletes are there mainly for academic reasons and create a minor league system. Paying athletes is not wrong. But, it is wrong when we pretend that colleges are educating athletes when often they are not.

Dr. Robert C. Tuttle
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA.
(717) 831-4044 (office)
(717) 283-5280 (home)

MONDAY
FEB 21 1994

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BURRELLE'S

PJ

End the pretense of college sports

203NW

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

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GRAND 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31

REAR 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31

FEB 14 1984

BURRELLE'S

College sports is big-time business

By Robert Tuttle
Scripps Howard News Service

203NW

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BECAUSE OF this, there are large numbers of athletes who are not prepared for college, or are not interested in being in college. When this is combined with the time pressures that these student-athletes face, they do not perform well academically.

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A-6 — Saturday, February 26, 1994

The Scranton Times

Stop Pretending College Sports Are Not About Making Money

By ROBERT C. TUTTLE

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Another possibility would be to reward those schools and coaches who educate people rather than those who win the most games. However, given our society's obsession with winning these possibilities seem unlikely.

The final alternative is to admit what everyone already knows, that big time college sports is a business, and start treating it that way. If the goal is to win and make money, eliminate the pretense that the athletes are there mainly for academic reasons and create a minor league system.

Paying athletes is not wrong. But, it is wrong when we pretend that colleges are educating athletes when often they are not.

ROBERT C. TUTTLE is an assistant professor of sociology/anthropology at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre.

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Forum

Today's Quote
Everyone can master a grief
but he that has it.
William Shakespeare

Face it, college athletes are semi-pro

By **ROBERT C. TUTTLE**
Special to the Citizens' Voice

In recent years, given many of the problems in college sports, college presidents have attempted to exert more control over their athletic programs. This has resulted in controversial policies such as Proposition 48 (the raising of academic standards in order to receive an athletic scholarship), and cost containment measures such as cutting back scholarships and coaching positions. Unfortunately, these policies have sparked rebellion from coaches, and have done little to solve the problems in college sports.



Attempts at reform have been largely ineffective because "big-time" college sports and education are incompatible. College is supposed to be about educating people; the goal of sports at this level is to make money. These two goals are often in conflict with each other.

In the current system, coaches are rewarded for winning, not for educating students. Sadly, there are very few examples of college presidents who have retained coaches because their players did well academically. Thus, coaches are primarily interested in getting the best players, not the best students. Because of this, there are large numbers of athletes who are not prepared for college, or are not inter-

ested in being in college. When this is combined with the time pressures that these student-athletes face, they do not perform well academically.

In effect, college football and basketball are professional sports. Winning and making money are the major goals. Colleges serve as minor leagues for the NBA and NFL. Players who are interested in pursuing a professional career are forced to attend college. Unfortunately, they are not paid for their work even though colleges are making a great deal of money from their efforts. Although they do receive scholarships, they are often unable or uninterested in taking advantage of this opportunity. If we really want to deal with some of the problems of college sports and get back to educating people, radical change is necessary. One possibility is to eliminate athletic scholarships. Financial aid would be based solely on need and merit. Another possibility would be to reward those schools and coaches who educate people rather than those who win the most games. However, given our society's obsession with winning these possibilities seem unlikely. The final alternative is to admit what everyone already knows, that big time college sports is a business, and start treating it that way. If the goal is to win and make money, eliminate the pretense that the athletes are there mainly for academic reasons and create a minor league system. Paying athletes is not wrong. But, it is wrong when we pretend that colleges are educating athletes when often they are not.

(Dr. Robert C. Tuttle is an assistant professor of sociology/anthropology at Wilkes University.)

Guest Commentary TL 2/11/74

The Great Contradiction: College 'student' athletes

By **ROBERT C. TUTTLE**

The recent threatened boycott of college basketball games by the Black Coaches Association is the latest indication that there are serious problems in "big-time" college sports.



Robert C. Tuttle

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However, in recent years, given many of the problems in college sports, college presidents have attempted to exert more control over their athletic programs.

This has resulted in controversial policies such as Proposition 48 (the raising of academic standards in order to receive an athletic scholarship), and cost containment measures such as cutting back scholarships and coaching positions.

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Robert C. Tuttle is assistant professor of sociology/anthropology at Wilkes University.

Hypocrisy In College Sports

by

Robert C. Tuttle



The recent threatened boycott of college basketball games by the Black Coaches Association is the latest indication that there are serious problems in "big-time" college sports. This current controversy involves a battle between college presidents and athletic departments over control of college sports. Historically, athletic directors and coaches exercised almost total control over athletic programs at many major universities. However, in recent years, given many of the problems in college sports, college presidents have attempted to exert more control over their athletic programs. This has resulted in controversial policies such as Proposition 48 (the raising of academic standards in order to receive an athletic scholarship), and cost containment measures such as cutting back scholarships and coaching positions. Unfortunately, these policies have sparked rebellion from coaches, and have done little to solve the problems in college sports.

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Dr. Robert C. Tuttle is an assistant professor of sociology/anthropology at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Are we abandoning traditional family — or is it abandoning us?

By **ROBERT TUTTLE**
and **MICHAEL GARR**
Special To The Citizens' Voice

Why have so many people decided to leave the traditional family and begin new families? Only 20 percent of all families constitute the traditional family of male breadwinner and female caretaker. Have we all decided to abandon the traditional family?

The diversity of the family today is not the product of free choices of individuals. How many of the other 80 percent of us have sat down and said to ourselves, "Gee, I'm dissatisfied with the traditional family. I think I need a new kind of family." Families are adaptations to social conditions. If there is a diversity of families, it simply means that society is changing. Therefore, the moral framework politicians and religious leaders often use to understand the family is mistaken. The issue is a social, economic and political one.

Congress last month sent President Bush a bill which would have required large employers to grant up to 12 weeks of emergency family and medical leave. Bush had threatened to veto the bill because it would impose too many restrictions on employers, and because of his belief that the problem should be solved by the private sector. That is, women should be staying home and taking care of the children.



Tuttle



Garr



How many women have asked themselves, "I think I will abandon the care of my children to strangers so that I can work?" Women work because of economic necessity. Today it takes two incomes to enjoy the standard of living to which we have become accustomed.

The President, by vetoing the family leave bill, only threatens to undermine the already weakened relationship between parents and their children. To blame parents, if they belong to a nontraditional family, is only to blame the victim.

If we are really serious about supporting

families, we must somehow help families perform their basic function — caring for dependent members. We need to find ways to make work life and family life more compatible.

When we rely solely on the private sector, programs tend to favor the already well-off, who need such programs least. Again, take child care. The current system relies mainly on the private sector and tax credits. People who are well-off are able to obtain quality child care and have the cost partially subsidized, while poorer families struggle to find quality child care.

**We need to find
ways to make
work life and
family life
more compatible.**

A family leave bill would help those families whose employers decline to offer these benefits. In addition, providing family leave will actually be more profitable for businesses because it would result in less employee turnover and a more productive work force. On the other hand, if we want one parent to stay home to care for children, some sort of family allowance would be necessary to encourage it.

If we choose to do nothing, we can expect that an increasing number of children, and a growing number of elderly who require care, will not be cared for adequately. Some would argue that other people's dependents are not their responsibility. But if they are not cared for, then the whole society suffers.

(Robert Tuttle is assistant professor of sociology and Michael Garr is associate professor of sociology and health administration at Wilkes University.)

CV 10-10-92

Family Values or the Value of Families?

by
Robert Tuttle, Assistant Professor of Sociology
and
Michael Garr, Associate Professor of Sociology and Health Administration

Why have so many people decided to leave the traditional family and begin new families? Only 20 percent of all families constitute the traditional family of male breadwinner and female caretaker. Have we all decided to abandon the traditional family?

The diversity of the family today is not the product of free choices of individuals. How many of the other 80 percent of us have sat down and said to ourselves, "Gee, I'm dissatisfied with the traditional family. I think I need a new kind of family." Families are adaptations to social conditions. If there is a diversity of families, it simply means that society is changing. Therefore, the moral framework politicians and religious leaders often use to understand the family is mistaken. The issue is a social, economic and political one.

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If we are really serious about supporting families, we must somehow help families perform their basic function--caring for dependent members. We need to find ways of making work life and family life more compatible.

When we rely solely on the private sector, programs tend to favor the already well-off, who need such programs least. Again, take child care. The current system relies mainly on the private sector and tax credits. The more well-off are able to obtain quality child care and have the cost partially subsidized, while poorer families struggle to find quality child care.

A family leave bill would help those families whose employers decline to offer these benefits. In addition, providing family leave will actually be more profitable for businesses because it would result in less employee turnover and a more productive work force. On the other hand, if we want one parent to stay home to care for children, some sort of family allowance would be necessary to encourage it.

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When your funny Valentine is having an affair, there are other problems

By JENNIFER LEARN

Times Leader Staff Writer

Some of your partners may be sharing their Valentine heart with more than you today.

Statistics show more people — especially women — are committing adultery as a blind method to cope with their problems.

Fortunately, some local psychologists say a good talk with your sweetheart may prevent adultery from creeping into your relationship.

"Adultery is more talked about today. It's pretty common today, so we need to look at it as a realistic possibility and what it signifies. Let's accept it as a potential problem and be open about it," says Michael Church, an associate psychology professor at King's College and a licensed psychologist with a private practice in Wilkes-Barre.

And what better day to talk about relationships than one designated for people in love?

"Valentine's Day is an absolutely wonderful time for people to look at a marriage or a significant relationship and make a commitment to continue working at it and making it a high priority," says Jeffrey Sternlieb, a licensed Forty Fort psychologist.

Church says adultery appears to be rising because more women are cheating.

"The gap between men and women is closing. Almost as many women as men today admit to having an affair," he says.

"Females are more independent today. They leave a relationship when they're not satisfied, partly because there are more career options.

Women are also traveling more and have more opportunities to meet people," he says.

Adultery by American women has increased since the rise of the feminist movement, says New York anthropologist Helen E. Fisher.

In the late '40s and '50s, the landmark Kinsey reports stated that 26 percent of more than 6,600 American women sampled had had an affair. By the time researcher Shere Hite had completed her trilogy of sex studies with the 1987 book "Women and Love," she reported that "70 percent" of women who had been married for five years had had an affair. Fisher says that most scholars put a more reliable figure for women today at 50 percent, while men, she says, have been steady cheaters at least since the 1940s, holding at 50 percent.

Because many people cheat in response to unresolved problems that accumulate over time, constant communication and working through problems is a good technique to prevent adultery, psychologists say.

"Most people do not go out looking for an affair. More often they are vulnerable at points and give in to temptation," Church says.

"Adultery is really a symptom of other problems. People must look inside themselves and sort through the ways they started falling apart.

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Hearts

(Continued from Page 1E)

It's not an easy process because it involves two people committed to personal growth," Sternlieb says.

Unfortunately, most people admit they need help after the forbidden trust has already occurred.

"Most people don't come to me and say, 'I'm about to do it, stop me.' They usually come to me and say, 'I'm in a mess,'" Church says.

Church recommends people take control of their own problems instead of blaming others.

"If you feel unhappy or out of control, rather than blame your partner, society or job, get yourself together," he says.

Making time for each other is yet another important way to deal with adultery in today's hectic society.

"Life is complicated today, so you have to schedule time together. The time will disappear if you don't grab it," Sternlieb says.

"A good relationship takes a lot of commitment, patience, tolerance, work and understanding. You have to work hard at these things. It's not easy," Church says.

Problems of the heart

Here are some of the common situations that are more likely to brew an affair, according to Church, Sternlieb and Robert Tuttle, an associate sociology professor at Wilkes University.

■ **Mounting financial or other stressful problems.**

"The frustration accumulates, and if it's not dealt with appropriately, very likely a wide gap will form as the stresses and strains of life wear away at it," Church says.

■ **Boredom.**

"Rather than deal with problems in multi-faceted way, someone's right there to show interest and it's a quick and easy way to increase stimulation — but in the short term," Church says.

■ **Anger and resentment toward a partner for whatever reasons.**

"People think anger not only justifies the act, but the act itself is often unconsciously directed at the partner because the person generally finds out it's a way of hurting a partner who they feel is responsible for the problem in the first place," Church says.

■ **A way to leave a relationship.**

"Some people are not likely to leave a bad relationship unless they have someone else waiting," Church says.

■ **A cry for help.**

"Whether it's an intimacy or sexual problem, an affair is often an attempt to say something's wrong here," Church says.

■ **Mid-life crises or other passage points of adult life.**

"Anytime in the adult life during a passage point a person is more likely to be desperate to look for quick, easy answers to their problem and look outside rather than inside," Church says.

■ **A new child in the family, especially during the first three years.**

"It has to do with her feeling less physically attractive, being busy with the baby and all the other problems relating to that," Tuttle says.

■ **Lack of self-respect within one or both partners.**

"It's really a reflection of greater individual maturity. People who are comfortable with themselves will be better able to listen to a partner. Those who are not taking care of themselves emotionally and physically are prime candidates to let their needs be taken care of by another," Sternlieb says.

— Jennifer Learn

WILKES NAMES ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: Wilkes University recently announced the following promotions to associate professor: Robert C. Tuttle, Kingston; Patricia B. Heaman, White Haven; Ann Marie Kolanowski, Kingston; Lawrence T. Kuhar, Old Forge; Linda M. Paul, Wilkes-Barre; Michael A. Steele, Wilkes-Barre; Terese M. Wignot, Jim Thorpe. Louise M. Berard, Conyngham, and J. Michael Case, Trucksville, received promotions to professor. All of the previous also received tenure. Douglas J. Lynch, Kingston, and Dale Bruns, Dallas, received tenure. John G. Reese, Kingston, and Roland C. Schmidt, Plains, received professor emeritus status.

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Wilkes University

News

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Sociology Honor Society Inducts New Members at Wilkes University

Wilkes-Barre- Wilkes University's chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the Sociology Honor Society, recently inducted nine new members.

AKD is the International Honor Society for sociology majors and minors carrying a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

Photo:

Sitting left to right: Natalie Keller, from Clarks Summit, Pa.; Timothy Reilly, from Philadelphia; Duane Ritter, from Muncy, Pa.; and Donald Hindmarsh, from Wyoming, Pa.

Standing left to right: Dr. John Natzke, associate professor, sociology/anthropology, from Clarks Summit, Pa.; Sue Davis, from West Hazleton, Pa.; Dr. Robert Tuttle, associate professor, sociology/anthropology, from Kingston, Pa.; and Michael Garr, associate professor of sociology/anthropology, from Wilkes-Barre.

Missing from photo: Kimberly Gensel, from Wilkes-Barre; Bhavika Patel, from Nazareth, Pa.; Linda Dolph, from Dickson City, Pa.; and Ryan Lopez, from Dallas, Pa.

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