



What is your stance on abortion?



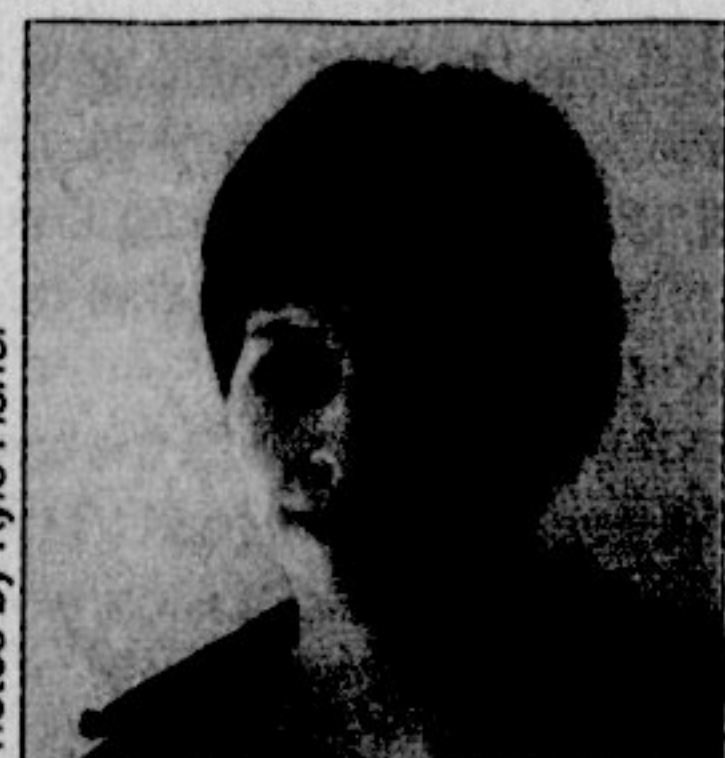
ERICA QUICK
SECOND YEAR
MEDICAL STUDENT

"I'm Pro-choice, I know there are a lot of different circumstances and it's hard to tell them that they have to have the child in situations of rape or incest. It's up to the woman to decide."



AARON STEELE
JUNIOR
ART MAJOR

"With my religion I'm against it but I can't make a decision for someone else's body."



JENNIFER FORTENBERRY
SENIOR
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

"I think it depends on the situation and that woman's beliefs and views."

Abortion issues under debate, may return to Supreme Court



A Pro-Choice demonstrator marches in Washington with thousands of protestors.

Roe vs. Wade put under scrutiny

KRISTIN DAY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Thirty-two years after the infamous Supreme Court ruling, the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion versus the right to life has found its way back into the judicial system.

The Christian Medical Association, the largest faith-based association of physicians, filed a brief with the U.S. District Court in New York, Jan. 31 hoping to reverse a ruling that lifted the federal ban on partial-birth abortion.

Dr. Dan Stevens, executive director of the Christian Medical Association and medical doctor in family practice, said they had not heard anything from the courts yet, but they expect a

decision soon.

The Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act was instituted in 2003, but in August, the court decided it was unconstitutional and lifted the ban.

Stevens said surveys show 90 percent of Americans are opposed to partial-birth abortion. However, the courts are filled with what he calls 'Judicial Activists' who feel they can set the law no matter what the public opinion may be.

Partial-birth abortion is a procedure done during the second or third trimester of pregnancy. During the process, the doctor grabs the legs with forceps and pulls it down until delivered up to its head. Then he exposes the back of the head, pierces the skull and extracts the brain.

Stevens said in the past, this procedure has been done with the misconception that the fetus

could not understand the feeling.

"There's been a lot of denial that the infant feels pain," said Stevens.

"They actually feel it two to three times more intensely."

Stevens said recent studies show at this stage, the infant has developed the sense of pain, but has not yet developed the mechanisms that blunt the sensation of extreme pain.

Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs, with ECU Women's Studies, said she cannot speak for everyone in the Women's Studies program, but she thinks Roe vs. Wade is being chiseled away in the courts and may be overturned by the current administration.

"In fact, President Bush is stacking the lower federal courts with anti-choice judges and with the tenuous health and age of several of the justices, he may have a

chance to overturn the decision and control our personal health care issues for many decades," said Dudasik-Wiggs.

Ted Miller, with NARAL Pro Choice America, also said the administration's goal is to ban abortion.

"It is clear that the Bush administration wants to turn over Roe v. Wade," said Miller.

He said the situation with the Supreme Court makes the upcoming years important to watch because Bush has a chance to appoint Pro-Life judges.

To put this into perspective, Miller said the last time there was a seat open in the Supreme Court, current college freshmen were in the third grade. Bush could appoint up to three justices.

Blake Dameron, an ECU student who is involved with Victory Campus Ministries, said banning abortion would be a good thing.

"I definitely believe in the sanctity of human life," said Dameron.

Dudasik-Wiggs said outlawing abortion would not alleviate the problem. It would just make the situation worse. She said many students do not remember the fatal consequences when abortion was illegal.

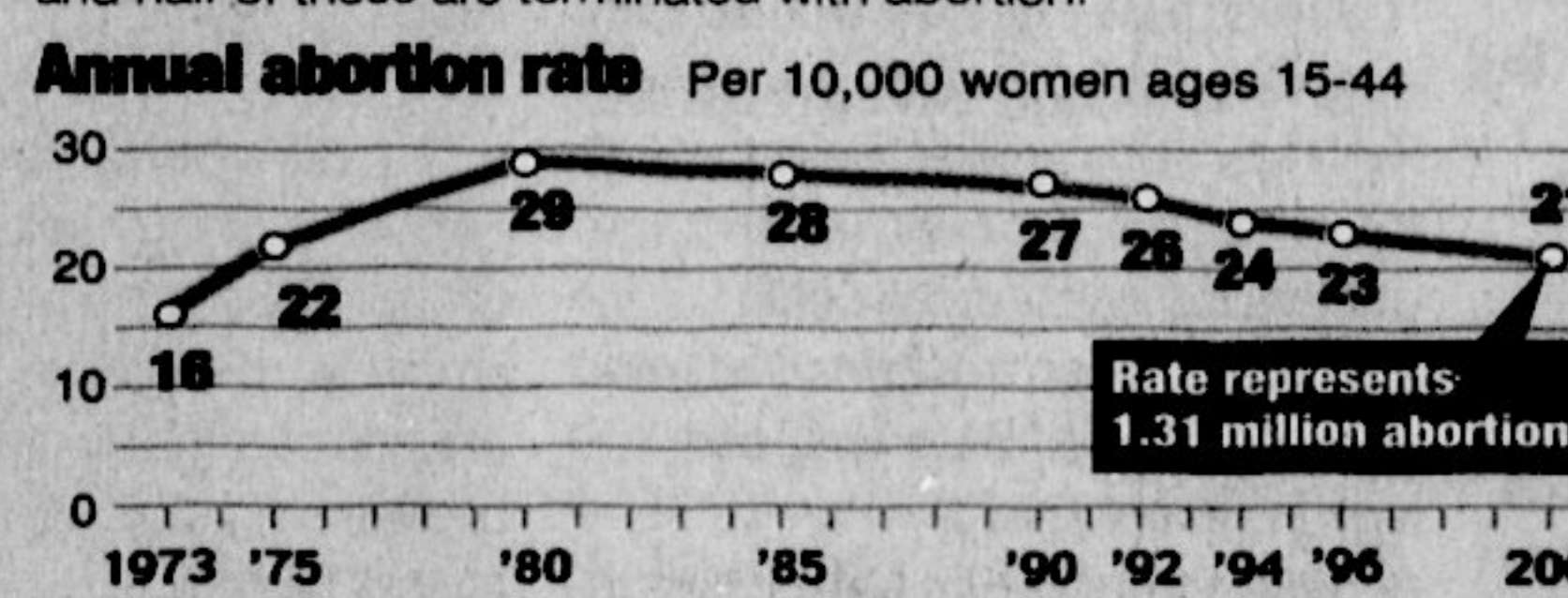
"It is a right they have taken for granted even if they do not actively support it," Dudasik-Wiggs said.

"But there was a time, when their mothers were young, that access to legal, safe abortions did not exist in our country. Does that mean no one got an abortion? No. It meant women desperate to end their pregnancies were forced - literally - into back alleys or into the offices of unskilled mercenaries."

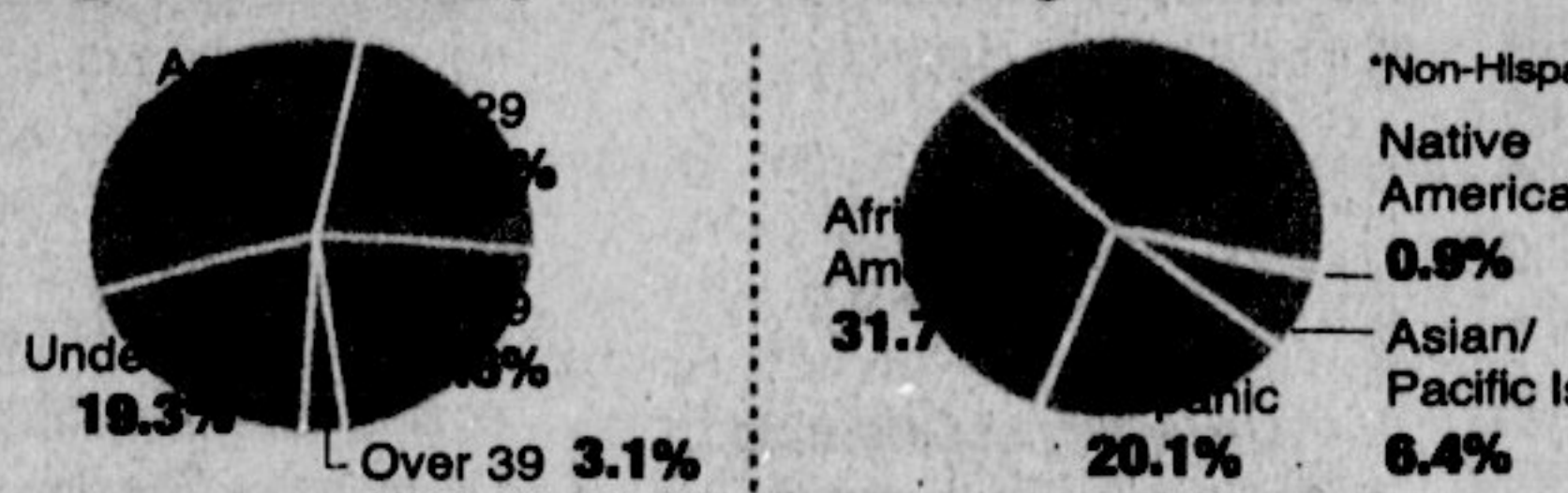
see ABORTION page A3

Abortion in the United States

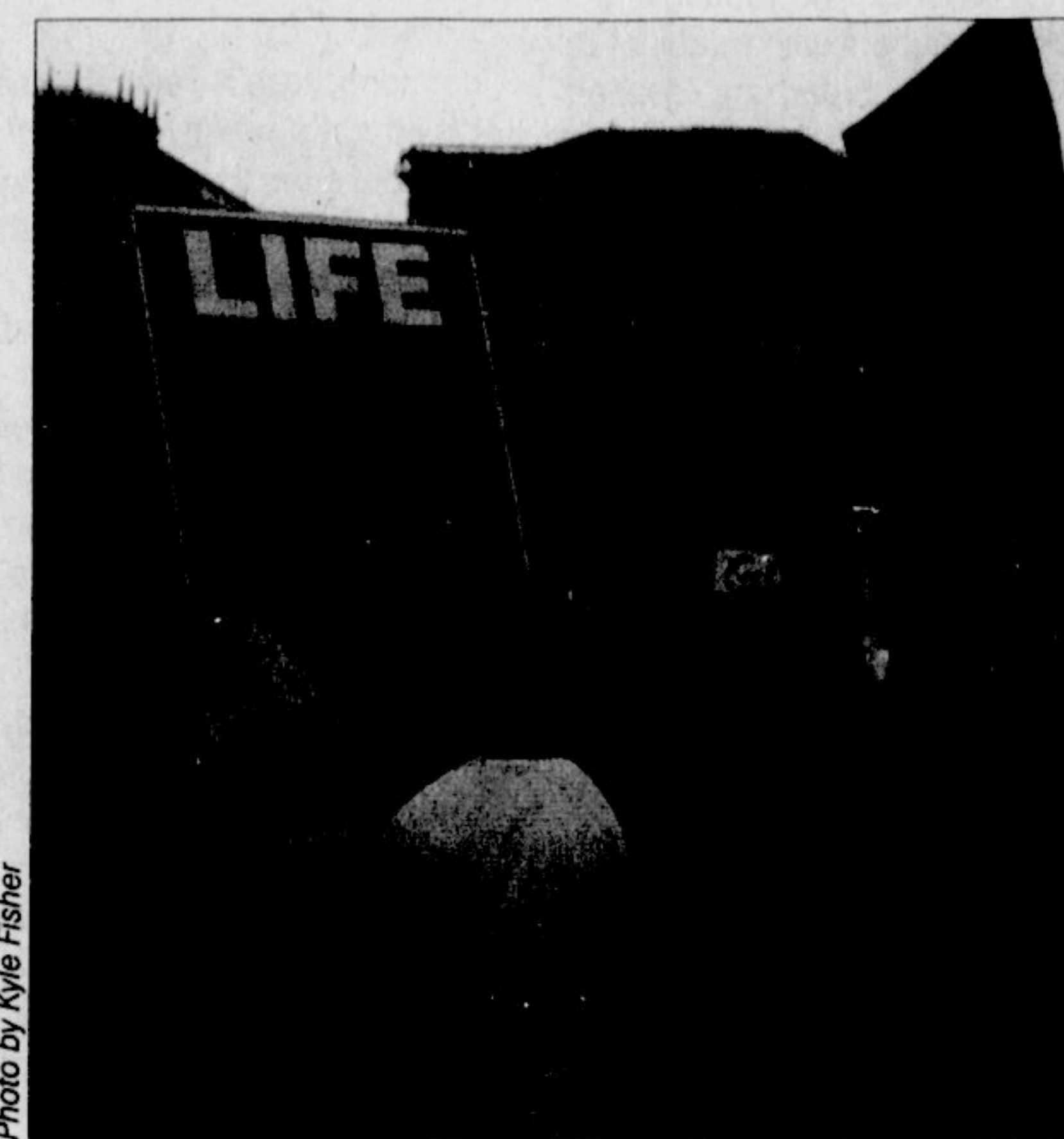
Forty-nine percent of pregnancies in the United States are unintended, and half of those are terminated with abortion.



Age and ethnicity of women having abortions



Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute Graphic: Helen Lee McComas © 2005 KRT



Pro-Life activists hold up signs admist demonstrators during a Pro-Choice rally in Washington.

ECU to address retention rates

Additional efforts being taken

NICK HENNE
NEWS EDITOR

ECU loses an approximate 22 - 24 percent of students after their first year. Numerous ECU faculty, staff, administrators and student leaders are working together to help improve retention rates.

Don Joyner, assistant vice chancellor for academic services, organized and addressed the ECU community with plans to use new approaches to make improvements.

Jim Smith, interim vice chancellor of academic affairs, feels retention should be a top priority at ECU and supports Joyner in his efforts.

"We should strive to do better and we are," said Smith.

He said Joyner's new approaches have been well received and should have a positive impact on the issue.

Joyner's new approach in addressing this issue uses five benchmarks including the level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experience and supportive campus environment. The National Survey of Student Engagement determined these benchmarks as the five key factors necessary to have a strong impact on student retention.

Joyner said while ECU does considerably well in retention rates when compared to sister schools, he feels more could be done to address the issue.

"The tragedy is not being able to save a student when there would have been something we could have done to help them," said Joyner.

He said he is currently in the process of forming a steering committee which would take the list of initiatives and find a way to strategically plan

which initiatives ECU is ready to undertake. The committee would then invite people to serve on a subcommittee, which would focus on a particular initiative. People from all across the various programs at ECU are working toward this issue, which Joyner feels is essential.

"You would have to have a collaborative approach to any of these initiatives," Joyner said.

Freshmen, transfer students and distance education students are the three main groups of first year students, who are identified as the most at risk populations when it comes to retention. Each of these groups must be treated differently when trying to make improvements with this issue toward them.

Joyner said he feels it is important for ECU to remain a larger school but have a "small school feel." Various aspects of the students need to be considered when configuring the best measures that could be taken to address the issue. Reports have yielded 46.2 percent of ECU students come from a town smaller than ECU's population and may feel intimidated during their first year. Joyner said ECU must also understand there is a development process in the 17 - 22 year old age group and ECU needs to be aware of those developmental stages to help ensure the students' needs are met.

The Center for Counseling and Student Development is in the process of partnering with the Office of Academic Affairs to help address this issue. Joyner is working with Alfred Smith, assistant vice chancellor for Student Development, in formulating the partnership.

Alfred Smith said a major project the Office of Student Development is doing is putting various classes in place to assist students who are in need of academic help. Specific aspects the programs will concentrate on were taken from

see RATES page A2



LEE

'The Black Widow' challenges Greenville

Residents get chance to compete against pool champion

NICK HENNE
NEWS EDITOR

ECU students and Greenville residents visited Tie Breakers sports bar Tuesday night to see pool champion Jeanette Lee, also known as "The Black Widow."

The night's events consisted of trick shot sessions, and people had the chance to play Lee one on one.

While Lee was there for the fun just like anyone else, she took the competition serious as always. "If you challenge me, I'm going to have to do my business, but on the side from that we can have drinks and have a nice time," said Lee.

Before the night's events occurred, Lee said she looked forward to challenging the various Greenville residents, including

Bill Herrion, ECU men's basketball coach, who was said to attend the event.

"Coach Herrion, I heard you wanted to challenge 'The Black Widow,' well I say step into my web," Lee said.

Lee said although she has not seen much of Greenville, she enjoyed her visit.

"It's beautiful here and obviously there are a lot of people who love billiards, so I'm really excited because I like to share my passion," Lee said.

She said her time for competition was in the upcoming WPBA tournament, the Carolina Billiard's classic, where she is scheduled to competing against other female pool champions.

She said she looks at each tournament as her opportunity to shine and it is not only something she works hard for but it is something she loves to do.

Lee said she received the name "The Black Widow" from "some idiots" in a pool room

see BLACK WIDOW page A2

City planners discuss future of downtown



Michael Glenn discussed with community the opportunity to buy spaces in the old Blount Harvey building.

Various funding allocated to serve cause

CHRIS MUNIER
STAFF WRITER

Members of Uptown Greenville met at Via Cappuccino Tuesday night to discuss recent renovations and announce upcoming events.

Uptown Greenville is currently in the midst of many renovations to businesses and is expected to receive \$352,000 in grant money this year from the state of North Carolina. A number of businesses on Evans, Dickinson and Cotanche Streets are in the process of revitalization and more assistance is on the way.

Eric S. Clark, vice president of First Citizens Bank, said as far as renovations were concerned, the city is receiving a decent return on dollars spent for the projects. Greenville is applying for the CLG Grant that would help restore historical locations in the Dickinson area.

Austin Bunch, vice chairman of governmental affairs for the Greenville board of directors, said the uptown area would continue a two-year celebration

leading up to ECU's centennial.

On Tuesday, March 29, there will be a Victory Bell Commemorative Service on Tenth Street. Bunch said there is talk about having the Victory Bell moved back to campus.

Uptown Greenville will launch a new logo within the next few months according to Debbie Vargas, promotion and marketing chair for Uptown Greenville.

Several fundraising events are being planned for the Uptown Greenville area within upcoming weeks. A five-kilometer run called Fiesta Biathlon is in planning and will be a bicycle/running event that will begin and end at Chico's Restaurant. Vargas said there is an art walk being slated for April 15.

All these events are expected to draw large turnouts from the Greenville community as well as people from out of town. These projections are based on success they have had with activities in the past.

Members at the meeting were pleased to hear about the repairs and beautification that had been done to locations including Rio Grande and Café Carribe.

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

Campus News

Spaghetti Dinner

Five Brody medical students are holding a spaghetti dinner Feb. 9 at 7 p.m., in 2 West 40 Brody School of Medicine to raise money for an upcoming trip to work in Kenyan clinics. The event is open to the public and costs \$5 for students and \$7 for non-students. The students will serve spaghetti with marinara or meat sauce, bread and dessert buffet-style.

Comedy at Pirate Underground

SWASH and The Late Night Players will perform improvisational comedy Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. This event is free and sponsored by Student Union Popular Entertainment and Spectrum Committees.

Learn About Career Fairs

Jim McAtee from Student Professional Development will be presenting "How do CFAC Students Make the Most out of Career Fairs" Feb. 9 from 2-3 p.m. and 4-5 p.m. in 201 Joyner East. The presentation will address topics such as networking, power greetings and career fair preparation.

Black History Month Speaker

A public lecture will be held in honor of Black History Month at the Willis Building Auditorium Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by ECU's GeoClub, Department of Geology and Ledonia Wright Cultural Center. The featured speaker is Jonathan Tilove, a race and immigration reporter with the Newhouse News Service and a two-time National Headliner Award winner and author of the 2003 Random House book *Along Martin Luther King: Travels on Black America's Main Streets*. For more information, call Derek Alderman at 328-4013.

Massage Clinic

The ECU physical therapy students are holding a massage clinic Feb. 10 from 5-9 p.m. in the Belk Allied Health Building. Come get a massage for only \$5 for 10 minutes, \$10 for 20 minutes and \$15 for 30 minutes. No appointments are necessary, but if you would like to make one, contact cmf0625@mail.ecu.edu.

HOSA Meeting

Health Occupations Students of America will hold an interest meeting Thursday, Feb. 10 in 221 Mendenhall at 4 p.m. HOSA is open to all health related majors.

NAACP Founders Week

This week is NAACP Founders Week. Various nightly activities include ethnic food tasting, open-mic social, "Legacies Nearly Forgotten" and volunteering with local service agencies.

The Vagina Monologues

The annual production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* will be Feb. 11-12 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. This year, the ECU V-Day/Vagina Monologues event is being co-sponsored by the women's studies department, the student organization VOICE and the Student Involvement Team. Tickets are \$8 in advance for students, \$10 for students at the door, \$12 for the general public in advance and \$15 for the general public at the door. You can purchase tickets by calling 1-800-ECU-ARTS or online at ecuarts.com. The proceeds will benefit local charities that help abused women.

Contra Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a contra dance Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Willis Building. A potluck supper will begin at 6 p.m., a concert starts at 7 p.m., beginners lesson at 7:30 p.m. and the contra dance from 8-10:30 p.m. Live, old-time and Celtic music by a string band will be performed. The cost is \$3 for students, \$5 for members and \$8 for the general public. Call 752-7350 for details.

News Briefs

Local

Duke freshmen use iPods for classes and tunes

DURHAM, NC - Duke University freshmen are using their school-issued iPods to learn Spanish vocabulary, recording lectures, analyzing music and - no surprise here - for downloading their favorite tunes.

Among those is Pelen Powelson, who said she's mostly used her iPod to record more than 1,000 songs, which take up about one-fifth of the iPod's 20-gigabyte capacity.

"I have almost no use for CDs anymore," she said.

About 1,650 freshmen were given the iPods in August at cost of about \$500,000 to the school. The devices are theirs to keep as long as they hang onto them through the end of the school year.

As an accessory to the iPods, Duke handed out microphone recording modules made and donated by the Belkin Corp. The program is costing the university about \$500,000 for the devices and additional equipment and support staff time.

Duke is evaluating the pilot project, and a report is due next month. By late March or early April, the university will decide whether to continue the program in some form with a new crop of freshmen next year, said Lynne O'Brien, director of the Duke Center for Instructional Technology, which is overseeing the experiment.

Autopsy confirms NCSU student's death from lidocaine

RALEIGH, NC - The medical examiner's autopsy report confirms that a NC State University student died of a lidocaine overdose after applying a prescription-strength anesthetic gel to her legs before laser hair removal treatments at a spa. The autopsy, which was completed Friday, describes Shiri Berg, 22, as

otherwise healthy and well-nourished. It says the anesthetic gel she applied from her feet to her waist likely led to her seizures, cardiac arrest and brain death.

That gel included 10 percent lidocaine and 10 percent tetracaine in a solution prepared by Triangle Compounding Pharmacy of Cary. She died Jan. 5 at Rex Healthcare.

David Kirby, a lawyer for the Berg family, said the autopsy report brings his investigation into Berg's death to near conclusion.

"This was a very healthy woman with no pre-existing health problems," Kirby said. "She applies a preparation for a routine procedure, and the preparation caused her death."

The autopsy also confirms that after applying the gel, Berg wrapped her legs in cellophane.

A passing motorist found her in her car having seizures and called paramedics on the morning of Dec. 28. She died nine days later.

National

University of Colorado professor's case stands out

BOULDER, Colo. - Nothing has incited more passion and outrage at the University of Colorado than Ward Churchill, an ethnic studies professor whose comparison of World Trade Center victims to a notorious Nazi has led to death threats, arrests and condemnations by two governors.

Talk-show hosts and lawmakers have vilified him as a hate-monger and the school is considering firing him. Churchill has refused to apologize; on the contrary, he has threatened to sue the school if it fires him. No one has defended Churchill's statements, but some people have threatened him.

Two students were arrested at a Board of Regents meeting last week and swastikas were spray-painted on Churchill's pickup truck.

On Monday, Colorado administrators

announced they had canceled a speech by Churchill for Tuesday because of security concerns. Earlier this month, Hamilton College in upstate New York canceled a speech by Churchill because of death threats against the professor and its administrators.

"We feel that this is an extreme violation of our free speech rights," said Mo Wells, a member of the Colorado student group that organized Churchill's speech. The group planned to file a lawsuit Tuesday challenging the cancellation.

Jury convicts former priest in clergy sex abuse case

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. - For three days, jurors in the trial of Paul Shanley listened carefully to tense exchanges between the accuser and the former priest's lawyer.

At times, the accuser sobbed on the stand and begged the judge not to force him to testify in graphic detail how Shanley pulled him out of Sunday morning catechism classes beginning at age 6 and molested him in the bathroom, the rectory, the confessional and the pews.

On Monday, Shanley was convicted of repeatedly raping and fondling the accuser at his Roman Catholic church during the 1980s. He is perhaps the most notorious figure in the sex scandal that rocked the Boston Archdiocese nearly three years ago.

The accuser, now 27, put his head down and sobbed as the verdicts were read after a trial that hinged on the reliability of what the man claimed were recovered memories of decades-old abuse.

Shanley, 74, showed no emotion as he stood next to his lawyer, Frank Mondano. Bail was revoked and Shanley was immediately led to jail. "It appears that the absence of a case is not an impediment to securing a conviction," Mondano said, vowing to appeal.

International

Israeli, Palestinian leaders announce cease-fire at summit

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas declared Tuesday that their people would stop all military or violent activity, pledging to break the four-year cycle of bloodshed and get peace talks back on track.

With the flags of their countries whipping in the wind, Sharon and Abbas met face-to-face at a Mideast summit Tuesday. Afterward, Abbas said: "We have agreed on halting all violent actions against Palestinians and Israelis wherever they are."

Sharon made a similar pledge. "Today, in my meeting with chairman Abbas, we agreed that all Palestinians will stop all acts of violence against all Israelis everywhere, and, at the same time, Israel will cease all its military activity against all Palestinians everywhere," he said.

Abbas said it was time for the Palestinian people to regain their freedom. "A new opportunity for peace is born today in the city of peace. Let's pledge to protect it," Abbas said, referring to the nickname of Sharm el-Sheikh earned through past peace summits.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who summoned the two leaders and has been a key mediator throughout the process, said both sides showed a serious desire to "work together truly and sincerely."

"The challenges today are large and deep, but the mission is not impossible. If the road is long, we today took the first step," Mubarak said.

"The Palestinian and Israeli peoples equally deserve a secure life for the coming generations to enjoy, based on justice, international principles and good neighborliness," the Egyptian president added in a speech he said he was delivering on behalf of himself and Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Japan moves closer to lifting ban on U.S. beef imports

TOKYO - Japan moved a step closer to partially lifting a ban on U.S. beef imports after a government panel on Tuesday accepted U.S. assurances that a specific grade of U.S. beef would be free of mad cow disease. The panel's decision, if accepted by the government, will clear the way for Japan to begin importing U.S. grade A40 beef, which comes primarily from cattle aged 12 to 17 months.

Panel member Akihiro Okitani, a professor at the Nippon Veterinary and Animal Science University, told reporters that there was a high probability that meat of this grade was free of mad cow disease.

Japan imposed a ban on U.S. beef imports in December 2003 after the United States discovered its first case of the fatal brain-wasting illness, known formally as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, in a Washington state Holstein cow.

Okitani praised information that U.S. researchers provided the panel to help it make its decision. "The U.S. researchers came up with highly reliable data," Okitani said. He added it was now up to the Japanese government to decide whether to lift the ban on beef imports.

Before the ban, Japan was the most lucrative overseas market for U.S. beef producers, buying \$1.7 billion worth of beef in 2003.

Rates from page A1

a survey of students who were on academic probation.

A broad range of ideas to improve retention was brought up and is under consideration. Some ideas that received interest from the meeting attendees included having a required summer reading program for freshmen, improving faculty and student communication, creat-

ing a centralized tutoring center in Mendenhall, bringing high school students to campus and creating a first year experience Web site. These are some of the initiatives the steering committee will use to most appropriately address the issue.

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

Retention Rates

Freshmen to sophomore year retention rates for fall 2002 freshmen throughout the UNC system.

76.6% - ECU
83% - Appalachian
90.1% - NC State
77.8% - UNC Asheville
95.3% - UNC Chapel Hill
75.7% - UNC Charlotte

75.5% - UNC Greensboro
67.2% - UNC Pembroke
85.6% - UNC Wilmington
69.1% - Western Carolina University
76.7% - Winston - Salem State
74.9% - Elizabeth City State
73.4% - Fayetteville State
73% - NC A&T
78.2% - NC Central

Black Widow from page A1

who used to make fun of her because she would dress in black. She said when the pool owner would talk about how she appeared sweet and cute when she first walked into the pool hall, she would afterward defeat them.

She said she began playing pool when she turned 18 and became pro at age 21 before she was ranked number one in the world at age 23. She feels it is her natural competitiveness that drives her to keep playing. She has undergone eight major surgeries in her time, and she said she finds pool a good way to be physically active and competitive.

In the future, Lee wants to strive to ultimately be the best player she can be and no ranking can determine how much she

can accomplish. She would also like to know she did more than just win.

"I'd like to know that I changed the sport, I'd like to know that I elevated the level of the game, its reputation, I'd like to know that I brought new eyes to the sport, that I brought more education to the kids," Lee said.

Lee said the biggest difference between champions and everyone else is that champions keep getting up and striving to achieve their goals. She encourages everyone who has goals of any kind not to let up because there are always going to be things that are going to get in their way and stop them and they need to always go forward.

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

Crime Scene

Jan. 31

6 p.m.
Larceny from buildings
An unknown subject stole a pair of socks and seat pants from the Cotton Hall laundry room.

Feb. 1

9:30 a.m.
Larceny from buildings
By unknown subject taking a parking pass from an office in Jenkins Art.

Feb. 3

2:45 p.m.
Larceny from motor vehicle
By unknown person taking hangtag from vehicle without permission.

Feb. 5

11:35 a.m.
Larceny of bicycle
By someone cutting the cable lock that secured the bike to the rack.

Feb. 6

6 a.m.
Larceny
By unknown subject taking items out of victim's purse, which was in her dorm room in Belk Hall. Among the items stolen were her room keys and birth control pills.

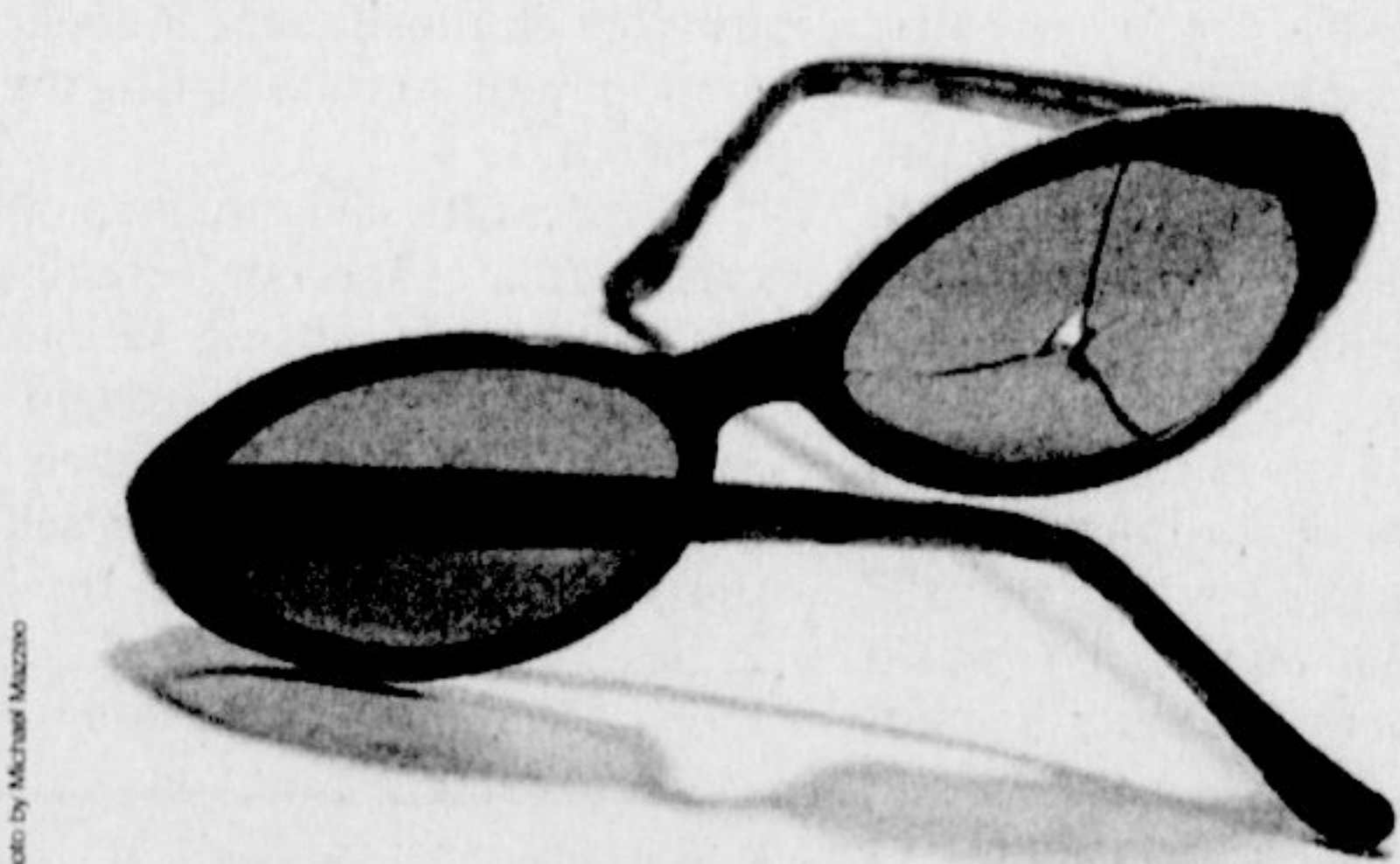
Weekly Crime Tip

Larceny is the number one crime on campus. Make sure you always secure your vehicle and double-check before you leave. If you own a rag-top vehicle, use a parking sticker instead of a hangtag. Treat your residence hall like you would your permanent home.

Always keep your doors locked even if you will only be away for a few moments. Also be aware of who you let in to your residence hall. Larcenies come from both the students around you and guests. Always lock your doors when leaving your office. A larceny only takes seconds to occur.

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

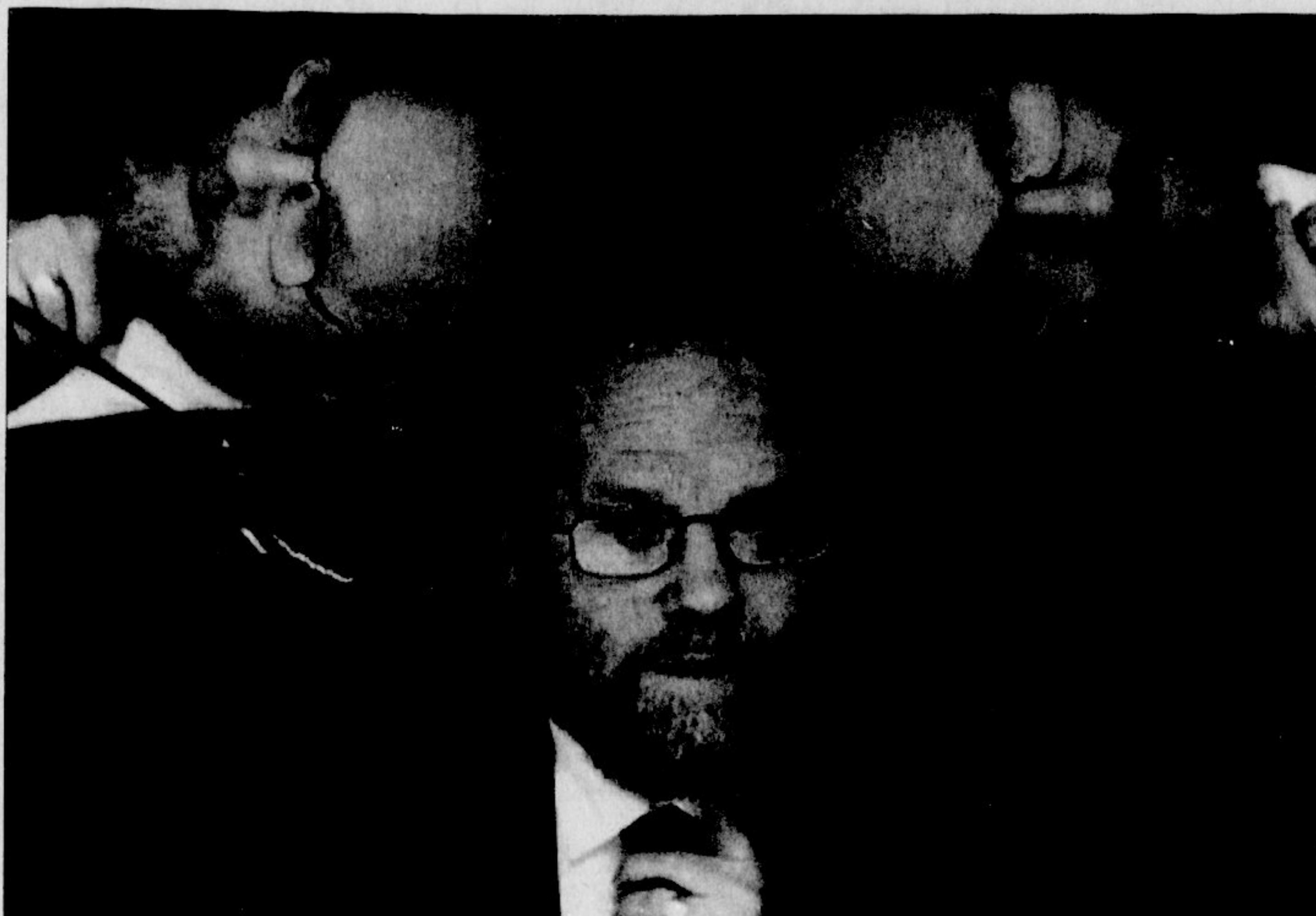
Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council

Dolly the sheep scientist gets license to clone human embryos



Professor Ian Wilmut, who led the research team based at the Roslin Institute, who created Dolly the cloned sheep, poses in Edinburgh, Scotland Feb. 8.

LONDON (AP) — The British government Tuesday gave the creator of Dolly the Sheep a license to clone human embryos for medical research into the cause of motor neuron disease.

Ian Wilmut, who led the team that created Dolly at Scotland's Roslin Institute in 1996, and motor neuron expert Christopher Shaw of the Institute of Psychiatry in London, plan to clone embryos to study how nerve cells go awry to cause the disease. The experiments do not involve creating cloned babies.

It is the second such license approved since Britain became the first country to legalize research cloning in 2001. The first was granted in August to a team that hopes to use cloning to create insulin-producing cells that could be transplanted into diabetics.

Dr. Brian Dickie, director of research at the London-based Motor Neuron Disease Association, said the latest decision by the Human Fertilization and

Embryology Authority means "we are a step closer to medical research that has the potential to revolutionize the future treatment of neuron disease," an incurable muscle-wasting condition that afflicts about 350,000 people and kills some 100,000 each year.

While the latest project would not use the stem cells to correct the disease, the study of the cells is expected to help scientists develop future treatments, according to the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, which regulates such research and approved the license.

Stem cells are the master cells of the body. They appear when embryos are just a few days old and go on to develop into every type of cell and tissue in the body. Scientists hope to be able to extract the stem cells from embryos when they are in their blank state and direct them to form any desired cell type to treat a variety of diseases, ranging from Parkinson's to

diabetes.

Getting the cells from an embryo that is cloned from a sick patient could allow scientists to track how diseases develop and provide genetically matched cell transplants that do not cause the immune systems to reject the transplant.

Such work, called therapeutic cloning because it does not result in a baby, is opposed by abortion foes and other biological conservatives because researchers must destroy human embryos to harvest the cells.

Cloning opponents decried the license Tuesday, saying the technique is dangerous, undesirable and unnecessary.

"What a sad and extraordinary volte face [turnaround] for the pioneer of animal cloning," said the London-based Comment on Reproductive Ethics. "Wilmut has always been the loudest voice in recent years warning of the dangers of mammalian cloning. And we remember how in the years following the birth of Dolly

the Sheep, he assured the world he would never go near human cloning."

Wilmut has repeatedly condemned the idea of human cloning to create babies, but not so-called therapeutic cloning.

"We recognize that motor neuron disease is a serious congenital condition," said Angela McNab, chief of Britain's Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. "Following careful review of the medical, scientific, legal and ethical aspects of this application, we felt it was appropriate to grant the Roslin Institute a one-year license for this research into the disease."

Wilmut and Shaw plan to clone cells from patients with the incurable muscle-wasting disease, derive blank-slate stem cells from the cloned embryo, make them develop into nerve cells, and compare their development to nerve cells derived from healthy embryos.

The technique, called cell nuclear replacement, is the same as that used to create Dolly.

The mechanism behind motor neuron disease is poorly understood because the nerves are inaccessible in the brain and central nervous system and cannot be removed from patients.

"This is potentially a big step forward for (motor neuron disease) research," Shaw said. "We have spent 20 years looking for genes that cause (motor neuron disease) and to date we have come up with just one gene. We believe that the use of cell nuclear replacement will greatly advance our understanding of why motor neurons degenerate in this disease, without having to hunt down the gene defect."

Genetics expert Peter Braude of King's College, London, who is not involved with the work, said that studying how nerves go wrong in motor neuron disease and how it can be cured is particularly difficult and that cloning is the only way to produce the cells necessary to answer such questions.



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 Drivers carry less than \$10 (Limited Delivery)

Abortion from page A1

She said this and women who tried to self-abort with wire coat hangers often led to the woman's death from a painful infection.

Dudasik-Wiggs also said the term "pro-abortion" is a misnomer because they do not necessarily support the actual procedure, they support the choice.

"Likewise, the term 'partial birth abortion' is misleading, as it was created as part of an ongoing strategy of rhetoric designed to conjure up ghastly images and ignite passions," Dudasik-Wiggs said.

"But once this procedure is outlawed and there may be enough votes to do so, it is a short step to banning all abortions. This scenario frightens me."

Miller said last week Chris-

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2005 Housing Guide
Are you Looking for a place to live?
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 THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Campus News

Spaghetti Dinner

Five Brody medical students are holding a spaghetti dinner Feb. 9 at 7 p.m., in 2 West 40 Brody School of Medicine to raise money for an upcoming trip to work in Kenyan clinics. The event is open to the public and costs \$5 for students and \$7 for non-students. The students will serve spaghetti with marinara or meat sauce, bread and dessert buffet-style.

Comedy at Pirate Underground

SWASH and The Late Night Players will perform improvisational comedy Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. This event is free and sponsored by Student Union Popular Entertainment and Spectrum Committees.

Learn About Career Fairs

Jim McAtee from Student Professional Development will be presenting "How do CFAC Students Make the Most out of Career Fairs" Feb. 9 from 2-3 p.m. and 4-5 p.m. in 201 Joyner East. The presentation will address topics such as networking, power greetings and career fair preparation.

Black History Month Speaker

A public lecture will be held in honor of Black History Month at the Willis Building Auditorium Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by ECU's GeoClub, Department of Geology and Ledonia Wright Cultural Center. The featured speaker is Jonathan Tilove, a race and immigration reporter with the Newhouse News Service and a two-time National Headliner Award winner and author of the 2003 Random House book *Along Martin Luther King: Travels on Black America's Main Streets*. For more information, call Derek Alderman at 328-4013.

Massage Clinic

The ECU physical therapy students are holding a massage clinic Feb. 10 from 5-9 p.m. in the Belk Allied Health Building. Come get a massage for only \$5 for 10 minutes, \$10 for 20 minutes and \$15 for 30 minutes. No appointments are necessary, but if you would like to make one, contact cmf0625@mail.ecu.edu.

HOSA Meeting

Health Occupations Students of America will hold an interest meeting Thursday, Feb. 10 in 221 Mendenhall at 4 p.m. HOSA is open to all health related majors.

NAACP Founders Week

This week is NAACP Founders Week. Various nightly activities include ethnic food tasting, open mic social, "Legacies Nearly Forgotten" and volunteering with local service agencies.

The Vagina Monologues

The annual production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* will be Feb. 11-12 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. This year, the ECU V-Day/Vagina Monologues event is being co-sponsored by the women's studies department, the student organization V.O.I.C.E. and the Student Involvement Team. Tickets are \$8 in advance for students, \$10 for students at the door, \$12 for the general public in advance and \$15 for the general public at the door. You can purchase tickets by calling 1-800-ECU-ARTS or online at ecuarte.com. The proceeds will benefit local charities that help abused women.

Contra Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a contra dance Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Willis Building. A potluck supper will begin at 6 p.m., a concert starts at 7 p.m., beginners lesson at 7:30 p.m. and the contra dance from 8-10:30 p.m. Live, old-time and Celtic music by a string band will be performed. The cost is \$3 for students, \$5 for members and \$8 for the general public. Call 752-7350 for details.

News Briefs

Local

Duke freshmen use iPods for classes and tunes

DURHAM, NC - Duke University freshmen are using their school-issued iPods to learn Spanish vocabulary, recording lectures, analyzing music and - no surprise here - for downloading their favorite tunes.

Among those is Pelen Powelson, who said she's mostly used her iPod to record more than 1,000 songs, which take up about one-fifth of the iPod's 20-gigabyte capacity.

"I have almost no use for CDs anymore," she said.

About 1,650 freshmen were given the iPods in August at cost of about \$500,000 to the school. The devices are theirs to keep as long as they hang onto them through the end of the school year.

As an accessory to the iPods, Duke handed out microphone recording modules made and donated by the Belkin Corp. The program is costing the university about \$500,000 for the devices and additional equipment and support staff time.

Duke is evaluating the pilot project, and a report is due next month. By late March or early April, the university will decide whether to continue the program in some form with a new crop of freshmen next year, said Lynne O'Brien, director of the Duke Center for Instructional Technology, which is overseeing the experiment.

Autopsy confirms NCSU student's death from lidocaine

RALEIGH, NC - The medical examiner's autopsy report confirms that a NC State University student died of a lidocaine overdose after applying a prescription-strength anesthetic gel to her legs before laser hair removal treatments at a spa. The autopsy, which was completed Friday, describes Shiri Berg, 22, as

otherwise healthy and well-nourished. It says the anesthetic gel she applied from her feet to her waist likely led to her seizures, cardiac arrest and brain death.

That gel included 10 percent lidocaine and 10 percent tetracaine in a solution prepared by Triangle Compounding Pharmacy of Cary. She died Jan. 5 at Rex Healthcare.

David Kirby, a lawyer for the Berg family, said the autopsy report brings his investigation into Berg's death to near conclusion.

"This was a very healthy woman with no pre-existing health problems," Kirby said. "She applies a preparation for a routine procedure, and the preparation caused her death."

The autopsy also confirms that after applying the gel, Berg wrapped her legs in cellophane.

A passing motorist found her in her car having seizures and called paramedics on the morning of Dec. 28. She died nine days later.

National

University of Colorado professor's case stands out

BOULDER, Colo. - Nothing has incited more passion and outrage at the University of Colorado than Ward Churchill, an ethnic studies professor whose comparison of World Trade Center victims to a notorious Nazi has led to death threats, arrests and condemnations by two governors. Talk-show hosts and lawmakers have vilified him as a hate-monger and the school is considering firing him.

Churchill has refused to apologize; on the contrary, he has threatened to sue the school if it fires him. No one has defended Churchill's statements, but some people have threatened him. Two students were arrested at a Board of Regents meeting last week and swastikas were spray-painted on Churchill's pickup truck.

On Monday, Colorado administrators

announced they had canceled a speech by Churchill for Tuesday because of security concerns. Earlier this month, Hamilton College in upstate New York canceled a speech by Churchill because of death threats against the professor and its administrators.

"We feel that this is an extreme violation of our free speech rights," said Mo Wells, a member of the Colorado student group that organized Churchill's speech. The group planned to file a lawsuit Tuesday challenging the cancellation.

Jury convicts former priest in clergy sex abuse case

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. - For three days, jurors in the trial of Paul Shanley listened carefully to tense exchanges between the accuser and the former priest's lawyer.

At times, the accuser sobbed on the stand and begged the judge not to force him to testify in graphic detail how Shanley pulled him out of Sunday morning catechism classes beginning at age 6 and molested him in the bathroom, the rectory, the confessional and the pews.

On Monday, Shanley was convicted of repeatedly raping and fondling the accuser at his Roman Catholic church during the 1980s. He is perhaps the most notorious figure in the sex scandal that rocked the Boston Archdiocese nearly three years ago.

The accuser, now 27, put his head down and sobbed as the verdicts were read after a trial that hinged on the reliability of what the man claimed were recovered memories of decades-old abuse.

Shanley, 74, showed no emotion as he stood next to his lawyer, Frank Mondano. Bail was revoked and Shanley was immediately led to jail. "It appears that the absence of a case is not an impediment to securing a conviction," Mondano said, vowing to appeal.

Victoria Blier said she and fellow jurors were swayed by the accuser, believing the man would not have come forward if he weren't telling the truth. He received a \$500,000 settlement with the archdiocese nearly a year ago.

International

Israel, Palestinian leaders announce cease-fire at summit

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas declared Tuesday that their people would stop all military or violent activity, pledging to break the four-year cycle of bloodshed and get peace talks back on track.

With the flags of their countries whipping in the wind, Sharon and Abbas met face-to-face at a Mideast summit Tuesday. Afterward, Abbas said: "We have agreed on halting all violent actions against Palestinians and Israelis wherever they are."

Sharon made a similar pledge. "Today, in my meeting with chairman Abbas, we agreed that all Palestinians will stop all acts of violence against all Israelis everywhere, and, at the same time, Israel will cease all its military activity against all Palestinians everywhere," he said.

Abbas said it was time for the Palestinian people to regain their freedom.

"A new opportunity for peace is born today in the city of peace. Let's pledge to protect it," Abbas said, referring to the nickname of Sharm el-Sheikh earned through past peace summits.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who summoned the two leaders and has been a key mediator throughout the process, said both sides showed a serious desire to "work together truly and sincerely."

"The challenges today are large and deep, but the mission is not impossible. If the road is long, we today took the first step," Mubarak said.

"The Palestinian and Israeli peoples equally deserve a secure life for the coming generations to enjoy, based on justice, international principles and good neighborliness," the Egyptian president added in a speech he said he was delivering on behalf of himself and Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Japan moves closer to lifting ban on U.S. beef imports

TOKYO - Japan moved a step closer to partially lifting a ban on U.S. beef imports after a government panel on Tuesday accepted U.S. assurances that a specific grade of U.S. beef would be free of mad cow disease. The panel's decision, if accepted by the government, will clear the way for Japan to begin importing U.S. grade A40 beef, which comes primarily from cattle aged 12 to 17 months.

Panel member Akihiro Okitani, a professor at the Nippon Veterinary and Animal Science University, told reporters that there was a high probability that meat of this grade was free of mad cow disease.

Japan imposed a ban on U.S. beef imports in December 2003 after the United States discovered its first case of the fatal brain-wasting illness, known formally as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, in a Washington state Holstein cow. Okitani praised information that U.S. researchers provided the panel to help it make its decision.

"The U.S. researchers came up with highly reliable data," Okitani said. He added it was now up to the Japanese government to decide whether to lift the ban on beef imports.

Before the ban, Japan was the most lucrative overseas market for U.S. beef producers, buying \$1.7 billion worth of beef in 2003.

Rates from page A1

a survey of students who were on academic probation.

A broad range of ideas to improve retention was brought up and is under consideration. Some ideas that received interest from the meeting attendees included having a required summer reading program for freshmen, improving faculty and student communication, creat-

ing a centralized tutoring center in Mendenhall, bringing high school students to campus and creating a first year experience Web site. These are some of the initiatives the steering committee will use to most appropriately address the issue.

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

Retention Rates

Freshmen to sophomore year retention rates for fall 2002 freshmen throughout the UNC system.

76.6% - ECU
83% - Appalachian
90.1% - NC State
77.8% - UNC Asheville
95.3% - UNC Chapel Hill
75.7% - UNC Charlotte

75.5% - UNC Greensboro
67.2% - UNC Pembroke
85.6% - UNC Wilmington
69.1% - Western Carolina University
76.7% - Winston-Salem State
74.9% - Elizabeth City State
73.4% - Fayetteville State
73% - NC A&T
78.2% - NC Central

Black Widow from page A1

who used to make fun of her because she would dress in black. She said when the pool owner would talk about how she appeared sweet and cute when she first walked into the pool hall, she would afterward defeat them.

She said she began playing pool when she turned 18 and became pro at age 21 before she was ranked number one in the world at age 23. She feels it is her natural competitiveness that drives her to keep playing. She has undergone eight major surgeries in her time, and she said she finds pool a good way to be physically active and competitive.

In the future, Lee wants to strive to ultimately be the best player she can be and no ranking can determine how much she

can accomplish. She would also like to know she did more than just win.

"I'd like to know that I changed the sport, I'd like to know that I elevated the level of the game, its reputation, I'd like to know that I brought new eyes to the sport, that I brought more education to the kids," Lee said.

Lee said the biggest difference between champions and everyone else is that champions keep getting up and striving to achieve their goals. She encourages everyone who has goals of any kind not to let up because there are always going to be things that are going to get in their way and stop them and they need to always go forward.

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Crime Scene

Jan. 31

6 p.m.
Larceny from buildings
An unknown subject stole a pair of socks and seat pants from the Cotton Loft laundry room.

Feb. 1

9:30 a.m.
Larceny from buildings
By unknown subject taking a parking pass from an office in Jenkins Art.

Feb. 3

2:45 p.m.
Larceny from motor vehicle
By unknown person taking hangtag from vehicle without permission.

Feb. 5

11:35 a.m.
Larceny of bicycle
By someone cutting the cable lock that secured the bike to the rack.

Feb. 6

6 a.m.
Larceny
By unknown subject taking items out of victim's purse, which was in her dorm room in Belk Hall. Among the items stolen were her room keys and birth control pills.

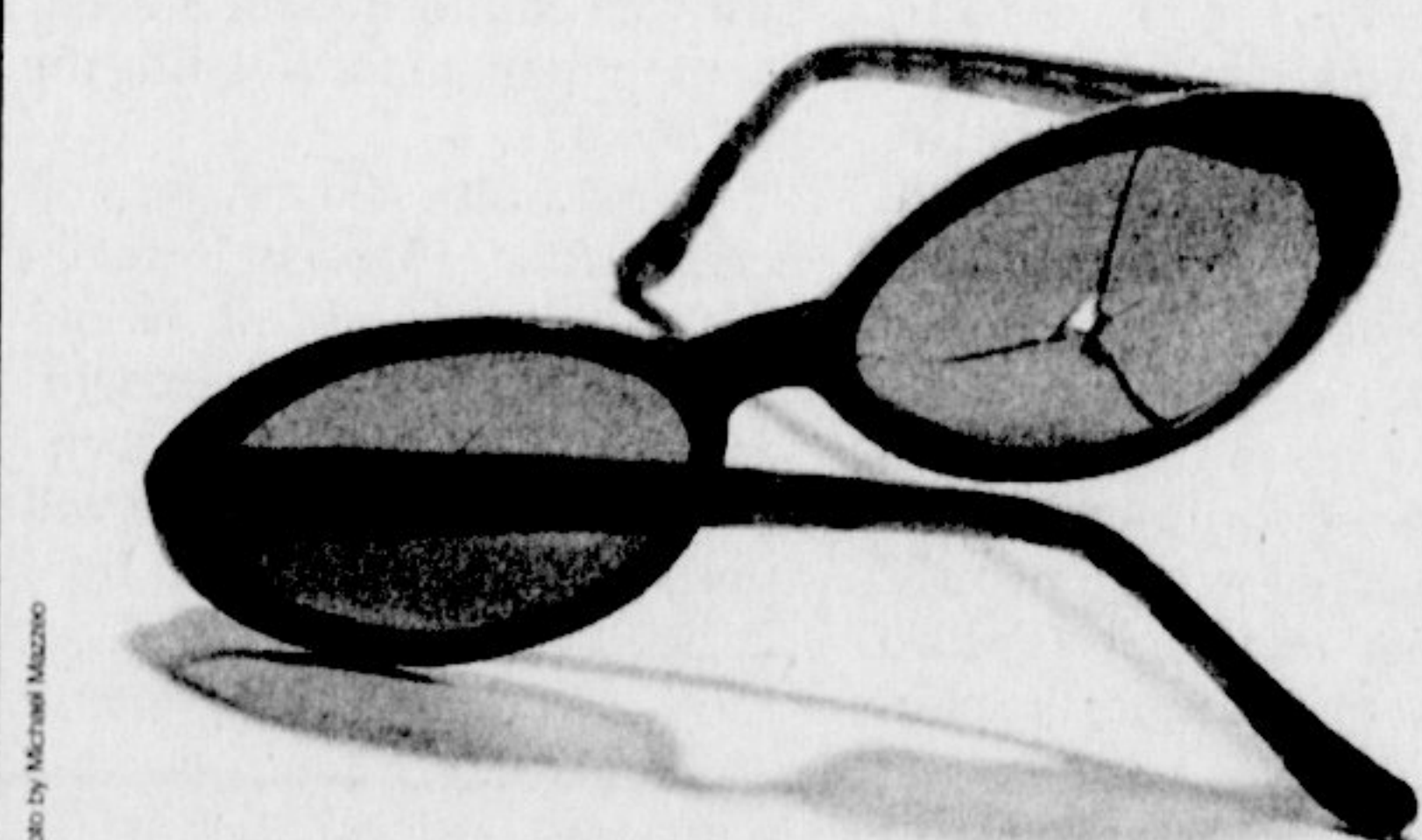
Weekly Crime Tip

Larceny is the number one crime on campus. Make sure you always secure your vehicle and double-check before you leave. If you own a rag-top vehicle, use a parking sticker instead of a hangtag. Treat your residence hall like you would your permanent home.

Always keep your doors locked even if you will only be away for a few moments. Also be aware of who you let in to your residence hall. Larcenies come from both the students around you and guests. Always lock your doors when leaving your office. A larceny only takes seconds to occur.

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

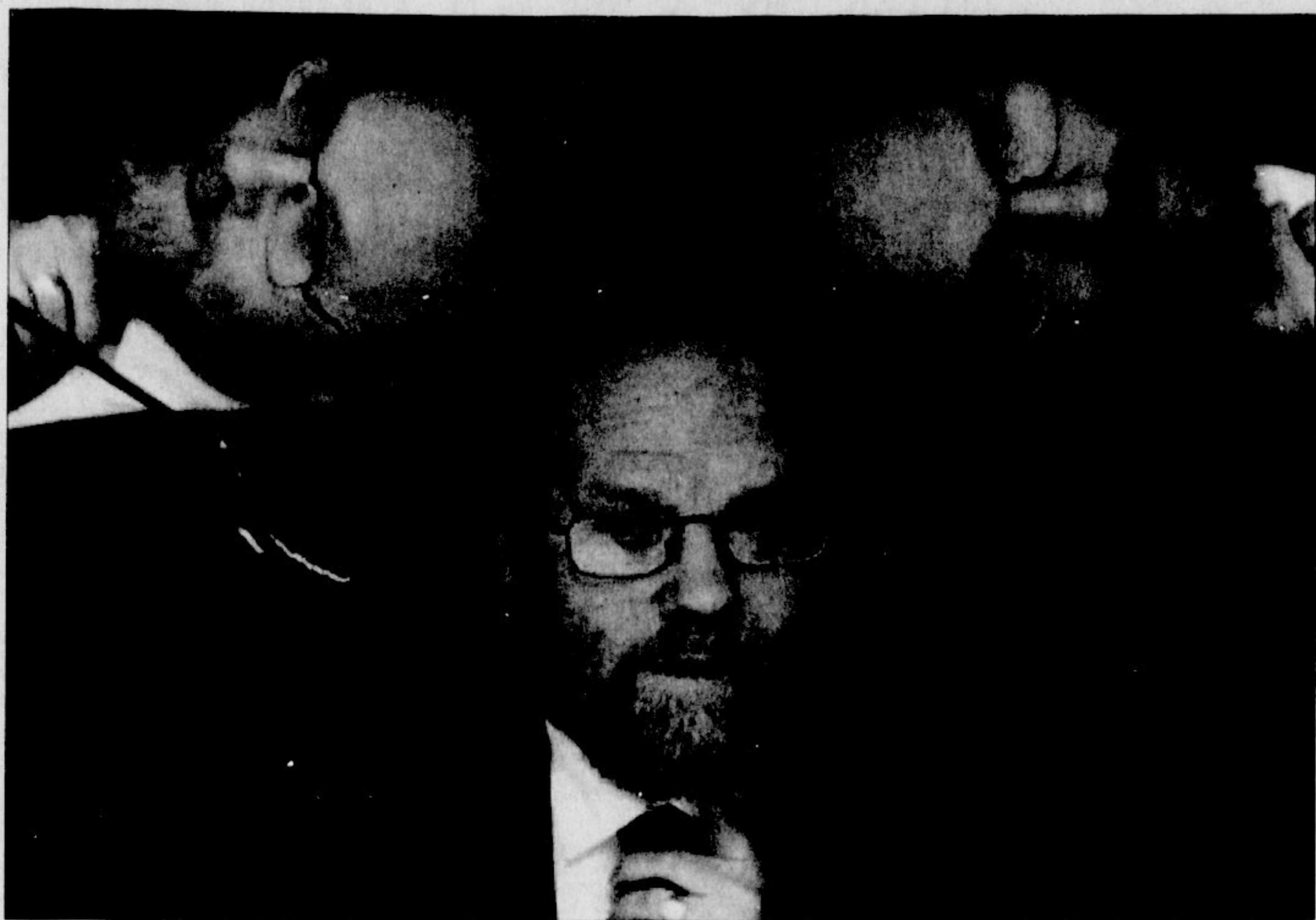
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U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council

Dolly the sheep scientist gets license to clone human embryos



Professor Ian Wilmut, who led the research team based at the Roslin Institute, who created Dolly the cloned sheep, poses in Edinburgh, Scotland Feb. 8.

LONDON (AP) — The British government Tuesday gave the creator of Dolly the Sheep a license to clone human embryos for medical research into the cause of motor neuron disease.

Ian Wilmut, who led the team that created Dolly at Scotland's Roslin Institute in 1996, and motor neuron expert Christopher Shaw of the Institute of Psychiatry in London, plan to clone embryos to study how nerve cells go awry to cause the disease. The experiments do not involve creating cloned babies.

It is the second such license approved since Britain became the first country to legalize research cloning in 2001. The first was granted in August to a team that hopes to use cloning to create insulin-producing cells that could be transplanted into diabetics.

Dr. Brian Dickie, director of research at the London-based Motor Neuron Disease Association, said the latest decision by the Human Fertilization and

Embryology Authority means "we are a step closer to medical research that has the potential to revolutionize the future treatment of neuron disease," an incurable muscle-wasting condition that afflicts about 350,000 people and kills some 100,000 each year.

While the latest project would not use the stem cells to correct the disease, the study of the cells is expected to help scientists develop future treatments, according to the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, which regulates such research and approved the license.

Stem cells are the master cells of the body. They appear when embryos are just a few days old and go on to develop into every type of cell and tissue in the body. Scientists hope to be able to extract the stem cells from embryos when they are in their blank state and direct them to form any desired cell type to treat a variety of diseases, ranging from Parkinson's to

diabetes.

Getting the cells from an embryo that is cloned from a sick patient could allow scientists to track how diseases develop and provide genetically matched cell transplants that do not cause the immune systems to reject the transplant.

Such work, called therapeutic cloning because it does not result in a baby, is opposed by abortion foes and other biological conservatives because researchers must destroy human embryos to harvest the cells.

Cloning opponents decried the license Tuesday, saying the technique is dangerous, undesirable and unnecessary.

"What a sad and extraordinary volte face [turnaround] for the pioneer of animal cloning," said the London-based Comment on Reproductive Ethics. "Wilmut has always been the loudest voice in recent years warning of the dangers of mammalian cloning. And we remember how in the years following the birth of Dolly

the Sheep, he assured the world he would never go near human cloning."

Wilmut has repeatedly condemned the idea of human cloning to create babies, but not so-called therapeutic cloning.

"We recognize that motor neuron disease is a serious congenital condition," said Angela McNab, chief of Britain's Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. "Following careful review of the medical, scientific, legal and ethical aspects of this application, we felt it was appropriate to grant the Roslin Institute a one-year license for this research into the disease."

Wilmut and Shaw plan to clone cells from patients with the incurable muscle-wasting disease, derive blank-slate stem cells from the cloned embryo, make them develop into nerve cells, and compare their development to nerve cells derived from healthy embryos.

The technique, called cell nuclear replacement, is the same as that used to create Dolly.

The mechanism behind motor neuron disease is poorly understood because the nerves are inaccessible in the brain and central nervous system and cannot be removed from patients.

"This is potentially a big step forward for (motor neuron disease) research," Shaw said. "We have spent 20 years looking for genes that cause (motor neuron disease) and to date we have come up with just one gene. We believe that the use of cell nuclear replacement will greatly advance our understanding of why motor neurons degenerate in this disease, without having to hunt down the gene defect."

Genetics expert Peter Braude of King's College, London, who is not involved with the work, said that studying how nerves go wrong in motor neuron disease and how it can be cured is particularly difficult and that cloning is the only way to produce the cells necessary to answer such questions.



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Abortion from page A1

She said this and women who tried to self-abort with wire coat hangers often led to the woman's death from a painful infection.

Dudasik-Wiggs also said the term "pro-abortion" is a misnomer because they do not necessarily support the actual procedure, they support the choice.

"Likewise, the term 'partial birth abortion' is misleading, as it was created as part of an ongoing strategy of rhetoric designed to conjure up ghastly images and ignite passions," Dudasik-Wiggs said.

"But once this procedure is outlawed and there may be enough votes to do so, it is a short step to banning all abortions. This scenario frightens me."

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2005 Housing Guide
Are you Looking for a place to live?
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 THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Our View

How will you celebrate
Valentine's Day?

It's that special time of year again. A time when men and women are rushing out to find the perfect gift for their significant others and planning the perfect evening - that's right, Valentine's Day.

There are many speculations as to the origin of Valentine's Day, the most popular being that of Saint Valentine. Bishop Valentine was chosen as the patron saint to replace the Lupercian Festival, which was a celebration of the god of fertility and of sensual pleasure. Valentine had fallen in love with his jailer's daughter right before his execution for helping young lovers marry against the wishes of the emperor Claudius. His final note to her ended with, "From Your Valentine," a phrase we still see today.

Valentine's Day has become extremely commercialized. Decorations for this special occasion begin appearing in stores soon after Christmas while flowers, candy, cards and stuffed animals have become the standard gift to give your sweetheart. Schools and offices around the world use the holiday as an excuse for a party. Many feel this day no longer holds any sentimental value. What happened to romance and originality? While we are far from the meaning of the original Valentine's Day, it is still a day to cherish those you love, whether it be a lover, a friend or a family member. Showering your loved ones with gifts, while always a nice gesture, does not have to be the one and only way you show your affection. Often those three simple words can convey a thousand meanings and evoke a thousand emotions - "I love you."

Each country and each person has their own beliefs and traditions surrounding Valentine's Day - poems, love songs, love letters, flowers or candy. However you decide to celebrate and whomever you decide to celebrate with, make it special. Don't fall under the candy company spell of what Valentine's Day is supposed to look like. Above all else, be romantic and be original.

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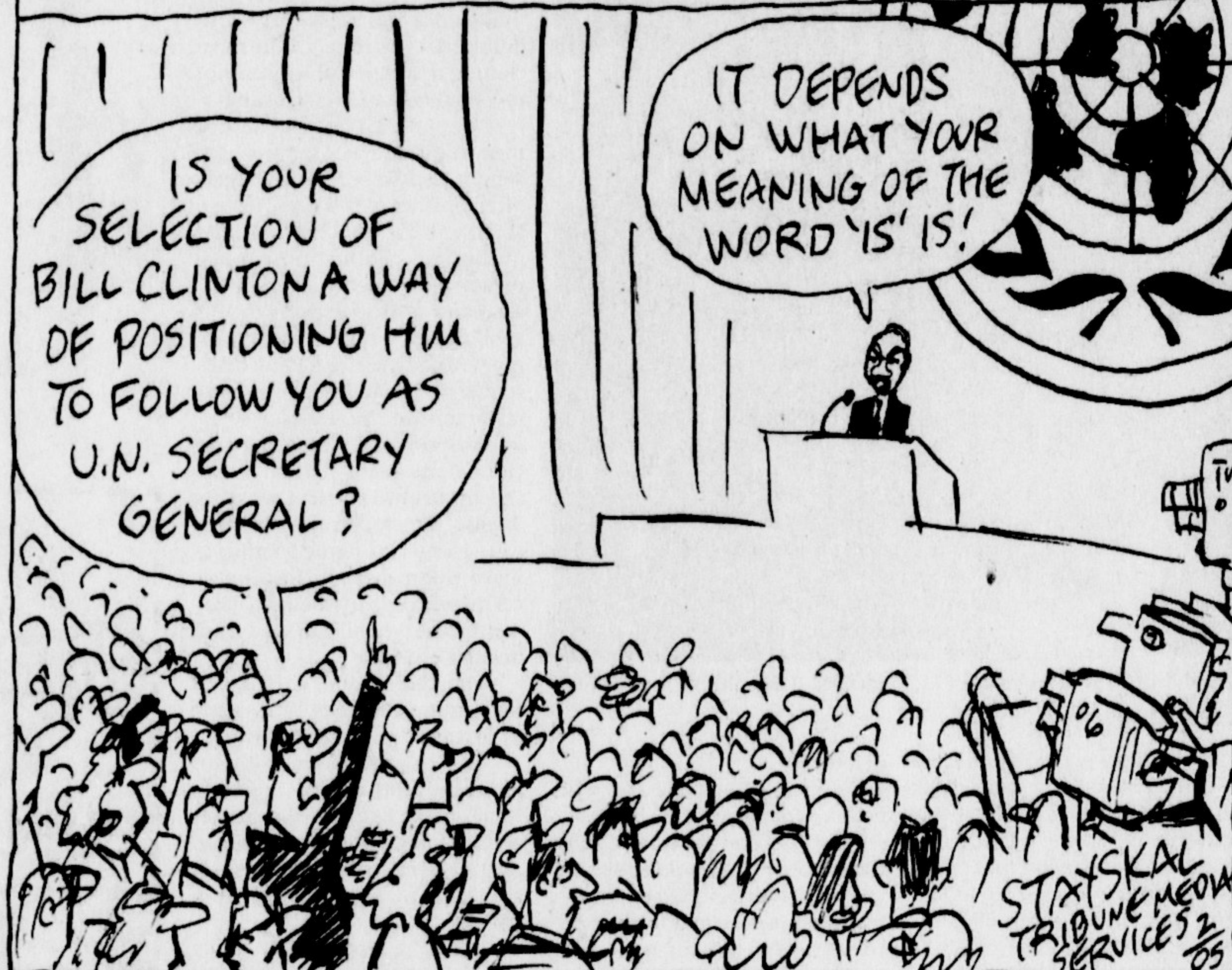
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U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL NAMES BILL CLINTON TO BE CHIEF OF U.N. TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION



Opinion Columnist

Social security encourages irresponsibility

Wasn't that a great State of the Union speech George Bush gave last Thursday?

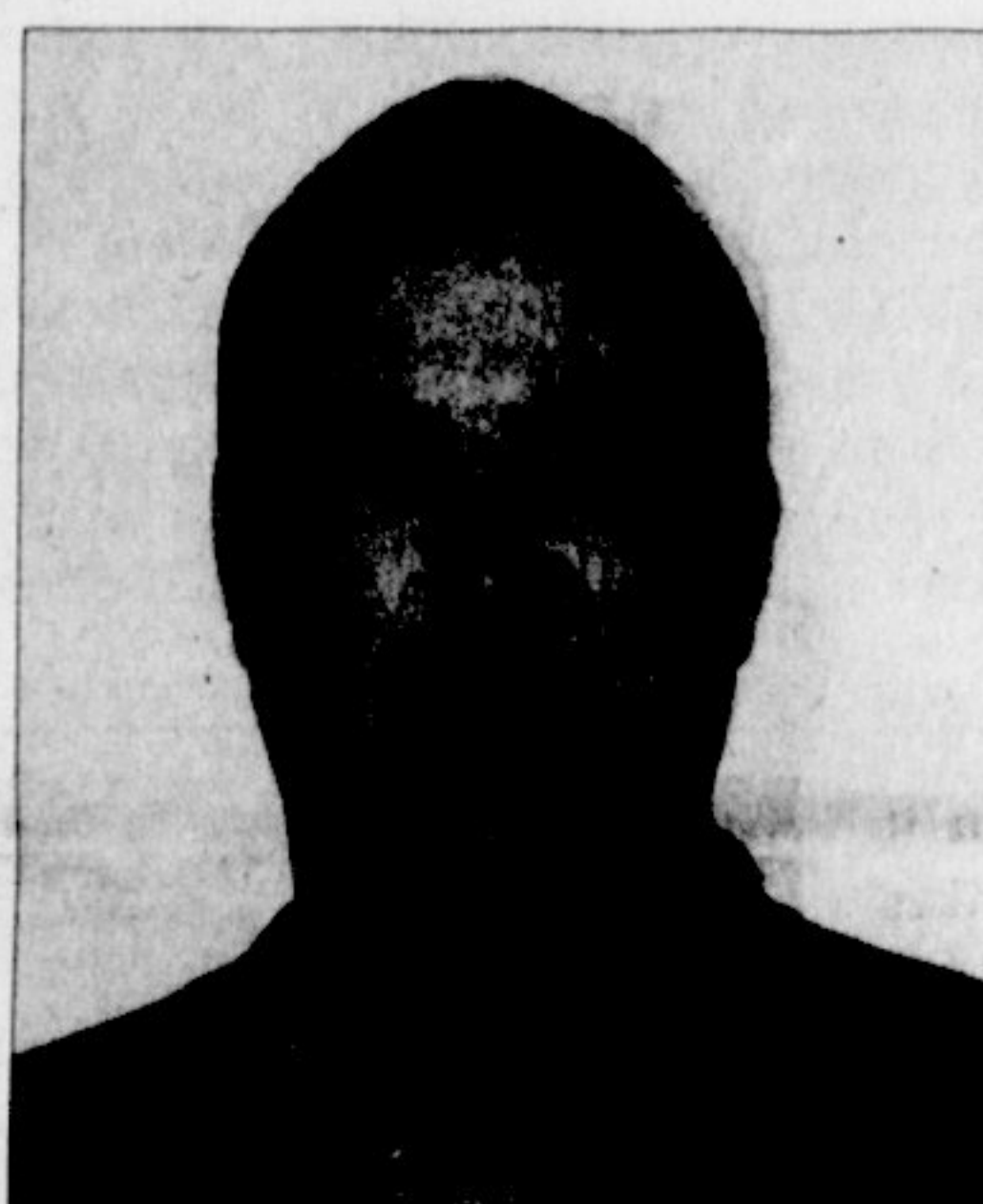
TONY MCKEE
CONSERVATIVE CORNER

It was forceful, upbeat, uplifting and straight to the point. And who didn't get choked up when that Iraqi voter turned and hugged the mother of the marine who lost his life fighting to liberate her country? Besides the insensitive, inconsiderate, unconscionable jerks in the liberal media who immediately started asking if the hug was "staged" for political gain, that is. And I had thought the media had sunk as low as it could go already. Was I ever wrong.

Getting back to the State of the Union, the best part of the speech was when President Bush eloquently laid out what the real situation with social security is and presented a plan to fix it. Of course, the Democrats did not agree - this year that is. As with the Iraq war, Sadaam Hussein, weapons of mass destruction and several other topics, the Democrats conveniently suffer from collective amnesia when they feel like it.

As President Bush pointed out, former President Clinton and many other Democrat leaders have said in the past social security was broken, needed fixing and some, like Clinton, even said that private accounts are one way to fix the problems. Matter of fact, some of the same Democrats that were howling there is nothing wrong with Social Security and vehemently opposing private accounts now were the same ones applauding the loudest when Clinton brought it up. What changed, other than the much-hated George Bush is now the one suggesting it?

Have you noticed that the most hate-filled, racist, vile, insulting, class



dividing speech and actions in public discourse lately come from the all-loving, compassionate, tolerant liberal Democrats? Don't you think that is odd? But I digress.

President Bush did a good job pointing out the undeniable truths about social security, but he erred on the remedy. Instead of trying to fix the program, he should be working to phase it out altogether.

From the start, social security was ill-advised, putatively illegal and morally questionable. Now, when you strip away all the emotional and political baggage people have attached to it over the years, social security is nothing more than a reward for irresponsibility.

Consider this analogy: Both of us work, bring home the same amount and get paid once a month. You, being the responsible individual that your parents taught you to be, take some of your hard earned money and save it, just in case. I, on the other hand, take my money and spend it on cigarettes, booze and women.

Now, because the government says I can, I go to your house, hold out my hand and say, "Gimme." You have no choice but to hand over the money you had set aside so I can get through the month. I am rewarded for my

irresponsible actions, you are punished.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is social security in a nutshell.

For decades, social security has been mythically portrayed as a "no-risk" way to achieve financial security. We were told that all you had to do was give up a small percentage of your paycheck, and that money would go into a special "retirement account" the government set had set up. Even our employer put in a certain amount for each worker. When we retired (at age 65), we would be getting a check from that account to get us through our "Golden Years." Sound familiar?

As welfare reduced the incentive of many to work for a living, the myth of social security reduced the incentive of many to take responsibility for their own financial security at retirement. Since there was no longer any need to save for retirement, people started spending everything they made, and more, in an orgy of "I want, I want, I want." That is what we have been taught. It is now time to "un-teach" ourselves.

We need to instruct people, starting in middle or high school, how to handle money responsibly. This should be easy for liberals, since they are huge fans of "education," especially when it comes to social programs, homosexual rights, environmental causes, etc. And since this plan would benefit everyone, rich or poor, it is a made-for-liberal approach.

If we start teaching children how to responsibly handle money now, while at the same time beginning a phase out (or a voluntary "opt-out") of social security, a vast majority of the current problem would be nonexistent by the time the program goes bankrupt (and it will go bankrupt).

Changes have been made with welfare and other programs to stop rewarding irresponsibility. Social security needs to be next.

End it, don't "fix it."

Pirate Rant

I disagree with the person who asserted that puppies are good in last week's rant. Puppies are evil, soulless demons who pee all over the floor and bark constantly.

President Bush stated that we will fight for freedom and liberty for all people in the world. Too bad he is fighting against freedom and liberty at home with the "Marriage Protection Amendment." I still can't believe this country re-elected that lying hypocrite.

For all you people that show up late to class every day and expect to copy off my paper the entire time and keep asking me "what did he just say?" and distract me from what's going on, so I can't learn ... here's a message: This is college. Grow up and learn to show up on time and get your own notes. It's not my responsibility to keep you up with the class.

I love Pirate Rant. It amuses me and usually makes my day because people are so funny.

Students, when you are in a play or a movie theater where it's dark inside, please don't mess with your cell phones so that everyone can see your lit-up screen. It's very distracting and much brighter than you might think. Just turn your phone off and put it away until the performance is over. Please, it is common courtesy.

Quit walking on the jogging track. You can walk to Krispy Kreme or to Hardee's and get the artery-clogging "Myocardial Infarction Burger."

I am so excited that wheat wraps are now offered in the galley. The regular tortilla wraps are OK, but the wheat tastes much better and it's healthier. Goodbye freshman 15, hello Spring Break.

Someone stole my bike ... again.

Let's try to turn off our music, televisions and mouths by 2 a.m. on a weekday.

Get that darn coffee shop out of the library. It's like a rule that everyone has to have a cup of coffee in the entire building and drinking invites the opportunity to converse, no matter if someone around is studying.

To the bus drivers who can not wait five more seconds for me to sit down - I know you can see me walking down the aisle to that next seat. Wait just a second before hitting the pedal to the metal and sending me flying (or crashing). Or don't - I mean hey, I could use the money a lawsuit would bring.

Pat on the back to Matthew Joyce for a very well-written letter to the editor.

Why is it that people insist on talking while the professor is talking? I came to class to hear what the professor had to say. Not to listen to you gossip in the back row.

To the ranter who called Bush a fascist - trust me, there's nothing patriotic about the leftwing manure you campus libs spew out. One of these days, you'll have to come out from behind mommy's apron strings and go out into the cold, hard world and you'll find not everyone buys into your b.s. Go ahead and start preparing yourself now, nutbag.

If I want to wear my sunglasses, I will wear my sunglasses. They are currently sitting firmly on my head with Croakies attached.

I hate the way a smoker smells. Smokers, please do not sit next to me in class. I do not want to smell the aftermath of your addiction.

If you are dating a girl, don't treat her like you "may" have time for her. Girls hardly ever date the best looking guys because they think they're hot s***. It gets really annoying.

Editor's Note: The Pirate Rant is an anonymous way for students and staff in the ECU community to voice their opinions. Submissions can be submitted anonymously online at www.theeastcarolinian.com, or e-mailed to editor@theeastcarolinian.com. The editor reserves the right to edit opinions for content and brevity.

Mender

Saw
Wednesday:
Thursday: 7
Friday: 9:30
Saturday: 7
Sunday: 3 p.

The Motorcy
Wednesday:
Thursday: 9
Friday: 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9
Sunday: 7 p.

Top 5's

Top 5 Movie
1. Hide and S
2. Are We Th
3. Million Do
4. Coach Ca
5. Meet the F

Top 5 DVDs
1. The Village
2. Without a
3. Troy
4. Paparazzi
5. Anchorma

Top 5 TV Sho
1. "American
2. "CSI"
3. "ER"
4. "Desperate
5. "Numb3rs"

Top 5 Music
1. Jennifer Lo
2. Ciara with
Step
3. The Game
We Do
4. Lindsay Lo
5. Mario- Let

Top 5 Books
1. The Broken
2. The Da Vin
3. The Five H
Heaven
4. State of Fe
5. Chainfire

Horoscope

Aries: You'l
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January 9, 2005

Rant

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Rant. It amuses makes my day re so funny.

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coffee shop out like a rule that have a cup of re building and e opportunity tter if someone g.

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The Pirate Rant is for students and mmunity to voice missions can be ously online at nian.com, or e-eastcarolinian. serves the right or content and

Mendenhall Movies:

Saw
Wednesday: 9:30 p.m.
Thursday: 7 p.m.
Friday: 9:30 p.m.
Saturday: 7 p.m. and Midnight
Sunday: 3 p.m.

The Motorcycle Diaries

Wednesday: 7 p.m.
Thursday: 9:30 p.m.
Friday: 7 p.m. and Midnight
Saturday: 9:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7 p.m.

Top 5's

Top 5 Movies

1. Hide and Seek
2. Are We There Yet?
3. Million Dollar Baby
4. Coach Carter
5. Meet the Fockers

Top 5 DVDs

1. The Village
2. Without a Paddle
3. Troy
4. Paparazzi
5. Anchorman

Top 5 TV Shows

1. "American Idol"
2. "CSI"
3. "ER"
4. "Desperate Housewives"
5. "Numb3rs"

Top 5 Music Videos

1. Jennifer Lopez - Get Right
2. Ciara with Missy Elliot - 1, 2 Step
3. The Game with 50 Cent - How We Do
4. Lindsay Lohan - Over
5. Mario - Let Me Love You

Top 5 Books

1. The Broker
2. The Da Vinci Code
3. The Five People You Meet in Heaven
4. State of Fear
5. Chained

Horoscopes:

Aries: You'll have more time the next few days to rest and recuperate. Don't attempt any big advances now, you need to recover your strength.

Taurus: You'll have more time to spend with friends for the next couple of days. That's good, but resist the urge to splurge the money you've recently earned.

Gemini: One surprising development just went your way, but the next one won't. Don't push your luck, show respect.

Cancer: Your efforts will pay off for years to come. You should be proud of yourself. You're not quite through yet, so postpone a trip you'd like to take.

Leo: Take time away from the game to add up your wins and losses. Don't worry about missing anything, this is not a good time to gamble.

Virgo: Maybe you need to look at the situation from a new point of view. Imagine you're seeing it through the eyes of a kooky friend.

Libra: After you've made the commitment, it's time to get down to work. You'll learn more as you go along, so continue to pay attention.

Scorpio: You'll have more time in the next few days to cuddle with someone you love. Make arrangements for something special, but don't spend a lot of money.

Sagittarius: It's not a good idea to get your roommate all riled up. Advise caution for the next few days, and practice it yourself.

Capricorn: Previous commitments interfere with your ability to study the subject you'll be using next. Just do the old stuff the old way. It'll be easier.

Aquarius: Don't get carried away in your enthusiasm and buy a whole bunch of toys you really don't know how to use yet. Easy does it tiger.

Pisces: Changes are predicted for the next couple of days. Don't let yourself be pushed this way and that. Steer a steady course.

Take Action Tour kicks off

Concert looks to benefit youth of America

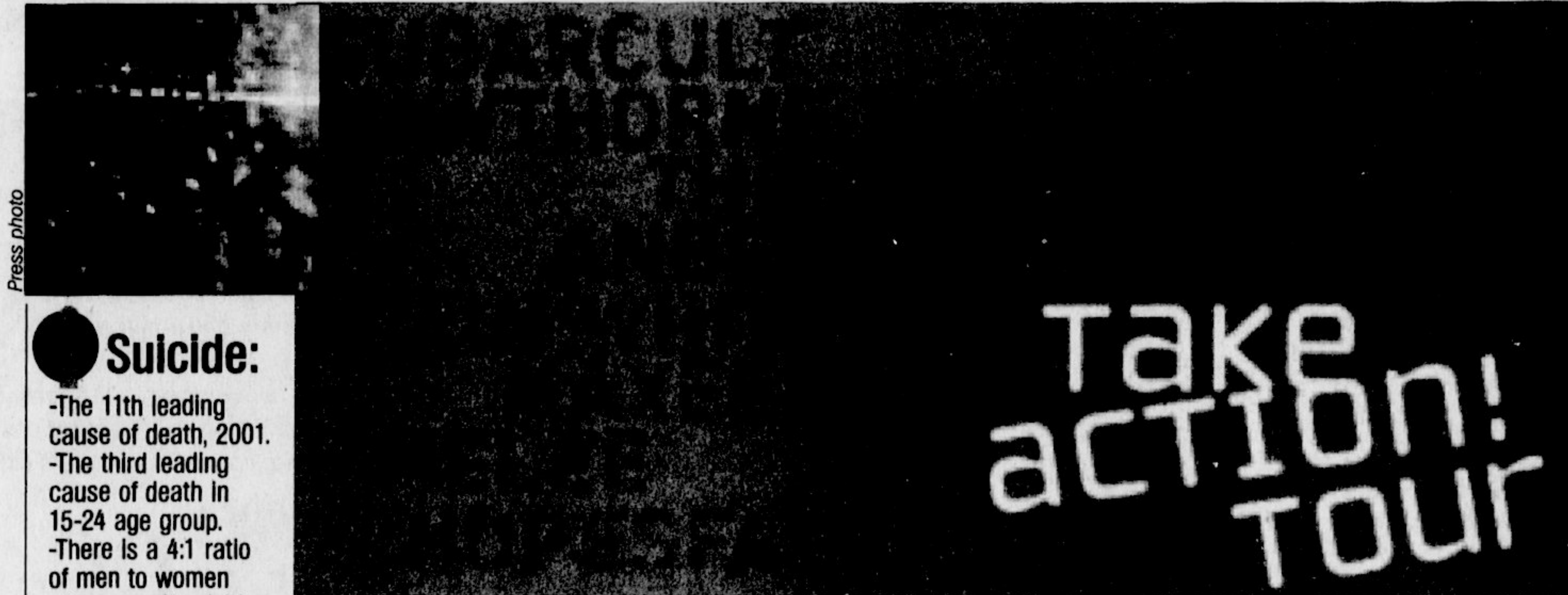
KYLE BILLINGS
STAFF WRITER

Imagine an annual tour stacked with amazing musicians, every year coming to a town near you, even releasing a CD you know you'll want. How much more worthwhile would that production be if you knew it was to benefit the youth population, raising thousands of dollars for problems such as depression and suicide? These epidemics are targeted by the Take Action Tour, which travels countrywide in pursuit of education and hope-fully saving lives.

This year the Take Action Tour is headlined by none other than Sugarcult, which is quite fitting considering it had the theme song for college classic Van Wilder. Other bands playing include Hawthorne Heights, The Early November, Anberlin, Maxene, Melee, Plain White T's and Hopesfall.

"According to the National Mental Health Association, suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people aged 15-24," is the tour's purpose as stated on takeactiontour.com.

"The Take Action Tour and



Sulicide:

- The 11th leading cause of death, 2001.
- The third leading cause of death in 15-24 age group.
- There is a 4:1 ratio of men to women who commit suicide.

Take Action Tour CD, with songs from more than 40 bands is on sale at various local retailers for less than \$7.

organization educate millions of youth on depression, suicide and finding help in their area."

The tour spans two months, raising money for the National Hopeline Network and Youth America Hotline. Sub City Records and Hurley International sponsor the annual event, and according to the Web site, over the past four years, \$170,000 was raised by the tour and CD compilations for the National Hopeline Network. It also mentions that sponsor Sub City Records has contributed to multiple charities through funds raised by the tour.

"A high number of youths go

through harsh depression and even suicide, and I think the idea of this tour is a good one because it will bring kids together to listen to good music and learn how to find help at the same time," said Ian Collins, freshman child psychology major.

Since its inception, the Take Action Tour has been able to mobilize a national front to combat the effects of suicide and depression. Many times, this disease is unseen and undiagnosed. Thousands of youth throughout the country suffer without a proper outlet. Take Action Tour and National

Hopeline Network (1-800-SULCIDE) worked to create the Youth America Hotline (1-877-YOUTH-LINE) to create such an outlet for help. Recently, efforts have lead to a partnership with National Mental Health Association to further fight for the cause. The tour has enjoyed success, with sponsors that include *Alternative Press Magazine*, Tower Records, Hot Topic and Etnies. The Web site illustrates the impact the tour had, citing, "We have received thousands of government-funding petition signatures and thousands of e-mails and letters from many of you who have been

impacted by the tour."

So mark your calendars. The tour aims to attract those who have a sincere interest in support, and those who love the music. Information can be found on takeactiontour.com, and provide you a way to take action and support such a cause or receive help yourself. Collins said, "It would be worthwhile because if someone down the road is helped from this tour, that would be a life saved thanks to music."

This writer can be reached at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Find the 'Boogeyman'

No chick flick movie dates this year

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

February is the month of love and Hollywood knows this. Every year about this time, we are treated to films about love and relationships because that is what brings couples close together. However, there is another type of film that will do that same thing, and that is a horror film.

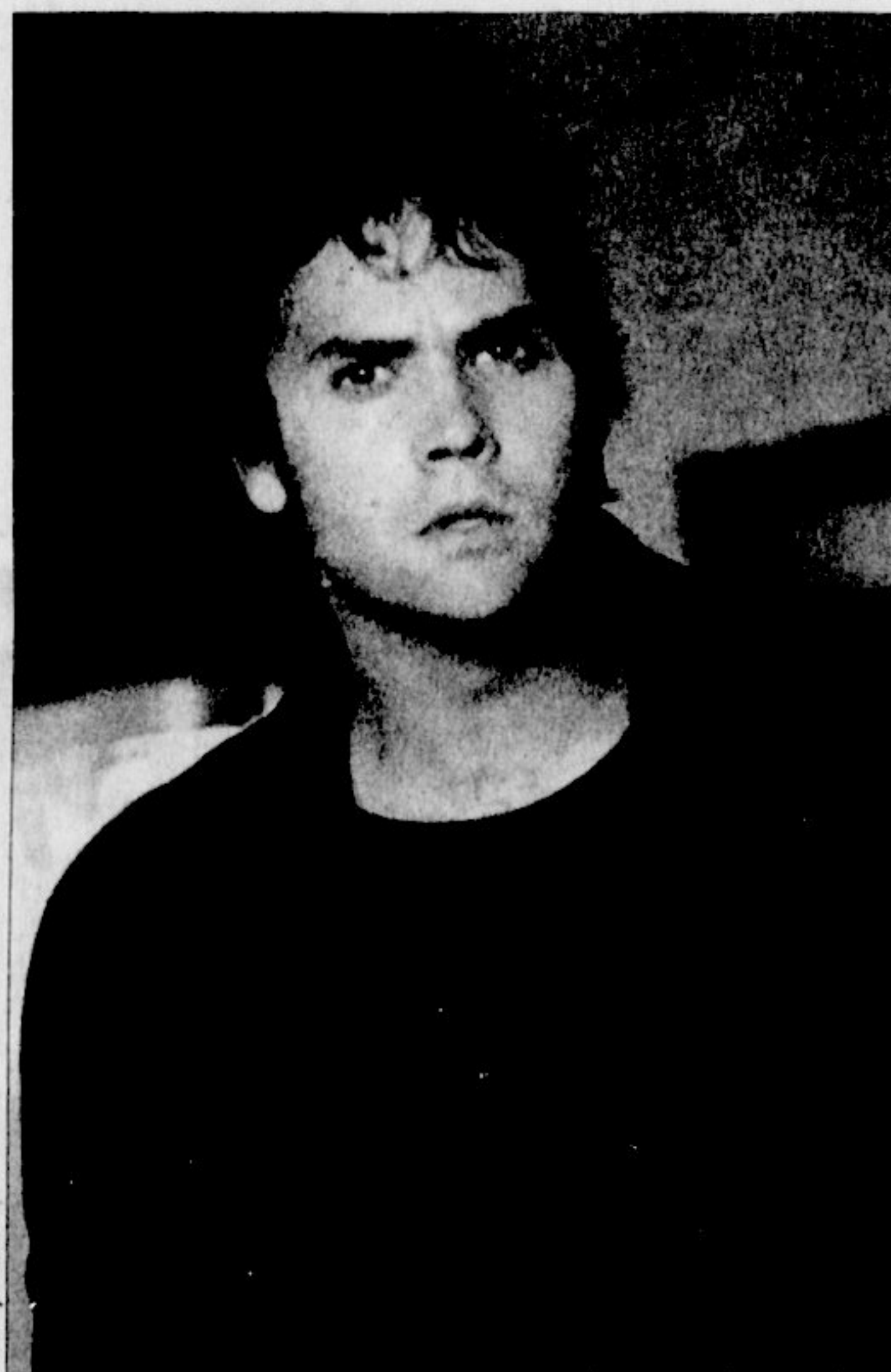
A horror film can be cheesy at times, but it does something guys absolutely love - it makes their lady friend get real close when the film gets a little scary. What better way to get her to snuggle up close to you?

Usually a few weeks before Valentine's Day, Hollywood releases a horror film. This year's film is *Boogeyman*. It stars Barry Watson, from TV's "7th Heaven," as Tim, a tormented young man who must return to his childhood home in order to face a fear that has haunted him all his life, the treacherous boogeyman.

We all know the boogeyman story. He haunted just about every single one of us as we were growing up. The boogeyman would come out of the closet and get us while we slept. If mom or dad left the closet door open, he would be able to get into the room. It seems the vast majority of us grew out of this illusion by five or six years of age, if not before.

For Tim, this illusion was reality. As he grew up, there really was a boogeyman that was out to get him, despite what anyone else thought. The thought of knowing the boogeyman was somewhere looking for him has tormented him all his life. In order to completely do away with these illusions, he must return home to face his fears.

Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert, founders of the same production company that brought viewers *The Grudge*, produced *Boogeyman*. Raimi also has a long history of scaring people throughout the course of his career. He created, along with Tapert and fellow creative partner Bruce Campbell, the character Ash who was the star in the *Evil Dead* trilogy. Raimi also directed the eerie and underrated film *The Gift* with Cate Blanchett and Katie Holmes. Just seeing the names of Raimi and Tapert on a



Watson's character haunted by Boogeyman.

movie poster should make one wonder just how scary this film could actually be. Raimi is a master of fright.

The film co-stars Emily Decchanel, Skye McCole Bartusiak and Lucy Lawless. It was directed by Stephen Kay.

Boogeyman opened Friday, Feb. 4 and is this year's Valentine's Day horror flick. Rather than going out to see yet another romantic comedy where the ending is always the same thing year after year, why not put you and your date in a position to be terrified? There's nothing more fun than getting scared at a movie, especially when it's with that special someone on that special day.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Ani DiFranco, latest release shines

'Knuckle Down' has new sound with help from other musicians

JESSICA CRESON
SENIOR WRITER

Ani DiFranco, who has been a singer, songwriter and guitarist performing since high school in Buffalo, NY, released her latest album, *Knuckle Down*, last week. It started off with poetry and morphed into songwriting once she learned how to play the guitar.

This album has something a little different to offer listeners than her previous releases. For the first time, DiFranco has collaborated with other musicians. Joe Henry, an applauded performer and songwriter who has released nine solo albums, is co-producing *Knuckle Down*.

DiFranco has put out at least one album each year since 1990, now reaching 23 album releases total.

Her 2004 release *Educated*

Guess was done entirely by DiFranco, including vocals and each instrument.

Knuckle Down has many guest musicians providing a more dynamic and intricate sound. Many of the musicians have played with DiFranco before, such as Todd Sickafoose on bass, Julie Wolf, who is a former band member and played melodica, Tony Scherr on electric guitar and Noe Venable on vocals. Andrew Bird is a Righteous Babe recording artist (DiFranco's label), and plays violin, glockenspiel and whistles on the album.

Some less recognizable names who contributed just as much to *Knuckle Down* are Patrick Warren on piano, samples and chamberlain, Jay Bellerose on drums and percussion and Niki Haris on vocals.

The bluegrass culture is one of the things DiFranco tries to preserve through her musical talent and style. Much of her music is highly influenced by bluegrass and folk music. Overall, her music can be described as "folk-punk."

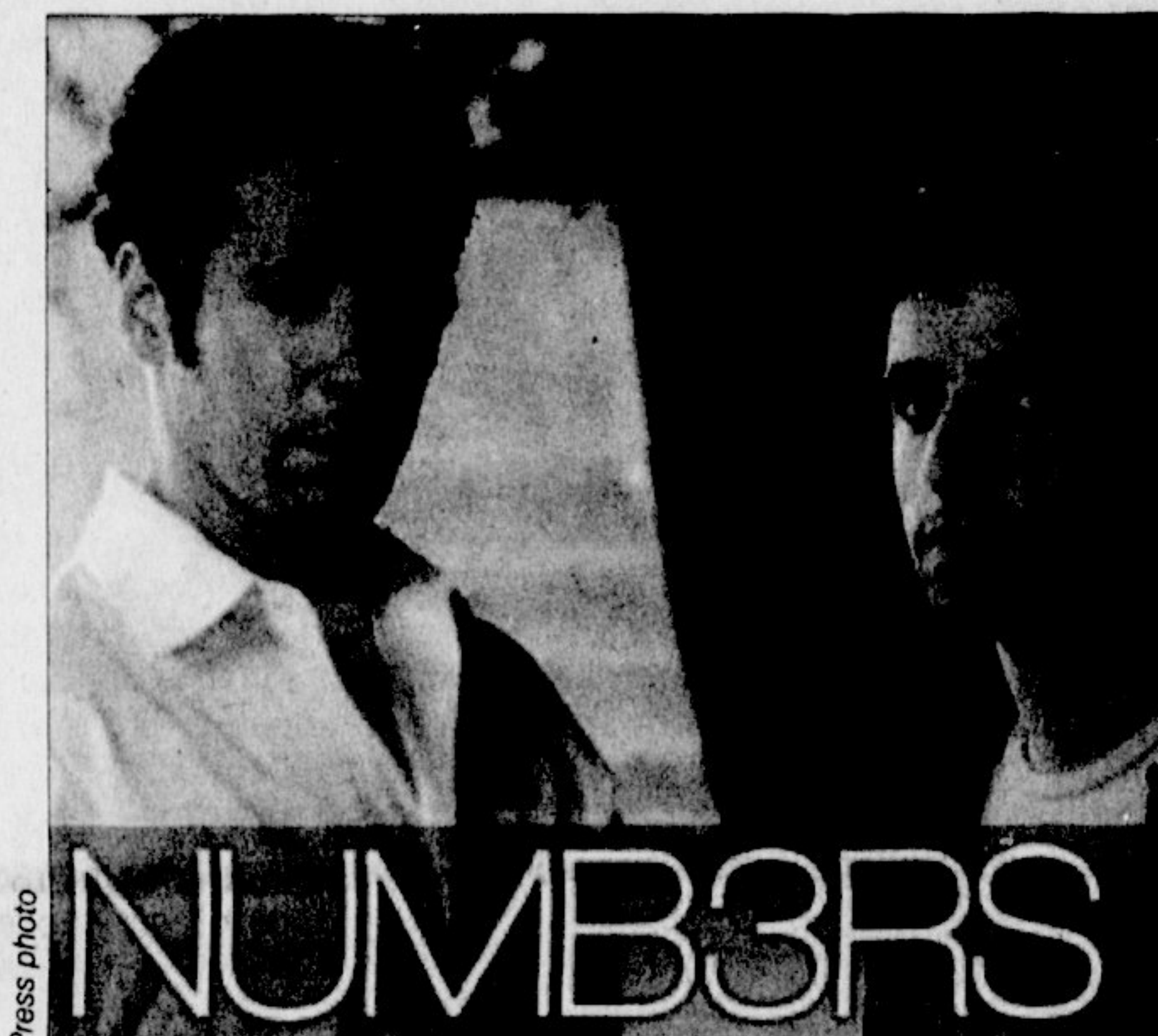


Unique look and sound suit her.

Over the years, DiFranco has gathered a reputation for herself of performing and speaking out on things in which she believes. During live concerts, she began to dabble into storytelling after trying to kill time during early years of tuning instruments and technical problems. Now it's something fans expect and look forward to.

She has given much of her time and energy to supporting her strong beliefs in various subjects ranging from the death penalty to feminism, women's reproductive rights to homosex-

see ANI page A6



Familiar television personalities Morrow and Krumholtz.

CBS runs 'Numb3rs' on new crime drama

Network debuts show in top five for week

GARY MCCABE
STAFF WRITER

When "Friends" became a hit comedy in 1994, it didn't take long for the television producers to take notice and begin churning out similar shows of their own. Because of "Friends," television audiences were subjected to a barrage of "Friends" rip-offs.

American television is going through a similar period. "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" has become a phenomenon since its debut in 2000 and just like "Friends," a handful of strikingly similar television shows have hit the airwaves in response. Because of "CSI," we now have "Cold Case," "Without a Trace," a handful of "CSI" spin-offs and now, CBS's new drama, "Numb3rs."

Produced by Ridley and Tony Scott, "Numb3rs" is the story of two brothers named Don and Charlie Eppes. Don, played by Rob Morrow, is a no-nonsense, tough-as-nails FBI agent who will do anything to solve a case. Charlie, played by David Krumholtz of *The Santa Clause* films, is a brilliant mathematician with a hint of social anxiety. Although both sons reside in Los Angeles, their lives rarely intersect.

That is, until their widowed father, played by Judd Hirsch, attempts to bring them closer together. When Charlie looks over his brother's file on a rapist-turned-murderer, he insists he can catch him using mathematics. With no leads of his own, Don lets his little brother help out. Inspired by a sprinkler and using a series of math equations, Charlie pinpoints the murderer and Don tracks down and captures him. And thus, the premise of the show is set.

The show's debut following the AFC Championship Game between the New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers was a huge success, attracting nearly 16 million viewers. The show proved it could stand on its own legs when it moved to its regular timeslot on Friday at 10 p.m. and still garnered a strong 9.8 rating. If "Numb3rs" continues to be a success, it would only strengthen CBS's stranglehold on television dominance with the highest rated drama ("CSI"), comedy ("Everybody Loves Raymond"), reality show ("Survivor") and news program ("60 Minutes.")

"Numb3rs" faces two problems. First is its timeslot, which is at a time when people are out of their homes and not watching television. Networks rarely place their biggest shows on Friday nights and if "Numb3rs" continues to get good numbers, CBS would be smart to move it to a more desirable night and time.

The second problem facing "Numb3rs" is its content. Math is hardly a popular subject and potential viewers may be turned off by it. Current viewers could also grow confused and frustrated with the complex equations which are the crux of the show. Nick Falacci, while understanding the potential problems, is more optimistic, saying, "...we think most viewers are fascinated by mathematics and are curious about how the world works around them."

While obviously influenced by highly successful "CSI," "Numb3rs" does manage to set itself apart from the landmark show. When Charlie goes into "math mode," the viewer sees the world as you would expect he does at the time, with the world turning into numerals and codes. The show is also a

see NUMB3RS page A6

Ani from page A5

ual "visibility" and to the historic preservation of buildings in her hometown of Buffalo.

"I speak without reservation from what I know and who I am. I do so with the understanding that all people should have the right to offer their voice to the chorus whether the result is harmony or dissonance, the world song is a colorless dirge without the differences that distinguish us, and it is that difference which should be celebrated not condemned. Should any part of my music offend you, please do not close your ears to it. Just take what you can use and go on," says DiFranco when describing her storytelling to the press.

DiFranco has performed with a variety of artists including Prince, Maceo Parker, Dan Bern and Janis Ian. Dave Matthews Band and Chuck D have both covered songs by DiFranco and she had duets with John Gorka and Jackie Chan.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Numb3rs from page A5

bit warmer than the cold world of "CSI" with genuinely tender moments between the two lead actors.

So far, reviews for the new show have been fairly positive. Tim Goodman of *The San Francisco Chronicle* calls "Numb3rs" "...enthralling if not all together exceptional" and attributes the show's appeal partly to its cast, especially praising Peter MacNicol, who plays Charlie's quirky physicist friend.

Robert Bianco of *USA Today* also praises the cast, saying, "As strong as the supporting cast may be, 'Numb3rs' is run by its two stars and their quirky fraternal energy. You may not instinctively picture Morrow as an agent, but few actors are better at creating smart, complex characters with a bad habit of getting in their own way. And Krumholtz, after a string of failed series, finally has found a character that allows him to be appealing rather than annoying."

Rob Owen, of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* was not as fond of

the show said, "It's not a bad show — merely ho-hum. Perhaps it will have greater appeal to people who liked math in school, but to me 'Numb3rs' just seems like a 'CSI' clone with the quadratic formula tossed in for good effect."

Staying power will ultimately be the deciding factor as to whether the show will be a success or not. Will the math applied to "Numb3rs" continue to evolve and hold viewers or will it eventually be written off as a novelty? And in a time with more than 10 shows with a similar format, can the writers come up with storylines and crimes that are new and original?

Setting itself apart from the pack will ultimately decide "Numb3rs" fate. In the premiere episode, Krumholtz's character Charlie explained to his brother that, "...everything is numbers." You better hope so, Krumholtz, or else it's back to playing Bernard the Elf in *The Santa Clause 3*.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

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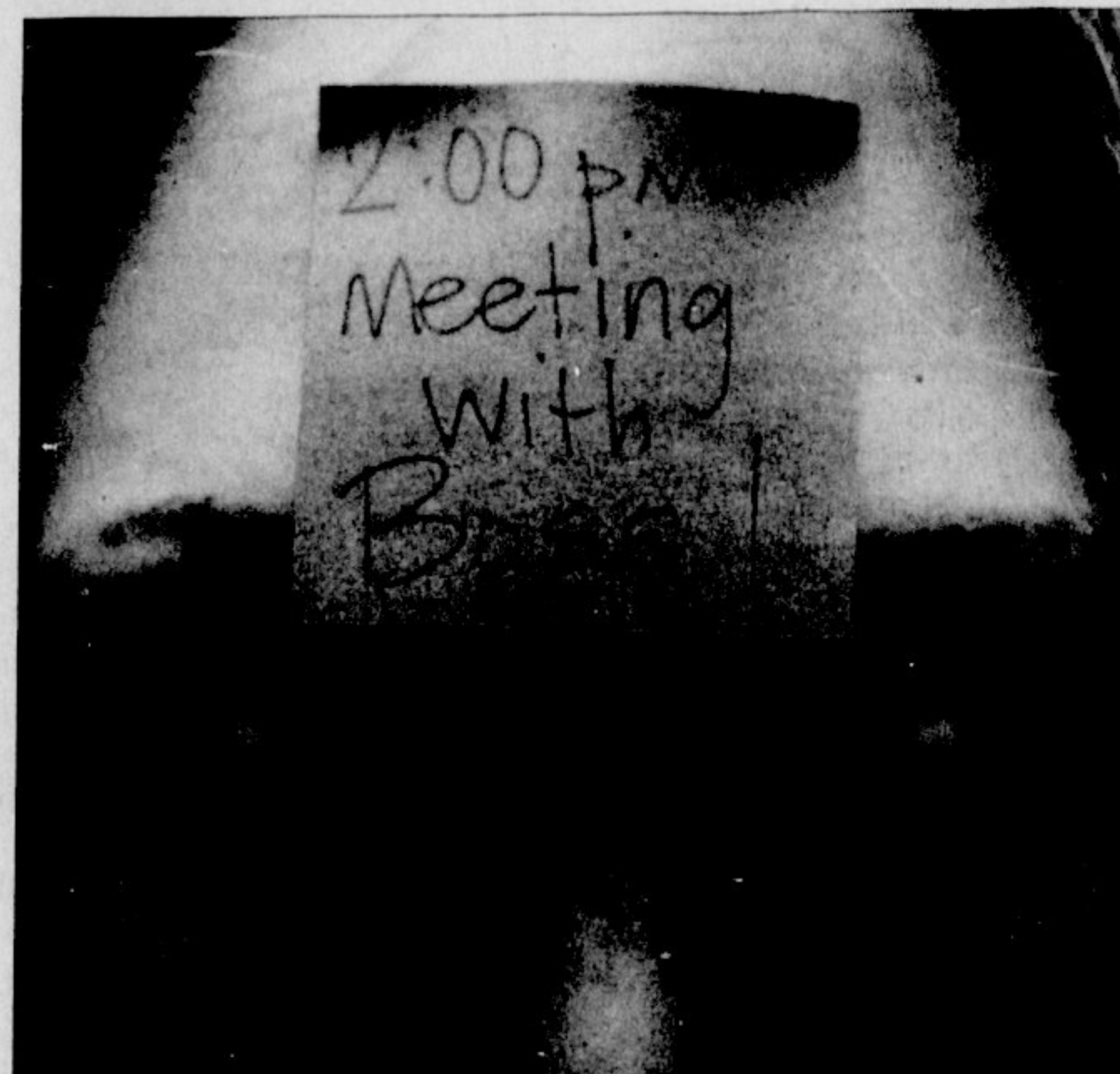
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Missy Higgins offers fresh Australian sound

'Sound of White' will put her on the map

JESSICA CRESON
SENIOR WRITER

The Melbourne native, Missy Higgins, has released her first EP, which is a sample of the completed album in America. There are five songs on this CD, including "All for Believing" and "Scar."

Higgins' songs are poetry accompanied by various instruments, mainly the piano or acoustic guitar. Her voice is polished and strong and her talent is apparent by the well-written and confident lyrics, along with her skill on the piano and guitar.

The first track, "All for Believing," has the darkest sound of the five songs on the EP with the piano and cello behind her powerful, yet refined voice.

"All for Believing" is also the song responsible for her success thus far.

When Higgins was 13, she decided she didn't want to live at home any longer, so her parents sent her about an hour away from Melbourne to boarding school. She had an assignment for her

music class to write an original composition. This assignment was not done until half an hour before the class started. The composition was "All for Believing."

With encouragement from her teacher and family, she wound up entering this song into a contest called Unearthed, which is run by a national alternative radio network, Triple J. Soon after, she received the phone call saying she won the contest.

This gave her immediate attention from record companies, but she was still only a senior in high school. After much thought, she decided to stay focused in school and then take six months to travel around Europe before she signed anything.

Higgins did not want to make any mistakes that would lead her to be a one-hit wonder. Music and self-respect are too important to her for that reason.

In the midst of her trip to Europe, she was beckoned to L.A. where a radio station had been playing "All for Believing" and wanted to meet her. Higgins ended up doing a showcase performance and signing with Warner Bros./Reprise Records.

She was then flown back to

Europe to continue her traveling.

On her next trip to L.A. she met with producer John Porter (The Smiths, Elvis Costello, Los Lonely Boys, Ryan Adams) and her new band.

"Scar" is the next important song on this EP. It debuted at No. 1 on Australian charts in September and was the most played song of the year in Australia.

"It's basically a song about people's need to pigeonhole things in order to process them," said Missy Higgins on her Web site, missyhiggins.com.

"It's about rebelling from the easy path of just going along with everybody else and trying not to stand out. It's also about realizing you've trusted the wrong people and finding a way to benefit from the scars they've left behind."

The *Sound of White* was fully completed in mid-2004 with a total of 12 songs. Higgins began touring with local heroes, John Butler Trio and the Finn Brothers. This was where "Scar" was so eagerly accepted.

Higgins will begin touring, but this time as the headliner.

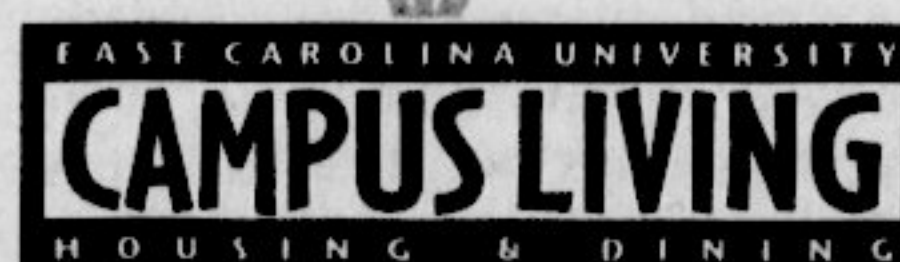
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Sports Briefs



Merritt Earns National, C-USA Honors

The United States Track Coaches Association announced that LaShawn Merritt of ECU has been selected as the Male Athlete-of-the-Week for NCAA Division I track & field. In addition, he was also named the Conference USA Athlete-of-the-Week Tuesday, becoming the first male and second C-USA athlete in the history of the league to win three weekly honors during a single track season. Merritt, a freshman, turned in the fastest 400 meter dash time in the world so far this season at the Gator Invitational in Gainesville, Fla. Sunday (Feb. 6). Merritt's school-record time of 45.94 is also the fastest indoor performance ever by anyone under 18 years of age. When converted from the 200 meter flat track at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center, the time is 45.54 as listed on the national performance list. Merritt also teamed with B.J. Henderson, Dominick Richmond and DeAndre Hyman to earn a third-place finish in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 3:12.84 to earn provisional qualification. The Pirates will next be in action at the Tyson Indoor Invitational and the Virginia Tech Challenge on Feb. 11 - 12.

Man charged with stalking Kournikova

A homeless man was charged with stalking and burglary after swimming nude across Biscayne Bay in search of tennis star Anna Kournikova's waterfront residence and getting caught near her neighbor's home. Police said William Lepeska screamed, "Anna! Save me!" as he was taken away Jan. 30. He is scheduled to make a court appearance Wednesday. Lepeska, 40, who sports an "Anna" tattoo on his right biceps, was found near the swimming pool of a house three doors from Kournikova's \$5 million home. Police said Lepeska acknowledged that he spent several months searching for her address on the Internet and swam nude 200 yards after locating it. Lepeska sent Kournikova "numerous letters and posted e-mails to her Web page" and "made several alarming statements indicating that he believed Ms. Kournikova had left a door unlocked for him to enter her residence and left clothing for him to wear as if she was expecting his arrival," police said. Kournikova was cooperating with prosecutors and "consulting with her personal security team." At Miami Beach police headquarters, Lepeska "refused to stand for a photograph" and demanded a psychiatric evaluation. He became "hostile and belligerent," assumed a "boxer's fighting stance ... and began throwing punches," police said. He allegedly bit an officer's left thumb, drawing blood, and hit White in the chest. Police used pepper spray and an expandable baton to subdue him and charged him with aggravated battery, battery and resisting arrest with violence.

Silva agrees to extension with Twins

Right-hander Carlos Silva and the Minnesota Twins avoided arbitration by agreeing Tuesday to a two-year contract that includes a mutual option for 2007. Silva, in his first season with the Twins, went 14-8 with a 4.21 ERA in 203 innings for the AL Central champions. Acquired in a December 2003 trade with the Philadelphia Phillies, Silva had one career major league start before arriving in Minnesota. Terms of the deal weren't immediately available.

ECU Men's Basketball: The good, the bad, the ugly



The Pirates have just two Conference USA road wins in four years. ECU's next matchup, however, is at home against Marquette.



ROBERT LEONARD
SENIOR WRITER

Every single season there seems to be one main theme with the basketball team. Something is going to be good, something is going to be bad and something is going to be flat out ugly. This season is no different.

The Good

The progression of the freshmen has been outstanding. These guys get better every game. No one has impressed me more than Tommy Hammonds. I really liked him from the first moment I saw him. In an earlier installment of the Full Court Press I mentioned that "no one impressed me more than Tommy Hammonds" and that "he looked like a veteran, not a freshman."

Today, 14 weeks after that

particular article, I still feel the same way. Hammonds really stepped into the spotlight in the Charlotte game a few weeks back when he shot a perfect 4-4 from the three-point line and scored 16 points.

This kid can shoot. This kid is smart with the basketball. This kid knows how to play the game. This kid will be a star in Conference USA.

John Hart has also been very impressive. The thing I like best about him is his attitude. His playing time has been limited this season behind guys like Castro, Rouse and Moussa, but it seems he never complains. He just goes into the game and does his job.

Josh King is the smartest player of all the freshmen. I have not seen him take a bad shot all season. Even though he is the best shooter on the team and arguably the best in the history of ECU, he does not force shots. So many times freshmen with his kind of talent will force shots, but

he refuses to take a bad shot.

Marvin Kilgore has improved tremendously this season. I feared he might be a little flashy at times, but that has stopped. He has come in when JaPhet needed a breather for five and six minutes at a time and has proven to be a worthy backup.

The Bad

The free throw shooting has been atrocious. Numbers do not lie - 61.9 percent from the free throw line on the year, 467 free throw attempts, 178 misses. That is 178 scoring chances ECU has had that were not converted. While no one is going to be perfect from the charity stripe, which has not exactly been generous to ECU, 61.9 percent is horrible.

When NC State was blowing out ECU earlier in the season, missing five free throws instead of two, really isn't going to make a difference. It's the close games where it kills you as a team.

On the season, ECU is averaging losing by just six points. If

you crunch some numbers and say the Pirates shoot 75 percent from the line on the season, that six point margin changes very quickly.

Instead of going 289 - 467 from the line, with 75 percent, that stat goes up to roughly 350 - 467.

That simple change adds 61 more points on the scoreboard for the Pirates for the season, or about three a game.

When you look at games like the overtime loss at Western Carolina, those three free throws would have come in handy. One could argue ECU would have won three more games with 75 percent free throw shooting (Western Carolina, South Carolina [lost by four] and South Florida [lost by one]).

If a game is close and we need someone to knock down free throws, I want Cook or King on the line. Cook has proved he is the most clutch free throw

see BASKETBALL page A8

Waskiewicz Diet Diary: Part II

My motivation is up, but will my weight go down?

DAVID WASKIEWICZ
SENIOR WRITER

My first experience with personal training at the student recreation center was over. The next few days I found myself in pain, mainly in my abs and legs. I was somewhat frustrated with the pain but I knew the soreness just meant muscles were forming.

The one thing that just kept on going through my head was my weight - 271 pounds. I still could not get over how much I have gained since my freshman year. It kind of made me depressed thinking about how much weight I needed to lose in order to get back into shape. At least I had a goal to work toward.

Finally, my next day of personal training had arrived. I still had no idea what to expect since it was my first day actually getting into the activities. Leslie Warren, my personal trainer, met me in front of the juice bar at the SRC. She explained to me what was in store for the day.

It turned out I had in store a little bit of everything. We headed upstairs to the fitness room and I got started.

The first thing that I did was jump on the treadmill and began walking. I set the speed for 2.7 - I started out low since I had little experience with the treadmill. Little did I know after the day was over I would be better acquainted with the machine.

After 30 seconds, Warren told me to bump up the speed so I could jog for another minute. I really didn't bump the speed up too much, only to 4.5 because I was still cautious about the treadmill, I just didn't trust it. I had a bad experience with one in the past when I fell off and almost broke my leg in two places.

After the treadmill we moved on to the dumbbell press, the only catch this time was that it was on a workout ball. I experienced the ball before many of times but not while doing the dumbbell presses. It was a little difficult at first to stay on the ball, but I soon got the hang of it. I did one set of 12 and then asked Warren how many she wanted me to do for the second. I then heard one of her personal phrases that she repeated throughout the day, "Muscles don't know numbers," she said. She was basically

see DIET page A8

Pirates prevail against UNC Wilmington



The men's team finished 8-1 for the season while the women ended the year at 7-1. The men's only loss came at the hands of Chapel Hill Jan. 26.

ECU swim teams round out seasons with wins

DAVID WASKIEWICZ
STAFF WRITER

The ECU swim teams were eager to get back to winning last weekend as they faced in-state rival UNC Wilmington in the last meet of the regular season. The ECU men and women's team were both coming off a loss to Chapel Hill so a win against UNC Wilmington would prove to be crucial to gain momentum heading into the Conference USA Championships and Invitational.

Records were broken in

the 133-108 victory over the Seahawks. Freshman Christie Icenhower had a score of 296.10 in the three-meter diving event. The score was enough to set the ECU school record.

In the women's 1,000 free-style freshman Megan Pulaski broke her personal best record coming in at 10:13.22. Pulaski also captured a win in the 500-freestyle coming in at 5:03.72.

The men's team finished strong as senior Casey Cronin placed first in both the 200 IM and the 200 backstroke with times of 1:54.10 and 2:07.56 respectively. The 400-relay team, which consisted of Cronin, Josh Barthlow, Matt Donohue and Kelly Hendrick, also placed first

with the time of 3:24.52.

ECU Head Coach Rick Kobe was excited about the team's win.

"This was a huge meet for our swimmers and we really swam well today in front of a sell-out crowd," said Kobe in an interview with SID.

"This was a great way to finish out the regular season by beating our in-state rival."

The Pirates' next stop is Houston Feb. 23-26. The women's team will compete in the C-USA Championship while the men will take part in the C-USA Invitational.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Top 15 D-1 Mid-Major Poll (Men)

- 1) SW Missouri St.
- 2) Eastern Michigan
- 3) Southern Illinois
- 4) Princeton
- 5) UC-Irvine
- 6) Navy
- 7) TCU
- 8) UMBC
- 9) Western Kentucky
- 10) UL-Monro
- 11) ECU
- 12) Ball State
- 13) St. Bonaventure
- 14) Denver University
- 15) George Mason

Top 15 D-1 Mid-Major Poll (Women)

- 1) UC-Irvine
- 2) Miami University
- 3) TCU
- 4) Richmond
- 5) ECU
- 6) SW Missouri St.
- 7) Oakland
- 8) Navy
- 9) Eastern Michigan
- 10) Denver University
- 11) Southern Illinois
- 12) Houston
- 13) New Hampshire
- 14) Ball State
- 15) Western Kentucky

Duke's Redick putting it all on the line

(KRT) DURHAM, NC — Sunrises and sunsets are automatic.

J.J. Redick isn't a force of nature. But, when he's standing at a free-throw line, he is to college basketball shooters what Pavarotti is to tenors.

Redick, a junior at Duke, is averaging 22.8 points per game for the fourth-ranked Blue Devils and is shooting 42.4 percent on 3-pointers. Opposing coaches and defenders grudgingly admit he's the college game's best shooter.

Redick has expanded his game to include more drives to the basket, which makes him harder to guard and accounts for his scoring increase. (He averaged 15.9 points per game last season.) But, when the action stops and Redick steps to the line, the drama isn't about if he'll make a free throw; it's about whether he'll miss.

Redick leads Division I in free-throw accuracy this season. He has made 93.2 percent, going 110 of 118. In 89 career games, Redick has missed 24 free throws. His 93.6 career percentage is on

pace to surpass the 91.3 percent made by Villanova's Gary Buchanan, who holds the NCAA Division I men's career record.

"To me, a slump is missing one," said Redick, who scored 26 points and made all six of his free throws in the Blue Devils' 82-65 victory over Georgia Tech on Saturday. "I've made 10 of 11 in a game and been mad. If I thought back, I think I can remember 95 percent of the ones I've missed."

Redick's accuracy has turned his missed free throws into Ripley's Believe It Or Not moments. A week ago against Virginia Tech, he was seven of 10 from the line the first time in his Duke career that he missed more than one free throw in a game.

The Cameron Crazies were as mystified as Redick. It couldn't have been Redick's fault that he missed "three" from the line. It had to be something else, like an equipment malfunction. The Crazies chanted "Fix the rim."

"It's the easiest shot in basketball. It's just you, the ball and

the basket," said Ahearn, who is making 92.8 percent from the line this season, but doesn't have enough attempts to qualify for the NCAA stat leaders. "Nobody's guarding you. I go to the line expecting to make it every time, but there are guys who step up there and have no idea where it's going."

It's the only time in a major team sport where a player can score without being defended. It's a 15-foot shot at a 10-foot basket.

Teams that struggle shooting free throws are like pitching staffs that allow walks.

"The lack of practice is something that affects most players," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "Around the country, it's a concern for coaches and there's concern on our team. We're down to (65.8) percent and that's not good at all."

Harvard's 1984 team holds the Division I single-season record, shooting 82.2 percent from the line. Since the NCAA started keeping track of statistics in 1948, the teams in Division I

have never combined to make 70 percent of their free throws in a season. The best season percentage was 69.7 in 1979.

"Each gym, there's a little hole in the floor at the free-throw line," Redick said. "It's right in the middle to help players get square to the basket. I put my right foot six inches to the right of that so that my body is completely squared up to the basket."

"When I get to the line, saying Philipians 4:13 ('I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me') helps my concentration. Right before I release the ball, I say 'buckets.' That sort of helps me clear my mind."

"I've shot hundreds of thousands of free throws so, from there, it's just instinct."

"In between shooting jumpers, I tell myself I'm gonna shoot 10, shoot five (free throws). When I'm done and try to make 20 or 30 free throws, until I feel good."

"And I always leave on a make."

Basketball from page A7

shooter on the team. Against Charlotte, he was put on the line up a point with five seconds left and he knocked down both of them.

King is a perfect 8-8 on the year from the free throw line. His 100 percent obviously leads the team.

The Ugly

If there is one thing I don't like about Bill Herriion, it's his road winning percentage. In the last four years, his Pirates have

only won seven road games, just two of them coming in the C-USA (not including neutral courts).

At one point last season, I thought maybe the road woes were over. We pulled out road victories at Middle Tennessee State, at Radford, at Old Dominion and at Virginia Tech. The win against the Hokies was the last road win for the Pirates — and that was over a year ago.

I really don't know if the guys

just aren't being pumped up on the road or what. I know playing in Minges is a great lift for the guys and I know they miss that on the road, but the last time I checked, the basket is still 10 feet high at every gym in the country.

So there it is — the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The positives include the development of our young players for next year and they'll hopefully learn as the season goes on that they must close games out.

Hopefully losses like these will teach them something but the bad and ugly come into to play in how and where they lose these games. Free throw shooting must improve or this team will never be successful and they absolutely have to start winning on the road. The NIT and NCAA tourney are mere fantasies if you can't win away from home court.

The writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Diet from page A7

telling me to keep on going until I couldn't do anymore.

Much to my surprise after the dumbbell press, it was time to go back on the treadmill. It was called interval training. I did an activity then I jumped back onto the treadmill for another minute or two. This pattern went on throughout the day until my legs felt like slush.

My arms were also getting tired as I kept on lifting weights with the dumbbells. The set of dips that I did afterward did not

help my arms any either.

I finished out my workout with abdominal crunches on the workout ball. Even though my stomach was a little sore I was able to do a decent amount before I rolled off the ball defeated. My abs ached as I helped myself off the ground.

It was now time to see if I had made any improvements over the week with my weight and arm strength. I stepped on the scale hoping that my weight went down over the week. When the weight came up I was a little

relieved. The scale read 269.7. My emotions were kind of mixed. I was kind of hoping that I would have gone down more than 1.3 pounds in a week but Warren insisted that it was not healthy to lose more than two or three pounds in a week so she was satisfied with my loss.

I then moved on to my arm strength test, doing as many pushups as possible. After the arm workout earlier in the day I was kind of disappointed that I was not able to do more than 13 pushups. I left the personal train-

ing that week with my weight still on my mind. Sure, Warren said that no more than two or three pounds of weight loss was healthy, but I kept on thinking to myself that it should be more. In the end I want to lose more than 50 pounds and 1.3 just did not seem like a powerful number to me. I guess as I continue with the personal training program my numbers will continue to go down — hey, progress is progress.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Sunday, February 13, Coastal Federal Field

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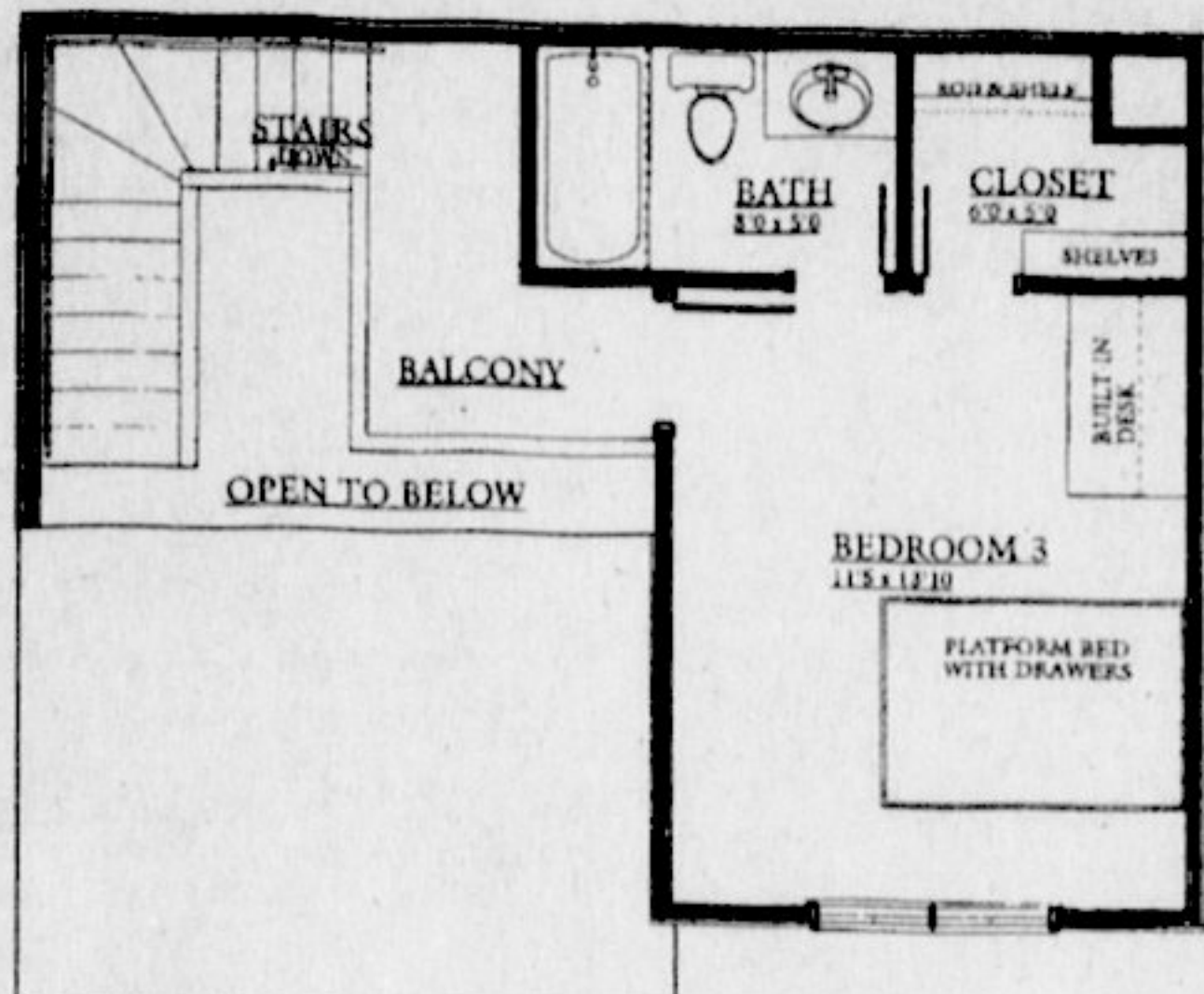
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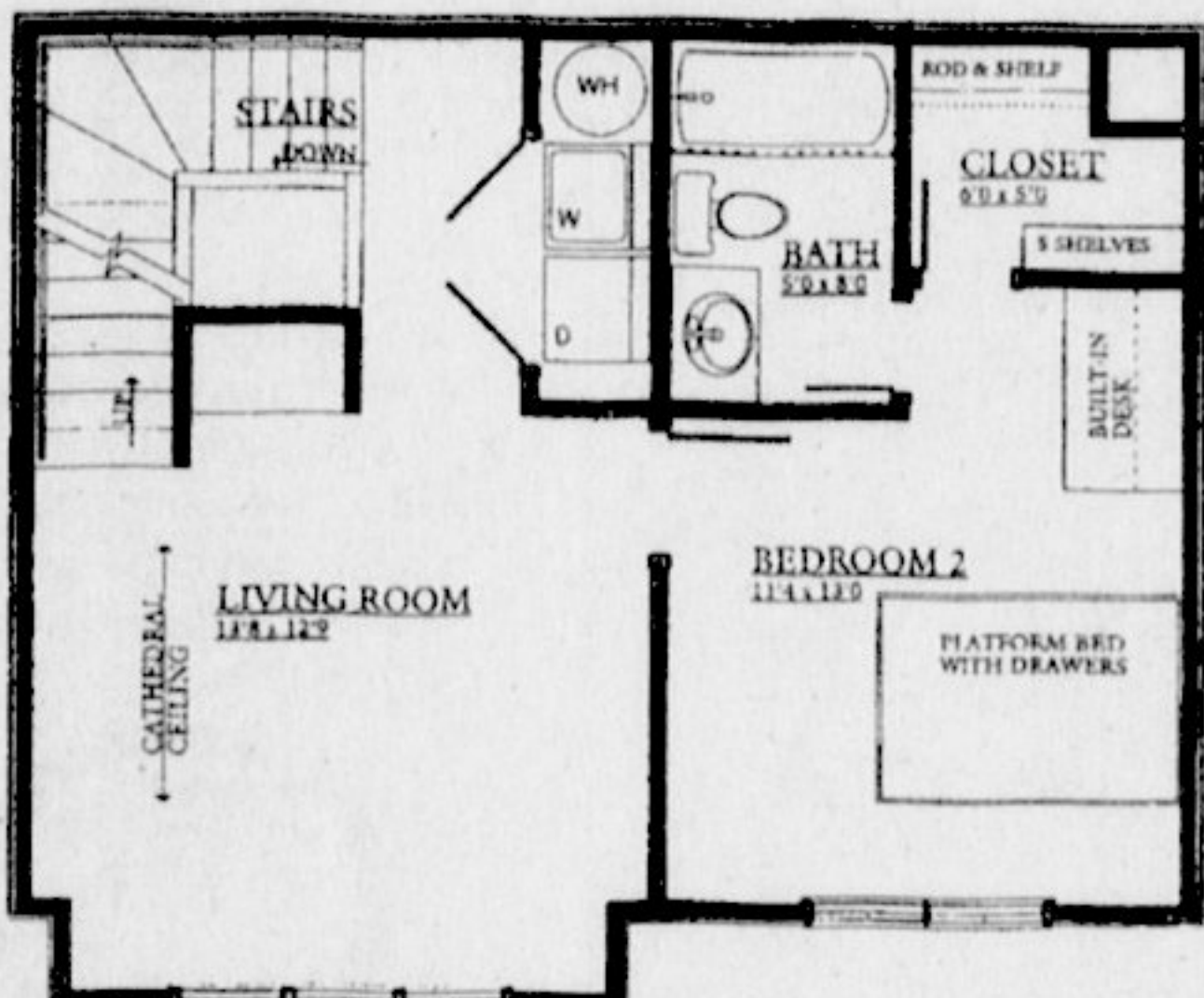
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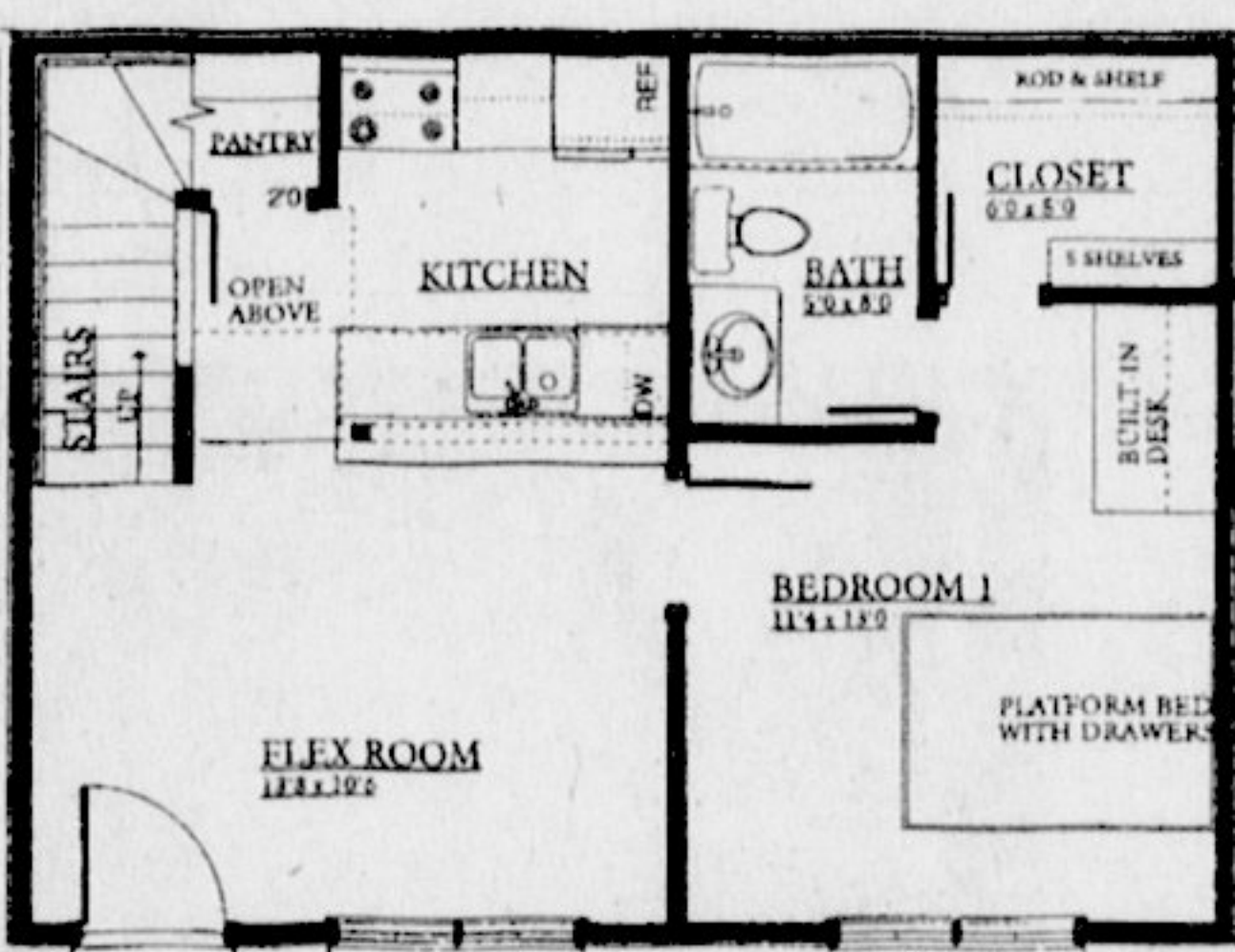
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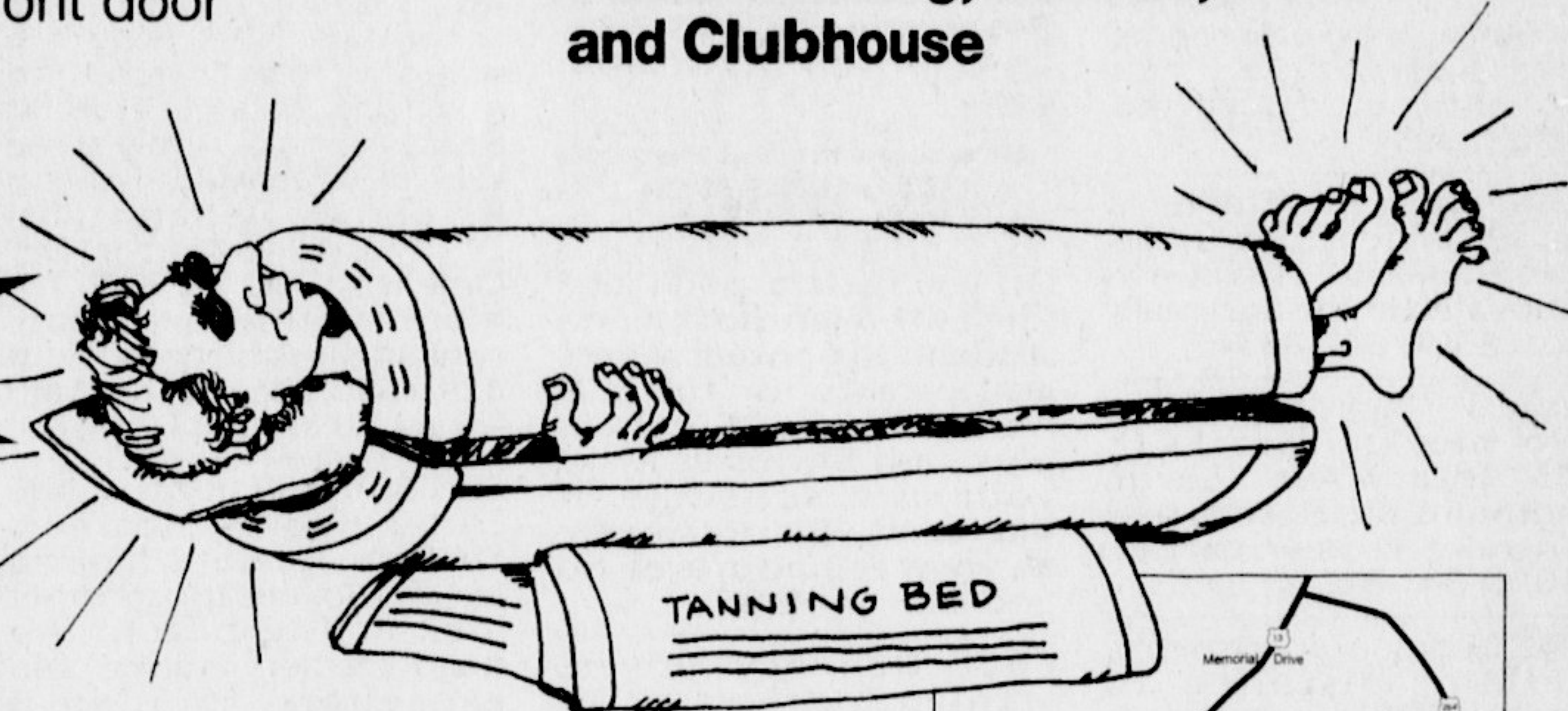
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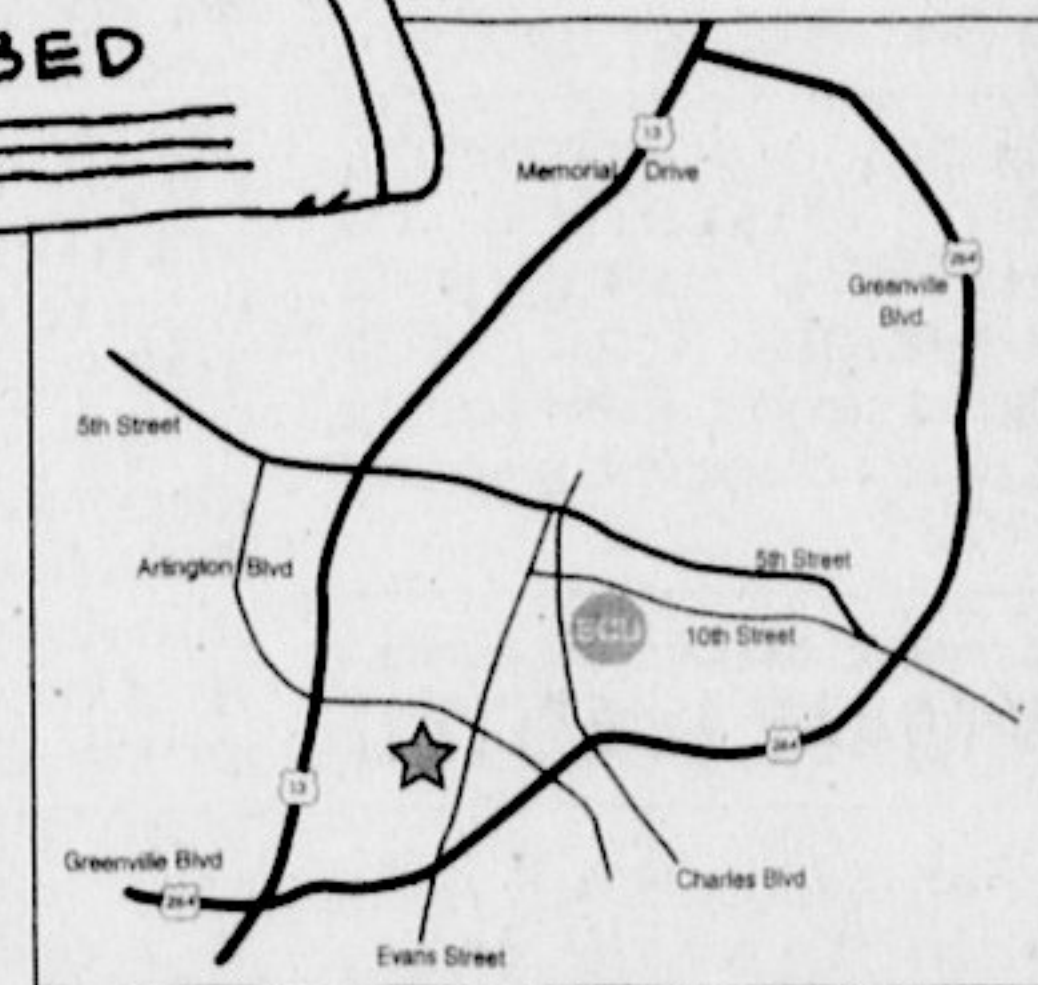
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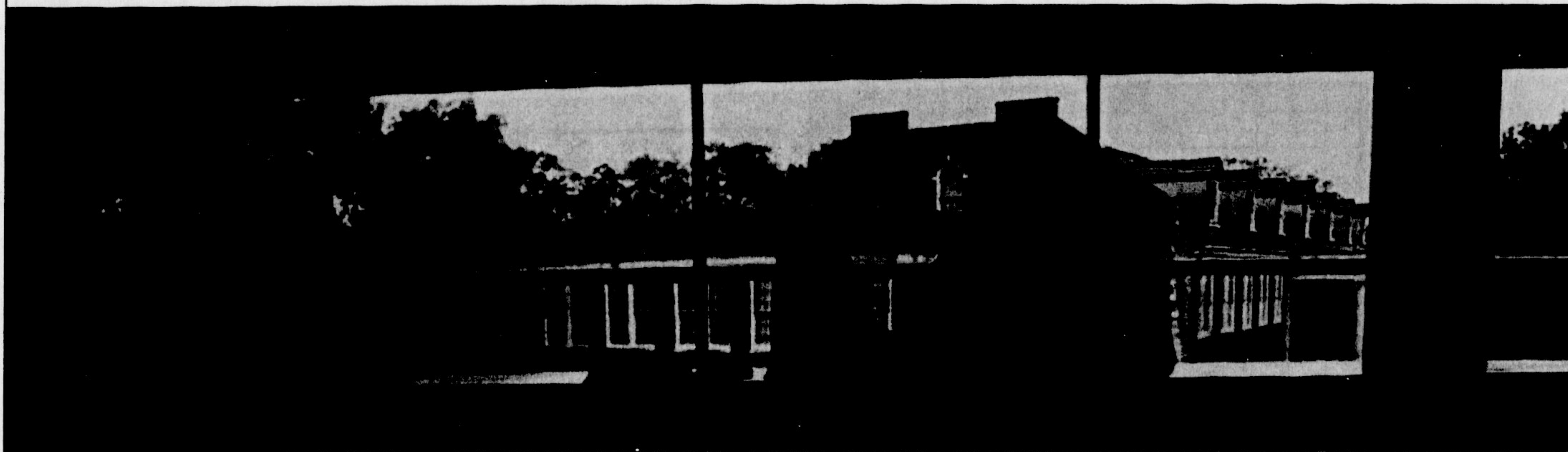
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