

the east carolinian

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 25, 1997

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME 72, ISSUE 80

University to switch to one-card system

Incoming freshmen receive cards at orientation

BECKY ALLEY
HOUSING AND CONSUMMATION SERVICES ISSUES
STAFF WRITER

After being in the plans and dreams of East Carolina University for many years, the university is finally ready, willing, and able to switch over to the new one-card system.

This one-card system will do away with the days of carrying a meal card and a student ID card. All the functions of the two cards will be combined into one card. Currently ECU uses a manual sticker based system that allows access to activities and entitlements by the university staff viewing a validation sticker or marking an activity sticker. This system will be entirely replaced by the new one-card system.

"This card will be a meal card, a library card, a student ID card, an activity card, and, eventually, will be an access card for the residence halls on campus," said Johanna Kline, office assistant for University Dining Services.

The university plans to have completed instituted the

new cards by January of 1998. Incoming freshmen are currently receiving the traditional student ID and meal card along with the new all-in-one card.

For current students there will be an office set up in the student store where they can get a new all-in-one card made to replace their old set of cards. Students will just have to turn in their old cards and get a new one made.

"Hopefully over the course of the fall semester we should have all of the students updated to the new cards and the system running smoothly," Kline said.

There will be no charge for the first card but to replace the new card there will be a \$10 charge, just like there is now to replace a meal or student ID card.

The new cards will be very similar in appearance to the

old ones except the new photo imaging technology being used will make the picture slightly different.

Where in the past the student's picture was laminated onto the student's ID, now the picture will actually be a part of the ID.

These new cards will require ECU to update a lot of the current technology. There will be card reader equipment at all events students attend and at every entrance point within the facility to scan the students' ID cards for admittance.

This new system will also allow the university to have up-to-the-minute reports about who is attending functions and the numbers of people attending events.

Current temporarily lost due to failed fuse switch

JACQUELINE D. KELLUM
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

When students arrived on Wednesday, June 18, they found that many of the classroom buildings were without power. Emergency power was in use during the power failure, which lasted from approximately 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

According to George W. Harrell, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance-Facilities, most of the campus' power comes from one power station.

"The University lost our main feed from GTC (Greenville Utilities Commission) substation one. At that time, substation one was feeding about 60 percent of the campus' needs," Harrell said. "We experienced a failure of our main fuse switch. The switch subsequently caught fire."

The fire was quickly contained and crews began working immediately to restore power to the campus.

"The university is very appreciative of the timely response by both the fire department and GTC," Harrell said.

Air conditioning was reduced on the unaffected areas of the campus to provide lights to other campus buildings, which were running on back-up generators for their most essential functions such as fire alarms.

"The situation was made more complex by it being a heavy orientation day. By switching the available power we were able to maintain essential functions in the other buildings," Harrell said.

One of the reasons that power was restored so quickly was that some of the campus' power needs were temporarily served by a second station which was installed last year.

"The whole situation would have been made much more worse if ECU had not installed a second feeder station last year. The entire campus would have been down for the duration of the event," Harrell said.

That second feeder station was installed for just such an event as last Wednesday's. The goal is to eventually be able to run the entire campus off of either of the two stations, in the event that one should fail. However, the second feeder station is not yet capable of that, and it will take an estimated \$3.5 million for it to be fully able to serve the campus.

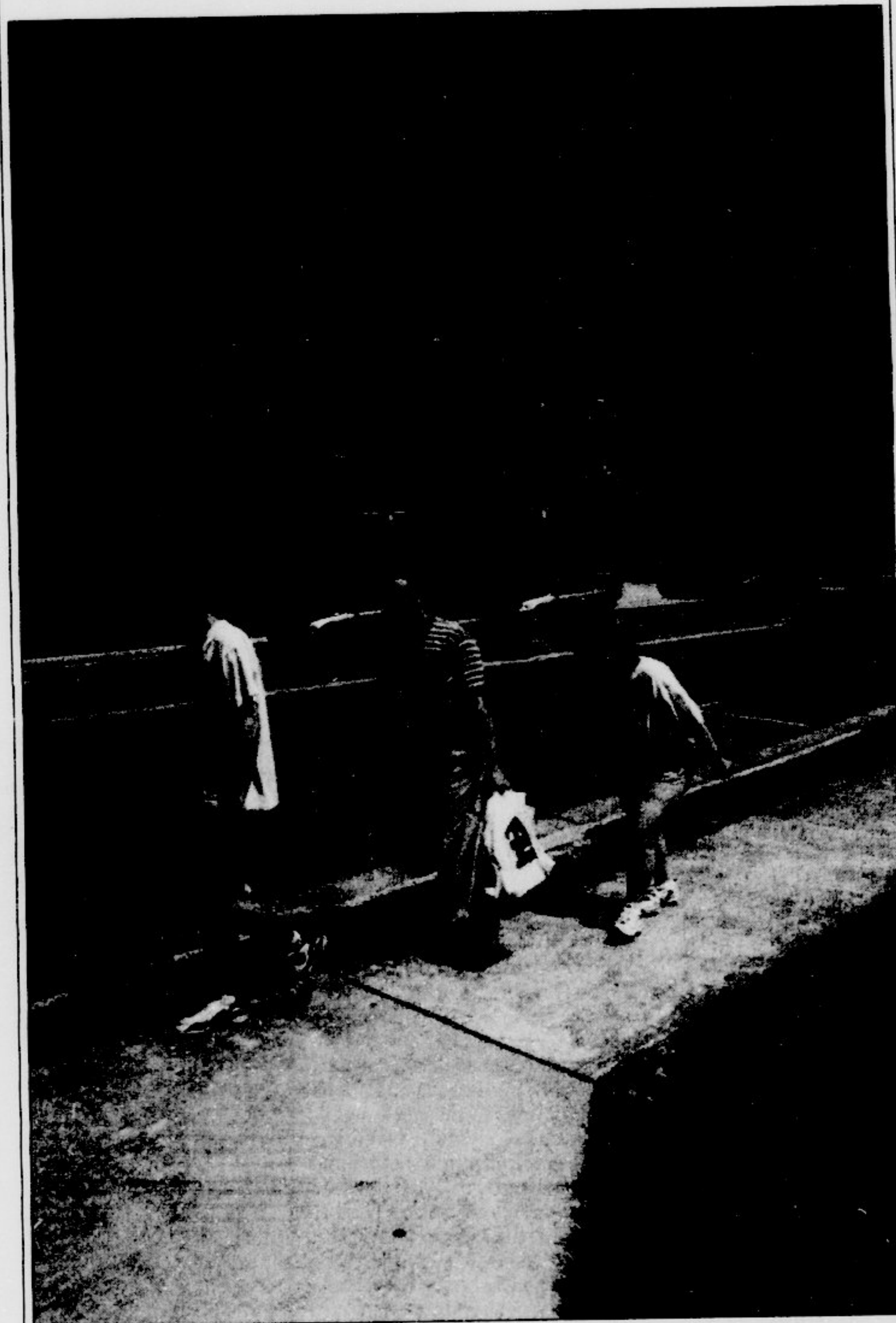
There was also a significant financial cost from last week's accident.

"We currently place the damage at over \$50 thousand and it will take us four to six weeks to obtain the replacement parts," Harrell said.

Although the exact cause of the fuse failure is still unknown, Harrell says there is little chance of a recurrence.

"This is probably the first failure of this switch gear, which has probably been in service constantly for twenty years," Harrell said.

DISORIENTED



Incoming freshmen walked up College Hill Tuesday for the last time until August. Many parents attended orientation with their children during the second largest orientation session this summer.

PHOTO BY PATRICK IRELAN

First group of athletes attend new human performance center

36 athletes from around the world join in training

JEFF GENTRY
SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES
STAFF WRITER

First Group of Athletes Attend New Leroy T. Walker International Human Performance Center

The first group of athletes and coaches to attend the new Leroy T. Walker International Human Performance Center concluded their stay in Greenville last Friday.

The Walker Center played host to 36 athletes, mostly sprinters and distance runners, from around the world last week to teach them training techniques and proper nutrition habits. They are from Argentina, Cameroon, the Congo, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, South Africa, the Virgin Islands and the United States. The athletes were greeted by Leroy T. Walker at a luncheon held on June 16. Walker, who is the head of the United States Olympics Committee, spoke to the athletes before their testing began.

Physical tests that were run on the athletes included tests to determine their percentage of body fat, muscle mass, muscle tone and flexibility.

"Not only will we test these things, but we will also put them on a treadmill to test their cardiorespiratory endurance, or their aerobic capacity. This will let us see how economical they are when they are running and how we can cut down on wasted energy."

Dr. Joe Houmard
involved with testing of athletes

Houmard, any athlete who wishes to participate can.

"This is not an elite thing. Many kids were 14, 15, and 16 who were here. It's for athletes who want to get better and see what events they are suited for," said Houmard.

they are when they are running and how we can cut down on wasted energy," said Dr. Joe Houmard, who is involved in the testing of the athletes.

One of the most important things being tested is the lactate threshold of runners. According to Houmard, the lactate threshold is the point at which lactic acid is secreted into the bloodstream. When this happens, the body is forced to slow down. According to Houmard, if a person trains around this level, they will improve much more than if this level is not reached during training.

Dr. Tibor Hortobagyi, who also is involved in the testing of the athletes, explained that various problems some runners face were also looked at during the week-long testing.

"We were interested in whether or not they had abnormalities in the joints of the legs, as well as if they had suffered an injury that affected their flexibility as assessed by a physical therapist," said Hortobagyi.

"In the performance enhancement, we were interested in how the different starting blocks affected their time in five meters and ten meters. We looked at both their body alignment and coming out of the blocks after the first two steps to make recommendations on what they could do better," said Hortobagyi.

Participation in the seminar and training sessions are voluntary. According to Dr.

Houmard, any athlete who wishes to participate can.

"This is not an elite thing. Many kids were 14, 15, and 16 who were here. It's for athletes who want to get better and see what events they are suited for," said Houmard.

ECU plays host to variety of summer camps and programs

A. BRANDON MISE
STAFF WRITER

On top of running the usual summer courses and freshman orientations this summer, ECU is also supporting a number of summer camps for children, students from both junior and senior high schools, and even school teachers.

The camps range from the educational and the preparatory, to just plain old summer fun. Among these summer camp programs is the Legislator's School for Youth Leadership Development, a week long program that will be continuing until June 28. Approximately 150 students will be attending the Legislator's School.

"[The program] is geared towards middle school and high school students in 51 counties in North Carolina," said Rita Elliot, director of the Legislator's School.

The other 49 counties in western NC send their students to a similar program at Western Carolina University.

"Teachers, guidance counselors, and principals from different school districts nominate students that exhibit leadership skills to the

Legislator's School," said Elliot.

Each school district committee then reviews the nominated students and picks the most outstanding students for the program. The Legislator's School offers a range of classes and activities geared towards strengthening leadership skills.

Band Camp, a program for students in grades 7-12, is offered this week as well.

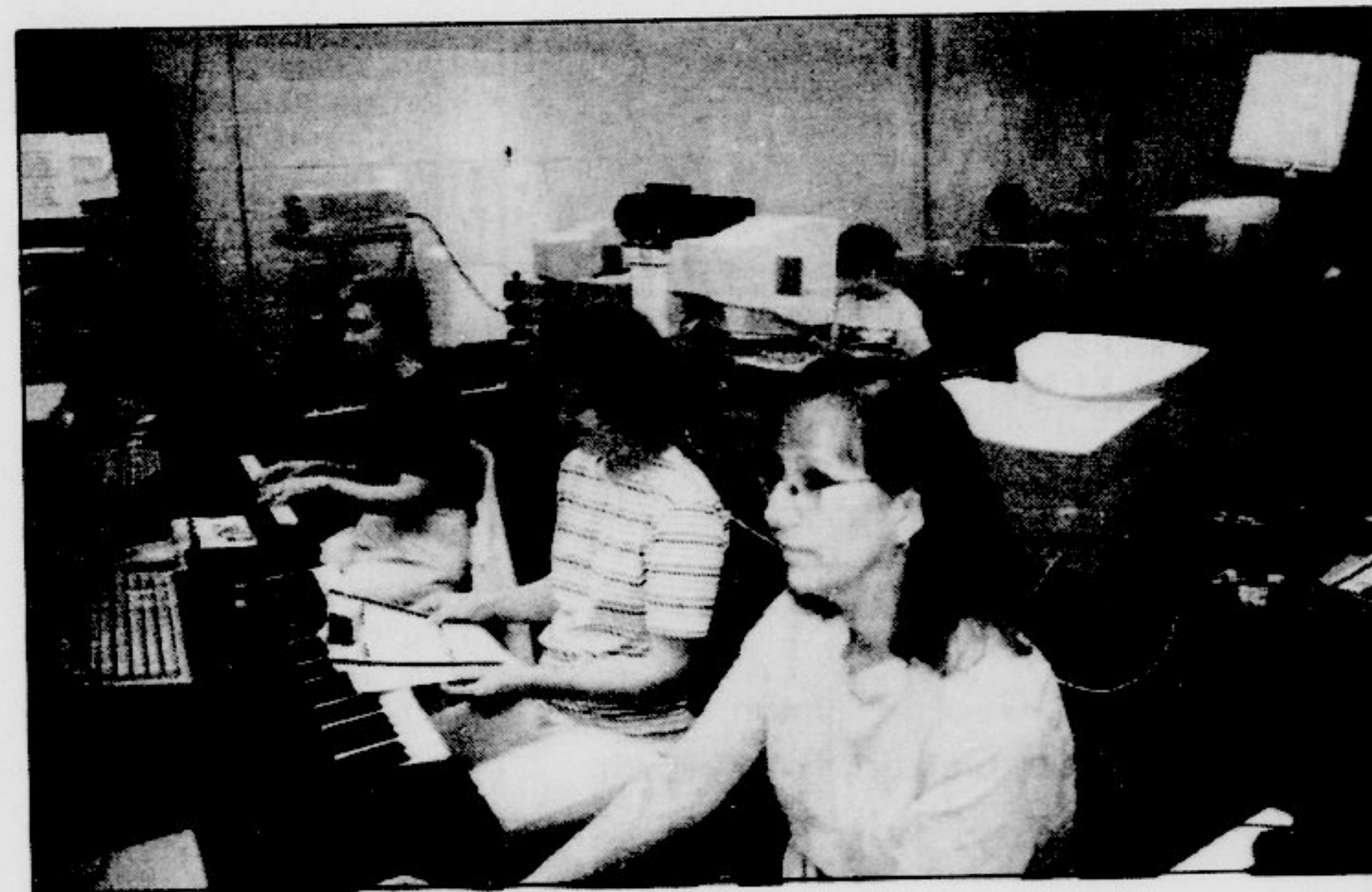
"There are 350 students in attendance and a staff of 45," said Scott Carter, the director of Band Camp.

The students not only come from North Carolina but also from seven other eastern-board states, including Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia.

"Students are auditioned for four large concert bands consisting of 90 members each, and are led by guest conductors from various schools in the state," said Carter. "The bands will give a concert Friday night at 7 PM at Mingos Coliseum. It is free and open to the public."

Summers Ventures is offering a number of programs for talented students in the state including Summer Ventures in Science and

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 2



Teachers attending the computer workshop being held this week at the School of Music are Joyce Austin (closest to the camera), Cindy Parrish and Olive Cooke.

PHOTO BY PATRICK IRELAN

PIRATES on the street

Do you plan to attend or have you attended any of the celebrity fund-raisers going on in the Greenville area this week?



I'd like to go to the Michael Jordan thing if I don't have to work that day. My sister is supposed to be getting tickets.
Rex Carmon
Senior, Political Science



I'm going to Cravin' Melon, but I haven't been to any of the others. I'm not going to watch the golf tournament because it's too hot and those people aren't particularly good golfers.
Lee Kennedy
Junior, Political Science



No, I'm too busy.
Susanne Swearingen
Senior, Finance



I don't plan to go. But, I have been to some before. I went to a benefit a while back for the battered women's shelter.
Jay Agsten
Junior, Psychology

PHOTOS BY AMY L. ROYSTER

WEDNESDAY

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Splash into the US Open!

WEDNESDAY:
low 92
high 92

THURSDAY:
low 92
high 90

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news briefs

Tourist worries prompt state to test ocean waters

CHARLOTTE (AP) - State officials who began testing ocean waters this month in response to concerns among tourists have found nothing to suggest that people should stay out of the surf.

Sampling started in early June for organisms that could indicate the presence of diseases ranging from minor ear infections to hepatitis.

State officials were scheduled to meet today to devise a standard and the action to take if the water does become unhealthy. Gilbert said the new standard could be used by July to provide warnings.

The testing program is meant to address growing public concern over the safety of swimming. Fearing that concern are reports about the fish-killing microorganism *Pfiesteria piscicida*.

The single-celled organism, which has been linked to fish kills in the Neuse River, can secrete a toxin that cuts holes in fish, then slowly paralyzes their muscles and suffocates them. Some researchers believe exposure to the organism can cause hallucinations and memory loss in humans.

Fraternities battle bats

CHAPEL HILL (AP) - Fraternity members who waged an assault on invading bats are looking at the prospect of rabies shots.

Seven dead bats killed by members of Phi Kappa Sigma Wednesday night were sent to the state lab. These bats did not have rabies, but four bats could not be tested, Director John Seale of the Orange County Animal Control said Monday.

Rabid bats were sent back on two more dead bats found at the fraternity Thursday and Sunday, APB shelter manager Sandy Christensen said.

Orange County had three cases of rabid bats in 1996 and one case so far this year, Seale said.

Bats are the leading cause of rabies deaths in humans in the United States because a bat's tiny, sharp teeth may leave no mark, so people don't know they've been bitten, said Centers for Disease Control medical epidemiologist Lisa Rutz. Meanwhile, the director of the Orange County Animal Protection Society said she was investigating to see if the deaths involved animal cruelty.

President proposing ways to attract middle class back to cities

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Looking to breathe new life into big U.S. cities, President Clinton pledged today to fulfill the promise of America's vibrant economy by rebuilding the nation's decaying urban centers.

His proposed initiatives to encourage inner-city home ownership to halt urban flight, create new downtown jobs and revitalize an urban landscape plagued by decay and crime.

The Urban Homestead initiatives would give up to 2,000 police officers 50 percent discounts on purchasing government-owned homes, provide first-time buyers a \$200 break on closing costs and give working families the chance to move from rentals to owners with the help of federal vouchers.

Clinton said the police plan would build on the administration's efforts to put 100,000 new cops on city streets to make communities safer.

crime scene

June 10

Communicating Threats - A student reported a male was upset with her because she got into a parking space before he did. A threatening note was found on her vehicle later. The incident is under investigation.

Larceny - A faculty member reported the larceny of her prescription medicine from her lunch bag stored in an office at Brody.

Suspicious Activity - A non-student was banned from campus after being found at the Rawl bite rack with a pair of pliers.

June 12

Damage to Property - A staff member reported damage to a window in the northwest corner of the General Classroom Building. The window was broken by a rock thrown by a lawn mower.

Possession of Stolen Property - A staff member reported a stolen parking permit hang tag was displayed in a vehicle driven by a student. The student reported purchasing the hang tag from an unknown person in the parking lot at Minges.

June 14

Assist Rescue - A non-student was transported from the Recreation Center on POMI by Greenville Rescue after he broke his ankle playing basketball.

June 17

Ban Ticket - A member of the Universal Cheerleading Association Camp was banned from campus because he was wanted in the state of NJ on outstanding weapons charges. New Jersey declined extradition and the subject was banned and escorted from campus. Two of his friends were also asked to leave because they violated the visitation policies.

Threatening behavior - A faculty member reported that a student none of her classes made statements of a threatening nature after receiving a low grade on an assignment. The Dean of Students Office has been contacted concerning this incident.

June 18

Domestic - A staff member reported that two children were left unattended by their parent in the Pediatrics Center. Officers spoke with the mother after she returned three hours after leaving the children. Investigation continuing by Social Services.

June 20

Visitation policy violation/possession marijuana - Three male non-students were found in violation of the visitation policy in Cotton Hall. During the incident, a small amount of marijuana was found. The three non-students were banned from campus and the student was issued a campus appearance ticket.

School

continued from page 1

Math

"Summer Ventures in Science and Math is a four week residential program funded by the state at four campuses," said Dr. Floyd Mathews, director of the program.

"There are 109 students here consisting of rising juniors and seniors," said Mathews. "They tend classes during the day and even on the weekends."

The classes include research in

archeology, chemistry, biology, mathematics and computer science.

"At the end of the four weeks the students put on a presentation on their research papers, which is attended by the science, faculty, and parents," said Mathews.

"The spaces available for this program were very limited."

"The competition is very keen," said Mathews, "they are all outstanding students."

The Summer Ventures program is also offering Ventures into Health Careers Internship, a program geared towards helping minority students explore various careers in health. Of the 165 applicants for this program for 11 counties in Eastern North Carolina, 22 students were chosen.

"These students are top of the class, highly motivated, and have shown an interest in pursuing a health career," said Deborah Ramsey of the Eastern Area Health Education Center.

The students are currently taking a number of classes on the campus of ECU, as well as going to the hospital to shadow professionals in their various health occupations.

"They actually go into clinical observations," said Ramsey.

Other camp programs are offered this week as well.

The School of Music is holding the Computer Workshop for Educators and Musicians, a workshop that covers the latest teaching methods of music using computer technology.

The Department of Recreational Services offers both an adventure camp for ages 12-17 and a youth sports camp for children ages 7-12.

The Department of Science Education is currently offering the Young Scientist Series for youngsters that explores subjects ranging from dinosaurs to dead planets.

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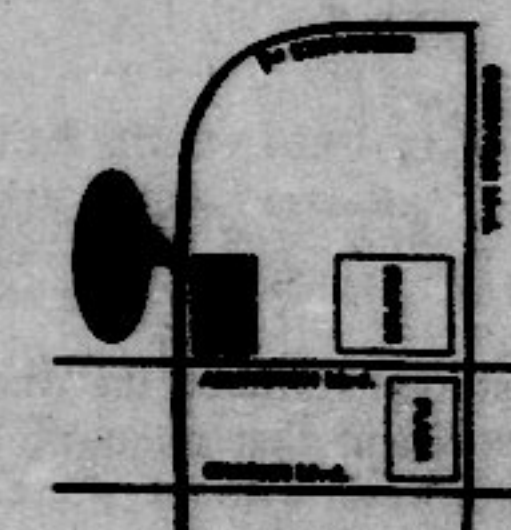
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MCAT REVIEW

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When: July 12/13, 19/20, and 26 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: 2N-86 Brody Medical Sciences Building

Mock MCAT will be given on July 27, 1997



Registration deadline is June 30, 1997

Call ASCC at 816-2500 for more information



the east carolinian

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QUIZVIEW

If the last place you were invited was to your grandmother's birthday dinner, and your mail box is void of fancy invitations to black tie events, check out the celebrity fund-raisers right in your backyard.

Students who missed the U.S. Open at Lake Kristi last weekend missed an opportunity to see the best water skiers and wakeboarders in the world compete for the U.S. title. For a \$5 donation collected in the parking lot, anyone could peruse the grounds of the private lake and watch the competition.

Coming up this week are two more opportunities for students to redeem themselves and take advantage of celebrity events and fund-raisers. The Micheal Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic at Brook Valley Country Club in Greenville this weekend raises money for the Greenville Ronald McDonald House. Also, Cravin' Melon is playing a benefit show at The Arctic Sunday to raise money for the same charity.

Don't wait for an engraved invitation; celebrities such as Micheal Jordan, Hootie and the Blowfish, Samuel L. Jackson and Kenny Rogers will be waiting for you on the golf course. If there are any soap opera junkies out there who have been spending their summer catching their favorite soap between classes, there is an entire list of soap stars who will be at the event. If Joshua Morrow, Nick on The Young and the Restless, doesn't get you off the sofa no one will. Of course, sports nuts will enjoy seeing Michael Jordan, not to mention Evander Holyfield, Heavyweight Champion of the World, Reggie Jackson and Bonnie Blair.

Shuttle buses will be at Minges, ready to transport students to and from the course. With tickets selling Saturday for \$10, the event couldn't be more student friendly.

Also this week, the musical Crazy for You begins at McGinnis Theatre. Students who show up at 7 p.m. the evening of performances may be able to pick up "cheap" tickets for \$13. The musical, a revival of Gershwin's Girl Crazy is said to be one of the best musicals ever brought to Greenville.

If the word free entices you, then the Sunday in the Park series on the Town Common is the best bet. The city of Greenville hosts free concerts throughout the summer. Sunday, The Monitors and Bruce Piephoff will perform.

There's no excuse for sitting home. Exams are over; it's summer time and celebrities, good causes, and opportunities for inexpensive fun abound. Get out there and take advantage of the events this week and if Grandma's birthday really is coming up, bring her with you.

OPINION

Phone Psychics run up your bill for nothing

Only \$3.99 per minute. That is four dollars per minute, or \$120.00 for one half hour. Call us now, plead the psychic networks. We will give you ten, twenty, even thirty free minutes. Do you want to know about your love life, money, or your career? We have the answers, so advertise psychics. We can make your life better. We are here to help you! Just call 1-900-... For fun and entertainment only. Law requires this statement, since supernatural phenomena cannot be scientifically proven. Few college students can afford the enormous cost involved in psychic counseling and fortune telling that occurs via phone. Those free minutes go by fast. Normally, you're instructed that you cannot use all your minutes in any one call, but that you must call back to get your free additional time. A tone is sounded at the end of your free time. If the caller does not hang up within three seconds of the tone, he/she is charged \$3.99 to their phone bill, and thus so for each additional minute. The psychic is skilled at piquing your interest and curiosity. After getting your name and birth date, you will be engaged into

a conversation. These psychics are smooth and polite. The average person just cannot "hang up" as the sound of the tone. The average person feels a strong need to listen to the advice, counsel and predictions of the psychic with whom he/she is engaged in conversation. After one half-hour, a lot of these psychic networks will voluntarily tell you that your time is up. In other words, pay the \$120 you owe us first, and then we will talk to you again and take some more of your money. Consultation with psychics can become addictive. It is not uncommon for people to run up their phone bills into the thousands. Some psychics are clairvoyant. This means they can feel through your aura and vibrations, who and what you are all about. Thus, they are made aware of your particular situation in life. Some psychics rely on tarot cards. Some use numerology. Others go strictly by astrology. Some psychics are witches. Most use white magic. White magic is supposed to be used only for good. When you choose to confer with a psychic, you are, either directly or indirectly, communicating the spir-

it world, or the world of the supernatural. Whether this is good or bad, right or wrong, this columnist will not judge. I will leave that up to you. Psychics are generally kind, gentle and personable. They seem to be genuinely caring people. Whether it is truth or just fun and games is for you, the reader, to decide. I am a Christian! I believe I can go straight to God; therefore, I don't need psychics. Besides, I can confer with God just as long as I want and it is free. Surely no student, or faculty, wants their phone shut off because of an inability to pay an outrageous bill. Surely, none of us desire to become addicted to such a thing. Be aware! Addiction can and does happen often. If you found this column interesting and would like to know more about the subject, or have any questions answered, write the editor of this paper. Suggestion: Put a 900 block on your phone, if you or your roommate is tempted. A 900 restricter is provided free by the telephone company.



OPINION Columnist

Mary WEBB Ed/Tech. fees not fair for all students

I am poor. Like a vast majority of ECU students, I am in need of ever increasing funds for school. And this makes me unhappy. Well more like annoyed, irritated, angry. Take your pick. Let me explain. I work extremely hard and save every penny. For example, I don't go out on the weekends with my friends. There are no fancy dinners, no new clothes and the same old, beaten up car. I feel that in-state tuition for 12 credits and above is fairly reasonable at around \$800 or so. What makes me see red are all the added on costs like the "Educational/Tech" fee (\$30) and "University fees" (\$344). What exactly are these? In an effort to find out and understand both sides of the story, I telephoned the cashier's office and spoke with Michael Balko.

Balko explained that the educational/tech. fee covers such things as state of the art equipment for the chemistry, physics and biology labs. It also covers the computer labs available at the library. The University fees provide us with a broad range of services. These include transit services, intramural activities, functions held at Mendenhall, the recreation center, the SGA as well as the media board. My major is communication and this is a field that requires both technical as well as strong academic support. I have been at ECU for two years now and am getting ready for graduation in the fall. However, during all of this time the only "technical services" that I have had to avail myself of were the computers located at Edwards Lab in the General Classroom Building - for a couple of hours a week. And then there were some visits to the library where I used Proquest once.

It is noted in the tuition payment schedule (which each student receives every semester) that the above mentioned fees entitles part-time students to the same services and privileges as full-time students. I truly believe that ECU provides excellent services to its students and they should be applauded for their efforts. However, isn't there a fairer way to even up the fees? I don't have use for many of these facilities and yet I am coughing up close to \$400 per full semester. I commute to school, so I don't use the purple buses. Being a transfer student, I have already completed the required classes in Biology etc. and therefore don't have need for the labs. And as far as I am concerned, the SGA has not done anything worth mentioning, so that's a waste of money as well. Contributions are also made to certain organizations from these fees. I don't care if it's just \$2; at least, ask us. What if I don't agree with these organizations goals, ideals or principles? And then there is the ever growing problem with some professors who require students to purchase three or four expensive books for their class, which they never use! But that's another column...

OPINION Columnist

Jeff BERGMAN Pork barrel spending: everyone's problem

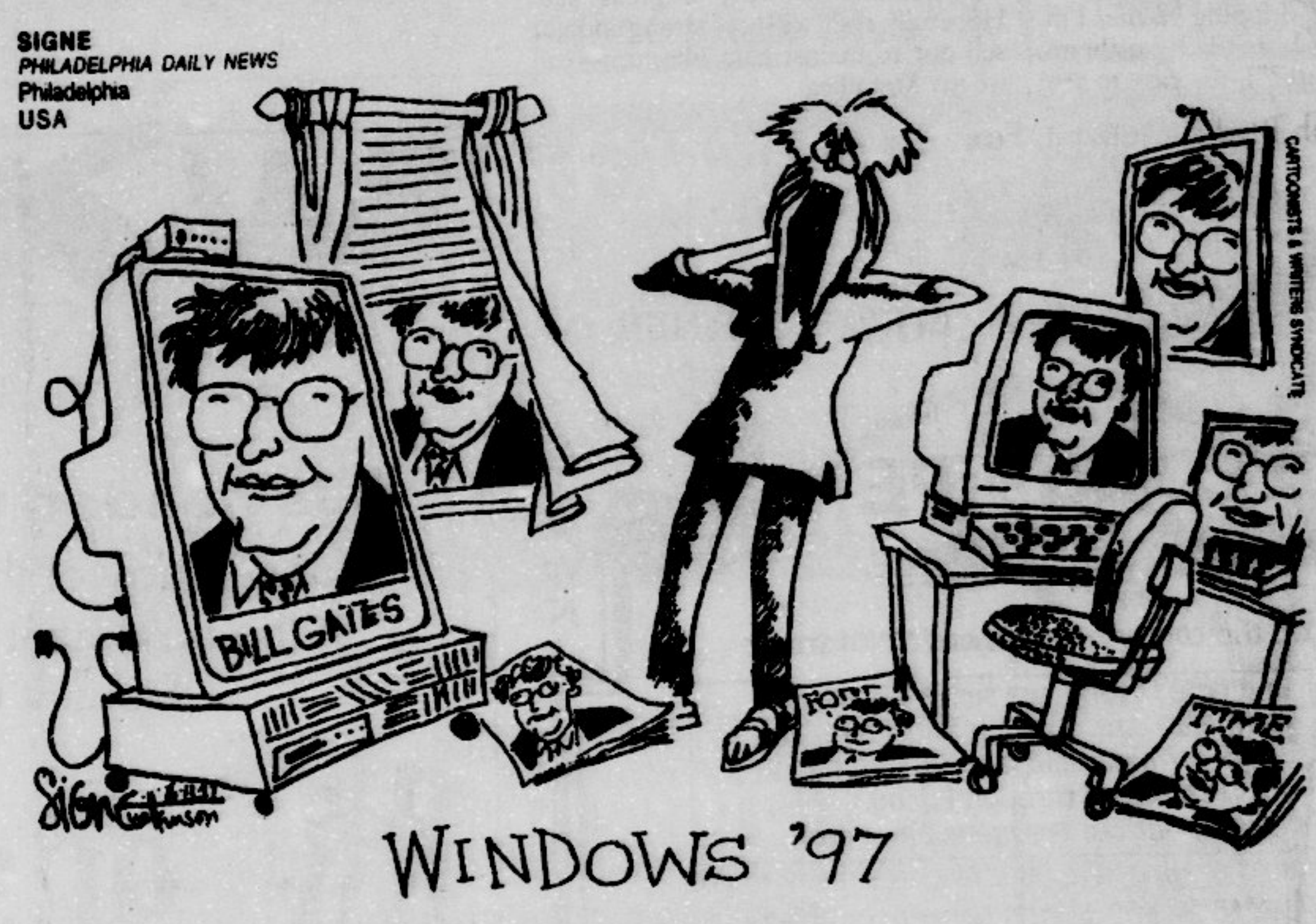
In 1993 the GOP spoke out against the Democrats' pork barrel spending. Four years later, with Republicans in power, it is business as usual in Washington. Senators and representatives are still slipping pet projects into spending bills. These pet projects usually win the lawmakers points with their constituents while taking money away from the taxpayer. What are some of these pork barrel projects? How about \$1 million to help socially disadvantaged farmers? Any Irish out there? Nineteen million dollars went to the International Fund for Ireland. Some of the \$19 million is being spent on golf videos, pony trekking centers and sweater exports. You want some more? I have plenty of examples: \$500,000 for grape research, \$4.2 million for wood utilization handicraft, and \$1.2 million for potato research. The Republicans preach government frugality, but do they practice what they preach? The evidence leads us to believe otherwise. The 104th Congress's second session pork barrel spending

was up 16 percent over the first, the highest rate since 1990. The total money spent on pork barrel projects is around \$14.5 billion. Quite a bit of pork from a Republican-controlled congress. Who has the biggest benefit of the pork? For Republicans, it is Mark Hatfield of Oregon. Senator Hatfield took home over \$600 million for his pet projects since 1991. The Republicans are not alone in their quest for money; Democrats also have their hands in the cookie jar. Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii tops Hatfield. Inouye has had over \$700 million put in his pork barrel projects. Other notable inclusions: Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska and his pet project of Auroral Research, cost to you \$15 million; Senator Robert Byrd's \$6 million for the National Center for In West Virginia; and Senator Richard Shelby's \$4 million for a Poultry Science Facility at Auburn University.

The major problem with pork barrel projects is the definition. A person in Oregon might like the idea of \$600 million being spent in Oregon. People in the rest of the country, most likely, do not like the idea of \$9 million dollars of tax money being spent on Portland's bus system. A senator or representative will most likely receive favorable press from their constituents for bringing money to the district. As to who's to blame, look in the mirror. Everyone is to blame. We chastise our elected officials for not bringing projects to our area. If Walter Jones Jr., Eva Clayton or Jesse Helms were to get several million dollars appropriated to Pitt County for a new transit system, who would balk at the idea? The pork barrel projects are just a drop in the ocean of the federal deficit. I will be the first to admit the leak would be hard to plug. I will also admit that stopping the pork barrel projects will not bring the federal deficit into check. In that respect, I refer you to Ben Franklin, who said a penny saved is a penny earned. That goes for the \$2.7 million being spent on a botanical garden in New York.

"Beware the forces of suppression, however cuddly they may claim to be. They will blindfold your eyes and muffle your ears....until you can hardly feel them stealing your brain."

Michael Pakenham, journalist, 1996



Cravin' Melon to play benefit at Attic

PAT REID
ASSIST. LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Cravin' Melon has come a long way in three years. It was three years ago this month that the band first played the Attic as an opening act for that other South Carolina band, Hootie and the Blowfish. Within a year, Cravin' was back at the Attic headlining and promoting an independent CD. Now the band is coming back to help the Greenville Ronald McDonald House with a benefit show Sunday, June 29th at the Attic.

After first jamming together in 1993 as a break from their other bands, members Jimbo Chapman, Doug Jones, J.J. Bowers and Rick Reames realized they had a chemistry that just clicked. After playing some shows and being well-received, the band released an independent self-titled EP. Then, through intense live shows and opening stints for popular area bands, Cravin' Melon quickly won fans all over the Southeast.

The breaking point came in early 1995 when the band released their first full-length independent CD, *Where I Wanna Be*. The CD eventually went on to sell over 20,000 copies and brought the band to the attention of many record labels. Of all the offers, Mercury Records seemed to offer the sweetest deal with the most creative freedom. So, in January 1996, the band played a show at the Attic with record executives in the crowd. The show went great and within three months the band was signed.

This led to the Mercury release *Red Clay Harvest* earlier this year. The album was the fastest selling album in the southeast soon after its release and got the ball rolling for bigger and better things. Among these bigger things were a recent



Cravin' Melon will play a benefit for the Ronald McDonald House this Sunday at the Attic. Set your ticket, and do a good deed.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MERCURY RECORDS

opening stint with guitar great Eric Johnson and an upcoming tour of the Midwest in July. However, between the two, Cravin' is returning to their roots with a brief tour of the Southeast. Included in this area tour were shows at Blockbuster Pavilion in Charlotte, Walnut Creek Amphitheatre in Raleigh, and this Sunday's show at the Attic.

The show at the Attic is actually the closing of a huge weekend for the Ronald McDonald House. This weekend is also the weekend of the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic, which will bring in such celebrities as Samuel L. Jackson, Norm and Cliff (George Wendt and John Ratzenberger) from Cheers, and current heavyweight boxing champ Evander Holyfield the night after his fight with Mike Tyson.

As far as the Cravin' show goes, fans can expect the band to pull out all the stops. A long time ago the band started calling Greenville, NC their home away from home, and Sunday's show should have all the energy of a homecoming show. Aside from their hits "Come Undone" and "Sweet Tea," fans can expect songs spanning from their first CD four years ago through the best from *Red Clay Harvest*. Also, expect some hellacious covers of songs like "Whiskey River" and "Never Been to Spain." Most of all, fans can expect a packed show, full of energy and groove.

The best part of all will be that while fans get a terrific show and the band gets to see some old friends, the Ronald McDonald House will get some of the money it needs to offer its services to ill-stricken children and their families. So, support a good cause and see a killer show all in one blow Sunday at the Attic. Advance tickets are available at Skully's, East Coast Music, the Wash Pub and the Attic for \$8, while any remaining tickets will be \$10 at the door.

Student lends a hand

CAROLYN J. WEAKLAND
STAFF WRITER

Almost everyone, at some point in their life has had a craving for a McDonald's Big Mac or hot fries. Although McDonald's is mainly credited with satisfying many ECU students' desire for fast food, McDonald's is much more than a fast food chain. One ECU student does more than serve hungry burger aficionados.

Brian Johnson, an MBA student at East Carolina, currently serves as resident manager at the Pitt County Ronald McDonald House. Johnson, a former ECU resident advisor, runs the 18 rooms located in this home for sick and injured children.

Bringing with him a BS in community and family services as well as his resident advisor experience, Johnson finds his job both challenging and rewarding.

"The most challenging part is trying to be positive and understanding with all the stress that the families are going through," Johnson said.

Johnson works from 5 to 8 p.m. each weekday and two weekends a month at the house in return for a salary and a huge 1,400 square foot apartment - not a bad deal.

Besides a salary, free room and board and much down time, Johnson gets to work hands-on with families who truly need assistance. It is these families who give Johnson the greatest reward: making a difference in the lives of people who need constant support and love.

"I try to be a friend and just listen and to be there when they need me," he said. "I've made a lot of good friends with the families who stay here; sometimes it's hard to see them go."

All the Ronald McDonald houses, including the one in Pitt County, are non-profit organizations and rely solely on donations and volunteer efforts from the community. Donations of any kind, including time, are greatly appreciated.

So, if you are interested in helping this cause, Johnson would be glad to hear from you and answer any questions you may have about this organization. He can be reached at the Ronald McDonald house at 830-0062. These families "deserve a break today," so go on out there and lend a hand.



ECU student Brian Johnson does his part for the community.
PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN JOHNSON

Kutphatt comes straight from the butchers table

CAROLYN J. WEAKLAND
STAFF WRITER

Headlining last Friday night's show at the Attic, Kutphatt proved that it truly "cuts the fat" out of mainstream radio metal and gets right down to what people - people who truly enjoy metal, that is - want to hear.

With a lead vocalist who sounds like a cross between Henry Rollins and Pantera's Phil Anselmo, strong deep bass chords, thrashing drum beats, and straight up hardcore metal sounds from the guitarist, this band can't go wrong.

But heavy sounds aren't all that Kutphatt provides. With touching titles such as "Toothless" and original lyrics ("Dripping, dripping on me! I'm in a dream again! I can't believe them/ where are my teeth?"), it's easy to see

why my neck was sore the following morning, two words: slam dancing.

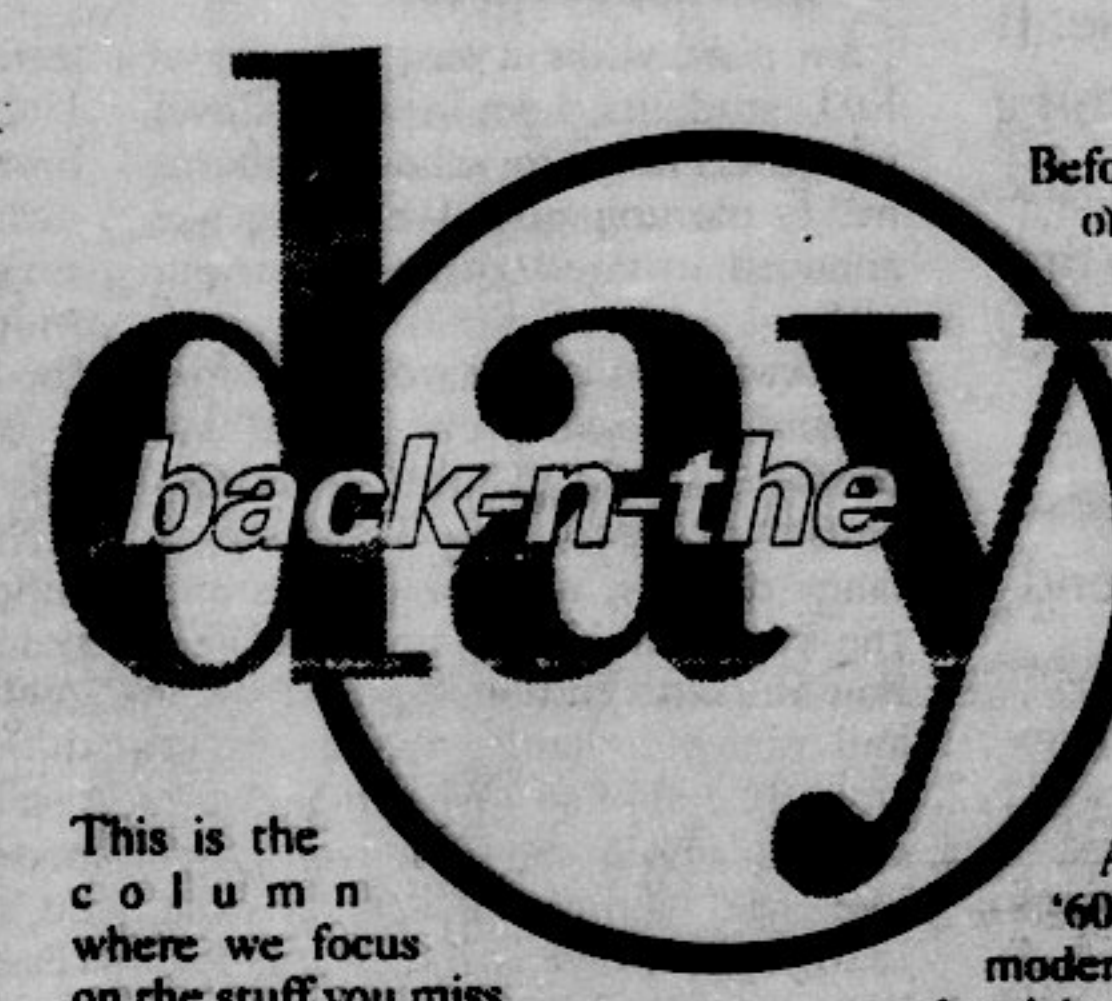
Kutphatt's energy was defiantly flowing as the bass guitarist and lead singer jumped and thrashed about the stage tripping up the crowd. All I ended up with was a cigarette burn on my forearm and a lump in my head, but not everyone was so lucky. There was nothing with fists, no less - and I think I saw someone get bitten by a guy decked in wrist and ankle shackles. Agh.

Kutphatt's next show is scheduled for July 3 in Washington D.C. at Tiki Fats, and they will also be playing July 24 at Peasant's. I would strongly recommend if you are going to be in the area to check it out.

Kutphatt is truly a great act. Hopefully, they will stay strong and not sell out to mainstream like, um...can we say Metallica.

Batman gets redefined - West style

DALE WILLIAMSON
SENIOR WRITER



This is the column where we focus on the stuff you miss and the stuff you missed. We will examine the books, albums, movies and television shows that we feel deserve further exploration. The stuff we dug back-n-the-day...

Before there was Michael Keaton, Val Kilmer or even George Clooney, there was the impeccable Adam West. He was a charmer, a lover, an athletic stud and a true American hero. And boy, could he dance.

More than any other actor, West redefined the mythological icon known as Batman. All right, all of the above is an exaggerated praise for a man who in reality was a very bad actor. But West served a very important purpose in the history of American popular culture. During the late '60s, when America was suffering the post-modern horrors of Vietnam, political corruption and racial tension, West offered a weekly slice of idyllic, yet innocent, escapism in the form of the camp television series *Batman*.

Batman has been an American icon for decades and reached an unheard popularity with mainstream audiences in 1989 when Michael Keaton portrayed the caped crusader as a brooding, somber, darkly disturbed creature of the night in Tim Burton's gothic film, *Batman*. Audiences all over the globe flocked to see this Batman because he was darker, meaner, more violent. This was not the Batman you knew as a child.

As inspired as Keaton's Batman was, it was not totally unique. The character of Batman had a birth surrounded with dark violence that matured into such popular graphic novelizations as Alan Moore's *The Killing Joke* and most notably Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight Returns*.

The main reason much of the movie-going public was somewhat shocked by Keaton's Batman was because they

associated, consciously or unconsciously, the Batman persona with West, who was anything but dark and violent. For many, the only Batman they knew was West. It's impossible to envision Keaton dancing the "Batdust."

Well, the cow! again changed faces this past Friday with the release of Joel Schumacher's *Batman & Robin*, which features the TV heartthrob for the '90s, George Clooney, as the lead hero. Schumacher, the film's director, has decidedly taken a different approach to the film series than Burton. Schumacher wants Batman to be less dark, more campy and fun, something everyone can enjoy. The verdict on Schumacher's latest vision is yet to come, but if it's camp and fun you want to satisfy your superhero craving, then skip the new film and go back to the original source, *Go West, young man*.

The bulk of West's work as Batman can be found in reruns of the *Batman* TV series, but a feature film was released in 1966. The film is aptly titled *Batman: The Movie*, and it is... awful. It is filled with over-dramatic moments, bad acting, cheesy sets, bad special effects, bad dialogue and lame music. It's perfect. It's everything a solid camp film should be.

As repulsed as many may be by the hokey and juvenile nature of West's *Batman* movie, the film has obviously influenced how the newer *Batman* movies should be done. Like all the new *Dark Knight* flicks, this one has more villains in it than can be fully dealt with in a two-hour sitting (the Joker, Catwoman, the Penguin and the Riddler all team up to tackle West and his boy wonder partner, Robin, played with Holy enthusiasm by Burt Ward). But gadgets abound for merchandising purposes (we get to see the Batcoper, the Batboat and, of course, the Batmobile); colorful costumes and sets - re-created in intricate detail; and an illogical plot contrived to hold everything together.

But the main difference between West's movie and everyone else's lies in the fact that West and company don't take themselves too seriously (or let's at least hope

SEE BATMAN, PAGE 8

Buffett and fans sail away to Caribbean

PAT REID
ASSIST. LIFESTYLE EDITOR

For over 23 years Jimmy Buffett has been singing about exotic ports-of-call, tropical islands, and the people that make them so interesting. Last Monday and Tuesday, Buffett did more than just sing about faraway places, he transported local fans there, in spirit, at least.

Whenever Buffett pulls his traveling circus of a show into town, "Parrotheads" from all around flock to the venue for the biggest party of the summer. Last week was no exception as two nights of capacity crowds poured into Walnut Creek, ready for Buffett's "Havana

Daydreamin'" tour.

The night started out with the band warming up on a stage set to look like a street corner in downtown Havana, Cuba. Finally, one of the members inquired as to Jimmy's whereabouts, and Buffett peered out of the second-story window of one of the buildings on his set. After riding a prop convertible across the back of the stage, Buffett jogged out onto the stage, strapped on his guitar and officially welcomed the audience to Havana with "Cuban Crime of Passion."

After jamming out the end a bit, Buffett announced we were going sailing and our landfall was the sunny coast of Florida. He then kicked into the old favorite "Landfall" from his *Changes in*

Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes album.

The early indications were that this show was going to be for the hardcore Buffett fan, as his older material dominated the set.

Of course that's not to say Buffett turned his back on his newer songs. In fact, for the first time in a couple of years he played material from his *Fruitcakes and Barometer* *Songs* albums. "Everybody's Got a Cousin in Miami" continued the imaginary journey into Florida.

Buffett spent the majority of this past winter in Miami putting on a musical called *Don't Stop The Carnival*, written by Buffett and author Herman Wouk, and he shared part of the musical with the song "Calabou," sang by Buffett and one of his back-up singers. A strong Latin beat ran through the song and the Coral Reefers Band boogied on stage as the fans danced in their seats.

After a few more hits like

SEE BUFFETT, PAGE 8

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Buffett

continued from page 4

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"Volcano" and "Come Monday," Buffett took a 20 minute break to allow for a set change. While the crews worked on the stage, old footage of Buffett from the '70s and early '80s aired on the jumbo screens all around Walnut Creek as a way to keep the audience entertained. It also allowed for many of the younger fans to see a side of Buffett that may have been previously unknown. Finally, a few of the Coral Reefers came back out, included Buffett and his longtime friend and collaborator,

Michael Utley. The backdrop of the stage now was the harbor of Havana with the lighthouse in the background. This added to the laid-back atmosphere as Buffett took a seat and welcomed two fans from the audience onto the stage. After Buffett, Utley and his guitarist jammed on a medley of "Coconut Telegraph" and "La Bamba," the fans got their chance to challenge Buffett. Each contestant got to pick one song from Buffett's career and if the band couldn't remember the song, they were entered in a contest for trips, guitars and other Buffett goodies. The first contestant struck out, but when the second player suggested they try "England," Buffett got worried. After a brief huddle with Utley, Buffett did about a verse of the song before giving up and admitting he was at a loss for how the rest of the song went. After the two fans were escorted off stage, the rest of the band returned and jammed on a Caribbean groove before kicking into "Bank of Bad Habits." From there, the band was tight, the night was hot, and the crowd was dancing every minute away with carefree bliss.

Finally, after "Ragtop Day," it was time for Buffett to say his farewells, and grabbing one of his back-up singers, he strode off stage. In a matter of seconds he was back in the prop convertible with the back-up singer waving to the crowd and "cruisin'" across the back of the stage. After a couple of minutes, Buffett and the Reefers returned for two encores before taking their final bows and disappearing again. Of course, the audience still wanted more, and, as has been recent tradition, Buffett returned once more by himself to do an acoustic farewell song in the form of "Nautical Wheelers." After promising to see the crowd again next year, Buffett left the stage for good. The legions of parrotheads, many in grass skirts, coconut bras and bathing suits, slowly walked, stumbled and danced their way back to their cars to return to their normal lives. No matter how much like Cuba it may have been inside the Amphitheatre, it was still Raleigh, N.C. outside and the harsh world of jobs and traffic awaited the fans until they could make their way back to the Caribbean again next year.

Batman

continued from page 4


they don't. The film is a living cartoon with no regard for realism. A scene depicting Batman fighting a shark while hanging from the Batcopter is proof enough of this. You can only take this film so seriously, if for no other reason than West's portrayal of the hero. His Batman is the American ideal. As one American citizen states when the Batcopter flies overhead, "It makes a fella feel good knowing [Batman and Robin] are up there doing their job." West will never be considered a great figure in American cinema. He never got the opportunity to break the waves with cutting edge drama. But he still impacted on a large segment of mainstream America, and he did fit comfortably in a role he was born to play. Nobody can do Batman the way West did. He redefined an American icon, and that is why his legacy will live on, no matter how many other actors put on the cape and cowl.

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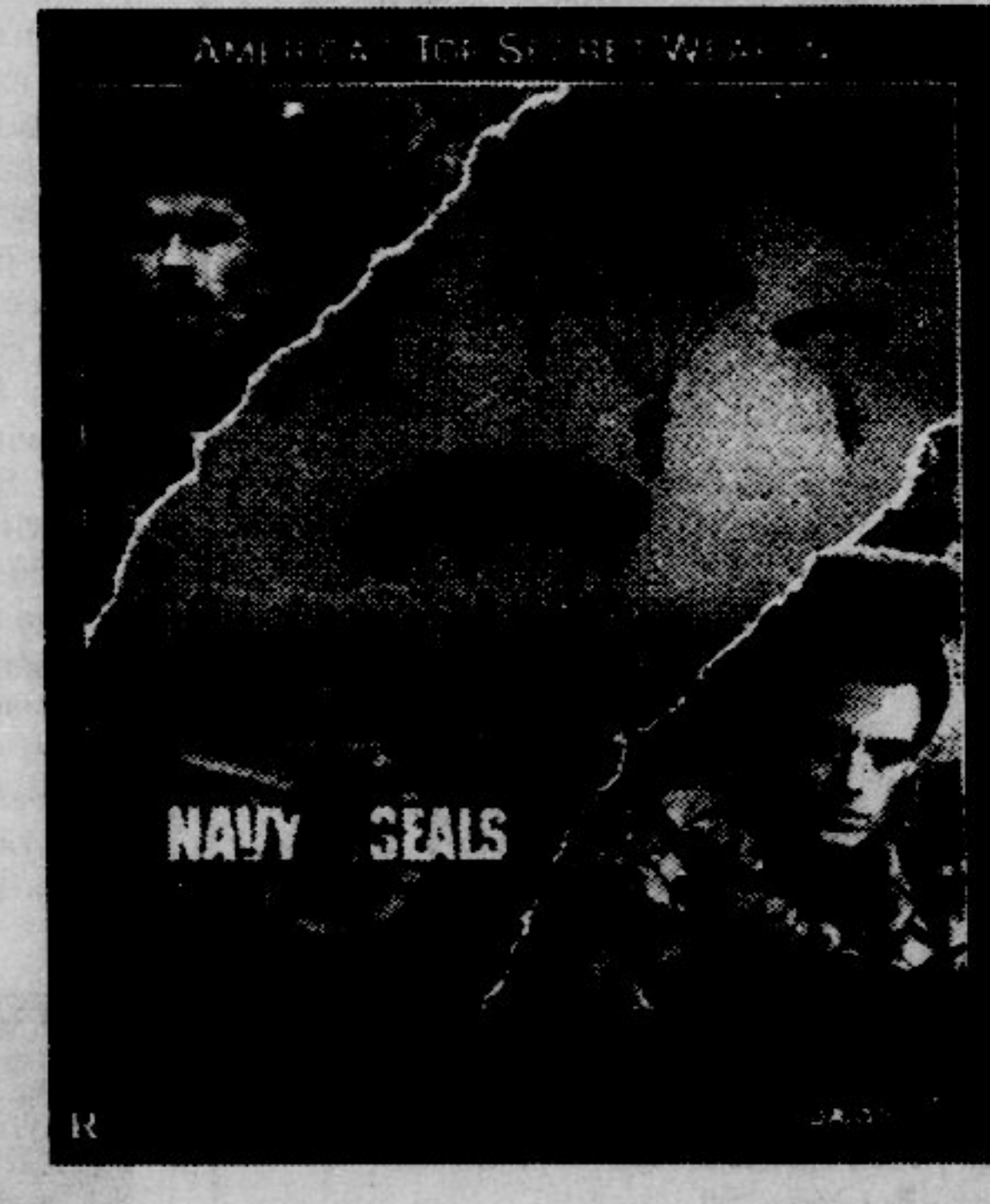
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Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic

JACQUELINE D. KELLUM
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The 1997 Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic is right around the corner and this year is packed full of celebrities.

The event planned for Sunday, June 29th will be held at the Brook Valley Country Club.

"We have 37 celebrities, and we're not sure how many spectators to expect. I think we had 37 celebrities last year too. We had over 10,000 spectators last year," said Laura Freelove, Tournament Assistant.

The tournament benefits four Ronald McDonald Houses of North Carolina located in Greenville, Chapel Hill, Durham and Winston-Salem.

The tournament which began in September 1984 as the Eastern Carolina Celebrity Golf Classic invited Michael Jordan to become the honorary chairman of the event in 1988 and was renamed the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic in 1989. The tournament, now in its 13th year, has grown from a one-celebrity tournament with a \$100 entry fee to a tournament with nearly 40 participating celebrities and top sponsorship levels of \$30,000.

Golf tournament gallery tickets may be purchased on the day of the event at Minges Coliseum parking lot on the ECU campus. Transportation to Brook Valley Country Club will be provided from Minges. No public parking is available at the tournament site.

Ticket Prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children six to twelve years of age. Children five and under will be admitted free of charge. All golfers will tee off with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. The tournament is a superball or captain's choice event with 36 teams of five golfers per team. Each team includes one celebrity and four sponsored golfers.

Evander Holyfield will not be able to attend the tournament, even though he was scheduled to be here.

"He has canceled. He has a fight on Saturday night fighting Mike Tyson," said Freelove.

The 1996 Golf Classic raised over \$200,000. To date the tournament has raised over \$900,000 for the Ronald McDonald Houses of North Carolina.

"We have a shotgun start this year, so everyone tees off at 9:30," Freelove said.

1997 Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic Celebrity List

- Grant Alexander - "Philip Spector" on *Guiding Light*
- William Baldwin - Film actor, most recently seen in *Men and Women*
- John Banark - Former Pittsburgh Steeler, three-time Super Bowl champion
- Bonnie Blair - Olympic Gold Medal speed skater
- Matt Blair - Former linebacker with the Minnesota Vikings; six-time All-Pro, 1980 was voted Most Valuable Linebacker in the NFL
- Jeff Blake - Quarterback for the Cincinnati Bengals
- Kimberlin Brown - "Sheila Carter" on *The Bold and the Beautiful*
- Dick Burkus - Former linebacker for the Chicago Bears; Inducted in NFL Hall of Fame
- John Callahan - "Edmund Grey" on *All My Children*
- Eva LaRue Callahan - "Marta Santos Grey" on *All My Children*
- Christopher Castle - "Mark Foster" on *Baywatch*
- Gary Chapman - Host of *Prime Time Country* on TNN
- Kerry Collins - Quarterback for the Carolina Panthers
- David Craikshank - 1988, '92 and '94 Olympic speed skater
- Kassie Wesley DePavia - "Blair Danner" on *One Life to Live*
- Jim DePavia - "Max Holden" on *One Life to Live*
- Mark Derven - Formerly "AC Miller" on *Guiding Light*
- Don Diamond - Formerly "Brad Carlton" on *The Young and the Restless*
- Willie Green - Wide receiver for the Denver Broncos
- L.C. Greenwood - Former Pittsburgh Steeler; three-time Super Bowl champ
- Frankie Hofffield - Heavyweight Champion of the World
- Hootie and the Blowfish - Atlantic Recording Artists: Mark Bryan, Dean Felber, Darius Rucker and Jim "Son" Sonefeld
- Lou Holtz - Former football coach for the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame
- Raghib Ismail - Wide receiver for the Carolina Panthers
- Rogge M. Jackson - Former New York Yankee, Mr. October
- Samuel L. Jackson - Film actor, most recently seen in *A Time to Kill*
- Dan Jansen - Olympic speed skating champion
- Michael Jordan - Honorary Chairman, NBA Legend with the Chicago Bulls; Recently named one of the 50 all-time greatest NBA players
- Meadowlark Lemon - Former Harlem Globetrotter
- Barney Martin - Jerry Seinfeld's father on *Seinfeld*
- Eric Martin - Former wide receiver for the New Orleans Saints; two-time All-Pro, all-time career receiving leader with the Saints
- Carly Martinelli - Co-host of *WHEELER Country*
- Neal McCoy - Atlantic recording artist, featured performer in the 1997 Celebrity Jam
- James McDaniel - L. Arthur Fony on *NYPD Blue*
- Mark McEwen - Co-host of *CBS This Morning*
- Joshua Morrow - "Nick Newman" on *The Young and the Restless*
- Lee Norris - Recently performed in *Jay Blue the Home, A USA Network movie*
- Michael O'Leary - "Rick Bauer" on *Guiding Light*
- Manley Pope - Currently starring in the Broadway show *Rent*
- John Rattenberger - "Cliff" on *Cheers*
- Richard Roundtree - Starred in *Shaft* and *Seven*
- Kenny Rogers - Country Music entertainer, actor
- Kathleen Sullivan - Former co-host of *CBS This Morning*
- Joe Ward - Former NBA player with the Phoenix Suns
- Stuart Ward - "Eugene Levy" on *Guiding Light*
- Dave Winfield - Former baseball player with the Cleveland Indians
- George Wendt - "Norm" on *Cheers*; currently stars in NBC's *Saturday Night Live*
- Rod Woodson - Cornerback for the Pittsburgh Steelers

TRIVIAtime

Name the woman who has the most Wimbledon titles, and how many she has won.

Martina Navratilova with nine.

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Overton-Johnson misses Open

AMANDA ROSS
SPORTS EDITOR

Lake Kristi was without a familiar face this weekend at the John Deere U.S. Open Waterski & Wakeboard Championships: the lake's namesake, Kristi Overton-Johnson.

Overton-Johnson was supposed to defend her U.S. Open Slalom title from last year, but was put in the hospital Thursday before the competition. After exploratory surgery on Saturday, doctors found some scar tissue from an appendectomy she had in December was growing around her intestine, causing pain in her stomach. She is said to be doing much better now.

She missed the weekend's competition and she was missed by many of the other skiers.

Rhoni Barton, who won the overall competition, said Overton-Johnson is somebody everyone on the tour looks up to.

"Kristi does a lot for the women's water skiing," Barton said. "She makes it real exciting. She dominates every weekend; she really pushes the girls to another level to chase her."

Despite the defending champ's absence, the competition was still fierce. Susi Graham, who edged out Emma Sheers by one buoy, came away with the women's slalom title, while Sheers took the women's jump title with a jump of 151 feet.

Brenda Baldwin, who finished third in the women's jump with 145 feet, said Overton-Johnson is more than just their competitor.

"We were all rather disappointed," Baldwin said. "She is a good friend of all of ours. We are all close friends and she's a great competi-



Andy Mapple won the men's slalom event with 67 buoys.
PHOTOS BY CHRIS GAYDOSK

tor. I believe she is one of the best women's slalom skiers in the world right now. And for her not to be here and it's her home site, it's a bit of a let down because this is her home."

Parker Overton, Kristi's father and coordinator of the event, said Sunday during the finals she was doing better and is hoping to be released Wednesday (today).

"She really hates not being here but the doctors hope that she will be able to leave in about four days, (Wednesday)," Overton said.

Overton-Johnson, who is expecting her first child in January, was gunning for her third straight U.S. Open women's slalom title and second title on the lake that was named after her. The U.S. Open competition will be held at Lake Kristi for the next seven years.

U.S. Open Results

- Sunday's Finals of Winners in each event
- Women's Tricks - Britt Larsen (6,700 points)
- Men's Tricks - Kyle Peterson (11,030 points)
- Wakeboard - Dean Lavelle (20,908 points)
- Men's Slalom - Andy Mapple (67 buoys)
- Women's Slalom - Susi Graham (57.5 buoys)
- Women's Jump - Emma Sheers (151 feet)
- Men's Jump - Steffan Wild (209 feet)
- Overall Men's Champion - Patrice Martin (2,975.9 points)
- Overall Women's Champion - Rhonie Barton (2,916.4 points)



Above, French waterski legend Patrice Martin signs autographs between events Sunday.
PHOTOS BY CHRIS GAYDOSK

Left, Britt Larsen showed she had what it took to win the women's tricks event with 6,700 points.
PHOTOS BY CHRIS GAYDOSK

Ayden offers golf at affordable prices

AMANDA ROSS
SPORTS EDITOR

This is a continuation of a series we are doing that looks at local golf courses around the area.

One course that is known to the local area is the Ayden Golf and Country Club. With reasonable prices and a beautiful layout, this course is perfect for any golfer.

Since 1979, Tim Smith has been the Ayden club pro. Smith has held his Class A pro card since 1978.

With all the new golf courses in the area, this is a seasoned golf course that has been in existence since 1936, when it was open for play on the first six holes. By 1960 an additional three holes were added and five years later the course was expanded to an 18 hole course as it is today.

The course yardage from the back tees is 6785 yards and the fairways and greens are Bermuda grass.

Back in the '30's members and their families, without the help of a professional golf course architect, cleared and developed the course into what it is today. Even though the course is not laid out by a golf course designer, Smith said this is still a very pleasant course for any golfer.

"A bunch of fellows got together and did it themselves," Smith said. "It is a very enjoyable layout considering we didn't have a golf course designer. It does have a lot of character to it and is a good test for any golfer."

According to Smith, many of the holes are lined with trees, but he says it isn't so hard that if the balls are hit into the woods, golfers can't find them.

"The edges of the ruff are lined with trees," Smith said. "It's open enough to where they can find balls."

One of the new changes to the course is the addition of an irrigation system, and the hiring of a new course superintendent, Chad Horton. Another change is the maintenance of the turf.

"We are dedicating ourselves to getting some good quality turf and maintaining it well," Smith said.

This course has always been pretty popular with golfers and Smith said that is due to a number of things.

"For a long time we were the easiest place to get on to play," Smith said. "We also offer a good price to play. They can come out and enjoy themselves and not lose too many balls."

If you're looking to improve on your golf swing, Smith offers lessons for 20 dollars and each lesson lasts about 30 to 45 minutes.

After a hard day of golf, the club offers a full service grill where you can sit back and reflect on your round. There is also a limited access driving range that allows golfers to practice on their iron shots. (Irons are all they allow on the range.) Buckets come in small, medium and large, and range from \$1.50 to \$4.50.

This course, for all it offers, is very affordable to any golfer. They have specials during the week for all the ECU students, where students can play for 10 dollars, (not including cart fees.) A cart any day of the week is just \$8 for 18 holes. Also during the week, they have a special rate after 3 p.m. For \$15 anyone can play and cart and green fees are included. Regular green fees during the week are \$12 and \$17 on the weekend.

Memberships are also available for an initiation fee of \$1500 and dues of \$50 a month.

This is a great deal for all golfers from the beginner to the more experienced. For more information about the course or for lessons, you can call Smith at 746-3389.

So take advantage of this warm sunny weather we have experienced lately and polish up on your golf game. Smith summed it up perfectly when he said, "call out here and give us a try."

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fast break

**Alliance to give Top 6 WAC, C-USA
teams spot in bowl game**

**Tyson ranks Holyfield fight biggest ever
in animated session**

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) - The Bowl Alliance has made a deal to ensure teams from second-tier conferences will not be snubbed if they finish ranked in the top six in the nation.

Alliance officials agreed Monday to a pact that virtually guarantees Western Athletic Conference and Conference USA teams a spot in an Alliance bowl if they finish sixth or lower, beginning with the 1998 season.

It appears to rectify the snub Brigham Young received last year, when they went 13-1 and were ranked fifth after the regular season, but were passed over for an Alliance bid.

BYU coach LaVell Edwards didn't dwell on the bad timing of the deal, but still saw room for improvement.

"It's better than nothing," he said. "I was hoping it wouldn't have to be the top (six), maybe the top eight, but beggars can't be choosers."

By going to the Cotton Bowl instead of an Alliance bowl last season, the Cougars lost out on about \$7 million. And the WAC took another shot when Wyoming was denied a bid to any bowls after finishing 10-2.

Bowl Alliance chairman Roy Kramer said neither of those situations were specifically mentioned and that negotiations with the WAC have been ongoing since the Alliance was formed.

"There has always been discussion as to what level of participation these conferences would have," he said. "They have been significant negotiations and we never got to a stone wall."

Beginning in 1998, if a WAC team doesn't qualify for the Alliance, a revenue-sharing agreement pays \$1.6 million to the conference. That's up from the \$1.2 million originally proposed.

Technically, there is no guarantee for the upcoming season, although the WAC becomes an Alliance member for promotional, marketing and still-to-be-determined voting purposes.

LAS VEGAS (AP) - For a guy who had to be begged to show up, Mike Tyson acted like he didn't want to leave.

Tyson engaged in a far ranging and animated conversation with a group of writers Monday night, talking about topics as diverse as child rearing to his anger at getting bad press.

When it was over, Tyson lingered in the billiard room at promoter Don King's house, where the former heavyweight champion even thanked writers for coming.

"He (King) had to beg me to come and talk to you because of what you guys write and say about me," Tyson said early into the interview.

By the end of the session, though, Tyson was telling humorous stories and acknowledging that perhaps his media coverage wasn't all that bad.

"I'm probably harder on myself than the reporters are," Tyson said. "No one knows me. I'm just Mike. I've had a lot of fun and I take care of business."

Tyson discussed his place in boxing and Saturday's WBA heavyweight title rematch with Evander Holyfield during the hour and 20-minute session.

As a student of boxing history, Tyson knows his place in some of the biggest heavyweight fights of recent years.

So he didn't hesitate when ranking the fight with Holyfield.

"It's probably the biggest fight ever," Tyson said simply.

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5 Binge
10 Resort
13 Lita - of bricks
14 Warble
15 Rebuff
18 Late night Jay
17 Firearm
19 Quote as
authority
19 Coming into
view
21 Call
23 Spar
24 Object
25 Foolish persons
28 Fence
31 Second planet
from the sun
32 Pickle juice
33 Do gardening
34 Positions on a
light switch
35 Wedge
36 - d'oeuvre
37 Cavalier
38 Pile
39 Saying
40 Like old paper
42 Quarterback,
often
43 Bits
44 Leak
45 Physician
47 Skins
51 Mine entrance
52 Low card
53 Ripped
55 Jump Broz
56 Dud of a car
57 Neighbor of
Europe
58 At all
59 Long time
60 Eyeglass part

DOWN
1 Man
2 News bit
3 Not any
4 Very great in
size
5 Tension
6 Publish
7 Split
8 Building wing
9 Large animal
10 Catapult
11 Party nosh
12 Mimics
15 Biscuit
20 Guns for
gangsters
22 Bee home
24 Group of three
25 Tusk material
26 Crusoe author
27 Unhappiness
28 Direction
29 Rich cake
30 - no (Ultimatium
words)
32 Kind of music
35 Craven
36 Healing place
38 Marquand sleuth
39 Letters
41 Gambling game
42 Primps
44 Furnishings
45 Facts
46 Norse god of
war
47 Big cat
48 Snoot
49 Smile
50 Red and black
53 Shoe width

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