



THE BEACON

Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766

Volume 51 Number 13

January, 28 1999

Design a new masthead

The Beacon is holding a contest for the best design of a masthead page design to be used as the weekly focal point for the voice of the students of Wilkes University. Design what you think The Beacon masthead should look like. The best design will appear on the cover of The Beacon for the rest of the year. The design must include The Beacon name and a picture of a beacon.

Photo by Derek Bleiler
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News

Wilkes TV covers
sports...

Page 2

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Features

Should the President be
impeached? See Roving
Reporter...

Page 6

Sports

Athletes of the month...

Page 7

Wilkes men fall to Lyco...

Page 8

It's time to head to higher grounds

By NICOLE METZGER
Beacon Staff Writer

For the past few weeks, the water level of the Susquehanna River has been rising. When this happens the entire valley worries.

With the increase of population in the Wyoming Valley, there is need for more streets, parking lots and buildings. This creates a problem for possible flooding. The water that is normally soaked into the ground is now being diverted into the Susquehanna River and its tributaries. This creates a need for a levee system.

Cities upstream from Wilkes-Barre implemented this system so they wouldn't be damaged from flooding. This forces cities downstream to also build this levee system.

Currently there has been talk about raising the levee and installing an inflatable dam to help reduce flood threats throughout the Susquehanna River Valley. If this levee system was installed prior to 1972, the disaster of the flood could have been greatly minimized.

The effects of the 1972 flood can still be seen on the Sterling Hotel. A water line is visible at the 17 foot mark which is nearly

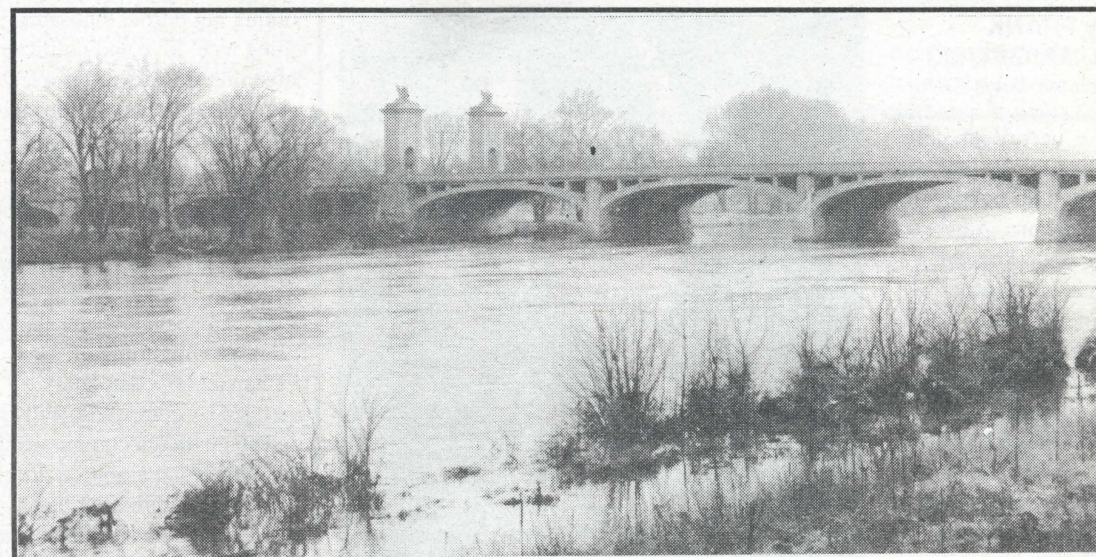


Photo by Frank Tomaszewski

As the Susquehanna River rises, Wilkes-Barre residents remain cautious.

the height of a traffic light. The flood of '72 caused many residents of the Wyoming Valley to lose businesses and personal belongings. Since then the levee system was constructed so this damage could never happen again.

In early 1996, the theory about the levee system was proven wrong. Combinations of large snow fall, warmer temperatures, and heavy rain

caused the river to rise to 1/2 foot below the levee.

Many residents of the local community, including Wilkes University students, volunteered throughout the night to performed tasks such as filling sand bags in hope that the water damage would be minimal.

Many of the students living on campus were evacuated to an uncomfortable College Misericordia gymnasium for the

night. By early morning the river crested at over 36 feet and students were afraid to return to campus. The river eventually returned to a safe level after most of the ice was melted. However there is always fear of another great flood.

There may never be a perfect solution to the possibility of the Susquehanna River flooding. So for now Mother Nature is the major deciding factor.

Wilkes grads enter world

By DEENA M. GUADAGNO
Special to The Beacon

Wilkes University president Dr. Christopher Breiseth conferred 63 graduate and 85 undergraduate degrees during the Annual Winter Commencement exercises in the Edward Darling Jr. Theater of the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts.

The event was kicked off with a formal greeting and introduction by Dr J. Michael Lennon.

Following the welcome by Lennon, vice president for academic affairs, Mary Hession, director of campus interfaith and volunteer services, provided the

invocation.

Opening greetings were provided by Gerald Moffatt, a 1963 Wilkes graduate and chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Bing Wong, chairperson of the Faculty Affairs Counsel; and Melanie Joyce Bell, a graduating senior from Vernon, New Jersey.

Bell, a former Miss America Pageant contestant, was among the accomplished graduates in the group. J.J. Fadden, a recipient of a bachelors degree in history was another of Wilkes' recognizable graduates as he was the first Colonel football player to earn Division III Defensive player of the Year honors in 1997.

Lieutenant Colonel Scott R. Papp, a professor/chairperson of the aerospace studies group at Wilkes, presented Christine Marie Anderson with the United States Air Force, Armed Forces Reserve Officer Appointment.

Dr. James Merryman, professor of sociology and anthropology, director of International studies, and coordinator of distance learning at Wilkes presented an address titled, "Come Together: The Unity of Knowledge, Work, and Humanity in the Next Century."

Merryman was awarded the 1998-1999 Carpenter Outstanding Teacher Award, presented annually to a member of the Wilkes faculty nominated

by his peers.

Congressman Paul Kanjorski and King's College president, Father James Lackenmier, were awarded honorary doctor of humane letters degrees.

Kanjorski was recognized for his leadership role and commitment to the economic development of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

After the commencement ceremonies, Brieseth, Kanjorski, distinguished faculty and graduates were invited to a luncheon in Rumors. The luncheon was catered by the Wilkes cafeteria staff.

The Beacon would like to offer congratulations to all of the graduates.

News

Reaching for a better build

By FRANK TOMASZEWSKI
Beacon News Editor

There's a highly energetic fad that has started up right here on campus. A new intramural aerobics club, which was formed in the beginning of October, is now starting to gain popularity.

The club is organized and taught by Physical Education instructor Antoinette Wingert. Any member of faculty, staff, or the student body are welcome to join the club. There is a \$20 per month fee for faculty and staff, but students can participate for no charge.

The classes are Monday through Friday at noon in the wrestling room at the Henry Gymnasium, and consist of a 45 minute workout. There is a short warm-up period followed by a low to medium impact aerobics session. Showers and lockers are provided on location for both men and women.

Individuals of all shapes and sizes are encouraged to attend.

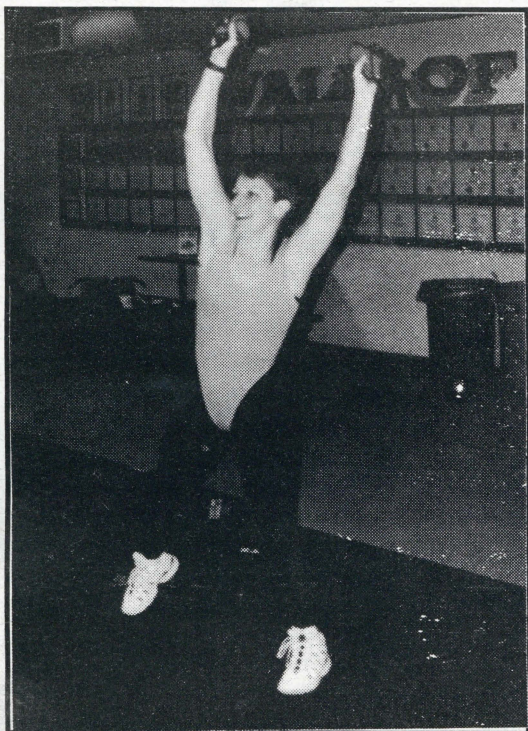


Photo By Frank Tomaszewski
Antoinette Wingert reaches for the sky during an afternoon aerobics session.

Aerobics is a great cardiovascular workout which even the average nutrition guru seems to overlook. "I would like to see more of the weight lifters in here because they sometimes leave cardiovascular exercise out", said Wingert.

Wingert encourages all who are interested to stop by the Martz center and join because swimsuit season is right around the corner.

Wilkes athletics goes cable

By SCOTT VEITH
Beacon Editor In Chief

It has happened to all of us at least a dozen of times. We flip through the channels and find nothing but purple dinosaurs telling us to love and politicians defending themselves in a legal suit. Perhaps Bruce Springsteen said it best when he said, "57 channels and nothing on."

What the Wilkes community fails to realize is that our fellow students have been working hard to produce, direct and manage an entire campus television station full of programming.

Channel 66, completely operated by competent Wilkes students with telecommunications experience and ambition provides hours of programming that highlights Wilkes students, faculty and campus events. These programs, including Wilkes Today and Colonels' Edge were created by Wilkes students for Wilkes students. These shows also offer interested students a chance to get their foot in the door in the telecommunications field.

The Thomas P. Shelburne Telecommunications Center is also equipped with state-of-the-art technology that aids these students in the production of their shows. Will Taylor, director of the Wilkes Today program, said "everything down there (in the Telecommunications center) is top of the line. We work hard to produce the shows and it's a lot of fun." Taylor has been involved with the production of Wilkes Today since his first semester at Wilkes and is optimistic about future plans for the station.

Taylor said, "We've still a lot to do before we consider our efforts a success. Students put in so many hours putting everything together. I just hope that everybody learns from the experience."

Colonels' Edge, a sports talk/highlight show created almost entirely by Taylor and Jason Evans, was recently nominated for a National Emmy Award. The duo, teamed with such contributors as Gary Spears, January Johnson and Doug Snyder have successfully brought the action of Wilkes athletics into the living rooms of thousands of local residents.

On a recent running of Wilkes Today, the band "Hairy Boatswain" was featured and put on a satisfactory performance. The band views their appearance on cable television as a chance for some local recognition.

John Leedock, the band's drummer said, "It was pretty cool of those guys (Channel 66) to have us

on the show. They did a good job with the show and it looked completely professional. These guys know what they are doing."

The telecommunications department is always open to suggestions, comments and contributions. Any student who is interested in learning more about the telecommunications field and other programs should contact Taylor at Ext. 5234. You can also contact Carl Brigido in the Shelburne Telecommunications center in the basement of the Learning Center.

Taylor said, "We could use a couple of extra hands to help out. We like to work with students who have similar interests and goals."

Cadets recognized

By PAULA J. GENTILMAN
Special to The Beacon

Wilkes University Air Force Reserve Officer Commissioning Corps (AFROTC) cadets Nick F. Cobb and Stephen B. Morrissey recently earned prestigious military scholarships in recognition of outstanding academic and military performance and potential for future leadership in the United States Air Force.

Cadet Third Class Nick F. Cobb of Carbondale, a sophomore Computer Information Systems major at Wilkes, is a recruiting officer with the AFROTC cadet wing. Cadet Cobb competed against twenty local college students to receive the "Commander's Leadership Scholarship," a three year monetary scholarship which also awards a monthly stipend.

Cadet Cobb is a member of Campus Interfaith, supports the Reserve Officer's Association, and

earned his Air Force Basic Parachute Badge this summer at the Air Force Academy.

Cadet Second Class Stephen B. Morrissey, a native of Wilkes-Barre, is a junior computer science major at Wilkes. He is the winner of a two year "In College Scholarship," and will also receive a monthly allowance.

Cadet Morrissey was a winner in a competition with local students for the AFROTC cadet national scholarship.

Cadet Morrissey is a member of the AFROTC Cadet Corps, a member of the Guard, Arnold Air Society, and is the WEB Administrator for AFROTC Detachment 752. He is currently a Cadet Corps Computer Communications Officer.

The AFROTC is in its 100th year at Wilkes. The program prepares college students for the challenge of being an active officer in the United States Air Force. Upon graduation, a cadet becomes a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, and is assigned to leadership roles and tasks in hundreds of careers including pilots, navigators, missile security, intelligence and operations. In addition to the Wilkes University students, the AFROTC program recruits students from twelve colleges and universities throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

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Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor guidelines:

Letters should include your name and phone number. They should be no longer than 250 words and must be signed in order to be printed. Letters will be printed in the order they are received and must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. on the Tuesday prior to publication. Letters can be sent via electronic mail, intercampus mail or dropped off at *The Beacon* office.

Dear Editor:

Many Americans were outraged when President Clinton looked straight into the camera and with an air of complete sincerity lied about an affair with Monica Lewinsky. Some of these same Americans will applaud the attack on Iraq and accept as gospel truths the lies the government and media give them as reasons for the attack.

The attack on Iraq has nothing to do with weapons of mass destruction (several countries have them), violation of U.N. resolutions (Israel has violated many of them), Saddam Hussein being a brutal dictator (the United States brought Pinochet to power), democracy or human rights. It has everything to do with oil and the desire of the United States to weaken all independent-minded states in the region so that the large multinational oil companies can dominate the oil reserves of the Middle East. War also serves as a showcase for the new high technology weapons produced by military contractors. Some rationale must be given for the bloated military budgets and the tremendous government subsidy to high technology industry, which has supported the capitalist system since World War 2. Since the Soviet Union dissolved, new enemies must be found or created.

The sanctions against Iraq have killed over two million Iraqis - five hundred of them children. The use of depleted uranium in the Persian Gulf War has caused an alarming increase in cancers and other diseases in Iraq. I think it is very ironic and sad that conservative Republicans, who are always complaining about immorality and lack of family values, find nothing at all immoral about what has been done to the Iraqi people for the benefit of the oil companies.

Sincerely,
Gary Sudborough
13824 Fidler Ave.
Bellflower, Ca. 90706

Dear Editor,

Let us hope that this message will reach all of the peoples of the world so that they may be forewarned. The first of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse has been riding for the last two decades "as a conqueror bent on conquest" (Rev. 6:2). A much acclaimed spiritual leader is busily trying to form a one-world religion under his leadership.

Once this leader ends or completes his mission, the next three horsemen will ride out in painfully swift sequence and the effect of their missions will leave fifteen hundred million people dead or dying. Neither our religious, nor our civil leaders are warning our people of these upcoming tragedies of world war, by total surprise.

The Scripture reveals that 25% of the earth's population will be killed and this would mean that over fifty million Americans will be killed or die of starvation and disease. The war between the nations is not the only war that is looming in the near future, for when this spiritual leader completes his mission of a one-world religion, under his leadership, he will bring those who oppose his doctrines under persecution just as the case during the dark and middle ages.

He will also be powerful enough to exercise a high level of control over the one-world government already existing - the United Nations. Since the final countdown for our Lord's return is obviously beginning, I pray that those who are following any leadership other than Christ, the Scriptures, and the Holy Spirit will burn the billions of books, magazines, and newspapers that keep them in bondage to the "Synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 2:9 & 3:9) and the churches of those who are of the spirit of the Antichrist. (1 Jn. 2:18, 2:22, 4:3, & 2 Jn. 1:7). Please contact the editor of your paper who has printed this article and thank him or her for they have become one of the workers of the final harvest. (Mat. 9:38)

Sincerely,
Bro. Raymont Senn
1141 8th Ave.
Pleasant Grove, AL 35127

The new regime

An editorial

Over the past two years, *The Beacon* has improved by leaps and bounds. Our editors, managers, writers, photographers and contributors have devoted countless hours to make our student newspaper the best it can be. Unfortunately, we recently took a step in the wrong direction.

Our December 3 issue communicated several ideas that may have implied that we, as a staff, do not get the credit that we deserve. It may have also implied that our hard work goes unappreciated. In essence, a reader could have very easily interpreted parts of the issue as a ploy to make readers feel sorry for us.

Well, this issue of *The Beacon* is the first of the new regime. We still plan to work hard. We still plan to bring you the news that we feel you want to read. We still want you to understand how hard we work.

What we will no longer do is try to make you feel sorry for us. We will no longer attempt to persuade you to refrain from writing the letters to the editor of which we are all so fond. We will no longer try to make ourselves out as a group of elitist that deserve respect.

The Beacon is a paper of the students, for the students and by the students. We are looking for editors, writers, managers and photographers who are committed to bringing the students of Wilkes University the news no matter how many hours of hard work and dedication it takes. Our goal this semester, and for as long as there is *The Beacon*, is to bring you what you need to know and what you want to read.

The catch is, we need your help. If you like what you see, let us know. If you hate what you see, let us know. If you want to help, let us know.

Your opinions really do matter.

Pharmacy Applications available

Fall 1999 School of Pharmacy applications are available
for pick-up in Stark 115.

The deadline for applications is February 1, 1999.

The Beacon

Box 111, Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766
(717)-408-5903 or 408-2962
Fax (717)-408-5902

E-mail: beacon@wilkes1.wilkes.edu

Editor in Chief-Scott Veith
News Editor-Frank Tomaszewski
Features Editor-Joanna Gaydos
Sports Editor-Corey Yanoshak
Copy Editor/Distribution Manager-David DiMartino
Copy Editor-Larry Lewis
Web Manager-John Bruett
Business Manager-Sandie Kramer
Subscriptions Manager-Vanessa Scheffner
Advisor-Joe Valenti

The Beacon is the student newspaper of Wilkes University. All editorial decisions are made by the student editors. All opinions expressed within *The Beacon* are those of the author or source quoted. *The Beacon* office is located on the second floor of Hollenback Hall.

Background Info.

- Established in 1947
- Awarded by the Association Scholastic Press Association
- Printed on Thursdays, with exceptions for school holidays and final exams
- 1,100 to 2,500 papers are distributed weekly
- We're on the World Wide Web:

<http://wilkes1.wilkes.edu/~beacon/index.html>

No experience
necessary!

The Beacon

is accepting applications for editorial staff positions for the spring semester. Staff scholarships, work study money and credit are available.

Positions include:

Photo Editor-(Scholarship) Responsible for all photography related duties.

MAC Computer Technician-(Work Study)-MAC computer support.

Copy Editor-(Credit)-Enter and edit articles submitted for publication in *The Beacon*.

Staff Writers-(Credit)-Report on events both on and off campus.

Photographers-(Credit)-Take pictures of campus related events.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Major/Year:

Position(s) of interest:

Have you previously served on *The Beacon* staff? If so, if what capacity?

What do you feel you can offer *The Beacon*?

What changes would you implement to improve *The Beacon*?

Previous or related experience in position you are applying for:

Other qualities you feel make you a strong candidate for the position:

Applications must be dropped off at *The Beacon* office, Hollenback Hall, 2nd Floor. If more space is needed to answer the questions please attach a separate sheet. No experience necessary. If available attach no more than two tear sheets to this form.

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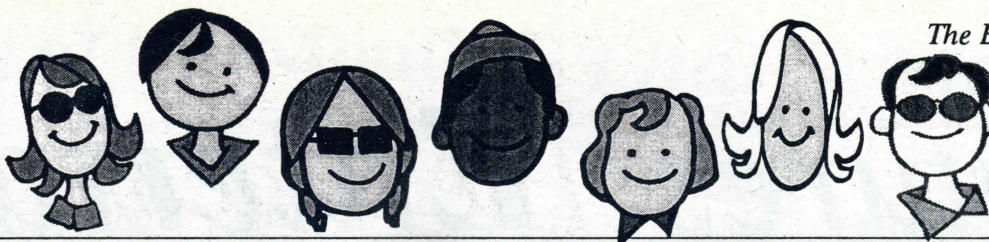
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Features



You should know: New figures on STD's in America

Research Triangle Park, NC.-- The American Social Health Association has unveiled a new estimate of annual cases of sexually transmitted diseases in the United States. A panel of leading health experts convened by the ASHA on behalf of the Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that 15.3 million new cases of STD's occurred in the U.S. in 1996, a 25% increase over the 12 million previously estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1998. This update is the first to apply a rigorous methodology to calculate the annual STD incidence overall since the CDC estimate.

As the primary private, nonprofit advocate of national STD prevention, ASHA remains steadfast in delivering

state of the art information to the public toward better understanding, detection and treatment of STD's and has spearheaded the development of an improved method for weighing the strength of the available data.

This 25% increase of new cases diagnosed is now primarily indicative of better detection methods available that have provided a more accurate count. Improved detection techniques have made it possible to identify asymptomatic infections that were undercounted in the past. The asymptomatic infections can be diagnosed only through testing, and routine screening programs are not yet widespread. "Additionally," says Linda L. Alexander, Ph. D. ASHA President and CEO, "social stigma and lack of public awareness concerning STD's

often inhibit frank discussion between sexual partners and between patients and health care providers about STD risk and the need for testing."

Despite these advances in detection, along with improved treatment and prevention, STD rates in the United States remain the highest of any country in the industrialized world. U.S. populations at greatest risk are teens (who are more likely to have multiple partners and otherwise engage in risky behaviors), women (due to physiological and social disadvantages) and their infants and ethnic minorities who are poor and lack access to medical care.

While most STD's (other than HIV infection) are not usually life threatening, a deadly aspect of STD's is their link to HIV. Because STD infection

greatly increases the risk of both potentially acquiring and spreading the virus that causes AIDS, improved prevention, screening and outreach efforts and further research on detection and treatment methods are necessary to slow the HIV epidemic. If left untreated, some STD's can also lead to infertility, pregnancy complications and cervical cancer. Prevention of STD's is pivotal to reducing the severe reproductive consequences of these diseases and the sexual spread of HIV infection.

The update of numbers for human papilloma virus (HPV) and trichomoniasis-- two STD's which showed sharply elevated numbers as compared with other STD's-- are attributed to these improved detection and estimation methods. According to the

national ASHA panel of experts, more than two thirds of the 15.3 million STD's that occurred in 1996 were due to increases in the estimates of these two STD's.

Dr. Alexander affirms that "to make significant inroads in the quest to eliminate STD's, we as a nation must break the silence, dispel the ignorance and destigmatize the topics." Breaking the silence about sexually transmitted disease is key to the success of this and any STD prevention campaigns.

The general public, health care providers and media are encouraged to call the National STD Hotline at: 800/227-8922 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday and the 24 hour National AIDS Hotline at: 800/342-2437 for more information about STD's.

Needed: 900 students for summer jobs

Glacier Park, MT.-- College students across the country are being sought for summer jobs at one of the nation's most spectacular parks.

Glacier National Park, located in the northwest corner of Montana, is best known for its rugged mountain wilderness and historic lodges. Glacier Park, Inc., is looking for students to fill 900 summer jobs in all segments of the hotel and hospitality areas.

Jobs include a large variety of hotel positions, such as hotel front desk clerks, room attendants, cooks, wait persons and tour guides/drivers. Many students also participate in the guest entertainment, which included American Cabaret theatre, another Glacier Park tradition. Employees are needed

this year from early June to late September. The company is especially interested in students majoring in hotel/restaurant management, culinary arts, travel/tourism, accounting and music and theatre.

The seven hotels and lodges and the famous red vintage tour coaches operate throughout the 1.4 million acres of Glacier National Park. Since the early 1900's, it has been a tradition of college students from across the country to work at the park while enjoying a number of outdoor activities such as hiking, riding and fishing in one of the nation's last examples of pristine wilderness.

According to Dae Scott, president of Glacier Park, Inc., the opportunity to work at Glacier

affords students educational opportunities in more ways than one.

"You can get much needed job-related experience in a variety of areas, which can help with a career later on," says Scott. "But you can also get life experience education by working in spectacular natural surroundings and through developing a camaraderie with co-workers who come from around the world."

For details on jobs and salaries, call Glacier Park, Inc., at (602) 207-2620, write Glacier Park, Inc., 1850 North Central, Phoenix, AZ, 85077-0924 or visit their Web site at www.gpihr.com.

Glacier Park, Inc., is a subsidiary of Restaura, which is one of the nation's leading dining services contractors.

Health and Nutrition New Lyme disease vaccine

by Judith Sheldon

The good news is that the Federal Food and Drug Administration has approved the first vaccine against Lyme disease, Lymrix, which is produced by SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals of Philadelphia and which became available this month. However, the FDA had indicated that there are some reservations about the new vaccine.

One of the reservations is that it will not protect everyone who is vaccinated, even when the full course of vaccinations-- which involves three injections over a year-- is completed, protection is likely to be no more than 78 percent. (The recommended course calls for the second injection to take place one month after the first. The third injection should be given 12 months after the first one.)

Another reservation is who is being vaccinated. No safety data was collected for the persons with rheumatoid arthritis or certain heart conditions, since they were not in the manufacturers trial, nor were children under 15 or adults over 70. But even with this limited approval, it makes sense that those people between 15 and 70 who live or work in wooded or grassy areas where there are likely to be disease carrying ticks, should contact their doctors about starting the course of injections. It's also important for those who plan to vacation in grassy or wooded areas to begin the injection process as well. Also, because Lyme disease infections seem to be seasonal, anyone planning a vacation or trip to a possibly ineffective area should note that during experimental trials, the first two shots were given between January and April to make the most effective use of protection before the peak summer travel season.

The FDA also advises that even if you take the vaccine, you should continue standard prevention methods, which includes using tick repellent, wearing protective clothing and examining for and removing any ticks that might have gotten onto your skin.

The FDA also notes that so far no one can be sure how long the vaccine's protection lasts, or if booster shots might be needed.

Provided by King Features Synd., Inc.

EXPANDING our horizons

The Features section of *The Beacon* is looking for new ideas. If you are interested in writing a column or writing articles for this section, bring your story ideas and/or columns to *The Beacon* office on the second floor of Hollenback Hall. Come to our meetings every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. or call *The Beacon* office at Ext. 5903 (ask for Joanna). All ideas are welcome and will be considered for print.

Earn a credit!

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January 28, 1999

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Beacon Athletes of the Month

The Beacon Athletes of the Month is a decision-making process that has been implemented by this year's Beacon staff. The athletes considered for this honor are recommended to the editorial staff by Beacon staff writers, editors, photographers and correspondents.

The ultimate decision of who earns the Athlete of the Month award is decided upon by Corey Yanoshak, Beacon Sports Editor and the Wilkes University sports information department.

All statistics are courtesy of John Seitszinger, director, sports information.

Katie Watkins: Basketball

Katie Watkins has been named The Beacon Female Athlete of the Month for December for her outstanding play in 1998.

Watkins, a junior, averaged 13.8 points per game throughout December while pulling in 7.2 rebounds per game.

The Hanover Area graduate has scored 215 points so far this season, maintaining her hold as the team's leading scorer. Watkins has connected on 72 shots from the field, while totaling 113 rebounds for the 5-9 Lady Colonels who are 16-6 in the Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom League.

Watkins' high this season came in January against Delaware Valley College when coach Karen Haag and her team needed her most. With second-leading scorer Jill Ronkowski out for the season, Watkins netted a season-high 26 points in the losing effort. Watkins has also pulled in 13 rebounds in two different games.

Watkins had guided her team to a 2-3 record during December, including consecutive wins over Lycoming, 58-50, and Curry College, 100-46.

Ronkowski was also considered for the award, as were Tracy Zaykoski and Steph Huber.



Katie Watkins earned The Beacon Female Athlete of the Month for December.

Photo by Frank Tomaszewski

Heath Fleisher: Wrestling

Wilkes' wrestler Heath Fleisher has been named The Beacon Male Athlete of the Month for December. Before the semester break, Fleisher stood at 9-1 overall, with a 5-1 record in dual meets.

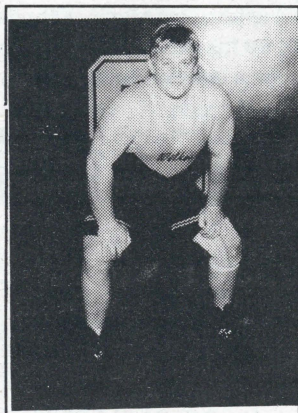
The Colonels, led by coach Al Zellner, stand at an impressive 13-3 in 1998/99, their final year before joining the Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom League. After a disappointing campaign in 1997/98, which saw the team forfeit numerous weight classes, the team is off to a great start in 1998/99.

After a year off for a medical

redshirt, Fleisher is back at heavyweight for his junior year. Fleisher currently stands at 14-4 on the year, while leading his team in wins by fall with 11.

Fleisher recorded an outstanding seven pins throughout December in leading Wilkes to its extremely strong start as the grapplers took an undefeated record into the new year.

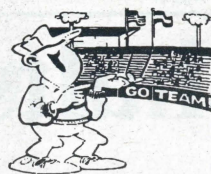
Other considerations for Male Athlete of the Month were basketball players Chad Fabian, Scott Cleveland and Brian Gryboski. Wrestlers John Conte and Duane Ritter were also considered.



Heath Fleisher earned The Beacon Male Athlete of the Month for December.

Photo courtesy Times Leader

That's what I say



with SCOTT VEITH

The New York Jets will win next year's Super Bowl. There are no two ways about it. Bill Parcells is one of the greatest coaches in the history of the National Football League and he's unstoppable. He, his coaching staff, his squad's offensive power and the spirit of New York will lead the Jets to their first Super Bowl title in 31 years. Next year is the Year of the Jet. I guarantee it.

Just a few short seasons ago, the Jets were 1-15. They had nobody. Quarterback Vinny Testaverde was busy throwing interceptions in Cleveland. Center Kevin Mawae was wasting his time with the Seahawks. Wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson was still in college. So were place kicker John Hall, wide receivers Alex Van Dyke and Dedrick Ward and offensive lineman John Fabiani. The Jets were nobodies and they had nobody.

What the Jets did have were some unproven defensive players in linebacker Mo Lewis and defensive back Aaron Glenn, and grizzled veterans like quarterback Boomer Esiason filling up roster spots. Head coach Rich Kotite was basically a loser. Even Jet fans had no hope, as they donned T-shirts that implied that J.E.T.S. stood for Just End The Season.

Enter Bill Parcells.

Parcells, a Jersey boy in his own right and a self-proclaimed sports trivia genius, knew all about the Jets' woes. He knew about the difficulty of coaching in New York, having coached the Giants in the 80's. He also knew exactly how to turn a team around, as he took the Giants of the 80's and the Patriots of the 90's from doormats to conference champs in three seasons.

Parcells has the ability to turn athletes into stars and stars into superstars. He did it with Joe Morris and Phil Simms with the Giants. He did it with Drew Bledsoe, Willie Clay and Willie McGinnist in New England. He's doing it now with Wayne Cherbet, Anthony Pleasant and Matt O'Dwyer. He'll continue to do it next year with Van Dyke, Scott Frost and Ray Mickens.

Parcells also has the legions of players that will follow him wherever he goes. Guys like John "Jumbo" Elliot, Pepper Johnson, Curtis Martin, Dave Meggett and Ray Lucas have played for Parcells with at least two organizations. They are with him in New York now, and they understand his philosophies. They all agree that he is the best at what he does and they are willing to contribute to the cause in any way they can. These are the kind of guys that turn nobodies into contenders and contenders into champions.

Added to all of this are the veterans that just want a chance to play for a legend like Parcells before they hang up their cleats. These guys want a ring and they feel that Parcells and the Jets are their easiest way to get that ring. Guys like Mawae, Keith Byars and Bryan Cox have been around the block and have played for some less than superb teams. They are ready to win and they want to win under Bill Parcells.

The very first move that the Jets made after their season was killed by the Denver Broncos in the American Football Conference (AFC) title game was to re-sign their entire coaching staff.

Their next move was to re-sign all of the guys from the practice squad that helped the team out this past season. This was all accomplished the day after their season was over. What does this translate to? Parcells, owner Leon Hess and the Jets' front office don't mess around.

Next year will be Parcells' third as head coach of the Jets. The team has ditched their god-awful green uniforms in favor of a replica of the uni's the whole squad wore in their first championship season of 1969. The fan support is greater than it has been since the late-60's.

This team has the potential to be the best team in the history of the state of New York. Sorry Giant fans, but the Big Blue Wrecking Crew won't stack up against these Green Monsters. "The Big Tuna" gets better with age.

This squad cannot be stopped. In fact, I would be shocked if they lost more than two games next season. They have the talent, the coaches, the attitude and the fan base to be the best team in football. They are the best and that's that.

The ideas expressed in this column are generated through everyday interaction with Beacon readers and members of the Wilkes community.

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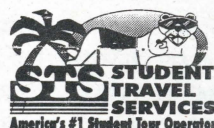
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Sports

Lycoming halts men's nine-game streak

By **COREY YANOSHAKE**
Beacon Sports Editor

The Lycoming men's basketball team ended the Colonels nine-game win streak with an 88-78 defeat on their home turf. The Colonels held a nine-point advantage at the half, before suffering a 13-3 run to start the second half, which the Warriors used to tie the game and eventually take the lead.

Brian Gryboski poured in a season-high 21 points with nine rebounds. Chad Fabian added 18 points for the Colonels, while Scott Cleveland and Dave Januzzi each added 11.

After suffering their first loss of the year to conference foe Allentown way back in early December, the men's basketball team has cruised to a 14-2 overall record, 5-2 in the MAC Freedom League. Their nine-game win streak has included winning the championship of the Ramada Plaza Hotel Colonel Classic and four consecutive conference

wins.

The women's team, on the other hand, has suffered at the hands of the injury bug. With Angela Collins still nursing a bad knee, the Lady Colonels saw second-leading scorer Jill Ronkowski go down for the season at Delaware Valley last week. Tracy Zaykoski, the team's third leading scorer, is not playing at full strength, but is able to hit the floor. The women stand at 5-9 on the year, 2-6 in league play.

"Jill's been really solid for us in the past three years," said Lady Colonel coach Karen Haag. "It was a big hit to us, but everybody needs to step up and chip in."

The men's guard duo of Januzzi and Fabian have paced the Colonels so far as they are just getting into the thick of league-play. The pair has combined for 87 treys this season.

Their most recent victory came against Scranton when the host Colonels stopped the Royals' 10-game winning streak with a 67-58 win. A 66-61 win over cross-town rival King's College, a 76-50 win

over Drew and a 74-64 win against Delaware Valley have put the Colonels in first place in the Freedom League.

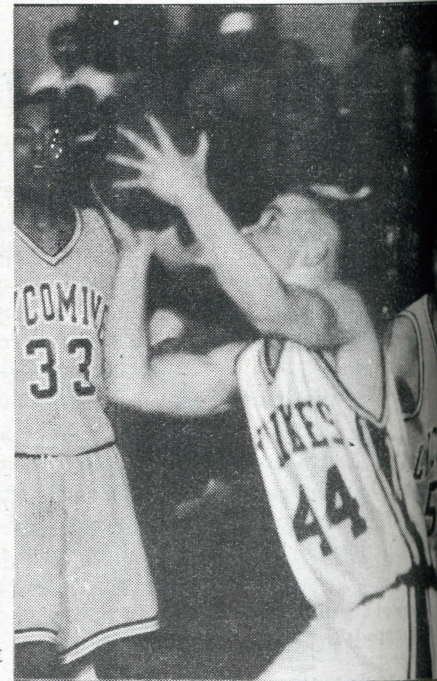
The women's team rode a two-game winning streak before that fateful game with Delaware Valley, who handed the Lady Colonels an 87-76 defeat. Scranton then stepped up to beat Wilkes, 70-54. Their two-game win streak was highlighted by a 70-47 win over Drew and a 73-65 defeat of Albright.

Watkins has been the top-scorer for the Lady Colonels and will need even more support with Ronkowski, fourth in the conference in 3-point shooting, injured. Steph Huber has played a solid inside game for the women, pulling down 98 rebounds this season, 61 on the defensive end. Robyn Mendygral, a high school teammate of Watkins, has chipped in with a team-high 28 assists.

For the men, Gryboski has hauled in 106 boards for the year, while approaching the 1,000-point mark for his career. Freshman John Boylan, a transfer from Lock Haven,

came in with high expectations and has seen increasing action throughout the semester at point guard. Cleveland, a senior, continues his strong play, totaling 95 rebounds with 151 points.

Jen Lojewski has assumed the role as the Lady Colonels top outside-shooter with Ronkowski out. Lojewski has connected on nine treys, while shooting 80 percent from the foul line. Zaykoski has been a solid 24-28 from the charity stripe, while Lauren Elwood has connected on 29 free throws.



Beacon file photo

Guard Dave Januzzi attempts a shot in recent action against Lycoming.

Wrestlers continue stellar start

By **COREY YANOSHAKE**
Beacon Sports Editor

Hosting their final meet of the season, Wilkes put its 12-2 record on the line with Albright and Ursinus in a tri-match at the Henry Gymnasium.

Wilkes ran over Albright 39-3, but lost a heart-breaker to Ursinus, 20-19. Al Zellner's Colonels now stand at 13-3 on the season and will travel to Boston College on Saturday for a tri-meet with Boston College and Franklin and Marshall University.

The 197-pounder, Chris Shannon, remained undefeated on the year at 8-0. Shannon received a forfeit against Albright, while putting on a take-down clinic in a 21-7 win against Ursinus' Floyd Pugh.

Heavyweight Heath Fleisher added to his team-leading 11 pins with a 43 second fall against Mark Rodkey of Ursinus. Fleisher's win against Albright gave him 14 on the year.

John Conte improved his team-lead in wins with his 17th of the year at 141 pounds.

Newcomer to the team, Jarrad Max, recorded a win against Albright at 184.

At 165 pounds, captain Duane Ritter added two wins to his record, including a first-match pin in the Ursinus match, over Brent Dodulik.

Wilkes held a 19-17 advantage going into the final match, but Steve Tornambe fell victim to Donny Asper's 17th win and the Colonels were upended in a fight to the finish.

Junior transfer Corey Luce lost a rugged overtime match, while Eli

Shutt dropped a tough two-point decision against Ursinus.

Freshman Chad Rovner earned a win at 174 against Albright, while Scott Henshaw and Shutt won by forfeit. Henshaw wrestled at 149 pounds.

Kevin Baker and Joe Smith suffered losses early in the Ursinus match, which saw the team lead change hands four times, with the Colonels up by as much as 16-7 mid-way through the match.

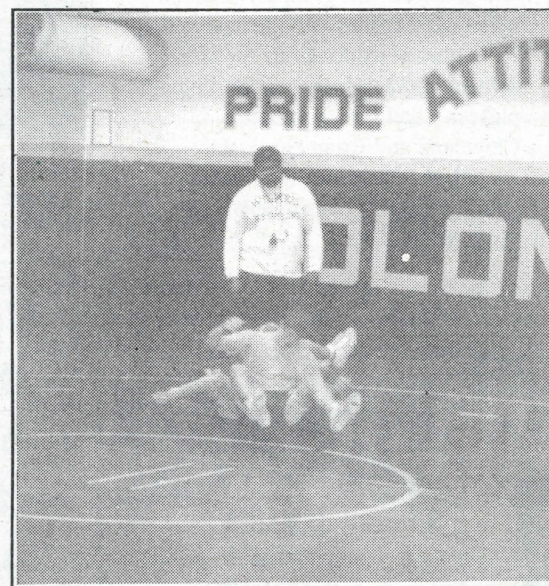


Photo by J.J. Fadden

Head wrestling coach Al Zellner looks over his wrestlers at practice.

Women lose

The Lycoming women's basketball team defeated the Lady Colonels in the first game of the double-header, 62-51.

Katie Watkins continued to sparkle for the Lady Colonels as she recorded her sixth consecutive double-double. Watkins hauled in 18 rebounds, while tallying a team-high 17 points.

Trailing by 16, Wilkes made a valiant comeback to take a two-point lead late in the game, but saw it vanish as Lycoming scored seven straight points for the win.

Lauren Elwood tossed 15 points in the losing effort.

January 30

- *Men's Basketball @FDU-Madison, 2:00 p.m.
- *Women's Basketball vs FDU-Madison, 2:00 p.m.
- *Wrestling @Boston College w/Franklin & Marshall, 12:00 p.m.

January 31

- *Super Bowl @ Miami, Denver vs Atlanta

February 1

- *Women's Basketball @ Misericordia, 7:00 p.m.

February 3

- *Men's Basketball vs Allentown, 8:00 p.m.
- *Women's basketball vs Allentown, 6:00 p.m.

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