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SUMMER EDITION

WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 2007

The only RedBox location in Greenville is housed inside the new Harris Teeter, to find out more about these affordable movie rentals turn to....**Page 6**

While the ECU baseball team's season is over, the Kinston Indians are just getting into the swing of another successful campaign. Turn to the sports section for a special feature article on the Tribe and history of baseball in eastern North Carolina....**Page 9**

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Smith to relinquish position at end of June

Potential candidates for replacement not yet chosen

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

Despite the recent announcement of resignation of current provost James Leroy Smith, future prospective candidates for the position have not been revealed.

Chancellor Steve Ballard has yet to make any official statements regarding the hiring of an interim or permanent provost, according to John Durham, chief public affairs officer.

However, a lack of announcements about candidates being considered for the position does not signify that Ballard hasn't been thinking about options in filling the role.

"I am leaving June 30 and I think he'll [Ballard] keep that in mind as he thinks about a replacement," said Smith.

There is not a specified time period in which a new provost must be chosen, according to Durham.

Smith said that his love for teaching is what caused his decision to resign as provost. This past semester is the first time that he didn't teach either Health Care Ethics or Professional Ethics.

"The job I have is a challenging one and a lot of hours per week and it's just time," Smith said

"I'm 63 and I want to finish my career in the classroom."

Smith doesn't seem to have any intentions of going to another university to continue teaching.

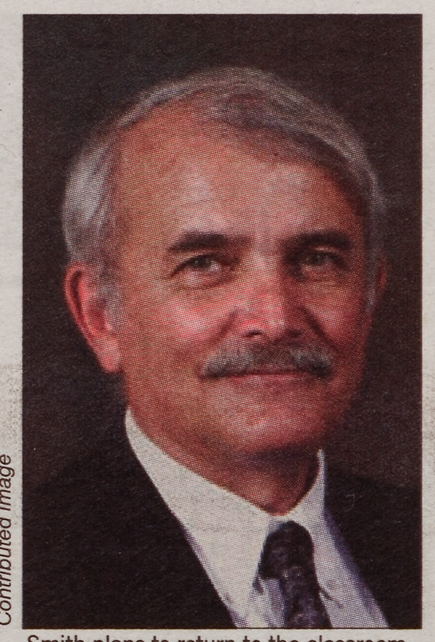
"I am going to stay here [ECU]. I've been here 38 years and ECU is my love," Smith said.

Making the move from working in an administrative position to being a full time faculty member is not a concern of Smith's.

"Since I've been teaching all along, I think the transition will be pretty smooth," Smith said.

Becoming a full time faculty member will allow Smith to work more directly with the Department of Philosophy.

see **CANDIDATES** page 3



Contributed Image

Smith plans to return to the classroom.

Moye Medical Center provides additional services

The Moye Medical Center provides a variety of new medical services

New facility is an expansion of the Medical Pavilion

JAMI DAVIA
STAFF WRITER

The Moye Medical Center near Pitt Memorial Hospital opened to the public on Monday, June 4.

Operated by ECU Physicians, this state of the art facility will serve as an expansion site of the ECU Medical Pavilion—former practice of cardiology, pulmonary disease, internal medicine and other critical disorders.

According to Dr. Ralph Whatley, chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, the new facility is simply in better shape than the Medical Pavilion.

The structure was built in the 1960's and the move to Moye Medical Center is expected to provide better accessibility and service to patients.

Larger parking lots fashioned around most of the building will help to increase convenience.

Currently both cardiology and pulmonary disease units have been moved, with general patient practices scheduled to be func-

see **MOYE** page 2

Faculty and students receive contracts for research

Currituck Sound Bridge to host research in a variety of areas

NIA RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

ECU faculty and students have recently received $927,000 in contracts from the North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] and the North Carolina turnpike Authority to fund engineering, economical and geographical studies to assess the building of a new bridge across the Currituck Sound.

Faculty and students from the departments of engineering, geography and the college of Business are conducting research studies on the traffic, natural resources and socio-economic facets of a seven mile bridge that will connect across the Currituck Sound, which flows for 30 miles between the mainland and the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

The bridge will direct traffic from the city of Coinjock, NC to Outer Banks city of Corolla, NC.

"The purpose is to provide improved access to the North Outer Banks region," said Paul Kauffman, chair of the engineering department.

"People have had to come pretty far south and loop back up. It will basically improve traffic going to and from that area," Kauffman said.

Currently travelers are driving southbound on US 158 to cross the Wright Memorial Bridge only to have to drive back up NC 12.

The role that ECU has in the project is to evaluate the environmental and economic impact that the bridge will have on the surrounding areas.

The $927,000 in contracts is the first of $1.7 million that will be dispersed over a period of three years from NCDOT's federal highway apportionment.

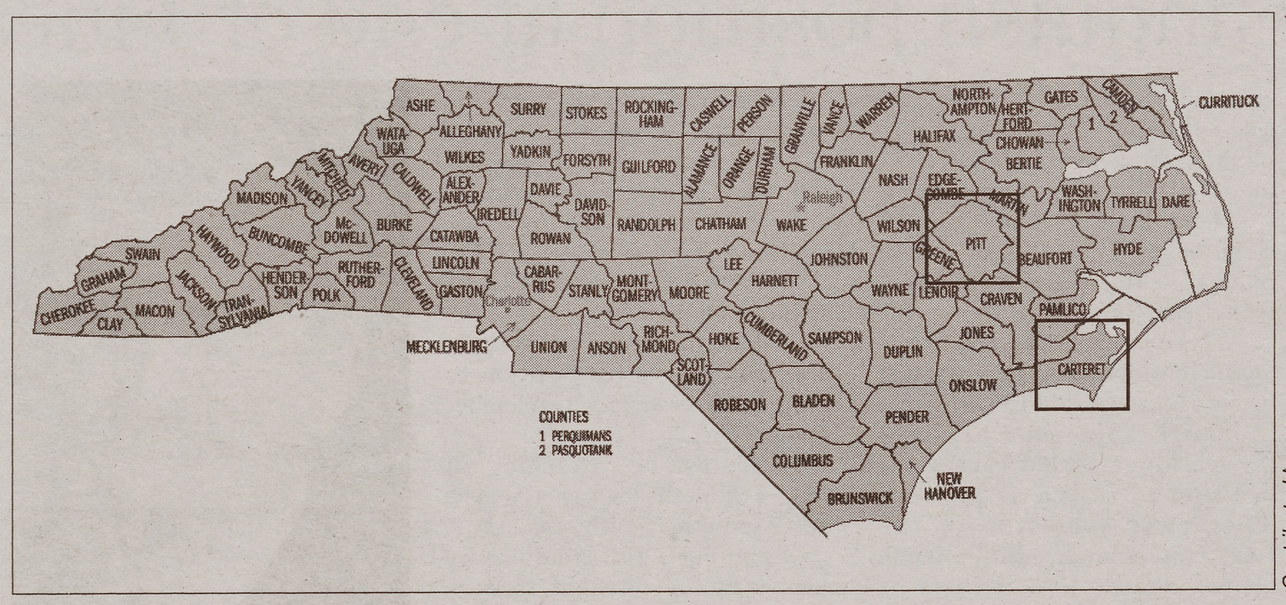
"ECU's role is to be supportive as a state agency and to conduct research related to the project's environmental impact statement," said Ernest Marshburn, director of strategic initiatives in the ECU Division of Research and Graduate Studies and ECU project director.

The university's involvement in the project will be a learning opportunity for many students in the schools of engineering, geography and economics.

The faculty involved in the project will use some of the application that they use in the field in their classrooms as well.

see **RESEARCH** page 3

North Carolina vulnerable for active hurricane season



Contributed Image

Carteret County named likely victim of a hurricane strike

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

The remains of Tropical Storm Barry that passed over Greenville and much of eastern North Carolina a few weeks ago gave a subtle reminder that hurricane season is beginning to take off.

This summer is expected to be extra active, according to sources such as the National Weather Service and Dr. Bill Gray, a scientist and hurricane expert at Colorado State University.

Gray has predicted 17 named storms, with 10 becoming hurricanes, 5 of which were considered major.

"The average is 10 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 2 major hurricanes," said Marvin Daugherty, chief meteorologist for WITN-7.

Scott Curtis, assistant professor of geography, said that two main factors have led to the increase in predicted hurricanes this year.

"One is the warmer waters in the Atlantic, ocean water is the fuel of the hurricane," Curtis said. "The second is La Nina or neutral conditions in the Pacific."

La Nina is the cooling of the Pacific Ocean waters. The cooler Pacific waters are favorable for a more active Atlantic season.

La Nina or average water temperatures in the Pacific, coupled with warmer conditions, make for greater odds in an increase in the number and strength of Atlantic storms, many of which will likely have a direct effect on North Carolina.

"One in every three hurricanes to form will pass within 300 miles of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina," said Philip Williams, chief meteorologist for WNCT-9.

This statement underscores the fact that North Carolina is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes.

"North Carolina's geography is a prime reason we are a target for hurricanes. Our state juts out into the Atlantic Ocean," Williams said.

Another factor that plays a role in sending hurricanes towards North Carolina is atmospheric conditions.

"The Bermuda high pressure system provides a steering current for many storms to move around. It causes a lot of storms to approach Florida and then turn northward toward us," Williams said.

Williams also explained that forecasts might not always be a perfect indicator of just how bad a hurricane season will be.

"For example, Hurricane Andrew...hit during a year, 1992, that had a below average number of storms, but it was one of the worst hurricanes of all time," Williams said.

Though the effects cannot be predicted, the probability of hurricanes passing over parts of North Carolina is high this year.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

MOYE continued from page 1

tional by September or October.

The second floor of the center will serve as general internal medicine practice.

The expansion is expected to serve as useful to patients and students, as well as practicing physicians, according to Dr. Whatley.

"There will be more educational programs focused here.

"We have learners of all types—not just medical, but many members of the allied health fields as well. We anticipate that they will want to use this facility as both a training and teaching site," Whatley said.

Sandy Wynn, internal medical administrator, believes that the facility will provide extra resources to hold programs dealing with substance secession and discussion, especially those dealing with smoking.

"The fact that we now have a conference room opens us up more to patients and to members of the community," said Wynn.

The facility also includes specialized testing centers, which allow patients with specific or critical conditions to receive the best care possible.

A bronchoscopy suite has been created for patients with unexplained lung problems or possible lung cancer.

The instruments deal solely with lung function and include fiber-optic devices, which travel down into the lungs and take samples.

Other specialized rooms include a pulmonary function testing lab and an echocardiography suite.

Sections of the center are color-coordinated, separating cardiology practice from pulmonary.

The fully integrated electronic medical record system makes access to the center's database more efficient.

The system can be reached from any computer in any section of the building.

Although the database is fully integrated for patients of ECU Physicians, the system is not yet linked with Student Health Services.

A linkage between ECU Physicians and Student Health Services may be possible in the future and could make certain patient referrals easier to manage.

Most students seen by members of ECU Physicians have been referred from Student Health Services, but anyone who would like to be a patient at Moye Medical Center is welcome, according to Dr. Whatley.

"Our number one priority is to service of our patients and all are certainly welcome," Whatley said.

Specific conditions would be more opt to seeking assistance from these facilities, including those of asthma problems, chest pain or complications from certain lung exhausting activities, such as scuba diving.

According to Doug Boyd, information specialist for Health Sciences News, The Moye Medical center is being leased by ECU from Moye Medical I LLC.

Officials stated that the leasing helped speed up the process of transitioning the practice from one building to another—it was a much simpler and more efficient way of continuing the practice.

The building is funded completely by ECU and has no involvement with Pitt Memorial Hospital.

It is a serviced part of ECU Physicians—the group medical practice of Brody School of Medicine.

The Moye Medical Center is open Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., and is located at 521 Moye Blvd.

Cardiology services can be reached at (252) 744-4651 or at 1-800-744-4651.

Pulmonary and critical care services can be reached at (252) 744-1600 or 1-800-722-3281.

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CANDIDATES continued from page 1

As a full time faculty member, Smith will no longer have involvement with Ballard or the Office of Academic Affairs.

While filling the position as provost, Smith worked on the resource allocation model, the budget process and as an advocate to facilitate communication between the deans.

This writer may be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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"These [city projects] are a good applied research opportunities," Kauffman said.

Along with the faculty, two students have been chosen to participate in the research studies, Katharine Ball, geography major and Chris Young, business major.

A report about the research is scheduled to be released in winter 2009 and the bridge is scheduled to be open to traffic in fall 2009.

This writer may be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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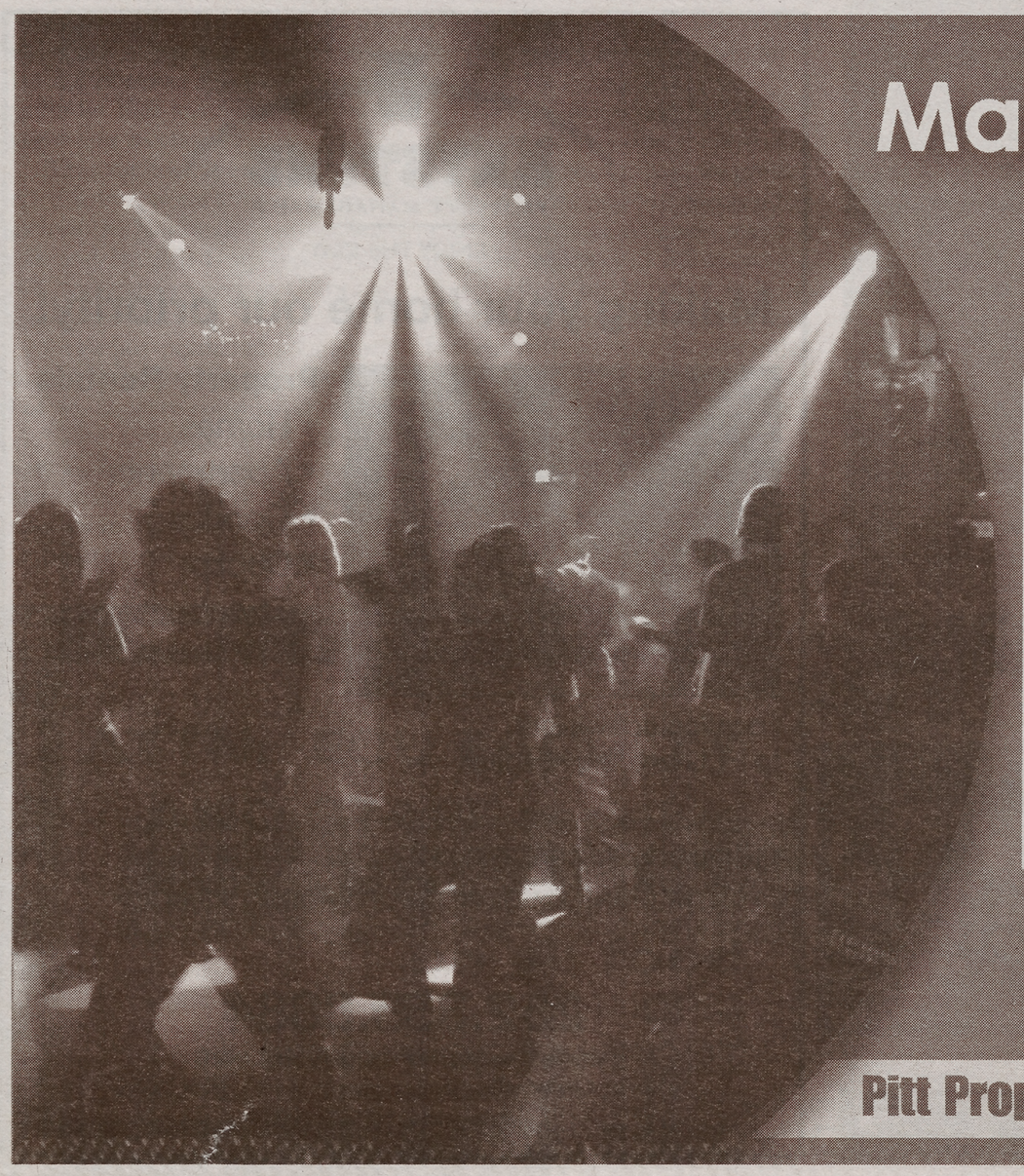

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Opinion

RANT OF THE DAY

It's not that I don't want a boyfriend; I just don't want you as my boyfriend.

Recklessness in television news

Information or entertainment?

JARED WOFFORD
OPINION WRITER

Television is the most powerful medium in American society. By combining entertainment, information and expression in an outrageously convenient way, it has eclipsed all other forms of media. It is the most accessible means of mass communication and it is more prevalent today than ever.

Unfortunately, it is through television that Americans get the most of their news. If you've seen the news lately, this may be alarming. Think about this: the number of yearly subscriptions to the New York Times is exceeded by the number of viewers of "The O'Reilly Factor" in a mere night.

I was sitting on campus in between classes one day when I noticed a television news program on a set mounted to the wall. At the time, they were doing a segment on the war on terror, and they were reporting on some incident in Iraq. The television was muted, but I watched, hoping that the scrolling headlines typed in caps-lock, combined with the video footage, would allow me to gain some insight into what appeared to be a dramatic event.

After a few seconds, the image changed to one of a group of soldiers walking with flak vests and assault rifles through what looked like a battleground. The story was becoming more interesting, so I continued to watch until again, they switched to another video.

This time there were lots of frantic people in a chaotic street scene-- and there was a car that was on fire. This was getting good!

My curiosity aroused, I tried to wrap my mind around this chain of events when, once again, they switched to new footage of the incident. When did they get a tank?

I watched it hastily roll over and through things for a few seconds before I began to realize that none of the video segments were actually related to any single event. The images I was eagerly lapping up seemed to be a highlight reel of disastrous events; the CNN News equivalent to Sportcenter's Top 10.

I was reminded of a local news program I had witnessed a few months prior about bees.

As you may be aware, the honey bees that help to pollinate many of our crops have drastically declined in number across the country. This was news to me at the time, and I stopped as I was walking by the television to learn more. As the anchor began to recite, I took notice of the image being displayed in the empty space next to his head.

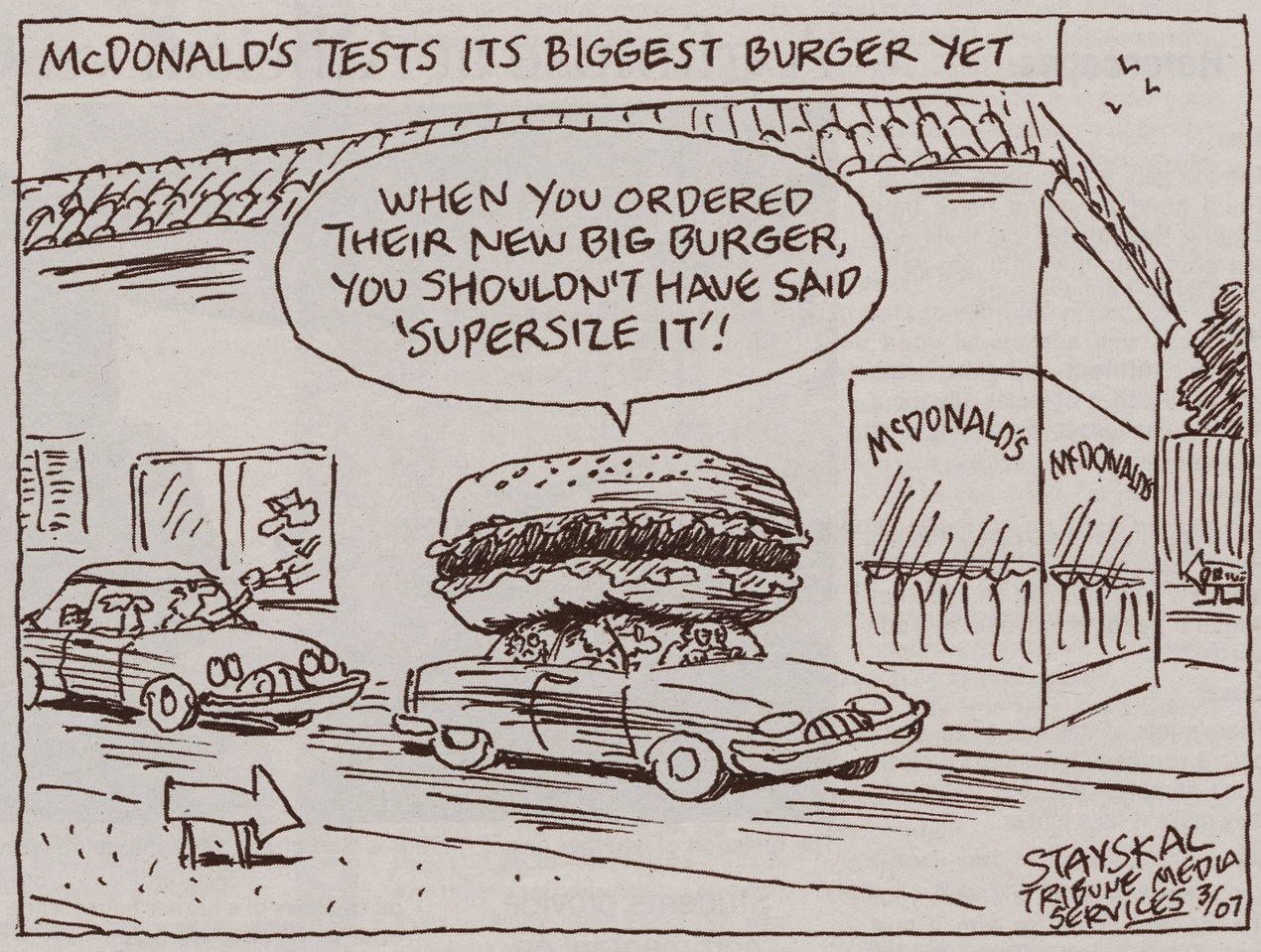
Framed by a blood-red sky was the silhouette of a mother holding the hand of her young daughter in some kind of desolate, post-apocalyptic scene. Next to them was a large honey bee flying away, and I could almost see his little insect tears. I don't know if it is even possible for bees to emote, but this one certainly seemed betrayed and frightened. The combination of empathy for this bee and fear of some imminent disaster striking mankind (specifically, young daughters of America) was enough to make my head spin.

After laughing at the extremity of this picture (and at myself), I thought about how reckless news programs similar to this are. At the expense of accuracy and objectivity (two things I would want my news to have), they make everything sensational to attract viewers. Reporting with such disregard for these basic concepts in journalism is an irresponsible way to use an extraordinarily powerful tool.

I am aware that these broadcasts are dependent on ratings and revenue, but I've lived in Greenville for four years—it is not a sensational place! I don't rely on local news to entertain me, just as I don't need to watch Entertainment Tonight to get my news. I would hope that most people would feel the same way.

So what is the easiest solution to this problem? Don't watch either of them.

This writer can be contacted at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com



PIRATE RANTS

The *East Carolinian* does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Sarah Campbell, Editor in Chief, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

It's not that I don't want a boyfriend; I just don't want you as my boyfriend.

I hate baseball. Is it football season yet?

Banner is the best thing that has happened at ECU in a long time.

One day, I went into the Whichard Building to get a transcript and it took me 15 minutes to find the right office. They seriously need some signs in that building.

All the potential presidential candidates are losers. I wonder which loser will win.

I am tired of answering the same questions over and over again.

I went on a cruise to Bermuda with my roommate and we rocked it out with a bunch of senior citizens...old people are awesome!

My guinea pig's name is Captain Jack Sparrow and he has a pirate outfit...do I have a problem?

I just graduated and I am wondering how long I will continue to read Pirate Rants...ECU forever!

I am having the dullest summer ever. I really wish my friends didn't hate each other.

I think meter maids take their job way too seriously.

I know you like me but you had your chance when I was single.

When you call someone on the phone, make sure that you are calling the right person... thanks.

I really hate this job and all the annoying phone calls and stupid questions aren't helping matters very much.

I was ready to go back to Greenville about 2 weeks after I got home, now I am ready to do just about anything to get out of here.

How do I ask the girl I like out?

I open the door for myself, but press the handicap button for people coming in behind me. Is that wrong?

Yup, I'm still in love with a redhead.

Does anyone else find it ironic that Trophy Wives In Training can be abbreviated TWIT?

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Features

Horoscopes:

Aries

The job gets a little more difficult. You'll need to spend more time digging through the manuals and searching for the right answers. Don't expect quick results.

Taurus

You're confident and that helps you deal with a complex situation. Avoid great losses by maintaining your cool.

Gemini

You're gaining enthusiasm, although you're facing some difficulties. The money's still coming in, so that doesn't need to be one of your worries.

Cancer

There's lots of cleanup to be done before you begin your next project. Don't complain about it _ that will only make it take longer.

Leo

You'll have time to talk with your friends and come up with a new plan. Don't even think about what you'd rather be doing. There'll be time for that later.

Virgo

Focus on advancing your agenda for a while. Even if you don't know how, make that your objective. If you haven't already, make an agenda.

Libra

You're deeply involved in your work. When, suddenly, controversy arises. Should you join in the argument? Nah, let them battle it out.

Scorpio

You're very good at expressing your opinion now. So let other people know exactly how you want them to spend your money.

Sagittarius

Somebody else might succeed in an area you've found quite troublesome. Don't be annoyed; quickly hire this person to help. Abandon pride.

Capricorn

If there's an issue unresolved, let somebody else resolve it. Continue with your research. Your time is more valuable spent there.

Aquarius

Don't talk much about your work in a social setting. Don't talk about how much you're earning, either. Be a good listener instead.

Pisces

Work your way toward home. You need some rest in your private space. Keep track of important things but save all the others for later.

A glimpse at Atheism vs. Christianity

MCT

The question of whether or not there is a God plagues the minds of many students, yet many remain faithful.

Students provide commentary on controversial topic

BRITTANY JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Does God exist? Is believing in an unseen God realistic?

These are questions that are left unanswered in the hearts and minds of many.

The philosophy of atheism has its roots embedded in the earth. The roots of Christianity are woven in heaven.

Some worldviews are centered on the laws of a higher being while others are built on independence. Aristotle, Pythagoras, Martin Luther and Charles Darwin spent a lifetime exploring the existence of God and purpose of man. From the first century to the new millennium, the question of God's existence remains.

"I was raised Roman Catholic and although I grew up with a sense of God, I denied all claims of Christ when I became educated. I don't need a crutch to patch my weaknesses. Religion caused more trouble in the world than good. If it were not for religion, many wars would not have been fought. I think humans are better off without it.

"God does not scientifically make sense. It's as if people claim that there's just a mass of electricity – that's what their god is. It's nonsense! I say live life to the fullest and have fun while it lasts," said Marcin Dobosz, a 2006 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

If religion creates discord among nations, why would people believe that God exists?

"It is hard to imagine...that the earth just came to be. There

see **GOD** page 8

Renting movies no longer has to break the bank

Redbox.com provides new titles for just one dollar a night

LAURA HUHN
STAFF WRITER

Like many college students, watching movies into the wee hours of the morning is a frequent pastime. Unfortunately, the only options of viewing movies are buying $20 DVD's or joining a movie rental place, many times feeling obligated to keep the movie for the full five nights (since you already paid for it), when you will likely only watch the movie once. Sure, we all do it, but wouldn't it be nice if there were a better, less binding way to check out the new movie you've been hearing about?

It seems as though a solution has been found.

There is a new way to rent movies in Greenville which allows you to pay only $1 a night, and keep the movie for as many nights as you want. This new phenomenon is called RedBox, and can be found at redbox.com.

RedBox specializes in providing new releases at an even more affordable price, without the hassle of repeatedly finding

see **MOVIES** page 7

Brian McKnight strikes a sultry note

Latest album sure to please fans

ELISE PHILIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

The sultry sounds of Brian McKnight can be heard once more in his new album, *Ten*. The 47-year-old artist again delivers soulful lyrics combined with a buttery smooth voice, to release an album that can compete with his younger cohorts, such as Ne-Yo and Chris Brown.

Released on Dec. 5, 2006, *Ten* offers listeners a taste of the life of McKnight, who has been delivering hits since 1991.

The CD begins with a love song entitled "Used to Be My Girl." McKnight mixes hip-hop and R&B to deliver a ballad filled with bitterness about the loss of his girlfriend, which seems to be the theme of over half of the 15-track album.

The next song, "Comfortable," lends the listener to easy, free-flowing lyrics about an almost sexual encounter. This track sounds similar to Jamie Foxx's "Unpredictable," but with McKnight's unique twist.

McKnight also draws inspiration from musical legend Marvin Gaye. "Find Myself in You," rivals Gaye's "Sexual Healing." However, McKnight's smooth voice and soulful lyrics make this song truly one of a kind.

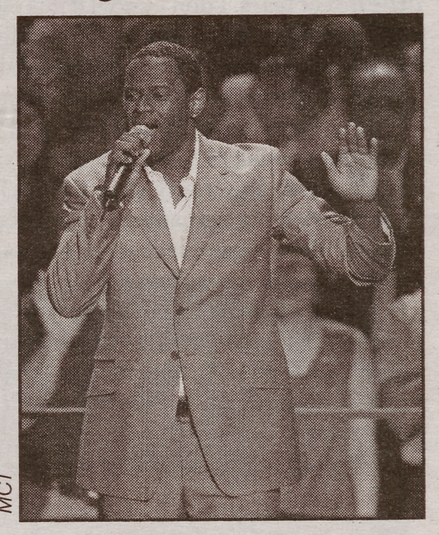
Following these tracks is a barrage of break-up R&B ballads, that can make anyone want to groove, including "What's My Name," Unhappy Without You," "A Little Too Late," "Holdin' On" and "Shoulda Been Lovin' You."

For the albums final tracks McKnight takes a turn from the hurt, break-up themed tracks and delivers some touching love songs.

"More and More," starts this sequence of sweet songs, proclaiming, "I'll be loving you more and more."

Then, McKnight gives listeners

see **MCKNIGHT** page 8



MCT

McKnight performs for loyal fans.

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MOVIES continued from page 6

your chosen movie store out of stock. As long as your city has a RedBox location, you are able to start your account and rent movies whenever you feel like it.

So how does this work? As explained at redbox.com, you have two options for renting movies. Either you can create an account and rent from your dorm or apartment online, or you can head straight to the local RedBox location and rent from there. Once you have kept your movie for as many nights as you like, you can simply return it to a local RedBox location.

RedBox locations are simply red vending machines, which may be found at local McDonald's or grocery stores. The only RedBox currently housed in Greenville is located at the new Harris Teeter on Fire Tower Road, but more are likely to come in the future.

Some of the titles currently available at the Greenville location include *Norbit*, *Because I Said So*, *Alpha Dog*, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *The Grudge 2*, and many others. To find all of the available titles, search for the location on the Web site, and go to "view titles." There are titles available for every taste, guaranteeing that everyone who checks it out will find a movie they would really like to see.

If you would like to check out this great offer, all you have to do is create an account online. For a trial run, redbox.com is running a deal that will allow you to receive one free rental before even signing up. All you have to do is enter your email address, and you will receive a code allowing you to pick up one free movie of your choice.

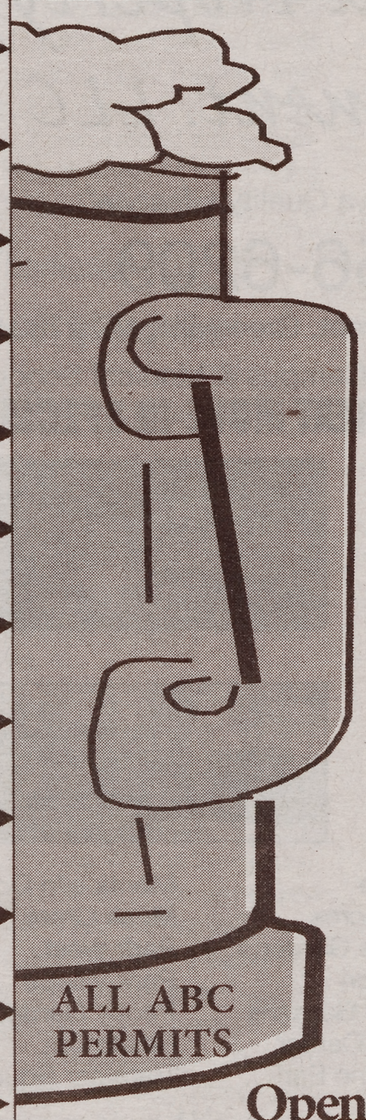
Another optional perk for members is the New Release Tuesday Alert, which will send an alert to your cell phone letting you know about the new titles available every Tuesday.

It seems as though the perks of RedBox are too good to overlook. Since you can keep the movies for as long as you'd like (at just $1 a night), there are no late fees. The available titles include some of the most sought after new releases, the ones that are impossible to find in the stores for at least two weeks after they are released.

It may not take the place of your Blockbuster card, but it certainly couldn't hurt to try it out. Besides, most college students are on a budget.

Check out redbox.com; it's easy, it's cheap and it's worth it.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com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GOD continued from page 6

must be a creator. Our Creator is not just a distant being but a God who longs to have a relationship with us. I have personally experienced this through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"I believe that a big reason for people's lack of belief in God stems from the lack of knowledge. At times it can be hard for people to believe in something they cannot physically see with their own eyes," said Nick Jones, ECU Victory Campus Ministry Leader.

Others disagree with the notion of a caring, relational God.

"If a god did exist, and he created us, it's not to say that he would love or care about what we do. It would be like planting a seed. You don't control how the flower grows. The god described in the Bible is controlling," said Dr. Ed Jacobs, professor in the ECU School of Music.

Since there is no proof for the existence of God, why does religion continue to exist?

"I believe God exists because of the evidence in nature and the impact of Jesus Christ on my daily life. Our culture is very self-reliant and some people push away the idea of God because they rely solely on themselves to accomplish life goals. Everyone makes mistakes and if we completely rely on ourselves, we set ourselves up for disappointment," said Lisa Stallings, a 2004 ECU graduate.

However, some believe that just because they can see the nature around them doesn't mean that there is a supernatural being.

"I believe in natural selection. Whenever I look at a flower or a baby, I cannot explain its design. I just don't know. No one does. I can't say for sure who or what started it, but it had to come from somewhere," said Jacobs.

The decision of to believe in God is ultimately left up to each individual. Sometimes people are led to faith or no faith by the words and actions of others.

America gives each individual the freedom to define freedom. Some worldviews define freedom within God's guidance, while Atheism defines freedom within self-reliance. Either way, the existence of God remains a personal belief woven within each human soul.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com

MCKNIGHT continued from page 6

a more hip-hop inspired track, "Can't Leave You Alone," with a rap section that is sure to get fans dancing.

By the end of the album, McKnight delivers a totally different type of song, "Red, White, and Blue." The track is a duo between McKnight and Rascal Flatts, and has that country twang that only Flatts can provide.

The tear-jerking track, which talks about the military men and women at war, proclaims "Baby, tomorrow I'm gonna have to fight, I fight for what's right and I fight for what is true, mostly I'm fightin' to get back to you." This song is sure to touch any American, especially the families of military personnel overseas.

Ten concludes with a Christian-inspired hit, "Don't Take Your Love Away." Overall, Ten is an amazing album. McKnight mixes heartbreak with hope to give fans a taste of the artist's abilities to cover a broad spectrum of ideas.

Listeners will likely agree that McKnight has not lost his touch in this easy listening, soulful album.

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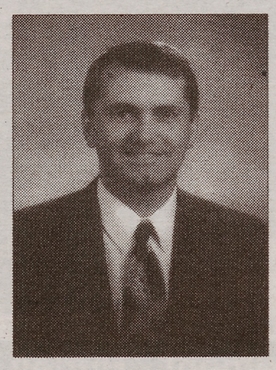
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Sports

Four Pirates Selected In 2007 MLB Draft

(SID)--- Shane Mathews, Dale Mollenhauer, Dustin Sasser and Jason Neitz each heard their names called Friday afternoon as they were selected on the second day of the 2007 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft.

Mathews, a native of Conover, N.C., was selected with the 249th overall pick in the eighth round by the Baltimore Orioles. The redshirt junior led C-USA with 14 saves, total appearances and relief appearances, while earning first-team All C-USA accolades and being named to the 2007 C-USA All-Tournament Team.

A 2007 second-team All C-USA infielder, Mollenhauer was taken with the 539th pick overall in the 17th round by the Chicago White Sox. The junior from Gibsonia, Pa., who missed 15 games with a hand injury, led the Bucs with a .329 batting average. In the field, Mollenhauer moved into second place on the schools all-time assist charts with 486 for his career.

Sasser, a lefty from Pikeville, N.C., was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 21st round (pick 637). He ranked tops among Pirate starters with a 3.52 ERA and was second on the club with 68 strikeouts.

Neitz, who ranks fourth all-time in total appearances at ECU, was picked in the 37th round by the San Francisco Giants with pick number 1117. The lefty from Mifflinburg, Pa., appeared in 35 games posting a 5-2 overall record with a team-best 2.60 ERA, striking out 40 batters and walking 20 in 55.1 innings pitched

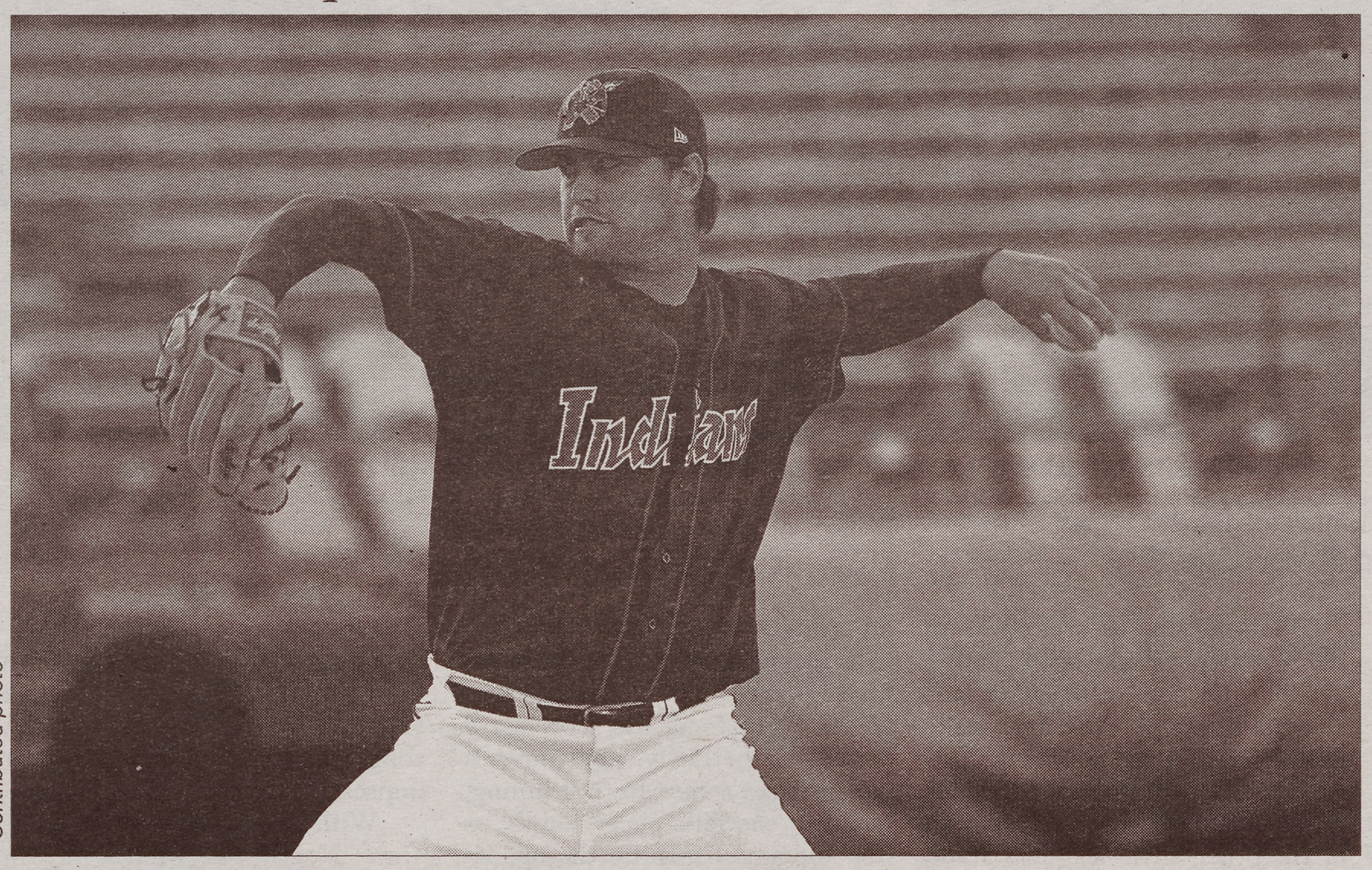
Mark Thompson Named Director Of Basketball Operations

(SID)--- ECU Head Basketball Coach Ricky Stokes announced the hiring of Mark Thompson as the Director of Basketball Operations on Friday. Thompson fills the position vacated by Jeremy Shyatt, who resigned earlier this spring to pursue other opportunities.

"Mark and I worked together at the University of South Carolina for one successful season and I'm thrilled to add him to our staff," Stokes said. "As a former player, it's a natural transition for him to move into coaching. With his background, work ethic and knowledge I know he'll be a great addition to the Pirate family."

As the Pirates' director of basketball operations, Thompson's responsibilities include handling the program's daily operations, coordinating its travel itineraries, assisting with scouting videos and overseeing the team's student managers. He will also oversee the overall operation of ECU's summer boy's basketball camps.

Tribe holds place in heart of eastern North Carolina



Contributed photo

Pitcher David Huff is 4-2 with a 2.72 ERA in 11 starts. He has the fifth lowest ERA in the Carolina League.

Baseball and Kinston Indians have strong roots in region

MATT SIMON
STAFF WRITER

Kinston is a small town with a population of around 24,000. Here in the heart of eastern North Carolina, the town has carved out its own little slice of baseball heaven. No stores stay open past 8 p.m. and the streets are dark and quiet.

Where is everyone?

A tall fixture remains alive in the distance. The sound of the crowd rumbles steadily, bright lights illuminate the horizon and contrast against the summer night sky. It's all originating from the historic Grainger Stadium, which has stood as a landmark in Kinston since 1949. On this humid summer night, it beckons the townsfolk to come and enjoy a night at the ballpark. Suddenly a thunderous eruption of cheers carries through the air as another homerun by the home team sails over the centerfield fence. The stadium exploded after a grand slam in the seventh inning was followed by the sixth blast of the night, giving the Indians a 20-4 lead.

Kinston's competitive nature in baseball hasn't wavered through the years. The Indians have had a winning record in 25 of the past 29 seasons, and this year isn't any different. Kinston has also won eight league championships and is poised to make another run, currently sitting atop the standings of the Southern Division of the storied Carolina League.

The Tribe, as fans affectionately call them, have come a long way from their humble beginnings as a team playing without a nickname in 1908 and not cracking the .500 mark until 1934. For over 20 years, Kinston's team has enjoyed a successful rela-

see BASEBALL page 10

The famed "potato game"

A legend unveiled

MATT SIMON
STAFF WRITER

Professional baseball in Kinston began almost 100 years ago when the team became one of the original members of the Class D Eastern Carolina League. Formed in 1908, the league lasted only three seasons before being disbanded. Finally in 1921, professional baseball returned to Kinston to stay.

The town's competitive nature has been evident for a long time. There are accounts from the later parts of the nineteenth century that amateur ball games between the "Fleet Foot Club" of Kinston and teams from surrounding communities began to gain recognition in eastern North Carolina.

The games were so popular Kinston newspapers began covering them as front-page material. Even though the games played were exhibitions and the players were amateurs, the cities involved developed heated rivalries, particularly between the Kinston and New Bern teams.

The rivalry came to a climax one night when a riot erupted during a match between the two ball clubs. In the late innings of a close game, New Bern had runners on first and third with two outs. After a pitch, the runner on first sprinted to steal second base.

see POTATO page 10

Pirate hoops excited about upcoming class

ECU ropes one of the top-40 point guards in the nation

JOHN HOLT
STAFF WRITER

After concluding the 2006-07 season with an overall record of 6-24, as well as at the bottom of the C-USA standings for the second consecutive season, the ECU Men's Basketball Program is looking towards the future.

The future seems to be promising though, as the Pirates will only say farewell to two members of this past year's squad. One being starter Courtney Captain, and the other, reserve junior guard Jeremy Ingram, who had to conclude his playing career because of four knee surgeries in the past four years.

They will bring in a legit, four-man recruiting class for the 2007-08 season that consists of Brock Young, Jontae Sherrod, Jamar Adams and Daquan Joyner. Young, who is by far the most heralded of the group, is listed as the 38th best point guard in the country by scout.com. He comes from Broughton High School in Raleigh, which also produced former basketball legend "Pistol" Pete Maravich, as well as former Duke, and now present Philadelphia 76ers forward, Shavlick Randolph. Young's strengths include his ability to score, which he did a lot of during his junior campaign with the Caps, averaging 21.0 ppg and leading them to the second round of the 4A NCHSAA playoffs. He is the first ranked player the Pirates have been able to pick up in over five years and also the first Head Coach Ricky Stokes has snagged since joining the Pirates prior to the 2005-06 season.

"We are thrilled to have who we believe is the top point guard in the state," Stokes said in a statement released by the ECU Media Relations Department in November. "He is a hard worker and a tremendous competitor with a great basketball IQ. He is also very fast and will help us create a more up-tempo style of play."

Next, there is Tarboro's 6-foot-3 guard Jontae Sherrod, who com-

see HOOPS page 11

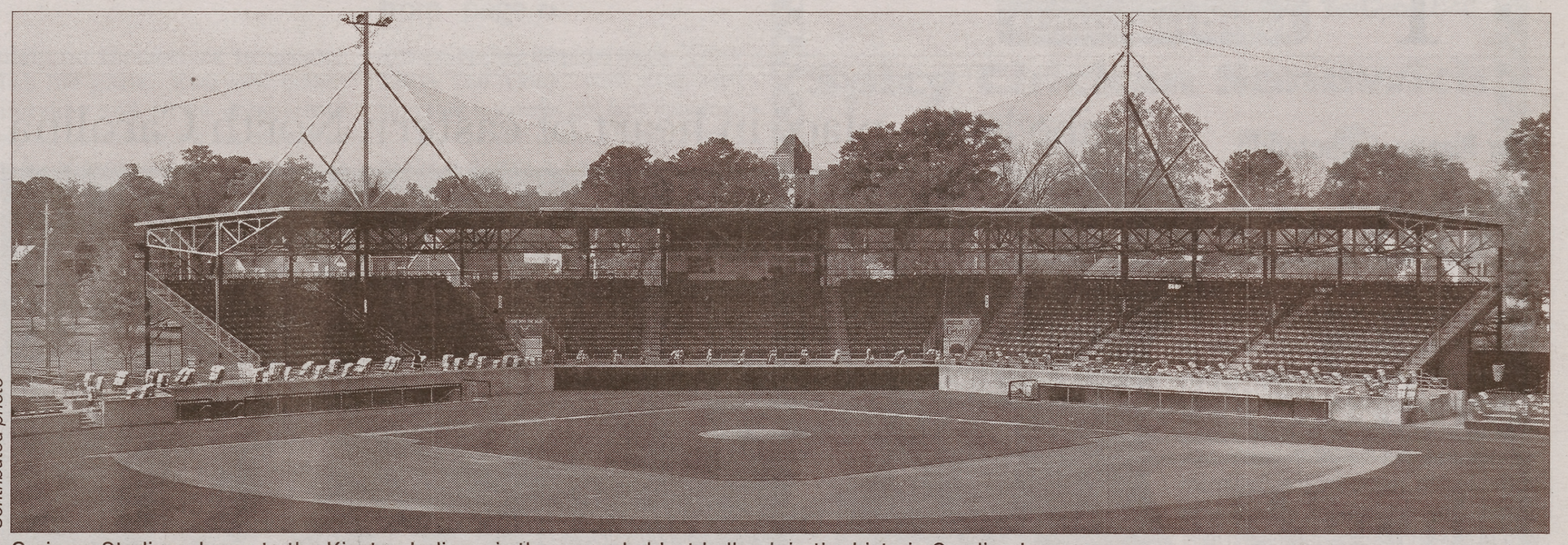
POTATO continued from page 9

The Kinston catcher popped-up quickly but his throw flew wildly into centerfield as the runner on third smugly trotted to home plate only to be tagged-out as he approached.

In what could only be described as the epitome of a "bush-league" play, the Kinston team had tricked the runners by throwing a potato into the outfield as the catcher held the ball, knowing the runner on third would try to score.

A violent reaction occurred between the players and fans on each side and the legend of the "potato game" was born.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com



Contributed photo

Grainger Stadium, home to the Kinston Indians, is the second oldest ballpark in the historic Carolina League.

BASEBALL continued from page 9

tionship with its big league affiliate, the Cleveland Indians. The Tribe groomed many current and former big league standouts.

Notable players such as Albert Belle, Sean Casey, Bartolo Colon, Brian Giles, Manny Ramirez, C.C. Sabathia, Grady Sizemore, Jim Thome and Luis Gonzalez all played for Kinston.

Kinston has appeared in the Carolina League Championship Series for three straight years. Last year, the Tribe swept the Frederick Keys in three games, winning the Mills Cup for the second time in three years. They also won the Advanced Class A Team of the Year Award from both Minor League Baseball and Baseball America.

Approaching the tall front gate of the stadium, fans enter to the sight of a large billboard with a huge picture of the team hoisting the championship trophy. The billboard reads: Grainger Stadium, Home of the Kinston Indians, 2006 Carolina League Champs. Hundreds of fans hustle trying to grab a hot dog and seat before the first pitch.

Walking up the breezeway to the bleachers to take a seat, music plays on the loudspeakers as fans sing along. People of all ages make up the faces in the bleachers; kids run around with giant foam hands on one arm and a box of popcorn in the other, little-leaguers stand along the first and third baseline seats pounding their gloves, waiting anxiously for a fly ball, parents sit and chat with one another and clap as the home team takes the field and older gentlemen sit together and discuss the team, who's hot and who's not and which of the Indian players is going to make it to the big show.

The atmosphere in the stands is cozy and inviting, and there isn't a bad seat in the house. The large green overhang above the bleachers shades fans from the sun during day games and sets the mood with florescent lights at night.

Along the sidelines there are more bleachers and a picnic area, where parents relax and kids play. The outfield wall is covered with signs from local businesses and in straight away center waves the American flag, a tribute to the nation that has created this beloved game.

In right field, the scoreboard lights up brightly, posting run after run in a six-run first inning, making the fans cheer loudly as the Indians dismantle the opposing team's pitching. The offensive onslaught by Kinston doesn't waver, as it puts up four more runs in both the second and third innings.

As the game continues, the competitive nature of the Kinston fans is still prevalent. Even when their team holds a double-digit lead, the fans jeer and yell at the umpire to call strikes and cheer wildly for each Indian hitter stepping into the box.

They don't want this night to end. The score continues to grow to a 21-6 lead but that isn't enough to quench the fan's thirst for the Pelicans' blood. The team from Myrtle Beach had abruptly ended Kinston's eight-game win streak rallying in the ninth inning for a 11-10 win the night before and tonight they are paying for their misdeeds.

Despite the lop-sided score, the stadium was still half full in the ninth inning and the game ended with a standing ovation from the crowd, congratulating the Indians on their impressive display of firepower.

With no MLB franchise in the state, North Carolina is known for being mostly "action-sports" country. Most sports fans watch NFL Football or College Basketball and more recently, the NHL. Many people don't enjoy watching baseball games. They say, "It's boring". In some ways they may be right.

You won't get the same atmosphere of watching the Panthers play the Falcons at Bank of America Stadium on Monday night or the excitement of a Duke-Carolina basketball game, but people don't come to watch Kinston Indian baseball for that.

Being at the ballpark as a true fan is something special that not everyone experiences the same way. For the casual fan they will have a fun and entertaining time, but real baseball fans find their joy through the intricacies of the game. For them, keeping track of pitch counts and averages, and understanding all the different situations is what makes the game exciting.

For the people who have played the game, it is an even more meaningful experience. The smell of freshly cut grass, the crack of the bat and watching the players on the field reminds ex-players of the times when they stood out on the diamond and heard the cheers of the crowd, back when they used to be the one to make the plays, and that's a special feeling.

If you live in eastern North Carolina and are a true fan of the game, or if you are just a casual fan that is looking for a fun time during the lazy days of summer, then Grainger Stadium is the place to be.

The Kinston Indians are a great franchise and they have created a special atmosphere and experience that casual fans and baseball purists alike can both enjoy.

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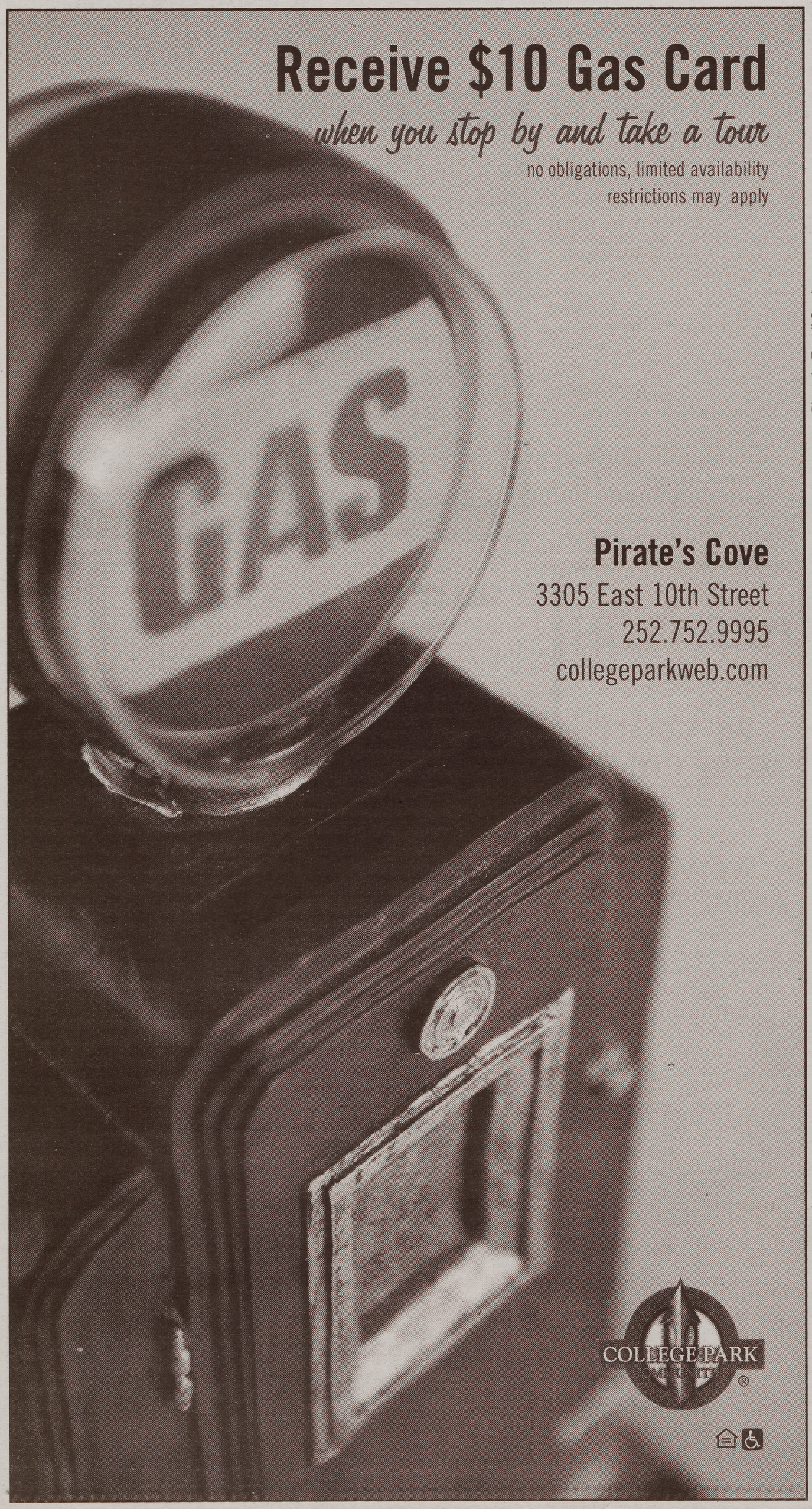

HOOPS continued from page 9

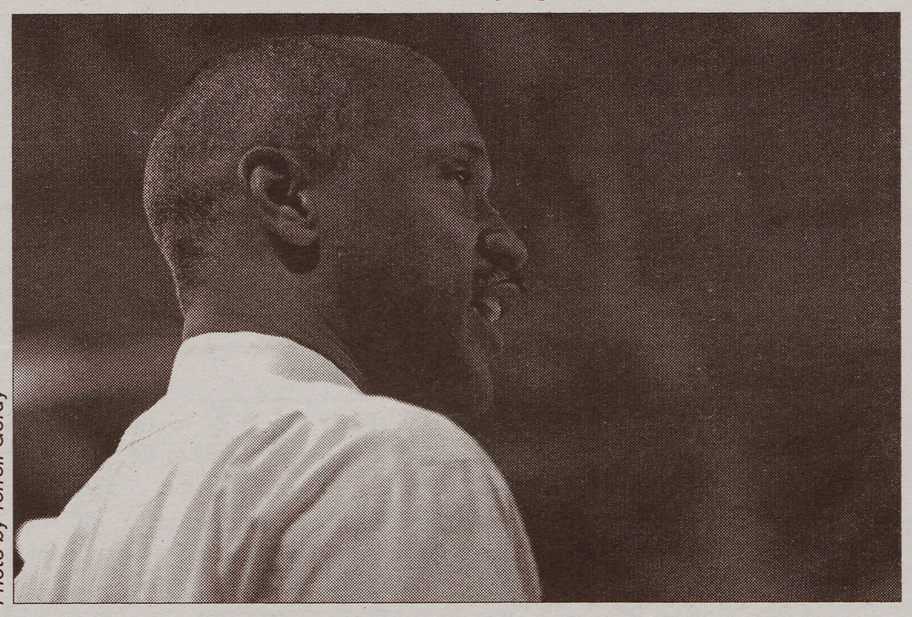

Photo by Terrell Gordy

Head Coach Ricky Stokes will welcome his most touted recruiting class.

mitted to the Pirates primarily to stay close to home. Sherrod, like Young, seems to be a prolific scorer, as he racked up 23.0 ppg his junior season and was the first member of the class to verbally commit.

"Jontae is another athletic and versatile player that can score and play both guard positions," said Stokes in the statement. "He attended our team camp this summer and made a great impression upon us."

The third member of the '07 class is 6-foot-5 Virginian wing Jamar Abrams. Abrams committed to the Pirates despite receiving heavy interest from two mid-major schools close to his home, Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth. .

"Jamar is a splendid shooter that gives us additional size in the backcourt," Stokes said in the statement. "He is an athletic player that can play a variety of positions. He has the ability to go inside, but his shooting range is his biggest strength."

Abrams averaged 14.7 ppg as a junior and is the only member of the class coming from outside of NC.

Last, but certainly not least, the Pirates signed 6-foot-6 forward Daquan Joyner. Joyner, who was the last member of this talented group to verbally commit, played his high school ball at Goldsboro where he piled up averages of 18.1 ppg and 12.2 rpg during the 2005-06 season.

"Daquan is going to be a great addition to our frontcourt," said Stokes in the statement. "He is an excellent rebounder that also has great shooting range. His overall athleticism is his greatest asset and we certainly look forward to him making valuable contributions to our program."

Appalachian State, Delaware, South Carolina, UNC-Greensboro and Wake Forest were all other schools that showed strong interest in Joyner before he gave Stokes his third and final in-state commitment for the 2007 class.

"Overall this class is very versatile and athletic which will help greatly improve our program," said Stokes in the statement. "We are delighted with the decision of each of these young men to attend East Carolina. Each player was a top priority for us and I know our fans will enjoy watching them play and getting to know them."

The 2007-08 Pirates should contain a solid nucleus and be much improved, with Stokes having by far his most experienced team since arriving in Greenville. The team will consist of five freshmen, seven sophomores, two juniors and two seniors. The seven sophomores are Gabe Blair, James Dillard, Brandon Evans, John Fields, Justin Ramsey, Greyson Sargent. Chad Wynn, 6-foot-10, center, will be a redshirt freshman and Sam Hinnant and Josh Sweeley are the two juniors. Finally, Taylor Gagnon and Darrell Jenkins make up the senior class.

Special Note: Stokes stated a week ago today that James Legan, a 6-foot-3, 200-pound guard, who spent his freshman and sophomore seasons playing at Lon Morris Junior College located in Jacksonville, Texas, recently signed a National Letter of Intent with the Pirates.

"We are elated to have James Legan joining our program," said Stokes in a separate statement released by the Media Relations Department. "He is a very good shooter with exceptional range and the ability to finish in the paint. James will have a chance to come in and make an immediate contribution."

Logan, who averaged 14.9 ppg and 4.5 rpg last season, will have two years of eligibility remaining.

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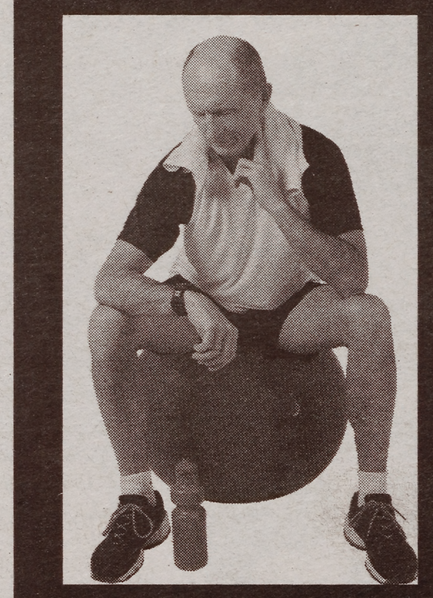
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3	9	2	5	6	4	8	7	1
7	1	5	2	8	9	3	4	6
6	8	4	7	1	3	9	5	2
2	5	1	9	4	8	6	3	7
4	3	8	6	7	2	1	9	5
9	7	6	1	3	5	4	2	8
5	2	3	8	9	6	7	1	4
8	4	7	3	5	1	2	6	9
3	6	5	4	2	7	1	8	3

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