

A newspaper for the students by the students

# The Beacon

Wilkes University

HAPPY  
ST. PATTY'S  
DAY

March 16, 2000

www.wilkes.edu

Volume 52 Issue 19

Send us your  
comments  
E-mail us at:  
[beacon@wilkes.edu](mailto:beacon@wilkes.edu)

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## Weather

Thurs.- Rain	Hi-55 F Lo 25F
Fri.- Cloudy	Hi-37 F Lo-36 F
Sat.- Cloudy	Hi-48 F Lo-28 F
Sun.- Showers	Hi-52 F Lo-30 F

## News

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## Conte earns All-American status

BY COREY YANOSHAKE  
Beacon Managing Editor

Wilkes University wrestler John Conte has achieved the status that few have ever received. While students left for Spring Break trips, Conte was busy wrestling his way to the distinction of All-American at the NCAA Division III Wrestling Tournament.

After losing his first bout of the tournament, Conte wrestled back to win his next four matches to put him in the consolation finals.

Injured knee and all, Conte battled Wartburg's Ben Kritsonis for third place, falling 17-12 in the high-powered match.

"My knee gives out when I shoot, so I haven't practiced," said Conte before leaving for the national tournament. "I just need to keep the pressure on and break him down."

Coach Al Zellner was optimistic about Conte's knee injury, hoping it would help the 133-pound Middle Atlantic Conference champion wrestle better on the mat, "his biggest weakness."

"We hope the knee injury is a blessing. John needs to get better on the mat to win a championship," said Zellner before the tourney. "He can take anybody down. Hopefully we can turn this into a positive and work on his weaknesses."

Conte lost his first match to

Norwich's Bob Ulrich 3-1, who bowed out two matches later after getting pinned twice. The Wilkes wrestler then went on to defeat The College of New Jersey's Dan Flouders 8-7, Ithaca's Tom Hall 3-2, Coe's Mike Corsiglia 6-2, and Augsburg's John Marchette 5-1. Conte defeated Hall earlier in the season at Ithaca.

"I'm very pleased with the season," added Conte, who expressed disappointment after learning of Ulrich's two falls.

Conte was also named an Academic All-American, as was fellow grappler Duane Ritter.

Conte's 36-3 season includes tournament titles at the Kutztown Invitational and York Invitational, along with the MAC title.

"We've expected Conte to do this for a long time," complimented Zellner. "We're most pleased because he doesn't have a history of doing well with pain."

Conte finished the regular season with just one loss, which came during the team's next-to-last dual meet to the University of Scranton's John Cavey, whom Conte defeated in the semis of the MAC's.

The NCAA Tournament was held in Ada, Ohio, on the campus of Ohio Northern University. Joining Conte and Zellner were assistant coach Jason Kobyrinch and trainer Brian Kephart.

## Students 'storm' to assist Floyd victims

BY LEIGH ANN HAMILTON  
Beacon Staff Writer

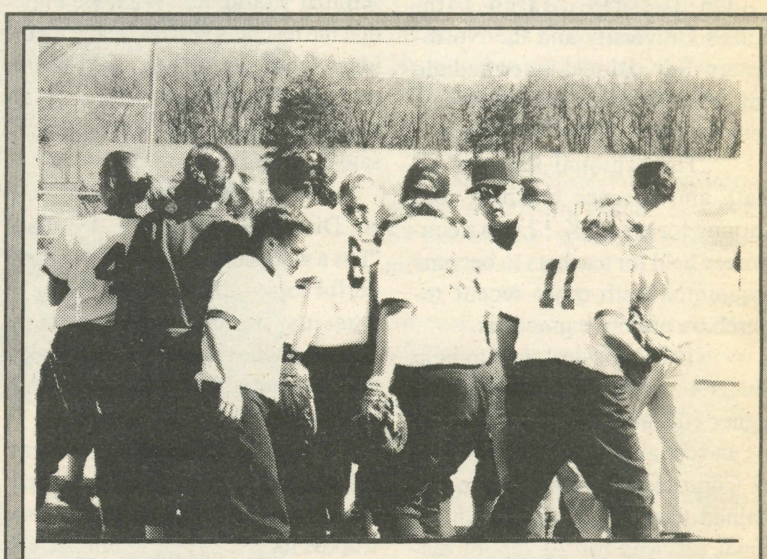
Sixteen Wilkes University students returned safely from the Alternative Spring Break Trip to Greenville, NC on Saturday March 11th. The trip was organized by Mary Hession, Director of Volunteer Services and Campus Interfaith.

Students brought in \$10,000 through various fundraisers in an effort to lend a week of their time to help the victims of Hurricane Floyd. A 'Mile of Quarters', 'Chocolate Sale', and 'T-shirt Sale' were a suf-

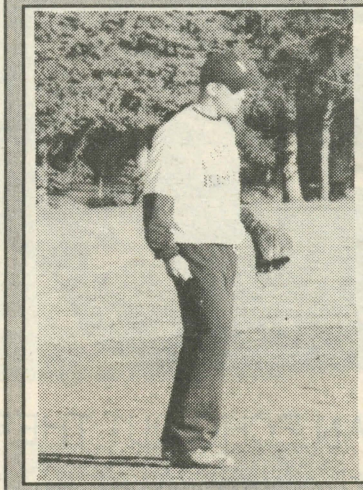
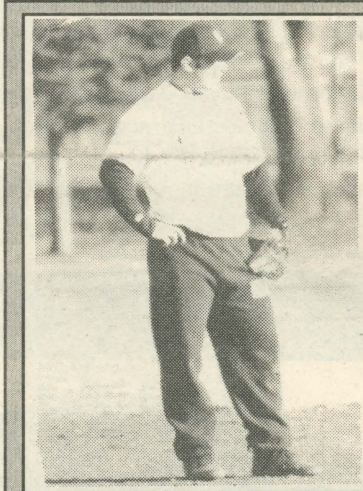
ficient way to accumulate funding for the trip. Hurricane Floyd raised the Tar River and expanded its flooding range eight miles wide.

Students from Wilkes University in affiliation with the United Methodist Recovery Team saved a couple \$15,000 in labor and repair. They also helped repair 'Picaso', Pit County Aids Service Organization.

Sophomore Colleen Cole said, "We learned various construction skills, how to work as a team, and became really good friends throughout the week." My favorite part about the trip was boating as a



**Softball looks to improve on last year's finish, preview pg. 10**



**Nick D'Amico (top) and Scott Garger will man the left-side of the infield as the baseball team readies for King's College, preview pg. 12**

group and knowing that we did a good thing for people in need." The students slept in a church, went swimming, and spent a day at Moorhead City Beach for rest and relaxation.

It was also a time for reflection and establishing meaningful friendships. Hession's favorite part of the week was, "being able to give students the opportunity to do what they did," she said.

The recovery effort will not be finished for years but Hession and the students were glad to have the opportunity to lend their assistance to the victims of Hurricane Floyd.



## Science conference held for teachers

BY LEIGH ANN HAMILTON  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

On Tuesday, March 14th, Wilkes University and the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 sponsored the Northeast Network for Science Conference.

The regional seminar on Math and Science teaching and learning for grades K-12 was a conference held for teachers to become acquainted with more recent research on effective practices.

NEIU 19 is designed to help educators build partnerships with higher education, business, industry, and community agencies. NEIU 19 Coordinator, David Reese explained that, "We provide educational services for 20 school districts throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania."

Additionally, he continued "we provide communication services for Luzerne County School Districts".

The day began with registration, welcome, and a Keynote Address from Dr. Kip Bollinger, of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. There was an Action Lab in Martz Gymnasium, followed by several workshop sessions and focus groups.

Assistant Executive Director of NEIU 19, Vita Forlenza portrayed what the optimal outcome for this seminar would be. "What we hope that the teachers will do is take these ideas from the seminar and share with their colleagues ideas that might enhance their curriculum" said Forlenza.

NEIU 19 Curriculum Specialist, Diane Shanley contended that, "It is a wonderful program. It is wonderful to see all the enthusiasm. I was just with a teacher from Scranton who realized he could take one computer in a classroom and really put it to work," she said.

Megan Mulderig is a student at College Misericordia who helped Reese coordinate the event and also worked for NEIU 19 last summer. Of NEIU 19, she said, "I think it is a very good program."

What most intrigued NEIU 19 about the seminar was the session on NASA GLOBE Project. NEIU 19 will sponsor a Mars Millennium Project Seminar on April 28th. Also, if you are interested in attending the Governor's Physical Science Institute to be held at Carnegie Mellon University, contact Dr. Kip Bollinger, Science Education Advisor at 717-783-6598 or email him at [gbollinger@state.pa.us](mailto:gbollinger@state.pa.us).

### INDIAN CULTURAL NIGHT SATURDAY, MARCH 25 - 7:30 PM STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

Please come and enjoy our program of Classical and Modern Indian Dances, Music, & Fashions

Sample Indian food after the show FREE AND OPEN TO ALL Sponsored by the Multicultural Student Coalition of Wilkes University For more information please contact:

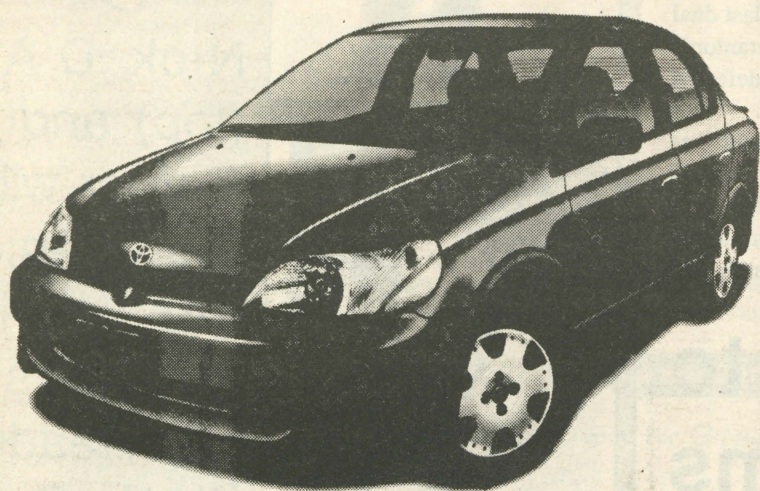
Gina Z. Morrison, Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs Wilkes University  
1-570-408-4731  
[morrison@wilkes.edu](mailto:morrison@wilkes.edu)

### Walt Disney internship for summer 2000

All students interested in Summer and Fall 2000 internships at Walt Disney World are invited to sign up to accept an invitation from Marywood University to attend the Walt Disney World Internship Presentation on Tuesday, April 4, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. in the Crystal Room of the Nazareth Student Center at Marywood University.

Interested students must sign up with the Wilkes university Cooperative Education Office (Max Roth Center at Marywood University Cooperative Education Office (Max Roth Center 215 South Franklin Street) in order to attend. For additional information please contact Phil Ruthkosky in the Wilkes Co-op office at ext. 4645. All majors welcome.


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\*EPA estimated 32/39 City/Hwy automatic, 34/41 City/Hwy manual.



## UFO update

Washington, DC - Public awareness of the politics of UFOs/disclosure continues to grow. Over a span of six days, a confluence of media events, based in part or in full on UFO/ET phenomena, has taken place.

Friday marks the sixth day of The Learning Channel's annual Alien Invasion Week, which ends tomorrow. Sponsored in part by major corporations such as MCIWorldcom, Charles Schwab and Ford Motor Company, it consists of nine documentaries, many of which hold political content addressing the government posture on UFO/ET phenomena. A website accompanies the series.

On Monday, March 6 Turner Network Television (TNT) aired the television premier of Contact based upon Carl Sagan's novel about first contact with intelligent extraterrestrial life. The film was modified to include much political content addressing how government deals with "special" information.

-Today, Disney's Touchstone Pictures opens Mission to Mars, the Brian DePalma picture that incorporates UFO/ET research community work on the Cydonia region of Mars. Notably, just two weeks before the opening, Touchstone Pictures began political content addressing the government posture on UFO/ET phenomena. A website accompanies the series.

In Washington, Stephen Bassett, the founder of Paradigm Research Group and Executive Director of X-PPAC, the Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political Action Committee, had this comment: "One of the most important issues addressed by the politics of UFOs/disclosure is NASA being caught in the middle between its scientific role as the civilian space agency and the requirement under the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 that NASA must defer to the Department of Defense in all matters relating to national security. Subsequent research has shown that all evidence for extraterrestrial intelligent life, past or present, is considered by the government to be in this category."

As to what specifically might happen in the weeks following the movie and television airings this week, he added, "Two things come to mind. First, the person who has done more than anyone else to confront NASA on Cydonia and raise the specter of sequestered evidence is Richard C. Hoagland of the Enterprise Mission. Every talk show in the county should have him on in the coming weeks, along with a NASA spokesperson, to debate the implications of that ad trailer. Second, every person who sees this movie should go home and fax NASA, their congressional representatives, and the major networks demanding that NASA produce new and higher quality photographs of every square inch of the Cydonia region of Mars until such time as all interested public and scientists are satisfied they have the best their space agency can provide."

*Live—in concert...*

# The Hampton String Quartet

*plays*  
**Zeppelin  
Stones  
Hendrix**

*Like never  
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Presented by The Masons of Pennsylvania • [www.pagrandlodge.org](http://www.pagrandlodge.org)

*who*  
World Famous, Grammy-nominated  
**The Hampton String Quartet**

*when*  
Saturday, March 25, 2000  
8 pm

*where*  
Scranton Cultural Center  
420 Washington Street • Scranton, PA

TICKETS: \$20 Adults  
\$15 Students

Tickets available at the Cultural Center Box Office, 570-344-1111, through Ticketmaster, 1-888-669-8966, or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

For a musical preview, go to [www.hamptonstringquartet.com](http://www.hamptonstringquartet.com)

*Parking Available.*

## Business and Accounting Club Events

Wed. March 22, volleyball 9:30-11:00

Wed. March 29, volleyball match v.s. Marywood 9:30-11

Wed. April 12, basketball 9:30-11

Wed. April 26, basketball match v.s. Marywood 9:30-11

For more information please contact Ty Bowman email at [bowmants@wilkes.edu](mailto:bowmants@wilkes.edu).

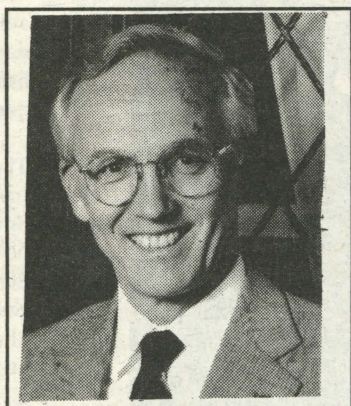
Come watch  
*Kama Sutra* on  
Sunday March  
19 in the TV  
Lounge in the  
Student Union!



# A Word from the President

I want to thank the members of the Student Affairs staff, members of the Football team, student members of the Off-Campus Council and Coach Frank Sheptock for showing leadership in cleaning up trash in our South Wilkes-Barre neighborhood recently. Perhaps stimulated by a letter to me from an angry neighbor (who filled a bag of trash after Winter Weekend and deposited it on our front porch), there was a searching discussion by Student Government on how we should interact with our neighbors in a constructive, friendly way. Throughout the history of Wilkes, there has been a healthy relationship between Wilkes students and their neighbors. The Off-Campus Council was created several years ago after a particularly difficult period in our town/gown relations. In the first couple of years, the Council developed a series of activities and communication channels to make sure that Wilkes students made an effort to meet their neighbors, discuss ways to stay on good terms and help each other in times of need. The initiatives even included some block parties to bring town and gown together.

Efforts are being made by our



with Christopher Breiseth

neighbors and by the University to strengthen our relationships among the greater campus neighborhood for the health, safety and aesthetic beauty of the Wilkes environs. Every effort that we can make as members of the Wilkes family to improve our immediate neighborhood (which includes helping to keep the streets, sidewalks and areas around the buildings clean) contributes to the quality of life for all that live here. I am delighted to hear that the cleanup initiative will continue on a periodic basis. I have talked before about building a "spirit of community" as one of the goals you should take with you beyond

Wilkes into your adult lives. A great place for that to start or be given renewed emphasis in your lives is with the folks next door and down the street. More than 300 Wilkes students live in our South Wilkes-Barre neighborhood. Pay a visit, write a note, greet a neighbor on the street and introduce yourself as a Wilkes that we can make as members of the Wilkes family to improve our immediate neighborhood (which includes helping to keep the streets, sidewalks and areas around the buildings clean) contributes to the quality of life for all who live here. I am delighted to hear that the cleanup initiative will continue on a periodic basis. I have talked before about building a "spirit of community" as one of the goals you should take with you beyond Wilkes into your adult lives. A great place for that to start or be given renewed emphasis in your lives is with the folks next door and down the street. More than 300 Wilkes students live in our South Wilkes-Barre neighborhood. Pay a visit, write a note, greet a neighbor on the street and introduce yourself as a Wilkes student who wants to make sure there is honest,

direct communication

between Wilkes students and other residents in their buildings and neighborhood. Not only can rewarding relationships result, but also the spirit of community will be enhanced for everyone. Let's "Adopt our South Wilkes-Barre Neighborhood" and work with our neighbors to keep it a most one of the goals you should take with you beyond Wilkes into your adult lives.

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Thank you all for your cooperation in this important challenge.

## Satirical Interludes: The Second Coming

I don't think anyone in the world could have had a better Spring Break than I did! I don't care if you spent Spring Break in Hawaii, with Dave Matthews, or Jennifer Aniston, you still didn't even come close to topping my Spring Break! Not Even if you spent Spring Break in Hawaii drinking some beverage, while having sex with Jennifer Aniston and had Dave Matthews playing live during all of this, could your Spring Break have been as good as mine!

I spent the first Saturday of my Spring Break in a van for nine hours, travelling to North Carolina to participate in the Annual Alternative Spring Break Service Trip. Once we (16 WU students and Mary Hession) arrived we learned that we would be sleeping on a tile floor in a sleeping bag for the week. So, you're probably thinking, "That sounds like a great time," but hold on it gets better. Sunday we spent the day at the beach, where the men in the group experienced some serious shrinkage after taking a

### By Marc Eakin

dip in the icy Atlantic. Monday and Tuesday we worked with an the AIDS Organization painting, cleaning, re-organizing their stock room, and many other miscellaneous tasks. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday we worked at one house tearing out and bagging loose insulation, kicking-out a ceiling, tearing out a brick chimney and fireplace, and removing every single brick on the exterior of a 100% brick house. We were told three things about our work at the brick house:

1. That we could never do it by ourselves, especially since the majority of our workers were women.
2. That we surprised and impressed the Hell out of people when we did what they said we couldn't.
3. That we saved the homeowners over \$15,000 in labor costs.

People questioned why we didn't simply donate the \$10,000

that sixteen students did fund raising for, instead of using the money to help pay our way to North Carolina to do community service. Here are the major reasons: We saved one family over \$15,000 in labor costs; in addition, we gave the same family \$2000 to buy the lumber to continue to repair their home; we performed work for an AIDS Organization, which no one else would have done, thus saving them money and giving them a donation; we touched the lives of fellow humans in need of help; and sixteen WU students gained an experience which will change their lives forever. Any more questions? Not only was my Spring Break the best because of the work I took part in, but also because of the wonderful people I went on the trip with and the wonderful people we met in North Carolina. I think I speak on behalf of everyone involved with the trip, when I thank everyone that helped make this trip possible! I would especially like to thank Mary Hession for her ex-

traordinary dedication to the students of Wilkes University. When I think of someone in my pathetic life that has always been there for me and offers me unconditional love and friendship, it is always Mary. Many, many thanks to the following WU students that made the trip memorable and a success: Sarah Becker, Malverne Innis, Deb Brandt, Colleen Cole, Andrew (Skip) Cordell, Amanda Carleton, Jillian Hocking, John Langshaw, Deirdre

McCarthy, Seda Ibrahim, Jenn Patrick, Jessica Reuss, Casey Williams, Rosemary Cabanillas, and Melissa Merok.

As always, feel free to e-mail me at [eakinmr@wilkes.edu](mailto:eakinmr@wilkes.edu) with any comments, suggestions, or criticisms.

To end my column I would like to say, "I.L.Y.S!" (Yes, this is only meant for one person to understand!)

**Marc Eakin is a Beacon staff writer. His opinion is that of his own and not of The Beacon.**

## Ah, laddie

St. Patty's Day is here

Let's be honest—St. Patrick's Day is like a religious holiday to most people. It is a day of partying, drinking Killian's Irish Red, chowing down on corned beef and cabbage and watching the annual parades.

Another aspect of St. Patrick's Day is the "luck of the Irish." The most common ones are finding a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and of course the leprechauns.



Leprechauns are Ireland's most famous fairies, and certainly the luckiest for a mortal to meet. The leprechaun's main job is shoemaking, as fairies constantly wear out their shoes from incessant dancing. If you meet a leprechaun, here are the three things you must know:

1. He always carries a purse with two coins. One is magic and always replinshes itself after being spent.
2. If you catch him he will usually give you the other coin. While you are examining it, he will make his getaway.
3. Leprechauns know the location of buried treasure, and if you catch one he must tell you. But do not take your eyes off him for even a split second, or he will be gone before you can ask.

### What's under yer Pot O' Gold?

**Bhavika Patel:**

A 2000 Honda Prelude.

**Jill Stankoski:**

A trip to see the Aussies down under.

**Corey Yanoshak:**

A full staff.

**Joe Porto:**

A new bench for the kids.

**Harris Ahmad:**

Another copy editor so I have nothing to do.

**Vanessa Scheffner:**

Another copy editor so I have some help for once.

These days, the people concentrating on aspects of every one wants to complain about everything and no one can do anything.

Now The Beacon, I admit that.

are complained numerous throughout the school year. The first to admit this is the Beacon.

What gets me is when people complain about something. Scrambled Eggs show on 90.7 FM. The Beacon. Although it's taking weeks to respond, I find that's the difference. Anyway, they were about The Beacon and all of students complaining. They thought students' comments were they didn't like what they didn't like. What does complain accomplish? That's hypocritical, don't you see? You're putting down on it's full of complaints. There's never anything when you're doing this. You're just complaining. Instead of talking to the student newspaper, why not just talk to the DJ? I recall, one of the DJ's came room to write a piece each week, but can't remember what gives you the right to complain about what we refuse to participate? A editor that recommends to see would also we hardly get around again, what gives you the right? What gives you the right?

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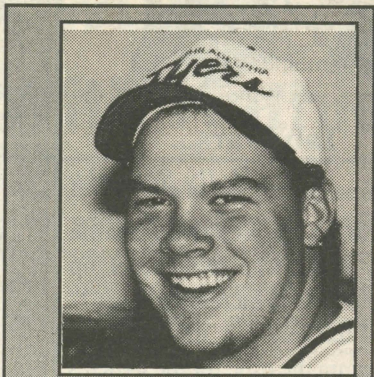
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# Success is never final, failure never fatal



Corey Yanoshak

Now, I don't pretend to know how to do things I can't, so why does everyone else feel they can? I'll say what I think is bad or good or I'll try to add a little humor here or there, but I don't claim to know how to be a radio personality, so I try not to knock them down. I would voice my opinion on what I thought was going on, but that's about it.

If people are sick of seeing people complain through *The Beacon*, why not try to change it. We're always looking for staff members and we're extremely short-handed this semester, so why not come to us and work on an idea? I'm not talking to one or two people now, I'm talking to everyone in the Wilkes Community. Instead of focusing on what you don't like in the paper and complaining about it, why not do something about it? You don't even have to write a long letter, you could just e-mail us or leave us a phone message about what you think needs to be changed or added.

Twice we received anonymous letters about specific stories and certain writers, which were rather cruel. The authors of these letters did not leave a name or a number to respond to. Now two things come to mind at first glance. First, the writers are hiding behind

their pen and are only talking out because of their secrecy. They don't have the courage to bring this up one-on-one and confront the people he belittles. Second, this is a negative person. In addition to writing the letter, he or she could very easily offer to join *The Beacon* and help improve it.

I admit, the unnamed author made a few good points and I am embarrassed about what he/she has pointed out, but all they've done is concentrate on the negative and forget about the positive. The negative is that there are too many mistakes in our paper and especially on the front page, which they have carefully pointed out. To see some of the mistakes in the paper is embarrassing and makes me personally disappointed that we at *The Beacon* can allow these to be printed.

The positive here, though, could be that one of the writers claims to be in a communications class and is an upperclassman. Why not use your communications expertise and help us out. In our defense, we have one less editor, an inexperienced editor, and one less copy editor. This makes everyone's job a little harder and more time-consuming. There is no excuse for a poorly-written story on the front page or a messy-looking back page or an article with numerous grammatical errors, but with a small staff, it becomes increasingly difficult to pick up small mistakes.

This brings me to another point, which is our communications department. We have no one in communications at *The Beacon*. There are a few writers, but many are involved as just favors.

We had the opportunity to work with the newly-formed public relations department last semester and we didn't do a good job at all, I hate to admit, but we have not heard from them since. I cannot understand why we should have to solicit students to write for us when the "experience factor" should attract them alone. They should want to participate because of the knowledge they would gain and the fact that it could go on your resume. We have even gotten a few calls from daily newspapers that were checking references. I mean, how else can you gain the experience of working at a newspaper rather than actually working at one? Really, how can you knock a business administration, psychology, computer, biology and history/secondary education major from doing their best at what they have no future use for.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy being the editor at *The Beacon*, but what gives you the right to complain about what you read especially if you are a communications major?

Another subject that has taught me a lot about positive over negative is sports, both playing and covering them. To talk to some of the coaches and see how they focus on what their team has done, rather than what they have not is amazing. I realize now just how negative I am and that I myself need to change. It must be forever that I have leaned toward what I have not

done and what I've done wrong, rather than see what I did do and build from there.

I saw a shirt over Spring Break that read: "Success is never final, failure is never fatal." Granted, this was on a baseball shirt, but each and every one of us could apply this to our lives. I for one bought the shirt because I know that's what I have to do. I need to realize that failure is never fatal and that everyone makes mistakes. On the same token, doing something good once doesn't mean you don't have to do it again. You always have something to work for. That's true for every-day activities as well. Just because you do well on a test doesn't mean you're getting an A in that course, but if you fail a test, you're not going to get an F, either.

This will apply for *The Beacon*, as well. We've received numerous compliments from last semester's issues, but that doesn't mean we don't need to do any work on this semester's. We are going to buckle down and put out the best issue we can. Rather than get down on ourselves about some nasty comments, we're going to take what we can from them and build up. We're also going to take what we think is working and improve upon that.

As an old golfing buddy of mine once said, "Block out the bad, take in the good."

## Let's Hear It!

We want to hear your Spring Break stories. Let us know what you did, who you met, what happened, or whatever. Pictures also accepted.

Send us your story by e-mail or letter, call us, or just tell us in person.

Responses will be printed next week.

## JANUZZI'S PIZZA & SUBS

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# "Double-teamed"

Two girls and one guy on first dates

## Advice from the pros...

Corey Yanoshak

Okay, you see a female you're interested in. You approach her, you even get a conversation started. She doesn't seem to hate you and you enjoy being with her, even if it is at a crowded party or bar, but what now?

Now you ask her out. If you want to see her again, stop planning to meet at the same party every week. It's time to show her who you are. It's time to prove you're not just not some jerk who was full of himself last night.

First things first, don't be intimidated. Just because she's pretty or smart or both doesn't mean that she's better than you. It just means that you're going to get the looks from all of the jealous guys. But play it cool.

For starters, take some advice from a good friend of mine. "If she asks to drive you somewhere, tell her, 'Nah, I got my own ride, but maybe I'll see you later.'" Don't take it word-for-word, but take it out of context. Just play it cool and act like you've done this before.

Second, take her somewhere you enjoy and that you think she will too. If you don't like dressing up, then don't. Go to a casual restaurant or a bar, or maybe even a party, but go together.

*Hint:* Don't go to the movies on a first date. 1. You can't talk much and it doesn't really get you any further than you were when you met. 2. You've just met, so she's not going to appreciate that arm of

chooses, because you'll be close and you'll be active. There won't be much time to sit around and look away from each other.

Fourth, don't tell your boys anything. If you exaggerate and she catches you, that's it, she's gone. Just tell them it was fun or whatever, but don't go saying you didn't come home last night because you were in her room.

Fifth is for after the date is over. Yeah, I believe in kissing on the first date, but nothing else. In all seriousness, if she's worth it, you can wait. Not too long, maybe, but for the third or fourth date. If you like her, then don't even think about sex on the first few dates.

*Hint:* If she's making you wait, that means you're worth it. She wants to see if you care about her and will take a couple of dates to get to know her. If she's in the back of your car on date number one, that means she very well could have been there on her past four first dates. I'm not saying no sex, no way, but if you're scoring, make sure you both know why.

To give some more help, I offer you with some more helpful hints from the experts. These are from DeMoan at Ridgemont High.

1. Always act like where you're at is the place to be.

Ex: "Hey, is this place great or what?"

2. Get your date's order first and place the order with the waiter for the both of you.

Ex: "The lady will have the knockwurst and I will have the pizza."

There are a few more hints from the pros, but you'll need to find out for yourself.

Last but not least, the check. Should you pick it up? Maybe, but not definitely.

If you ask the woman out, then you're bucking up, pal, but if she does the asking, then it should be that she picks up the bill.

The easy solution would be to confer beforehand and decide to split the check when the time comes. Sometimes you have to shell out some cash for the right girl, but don't make it automatic.

If you hit the jackpot, the check won't be an issue, but don't expect that scenario for a long time.

## First dates... Do it right

Dawn Schwartz

If the concept of a "first date" makes you tremble with anxiety, you aren't alone. It's not uncommon for us all to get a bit stressed

and even nervous when it comes to the first time going out with a new guy. But, one thing we know for sure is that no matter what happens, if he takes us somewhere we don't like, it could end the relationship before it starts. So, how do you even decide where to go for the first date? Do you go out with friends? Do you go alone? Well, it's simple really, you just need to think about how things have progressed so far. Let me explain a bit further...

If you two know each other already (like you're friends or you have mutual friends) it would probably be best to go somewhere alone. I say this because you may know each other in one type of context (such as being friends) but you are trying to take things to a different level (if you weren't, you wouldn't have made the date in the first place, right?). If you go to a party or out where you're friends may be, it's probably going to be hard to get to know each other any better. Go to a movie or out to dinner, somewhere where you can talk to each other one on one.

On the other hand, you may not know him well at all. If this is the case, I'd suggest going somewhere that where there are a lot of people around. It would probably even be best to go to a place that you know your friends will be. There's a couple of reasons for doing this (cause I know it may sound a little bit odd): 1) If you two find that you have absolutely nothing in common, you'll have friends there to save you from spending two more miserable hours with him. 2) If he turns out to be someone that you don't want to be alone with (maybe he's given hints that he's a stalker or something) there are going to be a lot of people around to make sure that nothing bad happens to you.

A lot of things influence dating, but a bad first date can be so disappointing, especially if you really wanted it to work out. If you're that stressed about where to go and what I've said so far doesn't really apply to the situation, remember one thing: Have fun! Do something that lets you be yourself (cause I know that it's hard to be yourself at the beginning) or something that makes you laugh. If it doesn't work out, at least you two had a fun date that you'll remember for awhile. So, while my advice may not seem all too appealing, it's what's worked for me so far, and I think I've turned out ok...



## Tab Wars...

Holly Sabecky

So, as the common question always goes, "who should pick up the tab on those incredible dates?" Should the guy pay up or is this millennium the time for the ladies' to start giving back? Well, usually the rule is whoever asks the other out should be willing to pay for most of the bill, or at least half, any-



way. But, in today's modern world, chicks are making enough cash to splurge even more than those hard-working guys. On the other hand, there are guys who don't mind being nice and footing the bill, but I wouldn't rely on them for everything...

In any case, this problem can be easily resolved. If you are in a relationship that is usually 50-50 when it comes to dividing up the debt, take turns. If you treat your guy/girl on one date, have them pay on the next. It's as simple as that.

Also, considering that we are college kids, this technique won't leave our wallets completely empty.

However, if an equal relationship is hard to come by, expect to pick up the tab for every date! Don't worry though, there are girls who would rather pay up than have someone else support them financially.

Whatever the case, talk about it beforehand, just so your romantic dinner doesn't end up with the two of you washing dishes in your fancy clothes!

Well, hopefully this cleared up a few of those love spats, but if not, forget about it! There are more important things to worry about than who pays for dates. Treat each other every once in a while, and who knows, maybe splitting the tab isn't such a bad idea, anyway. Think of it this way, the more you share, the more money you'll have to go out for next time!

## The Beacon

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### Background

### Info

• Established in 1947

• Member of the

Pennsylvania

Newspaper

Association

• Printed on

Thursdays with the

exception of school

holidays

• 1,500 papers

distributed weekly

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.



yours around her and put her head on your shoulder.

Third, always be prepared to try something new. I'm not contradicting number two, but you never know when she's going to have a request, so you've got to be able to roll with the punches.

I'm not a big fan of dancing, but it's an excellent first date if she



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# An interview with a musician

BY KATHLEEN AWAD  
Beacon Staff Writer

Charles Parente will be performing his original "Coffeehouse" style music in the cafeteria at the new Student Union Building on Thursday March 16, from 5 to 6 PM. Charles is a practicing family physician in Washington, D.C. and has still managed to pursue his love of music. He looks forward to performing for young people and to share with them his experience of being able to do both things well by offering students insight into his own experience of being successful in both careers. This could prove to be an inspirational and relaxing time for Wilkes University students. Charles is originally from the Wilkes-Barre area; he was born and raised in Harvey's Lake. He went to Bucknell University in Lewisburg and attended the University of Virginia for medicine.

Charles did his family practice residency at Wyoming Valley Health Care in Kingston. Charles has been writing his music for 6-7 years and the development of his songs led to a CD released on a private label. He has appeared many times at the Tudor Bookstore in Kingston where his music is available; all Gallery of Sound record stores carry his music as well. You may have heard his performances on WVIA radio, and he was a Showcase performer at the Philadelphia Music Conference this past year. He has appeared on WXPB 88.5 FM in Philadelphia on occasion and several other radio stations in cities on the East Coast to Florida.

Charles explains that a "Coffeehouse" performance is usually centered on a smaller audience for a more intimate connection between the performer and the audience members. Charles plays his own songs of a contemporary,

acoustic (folk, acoustic, and pop) nature with piano and guitar accompaniment. He enjoys folk and ballad style music and his vocal style has been compared to that of Dan Fogelberg. Charles tells *The Beacon* that his lyrics center on good experiences; not offensive self-absorbed "whiney" situations. He likes his lyrics to tell a story that everyone can relate to and be something that the casual listener can appreciate. People can relate to "Row a Little Boat," inspired by a book about a man who wishes to learn to sail a beautiful vessel, but is ushered into a rowboat instead, to learn the basics. Sound familiar? Charles Parente's CD's and cassettes are available at Amazon.com or you can find them on his web site at, Charlesparente.com. Contact Charles Parente at, songclp@hotmail.com or call him at 1-877-SONGCLP.



Photo by: Artistic Images  
Charles Parente will be performing his "Coffeehouse" style music tonight at Wilkes University.

## Bad breath stinks

BY ANDRIA BIAGIOTTI  
Beacon Staff Writer

Bad breath. Its something that everyone dreads. The dread ranges from kissing your cutie with a not so fresh mouth to going to that important interview after eating a burrito. The fact is, its out there. But it doesn't have to be. There are things you can do to prevent it and treat it. All you need is proper dental hygiene.

There are many causes of bad breath. First, your mouth itself may be the source. Bacterial breakdown of food particles and other debris in and around your teeth can cause a foul odor. Infections like periodontitis are obvious causes of odor. In periodontitis, plaque-filled pockets are formed between the teeth and gums. A dry mouth, which occurs during sleep or as the result of some drugs or smoking, enables dead cells to accumulate on your tongue, gums and cheeks. As a result, they decompose and cause odor. Another cause of bad breath is eating foods containing volatile oils. Onions and garlic are the best known examples, but there are other vegetables and spices that also may cause bad breath. After this food is digested, and the volatile substances are absorbed into your bloodstream, they are carried to your lungs and are given off in your breath. (Alcohol behaves in the

same fashion, thus allowing measurement of blood alcohol levels by breath tests. Alcohol itself has almost no odor. The characteristic smell on the breath is mainly the odor of other components of the beverage.)

For most people, bad breath can be improved by following a few

**Tooth brushing or use of mouthwashes only partially disguises odors of garlic or onion that come from your lungs.**

simple steps: Brush your teeth after every meal. Brush your tongue to remove dead cells. Floss once a day to remove food particles from between your teeth. Drink plenty of water (not coffee, pop or alcohol) to keep your mouth moist. Avoid foods that cause bad breath. Tooth brushing or use of mouthwashes only partially disguises odors of garlic or onion that come from your lungs. Change your toothbrush every 2 to 3 months. Rinse your mouth after using inhaler medications.

So try these things before your next date, interview, or even going to class! Just think of the people on the receiving end and take the extra 2 minutes!

Funny how it seems like a good idea, until you realize it will be with you forever.

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# Strong start has softball with high hopes

## Women start 8-2 in Myrtle Beach over Spring Break.

BY KEVIN SICKLE  
Beacon Staff Writer

Despite a fine season last spring, the softball team knows that there is still room for improvement. The Lady Colonels finished the '99 campaign with a 29-8 record and an appearance in the NCAA tournament. This year, there are greater expectations: the Freedom League crown, champs of the Middle Atlantic Conference, and a strong showing in the NCAA's come May.

With this team, all are realistic goals.

There is no question that these girls have the skills and experience needed to succeed. With 13 returnees from last year's squad, the experience is there, and seniors Kerianne Geist (C) and Liz O'Neill (CF) will provide the leadership as this season's co-captains.

"I'm going to try to keep everyone motivated, yet keep everything fun-loving and keep everybody laughing," says Geist. "We're not a very serious team. If we just laugh and have a good time, we'll make it further than we would if we were a serious team."

After losing four seniors last year, coach Kevin Vrabel has brought in four freshmen who will make key contributions: Tunkhannock's Melissa Babcock (1B), Brooke Shreaves (OF), Danielle McDonald (IF), and Pittston's Amanda Darbenzio (P).

Vrabel had these comments on his freshmen: "We're excited about this year's recruiting class. Melissa's shown great potential and I think she's going to be an outstanding college player. Brooke brings a speed dimension to our team that we didn't have in great quantities last year. Danni is on the

same lines (as Brooke). She's going to help our team have a different look offensively this year. Amanda gives us stability in our pitching staff that we haven't had, probably in the time since I've been here. She's going to work in well to our rotation and help us out there."

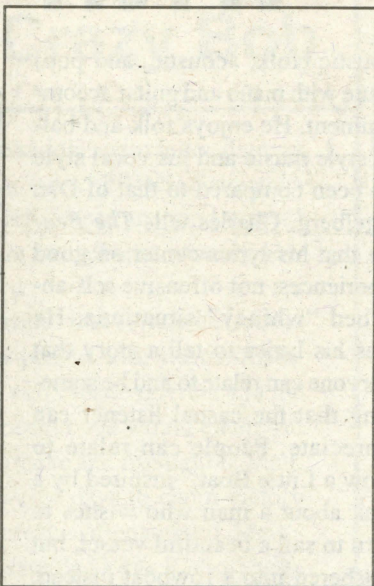
While most Wilkes' students were enjoying a week off for Spring Break, the softball team was at Myrtle Beach, working out.

"We approach Myrtle Beach truly as a Spring Training situation. Although we played ten games in five days, part of our goal is to put two or three starting lineups under fire and see where the best chemistry lies," Vrabel puts it. "It would be great to come back with a winning record, but more importantly for us is coming back with a clear idea as to who our best defensive players are, and how that could work out into an offensive lineup. We look to build from the defense to the offense. We want our nine best defenders out there, and then arrange them into what we think is the most productive batting order and go from there. That's what we try to accomplish in Myrtle Beach."

The Lady Colonels came home with a 8-2 record with a pair of victories over Catholic University, Immaculata College, and Kenyon College. The team also split games with New Jersey City College and Bridgewater College (VA).

Sophomore pitcher Lisa Hartman was looking forward to the experience. "It's the first time that we can see what we really look like as a team for the year. We can see how well positions are being filled and try to find the best lineup for the season. It is a fun and serious time in which we all try to do our best and work hard together."

The team will be participating in the Salisbury Tournament this weekend, where they knocked



Senior captain Liz O'Neill legs out one of her "patented" slap-singles, of which she has 11.

off the undefeated hosts last year for the championship.

"I would think we would have to be the team to beat this year," Vrabel says. "The bulk of our team is returning. By virtue of both of our pitchers being selected first- and second-team all-stars in the league, the rest of the league must be thinking, 'How are we going to beat these two?' We only had two Freedom League losses in '99. I think the pressure lies on the other teams, trying to figure out 'How are we going to get to these two pitchers?' and 'How are we going to beat this team?'"

"We have a lot of expectations this year as a team," says junior All-American Robyn Mendiogral. "Our goal is to get into the NCAA tournament and go all the way because we have the potential to do so. I am looking forward to another successful season. We have the bull's-eye on our backs now."

Fellow junior Alice Fink adds, "I believe we are all hoping for not just the Freedom League title this year, but another shot at

the MAC title and NCAA's, both of which we attended last year."

The two league losses last season add extra motivation for this season.

"Most of our Freedom League games are early on, which is a change from the past," says junior pitcher Alice Fink. "I am looking forward to all of them. Our league is always competitive, but FDU-Madison, Lycoming, and King's would have to be the ones to beat, for they will be the most challenging as always. I have learned three new pitches this year and I am very eager to try them out against live competition."

"The games I am most look forward to this year are the games at the Salisbury Tournament and the King's game," adds Hartman. "At the tournament, we face very competitive teams and I hope we do as well as last year by taking the tournament. Also, I look forward to playing King's because they are our rivals every year and it is a very intense game no matter what."

"We owe King's big time. I know one of our pitchers is looking forward to spanking Lycoming this year because they came back and beat us really bad last year," says battery-mate Kerianne Geist.

Vrabel sees some key matchups, but sees every game as being critical. "We seem to be building a strong rivalry with Lycoming. They are an outstanding program that we have a lot of respect for, so we're looking forward to that match-up early on. We also play some very difficult opponents later in the year. On Good Friday, we play against Moravian and College of New Jersey, who are both nationally-respected programs. But clearly in terms of defending the Freedom League and our goal of returning to the NCAA, by April 1st we'll have a good idea as to where we stand. The thing that makes this year unique is the fact

that the Freedom League champion has an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. You'd better be looking to every single one of your Freedom League games because they are all significant. We could end up winning all of our Freedom League games and losing the rest, being 14-21 and headed to the NCAA tournament. I think because of that, the team's looking forward to every single one of those games."

As you can see, these girls are fired up for the upcoming season. They look to build upon last year's appearance in the NCAA's and to go much further.

"My expectations are always high, but this year in particular, they are exceedingly high. Everyone on the team is not only a great person to be around, but they are also great ball players," Fink puts it. "All four freshmen will prove to be a valuable asset to the team, not to mention the veterans."

Geist knows what matters. "It's most important, definitely, to make it to the NCAA's, see some really good teams, and hopefully make it to the World Series. We have the team to do it."

These are some bold statements, but when you are a team filled with great athletes, you have the skills to back them up.

As Alice Fink puts it, "We are a team to be reckoned with and I think that will show in our pre-season into our regular season. All I have to say is the other teams better not take us lightly!"

Erin Priestman leads the team in hitting with a .480 batting average, followed by Kim Chapman's .440 average. O'Neill stands at .393, while Mendiogral continues her power-hitting with a .700 slugging percentage, including 12 RBIs and four triples. Darby Wolfe is second on the team in RBI with 10 and has the lone home run for the team. Hartman and Fink each have three wins and Darbenzio has two.

# Cagers still making noise in post-season

BY MATT REITNOUR  
Beacon Staff Writer

The basketball season may have ended last week for the Wilkes University men's club, but the post season honors are just beginning to roll in. On Tuesday, the Middle Atlantic Conference announced Wilkes' senior guard Chad Fabian and sophomore center Ron McIntyre have been named to the 1999-2000 Freedom League All-Star Team.

Fabian was named to the first-team after finishing the season as the Colonels' leading point getter, averaging 20.7 points per game. Fabian, known around the league as a deadly shooter, finished his senior campaign with a league high 87 three pointers and a school record 232 makes from behind the three point arc.

After back-court mate Dave Jannuzzi went down in early December, Fabian stepped up offensively. He was named to the MAC

honor roll three times, the ECAC honor roll once while twice appearing on the D3hoops.com team of the week. He was named MVP of the Ramada Plaza Hotel/Colonel Classic after leading Wilkes to a win over national power William Paterson. He had a career high 42 points in an 86-76 win over the University of Scranton, this year's MAC Freedom league champion.

McIntyre took a season off last year while attending NAIA Goldy Beacom College in Dela-

ware but came back to the college game without missing a beat. He averaged 12.4 points per game along with 6.6 boards. The sophomore was ranked second in field goal percentage and was among the league leaders in block shots with 2.2 blocks per night.

Rounding out the first team for the MAC Freedom League were Mark Watermasysk from Allentown, Corey Dickerson from King's College, Rasheed Campbell from Lycoming and Henry

Condrion of Scranton. Watermasysk, Dickerson, and Campbell were all named MVP of the league, the second three-way tie for the award in the last three seasons. Scranton coach Bob Bessor was named Coach of the Year.

The second team included John Bednarik from Allentown, Tyree Jones of Delaware Valley, Brian Lindsey of Lycoming and Al Callejas of Scranton.

Wilkes ended their streak of five straight NCAA appearances

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# Tourney Time

with Kevin Sickle

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!"

No, it's not Christmastime; it's March Madness time, the most exciting time of the year for sports fans. It's a time when the top 64 men's Division I college basketball teams show what they are made of. The big dogs have to step up and show how good they really are. For the Cinderellas, it's their chance to prove to a doubting nation how good their program really is. It's when the college stars prove how good they will be at the next level, and the unknowns have their turn in the spotlight and do their best to prove their NBA-worthiness.

At the top, it's basically the same teams battling for the right to cut the nets down come April 3rd in Indianapolis. This year, it's just a matter of who the favorites are. Last year, the favorites were Duke, Michigan State, Kentucky, and Connecticut. This year it's Michigan State, Temple, Arizona, and those Blue Devils once again, despite the fact that they lost 4 of their starting 5 to the NBA last year.

There are also teams in the middle of the pack that are looking to make an impact on the field of 64 in Y2K. There's the high-powered offense of LSU, a St. John's team that proved themselves against top-notch opponents Connecticut (3 times) and Duke, despite off-court troubles, an always tournament tough Kentucky squad, a strong Maryland team, yet another high-powered SEC offense in Florida, a sharp-shooting Oklahoma State, a surging Arkansas Razorbacks team that just made it into the tournament by becoming only the second team in SEC tourney history to win 4 games in the conference tournament, and yet another quality SEC team in the Tennessee Volunteers.

As is usually the case, there are the Cinderellas. These teams are in the tournament only because they won their conference tournament, which gives them an automatic bid to the Big Dance. Despite being heavily underdogged, a few of these teams always seem to pull off an opening round upset. Last year, Gonzaga even found themselves in the Sweet 16. The Bulldogs are making a return trip to the tournament, but don't expect them to make another Sweet 16 run, considering they are looking at St. John's as a second round opponent, and that's only if they get past Louisville, and believe me, Denny Crum will have his team tournament-ready. Teams to be on the look out for this year are: Dayton, Samford, Creighton, and Pepperdine. I see at least one of these teams pulling off the big upset in round 1.

*Time for my predictions:*

**Early Exits:** (Look for these prominent programs to bow out before the Sweet 16)

Purdue, Louisville, Utah, Syracuse, UCLA, Auburn, Kansas, Indiana, North Carolina, UCONN, and Cincinnati

**Sweet 16:** (Most are good, some are just lucky)

Michigan State, Kentucky, Maryland, Iowa State, Arizona, LSU, Oklahoma, St. John's, Duke, Florida, Oklahoma State, Temple, Stanford, Tennessee, Ohio State, and Tulsa

**Elite 8:** (These teams will shine on the Road to the Final Four)

Michigan State, Maryland, Arizona, St. John's, Duke, Temple, Stanford, and Ohio State

**Final Four:** (The best of the best)

Michigan State, Arizona, Duke, and Ohio State

**Championship Game:**

Michigan State and Duke

**National Champs:**

**The Duke University Blue Devils**

As you can see, I have my biases. I'll always stand behind my Arkansas Razorbacks and the greatest conference in the country this season, the SEC, but as you can see, I don't have high hopes for any of the teams in the conference. Sure they are among the best in the nation, but are they tournament ready? I don't think so. I do foresee 4 SEC teams making it to the Sweet 16, but none of those teams really have the firepower to crack the Final Four.

I try to find things wrong with the Blue Devils, but I see very little. Look for them to be cutting down the nets on April 3rd for their third national championship, and their first since 1992.

I know there are those out there that argue my psychic ability. If you want to tell me your predictions on the Big Dance or just want to chat about sports, drop me a line at [sickleks@wilkes.edu](mailto:sickleks@wilkes.edu).

Kevin Sickle is a *Beacon* staff writer who writes a regular column.

# Great balls of fire:

## Men's tennis to 'net' winning season

BY MATT REITNOUR

*Beacon Staff Writer*

After finishing the 1999 season with a 4-8 overall record and just a 2-4 record in the MAC Freedom League, you might think expectations for the 2000 men's tennis team may not be very high.

Actually, the expectations are high.

"I expect this team to be much more competitive than they have been the last few seasons," new head coach Mike Hromchak said.

Hromchak is in his first week as head coach for this year's team. Hromchak is a former Colonel tennis player himself and figured the opportunity to come back and coach was something he would like to do.

"(Athletic Director) Addy (Malatesta) called me and asked and it seemed like it was the good thing to do," Hromchak said.

Last season, Wilkes won their last two regular season matches and saw Joe Scordino and Jason Brady make it all the way to the semi-final round of the MAC Doubles Championships. Both players return this year; actually they are only two of four returnees for the squad. Chris Small, last year's primary man at the No. 1 position, trans-

ferred to Rose Holman College in Indiana.

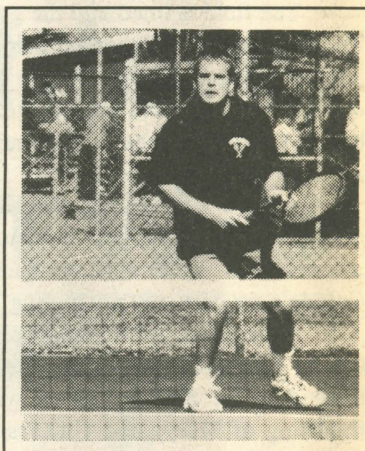
Along with Brady and Scordino returns Ed Bednarz and Kevin Siegel. Wilkes will look to some underclassmen to step up and fill the lower seeds. The Colonels had only eight players last season and lost three to graduation. Bednarz and Scordino are seniors this season, so the younger talent will need quality playing time to keep the ball rolling for the Blue and Gold.

"Our first five spots are pretty much filled, but the sixth spot is still up in the air," Hromchak said of his lineup. "Some of the younger guys are going to have to fill in and the top five will have to pull through."

Even though the team had no head coach, they still got some quality tennis under their belts over the Spring Break period as they traveled to Hilton Head, SC to play tennis. The Colonels got about five to six hours daily on the court. The whole trip was set up by Scordino.

"I was very impressed these guys set up the whole trip and went on their own," Hromchak said. "It just shows their level of dedication."

That match experience should be key this weekend as the Colonels open their MAC Freedom League schedule with last season's



Senior Joe Scordino gets sets to return a volley last season.

champ, cross-town rival King's College. Hromchak said he would like the match to be a bit later into the spring, but the weather could help his squad.

"King's is very experienced but anything can happen, it should be a very good match," Hromchak said.

The players are excited too, not just for the season-opener, but for the entire season as well.

"They've been playing indoors a lot, but playing outside is different, hopefully we can use that," Brady said. "We are very excited as a team. We ran and lifted weights in the off-season and we think we can do very well this season."

# Classroom accolades for six student-athletes at Wilkes

BY MATT REITNOUR

*Beacon Staff Writer*

Six Wilkes University athletes were recognized last week for their work in the classroom during their respective sports seasons. Wrestlers John Conte and Duane Ritter were named to the Division III National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-American Team. Lady Colonel basketball players Katie Watkins, Robyn Mendygral and Lauren Elwood along with men's team representative Kevin Walsh were honored by the Middle Atlantic Conference.

Conte and Ritter were honored at the Division III National Championship match at Ohio Northern University March 3-4.

Conte enjoyed a fabulous junior year which saw him win the 133 pound weight class in the MAC and then traveled to nationals. At the

NCAA Tournament Conte won four of six matches to finish with an overall record of 36-3 and All-American status. Conte is a psychology and elementary education major.

Ritter finished third at 157 pounds in the MAC, closing out his senior season at 25-3. Among his accomplishments this past season, Ritter finished first in the York College Invitational Tourney. Ritter is scheduled to graduate in May with degrees in Sociology, Psychology and Education.

To be eligible for the Scholar All-American team a nominee must maintain a 3.2 grade point average for the previous academic year or for his entire academic career.

Katie Watkins started in all 24 games this past season for the Lady Colonels basketball team and finished as the team's leading scorer. She is scheduled to gradu-

ate in May with a degree in Accounting. Mendygral, who is currently a member of the Wilkes University softball team also started every game for the Lady Colonels this past season. The junior guard averaged 7.3 points while majoring in math and elementary education. Elwood started in 19 of the 22 contests she took part in and averaged 8.9 points per outing along with four boards per game. The sophomore guard is an accounting major.

Walsh was the lone member of the squad for the Men's Basketball team. Walsh played in all 25 games and averaged 7.9 points per game. Walsh is majoring in Computer Information Systems.

To be eligible for the All-Academic Team in the MAC a student-athlete must maintain a grade point average of 3.2 and play a role as a starter or key reserve.





# The Back Page



## Bombs away: Baseball's back at Artillery

From Staff Reports

The field is lined and the grass is cut. The recent warm weather has helped dry out Artillery Park and Tuesday saw the home-opener for the Wilkes baseball team. Baseball — Colonel Baseball — is finally back at Artillery Park.

After a low-scoring season in 1999, which saw almost all of Division III use wooden bats, metal bats are back and the Colonels are certainly prospering.

After going 5-4 on their Spring Break trip to Fort Pierce, Florida, the Colonels opened up the northern swing with a 20-9 thrashing of Marywood University, which included five home runs.

The aluminum bats being used this year are modified from the version used two years ago. The new version are heavier in weight, smaller in barrel-size, and have a lower exit speed of 93 m.p.h. The length-to-weight ratio must be three ounces, meaning a 32-inch bat must weigh 29-ounces and a 33-inch bat must weigh 30-ounces, compared to a 33-inch bat weighing 28-ounces two years ago.

"The advantage is back in the batters' hands," said pitcher Nate Lipton, one of two captains for Joe Folek. "You definitely see an increase in runs and home runs and we are going to have to work harder on chang-

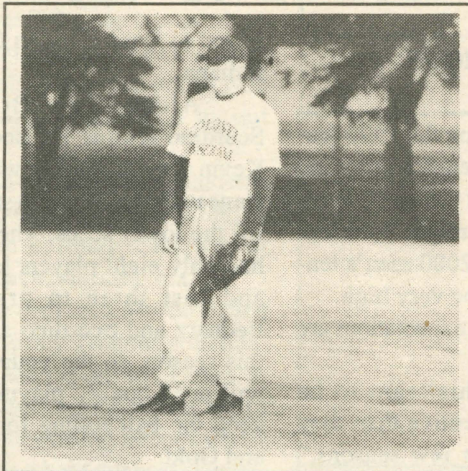


Photo by Adam Polinger

**Senior Joe Doran will see time in the outfield and on the mound for Joe Folek.** ing speeds and not concentrate on throwing the ball by people."

Wilkes is looking at much more depth than in years past as a small, but talented freshmen class will help strengthen the infield and pitching ranks. Veteran leadership will also be key as four seniors will take to the mound for their final year as the Colonels chase a coveted Middle Atlantic Conference title, which has eluded them since 1994, when two pitchers signed professional contracts.

"It's the first time in some years that it will be an older team," said Folek prior to the team's trip south. "Our first four pitchers are all seniors, which hasn't happened since 1994. It all starts with the pitching and the fact that we can start those four guys has to be one of our stronger points. We're ready to get things started."

Joe Doran drilled three home runs in the team's sixth victory this year as the Colonels improved to 6-4 heading into Saturday's MAC Freedom League double-header contest with King's College. Scott Garger and Rick Leibig also cleared the fence as Wilkes amassed 24 hits in the win.

"I expect a lot. We have the same guys playing the same positions for the past four seasons and we have some new guys stepping up and filling in," said captain Nick D'Amico, the shortstop.

The pitching staff of Lipton, Doran, Jason Lenko, and Tim Popovich, can combine in a variety of ways to pitch through the crucial MAC Freedom League games. Steve Toth, Ryan Palos, and southpaw Joe Casey will see time out of the bullpen.

"There is no better time to do something with the season than this year," added Lipton, who has two wins this year, both in Florida. "We lost guys that helped us last



### Who's Hot...

• Joe Doran (Baseball) - The senior belted three homeruns in the team's 20-9 win over Marywood at hitter-friendly Artillery Park giving him 11 RBI on the year.

• Erin Priestman (Softball) - leads the team with 12 hits and a .480 batting average in nine starts.

### ...and Who's Not

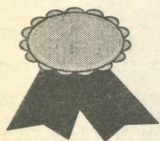
• Chris Rokosky (Baseball) - The junior pitcher allowed 10 hits over 2.2 innings, allowing 11 runs for a 30.37 ERA.

• Softball opponents, who have allowed the Lady Colonels to steal 21 bases on 21 attempts.

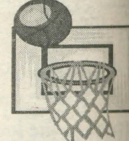
year, but we have some new guys we expect to fill the shoes."

Garger will play third and two-time first-team MAC selection JJ Sodaro will man second-base. Toth and Leibig will vie for time at first base, while Leibig will also patrol the outfield with Doran, Matt Diltz, and Lenko Casey.

After losing first-team MAC catcher Dan Borden to graduation, Corey Yanosha, Dave Hinkle, and Josh Oswald will see time handling the pitching staff.



## Athletes of the Month



### John Conte: Wrestling

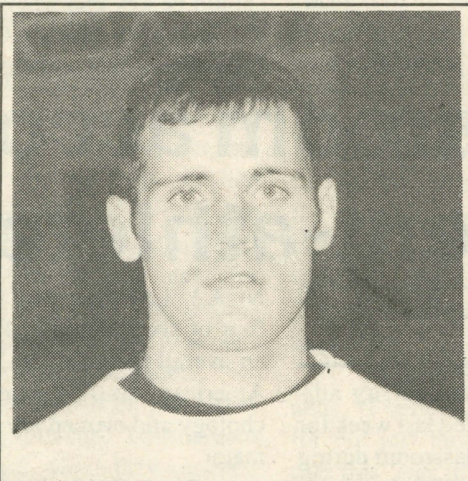
Senior John Conte has been named the Athlete of the Month for February, a month which saw the wrestler capture a Middle Atlantic Conference individual championship and advance to the NCAA Tournament, where he earned All-American status by placing fourth overall.

Conte captured his first-ever MAC title with an injured knee at 133 pounds, which continued to plague him throughout the NCAA tourney, where he managed to shake it off and win four of six matches.

"Everything was new in the NCAA's," said Conte, who still has a year left due to a freshman redshirt. "In the MAC tourney, I knew what to watch out for and I knew the other wrestlers' styles."

Conte finished his third season under Al Zellner with just one regular season loss. He carried his remarkable 29-1 record into the MAC tourney, where he avenged his only loss to the University of Scranton's John Cavey in the semi-finals. Cavey scored a 2-1 decision late in the year to ruin Conte's chance at an undefeated season.

Conte was forced to prepare for the national tournament without any wrestling due to his injured knee. Conte spent his hours training by riding the stationary bike and swimming in the YMCA pool.



### Katie Watkins: Basketball

Katie Watkins has been named the female Athlete of the Month for February after capping off a stellar career for the Lady Colonel basketball team.

Watkins was a four-year player for Karen Haag and has capped her career by being named a first-team Middle Atlantic Conference All-Star in her senior season.

Watkins used a points per game average of 16.5 to thrust her into fourth-place

time among leading scorers in Lady Colonel history with 1,358 total points. Watkins also ends her career with 618 rebounds, including 7.6 per game this past season.

Watkins has distinguished herself a third way by completing and attempting the most free throws, finishing with a 72% completion ratio (102-142) in her final campaign.

The past two seasons saw Watkins almost untouchable as she went on a tear with eight double-doubles for two consecutive years. Watkins' amazing fete was accomplished with 100 points and rebounds.

As a junior, Watkins was named to the second-team MAC All-Star squad. Watkins will be leaving a Lady Colonel program along with four other seniors, leaving Haag as assistant coach Amy Donnelly with some big holes to fill.

8

The number of wins the softball team had in South Carolina.

12

The number of Freedom League games the baseball team plays.

3

The amount of wins both Alice Fink and Lisa Hartman have.

3

Number of practices the tennis team had with their new coach.