

# The East Carolinian

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Greenville, N.C.

## N.C. General Assembly To Act On ERA

By PATRICK O'NEILL

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) has once again focused national media attention on North Carolina.

Forces, both for and against the proposed 27th amendment to the United States Constitution, have been launching full scale plans of action geared to the upcoming legislative battles expected to take place concerning the Equal Rights Amendment.

Dot Gronert, co-chairperson of the "Greenville ERA Action Team," says she is feeling "better and better" everyday, that is part of the "ERA Countdown Campaign," which is organized by NOW (National Organization of Women).

Gronert, who is part of a wife husband team (her husband being Gronert and Francis Gatten are the two other co-chairs), expresses her optimism despite the legislative status of ERA four different times in the North Carolina

legislature since 1973. Thirty-five states have already passed state ERA measures with most of the fifteen opposition states being in the southeast. Three more states are needed for ERA to become federal law.

Governor James B. Hunt has been a key reason why the pro-ERA forces are so optimistic. Hunt has clearly made the passage of ERA one of his major priorities.

He has been doing a lot of personal lobbying of the state representatives, and it is speculated that he is making patronage offers which may swing a few votes in the state senate, where the ERA vote could be close.

The pro-ERA forces have also been bolstered by a recent Harris poll that shows North Carolinians favoring ERA by a 2 to 1 measure. Blacks, who make up one fourth of North Carolinians population, as a group are 82 percent supportive of

ERA.

"It depends on which poll you care to believe," said Alice W. Gattis in an interview that appeared in the Raleigh News and Observer. Gattis, who heads up "North Carolinians Against ERA," was referring to a poll conducted by W.H. Long of Greensboro, that shows ERA opposition in N.C. at 3 to 1.

Like the pro-ERA forces, Gattis vows that her people will be doing all they can to prevent the passage of ERA. Both sides plan to use good old fashioned lobbying tactics to win their battles.

Gronert is requesting that pro-ERA lobbyists turn out today and tomorrow in Raleigh for "A Lobby Day" visit with their representatives. She even encouraged people to "take off from work" if they had to so they could show their bosses and friends how important this is. 55 Gronert also invited ECU students to participate. "They can

call me and we can get them a ride," she said.

Gronert, showing that the lobby effort would be difficult, claimed that "the Christian schools take their children out of school" and go by the bus load to Raleigh to rally against ERA.

On Saturday a "North Carolina rally for ERA" will also take place. Participants in the Raleigh rally are being asked to wear white, reminiscent of the suffragette rallies that helped get women the right to vote.

Opposition forces have not given exact details, but they claim they will be taking similar actions.

The amendment, despite its being only 52 words in length, has generated more controversy than was ever expected. A group of seven women in Illinois have even begun a hunger strike which they vow to maintain until the June 30th (the deadline for ratification).

Basically the Amendment states that equal rights can not be denied

for reason of sex. Guidelines for enforcement of the measure are also written in.

"The ERA will put women in the constitution and give them equal rights under the law," said Gronert. "There are about 800 federal laws that discriminate against women," she added. "Women only get paid 59 cents for every dollar a man gets paid for comparable work," said Gronert. She also pointed out that the Social Security system discriminates against women, because it considers "valuable" all the work performed by a housewife.

"In North Carolina if your husband dies first the wife has to pay inheritance tax," continued Gronert. "If she dies first it's assumed that anything that she's acquired... belongs to him unless she can prove she paid for it." Gronert added that the wife's contribution to the marriage is only considered "a donation of love" or "a gratuitous contribution."

On Monday the pro-ERA forces received an unexpected blow to their efforts when N.C. Senator R.C. Siler (D-Columbus) spoke out publicly against ERA. Siler had previously stated that he was willing to consider his original opposition stance if the people in his district showed support for the amendment.

His final decision came as a result of the many letters and phone calls he had received that were opposing ERA.

If ERA fails Gronert concludes that the legislators in North Carolina will have decided it is alright to discriminate against women and that women are second class citizens and don't deserve any rights.

Pro-ERA forces charge it passes because they realize this may be the amendment's last chance for consideration in the 20th century. "I'm gonna work just as hard as I can right down to the last vote," concludes Gronert.

## ECU Recieves Gift From Broadcaster

An academic program in mass communication being taught by East Carolina University has received an endorsement and a gift worth several thousand dollars from the president of a radio station headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

George O. Beasley, president of the 11 station, Beasley Broadcast Group, which includes WMB and WTKN in Columbus, presented ECU with a production music library valued at over \$5,000. The record library contains music and special effects for use in preparing broadcast and other type of audio programs.

Beasley said he was donating the library to show his support and to help in the development of a new communication program at ECU.

"The need exists for a program of music," Beasley said, adding that music was in demand for various radio programs and personal

particularly by stations outside of the large metropolitan areas.

"It will be a primary source for broadcast to recruit good people," he said.

ECU currently offers a minor in broadcasting in the Department of Drama and Speech and a journalism minor in English. The new program, if approved by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, would provide a curriculum major in communications with emphasis on radio, television and newspapers.

Accepting the gift on behalf of ECU were E. Douglas Moore, acting vice chancellor for Advancement and Planning and Dr. Gerald R. Haskins, an associate professor of drama and speech.

"We're delighted with this gift and with the endorsement George Beasley has given our efforts to establish a communication major at ECU," Moore said.



Photo By CHAP GURLEY

### Drop-Add Lines

One Student decides not to go, another future student decides to get there early.



Photo By SCOTT LAWSON

## East Carolinian Writer To Be Sentenced

By JOHN WEYER

East Carolina student and East Carolinian staff writer, Patrick O'Neill faces imprisonment following arrests made on two separate occasions while he was protesting United States military policy.

On May 25 he was found guilty of the first charge, which was made during a demonstration at Fort Bragg.

Magistrate E. Stewart Clark of the District Court of the Eastern Region of N.C. in Fayetteville found O'Neill "guilty as charged" of "willfully, knowingly, and unlawfully, breaching 'martial law'."

Sentence was put off until June 7. O'Neill, along with University of North Carolina students Mark Beasley, Alex Charms and Stephen Kahn was arrested while protesting the training of El Salvadorian soldiers at Fort Bragg.

In a pre-trial statement, O'Neill said he did not consider himself unpatriotic because he is sometimes critical of U.S. foreign policy. "I consider myself the ultimate patriot because I can see this injustice being perpetrated by my own government, and in turn, I am willing to take advantage of my full constitutional privileges and speak out against this disgraceful evil."

O'Neill also faces other charges in Washington D.C. On April 9, Good Friday, O'Neill along with six others, including a priest, were arrested in Washington.

"The symbol of Good Friday was clear," says O'Neill. "On that day we remember how Jesus shed his blood, and so we gave a little of ours to remind people that the work of Pentagon can only lead to death." O'Neill will be tried in court on June 21.

## Students Sentenced In Pizza Larceny

Four East Carolina students and one former student were arrested April 28 and charged with conspiracy to commit common law robbery.

According to police records, Steven Mullen, Randy Boot, Julius Sampson, Ricky Gray, and Cliff Williams allegedly attempted to steal a pizza from Joseph Ssemwogerere, a Famous Pizza delivery man.

In Ssemwogerere's statement to the university police, he stated that he received a phone call on the evening of April 27 to deliver a pizza valued at \$15.95 to "44 C Belk", a non-existent address. He added that when he reached

the middle of the center stairwell at Belk, he was attacked by two black males.

According to Detective Earl Wiggins, all five signed statements admitting they took part in the theft. Three of those arrested, Mullen, Boot, and Sampson, are listed as members of the varsity football team on the 1982 spring roster.

On Wednesday, May 19, Sampson, Mullen and Williams pleaded guilty to simple assault. Police records show that plea-bargaining had occurred to lessen the charges.

## Dropout Rate Hits 40 Percent

By ERNEST CONNER

Lisa, a bright young, intelligent student at East Carolina University with a 3.8 grade point average will not be returning next fall.

Lisa, who does not want her last name used for identification purposes, is dropping out of college for a few years, two years shy of her proposed degree.

As a married student, she feels school is keeping her away from her husband and 1-year-old daughter. And her family needs the extra money her full-time employment could provide.

Lisa is just one of the thousands of students each year who drop out of college for one reason or another. Dianna Morris, assistant director of Institutional Research here at ECU, explained that nationally only 60 percent of all freshmen entering college ever earn a degree.

ECU is no exception to this trend. According to Morris, 2,578 new freshmen entered ECU in the fall of 1978. When the fall of 1979 came around, only 75.1 percent of these

returned. For the fall of 1980 only 63 percent returned, and for the fall of 1981 only 55.4 percent of the initial freshmen returned.

This figure is slightly less than the 60 percent average that normally earns a degree, but according to Morris, this variation is because some of those who drop out eventually return to school to get a degree.

What happens to the 40 percent who drop out is a crucial question. There have been numerous studies on the rate student drop out, but very little research has been done on the problems associated with dropouts.

According to author Alexander W. Astin, a major researcher and writer on the subject, students drop out for a variety of reasons.

Astin reports from a number of studies he has conducted that freshmen who enter college with poor academic records from high school are the most drop-out prone. Astin also reports in his book, "Preventing Students from Dropping Out," that dropping out is also

associated with older freshmen, having Protestant parents, having no religious preference, being a cigarette smoker and being a female who is married or plans to get married.

As for the reason freshmen themselves claim they drop out, Astin reports that the most frequently cited reason is boredom with courses. This reason is followed by financial difficulties, marriage, pregnancy or family responsibilities, poor grades, dissatisfaction with requirements, change in career goals, inability to take desired courses, good job offer, illness, transportation problems and disciplinary troubles.

How do these reasons compare on the local level at ECU? Well, according to an ECU-conducted survey of students who fail to re-enter school prior to their senior year, the number one reason cited is transfer to another university. The other reasons, in order of their frequency, are academic failure, financial difficulties, time needed to reconsider goals or major, family crisis or

health and not being pleased with major or program.

According to Morris, strong conclusions drawn from these responses should be avoided. This is mainly due the fact that the survey has always had an extremely low response rate. "It seems like once they are gone, they are gone for good and don't worry about responding to an ECU survey," explained Morris. This could bias the result since those who do not respond could have different reasons for dropping out than those who respond.

Also the survey does not necessarily correspond to nationally conducted surveys. For example, it provides nothing concerning the dropout's religious affiliation or family status.

All of these factors need not occur together for a student to drop out. Our case example, Lisa, is married and plans to drop out mainly for financial reasons. She has no religious preference and is approving

See DROPOUT, Page 3

## ECU Students Protest At Air Base

By PATRICK O'NEILL

Eleven ECU student and faculty members were among a group of two dozen people who took part in a unusual kind of Memorial Day event.

The group, all members of the North Carolina Peace Network, gathered at the gates of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro last Saturday for a silent vigil for peace.

In a prepared statement the group said, "Today we remember our war dead and vigil in silence as an ex-

pression of our hope that peace will come to our world."

The North Carolina Peace Network has been keeping a regular presence at Seymour Johnson to protest the nuclear armed B-52 bombers, which the United States Air Force keeps at the base.

Seymour Johnson, which is known as a SAC (Strategic Air Command) base because of its nuclear status, has been targeted as a level I, which means it would be one of the first places bombed in the event of a nuclear war.

The Peace Network has been ask-

ing that all the nuclear weapons be taken out of Goldsboro. "It's going to be our next generation that's going to be affected," said Theresa Dulski, an ECU occupational therapy student who took part in the vigil. "If we ever want to see our children's children we've got to act now."

"I went because I decided it was important to let the people know that the nuclear arms situation is totally out of hand," said ECU physical therapy student Marybeth Kozar. "We're at the point now where it's going to be all or

nothing," she added.

The Peace Network has been to Seymour Johnson eight times in the last year. Last Saturday's vigil marked the first anniversary of their presence at the base.

During their April vigil the Peace Network had over 100 people at Seymour Johnson, the largest gathering of their series of vigils. At that time a group of Japanese Buddhist Monks, who were walking to the United Nations for peace and disarmament, also took part.

See MEMORIAL, Page 2

# Announcements

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you or your organization would like to have an item printed in the announcement column, please type it on an announcement form and send it to The East Carolinian in care of the production manager.

Announcement forms are available at the East Carolinian office in the Publications Building. Flyers and handwritten copy on odd sized paper cannot be accepted.

There is no charge for announcements, but space is often limited. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that your announcement will run as long as you want and suggest that you do not rely solely on this column for publicity.

The deadline for announcements is 5 p.m. Friday for the Tuesday paper and 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday paper. No announcements received after these deadlines will be printed.

This space is available to all campus organizations and departments.

## JOBS AND JUSTICE

A march for "Jobs and Justice" sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will be coming to Greenville on Thursday. All students are invited to participate. The march will begin at 401 Morewood Drive at 4 p.m. Everyone must get together to "stop Reagan war on the poor" and help to win extension of the Voting Rights Act. For more information call 758-9282.

## DISARMAMENT

Come to the largest rally in history for disarmament in New York City. It is on June 12. Car-pools will be coordinated through 752-4216 or 758-9282. We will be returning in time for Monday class.

## NUCLEAR FREEZE

An organizer's meeting at Jarvis Church this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. We hope to join citizens of Asheville, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh, perhaps working toward coordination of larger activity by July. Call 758-9250 or 758-4906 for more information.

## OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

If you will be needing a room, mate or would like to find and share an apartment for Fall, contact the Off-Campus Housing Office, 211 Whitchard Building 757-6881, before June 14. Orientation will begin that time and many students will be seeking accommodations. We need your listing!

## ECGC

The East Carolina Gay Community meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7:00 at 953 East 10th Street. June 8th the ECGC will have a hot dog supper and homemade ice cream for dessert. It's pot luck so call Mark at 758-7743 about how you can help!

## AEROBIC MOVEMENT

Aerobic Movement and Exercise will be offered on Mon. and Wed. July 5th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Eight sessions of simple but energetic dance movements combines with stretching and muscle toning exercises. Call 757-6143.

## INTRAMURALS

The Department of Intramural Recreational Services is once again offering the ever popular Fitness Classes. Join the Aerobic Fitness Class and get fit the fun way. The Belly Dancing Class lets you learn a beautiful art form while firming up that lumby. Learn to protect yourself by joining the Self Defense Class. Find out all about logging, weight lifting, biking, swimming, and a variety of activities in the Body Conditioning Class. All students, faculty, staff and spouses are invited to attend. Registration is being held now in Room 204 Memorial Gym between the hours of 9:12:00 and 1:5:00. The cost is \$5 for one four week session and \$10 for two sessions.

## NC PRISON SYSTEM

A Symposium on the North Carolina Prison System will be held at St. Gabriel's School on Saturday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m. "Possible Alternatives" will look into the use of Alternatives to incarceration as a human and economical option for NC. For more information call 752-4216 or 758-1504.

## SCIENCE DAY CAMP

A Science Day Camp for primary grade children ages 6-9 will be offered by the ECU Department of Science Education in June.

Sessions are set for June 14-18 and June 21-25. Drs. Carolyn and Carol Hampton are co-directors and will be involved in teaching participating children. This year's activities focus around a series of high interest physical science topics including liquids, properties of water and air, interaction of systems, pulleys, magnetic interaction and electrical interaction. The scheduling of topics for the two sessions will not overlap, so that youngsters attending both sessions will not repeat the same activities.

## PSI-CHI

Are you interested in self-actualization, educational psychology, intellectual development, or statistical interpretation? Come to the Psi Chi Library Book Sale held in Speight 202. Books priced from .05 to .85. Psi Chi throws in a bonus, quiet atmosphere for studying with a comfortable couch to relax in. Hours from 8 to 1.

## ECU BIOLOGY

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this announcement was not printed in April. The East Carolinian regrets the error.

The Biology Club held a luncheon for the faculty of the Biology department as a display of appreciation for their contributions of time and cooperation for members of the club. The luncheon took place on April 21st in the Biology department. Special recognition went to Dr. Charles Bland and Dr. Gerardo Kaimus for their leadership and assistance in helping the club with projects and various other goals. Speakers of the hour were Dr. John M. Howell, Chancellor, Dr. Angelo Voipe, Dean of the Arts and Sciences, and spoke in behalf of the school and acknowledged the accomplishments of the Biology Club. Those also attending were Dr. William H. Queen and Dr. Susan McDonald.

## SYMPOSIUM

A symposium titled "Possibilities of Alternatives" will be held this Saturday (June 5) at St. Gabriel's School (1101 Ward St.) beginning at 10:00 p.m. The symposium will focus on the N.C. Criminal Justice System and look into alternatives to incarceration. The program is free and is open to the public. For more information call 752-4216 or 758-1504.

and enthusiasm. Darlene Keene received the G.W. Kaimus Award and the \$200.00 scholarship for her active participation in the club. She is the first recipient of this award. Dawn McDonald, biology club member and previous officer was awarded the Outstanding Female Senior for 1981-82.

Funds were made available by the Biology Club to Biology faculty members for travel and education. This pledge of \$250.00 enables a professor to have up to \$50.00 per project. Biology Club officers were also invited to a faculty picnic held at Dr. Patricia Daugherty's residence on April 25th. Pleasant weather, nice company and an array of good food made it a memorable afternoon.

Club members assisted in the University's 75th Anniversary Open House at Mendenhall and the Biology building held April 23rd and 24th.

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# Memorial Day Peace Vigil Held At Base

Continued From Page 1

"I think the number one issue of our time is the whole nuclear issue," said Mickey Skidmore, an ECU social work student. "It was real important to be there on Memorial Day, because we were there to remember the dead," continued Skidmore, "and a high percentage of those people killed in wars are innocent civilians." "I thought it was appropriate to vigil on Memorial Day," added Kozar, "because it was a vigil for them (our war dead), too, and

also to show that we didn't want any more of this (war) to go on."

Kozar admitted to not being very optimistic about the world's chances of averting a nuclear war. "I don't know whether we'll ever be able to convince the leaders of different countries to take steps toward peace."

Skidmore was more hopeful that disarmament might be realized, because people were beginning "to think and discuss" the nuclear issue. "That's the first reason that I'm out there. We are making progress," he added.

Reaction to the vigil from passing motorists going in and out of the base was mixed with the majority showing little interest. Occasionally, the driver of a car would blow their horn in approval; others would shout out their windows in disapproval.

Many of the participants in the vigil held placards with disarmament themes.

Members of the peace network distributed 500 fliers that invited "North Carolinians to: pray, study and act for world peace." The flier contained quotes from the

Bible and Jesus Christ and suggested various ways for people to get involved in activities that might lead to world peace.

When asked if speaking out against U.S. military policy was unpatriotic, Skidmore replied "I'm just as patriotic, if not more patriotic because of my Christian and humanitarian beliefs. If people do not take a stand," he continued "and attempt to convince their governments of what it's doing wrong, then they're being unpatriotic."

Kozar also expressed her disapproval of the

unpatriotic label. "I'm not unpatriotic," she said. Kozar added that those who looked on her as unpatriotic were under the blind belief that "these nuclear weapons are maintaining peace-but they're not."

"Even the smallest actions that we do for peace are important," added Dulski, "We're not anti-American, we love this country."

Asked why she thought more ECU students did not take part in the vigil, Kozar replied, "As a general

trend students at ECU have become apathetic, they seem to be mainly concerned about making money and getting a career."

"I'm not so sure that apathy is the reason," added Skidmore, "We all place our priorities in different sequences," he concluded.

The North Carolina Peace Network plans to return to Seymour Johnson on July 3rd and to continue returning until all nuclear weapons are out of Goldsboro.

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# Citizens Participate In Study

A contingent of Greenville citizens, including East Carolina University personnel and students, is planning to participate in the events surrounding the United Nations' Second Special Session Devoted to Disarmament.

Dr. Carroll Webber, a retired ECU math professor, has been coordinating a local

"Greenville Task Force" devoted to studying and planning events for the U.N. session. Webber says he is "guardedly optimistic" that the special session will realize its goals.

Webber further points out that the arms race is still unchecked and that the ceiling on arms build-up, established in SALT I has been realized.

"So we see that disarmament rather than

disarmament is the outward result of all the many forces since 1978, including the special session," said Webber. "But to justify my optimism, I believe that a foundation was laid on which the second session can erect a structure within which disarmament can really be accomplished."

Webber noted that a worldwide negotiating committee was formed with "comprehensive

unanimously agreed principles" as a result of the first U.N. Session.

There was a unanimous agreement from the nations participating in the first special session that the arms race "jeopardizes the security of all states."

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# Dropout Rates Posing Problems For Major Colleges, Universities

Continued From Page 1  
 imately the same age as other students. She also has an extremely good high school academic record.  
 Dropping out presents a major problem to universities and colleges, since a reduction in enrollment means a corresponding reduction in income. In his book, "Four Critical Years," Astin explained that a 10 percent increase in enrollment does not cost a university 10 percent more to provide the same services to each additional student. However, a 10 percent drop in enrollment normally means a 10 percent reduction in university income.  
 Many universities are taking steps to increase retention, according to information published by the American Council on Education and similar organizations. It is viewed as a cost-effective measure since it costs less to retain a student than it does to recruit a student.

ECU is among those universities which would like to increase retention. However, there is no formal program as such set up. Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Elmer E. Meyer explained that the school is taking informal steps to increase retention. Several reports on retention improvement have been passed around and according to Meyer, the university is looking at ways to increase retention.  
 Susan J. McDaniel, acting director for admissions, explained that the information on dropouts is so sketchy that she is not sure if there is enough information on the subject for anyone to actually get a handle on the dynamics of dropping out.  
 However, she does feel the university is

taking steps toward increasing retention. "The most potent device we have to counter dropping out is the faculty and student relations," explained McDaniel. "Every student needs an advisor and for more than just what course to take." Because of this McDaniel explained that the school places a lot of emphasis on student-faculty and student-advisor relations, hoping to slow the drop-out rate.  
 According to McDaniel, since the university switched to the semester system a few years ago and consequently lost much of its previous data base, it is not known if the actions taken by the school have actually increased retention. "We are currently building back up our data

base," said McDaniel, "and in a few years should have more information to get a handle on the situation." Meanwhile, Lisa still plans to get out and spend more time with her family and have more money to spend. She is not completely happy about her decision and feels there is a stigma associated with dropping out. "My family wasn't happy to hear about my decision but they understood my situation," said Lisa, adding that she has not told many other people.  
 Lisa does not blame the school for her decision, nor does she believe the university could do anything to change her mind. "I hope to return to school in a few years," said Lisa, "but right now I need the break."

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 LIMIT ONE WITH COUPON AND 7.50 ORDER GOOD THRU SAT., JUNE 5 AT A&P.

## Equal Rights

### Extremists Questionable

*Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this act. The amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.*

Perhaps no other collection of words has brought about the controversy of the above paragraph. And much to our surprise, the controversy over these words may be just beginning.

Nearly 12 years ago, The U.S. House of Representatives approved the Equal Rights Amendment by a vote of 350 to 15. Eighteen months later, in March 1972, U.S. Senators voted 84 to eight in favor of the amendment. At that time, ERA was given seven years to gain the approval of two-thirds, or 38, of the states to become law.

Less than one year later, 22 states had ratified the amendment. Yet the heated debate was just beginning in North Carolina. The state became the ninth to reject ERA in March 1973, following a House vote of 83 to 82 opposed and a Senate rejection of 27 to 23. A month before, a state House subcommittee had approved a bill calling for a referendum on the proposed amendment.

Two years and numerous debates later, the North Carolina House of Representatives again rejected the referendum. That year, 1975, marked, perhaps, the most controversial period in the amendment's North Carolina history. After being reintroduced to the state legislature, the bill was tentatively approved, rejected, re-introduced and finally killed.

In 1977, the bill came extremely close to gaining approval in the state. After being approved in the House, the bill lost the N.C. Senate vote when Sen. James McDuffie, D-Mecklenburg, reversed his campaign promises and his vote. The full Senate vote was, thus, 26 to 24 opposed.

With the deadline for ratification fast approaching, the state voted to extend the limitation to June 30, 1982. Bitter and placid discussion has brought the history of ERA in North Carolina to the present.

When the full state legislature convenes today, it is expected that the slated budget hearings and discussions will be extensively downplayed and that ERA discus-

sion will take the floor.

Legislators commenting on the upcoming session claim they've been "swamped" with letters from proponents and opponents of ERA ratification. They have sworn to take their "hopes and fears" with them into the legislature when the bill goes to the floor today. However, experts claim that the present ERA situation in the state is "too close to call."

By virtue of the ERA's being a topic of considerable controversy, extreme views on both sides have come full thrust in the past 12 years. Some radical supporters of the amendment seem to feel that adoption of the ERA is the long-awaited solution to sexual discrimination in the U.S. Extremists opposed to the amendment have gone so far as to propose that adoption of the ERA will mark the end of family life in the U.S. as we know it.

Wouldn't it be amazing if a written document could have that much direct impact on a society? Why, with the mentality of those extremists, it should be easy enough to eliminate poverty by enacting a law against it.

Of course, getting involved in an issue of controversy is not "wrong" per se. Certainly, if there were no support or opposition for today's key issues, it would be extremely difficult to gauge the gravity of world news.

But blind adherence to one side or the other can be detrimental, especially when dealing with an emotional issue such as equality of rights under law. Those who condemn a cause without any factual basis work only to extend the apathy professed by others. Senator Sam Ervin, one of the most vocal opponents to ERA, even warned at one time that adoption of the amendment would merge jail and restroom facilities for men and women.

Perhaps one stage of citizen involvement has come to an end. The letter-writing phase is obviously over. Legislative debates will, in effect, determine what lies ahead for the ERA in North Carolina. But this is not to say that state citizens can expect a written change in the U.S. Constitution to straighten out sexual discrimination and work force tensions. The principle behind that and its resolution lie far beneath a paper document.



## ECU Baseball

### Sparse Crowds For Half A Century

By WILLIAM YELVERTON

As a child in nearby Farmville, I couldn't wait to get home from Little League practice and flip to the sports page of the Greenville Daily Reflector and see how the Pirates did. And more often than not, they had won.

But every time I looked at the bottom of the boxscore, "Attendance: 150" would always catch my attention.

And when I went to high school, our coach would end practice early, and we'd pile into our old activity bus so we could see the Pirates play a few games a year.

And they still played before only a couple of hundred fans — a couple of hundred loyal fans. Many of whom attended every game, knowing each other's names and sharing victories and defeats with James Mallory's, Monte Little's and Hal Baird's teams.

But there were always many more victories than defeats, though. Which has been pretty much the case the past 50 years.

This is East Carolina baseball's golden anniversary, celebrating 50 years of rich baseball tradition. A championship tradition.

Yet baseball at East Carolina doesn't receive nearly as much recognition as it should. And that's pretty hard to swallow since the program has had only had one

losing season in the past 30 years. The football and basketball programs certainly can't boast about that.

But the most difficult thing to understand about Pirate baseball is the attendance. WE have a nice baseball field; the people are friendly; the grass is green. And yet the only time we fill the stands is when those uppity boys from Chapel Hill come to town.

The Pirates are our Boy's of Summer. Names such as Billy Best, Eddie Gates, Mickey Britt and Sonny Wooten were just as familiar to youngsters in this area as were the Robinsons, the Seavers, the Aarons. When the Pirates won, we all won. When they lost, we all lost.

They were once national champions (NAIA). Back in 1961, under the leadership of a crafty coach named James Mallory, this bunch of good ol' country boys defeated Sacramento State, 13-7, to bring a national title back to Greenville.

"The phenomenal thing about it," Mallory once told me, "was that I didn't have but 13 boys."

And finances were a problem, too. "Money was hard to get back then," he said. "The people in Greenville raised three or four thousand dollars for us." Just a great big family.

Mallory retired in 1962 after compiling an overall record of 145 wins and only 52 losses. But he returned to coach briefly in

1973.

Monte Little coached East Carolina from 1976-79, winning 82 games and losing only 49. Under his direction, the Pirates won their sixth Southern Conference championship. And his 1977 team set 21 new school records.

And when Little retired in 1979, he turned the program over to a friendly, dark-haired, three-year assistant named Hal Baird, who held the East Carolina record for most saves in a season.

The new coach knew what to do, though. He won, and he won, and he won. Twenty-eight times that year. Only seven losses. And he was rewarded with a bid to the NCAA tournament.

Which brings us to this year. The Pirates, for the first time in six years, belonged to a conference. Another chance to build rivalries, where the homefield advantage really comes in handy.

And again the Pirates won. But this time they did it like no other East Carolina team had ever done. They won 34 games, losing 14. They were ECAC-South Conference champions and a participant in the NCAA tournament.

And they still played before only a couple of hundred fans. Loyal fans. So nothing has really changed, has it?

## The Memorial In Memorial Day?

By MIKE HUGHES

Memorial Day. I can remember when that holiday really meant something. Everyone got the day off (and they knew why); churches held special services, and it seemed the whole day was devoted solely to commemorating the thousands of war veterans who "gave their lives for our country."

But Memorial Day 1982 seemed to be lacking something. Sure, there were the usual sales at all the local stores, and federal employees were able to take advantage of the convenient three-day weekend, but somehow Memorial Day just didn't seem the same this year.

Perhaps the problem is that nowadays we're more concerned with forgetting the trials and tribulations of our nation's turbulent past. We no longer look back on

Wars with patriotic eyes.

Granted, war is not a romantic proposition. Men, women and children being killed in needless battle is not something to be glorified. War, simply put, is hell. And perhaps the memories of bloodshed are better off forgotten.

But if our wish to forget the belligerent past causes us to ignore the brave soldiers who have served this country with the ultimate sacrifice, then I fear we have forgotten too much.

As Americans, we tend to take our various "freedoms" highly for granted. We sometimes forget that freedom — just as any other commodity — has a price. Unfortunately, history has dictated that the high cost of freedom be paid in human lives.

We can argue that war and military ac-

tion do nothing to bring about any sort of peaceful solution. We can scream about federal defense spending on nuclear missiles. We have the choice to complain about draft registration. But when we forget our gallant men and women who have served and died at war, we have taken too much for granted.

The history of the United States is, indeed, heroic. As U.S. citizens, we have much to be proud of and thankful for. And anyone who thinks otherwise: just take a gander at the world news on television some night. Just see what price people are paying all over the globe for the freedom we have grown so accustomed to.

Be proud of your heritage, and be grateful for those who have preserved it. Don't let Memorial Day become just another three-day weekend.

## Campus Forum

### SFA Secretary Earns Praise

In a small office located in the labyrinth of second floor Mendenhall, there is a frazzled young woman who can teach bureaucracy a lesson in the art of resilience.

Two or three weeks ago, Student Fund accounting suffered a setback when the manager, Joy Clark, left temporarily because of a back ailment. Since then, Debbie Stevens, secretary of SFA, has been running the office with unusual spirit. Despite the mounting workload of handling requisitions and posting financial statements, she has kept a smiling face and a willingness to help those in need of financial assistance.

We at WZMB appreciate the time she has put into helping the station with keeping the financial records straight. We also appreciate her ability to put up with the business manager and G.M. and all of our ludicrous questions. The campus is very lucky to have someone who truly serves the students. Someone give this woman a commendation.

Applause, please.

Warren Baker  
G.M. of WZMB

## Forum Rules

The East Carolinian welcomes letters expressing all points of view. Mail or drop them by our office in the Old South Building, across from Joyner Library.

For purposes of verification, all letters must include the name, major and classification, address, phone number and signature of the author(s). Letters are limited to two typewritten pages, double-spaced or neatly printed. All letters are subject to editing for brevity, obscenity and libel, and no personal attacks will be permitted.



## Conan's Film Exploits Are Razor-Sharp

By JOHN WEYLER  
Staff Writer

Do you like to see people's heads being hacked off? How about gigantic snakes trying to eat barbarians? How about prehistoric sex scenes? If any of the above is your idea of a good time, then rush to see *Conan the Barbarian* before it completes its run at Greenville's Plaza Cinema. The rest of you will do just as well to stay home and save your hard-earned money (perhaps your stomach as well).

The backers of *Conan* are gambling that many will rush out to see their savage hero — which may be a safe bet, since the embattled barbarian has been bloodying up pulp magazines, paperbacks and comic books since the early 1930's.

The producers have spared little expense in bringing *Conan* to the screen, enlisting the talents of John Milius (*The Wind and the Lion*, *Big Wednesday*) to direct the star, six-time Mr. Universe Arnold Schwarzenegger; James Earl Jones and Max Von Sydow were obtained for supporting roles, and Ron Cobb (*Alien*) was hired to design the production. Together these men have created an exotic, erotic, very violent action/adventure movie, sprinkled over with a pinch of pop philosophy.

All of the violence in Milius' mayhem-filled epic really doesn't amount to being any gorier than the violence in Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, which was considered

fine for family consumption. What really hurts *Conan* is that it is missing *Raiders* feel for high-spirited high-adventure. *Conan* is also devoid of any of the magic and wonder of, say, a *Star Wars*.

What *Conan* replaces these elements with is lethargy. The film lingers along like a wounded Hyborian bear, never developing much mood, epic scope, or even continuity (nearly every single scene change is very sloppily, choppy handled). The film does have a feeling of raw power and impact, a sensation similar to that of being sliced with a Cimmerian broadsword — which is basically what *Conan* is: a couple of hours of flashing steel and filleted flesh.

The character of *Conan* was created by Robert E. Howard, a writer who committed suicide at the age of thirty in 1936 (see *The East Carolinian*, May 26, 1982). Reclusive, moody, mother-tongue obsessed, Howard was a sickly, wimpy kid with a mind full of macho fantasies, who became a writer of not-unconsiderable skill and created a dream-world of barbaric savagery and splendor.

From Howard's various tales of *Conan* and other hulking he-men, Milius took Howard's imagery and welded on his own ideas in an attempt to turn male adolescent wish-fulfillment and bloodlust into a philosophy.

See 'CONAN', Page 6



Films Committee Announces James Bond Festival For Fall Semester

Ursula Andress strikes out at one of the many henchmen that carry on the evil Dr. No's dirtywork in this scene from *Dr. No*. The Student Union Films Committee recently announced a James Bond Festival for the upcoming fall semester. Also on the agenda for the fall is George Lucas' dazzling *Star Wars* and Paul Schrader's *Cat People* starring sultry Nastassia Kinski (*Tess*).

## Summer Flies Are No Match For The Original

By JOHN WEYLER  
Staff Writer

"Heeelppeee Meeeee!" cried the fly, and he needed help for he was the hero of a film so ridiculous it has become a comedic cult classic.

*The Fly* was based on a short story by George Langelaan which was originally published in *Playboy*. Says Richard Hodgens in *Focus on the Science Fiction Film*: "Since Langelaan's story is impossible to begin with, is inconsistent anyway, and is a horror story as

horrifying as the most horrible SF films, one might expect that it could endure motion-picture adaptation. The film, however, managed to be more impossible and less consistent, to add cliches and bright blood, and to contrive a happier ending with some mirthfully repugnant implications."

Says John Brasnan in *Future Tense*: "Despite an unusually absurd story *The Fly* turned out to be the surprise financial success of 1958, mainly because of the cunning approach adopted by (director Kurt) Neumann,

## Bad Sci Fi

who also produced it. Instead of making another cheap, exploitation movie, he hired a good scriptwriter (James Clavell) and a good cast and shot the film in colour. He also insisted that the cast play it absolutely straight, though it must have been difficult at times and Vincent Price has his usual trouble keeping his tongue out of his cheek."

Reportedly, Price and Herbert Marshall kept cracking up during the filming of the famous "Help Me!" scene, which is supposed to be the terrifying climax but is in fact one of the funniest sequences ever recorded on film.

The plot is as follows: Andre Delambre (played by Al Hedison, who later changed his name to Dave and starred in *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*) builds a device which is intended to be capable of disintegrating objects into their component atoms and reassembling them in another chamber.

For the first experiment Andre sends a dish through the "matter transmitters". The dish comes out okay except the lettering on it has been reversed. The second time he sends his pet cat through, which totally disappears, leaving only an eerie molecular meow. Evidently caring little for his own life, Andre sends himself through the process. Unfortunately, a fly had gotten in-

to the device and their atoms get mixed up, resulting in a man with the head and leg of a fly and a fly with a man's head and leg!

Understandably this transformation causes some friction between Andre and his wife (Patricia Owens). At first he locks himself in his lab, trying desperately to cure himself while his mind recedes every minute. Of course he never succeeds and ends up having his wife smash his head and arm to smithereens in a huge hydraulic press.

Andre's brother (played by Price) doesn't believe any of this strange story until he comes upon a spider web in which is caught a fly with a man's head and leg. The tiny fellow screams for aid as the spider descends for its supper, just before Price crushes it with a rock.

The plot of *The Fly* raises some disturbing questions, including:

Why did the "matter transmitter" act differently every time it was used?

How could the cat possibly completely disintegrate and still make an audible cry?

How did the fly's head and leg enlarge sufficiently to fit Andre, and vice-versa?

Considering the very dissimilar structures of insects and humans, how could the parts fit into and interact with each other?

How could Andre have the head of a fly but still have most of his own mind?

How then could the fly with the human head also have Andre's mind, which it must as it is able to talk?

And the most important question:

How could a film so far-fetched as to be hilarious rather than horrifying as was intended be not only financially successful, but spawn two sequels, *The Return Of The Fly* (1959) and *The Curse Of The Fly* (1965)?

## 'Divine Miss M'

### Bette Goes Mad This Evening

By JOHN WEYLER  
Staff Writer

An outbreak of "Madness" and "Murder" will soon occur at Mendenhall Student Center's Hendrix Theatre, courtesy of the Student Union Films Committee. The Bette Midler concert film *Divine Madness* will be presented tonight, at 8 p.m. Next Monday's (June 7) movie will be the Neil Simon comedy *Murder by Death*, to be shown at 9 p.m.

Admission to the summer film program is free with ID and Activity Card or MSC Membership.

Bette Midler's highly infectious form of insanity has made it to the screen before and since *Divine Madness*. Her performance as a Janis Joplinesque singer in *The Rose* inaugurated an otherwise tepid flick. Her appearance at the Academy Awards presentation stole the show. But only in *Divine Madness* does the real "Divine Miss M" have free reign to do what she does best: sing, dance, clown around. Her style is a synthesis of the Andrews Sisters, Gypsy Rose Lee and Jimmy Durante — she is as entertaining as all of the above put together.

Bette is, according to *New Republic's* Stanley Kauffman, "... the bad girl, grinning, dirtily defiant, non-committally shrugging, and smart. She has the ability to pull the audience up to her, like a small group of

friends; she teases, reminds, shocks — in the no-longer shocking way in which they want to be shocked. She tells some of the unfunniest filthy jokes I've never heard, even off the screen, but she also makes a joke which relies on the audience's knowledge that Milton went blind.

"One moment she does wickedly sharp spoofs of Queen Elizabeth and Princess Anne... and the next she does 'heart' songs so schmaltzy that you don't understand how they got past her sense of humor. But she belts and paws and grins at her own impudence and has enough of a good time — justified by her singing and miming ability — to provide a good time for us. The talent that can pull this performance past its low spots has got to be strong; and it is."

Having never heard of Bette Midler, some of the world's greatest detectives get a Simonizing job in *Murder by Death*. Among the sleuths stung by Neil Simon's wit are the Bogartish Sam Diamond (Peter Falk), the inscrutable Sidney Wang (Peter Sellers), and two Agatha Christie caricatures: Milo Perrier (James Coco) and Dame Jessie Marbles (Elsa Lanchester).

They and others of their investigative ilk are invited to "dinner and a murder" by eccentric millionaire Lionel Twain (Truman Capote). Whodunit? Who cares? This one's strictly for laughs.



Flutist Julius Baker On Tap For '82-'83 Artists Series

Internationally acclaimed flutist Julius Baker is just one of many fine musicians already scheduled for the Mendenhall Student Center 1982-'83 Artists Series. In addition to the talented Baker, the full line-up for upcoming fall and spring semesters includes the Tokyo String Quartet.

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## Summer Theatre Back In Action

Big musicals are back, as the East Carolina Summer Theatre is in operation again after an absence of nine years. McGinnis Theatre will once again dance to the Broadway beat, with productions of *Grease* (July 5-10), *Shenandoah* (July 12-17), *Cabaret* (July 19-24), and *She Loves Me* (July 26-31).

"I'm glad we're able to be back in business," says Edgar R. Loessin. The Summer Theatre program had suffered from lack of a proper space to hold large-scale shows in, but with McGinnis newly renovated and christened with a well-received production of *Show Boat* last April, Loessin looks forward to a successful summer season.

Loessin will direct *Shenandoah*, *Cabaret*, and *She Loves Me*. The choreography for these three shows will be by Mavis Ray. Dale Muchmore will direct and choreograph *Grease*.

The summer season's opening production, *Grease*, should need no hard-sell to prospective audiences, being the longest running show in Broadway history, besides being the basis for the most profitable movie musical in history (with *Grease II* coming this summer).

## 'Conan' Barbaric

Continued From Page 5

Milius' mystical mumbo-jumbo may warp the psyche of impressionable youngsters; it definitely mars the entertainment. *Conan* begins with a quote from Nietzsche: "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." This reviewer proposes another quotation for the end of the film: "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."



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**79¢**

6.5 Oz. - Light Chunk In Oil

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12 Oz. - American Sliced Singles  
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**\$1.49**

49 Oz. - Detergent  
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**\$1.49**

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**99¢**

12 Oz. - Large

**Jeno's Pizza**

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Prices good at Greenville Food Town Store only

## Scarcella Knocks Off Pirates, 4-1

### SC Wins Title

By WILLIAM YELVERTON  
*Sports Editor*

COLUMBIA, S.C. — West Virginia's Mike Scarcella, who carried a mediocre 2-4 record and a 9.23 earned run average into the NCAA's Eastern Regional, stymied East Carolina's offensive attack, knocking the Pirates out of the race for the national championship, 4-1.

Scarcella, drafted out of high school but opting to sign with the Mountaineers, limited East Carolina to three hits while striking out five and walking two.

The Pirates lost their first contest of the double-elimination tournament to ECAC-South rival Old Dominion last Thursday morning.

Host University of South Carolina captured the regional title and heads to this week's College World Series in Omaha.

Run production killed the Pirates' chances of advancing in the tournament as they scored only once in each of their three games. Senior Bobby Patterson earned the Pirates' only win of the event, a 1-0 victory over the Tar Heels of North Carolina.

East Carolina entered the tournament with a 300 plus batting average but managed only 16 hits in three games.

Coach Hal Baird couldn't explain his club's lack of hitting. "We hit the ball in Harrisonburg (at the ECAC-South tournament) as well as we did all season. And we hit the ball as poorly here as we did at any time during the season. It's certainly a factor that cost us the chance to advance."

East Carolina pitcher Charlie Smith was chased in the eighth inning with the score tied 1-1 after yielding two base hits, one a double, in the frame. He was relieved by Bill

Wilder, who gave up a tie-breaking sacrifice, followed by a two-RBI hit down the right-field line.

"Our pitching was good enough to win," Baird remarked. "They got a seeing-eye hit in the eighth that brought in two. But if you can't score four or five runs in a park like this, you can't win, and we just couldn't do it."

WEST VIRGINIA grabbed the lead in the first inning. Jeff Wilson opened the frame with a single to right, and Vic Rabbits lined to Evans, who dropped the ball while turning to throw to second. He picked the ball up but was wide on the throw to first, leaving Rabbits safe. Roger Hohlbein singled, scoring Wilson.

The Pirates bounced back to tie the game in the third when, with one out, Jack Curlings walked and scored on David Wells' double to center.

The Mountaineers didn't threaten again until the sixth when Glenn Goss reached first on an infield hit but was left at third after a sacrifice and an out.

Gil Parthemore lofted a fly to deep center, scoring Hohlbein. Greg Van Zant hit a liner past a diving Todd Evans at first, driving in the other two runs.

"They tried hard, and they played hard," Baird said of his team after the contest. "I can't ask for any more."

The Pirates finished the season with a 34-14 record.

BOB PATTERSON overslept before his team's meeting with North Carolina in a do-or-die game, missing breakfast.

North Carolina probably wished he had never gotten up.

The senior left-hander hurled a



ECU completed their finest season ever winning 34 with 14 defeats.

seven-hit 1-0 shutout, knocking the Tar Heels out of the national tournament.

Defense was a big key in the win, as Patterson received several outstanding plays to back up his five-strikeout performance.

Baird called Patterson's performance a "career-type game. We were calling a lot of the pitches, and he was hitting them perfectly most of the time. It was like he was wired in to what he wanted. Being familiar with a team like Carolina helped to

selecting pitches. But to hurl a shutout in this park is just amazing," the Pirate coach said.

East Carolina made the most of North Carolina starter Brad Powell's wildness to score in the third. Mike Sorrell walked and

Hallow drew another. Powell was then relieved and Todd Evans advanced both runners with a sacrifice. Fran Fitzgerald then grounded out, allowing Sorrell to score.

## Lady Bucs Hope For Chance Spots Open

By WILLIAM YELVERTON  
*Sports Editor*

Close but no cigar.

Lady Pirate basketball players Lorraine Foster and Darlene Chaney know the feeling. Both tried out for their regional teams last summer hoping for the opportunity to participate in the National Sports Festival. And both came close, making the squad as alternates.

But this year, with a campaign of collegiate experience under their belts, may be different as they head into this week's tryouts, according to their teacher, East Carolina coach Cathy Andruzzi.

The National Sports Festival, a type of pre- and mini-Olympics will be held at Indianapolis, Ind. the last week of July. Teams from various areas of the United States will compete in 33 Olympic sports.

"It's just a tremendous opportunity to have these girls represent our school," Andruzzi said. "Both are working very, very hard. But the competition's going to be very tough. There are many good players."

Foster, a 5-7 point guard, will be participating in the Southern tryouts at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss., and Chaney, a 6-2 center, will travel to Rutgers University for the East as well in coming ECU freshman, Sylvia Bragg.

"Both have that year of experience," Andruzzi said. "That's important, but it really comes down



Chaney travels to Rutgers for tryout.

to how well you play for three days. So some luck is involved."

Foster, who played forward in high school, is "a good shooter and handles the ball well," Andruzzi noted. "She might be selected as a forward but used as a guard."

Chaney is "potentially one of the best 6-2 people around in the years to come," she said. "She's quick, shoots well and is agile."

Both helped lead the Lady Pirates to a berth in the NCAA tournament this past season as freshmen.

## Lee Very Optimistic

By THOMAS BRAME  
*Sports Editor*

Jerry Lee is totally optimistic about his new position as East Carolina golf coach. "I'm looking forward to building a successful program," says Lee.

"I have some tough shoes to fill," adds Lee. "Bob Helmick was a good coach and that's where I learned the game of golf." Lee has only praise for his former coach.

Lee adds, "I have an advantage in that I will be able to spend time at the course to help the golfers."

The Pirate golfers have five returning lettermen to next year's squad. There will be no seniors on next year's team. "We have a young team but we have a lot of potential," said Lee.

The recruiting is beginning to pick up now. Lee said: "We have a good chance at three recruits that could come in and play next year. In the

past, only one freshman a year had the potential to step in and play."

Total consistency plagued the Pirates this past season. ECU could not seem to get five players to play well the same day in a tournament.

"Our main objective for the off-season will be to achieve better consistency in our play," said Lee.

"I'm looking to have a good season next year," said Lee. "My goal to having a successful season will be to be in the top 10 in our 12 tournaments."

"I want to see the players develop and put forth is probably my main objective as coach," said Lee. "My goal for the future is to have a player and possibly the team in the NCAA tournament and Sweeting has a chance if he continues his progress."

Lee can only anxiously wait and see now what the future lies for him and the ECU golf program.

## Cougs Win Title

PINEHURST (AP) — Freshman Billy Ray Brown kept his game steady and his teammates followed Saturday as Houston swept the team and individual titles in the NCAA division 1 golf championships.

Brown, who earned his way onto the Cougar golf team this winter, fired a final round 70, 2-under par on the 6,934-yard par-72 course. He finished at 8-under par 280, two shots better than Andy Dillard of

Oklahoma State. Three golfers were at 285, including Brad Faxon of Furman, who was tied with Brown and Jerry Haas of Wake Forest for the third-round lead.

# Braves Have Come Down

ATLANTA (UPI) — It was fun while it lasted, but it appears the Atlanta Braves have come back down to earth.

The euphoria that gripped the city when the Braves opened the season with a record-setting 13-game winning streak has been replaced by a feeling of uneasiness, a feeling that, alas, the long-suffering Braves have fallen back into their same old rut.

Since that winning streak ended, the Braves lost 20 of their next 34 games. That's 412 baseball and, to the dismay of their fans, while they were still in first place in the National League West on June 1, it appeared only a matter of time before the Braves

would start slipping down the ladder.

"We can't let panic set in," Atlanta manager Joe Torre said after the Braves suffered their seventh loss in eight games in the opener of a three-game series in New York. "We're still in first place."

"But we are playing badly and we know it," said Torre who warns that "losing can become a habit. We know we can play better baseball because we have done it. We have to start playing better."

The question is whether the Braves, despite that fabulous start, are playing about as they should have been expected to play.

The pitching has been inconsistent over the past month. But is

that really a surprise? With the exception of Phil Niekro (2-2 with a 3.21 ERA), none of the Braves starters came in the '82 season with a record of consistency.

More puzzling has been the fact that the Braves' three most promising batters — Dale Murphy, Bob Horner and Chris Chambliss — all went into a slump at the same time. In the last half dozen games of May, the three combined for only 15 hits in 69 at bats — a .217 average, and, worst, had only one rbi between them after totaling 93 over the first 41 games.

In an attempt to get more punch in the lineup, the Braves called up outfielder Tommy Harper from Richmond where he was

leading the International League in batting with a .386 average and lost him after just two games when he broke his right thumb sliding into second.

Harper is expected to be out for a full month, so Brett Butler, who started the season in centerfield for the Braves but was sent to Richmond because of a .222 average, had to be recalled after only five days.

"The hitting will pick up again," insisted Torre. "We're just in one of those slumps you hope don't last too long." Before, everybody was hitting at the same time. Now, everybody's stopped hitting.

Compounding the problem, Horner fumbled a ball off his instep

and was expected to miss at least three games.

The Braves' mound staff has had its physical setbacks too.

Niekro, still rated Atlanta's most dependable pitcher even though he's 43 years old, missed the opening weeks of the season and the Braves no sooner got Niekro back when they lost reliever Al Hrabosky for the better part of a month.

Niekro and Hrabosky are well again, but Tommy Boggs, expected to be in the Braves' starting rotation, is now on the disabled list and so is rookie Joe Cowley who was beginning to show promise.

At the moment one questions how many "starters" the Braves

really have. Rick Mahler has four of only five complete games claimed by the entire staff and he lasted only a couple of innings his last time out.

"You look for a starter to give you six or seven strong innings, then go to your short-relief people to mop up," said Torre. "It isn't working out that way. We have to face it, the pitching hasn't been too good."

Torre reportedly lost his patience this past Sunday and chewed out the Braves behind the locked doors of their dressing room after a loss in Philadelphia. He was calmer the next night, but still upset. "I just wanted to let them know I felt they can play better than they have been playing of late," Torre said.



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