



See section B for
conference
tournament coverage

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WEDNESDAY

March 9, 2005

ECU researchers examine New Zealand's continental slope

Group hopes to gain
knowledge of risks

MICHAEL HARRINGTON
SENIOR WRITER

A professor and two graduate students from ECU were on a team of researchers studying dispersal of sediment and associated materials in New Zealand to gain insight into how processes on land are recorded in the sea.

J.P. Walsh, assistant professor in the department of geology and coastal resources management, coordinated the research effort at ECU. Walsh was joined by ECU graduate students Ben Summers and Michael Dail.

The research tracked the dispersal of sediment and associated materials from the Waipaoa River into the surrounding ocean and noted how processes of the earth like floods, storms and volcanic eruptions make a record in the seafloor.

This river was chosen because there is a mountainous area next to where the river meets the sea, allowing materials to quickly make their way to sea.

Walsh said another goal of the project was to educate the public about oceanographic research and to provide the graduate students like Summers and Dail the chance to participate in fieldwork, improve research skills and develop as scientists.

"Since most communities throughout the world are located within a commutable distance to the coast, it is important for people to be aware of the processes that can impact these areas and about efforts being made to



Contributed photo

understand them," said Walsh. A Web site developed by Troy Thompson, computer science major, contains the research and is available to the public.

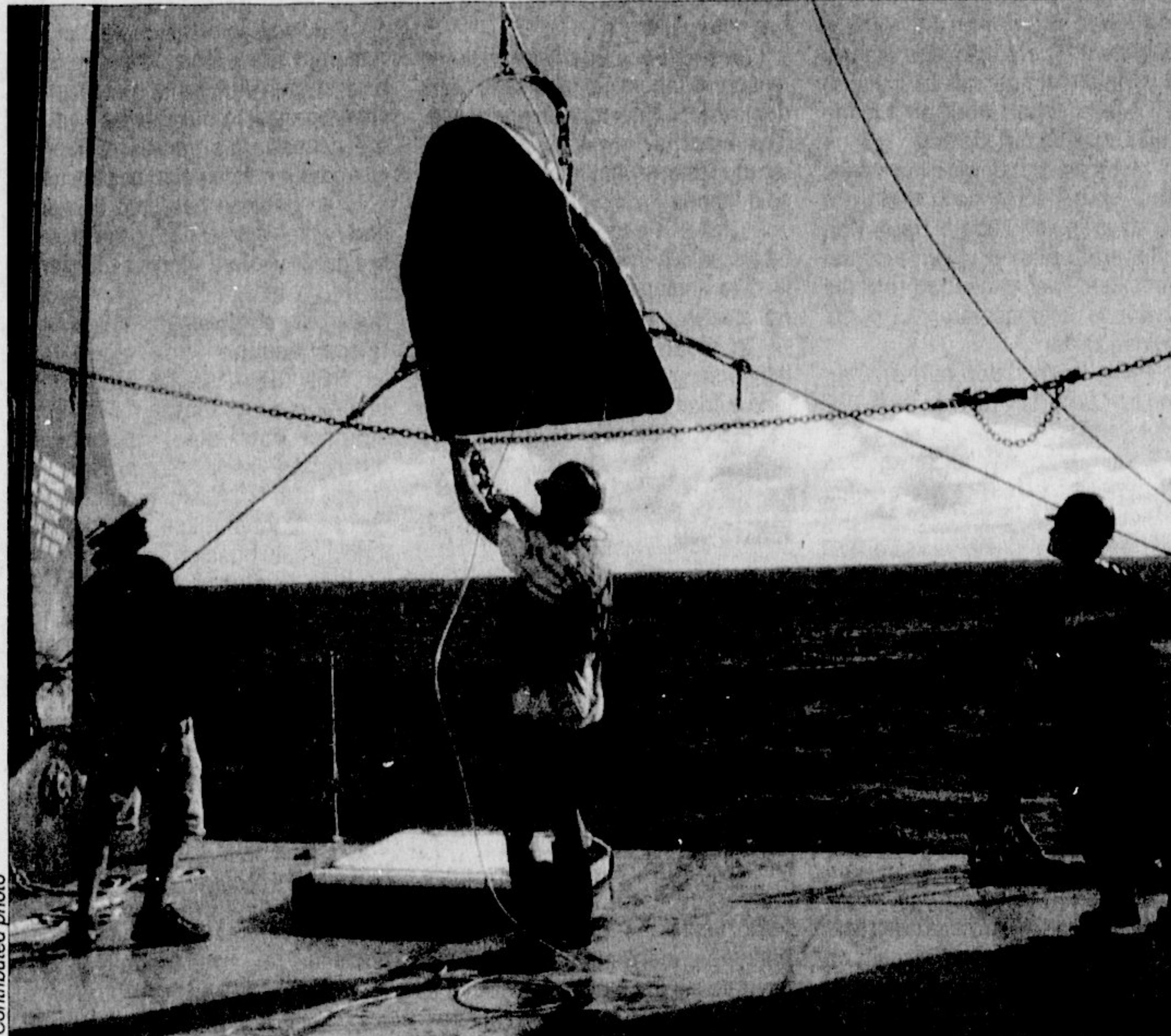
The team used the R/V Kilo Moana catamaran vessel, operated by the University of Hawaii, and an instrument known as a box core to sample sediments on the seafloor. The box core sampled sediments as far as 2,000 meters underwater.

Before the effort, researchers hypothesized that in certain places of the world materials are cascading deep to the ocean floor. Walsh said while the group is still reviewing the data they collected, preliminary evidence suggests they were correct.

"Core and geophysical data indicate modern sediment and associated materials are being carried across and off the continental shelf and onto the continental slope," Walsh said.

Summers and Dail assisted in coring and geophysical data collection, sub-sampling efforts and planning and data integration.

Walsh said the research is a part of a larger effort to examine processes shaping the region of the earth where land meets sea, known as the continental



Ben Summers, ECU graduate student (left), resident technician (center), and J.P. Walsh, a principle investigator from ECU (right), work off the coast of New Zealand.

margin, and is unique because of its approach.

"Rather than scientists working at a multitude of sites ... several teams investigate from mountain top to ocean floor, two selected river dispersal systems," Walsh said.

Other members of the research team were scientists

and students from Skidway Institute of Oceanography, the Geological Survey of Canada, the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research and a few universities in New Zealand.

The opportunity to research was given after the National Science Foundation chose this

project among others during a competitive grant proposal opportunity.

Walsh said the proposal was viewed by several anonymous scientists and then selected from a pool of others.

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

Students surveyed on academic enrichment

Past studies show consistency with national average

KRISTIN DAY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

ECU's Department of Institutional Planning, Research and Effectiveness is participating in a national survey to find out how students feel about the various aspects of learning at the university.

This is the third year ECU has participated in the survey, which is developed around previous research done by the National Survey of Student Engagement. The study assesses how undergraduate students are involved in educational processes and compares results with hundreds of colleges and universities across America. ECU receives results on all of these comparisons, focusing on similar universities.

"We tend to focus more on doctorate-intensive colleges," said Kris Smith, director of institutional research and testing.

The five basic areas of concern are the level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interactions, enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment. In 2004, ECU ranked about the same on the national level when compared to other doctorate-intensive universities in all five categories. Scores also remained similar between 2001 and 2004 even though a comparison is not very reliable because the test changed between those years.

The survey asks questions such as how much writing they do, if they have to do any class presentations, if they participate in service learning and how well they interact with university faculty and staff.

"Our students ... are less likely to write as much as other students, and more likely to have interactions with faculty," Smith said.

As with most universities, survey results last year showed freshmen are less involved, while seniors tend to be very involved. Seniors' interactions with the faculty was about the same as the national average last year even when compared to smaller schools.

"It also makes a difference ... the more students are engaged in the major, the more interaction they have with the faculty, the more demanding that course has become," Smith said.

One of ECU's best features according to past survey results is the supportive campus environment.

"Students, even though we're a large campus really perceive that they get individual attention," Smith said.

"I think that's something we will continue to focus on."

ECU's scoring was lower in some academic areas.

"We can enhance the academic challenge for students," Smith said.

Smith said just because ECU scores below some schools in other areas does not mean the university is lacking in something. They have to focus on what they want to accomplish and that certain aspect just might not be part of the plan.

"It's working at what makes sense for our campus and our students," Smith said.

NSSE distributes the surveys to a sample from ECU's freshmen and seniors. This year, the survey company chose 2,000 students from both classes. Not as many students as Smith would like actually participate.

"We would really like to see a lot more. The response rate last time was under 30 percent," Smith said.

"We would really like to encourage students to respond. This is information that the university uses to enhance the learning environment."

Five reminders to take the survey, one which has already

see SURVEY page A2

ECU police raise money for Special Olympics athletes



A volunteer at last year's Special Olympics basketball tournament works with athletes during practice.

Officers plan to run torch,
work at Krispy Kreme

KRISTIN DAY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The ECU Police Department is holding fundraisers and will participate in the torch run for the Special Olympics of North Carolina.

Senior Officer Tim Dixon of the ECU police said the department has been involved in the charity for at least five years. In the past, they sold T-shirts and hats provided by SONC, but when Dixon joined the force, he wanted to do more.

"They allow me to come up with the ideas as long as they're approved, like the Harley Davidson last year, and this year I said I wanted to make it bigger," said Dixon.

"More events, more things that we can do, get more people involved ... something that appeals to the community."

Last year, they gave away the Harley Davidson motorcycle during a raffle, but this year they will give away even larger winnings. Prizes include a three-seater jet ski, a Honda

Special Olympics Aid

The ECU Police Department is selling T-shirts for \$13 and hats for \$15 or you can purchase both for \$25 at the Blount House.

Volunteers for the basketball tournament March 18 - 20 are still needed. For more information please contact Nance Mize in Recreational Services at mize@ecu.edu 328-1574, or Rita Roy with Community Schools and Recreation at 830-4216/4217.

To get more information about upcoming Special Olympics events and how you can help, visit sonc.net.

Metropolitan scooter from Ron Ayers Motor Sports on Memorial Drive and various things from Best Buy, Circuit City, Wal-Mart, Greenville TV and Appliances, Target, Texas Steakhouse and possibly Overton's.

The department hopes to begin selling the \$5 raffle tickets this week and the winners will be announced July 25. Dixon said the winners do not have to be present to accept their reward,

but no one can take home more than two prizes.

Officers will be working at local businesses in order to collect donations.

On Thursday, they will be helping waitresses and picking up tips at Texas Steakhouse for "Tip-A-Cop" from 5 - 8:30 p.m.

They will also participate in "Cops on Doughnut Shops" April 2, a nationwide event where some officers work as cashiers in local doughnut shops while others stand on top of the building to raise money.

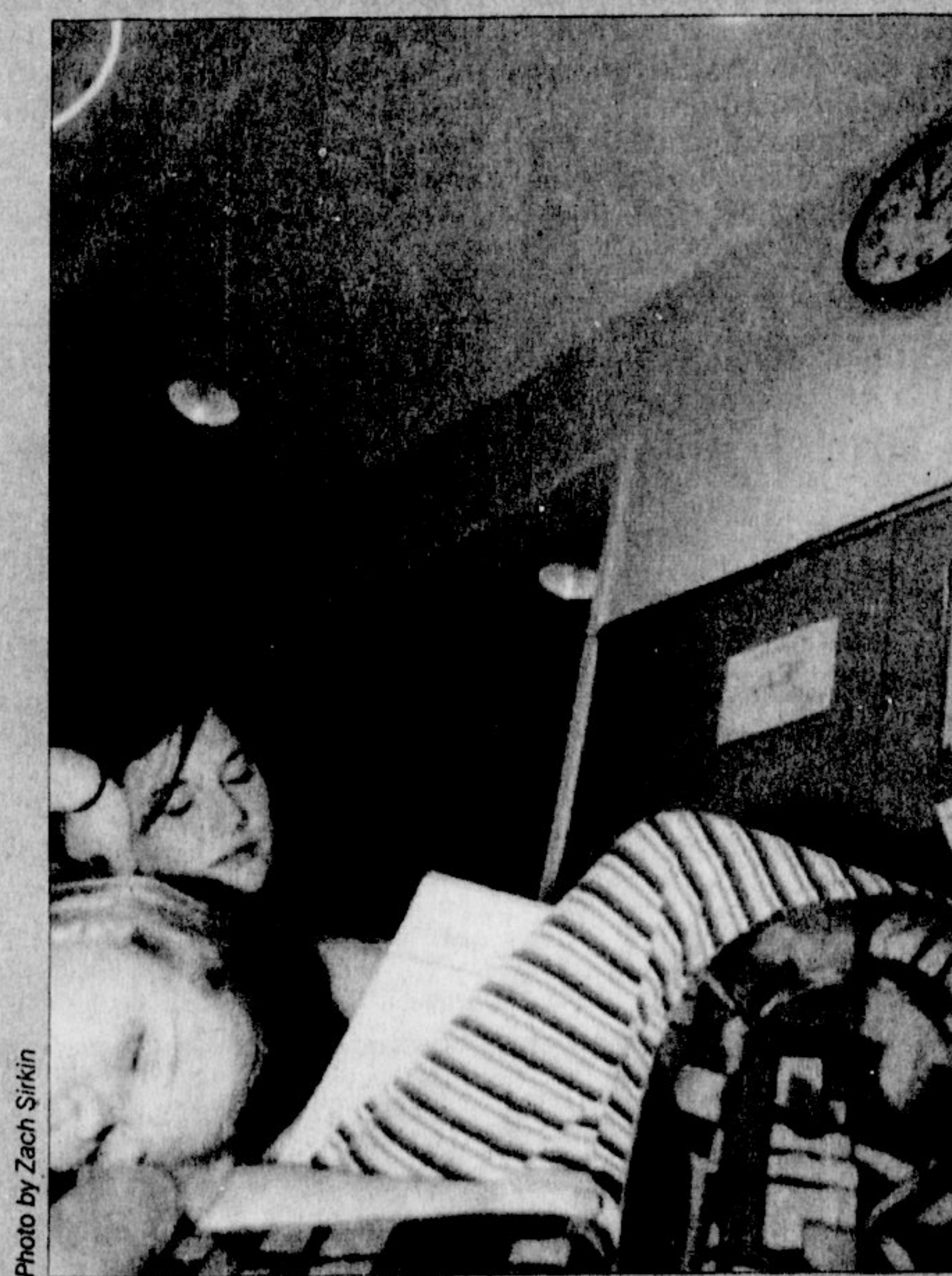
"Me and hopefully some more officers are going to get on top of Krispy Kreme for the day and ask for donations," Dixon said.

Dixon said he is talking with the athletic department in hopes of getting an appearance from PeeDee the Pirate and maybe some ECU football players and cheerleaders. He is also hoping to get a radio station to cover the event.

June 11, the ECU Police Department is scheduled to host Dyno Shoot Out, a motorcycle horsepower contest at Ron Ayers

see OLYMPICS page A3

Junior class seeks extended hours for Joyner Library



Extended hours would make the library available to students for late night studying.

Twenty-four hour
operations under
discussion

A.J. WALTON
STAFF WRITER

ECU students might soon see different operating hours on the doors of Joyner Library if the junior class president and vice-president's plan comes to pass.

Currently, Joyner operates Sunday 11 - 2 a.m., Monday - Thursday 7:30 - 2 a.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Under the proposal, Joyner would function on a 24/5 hourly basis - Sunday through Thursday, the library will be open for 24 hours a day and on Friday and Saturday

the operating hours will be extended.

Meaghan Smith, junior class president, and Heather Dickson, junior class vice-president, are hoping that with hard work and cooperation with Joyner and the student body, this goal will be made into reality.

Smith chose to take on this project because of expressed student concern and her desire to increase academic opportunities at ECU.

"ECU is trying to better its academic standards for incoming freshmen, but we can also set higher standards for present students as well," said Smith.

"If the administration

see JOYNER page A3

Announcements

Correction

TEC needs to make a correction to the article in March 8's edition titled, "Students create new TV program." The newest episode of the show will air throughout the day starting later this week. Each episode usually runs for 3 - 4 weeks, along with Campus Living's own programming. The show will be airing on Campus 31, ECU's "unofficial" campus station. Campus 31 can be found on channel 31, only on campus.

Social Work Fundraiser

Students with the social work department are hosting a fundraiser on behalf of the Little Willie Center, located on Martin Luther King Drive. They will be holding a raffle this week and plan to have a table set up in Wright Place and Mendenhall March 9. Raffle prizes include a \$100 Food Lion gift certificate, \$75 cash and a \$50 gas card. Their goal is to raise \$1,500. For more information, please call Yolanda Burwell at 328-4201.

Senior Award Deadline

The deadline to turn in application packets for the Outstanding Senior Award for Undergraduate Students is March 9 at 5 p.m. Please have all your information turned in to Brenda Woolard in 2201 Bate building by this time.

AA Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings will be held every Wednesday at noon in 242 Mendenhall Student Center and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in 14 MSC. For more information, call 760-500-8918.

Robert Morgan Reading

Visiting writer and Distinguished Whichard Chair in Humanities Robert Morgan, who also authored numerous volumes of fiction and poetry, will read from his work March 9 at 7:30 p.m. in 1028 Bate. The event is free and open to the public and a reception follows.

National Symphony Orchestra

Emil de Cou will conduct this concert March 10 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. The concert will include Haydn's *Symphony No. 94*, a *Surprise Symphony*, Friedman's *The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations Millennium General Assembly* and Dvorak's *Symphony No. 7*. Tickets are \$10 - 35 and the event is presented by the office of cultural outreach and S. Rudolph Performing Arts Series. For more information, call 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Contra Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a contra dance Saturday, March 12 in the Willis Building at First and Reade streets downtown. A Pot Luck dinner will be at 6 p.m., a concert at 7 p.m., beginners' lessons at 7:30 p.m. and the contra dance from 8 - 10:30 p.m. Live, old-time and Celtic music will be performed by a string band. Admission for students is \$3, \$5 for FASG members and \$8 for the general public. Please call 752-7350 for more information.

Application Deadline

March 15 is the application deadline for anyone interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Services. Applications can be ordered online at ecu.edu/rehb or from the department of rehabilitation studies in 312 Belk building. Please contact Dr. Martha Chapin at 328-4424 for any questions regarding the degree.

Campus Living Second Chance

Campus Living is having its Second-Chance Sign-Up March 21 - 23 and 28 - 30. This will be the last opportunity for students to sign up through OneStop.

Last Samurai History Lecture

The department of history and Asian Studies program is holding a lecture on the Last Samurai in history and popular culture. Mark Revina, professor in history and author, has written a book entitled *The Last Samurai: The Life and Battles of Saigo Takamori*, will discuss the interpretation of the movie March 22 at 7 p.m. in room Oc307 in the Science and Technology Building. A showing of the movie will be at 9 p.m.

News Briefs

Local

Navy deploys NC civilians to repair aircraft

HAVELOCK, NC - The Navy has sent its first large deployment of civilian employees from the Naval Air Depot to Iraq this month to maintain Marine aircraft squadrons in the desert. The 15 employees were sent March 5-6 in transport aircraft along with more than 61 tons of equipment. The employees will set up a maintenance unit to perform depot-level repair work on Marine H-46 and H-53 helicopters.

Members of the initial all-volunteer group are scheduled to spend up to 179 days in the Middle East, with replacements and supplemental teams sent over as needed until the mission is no longer required by the Marine Corps.

Prior to this deployment, an average of four to six NADEP employees were in Iraq at any given time, said depot official Randy Gay. The depot is located at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

The civilians' primary mission will include battle-damage repair and basic service repair, including repair of the aircraft's surface skin, clean up and airframe corrosion repair.

"They will add a very good service to the fleet," says Maj. Allen L. Gilbert, the depot's H-46 Programs officer. "These are artisans with multiple trades who can take care of many things while they are there working as a team with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing." Gilbert said the mission isn't risk-free, but the team will be located on a secure air base.

Family posts reward for missing teen, grandmother

KINSTON, NC - The family of a missing teen and grandmother hope

a \$10,000 reward will entice the public to come forward with information leading to their whereabouts.

Gail Haddock-Dail, 59, and Heather Roberts, 15, were last seen three months ago when they were leaving a motel to visit family in Virginia.

A joint investigation by local and state authorities hasn't produced any major breaks in the case, but Belinda Grubbs, Haddock-Dail's daughter, said someone out there has information.

"We hope somebody, for whatever reason, withholding information will decide to come forward and give whatever they know and collect a reward if that's what it takes," Grubbs said Monday.

Kinston Police investigator E.T. Lewis said sometimes rewards do lead to finding missing people, but not always.

In order to collect the reward, the person or persons would have to lead authorities directly to the missing pair. The family, who used their own money, set a deadline of March 31.

National

Brother of Michael Jackson accuses molestations

SANTA MARIA, Calif. - The 14-year-old brother of Michael Jackson's accuser described the molestation allegations against the singer for the first time, saying he saw Jackson touching his brother as the boy slept on the singer's bed.

He said that he twice saw Jackson masturbating with one hand while the other was in his brother's underwear. He did not state the dates of the incidents, which the prosecution says followed a February 2003 TV documentary in which Jackson appeared with the boy at his Neverland ranch.

"I didn't know what to do,"

the witness said, adding that he watched both incidents for a few seconds before going to a guest room. Speaking calmly, directly and unemotionally, the boy said the alleged molestations occurred two days apart.

The defense says the allegations are a fiction created by the children's mother in an attempt to extort money from the popstar. The accuser's brother faced more questioning Tuesday.

The boy said the molestations occurred sometime after Jackson had shown him and his brother sexually explicit magazines kept in a suitcase in his bedroom. "We all looked at them one at a time," he said.

The defense has said Jackson had "girlie" magazines in his house but never showed them to children.

University president's resignation raises question

DENVER - At the University of Colorado, a football recruiting scandal won't die. A professor's essay has likened some Sept. 11 victims to the Nazi who organized the Holocaust. And a fight against state funding cuts goes on.

Add finding a new president to the list of challenges facing the university's Board of Regents. President Elizabeth Hoffman said Monday she would step down June 30 or when a successor is named.

"I've taken my future off the table so to some extent I can focus my attention on issues that face the university and not on my personal future," said Hoffman, who has been president for five years.

Hoffman said questions about her leadership have made it difficult to solve the university's problems, especially a football scandal that produced allegations of rapes, strip-club visits and alcohol-fueled sex parties for recruits.

Hoffman's resignation comes a

little more than a year after allegations in the football scandal emerged.

Officials said a search committee to find a new president would soon be created and observers inside and outside the four-campus system said there is no doubt there will be qualified candidates for the job.

International

China steps up pressure on Taiwan with anti-secession law

BEIJING - China unveiled a law Tuesday authorizing an attack if Taiwan moves toward formal independence, increasing pressure on the self-ruled island while warning other countries not to interfere. Taiwan denounced the legislation as a "blank check to invade" and announced war games aimed at repelling an attack.

The proposed anti-secession law, read out for the first time before the ceremonial National People's Congress, doesn't say what specific actions might invite a Chinese attack.

"If possibilities for a peaceful reunification should be completely exhausted, the state shall employ nonpeaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wang Zhaoguo, deputy chairman of the NPC's Standing Committee, told the nearly 3,000 legislators gathered in the Great Hall of the People.

Beijing claims Taiwan, split from China since 1949, as part of its territory. The communist mainland repeatedly has threatened to invade if Taiwan tries to make its independence permanent, and new law doesn't impose any new conditions or make new threats. But it lays out for the first time legal requirements for military action.

Taiwan's leaders warned that the move could backfire by angering the island's voting public.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, which handles the island's China policy, said the law gives China's military "a blank check to invade Taiwan" and "exposed the Chinese communists' attempt to use force to annex Taiwan and to be a regional power."

Foreign minister says killing of Italian agent was accident

ROME - Italy's foreign minister said Tuesday that American troops killed an Italian intelligence officer in Iraq by accident, but he disputed Washington's version of events, demanding a thorough U.S. investigation of the shooting and that "the culprits be punished."

Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini told parliament that the car carrying the intelligence officer and an ex-hostage to freedom was not speeding and was not ordered to stop by U.S. troops at a checkpoint, contrary to what U.S. officials say.

However, he also dismissed allegations that the Friday shooting that killed Nicola Calipari was an ambush - a claim made by the released hostage, journalist Giuliana Sgrena. "It was an accident," Fini told lawmakers. "This does not prevent, in fact it makes it a duty for the government to demand that light be shed on the murky issues, that responsibilities be pinpointed and, where found, that the culprits be punished."

Calipari was shot as the car carrying him and Sgrena, who had been kidnapped Feb. 4, headed to the Baghdad International Airport. Sgrena and another intelligence officer in the car were wounded.

The shooting outraged Italy and rekindled questions over its involvement in Iraq, where Premier Silvio Berlusconi sent 3,000 troops. But the government has made it clear it is not considering a withdrawal following Calipari's killing.

Dean invited to National Defense Conference

Conference discusses how defense works

SALMA KHAN
STAFF WRITER

Marilyn Sheerer, ECU's dean of the college of education, has been invited to attend the Defense Department's Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, a week long program held April 24 - May 1.

The goal of the conference is to work with local leaders and show them how the defense system of America works, giving a chance to bring new and innovative ideas that could help serve the local communities.

The conference schedule will be busy with the attendees being briefed by Defense Department

leaders such as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and other senior military and civilian officials.

The conference will also have the itinerary of flying to different areas in America that are vital to the security of the nation such as Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Texas and Colorado Springs.

"The program is meant to orient us with all the defense branches," said Sheerer.

The attendees will fly on military aircrafts, fire weapons, experience aircraft landings and launches and observe amphibious landings, urban area combat techniques, special operations assaults and other warfare demonstrations.

Sheerer was nominated by

D. Dunkin and Marines from Cherry Point.

"Dr. Sheerer exhibits as a leader a passion for learning new ideas and how things work. She plans to bring [what she learns] back to the campus and make it work for the ECU community and eastern Carolina," said Yokima Cureton, director of the college of education.

Sheerer is very excited to be a participant in the conference because she has the opportunity of coming with two different perspectives. First, being a member of the university that will help her find ways to suggest how ECU can respond to the military. The other is as the dean of education that will help integrate the military into education.

Sheerer works with Troops

with Teachers, a program that helps persuade and educate those leaving the armed forces to take up a job in education. She is a member of the NC Public School Forum and serves on the Statewide Advisory Boards for the School Leadership and the NC Partners in the Mathematics and Science. She serves on the Board of the NC Partnership for Excellence and is the vice president of the Renaissance Group Board of Governors as well.

As the first to attend from ECU, she hopes to address the complex educational needs of North Carolina's troops who comprise the third largest military community in the nation.

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

Survey from page A1

been sent to those who have not completed, will be e-mailed to students until they respond.

The department will receive some results from this year's survey in August, but they do not get the benchmark results, which show comparisons to other schools, until November.

Smith said ECU's administration is concerned about hearing what students think could be improved on campus and making it better.

"Chancellor Ballard is really interested in the survey and very supportive of using the data to make a difference," Smith said.

Smith does not think an enrollment increase will affect the university's standing. She has been here for 11 years and seen a growth from about 14,000 students to 23,000 with no change in how students feel about ECU.

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

Crime Scene

March 3

6:20 p.m.
Fighting/trespassing
A juvenile assaulted another juvenile after being permanently banned at Joyner Library.

8:35 p.m.

Simple assault - Physical
Two suspects assaulted a student on the fifth floor of Tyler Hall.

March 6

7:55 p.m.
Simple assault - Physical
Person hit victim in the face with a closed fist.

March 7

4:00 p.m.

False representation as cardholder
Unknown persons defrauded the victim of money through a financial card transaction.

Weekly Crime Tip

If you are assaulted by anyone, contact the police immediately. Call authorities via your cell phone following the incident or go to the nearest location with a telephone. Contacting officers after some period of time and waiting any wounds may adversely affect an investigation. Keep yourself protected by always traveling in groups and in well-lit areas.

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RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

Joyner from page A1

wants the students to excel, then having a 24-hour library will definitely help students and allow ECU to increase its standards."

Since Smith's election last semester, she has taken a seat on the Student Services Committee for Joyner Library and worked closely with Heather Dickson, a person whom Smith believes has a great deal of clout on the ECU campus.

According to Smith, if Joyner Library does extend its hours, there is potential for an increase in student fees. This remains uncertain at this time.

"In the history of ECU, Joyner [Library] has never requested any money from ECU and we're hoping that this will not affect student fees," Smith said.

According to Smith, Carroll Varner, the recently resigned director of Joyner Library, also hopes student fees will not be

affected.

Instead of student fees being used to fund the service, SGA would present Joyner Library with a one-time centennial gift in honor of its dedication and years of service to the ECU community.

Smith said if Joyner Library is willing to take on such a task and fit the new operating hours into its budget, then a centennial gift would only be appropriate.

"We're not talking about a lot of money," Smith said.

The lot of the cost would come from the hiring of two more part-time positions for security and minor renovations.

Recently, Smith posted a survey on Onestop that allows ECU students to express their feelings about the proposed hours of operation. Smith is expecting results from the survey by Friday. Before passing any

legislation, however, Smith wants to make sure that having Joyner on a 24/5 schedule will be possible.

"We want to make sure everyone is working in the right direction," Smith said.

"We want to reach the student body to make sure everyone wants this and if so, then we want it to go in affect by next semester."

Questions Smith believes must be answered are whether students would want the entire library to be open, including areas such as the North Carolina Collection and Reference section, 24 hours a day or just one-floor of the library.

Lambert Guinn, junior double major in sociology and art, believes the new proposal is a step in the right direction.

"I think it's a really good idea," said Guinn.

"First, it's easy to study at

Joyner Library Hours

Joyner's current hours are:
Sunday 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 2 a.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The new hours would be 24 hours on Sunday - Thursday.
Friday and Saturday operating hours would be extended.

the library and secondly, it'll cater to students with different schedules."

"I'm willing to sacrifice money for the greater good of my education," Guinn said.

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

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Olympics from page A1

Motor Sports. They plan to have bands at the event, including Someone's Sister.

The statewide torch run will be in May and will have participants from the ECU Police Department and the Greenville Police Department. The run will be across North Carolina and only police officers will carry the torch.

The SONC has events all year long. The major event for ECU is the upcoming basketball tournament March 18 - 20.

"The competition will include more than 1,000 athletes from more than 45 counties across

the state involved in individual skills, three on three or five on five team competitions," said Nance Mize, director for Recreational Services.

The ECU Police Department will be running a torch that Friday night during opening ceremonies in Minges Coliseum and competition will be from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon.

Mize said the 2005 SONC Basketball Tournament requires more than 400 volunteers who are needed for all activities. She encourages everybody to take

this opportunity to help out.

"I have had the opportunity to work with local and state games in four different states for over 30 years and there is not a more rewarding experience in working with young athletes," Mize said.

The Special Olympics sponsors international sporting events and in America, many law enforcements get involved. The money raised is used for intellectually disabled persons to receive athletic training for no cost. This also helps the athletes become more recognized and more productive in their com-

munity. Some North Carolinians were able to attend the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, which lasted until March 5.

"There's some North Carolina residents who were able to go to Japan to participate in the Special Olympics ... they were able to do that with all this money that we raised," Dixon said.

The Special Olympics is the biggest fundraiser for the ECU Police Department.

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

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Our View

Cheers and Jeers: Spring Break Edition

CHEERS

Spring Break, a time for students to kick off their shoes and celebrate a school-free week, is only a few days away.

JEERS

Students are often stressed out in these last few days while professors try to cram in midterms, papers and projects right before the break.

CHEERS

Some students will get to spend their Spring Break in warm locations such as Caribbean cruises or trips to Mexico.

JEERS

Most financially plagued students will spend their break working to make money.

CHEERS

The flailing airline industry gets a boost from college students who choose to fly on their break.

JEERS

Long lines, cancelled flights and lost luggage are among the many irritants of airline travel.

CHEERS

Cheers to ECU for allowing us an entire week to relax without the stress of classes and schoolwork.

JEERS

Jeers to returning to the stress of classes and schoolwork after having an entire week off.

TEC wishes everyone a safe and happy Spring Break. Remember, this is supposed to be a break – so push the schoolwork aside and just enjoy yourself. You deserve it.

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Serving ECU since 1925, TEC prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. TEC welcomes letters to the editor which are limited to 250 words (which may be edited for decency or brevity). We reserve the right to edit or reject letters and all letters must be signed and include a telephone number. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com or to The East Carolinian, Student Publications Building, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Call 252-328-6366 for more information. One copy of TEC is free, each additional copy is \$1.



Opinion Columnist

News on Middle East tensions is good

Democrats continue to stick feet in mouths

TONY MCKEE
CONSERVATIVE CORNER

Am I good or am I good?
I predicted that the Democrat party would disintegrate if they did not wake up and smell reality, but what is happening now is beyond even my wildest prognostications. The Democrat leadership is acting as if they actually want to destroy their party.

Before we get to that though, have you noticed what is going on in the world recently, specifically the Middle East and Afghanistan? Well, maybe not Afghanistan. There seems to be little or no news coming from there in recent months, and I have a very good idea why – the news is good.

The Afghanistan elections, like those in Iraq, went fine. The government is working, the infrastructure (schools, hospitals, utilities, etc) is being repaired/rebuilt after the Taliban destroyed it, the people are enjoying more freedom than many of them have ever known (especially women) and life is generally improving. Not a whole lot going on there that is "newsworthy" (i.e. bad for the President Bush) now.

The Middle East is much the same way actually. With the exception of some diehard fanatics who refuse to accept reality (sound familiar) and keep blowing themselves and innocent men, women and children to pieces, Iraq is doing great. As in Afghanistan, the infrastructures are being repaired better than were before. Women are enjoying freedom unheard of in their lifetimes, as well as no longer worrying about being raped on the whim of madmen. The Iraqis turned out in huge numbers to freely elect their new government and the vast majority of them are glad that the United States came in and overthrew the murderous regime of Saddam Hussein. What else?



Libya gave up weapons of mass destruction program. Yes, I know Libya is not part of the Middle East, per se, but it is close enough. Quit whining. Also, after many, many years of being nothing more than a Syrian puppet and staging ground for terrorists, Lebanon is finally seeing the dismantling of Syria's usurpation of their national identity. One of the greatest sponsors of worldwide terrorism, Syria, is being forced out.

Perhaps the most amazing development in the region is the peace that appears to be developing between the Israelis and Palestinians. Who would have thought it possible?

Isn't it strange that all the democracy and peace breaking out in the region are happening at the same moment in history? You shouldn't think so. All of this is happening because President Bush had the fortitude and courage to do what needed to be done. His simple act of determination, and his willingness to commit the resources, military and economic, of the greatest nation on Earth, has helped to free millions of people from the darkness and fear they were living in.

What is even more startling is that some in the liberal press, and some politicians, are beginning to acknowledge this.

Anyway, back to the Democrat lead-

ership and their self-destruction.

Senator Robert Byrd, ex-KKK member extraordinaire, has publicly compared the Bush administration to Hitler's Nazi Germany. Instead of being vilified for these comments, Democrats such as Ted Kennedy are supporting him.

Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid are both acting like they have lost their grip on reality. Some of what they have been spouting should qualify them for psychiatric therapy.

This weekend many Democrat leaders appeared on the news talk shows. Almost to a man (and woman) you could tell they were working off the same "talking points" sheet. We repeatedly heard that the Democrats would not work with the president until he withdrew his proposals. Then, and only then, would the Democrats join in the discussion on how to fix Social Security.

Huh? Aside from the fact they are not in control and need to work with the president, not dictate terms to him, I thought the Democrats said Social Security didn't need fixing.

Somehow, in the space of just a few short months, it appears they have realized there actually is a problem that needs to be fixed, including Ted Kennedy. Imagine that. The president was right. Again. Maybe they remembered what they said years ago, or maybe they started paying attention to the polls that a majority of African Americans, Hispanics and especially young people want the system fixed?

Don't you just hate it when reality bites you in the butt?

These are but a few examples of how the Democrats are self-destructing. They are starting to remind me of children throwing temper tantrums. It has gotten funny, in a way.

What isn't funny is the stubborn refusal of these people to behave civilly and admit reality is destroying what was once a great political party.

Hopefully they will wise up before the damage is irreparable.

In My Opinion

Jobs often give workers more than money

(KRT) — A few days ago my annual Social Security statement came in the mail, and for some reason I read it more carefully than usual.

Perhaps it's because I'll celebrate a birthday in a month, and each one takes me a big step closer to retirement age.

I saw something in this year's statement that I'd never noticed before, although a colleague assures me it has always been there. It was my entire earnings history, dating to the first job I had that paid into the Social Security system.

My mind flashed back to that summer after my freshman year in college.

Throughout high school I had done odd jobs, mostly mowing lawns on the weekend and occasionally helping out on a ranch.

With that full-time summer employment in 1966, however, I would make more money than I'd ever made in my life – a whopping \$913, enough for a full year of college tuition, room and board, with some left over for clothes, gas and other expenses.

When I think back, the managers at Gifford-Hill concrete company must have understood that they weren't just taking on another worker but were doing their part to help send a poor kid to college.

My main job was to wash the cement trucks as they came in each day. And although I was only making minimum wage (about \$1.25 an hour

then), I worked long hours and usually got paid overtime.

That's what was odd. The trucks generally didn't start returning to the yard until around 3:30 p.m., but I punched in every morning between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m.

There was little to do for much of the day, so the managers had me drive the sweeper around the yard or take inventory of expansion joints. They easily could have had me report at 3 p.m. and clock out around 7:30 p.m. after the last truck had been washed, gassed up and parked on the line.

I'm sure they were deliberately being generous and had discovered a way of putting extra money into the pockets of a struggling college student.

It was a good summer, not just because of the money, but because I had a chance to spend time daily with men who had never gone to college but who were excited for me that I was getting the opportunity to do so.

Every morning in the break room, as the drivers came in for their assignments and the laborers gathered for coffee and mapped out their day, I would listen to their jokes, their lies and their "woman problems" at the same time that they were encouraging me to "get that education, boy."

Thinking back on my early work experiences, including the first full year of employment after graduation at my hometown newspaper (the Fort Worth Star-Telegram), much of what I received was a lot more valuable than

the salary.

My Social Security statement shows that I made \$7,800 during my first year as a reporter. But the friends I made, the lessons I learned and the skills I honed during those 12 months were priceless.

I shall never forget the people who offered support throughout the years, but especially those who early on saw in me some things I didn't see in myself at the time.

Last year the family of one of the Gifford-Hill drivers who befriended me more than three decades ago was surprised when I showed up the night before his funeral.

The wife knew me, but his adult children had no idea that their father had played an important role in my life.

It was funny – and moving – that as I looked over my Social Security statement, I could pick practically any employment year and remember invaluable relationships that to this day mean a lot more than the money.

While the chart in the statement showing my estimated monthly income upon retirement is interesting and offers some financial assurances, I realize that real security lies not in the dollars that have been stored up in the system.

It is in those devoted family members and lasting friends who have stored up a lot of love for you over the years. That kind of security can't be bought.

Pirate Rant

To the guy who told that poor girl he likes only girls who have the guts to tell him to his face they like him, you are so conceited. But that's OK – you probably don't care about that. Besides, that girl in your psychology class probably deserves someone better.

I don't care what anybody else says ... Michael Jordan is better at basketball than he is at baseball.

Johnny Depp should have got the Best Actor Oscar.

I'm glad to see the A lot across 14th Street from Belk Hall is going to such good use. Without it, I wouldn't know what an empty parking lot looks like 24 hours a day.

To the person who thinks I show up drunk in class every day: I'm only drunk sometimes. Other days, I'm hung over and it's because I'm watching "Desperate Housewives," not "American Idol." Two snaps.

To all the people that don't live in Tar River but choose to park there to take the bus: You need to move your cars because it sucks that I pay my hard earned money to live there and can't even park in front of my apartment.

To the person who said, "keep your god out of my government." Sweetie, get over yourself. Without my God, who is also the one who created you, there would be none of "your" so-called government.

Why is it that when you give someone a little honk because they are too busy talking on their cell phone backing out into the middle of the street in front of you, they do not even try to get out of the way, honk back at you and chase you down all the way to campus only to embarrass themselves more by flailing their arms around and screaming obscenities out the window?

Has anyone else noticed how the majority of girls on this campus are mean and ruthless? Particularly the ones that write really mean rants about stealing another girl's man? Come on, ladies, can't we act a little more mature and less cheap?

One of the boards on a Kinston gas station stated, "If you are lost, the Bible will give you directions." So when I asked how to get to democracy, they said there is no such passage.

Who is Kyle Billings? He is hot.

To the poor people that are "forced" to walk behind someone that's smoking, and to the poor people that "have" to walk right next to or by smokers: No one "forces" you to "have" to walk near these people. Here's an idea, why don't you get away from the smoker instead of just whining about how you don't like walking near them. Nobody is forcing you to be near him or her.

To those that think I'm a crazy moron for bashing the new jungle: Yes I know trees take time to grow, but they won't be big and shady like the old ones until I'm long gone from here. No, I did not just sit around and play beer pong for the baseball game, I actually watched, heckled, socialized and had a great time.

The basketball and football teams lost, but they all get articles. ECU's swim team goes to its conference championship – where's the article? I don't mean a little quarter page, I want at least a half page or whole one like football got when they lost all the time. How about we celebrate the teams that are good instead of lamenting over how bad the bad teams have played?

Why must you always come to class late, and then disrupt me for 30 minutes trying to get the notes from the time you missed. Can I learn?

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.

Mendenhall

No movies this Spring Break.

Top 5s

Top 5 Movies:

1. Diary of a Mad Woman
2. Hitch
3. Constantine
4. Cursed
5. Man of the Hour

Top 5 DVD's:

1. Saw
2. Taxi
3. The Notebook
4. Shark Tale
5. Ray

Top 5 TV Shows:

1. "CSI: Miami"
2. "Lost"
3. "Without a Trace"
4. "Survivor: Palau"
5. "American Idol"

Top 5 CD's:

1. The Game
2. Green Day
3. Eminem
4. Lil Jon and East
5. John Legend

Top 5 Books:

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

Horoscopes:

Aries – You're a warrior, doesn't mean you're spiritual side. You're a miracle worker esp. about now.

Taurus – There's money to put away, old age secure. You invest in gifts of love, friends' good will, really fun.

Gemini – You may not take on more responsibility, the opportunity is money's not abundant, it's steady. Talk it over, partner before deciding, will have less of you.

Cancer – An undevelopment mess, schedule. Don't fly! Take the time to do, you'll save more time.

Leo – Conditions, devising methods, increase your work, homework and fun. Thinking about it co.

Virgo – A very imaginative person, attention now. Give request is not mad. Besides, with your own miracles could happen.

Libra – Immerse deeply as possible project. You don't know how to finish it. The Muses will assist.

Scorpio – Staying loved ones is your tonight. You'll find problems you didn't you had and it will be.

Sagittarius – Home definitely take top priority, not to let them get off, offer innovations. Make changes.

Capricorn – You'll be curious the more you subject. You may never, but that doesn't even joy is in the doing.

Aquarius – The more into your pockets. The jackpot? If you're working a system you by yourself. Work's in bonanza.

Pisces – You're very and yet, you'll encounter. For this one, it's help if you have faith. Hold your ground.

Spring Break

- Cursed
- Hitch
- Robots
- Because of Winn-Dixie
- Man of the House
- Constantine
- Million Dollar Baby
- Be Cool
- The Pacifier
- Diary of a Mad Black

Mendenhall Movies

No movies this week due to Spring Break.

Top 5s

Top 5 Movies:

1. *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*
2. *Hitch*
3. *Constantine*
4. *Cursed*
5. *Man of the House*

Top 5 DVD's:

1. *Saw*
2. *Taxi*
3. *The Notebook*
4. *Shark Tale*
5. *Ray*

Top 5 TV Shows:

1. "CSI: Miami"
2. "Lost"
3. "Without a Trace"
4. "Survivor: Palau"
5. "American Idol"

Top 5 CD's:

1. *The Game*
2. *Green Day*
3. *Eminem*
4. *Lil Jon and East Side Boyz*
5. *John Legend*

Top 5 Books:

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

Horoscopes:

Aries - You're a warrior, but that doesn't mean you don't have a spiritual side. You qualify as a miracle worker especially right about now.

Taurus - There's more than money to put away to make your old age secure. You also should invest in gifts of love to gain your friends' good will. This part is really fun.

Gemini - You may not have wanted to take on more responsibility, but the opportunity is there. The money's not abundant yet, but it's steady. Talk it over with your partner before deciding. He or she will have less of your time.

Cancer - An unexpected development messes up your schedule. Don't fly into a tizzy fit. Take the time to do it right and you'll save more time later.

Leo - Conditions are good for devising methods to greater increase your wealth. Do the homework and follow through. Thinking about it counts too.

Virgo - A very sensitive and imaginative person wants your attention now. Give it freely. This request is not made very often. Besides, with your encouragement, miracles could happen.

Libra - Immerse yourself as deeply as possible in a creative project. You don't have to know how to finish it when you start. The Muses will assist you.

Scorpio - Staying home with loved ones is your best option tonight. You'll find solutions to problems you didn't even know you had and it will be fun.

Sagittarius - Home and family definitely take top priority now. Try not to let them get on your nerves, offer innovations. Make positive changes.

Capricorn - You'll become more curious the more you get into the subject. You may never master it, but that doesn't even matter. The joy is in the doing.

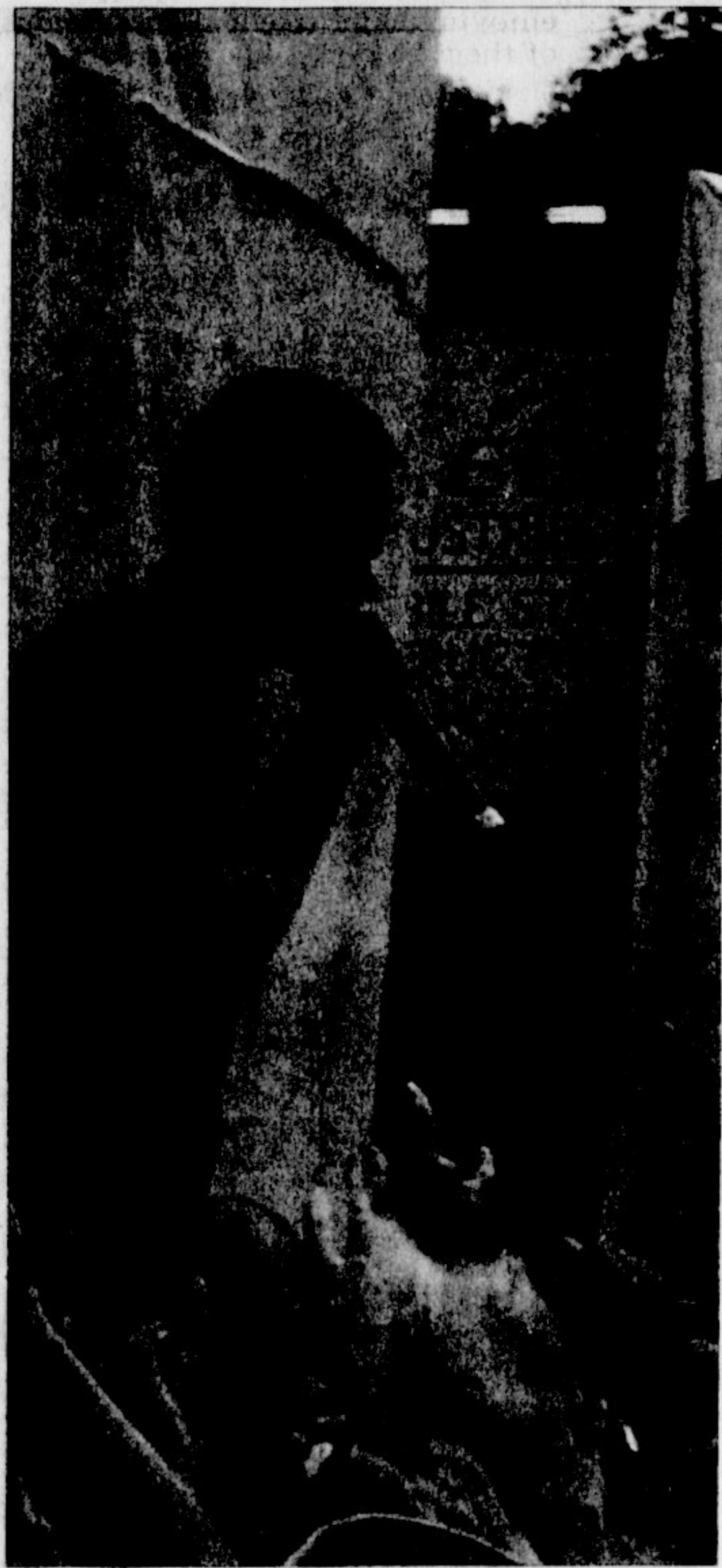
Aquarius - The money's pouring into your pockets. Did you hit the jackpot? If you did, it was by working a system you devised all by yourself. Work's involved in this bonanza.

Pisces - You're very powerful now and yet, you'll encounter another test. For this one, it's going to really help if you have faith in yourself. Hold your ground.

Spring Break Movies:

Cursed
Hitch
Robots
Because of Winn Dixie
Man of the House
Constantine
Million Dollar Baby
Be Cool
The Pacifier
Diary of a Mad Black Woman

11th Annual Vans Warped Tour



Punk Rock Summer Camp

KACY THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Summer is almost here and that means it's about time for those great summer tours all of our favorite bands start doing. This year's Vans Warped Tour is on that list.

This will be the 11th year for Warped Tour and it seems each year it grows more popular and the audience gets younger. For the 10th anniversary last year, 13,500 people were in attendance. Warped Tour is one of the most popular events in the punk rock community.

They usually don't announce the full list of confirmed bands until closer to the presale date, but this year Kevin Lyman, Warped Tour founder, publicize this information because of the kids on the Internet.

"The kids are prodding, they're on the Web sites," said Lyman in a press interview. People have been finding out about the list of bands and show dates from family or friends that work at the venue that is hosting the tour and then they post it on the Internet. More bands are being added to the list each day as the tour gets closer.

Warped Tour has the best of different genres. If you like the older punk rock sounds, this year Millencolin, Dropkick Murphys, No Use For A Name and The Offspring are on the line up. Or if you are more in to some of the newer stuff, The Academy Is and Mest are on the list.

If you want to hear hardcore and screams, this year Atreyu, Boys Night Out and Bleeding Through are set to perform. If you are into girl vocals, Tsunami Bomb and The Horrorpops will be there. Even for those that like ska, it's not a definite yet, but there are major rumors Big D and the Kids Table will be there to add a little twist.

Each band plays a 30-minute set, except this year. With the addition of Energizer E2 Titanium Keeps the Music Going, show-goers will be able to vote online for one band to play 10 minutes longer.

Something else brand new for this year's tour is the Amateur Skate Jam offered by Vans and Lost Energy Drink. Pro-skaters will be judging local skaters for prizes.

There are other side stages and tents including the Reverse Day Care for kids to drop off their parents and an on-site donation center for homeless shelters. Warped Tour is a full day event. It starts around 11 a.m. and doesn't slow down until 9 p.m.

"We got in line an hour early and we still had to wait an extra hour just to get inside the gates," said Julia Prue, freshman pre-health major.

She said there were a lot of people there and every stage had a full audience.

A few of the confirmed local dates include a stop Aug. 8 in Charlotte and in Virginia Beach Aug. 9. Both of these dates will be at the local Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre for the area.

There are several smaller bands that will perform on side stages that kids will be able to check out. Greenville's very own Valient Thorr will be joining the Warped Tour this year on the Volcom Stage for every stop.

Warped Tour is an outside event and most people leave with a horrible sunburn. Also, drink plenty of water.

You can check out warped-tour.com to keep up with the latest announcements about bands and stages.

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

Headlining bands from last year included Taking Back Sunday (left), New Found Glory (top right) and Story of the Year (bottom right). Slated for this year are the bands: The Offspring, Dropkick Murphys, Fall Out Boy, Hawthorne Heights and many others.

American Idol: TEC Predictions



KRISTIN MURNANE
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

(1-1)

"Who stays: Anthony Fedorov
Who goes: Janay Castine"



KYLE BILLINGS
FEATURES STAFF WRITER

(2-0)

"Who stays: Vonzell Solomon
Who goes: Janay Castine"



AMANDA LINGERFELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

(1-1)

"Who stays: Scott Savol
Who goes: Mikalah Gorgon"



SARAH CAMPBELL
FEATURES STAFF WRITER

(1-1)

"Who stays: Jessica Sierra
Who goes: Janay Castine"



KRISTIN DAY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

(1-1)

"Who stays: Nadia Turner
Who goes: Janay Castine"

Iron & Wine: Man, mystery, music revealed with new CD

New tunes for music lovers

TREVOR WORDEN
STAFF WRITER

So you like Jack Johnson, Howie Day, Ryan Adams, Nick Drake, Damien Rice and all of the other acoustic crooners, right? Then you will love Iron & Wine. Sam Beam is the founder of the group, lead singer and writes all of the music. Simply put, he is a genius. Beam has created a smooth acoustic feel, with light percussion in his band, Iron & Wine.

Beam, currently residing in Florida as a teacher, has brought a lot of new tactics to the acoustic genre. His southern upbringing has influenced a lot of his music into a James Taylor-esque feel. In his new CD, *Woman King*, an accompaniment of instruments is incorporated to the EP. When blended together as Beam does, it brings forth a beautiful harmony, almost like an earthy sound.

His songwriting skills are very intense verbally and when listened to closely are quite prolific. However, it is easy to get

lost in the rhythm of the sounds and lose the lyrics altogether. This proves the lyrics do not overpower the sound – the words and vocals blend right in to the other sounds.

Beam claims no religious affiliation or moral standard he upholds. In a printed press interview Beam said, "I don't have a real message and I don't usually have a set of morals."

Beam is simply a good artist, who likes to tell stories through his songs. He especially enjoys writing about southern themes and they tend to be the topic of a lot of his songs. With a recurring theme of death in some of his work, Beam still insists his songs are not pessimistic.

"Your lyrics come from your experience, or your fantasies, or things that you hear but they are a slave to the emotional tone of the melody and that usually comes from spacing out and fiddling with the guitar," said Beam to inquisitive minds during press interviews.

Beam's musical talent has been an evolutionary journey. He began teaching cinematography at Florida State University as it

offered a steady paycheck. But in his spare time, Beam would put lyrics together and eventually began playing music. After about a decade of making music in his spare time, in 2000 Beam decided to make a DIY disc. Eventually Sub Pop, the record group who initially signed Nirvana, offered to sign him.

"I was really doing this as a hobby for a long time when I got a call from Sub Pop. Out of the blue, they said, 'We heard some of your tunes and want to put them out.' I was just like, 'You are calling from Sub Pop, right? Loud, rock n' roll Sub Pop,'" Beam said.

Beam signed under the label with the strict conditions he would continue making the acoustic-folk sound he had for years. Sub Pop agreed and then the deal was done. Right after his signing Sam Beam and his new found group of Iron & Wine were discovered by the mass media. Their profiles and CD reviews could then be found in *Magnet*, *Spin*, *The Onion* or *Acoustic Guitar* World.

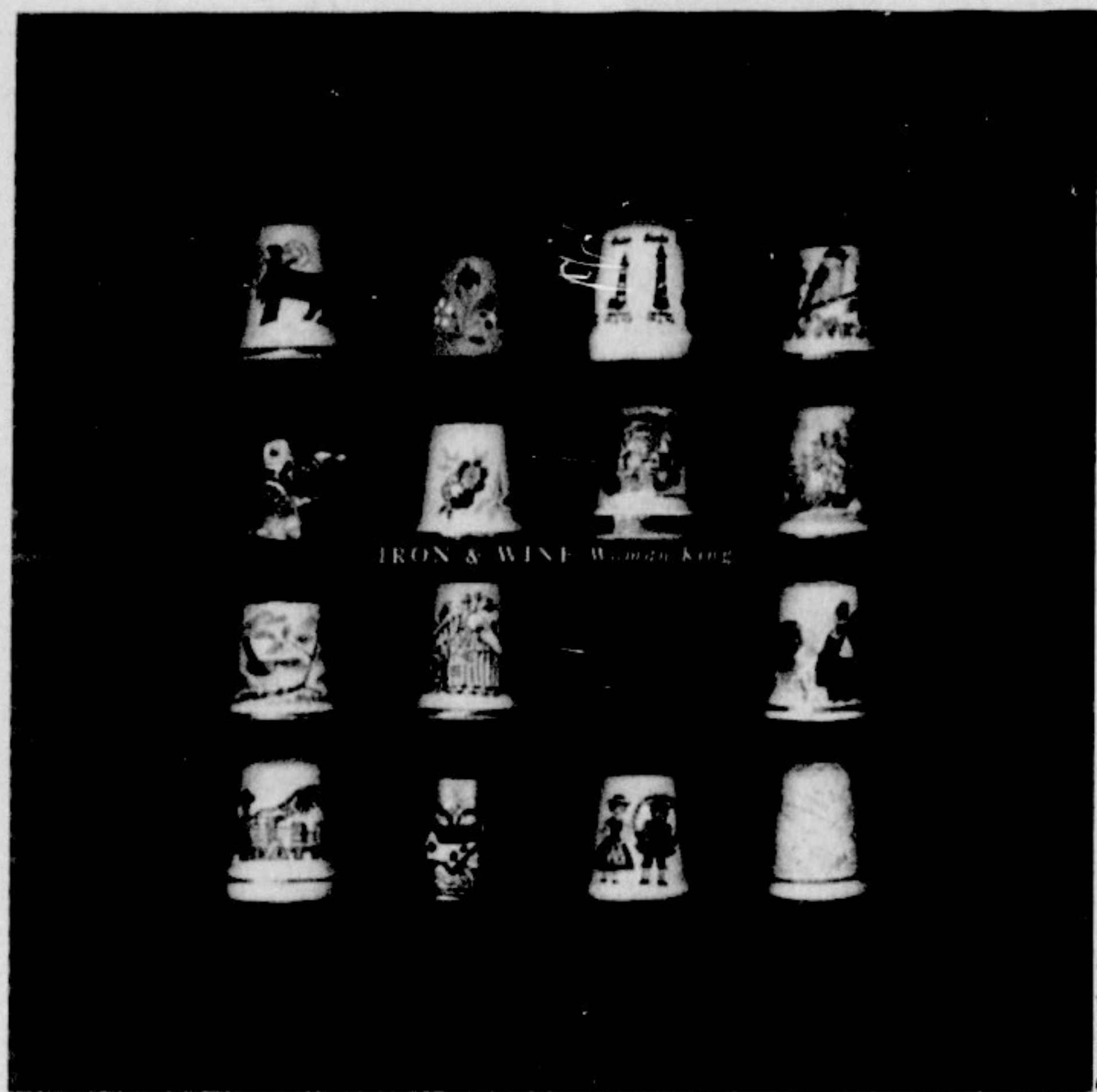
Each of his CDs since has been well received from the music world and the anticipated album *Woman King* has followed its predecessors. This southern boy who happened to turn his hobby into a profession now creates some of the best neo-folk, southern acoustic melodies in the business.

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



Iron & Wine

Who: Iron & Wine
What: Their new album *Woman King*
When: Released Feb. 22
Where: Available at Best Buy
Why: To enjoy some great new music
How much: \$9.99 at Best Buy



You can pick up Iron & Wine's latest release in stores now.

Student Union Cultural Awareness Committee

Presents

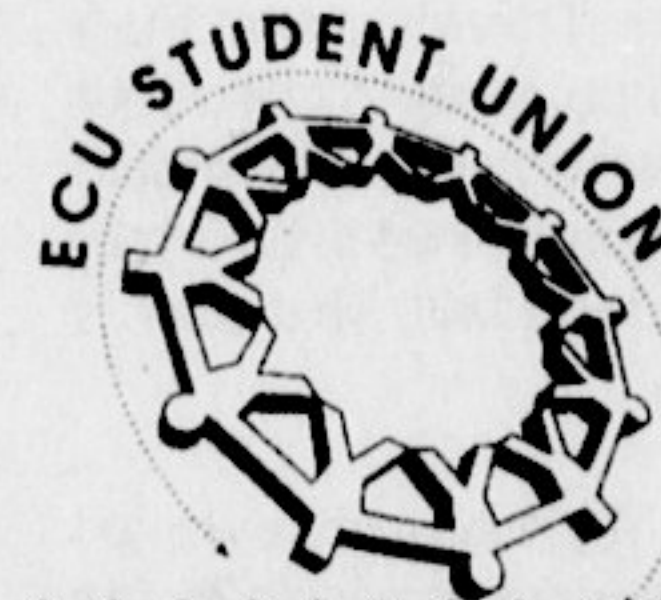
Russell Simmons
Def Poetry Jam Poet

FO FEET

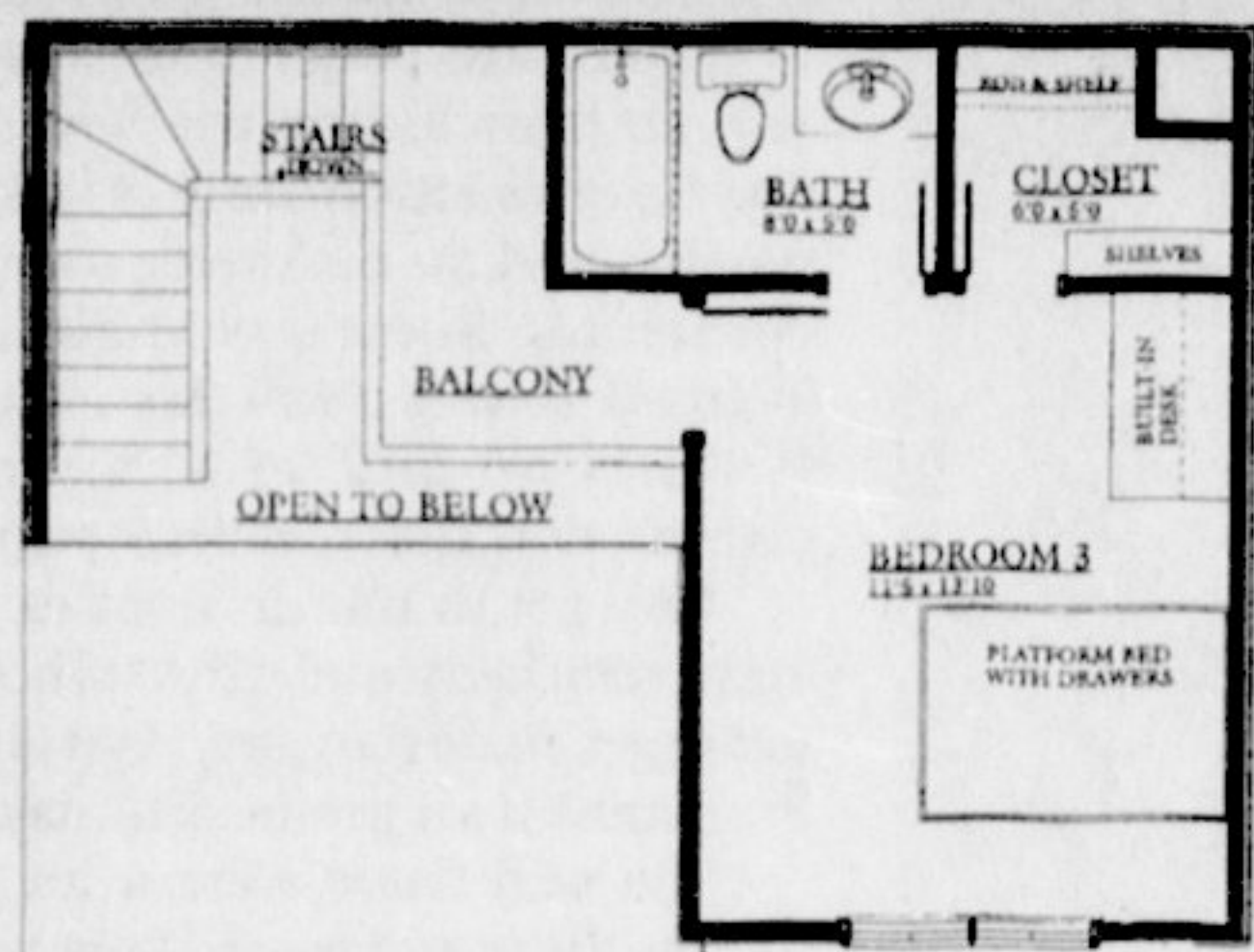
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in Hendrix Theatre



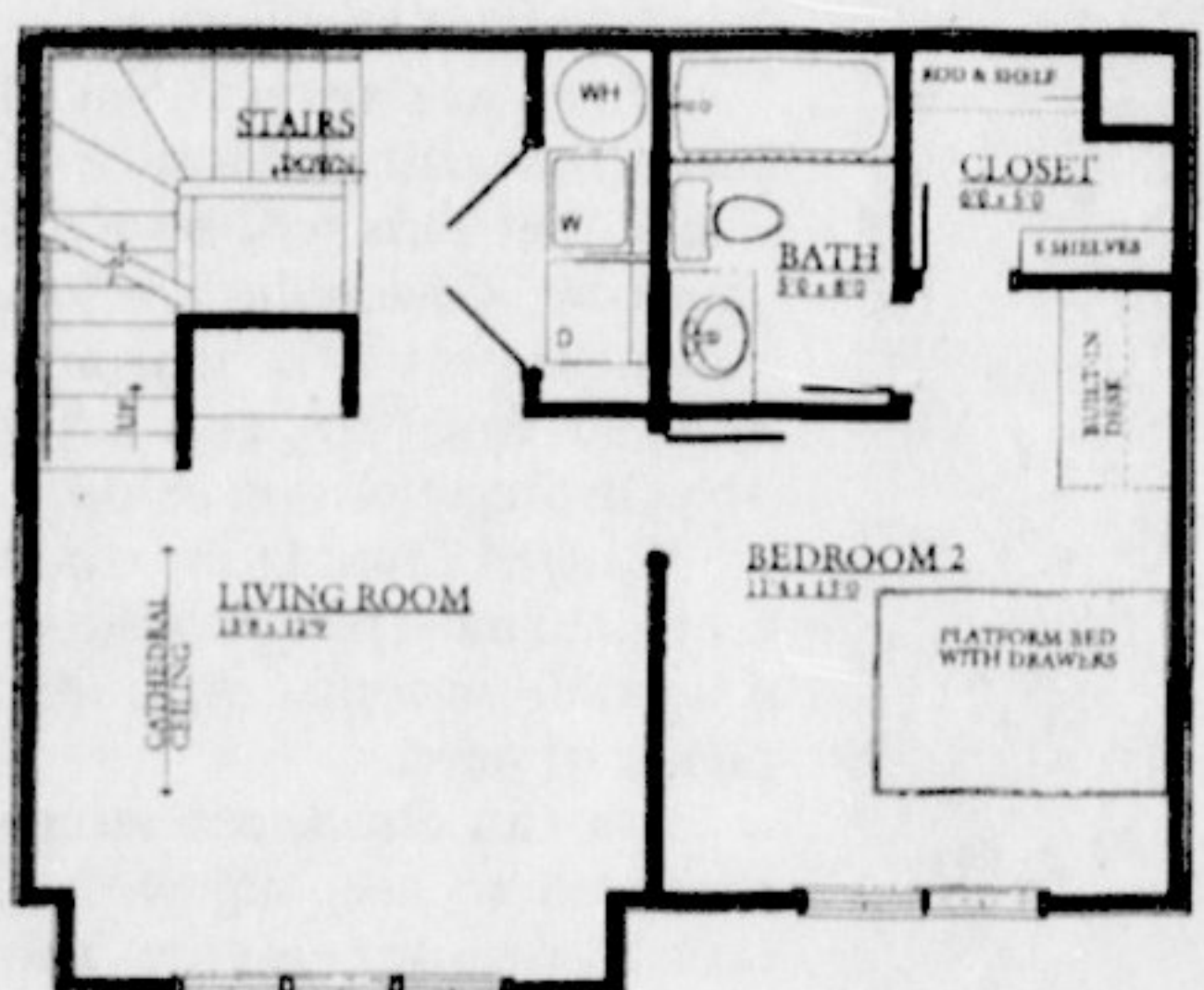
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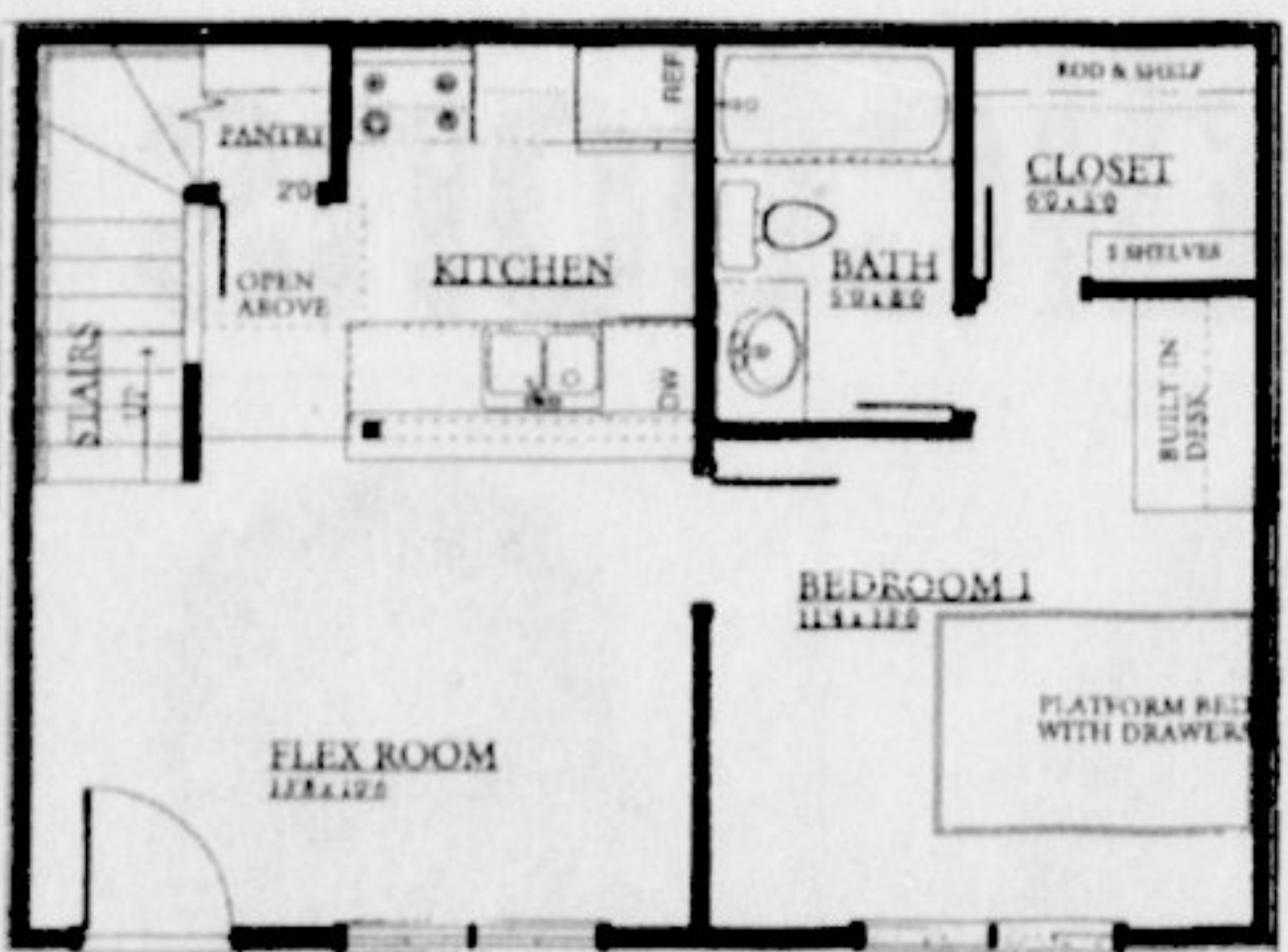
University Suites Apartments



Third Floor



Second Floor



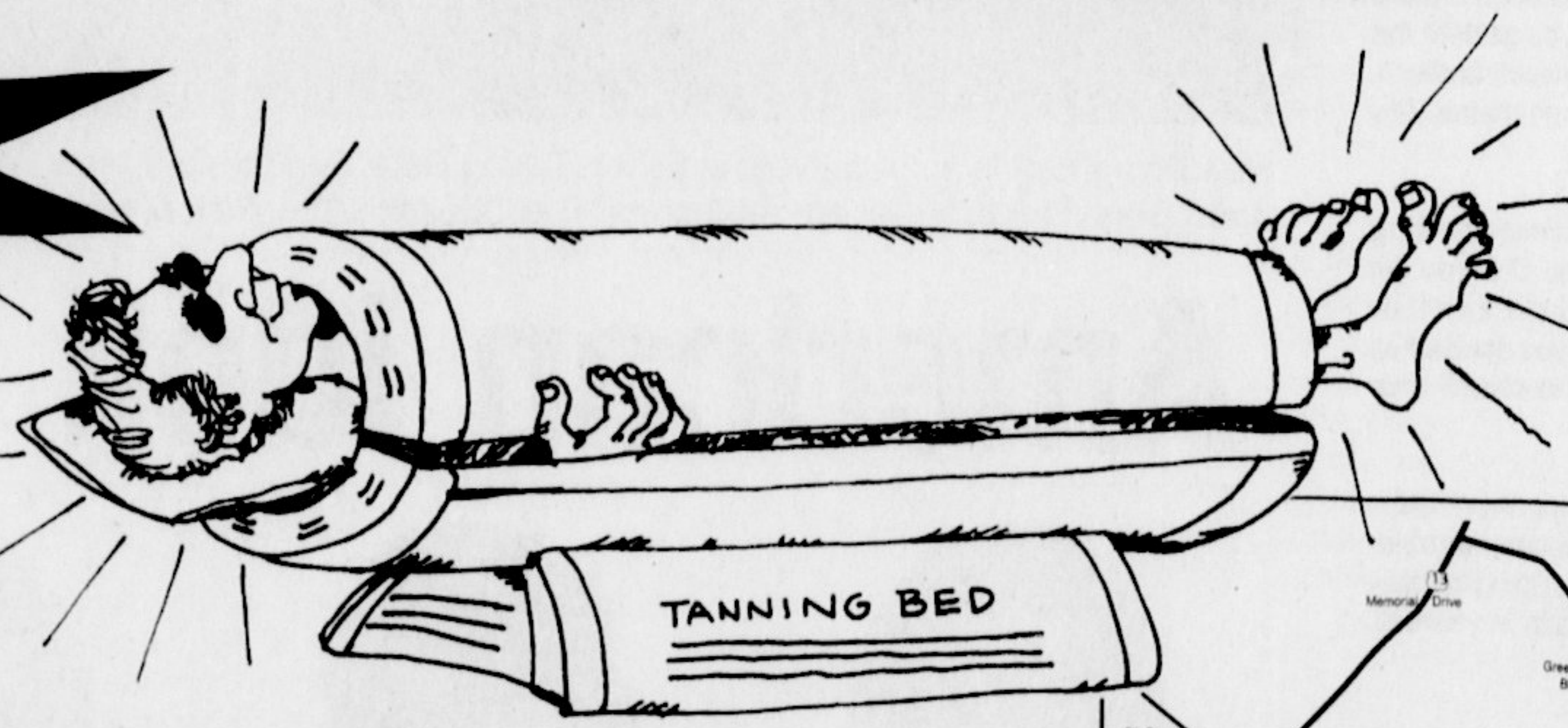
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ECU Rolls Aggies, 16-3

ECU used 12 hits and nine Aggies to roll the Aggies 16-3 in a 16-5 victory Tuesday night at Clark-LeClair Stadium. Carolina A&T's record day tied an ECU record. Drew Costanzo home run of the second in as many as 3-for-5 with two runs scored. Fred Eldridge and J. collected two home runs batting 2-for-2 while Ray going 2-for-2 batted in. Two three hits to lead Jeremy Jones with one RBI and two while Charlie Galt with two RBIs and Brett Braxton earned his first career shutout innings, while striking out one. Jason Neitz making his first start having Tommy J. season. Neitz tossed allowing one run striking out one. Chris Powell, C.T.J. Hose combined game for ECU. Jasper Smith the giving up 11 runs of the runs and Smith's record. batters, allowed hurt by the six Ag field. Clint Sumner Richard Hawk pitched three innings in

Baseball S Mazey ton

The Student Pirates off their spring 7 p.m. in the M Dowdy-Ficklen 5 host a baseball Coach Randy Ma free pizza and re

Hammonds All-Freshman

ECU guard Tom Hammonds named to the C-USA Freshman Team by the conference Tuesday afternoon from Crestview, Fla. points, 2.3 rebounds per game while leading the point field goal percentage. Also joining the team were Memphis Washington, Jr., C-USA Freshman honors, Washington, Jr. Joey Dorsey, Loyola Juan Palacios and Taylor Rochester numbers improved play, raising his to 8.4 points per rebound to 2.4. Hammonds also the season program 26.4 minutes per game. He also shot a high field goal percentage C-USA teams (double digits) including seven games. Hammonds career-high 16 points including wins and UAB. Five the season he drained three-point field four in his ECU Pepperdine. Ham school record for field goals in a miss by going 4-for the arc at home a Hammonds joined of current ECU to Cook (2004) and (2002) to have a Freshman distinction

Sports Briefs



Photo by Kyle Fisher

ECU Rolls Past Aggies, 16-5

ECU used 12 hits, seven walks and nine Aggie errors en route to a 16-5 victory Tuesday afternoon at Clark-LeClair Stadium. North Carolina A&T's nine errors on the day tied an ECU opponents record. Drew Costanzo hit his fourth home run of the season and his second in as many games, batting 3-for-5 with two RBI and two runs scored. Freshmen Harrison Eldridge and Jamie Ray each collected two hits with Eldridge batting 2-for-2 with two RBI and Ray going 2-for-4 with one run batted in. Two Aggies collected three hits to lead the A&T offense. Jeremy Jones went 3-for-4 with one RBI and two runs scored while Charlie Gamble went 3-for-5 with two RBI and one run scored. Brett Braxton earned the win in his first career start, throwing three shutout innings, allowing one hit while striking out one and walking one. Jason Neitz relieved Braxton, making his first appearance since having Tommy John surgery last season. Neitz tossed two innings, allowing one run on two hits while striking out one and walking one. Chris Powell, Cody Leggett and T.J. Hose combined to finish the game for ECU. NC A&T starter Jasper Smith threw five innings, giving up 11 runs with only one of the runs an earned run on Smith's record. He walked six batters, allowed six hits and was hurt by the six Aggie errors in the field. Clint Summers, Eric Neal and Richard Hawk pitched the final three innings in relief.

Baseball Social with Mazey tonight

The Student Pirate Club will kick off their spring drive tonight at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium as they host a baseball social with Head Coach Randy Mazey. There will be free pizza and refreshments.



Photo by Kyle Fisher

Hammonds named to All-Freshman team

ECU guard Tom Hammonds IV was named to the Conference USA All-Freshman Team as announced by the conference office Tuesday afternoon. The rookie from Crestview, Fla., averaged 8.0 points, 2.3 rebounds and 24.8 minutes per game this season, while leading the Pirates in three-point field goal percentage (.344). Also joining Hammonds on the team were Memphis guard Darius Washington, Jr., who collected C-USA Freshman of the Year honors, Washington's teammate Joey Dorsey, Louisville forward Juan Palacios and Tulane guard Taylor Rochestie. Hammonds' numbers improved during C-USA play, raising his scoring average to 8.4 points per game and his rebounds to 2.4 boards per outing. Hammonds also saw more action as the season progressed, averaging 26.4 minutes per in conference play. He also shot a higher three-point field goal percentage against C-USA teams (.355). He netted double digits 11 times overall, including seven times in 16 league games. Hammonds poured in a career-high 16 points three times, including wins over Charlotte and UAB. Five times during the season he drained three or more three-point field goals including four in his ECU debut against Pepperdine. Hammonds tied the school record for most three-point field goals in a game without a miss by going 4-for-4 from behind the arc at home against Charlotte. Hammonds joins the company of current ECU teammates Mike Cook (2004) and Moussa Badiane (2002) to have earned C-USA All-Freshman distinction.

A Farewell to Moussa Badiane



Moussa Badiane accepts a portrait of himself as a gift from the Minges Maniacs following ECU's win over the Houston Cougars in the final home game of the season.



ROBERT LEONARD SENIOR WRITER

Whether you are eight years old playing in a local league, getting ready for the high school state championship, preparing for the NCAA tournament or set to take on the world in the Olympics, every game of basketball starts the same. The referee walks up to center court and tosses the ball up in the air for the tip.

Seventy-four times in the last four years, the man jumping for the Pirates was Moussa Badiane. His first two seasons, he tipped it to Travis Holcumb-Faye. Last season, it went to Mike Cook. This year Japhet McNeil was there to catch the tip. No matter who was starting at the point, Moussa almost always won the tip.

As Moussa heads out into the real world like the rest of the senior class of ECU, he will be prepared. He is almost always recognized for being a scholar athlete and will graduate with a degree in management.

It's obvious that the professors in the school of business are doing their job in teaching Moussa, because he has managed to find his way into both the hearts of ECU fans and the record books of Conference USA.

Moussa will without a doubt go down as the greatest shot blocker in school history and the best ever in the conference. Coming into his senior season, he only needed 53 blocks to set the C-USA record for career blocks - he managed 75. The 314 blocks in his career not only broke Kenyon Martin's record by 22, Moussa did it in 11 fewer games.

That's how we come to perhaps the most amazing stat of all. Moussa set the ECU season record

for blocks in his first season as a Pirate. His 87 rejections that year were fifth all time in conference history for one season. That number also almost set the school career record, which he passed his sophomore season.

But without a doubt the most amazing stat within his freshman season was how he got those 87 blocks. Both Moussa and fellow European teammate Gabriel Mikulas were suspended for playing in professional leagues over seas. The 6-foot, 11-inch center's dazzling performance came in just 24 games, which gave him a conference record 3.6 blocks per game. The fact that he shattered a school record and almost set a career school record in one season where he didn't even play in every game is one of the greatest athletic accomplishments this university has seen. In his junior year, he would manage to break his own school and conference records with 90

blocks on the year.

As for the rest of his game, the gentle giant was raw untapped, undeveloped talent.

He dunked all the time simply because he was so tall, but he struggled on other aspects of scoring. Other than blocking shots, he really wasn't that strong defensively either, getting a lot of touch fouls on and off the ball.

As his career progressed, he got better and better away from the basket on both sides of the floor. It seemed he was always the fifth option on the offense - he was out there to block shots and rebound.

I remember listening to an interview Moussa took part in on the Pirates Sports Network during his sophomore season. The Pirates were down and alternating Mikulas, who was a great scorer and a great free throw shooter on the offensive end of the floor and Moussa on the defensive end. Moussa was asked about how that made him feel.

His response was simple, "Gabe (Mikulas) is a scorer, I block shots. I block shots better than him, he scores better than me."

That was Moussa's role that season - he was a defender.

This season, as the lone senior and co-captain, he was an offensive threat. He averaged 12.3 points a game, scoring from various spots on the floor. He continually worked on his shot improving in what seemed like every game. His work ethic has paid off - in just four years Moussa has managed to go from raw talent to an NBA prospect.

So I say farewell Moussa. You are one of the most humble, kind and caring human beings to come through this university. I will never forget that ever-present smile and the way you played the game. Whatever you decide to do in your life, we here at ECU will be rooting for you.

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

'Rushing' onto the scene at ECU



Rushing is taking charge at ECU after five successful years at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

New ECU head volleyball coach has a lot to offer

DAVID WASKIEWICZ SENIOR WRITER

ECU head volleyball coach Chris Rushing opened practice last week, marking his first practice as head coach at ECU. Rushing took over as the team's head coach Feb. 25, after former Head Coach Colleen Munson left for Western Michigan.

Rushing was born and raised in Livermore, Calif., a city in the northern part of the state. Rushing was first interested in volleyball back in high school. While watching a few of his friends play on their volleyball team, Rushing was invited to play.

"From that moment on, I just

fell in love with the sport," said Rushing.

"Through friends in high school and it just got more and more serious as I went on."

While in college at Brigham Young University, Rushing still remained as interested as ever in the sport of volleyball. Like most college students Rushing was still unsure of his future. He decided to go in and talk to his college head coach about the possibility of coaching volleyball.

"We had a big discussion and I asked my coach a lot of questions about what was involved with coaching and the salaries that were out there," Rushing said.

"I liked the answers that he gave me."

After Rushing's playing career, he went on to become an

assistant for the BYU men's team, his lone stint as a coach for men's volleyball. After his time at BYU, Rushing knew that coaching was exactly what he wanted to do.

He went on to stay in state for the next six or so years, coaching at both Utah Valley State in and landing his first head-coaching job at Dixie College (St. George, Utah). In 1996-97, Rushing made his first move out of state when he went to coach at Arkansas State, compiling a 45-21 record as an assistant under Head Coach Craig Cummings during the school's first two years as a Division I program. He then moved one for his second head-coaching job at the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1998.

At UT Martin, his team captured two Ohio Valley Confer-

ence regular season championships. He also led his team to the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history and posted an overall record of 110-99 before coming to ECU.

Rushing's girls at UT Martin were also just as successful off the floor as on it. Rushing has coached 13 All-OVC players and one Academic All-American. His teams have combined to post an average 3.5 grade point average the last three years and his 2003 team put up a 3.57, which ranked fourth among the nation's Division I women's volleyball programs as decided by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Having only been to practice for one week now, Rushing is excited about the talent he sees on the team.

"We have some good talent, the players work hard and I am really excited about the future," Rushing said.

As far as the team's future, Rushing believes the team can turn around from last year's 11-18 record.

"It is all about recruiting, all about how you train your players, and all about the players' mental game," Rushing said.

"Those are the three biggest components."

Rushing feels he can bring a lot to the ECU volleyball program.

"I feel I bring proven success with my past teams, not only with the win-loss record but also academically," the two-time OVC coach of the year said.

"I think I am a good recruiter, I think I have a good eye for talent and I can bring out that talent in the players. I am looking to win conference championships and going to the NCAA tournament. I really believe that this is a place that we can build and make a really good volleyball program."

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

Waskiewicz Diet Diary: Final edition

All good things must come to an end

DAVID WASKIEWICZ SENIOR WRITER

My personal training at the Student Recreation Center was coming to an end. It seemed as if it just started. I personally did not want it to end but of course all good things must.

I felt like an ice cube heading into the SRC for my last personal training meeting. I just finished walking all the way from Brewster in the coldest day of the winter. I met my personal trainer, Narris Bethea at the door of the building as soon as I came in. He understood how I needed to defrost before we got down to work.

I figured that since this was my last time with Bethea, the workout might be a little more intense than the other ones that I have had this year. Little did I know, "intense" didn't even begin to describe this workout.

After I defrosted, I met up with Bethea and the workout began. "OK the first thing you are going to do is run a mile for warm-up," said Bethea.

I thought he was kidding at first. I mean a mile just for warm-up - I could barely run a mile at all.

Bethea was not kidding though, as I found myself running around the track upstairs seven times. The first three laps were not that bad. I felt as if my endurance had increased over the last few months. The last four laps, on the other hand, had me gasping for breath, running around the track more in a trot than a jog.

After I was finally finished with the running, we made our way into the fitness room. The next thing Bethea had

see DIARY page A8

Bracketology: Selection process has evolved over time

(KRT) — From their “three-room palace, sans air conditioning” above a saloon in Kansas City in 1953, the first two full-time NCAA employees trumpeted their men’s basketball tournament field into a virtual vacuum.

The tournament, begun inauspiciously in 1939, was seen by newly appointed NCAA president Walter Byers as a pillar of the organization’s potential growth. But even the new initiative at first had a haphazard appearance.

The number of teams invited, for instance, would fluctuate between 22 and 25 until 1974, and the brackets themselves might be rendered thusly: Bill Sims of the Kansas City Star would drop by, former NCAA staffer Wayne Duke said, and pluck names from a hat.

Shazam, pairings. Then Duke would fill in the brackets, scramble to a printer, cram them in envelopes and mail

them to media outlets, hoping, often in vain, that some would publicize them.

“When we got (The Associated Press) to carry it on the wire (years later),” Duke said, “we thought we were in heaven.”

Even as the game blossomed in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the mechanics of the tournament’s selection process still were maturing.

“We were like Lewis and Clark, heading west,” said Dave Gavitt, the former Big East commissioner who served on the men’s basketball committee from 1980-84 and who was instrumental in establishing many bracketing procedures used today, as well as the decision to expand from 48 teams to 64 in 1985.

As recently as 1981, as commissioner of the Big Ten, Duke was still an integral part of the process as chairman of the NCAA Division I men’s basketball tournament.

Nevertheless, he wouldn’t want to be plopped into the 15th floor of the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis between Wednesday and Sunday nights, when the Division I men’s basketball committee will hunker down to determine the field that will culminate with the Final Four in St. Louis April 2-4.

“I would be totally lost,” said Duke, who never envisioned the sleek, sophisticated venture the tournament has morphed into.

When Duke began working at the humble NCAA headquarters, its operating budget was \$122,000. Today, the NCAA is encased in a shimmering \$54 million, 147,000 square-foot building in Indianapolis with hundreds of employees and an operating budget of hundreds of millions a year.

Whereas Duke remembers Byers selling individual tournament game broadcast rights “right out of his hip pocket” for

\$550 an hour, the going rate for NCAA Tournament rights today is ... \$6 billion, which CBS paid for an 11-year deal that runs through 2013.

At the epicenter, the bracket once whimsically concocted and apathetically received will be announced to wild and wide anticipation next Sunday. Even TV ratings for the selection show alone are staggering.

With the stakes now monumental, precious little is left to chance in the creation of the Tournament’s signature element: To devise the bracket, a 10-person committee and six NCAA staff members will be sequestered until they make it as right as they can in the concentrated period of time.

Those involved know their work is subjective and subject to second-guessing — they do it themselves as they review what they have wrought. But they also know their work is a point of

honor and a labor of love.

Bill Hancock, consultant for the tournament and once its director, calls it “a precious privilege.” Bob Frederick, former University of Kansas athletics director and committee chair, deemed it an “awesome responsibility.”

“It’s almost a miraculous weekend,” former committee chairman C.M. Newton said. “It’s one of those things where after you go through it, you say, ‘Did all of this really get done?’”

Security guards keep any potential interlopers at bay, phone access is restricted and even family isn’t allowed on the floor. If an unescorted person were to show up, NCAA executive Greg Shaheen said, “We take ‘em down, baby!” He was laughing but not necessarily joking.

The seemingly extreme measures are taken to enable the group to maintain concentration and avoid any perception of

being accessible to influence.

“There is always this assumption of ... hidden forces ... at work affecting this whole thing,” former committee member Charles Harris said.

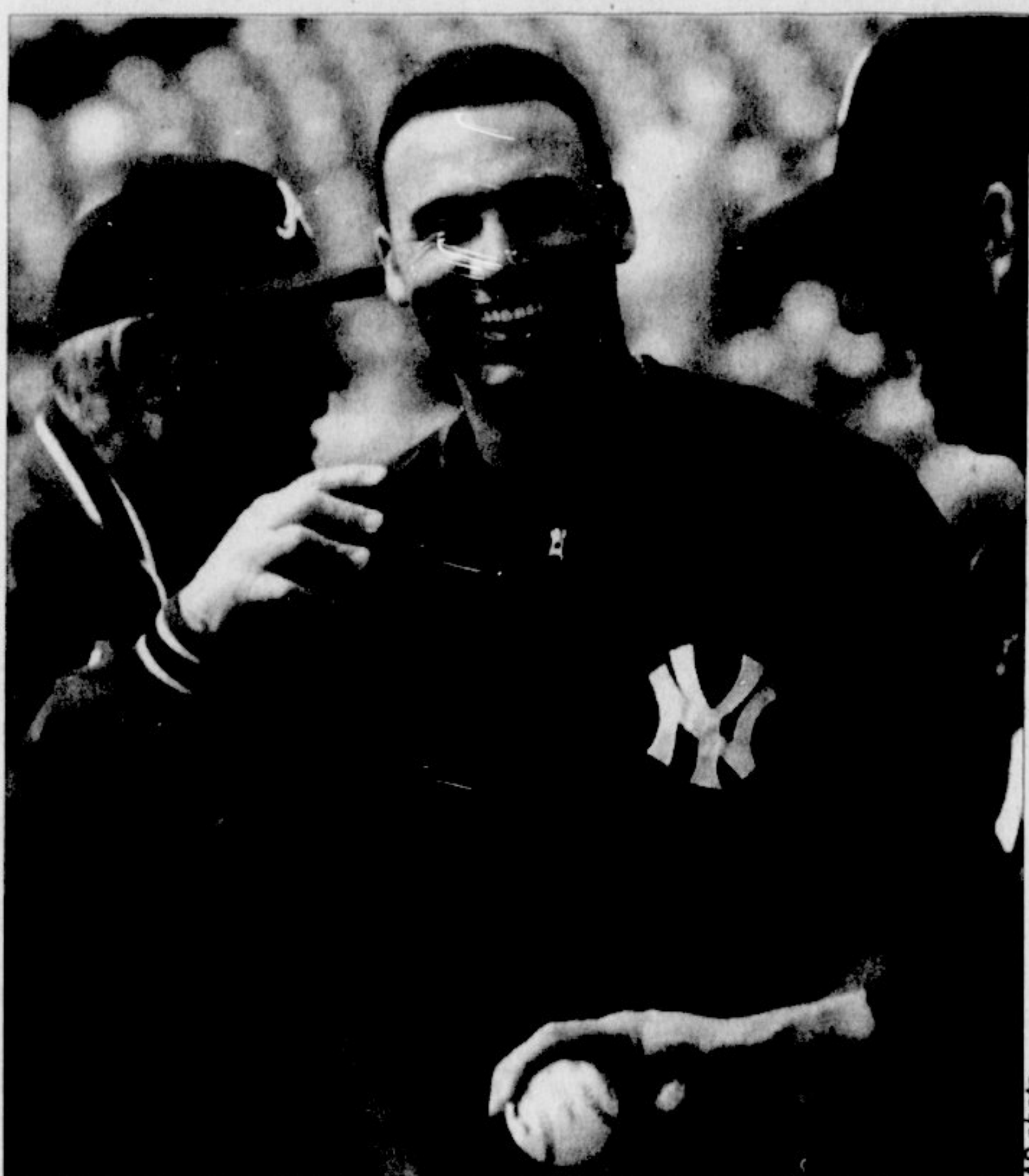
Within the compound, as the women’s committee convenes a floor below, the group will pore over and debate reports and statistics and watch games until their eyes are glazed. And get up and do it again. And again.

“Organized chaos,” former committee member Doug Elgin of the Missouri Valley Conference called it.

And yet for all that’s put into it and all that’s expected out of it, some involved suggest the aura of intrigue surrounding it all is misplaced.

For one thing, the procedures, albeit not the specific proceedings, are made public by the NCAA. For another, the atmosphere is more minimal than mystical.

Professional sports spiraling with absence of role models



Jeter jokes with Tino Martinez and Bobby Cox before a Spring Training scrimmage with the Braves over the weekend.

(KRT) — America’s world of professional sports is in great turmoil, facing the most serious challenges in its history. A world of role models and superheroes has gone into eclipse. Society, particularly its youth, puzzles over that loss and over ways to replace the multiple social-symbolic functions that sports personalities have embodied.

In the last few months we have witnessed an astonishing array of incredible incidents. Basket brawlers run amok in Detroit. At least two pro-football players do jail time in the off-season. The entire National Hockey League season is canceled because of money matters. Steroid use injects suspicion and recrimination into the baseball world. The media have examined every sordid aspect in detail.

Professional sports have reduced to the bare essentials — a group of overpaid “show me the money” performers, hardly interested in being the role models they once might have been. Charles Barkley has long stated his intention not to be a role model. Mickey Mantle, perhaps the greatest sports hero of the latter 20th century, also admonished youngsters not to follow his example.

Just how overpaid are our

star athletes? Consider a typical annual star salary of \$10 million. That same amount would support a good university science researcher working on possible cures for cancer, AIDS or the common cold for 100 years. You could pay a complete four-year Ivy League education for all 50 of your children — or, tired and infirm from child rearing, you could pay for the last 200 years of your life in a nursing home.

Absurd? Of course — and as illustrated, the concept of absurdity helps one appreciate the reality of paying star athletes (and other celebrities, and corporate moguls) such salaries. Even most early teens, a group eagerly looking for role models, agree that athletes are overpaid.

Still, there are a few star athletes, like Derek Jeter or Oscar de la Hoya, who set high standards and try to live up to them through charity, personal foundations and genuine commitment. But this kind of activity is generally underreported, because professional sports are now a series of Romanized spectacles. They are consummate escapist entertainment, the ultimate in vicarious living. The dynamic of this transformation is embodied in today’s equivalent of the Roman parasitic mob member:

the diehard fan.

Despite this abysmal situation, athletics, as opposed to professional sport, is of tremendous importance to society, as both Greeks and Romans knew. Participation in athletics is one sure way to develop leadership, personal excellence and teamwork skills. Without teamwork, no project of large scale can be undertaken. Without excellence, no project will ever be done well. Without leadership, society possesses the inertia of blindness.

Whereas March is known for madness in crowning a national collegiate basketball king and queen, it should also be known as a month of athletic champions. This month America holds its annual high school and college wrestling tournaments. Check out some of these matches on TV or at a local venue. In this sport, as in few others, the individual must be his own champion first, before proceeding to victory over others.

Being your own champion means “Knowing Thyself.” It means setting personal limits and then exceeding them. It means creating the strongest possible work ethic.

Despite all the incredible effort put into becoming a champion, hardly a single wrestler can hope to earn a living through the sport. The incentives to compete are personal.

In a world where role models have collapsed, heroes are few and far between in business, entertainment, government or sports. Such a situation forces the individual to stand for something that is right for them, or to fall for any scam that comes along.

In the opening line of “David Copperfield,” Charles Dickens poses the issue in a novel way. “Whether I am to be the hero of my life, or whether that station is held by anyone else, these pages must show.”

Our social structures, educational resources and religious institutions must assist in the process of forming the self-champion, who will become the responsible entrepreneur, the passionate artist or scientist, the meritorious public servant, the inspirational teacher, the wise parent, and the good citizen.

In becoming your own champion, you will surely find yourself. You might also catch a glimpse of Joe DiMaggio along the way.

Diary from page A7

planned for me was pushups. I thought this was going to be no problem since my upper body strength was pretty strong. What I did not take into account was how tired my body was after just running the mile.

I felt tired as soon as I got to number five in my first set of pushups. My arms were shaking from fatigue. I did not think I was going to finish my three sets of 10. I was able to struggle out 10 of my first set and took a short break. The second set was worse than my first. I found myself collapsed face down in the floor at number eight. My arms were completely burned out so I thought I was done. Well I thought wrong as Bethea encouraged me to get up for my last set. To my surprise, I was actually able to complete my last set — it wasn’t pretty, but it got done.

After the pushups, Bethea turned on the treadmill and I immediately knew that I had

more running in store. At this point of my workout I thought Bethea was trying to kill me. I was as tired as I have ever been since I started my personal training. The only thing that kept me going was that I knew I was working my body hard.

The rest of the workout was interval training with the treadmill and tubing. I would do a tubing workout and then jump on the treadmill. At the end, as always, I worked my abs and then stretched out.

Then it hit me, this thing is over. I began to think about all of the different exercises that I had done. I jumped on the scale for my final weigh-in, still at 266. This time I felt different though.

When I first started the personal training program, I was all about losing weight. That is really the only thing that I wanted to do. Through my trainers though, I learned that weight is really just a number. Being fit is what

it is all about, and I realized how fit I now was. My arms were a little tighter than they used to be, my endurance definitely lasted longer and I could push myself harder than I thought I ever could.

The one thing I have learned through both of my trainers, Bethea and Leslie Warren, is that weight is not everything. There are many more goals you can have besides just losing weight.

I feel I have learned more mentally about working out than anything else. My trainers didn’t just tell me to do a workout, they showed me the workout and set me on the right path to do it myself when the training was over. That is what I intend to do now that I am finished. I want to thank my trainers for finally letting me realize what I need to do to stay fit.

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

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Page A10

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GREEK PERSONALS

The sisters of Chi Omega thank those

who participated in our annual Make-A-Wish Foundation fundraiser. Thank you for helping us make a child's wish come true!

The sisters of Phi Beta Chi would like to congratulate Amanda Glisson on being our sister of the week. We love you!

We love our new little sister and are so glad they are a part of our families! Love, the new Big Sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha!

The sisters of Phi Beta Chi would like to congratulate Megan Hauser on being our sister of the week. Thanks for working so hard! We love you!

The sisters of Phi Beta Chi would like to thank all those that attended the Beach Retreat last weekend. We had a great time!

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C-USA tournament kicks off Thursday

Cincinnati looks to repeat at postseason champs

TRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

No. 8 TCU vs. No. 9

Marquette at noon Central Time.

Three simple words - No Travis Diener. Marquette's go to guy suffered a season ending injury (fractured wrist) after the Golden Eagles' victory over the DePaul Blue Demons. Diener, a Naismith Award Watch List finalist, lead the conference in scoring before suffering the injury in a non-contact drill at practice. Marquette is 1-2 since losing Diener, including an embarrassing senior night loss to Saint Louis, 51-39, the number 10 seed in the conference tournament. The Horned Frogs, who beat the Golden Eagles 63-62 in the only meeting between the two teams this year, is coming off a big let down as well, losing at Southern Mississippi in their regular season finale. With two teams that seem to be struggling a little as of late, I have to give the edge in this one to the Horned Frogs just for the simple fact that Marquette will be playing Diener-less. TCU advances on comfortably with a double figure victory while Marquette will be looking for answers as they stumble into the National Invitational Tournament.

No. 5 DePaul vs.

No. 12 Tulane at 2:30 p.m.

This is a game the DePaul Blue Demons need not lose if they hope to go dancing later on in March. A loss to the Green Wave would ultimately bump DePaul off the bubble and into the NIT.

However, the Blue Demons had no trouble disposing of Tulane in their only meeting this season, knocking off the Green Wave on the road 81-63. Tulane nabbed the final spot in the tournament on the last day of the regular season by defeating the ECU Pirates 77-71. Even though DePaul looks like a heavy favorite on paper, the Blue Demons have a lot more riding on this game than their opponents. Tulane will come out loose with nothing to lose and may keep the game close throughout the first half. Understanding the importance of a victory, however, DePaul picks up the win sloppily, advancing to the second round of the tourney, but more importantly, earning their spot in the "Big Dance."

No. 7 Memphis vs.

No. 10 Saint Louis at 6 p.m.

Talk about a sloppy game. This may be the sloppiest first round contest of any on the opening day. The Saint Louis Billikens force teams to play to their tempo and play their style of game, which is very ugly to watch at times. However, as unpleasant to the eye as Saint Louis basketball may be, it is very effective in holding teams to low point totals night in and night out. And don't expect this one to be any different. The Billikens defeated Memphis just a week ago 70-61 in Saint Louis. Tonight's contest will be a little different as the Tigers play host to the tournament and will have a loyal home crowd show up and support them in their push to win an automatic bid to the NCAA.

Signs point to a defensive struggle in this one, which favors the Billikens.

However, Memphis will break open a close game in the second half and win pretty easily, but score less than 70 points in the process.

No. 6 Houston vs.

No. 11 USF at 8:30 p.m.

After winning four straight games in conference play, the Houston Cougars have hit a rut as of late, dropping their final two regular season bouts, including a 21 point loss to Marquette. On the other hand, an overlooked South Florida squad locked down the 11 seed by beating nationally ranked Charlotte 85-73 on a very emotional senior night for the Bulls. In the head-to-head department, South Florida has only managed 50 points in both contests, losing both by double figures.

Although the two teams may be heading in opposite directions entering tournament play, Houston will right the ship and easily down the Bulls, advancing to take on the Cincinnati Bearcats in the second round.

Day two of the C-USA tournament introduces the top four seeds in Louisville, Charlotte, Cincinnati and UAB respectively. Based on my opening round predictions, here is what might take place in the second day of competition.

No. 1 Louisville vs. No. 8 TCU at noon

Like most other teams that traveled to play Louisville at Freedom Hall this year, the TCU Horned Frogs were destroyed in their only meeting with the Cardinals, 86-61. The tournament stage should provide a better atmosphere for TCU and allow the Horned Frogs to stay competitive for at least the first 20 minutes of play.

Louisville may start a little bit slower than TCU due to their opening round bye, but quickly find their way in the second half and show why they are the number one seed. The Cardinals win pretty easily by double figures and move a game closer to the conference championship.

No. 4 UAB vs. No. 5 DePaul at 2:30 p.m.

Only one meeting this year between UAB and DePaul. UAB wins by one at home in overtime. Any implications of what might happen in this rematch? No way. This might just be the best match-up in the tournament as both teams have pretty good offenses and defend on the ball very stiffly. DePaul's Drake Diener scored 25 points in the loss to the Blazers, shooting 75 percent from the floor. Diener will get plenty of open looks again due to the full court pressure from UAB, which allows teams to run secondary fast breaks and get open looks at the trifecta. Where the Blazers make their living is by forcing the opposition into turnovers and a bad shot selection. The key for DePaul is simple: make shots. If the Blue Demons can get a big game from Quemont Greer and Diener, DePaul will move on to face Louisville in the semifinals. UAB, however, may need a win to get in the NCAA tournament, adding yet another element to an already dynamite game. A nail biter once again, but I like DePaul this time to move on.

No. 2 Charlotte vs.

No. 7 Memphis at 6 p.m.

The Charlotte 49ers, under probable C-USA coach of the year Bobby Lutz, have molded themselves into one of the perennial powers in a league dominated in recent years by Cincinnati, Louisville and Memphis. With a lethal outside barrage and a very physical inside game, Charlotte may be the most dangerous, most complete team in this conference. The 49ers will open tournament play on the road in a sense, as they take on the tournament host in Memphis, a team they beat 80-77 just a few weeks ago. The Tigers will claw fiercely early on and lead going into the break before Charlotte settles into



South Florida guard Brian Swift drives between Charlotte's Mitchell Baldwin (20) and Curtis Withers (3) during the first half Saturday night, March 5.

tourney play and pulls away late in the second half, winning a close one in a hostile environment.

No. 3 Cincinnati vs.

No. 6 Houston at 8:30 p.m.

Bobby Huggins' Cincinnati Bearcats will enter tournament play hungry for yet another conference title.

Their mission begins with the Houston Cougars, a very fast and athletic team. Fast and athletic, does that remind you of anyone else in this league? Of course it does. Cincinnati has been the model of athleticism for several years running and this year is no different. Having no trouble pounding the Cougars earlier this year, I like Cincinnati big over Houston, in the first state game of the Kelly Tires C-USA Tournament.

Day three of tournament play will be the semifinals and I have three out of the top four seeds making up the final four. Based on my first two opening round predictions, this is what I think will happen on Friday.

No. 1 Louisville vs.

No. 5 DePaul at 3:30 p.m.

Louisville, when will be the game you will die by the three? How far can you advance in the postseason before your jump shooting lets you down? This has to be the biggest concern with the Louisville Cardinals right now who defend excellently and for the most part, shoot lights out from beyond the arc. However, the Cardinals are prone to off shooting nights, as was the case against Memphis earlier this year at Freedom Hall, where Louisville shot an abysmal 33 percent from the floor and got ran off their own court, 85-68. In a head to head match up with the Blue Demons less than a week ago, the Cardinals managed just 66 points but were still able to pick up the victory due to stellar defense. I don't like picking upsets and I'm not going to do that here, but with that said, please tune in to this one because it might just go down to the last shot.

Louisville pulls out a fist clincher down the stretch and advances to the championship game again...

No. 2 Charlotte vs.

No. 3 Cincinnati at 6 p.m.

Edge goes to the Bearcats in this one. Although both contests this year were split between the two teams, Cincinnati has more experience deep into tournament play and can win big on any court. Good regular season for Charlotte including that very exciting 91-90 victory over Cincinnati. However, time to shift your focus to the NCAA where you will probably pick up a four or five seed, depending on how bad the Bearcats beat up on you. Bobby Lutz is still coach of the year in C-USA no matter what happens in this one. Cincinnati advances on handily to face archrival Louisville in the tournament championship.

Day four of play is the championship game and I have the number one seed and three seed squaring off for the title. Lets see what will happen.

No. 1 Louisville vs.

No. 3 Cincinnati at 10:35 a.m.

With an odd starting time for a championship game, this could hurt the Cincinnati Bearcats. Louisville will have more time to recover and relax their muscles before getting up bright and early to compete for a tourney championship. I guess the tournament directors just figured on Memphis not making it to the final game and decided to



Taquan Dean of Louisville, looks to pass the ball in the second half against DePaul at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill., Saturday, March 5. Louisville won the game 66-62.

get everybody out of the gym as soon as possible. Just kidding. This was probably done in an effort to help out the NCAA selection committee in their processes of completing the brackets before selection.

Sunday. Nice gesture guys. Back to basketball, these two have been here time and time again, laying it all out on the line for the final game, hoping to move up seedings in the dance. I like Louisville's defense in this one, along with more rest before the game. The Cardinals have their legs and shoot tremendously from three, picking up the win convincingly over a pretty good Cincinnati. Unfortunately for the Bearcats that the game is starting so early, but that is March Madness at its finest baby. No time for excuses. The Louisville Cardinals are your Kelly Tires C-USA

Tournament Champs, sweeping both the regular and postseason titles.

With the tournament going like it did, C-USA will get five teams into the NCAA tourney lead by the Cardinals. Louisville could make an early exit or get as deep as the final four depending on what team shows up to play.

The others, Charlotte, Cincinnati, DePaul and UAB, all have legitimate shots at winning their first and second round games. These four are what we call possible sweet sixteen teams, but look no further than that. Good luck to all five of these teams as they get ready to represent a strong C-USA for the final time.

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

Top

Chris Paul

Will it be charm

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

To just tight the the ACC h State woul to beat W have been in the up Losing them to squeezed day bye the receive. W break down tourname in Washi

Game vs. No. 9 Thursday

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Game No. 10 Thursday

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State v bags for th noles do it low scorin

Game vs. No. 1 Thursday

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Game vs. No. 1 p.m. Friday

When down with in late Janu bit concern losses later lingered ab on offense expect Me

Top three dominate ACC



Chris Paul goes up to block Julius Hodge during the Deacs' game against NCSU Saturday night.

Will it be three times the charm for Duke-UNC?

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

To just give you an idea how tight the middle of the pack in the ACC has been this year, if NC State would have held on Sunday to beat Wake Forest, they would have been the number four seed in the upcoming tournament.

Losing, however, dropped them to the seven seed and squeezed them out of a first day bye that the top five teams receive. With that in mind, I will break down game by game the tournament at the MCI Center in Washington D.C.

Game 1: No. 8 Maryland vs. No. 9 Clemson, 12 p.m. Thursday:

Has there ever been a more Jekyll and Hyde team than the Maryland Terrapins of this year? The turtle swept Duke this year, which was the first time that had happened in nearly a decade, but were also swept by Clemson and NC State. Losing to Clemson or State on the road may be acceptable, but when both the Tigers and the Wolfpack put on a clinic against you in your building, that's just inexcusable. However, I do believe that Clemson is already a lock for the NIT and doesn't have much left to play for, except for the outside shot at the title. This means the Tigers may come out flat, knowing this will not be their last post-season appearance, while the Terrapins will be scrapping for their NCAA lives, needing probably two wins in the tournament to secure a bid. I look for Maryland to establish themselves early, and win convincingly 80-65.

Game 2: No. 7 NC State vs. No. 10 Florida State, 2 p.m. Thursday:

The Wolfpack would have locked up an NCAA bid Sunday with a win over Wake Forest, but now find themselves on the outside looking in, probably needing two wins to get back into consideration. The Seminoles have had an up and down year, one with a few upsets and a lot of close calls. Their record of 12-18 may fool some people, but not me. Don't forget when Leonard Hamilton's team went into the RBC Center in late January and upset the Wolfpack by six.

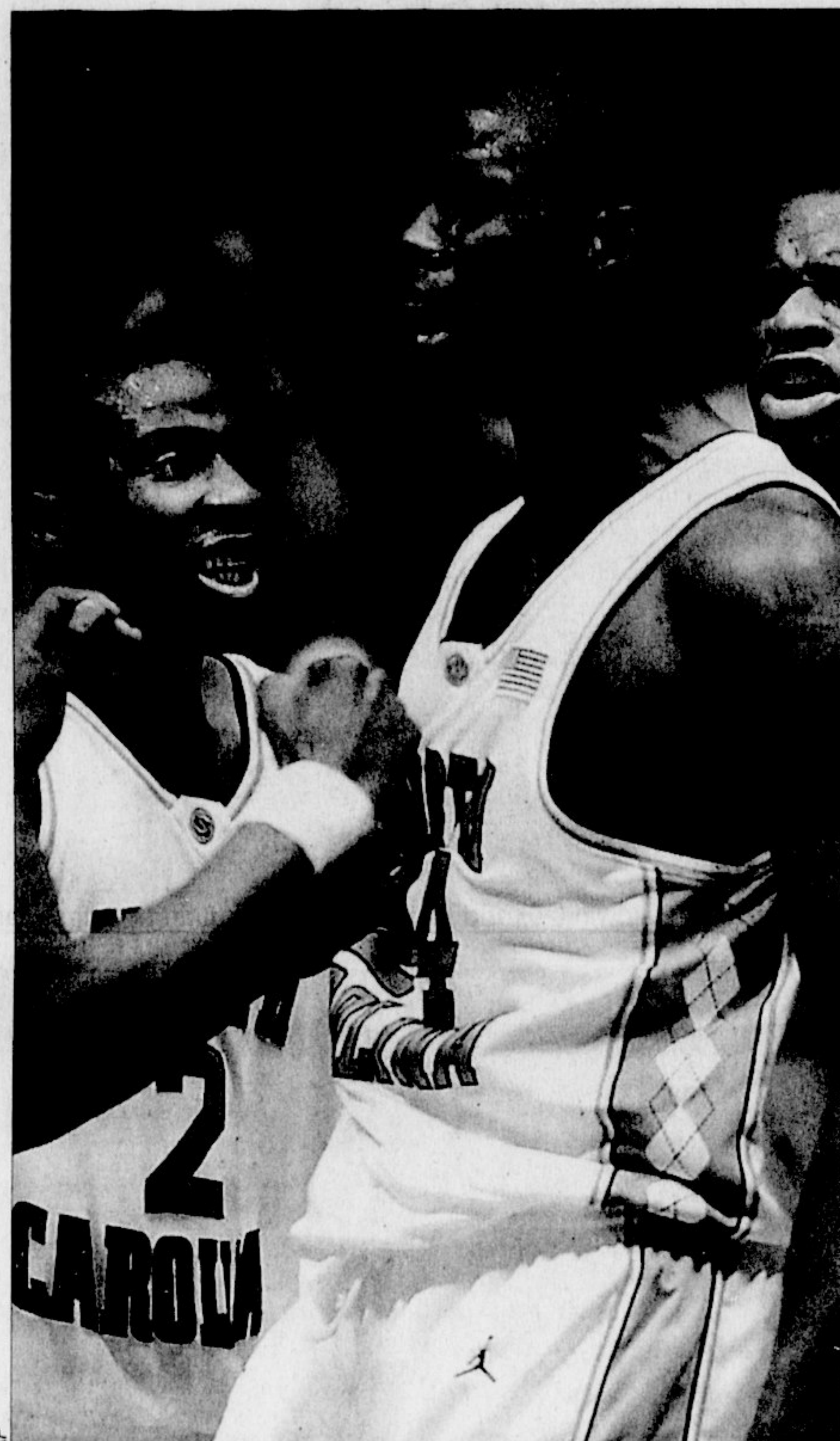
State will be packing their bags for the NIT when the Seminoles do it again, this time in a low scoring game, 66-62.

Game 3: No. 6 Miami vs. No. 11 Virginia, 7 p.m. Thursday:

The Cavaliers are ready to get it over, ready to end a miserable season, and ready to be rid of Pete Gillam. Guillermo Diaz and company still have something to play for, as a bid to the national tournament is still within reach. Hurricanes in a walk, 75-63.

Game 4: No. 8 Maryland vs. No. 1 North Carolina, 12 p.m. Friday:

When Rashad McCants went down with an intestinal disorder in late January, the Heels were a bit concerned. Four wins and no losses later, any questions that lingered about Carolina's depth on offense were answered. Don't expect McCants to play in this



Marvin Williams celebrates after hitting the game-winner Sunday.

game, but I do expect him to be active in the late rounds. Maryland will keep the game close, in a last ditch effort to get into the NCAA tournament. Heels pull away late 90-78.

Game 5: No. 4 Virginia Tech vs. No. 5 Georgia Tech, 2 p.m. Friday:

Wow. Preseason talks didn't include Va. Tech, and the ones that did alluded that the Hokies wouldn't win a game in the conference. They have proved everyone wrong, and shown that they weren't just a team that won games in the ACC that were expected, after defeating Duke in a thriller at home. Georgia Tech, on the other hand, has been anything but impressive.

But mark my words, this tournament is just the beginning of a long post-season run for Paul Hewitt and the Yellow Jackets. Elder is healthy, and Jack seems to love the pressure of post-season play. Jackets begin their march in a statement game with a 85-63 win over the Hokies.

Game 6: No. 2 Wake Forest vs. No. 10 Florida State, 7 p.m. Friday:

The story in this game will be the absence of Chris Paul, after he was suspended for one game by the university for delivering a low blow to Wolfpack's Julius Hodge in their ACC finale. I expect this to be a big deal, and I believe that Hamilton, though obviously not true, can convince his kids that they're a better team than the Demon Deacons without Paul. Take it or leave it, I'll take the Seminoles in a shocker, 87-83.

Game 7: No. 3 Duke vs. No. 6 Miami, 9 p.m. Friday:

It's coach K, it's the ACC tournament, it's the Blue Devils. What else do you expect? Blue Devils in a romp 80-62.

Semifinal 1: No. 1 North Carolina vs. No. 5 Georgia Tech, 1:30 p.m. Saturday:

The Yellow Jackets will continue to show why they're poised to make another run at a national title, as they will push the Heels to the limit, with or without McCants. I expect Jack and Raymond Felton to go each other the whole game, while Sean May will continue his beastly double-double pace. Tar Heels in a classic, 88-86.

Semifinal 2: No. 3 Duke vs. No. 10 Florida State, 3:30 p.m. Saturday:

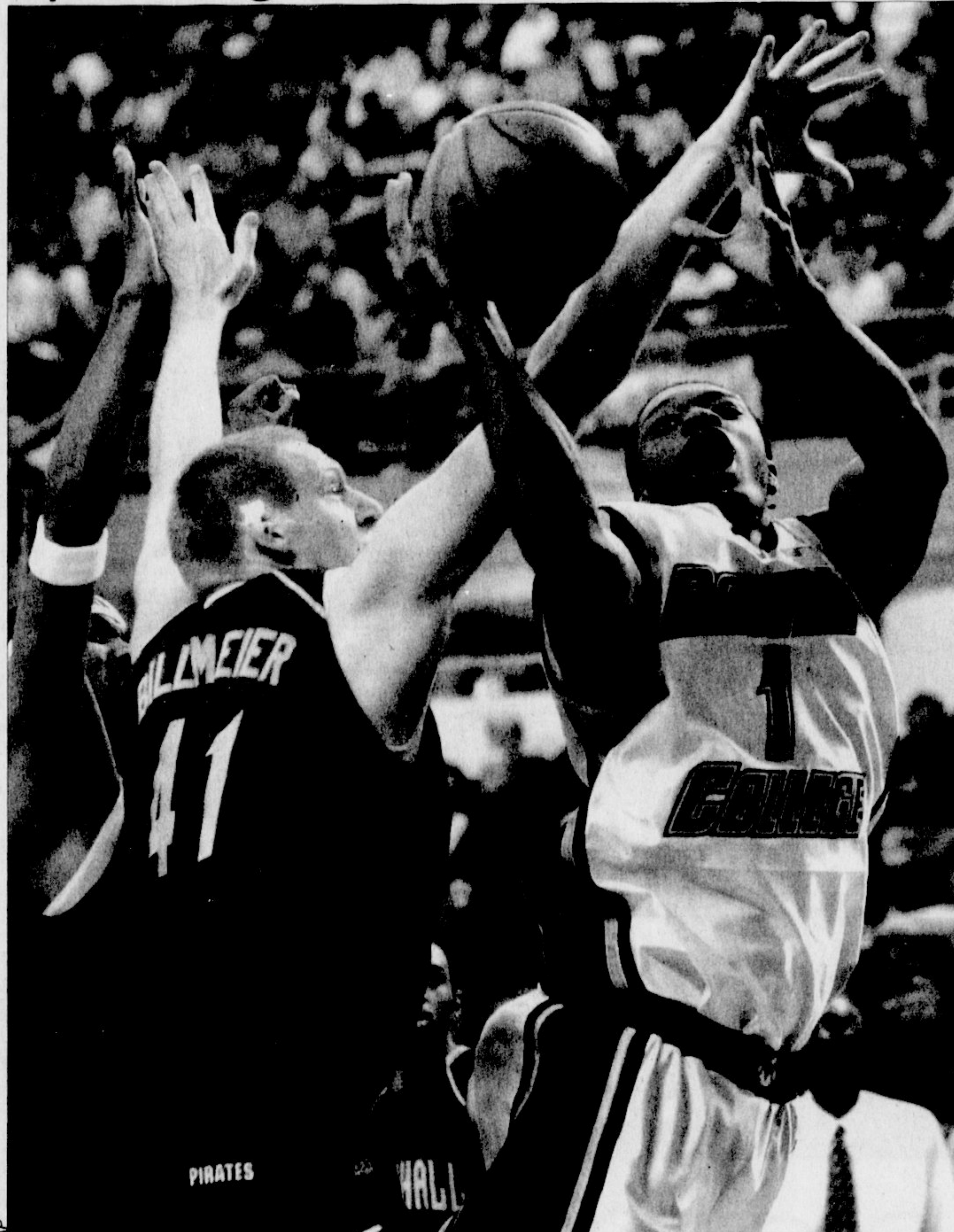
Duke got a gift after Florida State pulled off the improbable upset of Wake Forest in the quarters. They will have to unwrap it though, and something tells me that this one has a lot of tape on it. Blue Devils escape, but just barely, 79-73.

Championship: No. 1 North Carolina vs. No. 3 Duke, 1 p.m. Sunday:

Would you have it any other way? The two teams have split this year, with both home teams being victorious. McCants is likely to return from his nagging injury, and while I don't expect him to have the biggest game offensively, his defense will prove to be invaluable, as Duke will still be without Sean Dockery. If Carolina goes to the trap early, which I think they will with McCants healthy, this one could get away from Coach K and the boys. Duke closes late but still loses, 90-80.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

Big East has potential to put up to eight teams in big dance



Seton Hall's Grant Billmeier tries to block Craig Smith as he drives toward the basket in the first half, in Boston, Saturday, Feb. 26. BC finished the regular season 24-3 after a 20-0 start.



VILLANUEVA

Conference may have proven itself just as good or better than ACC this year

BRANDON HUGHES
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Arguably the top conference in college basketball this season, the Big East features five teams ranked in the top 25 and could receive as many as eight bids in the NCAA tournament.

The Big East Conference tournament should prove to be a springboard for several bubble teams and could be the demise for others March 9-12, at Madison Square Garden.

Many experts contend the Big East was tougher than the powerhouse of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Only time will tell, as schools from both sides will clash at the Big Dance. For now, a birth into the field of 65 is at stake along with the coveted Big East postseason championship.

St. John's will be the only squad not making the short trek to NYC as the opening round will field three intense match-ups. West Virginia, Georgetown and Notre Dame are squarely on the bubble and a first round victory will go a long way when the selection committee constructs the brackets.

The Mountaineers (18-9, 8-8) will take on Providence (14-16, 4-12), a team that has fallen well under expectations after a 20-8 campaign in 2003-2004. All-American candidate Ryan Gomes leads the conference in scoring (21.7 ppg) and is third in rebounding (8.2 rpg) for the Friars.

Georgetown (16-11, 8-8) will take on Seton Hall (12-15, 4-12) in another first round match-up. The Hoyas have struggled mightily as of late, dropping their last five games, and would most likely garner a NIT invite with a loss to the Pirates.

The Fighting Irish (17-10, 9-7) should be a lock for the NCAA's barring a meltdown at the hands

of Rutgers (9-18, 2-14). Notre Dame could also be the dark horse to emerge as the Big East champs with Chris Thomas running the show. Thomas leads the team in scoring (13.9 ppg) and assists (6.7 apg) and Notre Dame is tops in the conference in three-point shooting, hitting at a 39 percent clip. If the Irish can hit that outside shot consistently for the length of the tournament to take the pressure off a weak offense in the paint, they will have an opportunity to make a run at the title.

Quarterfinal action begins on Thursday with a nationally ranked meeting between Villanova (21-6, 11-5) and Pittsburgh (20-7, 10-6). Villanova has reeled off seven consecutive victories, including an eight-point win against the Panthers. Wildcats' leading scorer Allan Ray (17.3 ppg) dropped in 21 second half points and Villanova hit 12-of-23 three-point attempts in that meeting. Depth will be a concerning issue for a Wildcats team that goes just seven men deep.

Pitt started the season 10-0 thanks to the trio of Carl Krauser (15.5 ppg), Chevon Troutman (15.3 ppg) and Chris Taft (13.4 ppg), but the squad's inexperience has been evident. The Panthers have impressive wins over Syracuse, Connecticut and Boston College, and disappointing losses at the hands of St. John's and Bucknell.

Two future Basketball Hall of Fame coaches and an upstart No. 1 seed comprise the final three teams awaiting the results of the first round with a bye.

Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun and Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim have passed the 700-victory plateau and earned the No. 2 and 3 seeds, respectively. The Boston College Eagles are flying high with the top seed after a 20-0 start this season.

The Orangemen (24-6, 11-5) have one of the top players in the country in Hakim Warrick, who is averaging 21.3 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. Warrick is one of college basketball's most electrifying dunkers and a definite lottery pick in the NBA draft. Syracuse has been rock solid all season, with all six of their losses coming against ranked opponents. But the Orangemen don't have enough offensive weapons for a tournament championship. Gerry McNamara (15.7) hasn't made defenses pay enough after Warrick draws double-teams, hitting only 34 percent from beyond the arc. Syracuse is dead last in the Big East in three-point shooting (30.7 percent).

Connecticut, which tied BC for the regular season crown, is red hot rolling into the tournament, winners of its six and nine of 10. The Huskies (21-6, 13-3) have won their last five games by an average of 16 points, which includes victories over Notre Dame, Pittsburgh and Syracuse. And they are doing it with one of the most balanced lineups in the country. Five players are averaging double figures in scoring with Rashad Anderson leading the way at 13.8 points per game. Charlie Villanueva and Josh Boone are both ripping down more than eight rebounds a contest, and the sixth leading scorer Marcus Williams (8.9 ppg) leads the conference in assists (8.0 apg).

Boston College (24-3, 13-3) came crashing back down from the clouds of a 20-0 start and has since dropped three of its last seven games, albeit against reputable opponents Notre Dame, Villanova and Pittsburgh. Craig Smith (17.8 ppg), who leads the league in rebounding with 8.5 boards per game, has been the model of consistency, scoring in double figures in 26 of 27 games.

Eight conference teams could find themselves in the NCAA tourney with seven still vying for a 20-win season as the Big East has earned every right to be considered the top conference in college basketball. But the Connecticut Huskies stand above the rest. UConn is playing its best basketball of the season and with six scoring options, two bona fide beasts in the post, a distributor at the point and a Hall of Famer at the helm, the Huskies may be unstoppable not only in the Big East tourney, but throughout March Madness and into the Final Four.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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Thursday Night Karaoke
10pm-2am

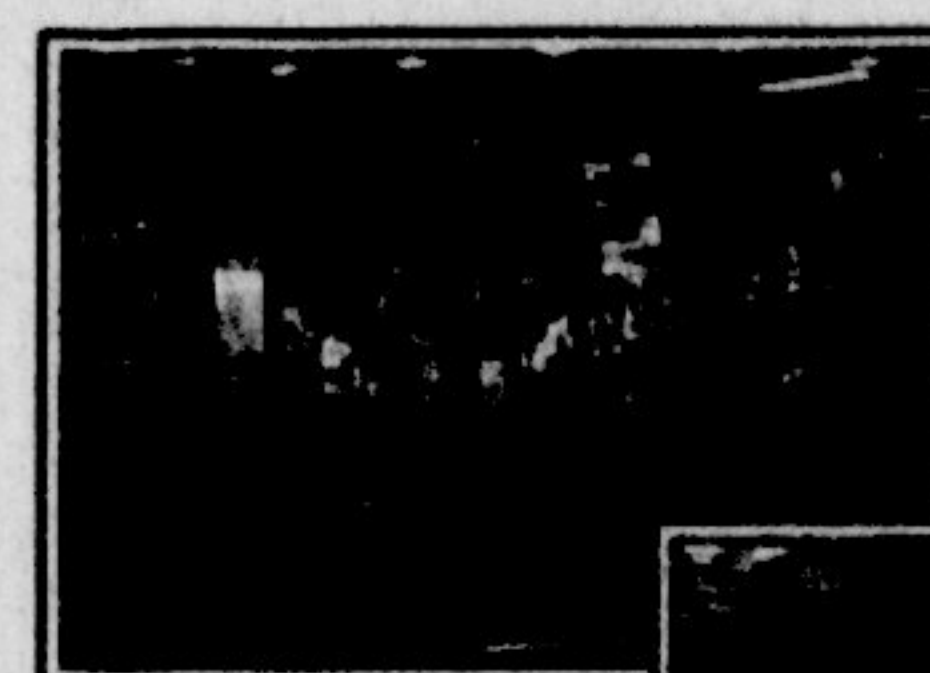
Saturday
Featured Pint \$2.25

Sunday Open Mic Night

COME CATCH ALL T



Sports Bar & Billiards
Greenville, NC



439-0555

HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK
AND WHEN YOU GET BACK, CHECK US OUT

UNIVERSITY TERRACE

PRELEASING FOR SUMMER/FALL 05

**3 BEDROOM
3 FULL BATH**

Water/Sewer Included • Close to Campus
On ECU Bus Route • Sorry, No pets allowed

\$875

Preleasing Special • Reserve Yours Today!

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