

NEWS BRIEFS

Chancellor search

The Chancellor Search Committee, in assistance with the A.T. Kearney Executive Search Firm of Alexandria, Va., will meet Thursday, July 13 to begin developing strategies and a timetable for selecting a new chancellor.

Summer theatre

The second production for the East Carolina Summer Theatre is "Misalliance," a comedy written by George Bernard Shaw. The play is directed by Robert Caprio of the department of theatre and dance. The play opens tonight and continues its run in McGinnis Theatre through Saturday. For ticket information, call the theatre box office at 328-6829.

Freshman orientation

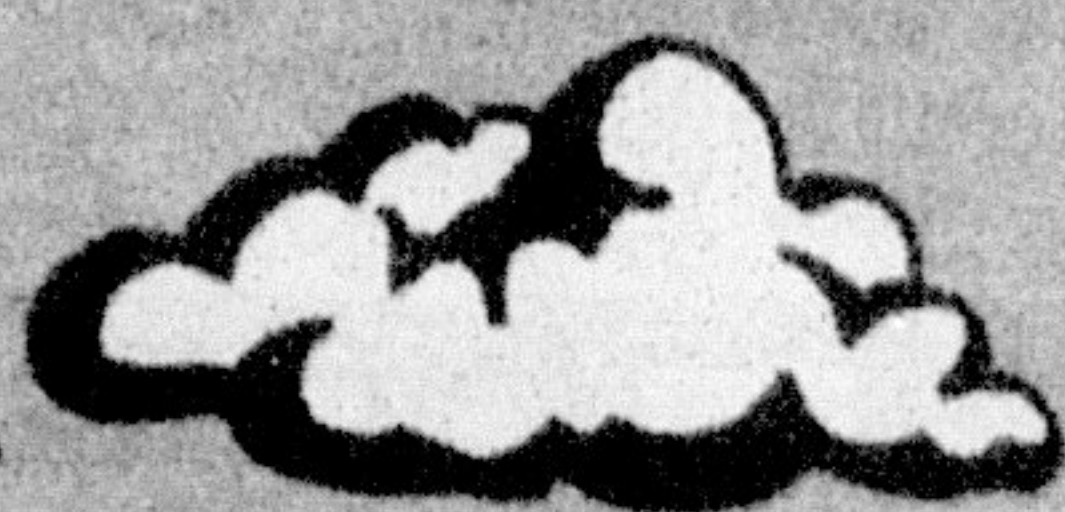
An orientation program for first-year students who will enroll at ECU this fall begins today. The welcome session, featuring remarks by Chancellor Richard Eakin, is at 1 p.m. in the Wright Auditorium. Contact Orientation and the First-Year Experience at 328-4173 for more information.

Dennis Hastert to speak

Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert will address students at a luncheon on behalf of the ECU Republicans from 11:30 a.m. - noon on Thursday, July 6 in the Greenville Hilton. It is unknown if this meeting is open to the public.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly
Cloudy



High of 92°
Low of 70°

ONLINE SURVEY

VOTE ONLINE AT TEC.ECU.EDU

Should all colleges make
U.S. history a requirement
for undergrads?

RESULTS OF LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Yes or No: Celebrities should always honor
their commitments?

36% Yes 64% No

U.S. HISTORY foreign TO MANY U.S. STUDENTS

WASHINGTON (AP)--Do the words "Give me liberty or give me death" sound only vaguely familiar? Do you think Thomas Jefferson was the "Father of the Constitution"?

If so, you're not alone.

Nearly 80 percent of seniors at 55 top colleges and universities including Harvard and Princeton received a D or F on a 34-question, high-school level American history test that contained historical references like those.

More than a third of the students didn't know the Constitution established the division of power in American government, according to the Center for Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut, which administered the test as part of a study to measure the teaching of American history.

Students were much more knowledgeable about popular culture. For example, 99 percent of the seniors could identify profane adolescents Beavis and Butthead as "television cartoon characters." But only 23 percent identified James Madison as the principal framer of the Constitution.

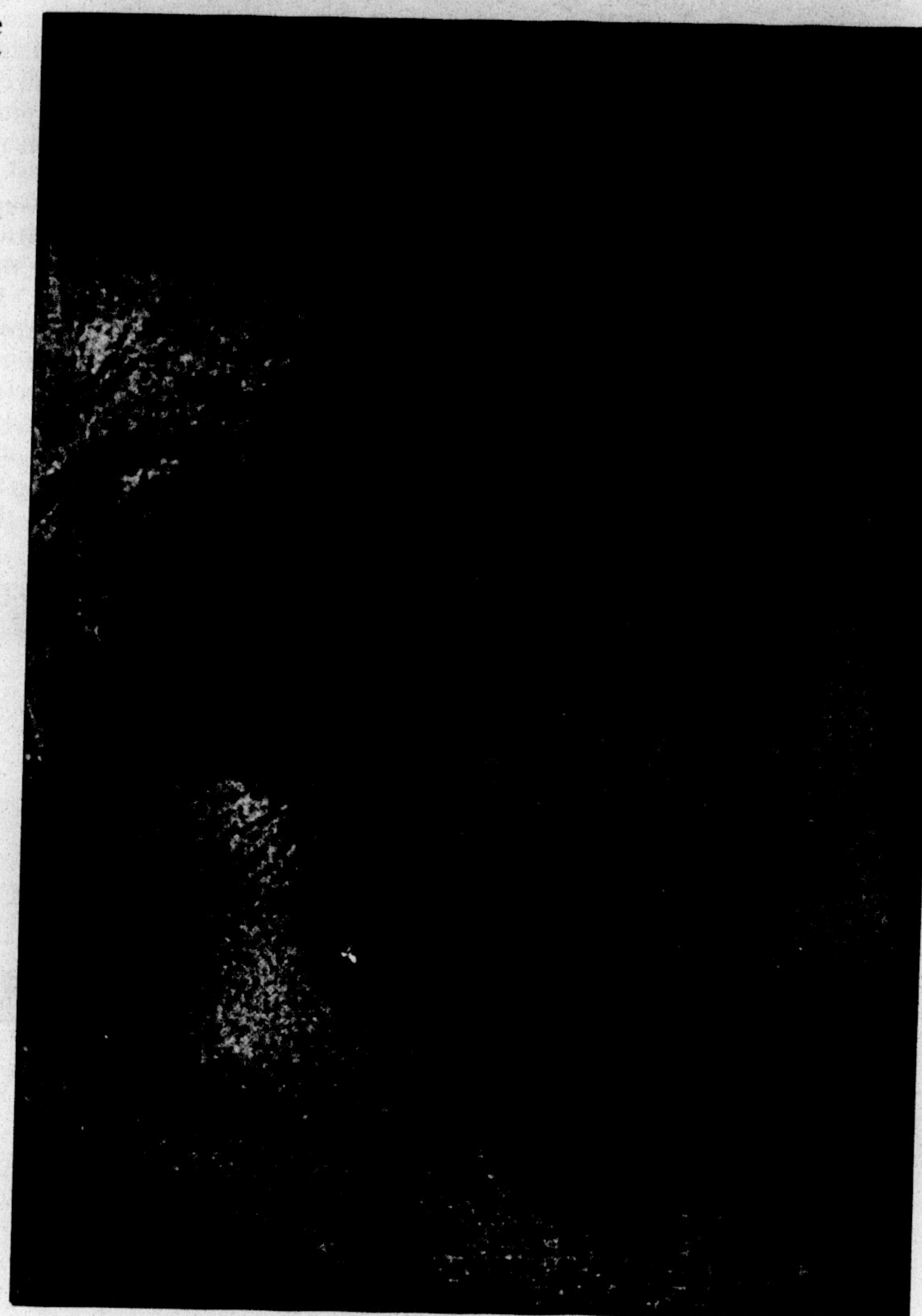
Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., lamented the findings. Quoting Jefferson, he said that "if a nation expects to be ignorant and free it expects what never was and never will be."

"This nation seems well on its way to testing this proposition," Lieberman said.

The study, sponsored by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, found none of the 55 schools require American history for graduation. And only 78 percent of the schools require students to take any history classes, according to Jerry Martin, one of the report's authors.

"These students are allowed to graduate as if they didn't know the past existed," Martin said.

see HISTORY, page 2



A recent study conducted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni found many of the U.S.'s top college students rank poorly when tested on U.S. history. (photo by Shane Cranford)

History 101

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The following are sample U.S. history questions similar to those missed by some of the country's top college students.

1. What treaty ended the War of 1812?

a. Versailles; b. Ghent; c. Mayflower Compact; d. Appomattox

2. Which was the last state admitted to the Union on Aug. 21, 1959?

a. Alaska; b. Hawaii; c. Texas; d. Puerto Rico

3. What treaty ended World War I?

a. Versailles; b. Ghent; c. Mayflower Compact; d. SALT II

4. On May 25, 1883 President Chester A. Arthur was on hand to open what was then considered the 'Eighth Wonder of the World.' What structure was it?

a. Washington Monument; b. Empire State Building; c. Brooklyn Bridge; d. Statue of Liberty

5. Who was known as "The Father of the Constitution?"

a. Franklin; b. Madison; c. Jefferson; d. Adams

6. What administration sponsored the 'New Deal'?

a. Jackson; b. F. Roosevelt; c. Wilson; d. L. Johnson

see QUIZ, page 4

HISTORY from page 1

Later this week, Lieberman, Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., and Reps. Thomas Petri, R-Wis., and George Miller, D-Calif., plan to introduce a resolution calling on boards of trustees, college administrators and state officials to strengthen American history requirements in all levels of the educational system.

Martin's group has been working to try to get colleges and universities to stress American history, but does not advocate a particular curriculum.

Within the last two years, the State University of New York system agreed to add American history to its core curriculum.

The problem also must be addressed in elementary schools, said James C. Rees, who oversees former President George Washington's estate in Mount Vernon, Va. "George Washington has been virtually eliminated from elementary school textbooks," Rees said.

The history test was given by telephone to 556 college seniors chosen at random. The questions were drawn from a basic high school curriculum.

N.C. State police chief retires early

RALEIGH (AP)—North Carolina State University's police chief retired sooner than expected and has been stripped of his duties in the fallout of allegations involving questionable purchases by his department.

Ralph Lex Harper, 61, gave the university a letter of resignation that took effect June 30. He had intended to retire from the university Sept. 1 after nearly 11 years as head of NCSU's public safety agency.

NCSU Chancellor Marye Anne Fox said that Harper had been "relieved of his duties" but is being allowed to retire.

Harper's supervisor, Jeff Mann, associate vice chancellor for business, is being reassigned to a new position determined Monday, Fox said. Mann had been Harper's boss throughout his tenure.

Since July 1994, Harper has used \$2.2 million in unspent salary and benefit money to help buy hundreds of thousands of dollars in electronics gear such as TVs and stereos, vehicles, furnishings and leather goods. Some of those items have been confis-

NCSU Chancellor Marye Anne Fox said that Harper had been "relieved of his duties" but is being allowed to retire.

cated from employee homes, including Harper's.

"The News & Observer" of Raleigh reported the questionable purchases Sunday, June 24 prompting inquiries and state probes.

"There have been rather serious allegations that we are waiting for an opinion from such as the state auditor and the State Bureau of Investigation, and we felt it prudent to remove both the person against whom the allegations are lodged and his immediate supervisor from the direct operation of the department while those investigations continue," Fox said.

Harper has been away from his post for the past month and is recuperating from back surgery. He could not be reached for comment at the time of this story.

Mann said he had no comment about his transfer. He has

been an associate vice chancellor since 1989 and had hired Harper later that year.

Fox named Assistant Director Terry Wright to lead the department until a new chief is hired. The university plans a national search this summer.

The university also has removed 34 items of electronic gear, ranging from TVs to laptops to a voice-changing telephone, that are not needed by the department. They are being dispersed to other departments.

Harper's spending has caused state legislators to demand a better accounting of the lapsed salary and benefit money accrued by universities. Fox said she wants senior administrators to "personally ensure that lapsed salary (money) support core programs within their areas." She also wants quarterly reports of the expenditures.

An internal audit in 1997 alerted Mann to questionable spending in the public safety department as well as more than \$1 million in lapsed salary and benefit money that Harper had spent on non-personnel items.

CRIME SCENE

June 29

Auto Accident - a student reported her vehicle was damaged while parked in the upper lot at Minges. After investigating, it was found that a non-student struck the student's vehicle. He was issued a state citation for failure to stop at the scene of an accident.

June 30

Second Degree Trespassing - a non-student was arrested for second degree trespassing after he was found intoxicated on campus. The non-student was banned from campus earlier in the week for being intoxicated and disruptive.

July 1

Careless and Reckless Driving - a student was issued a state citation for careless and wreckless driving after he was observed driving at a high rate of speed.



Trying to get your foot in the door?

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NEWS

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Texas A&M bonfire suspended for two years

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (Knight-Ridder Tribune)—Vowing not to tolerate a repeat of November's fatal bonfire collapse, Texas A&M President Ray Bowen on Friday put the event on hold for at least two years and ordered a drastic downsizing before it can be revived.

Bowen also demanded that students who participate in what many Aggies consider their most revered tradition undergo a change of culture and demonstrate a willingness to accept his terms for the revival. When and if bonfire returns, Bowen said, it will revert to a simpler, smaller "teepee" design that will resemble the stacks of logs built in the 1950s.

"I think the decision today is driven as much by having observed the horror that visited our campus as much as anything else," Bowen said of the Nov. 18 collapse that killed 12 students and injured 27. Reaction to Bowen's announcement ranged from relief and support to disbelief and criticism.

"It does not take two years to decide how to build a teepee-style bonfire. I'm sorry, but it doesn't."

Joe Barton
U.S. Representative (R)

Many former students said they are happy that the bonfire was not eliminated. But others are disappointed the bonfire will be canceled for two years. Some say the university can solve safety problems and still have a bonfire this fall.

U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, an A&M graduate and a professional engineer who once represented the College Station area, praised Bowen's announcement of added safety procedures, but said he strongly disagrees with halting the bonfire until 2002.

Barton, an Ennis, Texas, Republican, said there is no safety justification to stop the bonfire for two years because the planned teepee design for the logs "eliminated the largest structural problem."

"It does not take two years to decide how to build a teepee-style bonfire. I'm sorry, but it doesn't," he said.

Barton said that A&M officials told him that Bowen's decision to cancel the bonfire for two years is really a way to halt student trends with the bonfire that Bowen doesn't like.

"He's trying to break the culture of some of the student leadership," Barton said. "He wants to break that chain. But there is another way to break it without stopping the bonfire." Bowen insists that the new version will be designed by a licensed engineer, with only one layer or stack, versus the six that comprised the 1999 bonfire, and students will only be allowed to work on the project for two weeks each fall.

Perhaps the most jarring change will be the elimination of the so-called cut site, where students chop down logs and then haul them to the campus. Cut sites have been the scene of numerous reported injuries of students through the years.



Emergency personnel place a sheet over debris from the Texas A&M bonfire that killed 12 students Nov. 18. (photo from Knight-Ridder Tribune)

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Human genome map complete

QUIZ from page 1

HANOVER, N.H.(U-WIRE)—In what Bill Clinton called the biggest scientific advance of the century, two groups of rival scientists jointly announced on Monday that they have succeeded in deciphering the human genome 47 years after the structure of DNA was first discovered.

The genome—the set of instructions that defines an organism—consists of two sets of 23 giant DNA molecules. Each set contains a total of 3 billion chemical units.

Clinton described the research as “one of the most important, most wondrous maps ever produced by humankind.”

Two rival groups — the Celera Corporation and the Human Genome Project, or HGP, were responsible for the discovery, the result of a two year race to map the genome.

“It ranks with Watson and Crick’s discovery of DNA,” said C. Robertson McClung, a Professor of Biology at the College.

“It will have a huge impact in the study of disease and health care as well as the understanding of human biology and the biol-

ogy of a number of animals,” he added.

The Dartmouth Ethics Institute, coincidentally, has been hosting a two-week long Faculty Summer Institute on teaching the implications of the Human Genome Project that began on June 19.

The project is intended to study the ethical, legal and social implications genome mapping is likely to produce and is intended to train teachers from other colleges and universities interested in developing and teaching multi-disciplinary ethics courses.

The Institute has sponsored lectures addressing questions such as “Why should we study genes?” “Who should have access to my genome?” “Who owns the genome?” and “Should we be changing our genes?”

One of the most important ethical worries posed by this discovery is genetic discrimination.

Although the image of a “Brave New World” in which genetic testing is used in everything from college admission to job interviews is troublesome, it seems far away and difficult to imagine.

Yet, there are a number of more likely issues that may result.

Many specifically question the future of insurance coverage. Privacy issues involved in an insurance company’s right to know an individual’s genetic predisposition to disease in order to set rates have many ethicists worried.

One of the most contested implications of genome mapping is prenatal testing. While doctors already have the ability to test for diseases such as Downs Syndrome, there are fears that these tests will multiply until qualities such as height and IQ are tested for and, consequently, genetically engineered.

Although the technology for this engineering has yet to be developed, questions like this have spawned as excitement over Monday’s recent announcement.

Many scientists have also felt a certain chagrin that a commercial rival upstaged the Human Genome Project, an altruistic and open venture.

7. Which president was in office when the Great Depression started?
a. Hoover; b. F. Roosevelt; c. Cleveland; d. McKinley

8. Which great Yankee slugger died on Aug. 16, 1948—five days after the 25th anniversary of Yankee Stadium?
a. Babe Ruth; b. Joe DiMaggio; c. Ted Williams; d. Lou Gehrig

9. Which of the defenders of the Alamo was also a one time Congressman from Tennessee?
a. Jim Bowie; b. Henry Clay; c. Daniel Boone; d. Davy Crockett

10. Virginia Dare was the first child of English blood born in the New World at this ill-starred colony in the 1580s.
a. Jamestown; b. Roanoke; c. Massachusetts Bay; d. Plymouth

11. Which amendment to the Constitution gives people the right to a speedy trial?
a. 1st Amendment; b. 3rd; c. 5th; d. 6th

12. Which of these men was not present at O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Ariz. on Oct. 26, 1881?
a. Wyatt Earp; b. Doc Holliday; c. Billy Clanton; d. Pat Garrett

(Questions taken from U.S. History Interactive at www.geocities.com/Heartland/Pointe/3048/)

ANSWERS:

1. b. Treaty of Ghent
2. b. Hawaii
3. a. Treaty of Versailles
4. c. Brooklyn Bridge
5. b. James Madison
6. b. Franklin Roosevelt
7. a. Herbert Hoover
8. a. Babe Ruth
9. d. Davy Crockett
10. b. Roanoke
11. d. 6th Amendment
12. d. Pat Garrett

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OUR VIEW

But given
the right
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history is
one long
collection of
exciting
stories: great
battles,
heroes and
scandals.
The tragedy
lies in how
few of us
know that.

Question: Did Thomas Jefferson sign the Constitution?

Most of you probably said yes, and you are no different than most college students in this country. A recent study conducted by the University of Connecticut has shown the world just how ignorant 'educated' America is about its past.

The truth is, Thomas Jefferson was not even in the country during the signing of the Constitution. Even though this may be a petty fact from a time long ago, before you shrug your shoulders and go back to your sitcoms, think for a minute about what your limited historical knowledge means.

It means you've been slighted. Most students think of history as a list of places, dates and people that do boring things to make boring subjects of boring textbooks. But given the right teacher, history is one long collection of exciting stories: great battles, heroes and scandals. The tragedy lies in how few of us know that.

Instead of placing the blame on lazy, nonchalant students, TEC would like to remind history teachers how much most of us like to learn when the information is interesting, when it doesn't come from a book, and when homework doesn't mean multiple-choice questions taken from the end of the chapter. Perhaps America's youth knows no history because of lazy, nonchalant teachers.

A. Dijeack

IN MY OPINION

Bush shouldn't support death penalty

Capital punishment is a very controversial topic in America. Some call it a deterrent and others call it slaughter. I'm going to call it what it is—murder in the first. Some people are sentenced to death and then it is later realized that the convicted person was innocent. Do we want to take that chance with people? Shouldn't we have a greater respect for life?

Texas inmate Gary Graham was executed two weeks ago by lethal injection. Graham had to pay the ultimate price because he was convicted of a murder in 1981. There are a few things wrong with his case that drew national attention. First, his conviction was primarily based on the testimony of one person. One person? Maybe I have been watching shows like "The Practice" for too long, but I thought it took more than one person's testimony to prove one's guilt, let alone send a person to death row.

Second, there were two individuals who later came forward to testify that they knew Graham did not commit that murder. This should have hastened an immediate call by the governor to stop the execution but, the campaigning Texas governor George W. Bush expressing no inter-

est in delaying Graham's execution. Many observers speculate that his inactivity was motivated by a fear that he would have suffered a severe political blow had he intervened. I think it's a blow to the cause of justice that Graham died.

National figures such as Jesse Jackson went to Texas to plead Graham's case along with other politicians, Democrats and Republicans alike. The governor of Illinois even spoke against the execution of Graham. Recently, 13 Illinois inmates sentenced to death were exonerated after new evidence was found. This should be proof enough of a flawed judicial process in dispensing capital punishment. Even Attorney General Janet Reno has gone on record to say that she has failed to find any evidence that capital punishment is a viable deterrent. That's not too hard to believe, considering that 70 percent of death sentences are reversed in appeals.

The death penalty is not working and I don't want a man who can't see this as a state governor to become my president. I can't support a presidential candidate who is more concerned with his election than with stopping an unjust execution.



Faisal Lodhi

IN MY OPINION

Gasoline prices: what's up?

As you have probably noticed, the price of gasoline has been soaring recently. Businesses have raised prices to keep pace with energy costs, and consumers have decreased their across-the-board spending. When we inquire into the reasons that prices have soared higher than ever seen in recent memory, we come up empty.

The gasoline companies blame Washington for the price hikes, citing damaging legislation and a gas tax, while the government accuses the gasoline industry of price fixing. Both parties blame OPEC but, for instance, how can OPEC be blamed for the steep prices in the Midwest while prices are as much as 70 cents per gallon lower in other regions? So, my question is this—what's really going on and why can't the government do anything about it?

As we know, OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has recently decreased its level of worldwide exports, including those to the United States. This decrease in supply, combined with the greater American oil demand during the summer months, has spelled an increase in the price of oil. Oil costs have surged to as high as \$35 a barrel, compared with the normal rate of about \$20 per barrel.

These price woes are worsened by the fact that the White House is now requiring that cleaner gasoline be used in certain areas to combat pollution. While ecological concern is a good idea, no one is sure how much it adds to the price per gallon. Some sources say it adds about three cents, while others have calculated a much higher 25 cent increase per gallon. The White House insists that the clean

gasoline requirement is not responsible for the tremendous increase in gas prices. Rather, it claims that the oil industry has seized this opportunity as an excuse to wrongfully inflate prices. Add to that a broken oil pipeline in the Midwest and you get further price increases.

Another interesting factor is the gasoline tax. In a time like this, federal and state governments should suspend gasoline taxes in order to give consumers a break. As one economist put it, "Tax is an evil necessity." However, I'm sure we could do without this particular "necessity" until the price of gasoline goes down, especially since the government claims to have some billion dollars in surplus this year.

So, what is making the prices go up? There really isn't a simple answer. There is the OPEC limiting of supply. Then there is the clean gasoline requirement in smog infested areas, which the White House insists is necessary. And then there are the accusations that gasoline companies are playing with the prices to pocket more money, which doesn't sound unreasonable since the wholesale price of gasoline has gone down 25 cents a gallon without a corresponding decrease in prices at the pump.

The FTC is investigating, so we won't find out until their investigation is complete. This means that we will probably never receive a clear, concise answer, since such matters can sometimes stall in administrative quagmire and often require an investigation of the investigation. None of these factors are easing matters at the pump. Hopefully, with OPEC recently agreeing to a slight increase in production and the government heavily pressuring the oil industry to lower prices, American consumers should see some respite in the fall.

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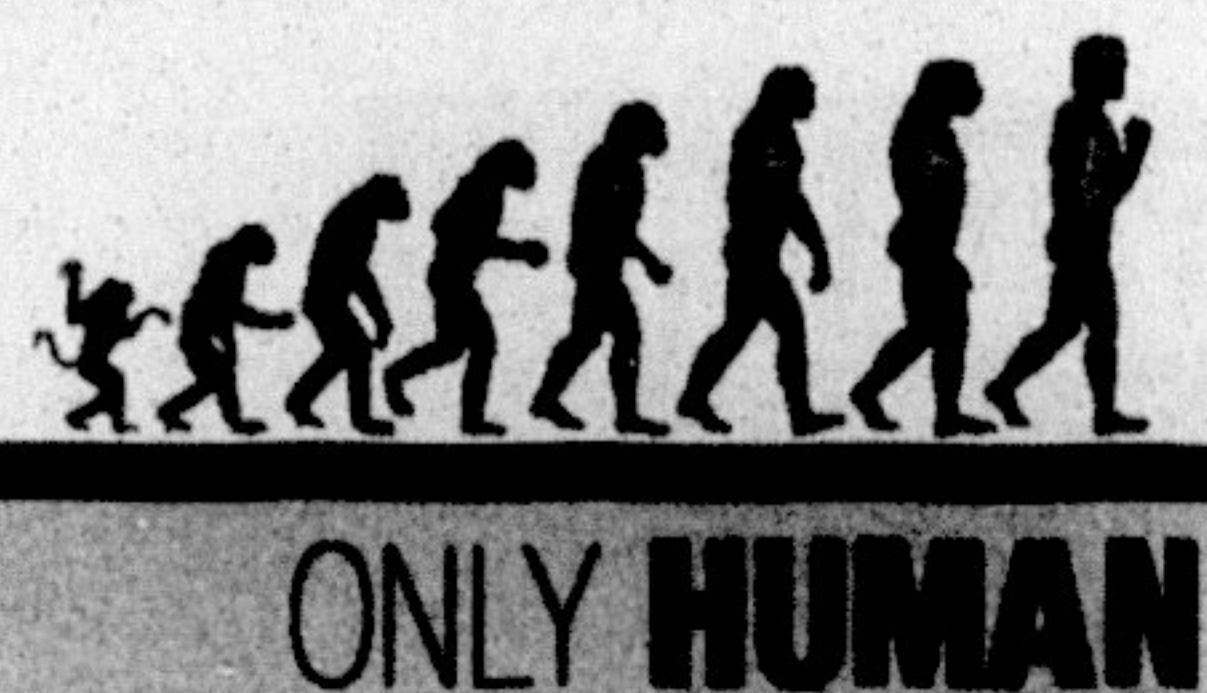
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NEW CASTLE, Ind. (AP)-A morning radio personality is undertaking a chilling stunt to raise money for charity. Holly Johnson, a disc jockey at New Castle radio station WMDH-FM, will be entombed in 5,000 pounds of ice at 2 p.m. Thursday. She will remain in the box for 48 continuous hours without food or water to raise money for Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Henry County, Inc. "I'll have to bring lots of blankets," Johnson, 23, joked. "The area is an awful lot like a coffin but a little bigger." Her makeshift igloo will be surrounded by ice and kept in the back of a freezer truck set at 23 degrees. "If we raise a little bit of money, that is great, but what we want to do is raise awareness," said Janelle Conley, executive director of Big Brothers-Big Sisters. "We need big brothers desperately. Right now, we have 25 children on the waiting list and 19 of them are boys." Johnson will be broadcasting live from her icebox. A video camera is set up inside the box to record her from the neck up. She will have a small television, a VCR and a telephone for entertainment.

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)-People here are getting bullish on a wave of vandalism directed recently at statues of the city's namesake animal. At least four of the 39 buffalo statues that have been placed around the city as part of a nationwide campaign have been vandalized recently, according to reports. The latest was when a bison was tipped over and one of its horns broken off. Police have arrested a 23-year-old on charges of criminal mischief. The bison are part of a national series of similar animal (and even vegetable) parades. Other parades include cows in West Orange, N.J. and Stamford, Conn., pigs in Cincinnati and Peoria, Ill., lizards in Orlando, Fla., mermaids in Norfolk, Va. and 6-foot-high ears of corn in Bloomington, Ill.

It's that time of the year again... Hurricane Season

Emily Little
FEATURES EDITOR

In September, the newest storm will linger off the Southeastern seaboard. With better than 74mph winds and an 80 degree expanse of water, it will swirl through uninhibited ocean until it comes up on a little stretch of land that blocks its path. Then the hurricane will attack, dropping in horizontal sheets the massive quantities of rain it picked up on its trek across the Atlantic. And Greenville gets it almost every time.

According to Allen Riordan, a meteorology professor at N.C. State, more hurricanes reach land in the Cape Hatteras area than anywhere else on the Atlantic coast.

"Most hurricanes begin to form in a westward-drifting regime," he said. "The next thing sticking out there is North Carolina."

The season lasts from June to November, and peaks around Labor Day. That's when the jet stream is right around the coast, and the water stays warm enough to support the storms.

Most property damage is caused by storm surge, when the ocean climbs up onto shore and takes out whatever it touches. But anyone who was around for last year's adventure with Floyd can testify to the effectiveness of a good post-hurricane flood. According to Riordan, the amount of inland flooding cause by these storms increases every year. Still, he recommends a flight to higher ground when a hurricane approaches.

"We've had storms like Hugo or Andrew that at the last minute intensified," Riordan said. "Your best bet is to pack up your belongings and move inland."

Bill Koch, ECU's director of Environmental Health and Safety, believes that students living on campus might actually be better off staying put.

"What we generally come down to is, if the hurricane is going to hit, students are a lot safer in our buildings than they are in their homes," he said.

That's because ECU housing is held to a stricter building code than most

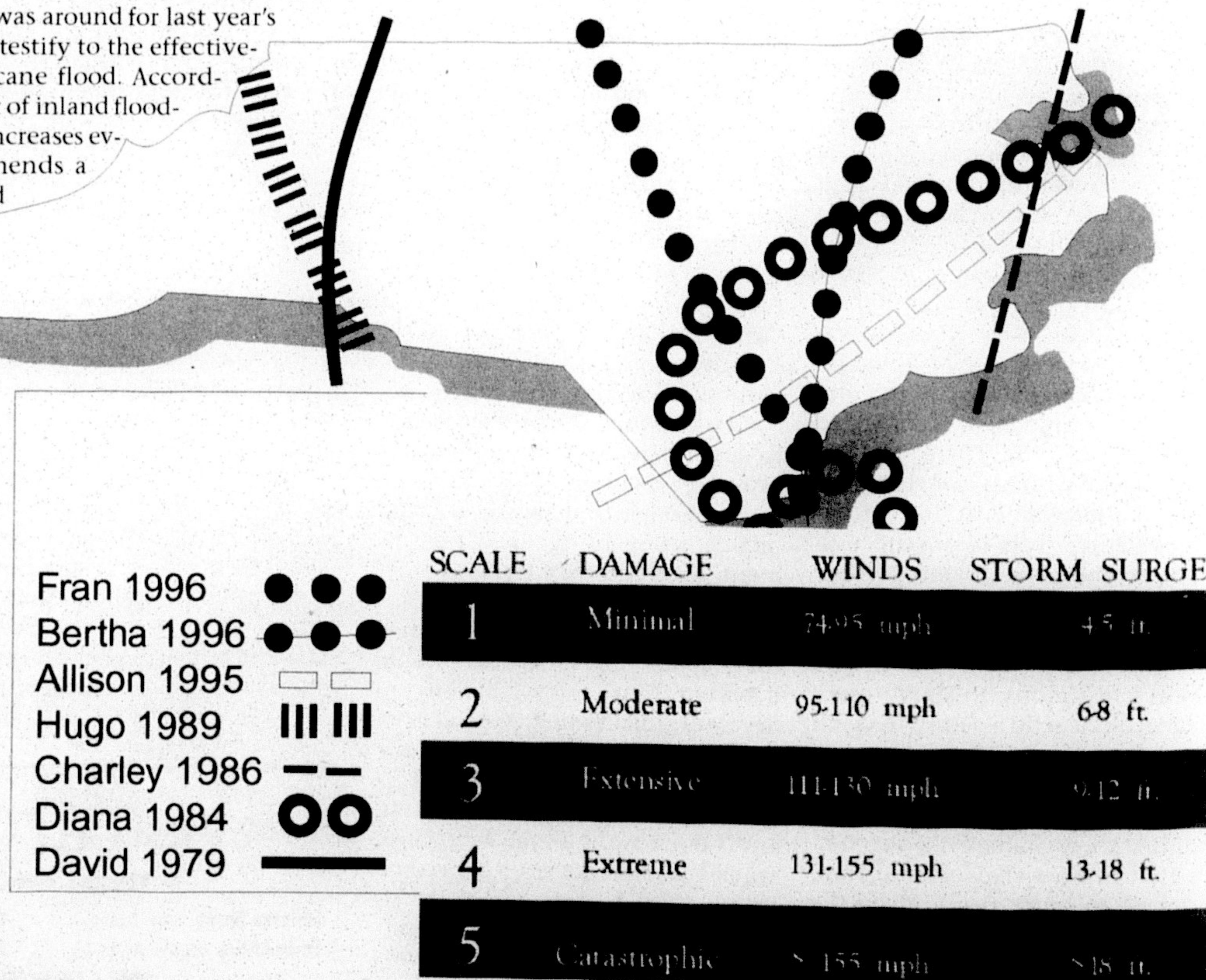
private residences. According to Mark Kimball, with ECU Facilities, the only damage Floyd did to any on-campus housing was minor flooding in Tyler hall.

But for those students living off campus in apartments, all the masking tape in the world will make no difference if the windows aren't strong enough to take the blast. Boarding them up is still the best way to keep the glass intact and protect your belongings.

Most importantly, when the storm hits, Riordan says to be prepared. One of the things that causes the most chaos during a hurricane is the amount of people going back and forth to the store because they failed to make a list of what they needed.

"You should have a plan," he said. Don't forget things like batteries and extra drinking water in case the power goes out.

see HURRICANE, page 8



PICK OF THE WEEK: *The Maddening Crowd* by Nine Days

Emily Little
FEATURES EDITOR

You can't judge pop-rock on the same scale with other music. For instance, you can't say Eve 6 sucks because they don't sound like Nine Inch Nails, because you're automatically dooming them to a certain fate. So on a scale of one to 10, with Third Eye Blind as a crappy old one and Barenaked Ladies at a spectacular 10, Nine Days falls in on the pop-rock scale at about a seven.

You know Nine Days. They're the band that plays one of the songs that used to be good before 99X started playing it every hour, on the hour until most of us started slamming our heads into walls to make it go away. You know, the song, "This is the story of a girl, who cried a river and drowned the whole world..." That song.

If you liked "Absolutely (Story of a Girl)" before the overkill, then you would like all of *The Maddening Crowd*, because most of the songs on the album are done in that same poppy, light tone with a memorable hook and a crisp set of riffs. Although Nine Days has decided to throw its hat in the lower end of the pop-rock spectrum by touring with Third Eye Blind, most of their songs are really interesting and worth a better headlining act.

The band has two vocalists--the one you



hear on the radio and another guy, who sounds a bit like Bon Jovi and Don Henley's love-child. It makes for a nice variation, because although the singers switch off as lead vocalists, they are not so different that you don't recognize the band.

The thing that separates Nine Days from the really crummy pop-rock acts, aside from genuine musical ability, is a tendency to put a hopeful sound to an otherwise depressing set of lyrics. "End Up Alone," for instance, begs the question of why we all do end up alone, but it begs it in a sweet, sort of resigned way. If you didn't listen to the words, you might think it was a happy song.

And the same goes for most of the tunes on this album. On the other hand, none of these poppy tunes are so cheery you find yourself sickened by the sentiment. Not like, say, "Semi-Charmed Life," which also covers a depressing thought with upbeat, whistle-while-you-work type noises. When Nine Days "doo-doo-doo," it sounds more like Ben Folds Five.

Nine Days is good stuff. They are a definite seven in the world of pop-rock. Just don't try to compare them to anything hardcore.

This writer can be contacted
at features@tec.ecu.edu.

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FEATURES

Wednesday July 5, 2000
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HURRICANE *from page 6*

And as some sickly students learned in the aftermath of Floyd, do not swim in the hurricane-swollen water. Flooded parking lots carry diseases.

To find out more about a particular hurricane call the Storm Central Hotline at 752-7166. For information on ECU's hurricane policy, check out www.ecu.edu/oehs.

This writer can be contacted at features@tec.ecu.edu.

photographer position available

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This position will prepare those interested in obtaining an editorial position at *The East Carolinian*. Serious applicants need only apply. Applications will be accepted until July 12 and are located in the office of *The East Carolinian*, located above the Cashier's Office.

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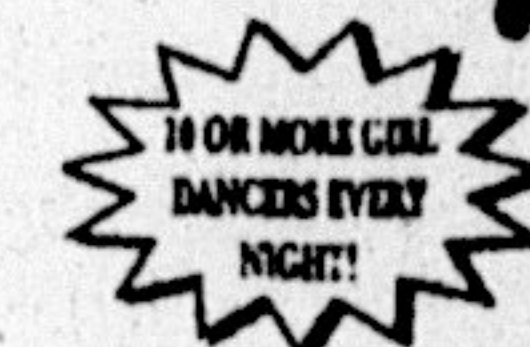
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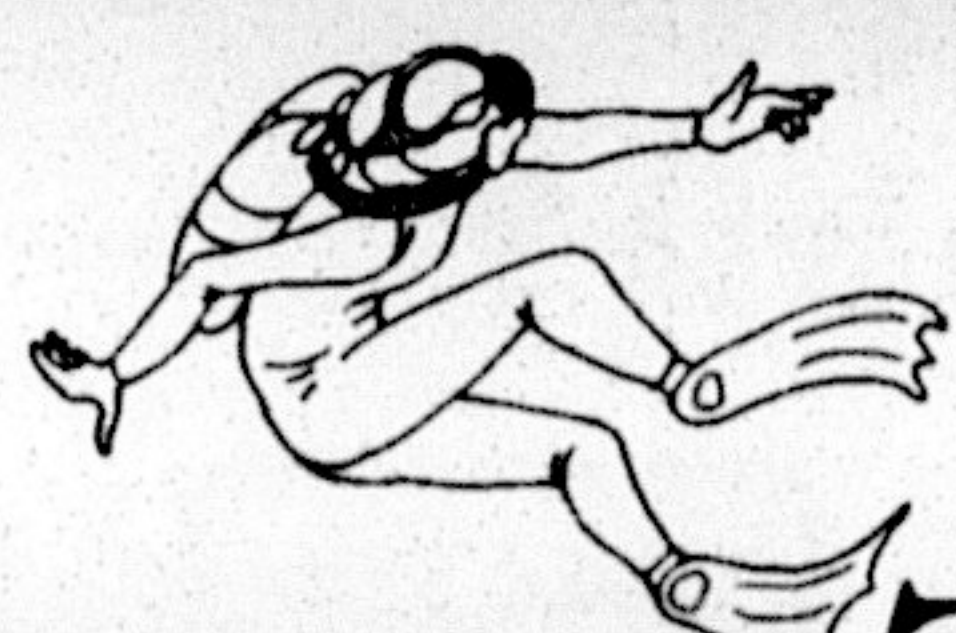
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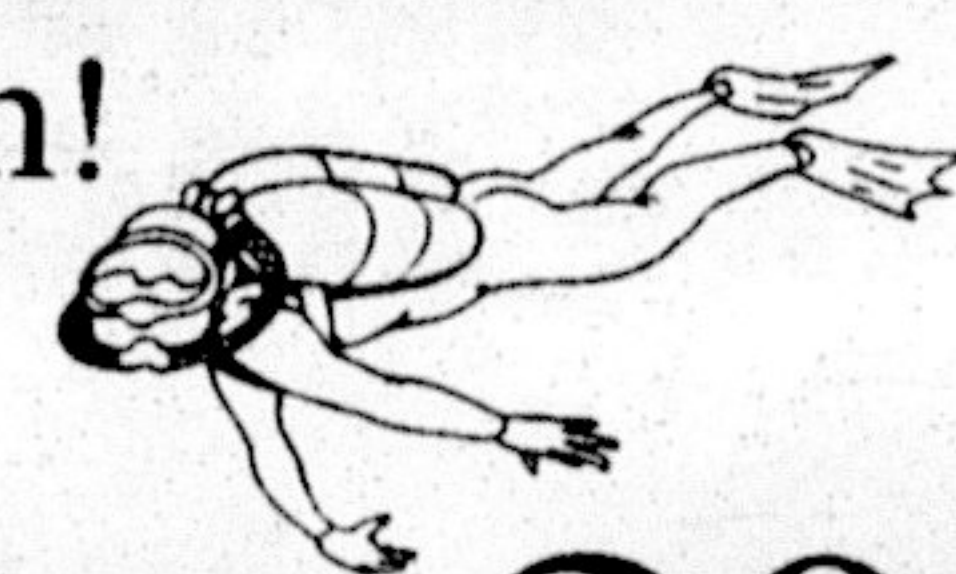
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Hanging Up

PG 13

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Burton wins at Daytona

Jeff Burton held off two of NASCAR's biggest names to win the Pepsi 400 Saturday night.

In the final laps Burton held off Rusty Wallace, Dale Jarrett and Dale Earnhardt following a restart with four laps to go. Burton edged the trio of stars to notch his third win in the past two seasons. The win was a bit of a surprise for Burton's team, Roush Racing. It was one of their first wins at a restrictor plate track.

Irwin takes U.S. Senior Open title

Hale Irwin didn't let a two-stroke deficit in the final round of this weekend's U.S. Senior Open stand in his way. Irwin beat out Bruce Fleisher to win his second Senior Open title in three years.

Irwin's total of a 17-under 267 broke Gary Player's record total in 1987.

The title was Irwin's 11th win on the Senior tour in two years.

Martin taken #1

The University of Cincinnati's Kenyon Martin was taken first in last week's NBA Draft by the New Jersey Nets. The College Player-of-the-Year sat out the NCAA Tournament with a broken leg he suffered late in the season.

Martin stayed at UC for four years and was one of the few college seniors taken in the first round.

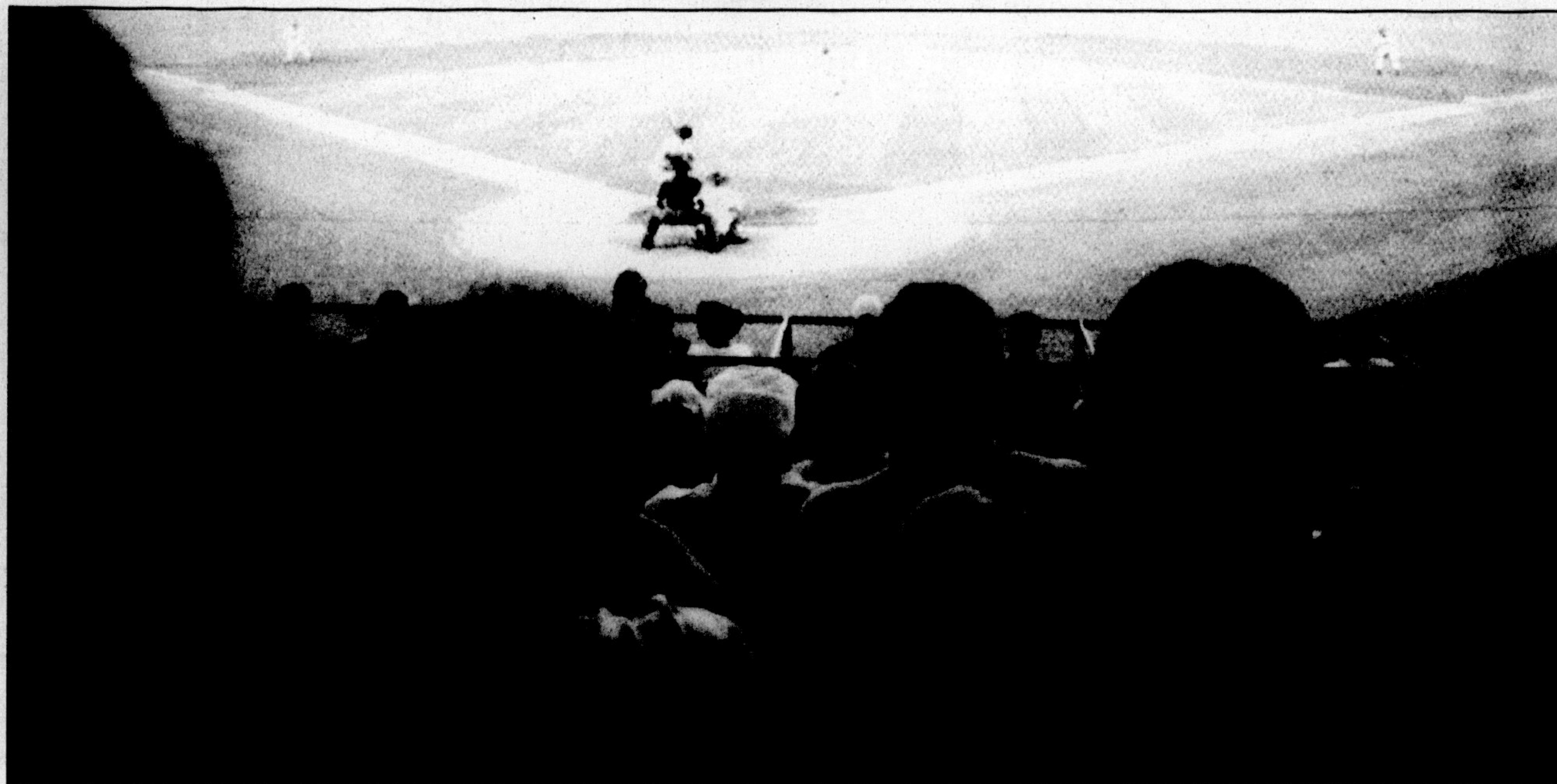
Net's Williams retires

New Jersey Nets center Jayson Williams retired last week due to injuries suffered during the 1998-99 season.

Williams broke his leg in a collision with New Jersey point guard Stephon Marbury during a game in April of last year. He has not played since.

The quick-witted 32-year old was one of the NBA's more colorful personages during his career.

Going YARD



Kinston Indians offer idyllic minor league experience

Stephen Schramm
SPORTS EDITOR



Top: Kinston takes on Salem in front of a full house in the grandstand. The team plays in front of locals and Pitt County residents that make the trip down Hwy. 11. (photo by Garrett McMillan)

Above: Kinston Native, Reed Owens watches Alex Mense wind up at the Speed Pitch. (photo by Garrett McMillan)

New Bern's Al Watson sits at the back of the grandstand, his back to the late afternoon sun. He is unaffected by the uniformed little leaguers that accompany him. Instead, he chooses to focus on the slow, deliberate actions of the Kinston Indians pitcher.

"I come out here when I get the chance," Watson said. "I come for the atmosphere, the crowd, the people."

On this early summer Friday evening in Kinston, the crowd at Grainger Stadium is sparse. Empty seats dot the upper half of the grandstand while the bleachers down the third base side are mostly empty.

Near the top of the seats along the first base side, Kinston native William Soloman takes in the scene. Soloman has been following the Indians for over a decade.

"I've been to Salem, Virginia, Lynchburg," Soloman said. "I'd say Kinston is the best."

For much of the time Soloman has followed the K-Tribe, they have been the Class A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. For the whole time, they have played in Grainger Stadium.

The outfield's plywood fences are decorated with ads for local businesses. Beyond the wall in left field is a neighborhood, while the right field wall fronts a tobacco warehouse that rises above the stadium as a reminder of the city's economic roots.

Kinston is thirty minutes South of Greenville on NC Hwy. 11. The Indians are the closest professional baseball team to Greenville and every home game sees a num-

ber of fans from Pitt County.

On this night Jerry Allen of Greenville and his son Ashley watch the game from the picnic tables facing right field.

"I work two jobs and go to school, so I get down here when I can," said Jerry Allen, who works with the Pitt County Sheriff's office and the Pitt Community College Police while taking classes at PCC. "I'm a baseball fan, I've been a baseball fan forever."

While the games draw Greenville residents, it takes more to draw the ECU crowd.

"Every once in a while, you'll see a couple," said Indians employee Reed Owens, a recent Kinston high school graduate who will attend N.C. State University in the fall. "A lot of them come down on Thursday nights when we have 'Thirsty Thursdays,' a lot of the older students come down."

Even in baseball, we follow the drink specials.

"It seems to be prominent at any college," Owens said, "Not just ECU."

On this night, Owens was manning the Speed Pitch, which features a rubber mat against which customers hurl a baseball. The speed of their pitch is determined electronically and shown on a lighted screen.

"Everybody comes in and they think they can throw really fast," Owens said. "They think they can throw 50 or 60 and they throw 35,40 at most. I laugh all night long."

While many of the older fans stick to watching the game or occasionally embarrassing themselves on the Speed Pitch, for the young fans, the main form of entertainment at the game is trying to catch that elusive foul ball.

Any ball that leaves the field will set off a belt-high stampede of kids, each toting a glove, sprinting for a shot at the souvenir.

IN MY OPINION

Halfway mark offers some surprises at top

Stephen Schramm
SPORTS EDITOR

As Major League Baseball's 2000 season nears its halfway point, a glance at the standings will yield a number of surprises.

If you claim to have expected Toronto, Chicago and Seattle to lead their respective American League divisions at this point, you're lying.

However, Toronto is really not that much of a surprise. At the end of last season the surging Blue Jays mounted a serious challenge to Boston in the AL Wild Card race before eventually losing out to the Sox. The Jays return the nucleus of their promising 1999 squad, minus the speedy and powerful left fielder Shawn Green, who was traded to the LA Dodgers for the equally speedy and powerful Raul Mondesi.

Consequently, much was expected from the Jays this season, especially from their corps of young stars, who include first

baseman Carlos Delgado, shortstop Tony Batista and outfielder Shannon Stewart. Thus far, the trio has lived up to the hype. Delgado has a realistic shot at the coveted Triple crown and leads the AL in homers with 27. Meanwhile, Batista is also among the league leaders in home runs with 22.

It also helps when your pitching staff features veteran ace David Wells, who has returned to the form that made him one of baseball's best pitchers two years ago. Wells has already compiled a 13-2 record with 94 strikeouts.

While the Blue Jays are not a surprise to knowledgeable baseball fans, The Mariners and White Sox are legitimate shockers.

The White Sox came into this season with underachieving star Frank Thomas proclaiming "Don't question my desire" on the cover of Sports Illustrated (SI). The corresponding SI pre-season article painted the Chi-

cago clubhouse as an environment devoid of team chemistry.

Either the story was wrong or manager Jerry Manuel is a genius. The White Sox have the largest division lead in all of baseball, 10 and a half games over the division's consensus preseason pick, the Cleveland Indians. The ChiSox have their sizable lead thanks to resurgent pitching and solid all-around teamwork, bolstered by tight clubhouse camaraderie.

The Mariners were all but left for dead after trading superstar Ken Griffey Jr. However, there were some who were quietly talking about the Mariners as a serious contender in the relatively weak and wide-open AL West.

Those whispers have turned into talk of a pennant run in Seattle. However, the AL West also features the Oakland A's, who also contended for the AL Wild Card in '99 and look to do so again this year, unless they are able to overtake Seattle and win

the division outright.

In the National League, everything has stayed true to form. Atlanta has a slim lead over the Mets in the East. Arizona has an equally tenuous grasp on first in the West, while St. Louis is eight and a half games ahead of Cincinnati.

If that last one surprised you, it should.

For the past two seasons, Mark McGwire's home run heroics have hidden the fact that the Cardinals have played some very bad baseball. They have finished at or near the bottom of their division in each of the past two seasons.

This season was supposed to be the year that the Reds would prove that small-market teams can compete, as they, and their new star, Griffey, were going to win the NL Central and challenge the Braves and Mets for National League supremacy.

That has not happened. The Cards have finally gotten strong pitching to match their tradition-

ally explosive offense, bolting them past the Reds and turning the competitive NL Central race into a laugh.

By the way, has anyone seen the Houston Astros? Houston, one of the perennial powers in the NL, opened the season by christening their new park, Enron field (affectionately known as "ten-run field") and have not been heard from since. Thanks to some poor pitching and little league park dimensions, the Astros have made their new field as inviting to home run hitters as baseball's most notorious hitter's park, Coors Field.

Each year there are surprises. Often, knowledgeable fans and baseball insiders are able to anticipate surprises before they occur. This year, however, they're just as shocked as you.

This writer can be contacted
at sports@tec.ecu.edu.

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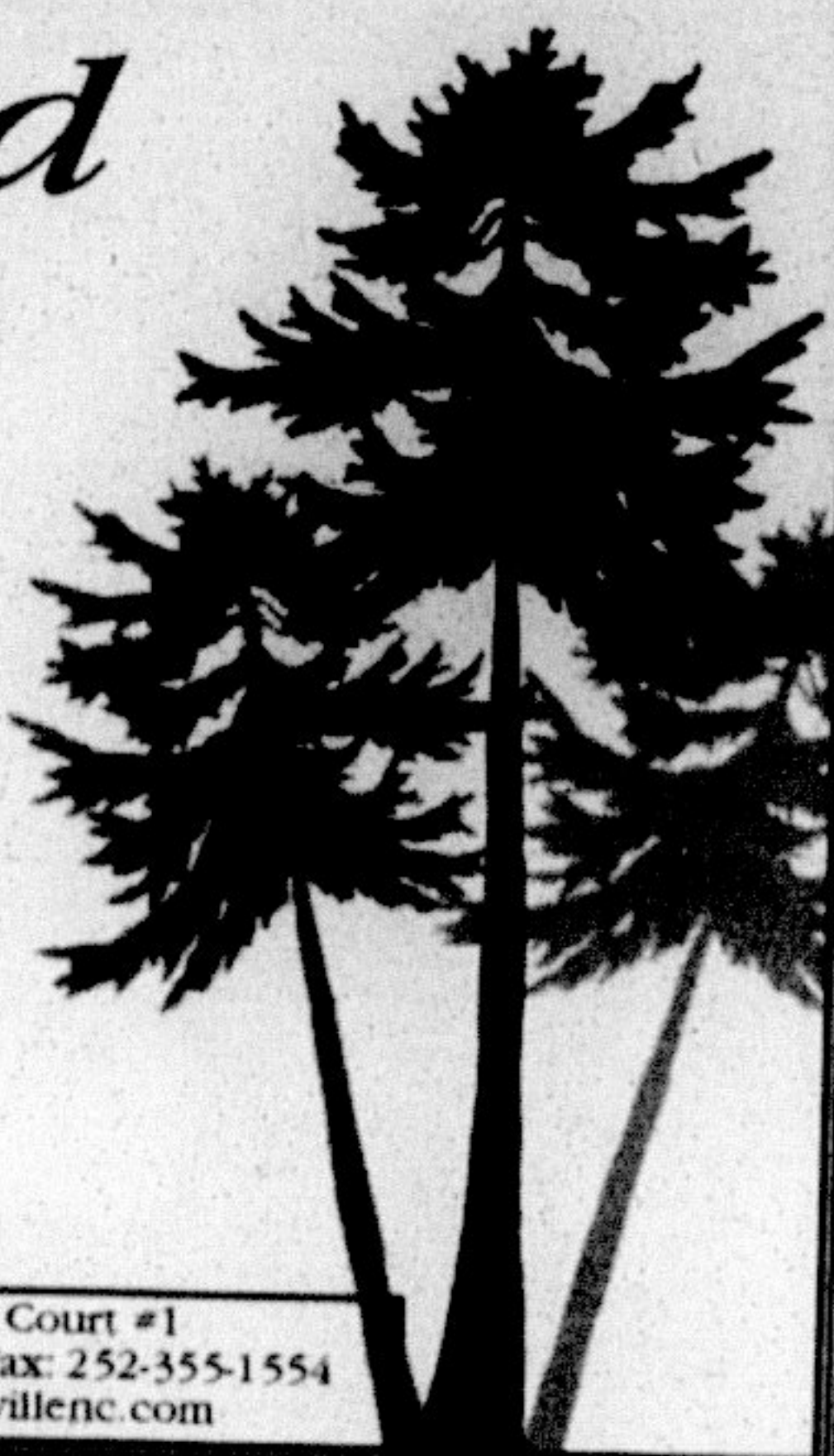
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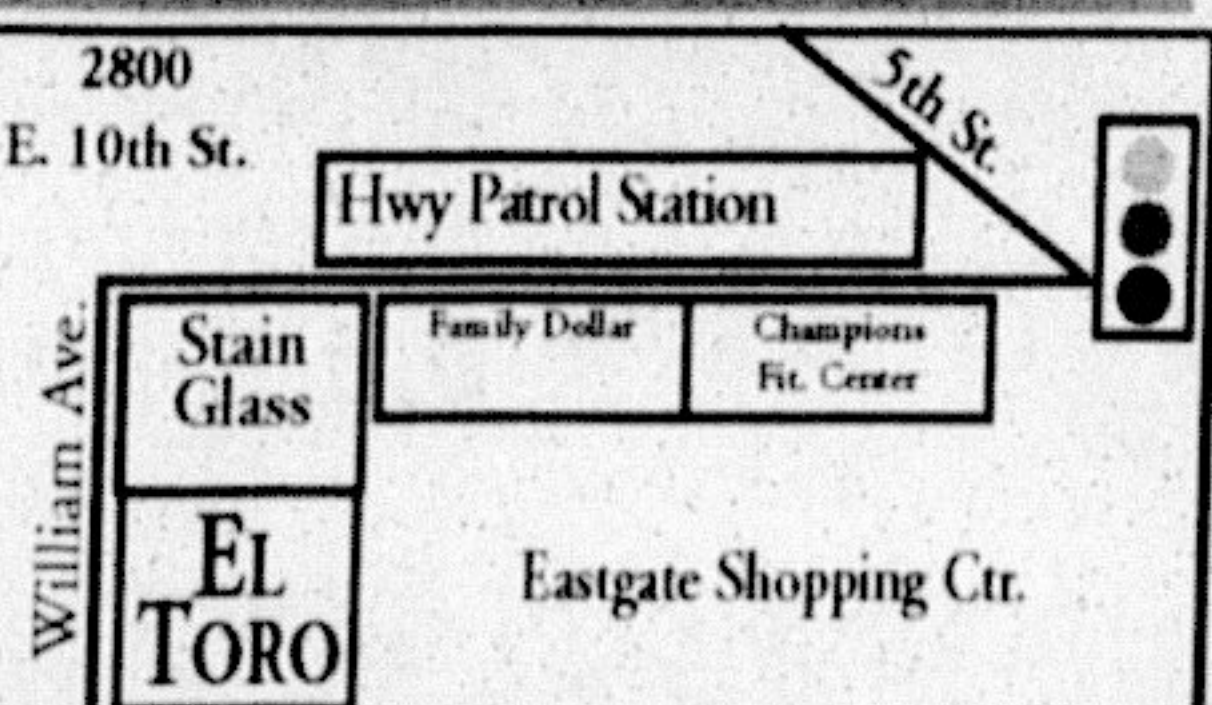
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YARD from page 9

Ron Rogers, 13, does not get caught up in the foul-ball frenzy. Instead, he sits in the bleachers just past third base with his friend, gloveless.

"It doesn't really mean that much to me," said Rogers, a Greenville native.

It does mean something to young James O'Reilly and his little brother Kevin.

"I've caught one, but my brother, he's always got them," said James.

Along with their father, Tom, the O'Reillys make the trip from their home in Goldsboro to

Kinston about 20 times a year to catch the Indians. Tonight they sit in the bleachers along the left field line. James holds his glove while Kevin sips a drink.

"I like it," Tom said. "It's not as congested as going to a big stadium, you're not fighting the crowds. Here you've just got local community people and that's what makes it nice."

For O'Reilly, Class A baseball is more appealing than the majors.

"They're [the players] still enthusiastic about playing baseball," Tom says. "They're not really in it for the money, like you

see a lot of major league players in it. They're fresh, they want to learn and they play real hard."

While the players are far away from the major leagues, it doesn't seem to matter much to the fans in Kinston. Neither does the fact that, on this night, the K-Tribe would fall to Salem by a score of 7-0, and retain their spot in the Carolina League standings, dead last.

This writer can be reached at
sports@tec.ecu.edu.

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