

DeLay continues to battle allegations of ethical violations



DeLay addresses his charges at a press conference.

Congress contends with new money scandal

CHRIS MUNIER
NEWS EDITOR

The federal government is in the midst of major changes to its judiciary and legislative branches because of Supreme Court vacancies and a scandal surrounding the House of Representatives Majority Leader, Tom DeLay.

The indictments DeLay faces are grounded in charges of money laundering during the 2002 election. If convicted of the charges, DeLay could get sentenced to as much as two years of jail time.

"Both indictments accuse DeLay and two political associates of conspiring to get around a state ban on corporate campaign contributions by funneling the money through the DeLay-founded Texans for a Republican Majority Political Action Committee to the Republican National Committee in Washington," according to an MSNBC report.

"The RNC then sent back like amounts to distribute to Texas candidates in 2002, the indict-

ment alleges."

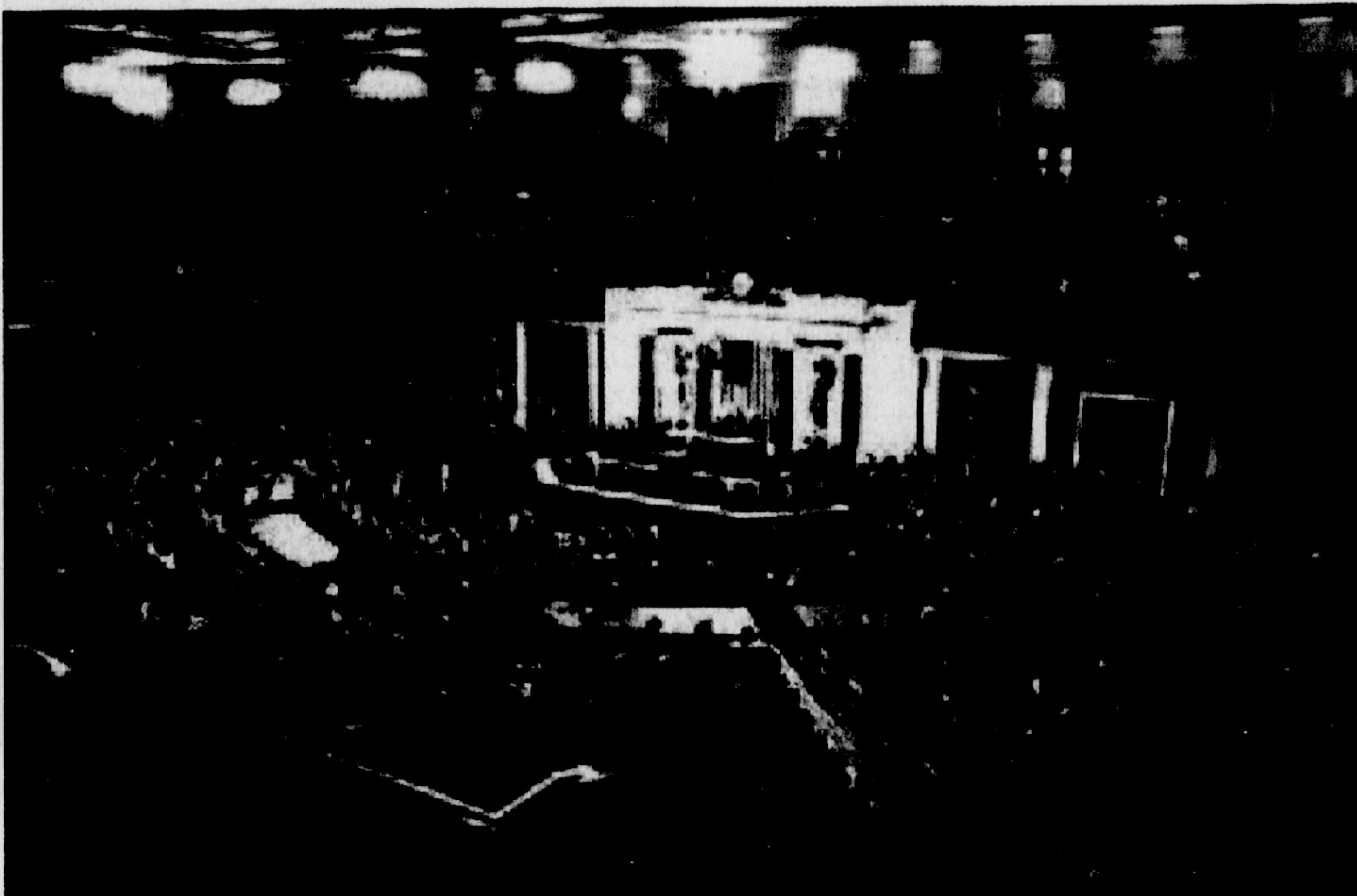
Some of the other ethical violations alleged against DeLay include using funds to direct the Federal Aviation Administration to track Democratic state legislators who left Texas in order to stall a controversial vote on redistricting.

Also, DeLay has been cited for unethical campaign fund-raising.

"A Kansas-based energy company, Westar Energy Inc., donated \$25,000 to one of DeLay's several political action committees. Immediately afterward, Westar executives were invited on a two-day golf trip with the majority leader. During that trip, those executives said DeLay asked to be advised on any interest Westar energy had in the upcoming federal energy legislation," wrote Andrea Seabrook, writer for NPR.

Party rules forced DeLay to step aside as majority leader in light of the investigation. However, DeLay fully expects to return to his post as house majority leader.

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Congress is considering revising the Higher Education Act, an act that provides nearly all federal higher education programs.

UNC, NC State students act against possible aid reduction

Congress could cut funds considerably

ZACK HILL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students from North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have joined students nationwide to protest cuts in financial aid.

With the cuts coming at the federal level, the effects would be felt by college students across the country.

On Sept. 20, the Student Government Association at UNC-Chapel Hill voted to endorse a statement condemning provisions in the bill on Sept. 20.

NC State followed suit on Sept. 21. Combined, the two North Carolina universities represent about 60,000 students.

The U.S. House of Representatives is currently considering re-authorization of the Higher Education Act. The Higher Education Act is the single piece of legislation that provides nearly all federal higher education programs.

The act comes up for re-authorization about every five years and has been in effect since 1965. The act's purpose is to allow more Americans to attend college through the federal government shouldering some of the financial burden.

"Legislators want to 'trim the

fat,' but we cannot afford to cut federal student aid programs anymore. It's like trying to squeeze water from a dry sponge," said Ginny Franks, vice president for Legislative Affairs with the UNC Association of Student Governments.

The UNC ASG pulls its 193,000 student membership from all 16 North Carolina universities.

H.R. 609 would freeze Pell Grant funding for the next six years. Pell Grants help about five million low-to-middle-income students attend college each year. Funds for the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership program have already been frozen for the past three

years and would continue to be frozen.

The LEAP program provides incentives for states to provide need-based college aid to students. The Federal Work Study Program, which provides about 800,000 jobs to college students, would also have its funds frozen.

Other sections of the bill would make it tougher for some students to receive loans, and those receiving them would have a harder time paying them off because of higher interest rates. The bill also fails to include the proposed Student Aid Reward Act, which could

see AID page A2

U.S. military launches another offensive in west Iraq Tuesday

HAQLANIYAH, Iraq (AP) — Some 2,500 U.S. troops along with Iraqi forces launched their second major offensive in western Iraq in a week Tuesday, sweeping into three towns to take them back from insurgents who had killed Marines there last month.

The U.S. military announced its first casualties of the offensives, with four troops killed by roadside bombs during the fighting and a fifth elsewhere.

The assaults in western Iraq aim to put down al-Qaida in Iraq and other Sunni-led insurgent groups that have waged a campaign of violence aimed at wrecking a crucial Oct. 15 national vote on a new constitution. The United States has hoped the new charter would bring together the country's fractious communities, but Sunnis sharply oppose it.

Sunni Arab moderates threatened Tuesday to boycott the voting after the Shiite-led parliament passed new rules over the weekend that make it effectively impossible for Sunnis to defeat the charter at the ballot box.

The new rules deepened alienation over the political process among Sunnis, who had decided to participate in the referendum but to vote no — but who now said the Shiites were using their dominance to stack the deck against them. A boycott would undermine the referendum's legitimacy and strike a blow to hopes that political progress would weaken Sunni support for the insurgency.

"Boycotting the referendum is a possible option ... because we believe that participating in the voting might be a useless act," said Saleh al-Mutlaq, a leading Sunni politician.

The United Nations also expressed concern about the new electoral rules, saying they

don't meet international standards. U.N. officials have been meeting with Iraqi authorities and are confident that Iraq will ultimately agree to sound electoral rules, spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

"Ultimately, this will be a sovereign decision by the Iraqis and it's up to the Iraqi National Assembly to decide on the appropriate electoral framework," Dujarric said. "That being said, it is our duty in our role in Iraq to point out when the process does not meet international standards."

In Baghdad, a suicide attacker set off a car bomb at the main entrance to the heavily fortified Green Zone, a district of Iraqi government buildings and the U.S. and British Embassies. The powerful blast killed two policemen. The attack came on the first day of Ramadan, the holy Islamic month of fasting. Al-Qaida in Iraq called on its followers to step up attacks against U.S. and Iraqi forces and make it a "month of victory for Muslims and a month of defeat for the hypocrites and polytheists."

Previous Ramadans since the invasion and occupation of Iraq two years ago saw a spike in violence in Iraq — especially suicide attacks, in part because some Islamic extremists believe those who die in combat for a holy cause during the period are especially blessed.

In another statement, al-Qaida in Iraq urged Sunnis to boycott the referendum, saying U.S. authorities would fix the vote. "You know very well that the Americans are going to supervise collecting the voting boxes and counting the votes," it said.

The military launched its latest offensive in a cluster of cities in the Euphrates River valley about 140 miles northwest of Baghdad. Code-named "River

Gate," it was the largest U.S. offensive in the troubled Anbar region of western Iraq this year, the military said. It also included hundreds of Iraqi troops, the largest such contingent of any of the offensives this year.

Airstrikes by U.S. warplanes and dozens of helicopters set off explosions that lit up Haqlaniyah, Parwana and Haditha before dawn Tuesday. Barrages of gunfire also were seen in the night sky. Large sections of Haqlaniyah's power were knocked out.

Some of the strikes took out bridges across the Euphrates in the area to prevent militants from escaping over them into the desert, said Lt. Col. Christopher Starling, the operations officer in Regimental Combat Team 2, which is leading the offensive.

Dozens of roadside bombs were encountered on the main arteries into the towns as U.S. troops moved in, Marine commanders said. Later in the day, U.S. snipers took positions on rooftops in Haqlaniyah as troops blared warnings on loudspeakers ordering residents to stay inside their homes, witnesses said.

The military launched a similar offensive on Saturday, 93 miles upriver, by the Syrian border. Operation "Iron Fist," which continued Tuesday, concentrated in the towns of Sadah, Karabilah and Rumana, aiming to uproot al-Qaida in Iraq insurgents who receive reinforcements and supplies from Syria. At least 57 militants have been killed in that operation.

The military said a Marine was killed Monday by a roadside bomb in Karabilah, the first U.S. death in Operation Iron Fist. In the hours before Operation River Gate began, a roadside bomb hit U.S. troops in Haqlaniyah on Monday, killing three, the military said.



Chancellor Schroeder is facing pressure to leave his position.

German conservatives press Schroeder's party to accept Merkel victory

BERLIN (AP) — Conservative challenger Angela Merkel's party increased the pressure on Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Tuesday ahead of key talks aimed at resolving Germany's two-week-old leadership crisis, demanding he drop his campaign to remain in office after the country's inconclusive election.

Merkel's Christian Democrats and the Bavaria-only Christian Social Union argue that their candidate should be chancellor because they are the largest parliamentary bloc. The election was so close that Schroeder's Social Democrats also claim the right to rule because it got the most votes of any single party.

"There will be no negotiations on the issues if the Social Democrats do not accept that our candidate will be chancellor," Volker Kauder, the general secretary of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, told ARD television.

The conservatives are demanding that Schroeder's Social Democrats drop their demand for him to be the next chancellor — and accept Merkel — for the current round of talks to

advance to full-fledged coalition negotiations. A third exploratory round is set for Wednesday.

Dieter Althaus, another senior conservative, told ARD television the two parties would have to "pause" if the Social Democrats do not relent.

A failure to agree could leave Germany with a weak minority government at a time when many are calling for potentially unpopular action to fix the economy. A lack of consensus could also lead to new elections.

Both parties oppose that, saying Germany needs stable leadership quickly to tackle high unemployment, sluggish growth and budget deficits as well as to provide leadership in the European Union.

Germany, which has the continent's largest economy, will play a key role in the EU as it wrestles with thorny issues such as membership negotiations with Turkey and whether to let Romania and Bulgaria join the union on schedule in 2007.

see GERMAN page A3

Economic downturn temporary

Long term thinking is paramount

SCOTT EATON
STAFF WRITER

Hurricane Katrina, the war in Iraq, a ballooning deficit, the continuing real-estate bubble, rising interest rates, continuing poverty and ascending gasoline prices have given many people pause about the state of the U.S. economy as the deficit grows and big spending continues to be the norm in Washington.

According to Randy Parker, associate professor of economics, an upturn in economic growth is only three to five months away if the proper action is taken.

"This is just a three to five month phenomenon, and once construction starts to rebuild after Katrina, I would hope to see a situation where we can maintain growth," said Parker.

Ed Yardeni, an economic forecaster with Oak Associates Ltd., and Phillip Verleger, an energy analyst at the Institute for International Economics, recently spoke with Knight Ridder about the state of the U.S. economy as well.

Yardeni expressed a similar sentiment to Parker's that stagflation could last for six months until recovery begins, although Yardeni was a bit more sheepish about the economy's ability to withstand the damage done by Katrina and Rita.

Verleger was less optimistic as he compared recent economic problems such as the wars in

see ECONOMY page A6

Announcements

Volunteer Guardian and Litem Program

The Volunteer Guardian and Litem Program is looking for advocates for abused and neglected children. Volunteers are trained, and then appointed along with an attorney advocate to represent the child's best interests in juvenile court proceedings. The program works with other agencies to locate and develop resources that would benefit the child and his/her family. Volunteers can assist by speaking up for a child's right to grow up in a safe and caring environment. For more information, contact Catherine Darby at P.O. Box 1391, Greenville, NC or call 695-7325. Training classes for new volunteers will begin in early November.

Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon

Event Date: Saturday, Oct. 8
Time: 2 p.m.
Where: Wright Auditorium
Details: Amber Brown's best friend Justin is moving away forever and doesn't even seem to care, so Amber vows never to speak to him again. Will things work out or is their friendship over for good? This lively musical is based on Paula Danziger's bestselling book. Details: Purchase subscriptions by Oct. 8 for best options. Family Pass (4 tickets to each show) \$96, Public Subscription (1 adult ticket to each show) \$30, ECU faculty/staff Subscription (1 adult ticket to each show) \$25, ECU Student/Youth Subscription (1 student/youth ticket to each show) \$20. Advance individual tickets, if available, may be purchased beginning Sept. 18 and cost \$9 public, \$8 ECU faculty/staff, \$6 ECU students/youth. All tickets at the door are \$9. Web site: ecu.edu/ecuarts
Contact: Central Ticket Office, 328-4788, 1-800-ECU-ARTS, ecuarts.com
Invitations: Ticket Required

National Depression Screening Day

Event Date: Thursday, Oct. 6
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m.
Where: Joyner Library
Details: National Depression Screening Day is Thursday, Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and again from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. on the second floor of Joyner Library. This is a free screening for students, faculty and staff for anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and bipolar disorder. Contact: Center for Counseling and Student Development, 328-6661.

The Pajama Game

Event Start Date: Friday, Oct. 7
Event End Date: Tuesday, Oct. 11
Time: Oct. 7, 8 p.m., Oct. 8, 2 p.m., Oct. 9, 8 p.m., Oct. 10, 8 p.m., Oct. 11, 8 p.m.
Where: McGinnis Theatre
Tickets are: General Public-\$17.50 - Senior Citizens and current ECU Faculty/Staff-\$15 - and Youth/Current ECU Student-\$12 in advance, \$17.50 at the door. Details: Conditions at the Sleep Contra Dance
Web site: ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/mcginnis/playhouse.cfm Contact: 328-6829 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS
Invitations: Ticket Required

News Briefs

State

NC firm agrees to pay fine for shipping products to Hong Kong

RALEIGH, NC (AP) — A crime-scene investigation products company that a former state senator once headed has agreed to pay a \$400,000 fine resulting from charges that it illegally shipped products to Hong Kong. If Sirchie Finger Print Laboratories of Youngsville violates federal export laws between now and 2010, or if it doesn't pay the fine by Oct. 21, it could face a five-year ban on exporting.

In addition, John H. Carrington, a former five-term senator from Raleigh, accepted a five-year export ban on him personally. He did not deny or admit guilt as part of the settlement, according to public documents.

Carrington could not be reached for comment Tuesday, *The News & Observer* of Raleigh reported.

Sirchie and Carrington had been cited in connection with the export of fingerprint imaging equipment, fingerprint ink and fingerprint powder to Hong Kong.

U.S. companies are not allowed by law to sell fingerprint equipment to about a half-dozen nations and territories with a history of human-rights violations.

Federal authorities said in the documents that Sirchie and Carrington conspired to evade the export laws by shipping the products to Hong Kong through Italy.

Both Carrington and Sirchie

were charged with 181 violations of U.S. export regulations involving products valued at more than \$1.4 million. Federal authorities said the violations occurred from 1999 to 2004, a time when Carrington was in the state Senate.

Carrington has said previously that he did not knowingly send products to Hong Kong but that some could have ended up there through distributors in other countries that do not face the same export restrictions as U.S. companies.

Carrington signed the settlement documents Sept. 19 and is identified as the company's former president. The company's settlement documents were signed Sept. 16 by Scott E. Carrington, who is listed as the company's current president.

The company employs more than 100 people and produces nearly 2,000 types of law enforcement products, including fingerprint powder, rape kits and special lighting for crime scenes.

National

Two farmers sue over USDA's formula for tobacco buyout payments

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — William Neese began farming burley tobacco in southwest Virginia's foothills when he was 12. He quit only because payments from a federal tobacco-quota buyout promised to help him exit a business that no longer guaranteed

profits.

But in March, the 52-year-old farmer from Abingdon was stunned to learn that he would receive only a third of what he had expected from the \$10.1 billion buyout. Other longtime growers were getting similar unwelcome surprises.

Now Neese and another Virginia farmer have sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture, accusing it of steering away from Congress's directives and effectively slashing their payments.

For Neese, that means he would receive about \$190,000 rather than the \$563,000 he expected. The other burley farmer, Daniel M. Johnson of Meadowview, would get \$217,000 versus \$503,000.

The farmers say the agency replaced a simple calculation approved by Congress with a complex formula that cuts payments to many farmers.

"I didn't realize that if the House passed it, the Senate passed it and the president signed it, that the USDA had any power to change it," said Neese, who stopped growing tobacco last year and now raises more cattle. "I guess we're getting an education here."

A spokesman for the USDA declined to comment and deferred to the Justice Department, which said it planned to file a response in October.

But in an April letter to U.S. Sen. George Allen, an official

with the Agriculture Department said a lot of farmers got the false impression that they would receive payments based on their 2002 tobacco quotas. Quotas, which represent the amount of tobacco that growers can market, have been assigned to individual farms since 1938.

"We understand many farmers were mistakenly led to believe that they would receive payments based on the farm's 2002 effective quota," wrote J.B. Penn, a USDA undersecretary. "However, the statutory language requires many adjustments to be made to the 2002 effective quota when calculating payments for producers."

Exactly who contributed to any miscommunication is unclear.

Penn's letter came after Allen raised questions about possible inequities in the agency's formula. In March, Allen told Penn in a letter that he was concerned that the USDA's formula appeared "to deviate from the clear direction" of the law.

The farmers' lawsuit emerged from Congress's decision last year to end the federal program setting price and production controls on U.S. tobacco. Tobacco quota holders will be paid over a decade to compensate for losses as this system ends.

The buyout will be funded from assessments on tobacco companies. About \$9.6 billion was to go to quota holders and

producers, while the remainder was to pay outstanding expenses.

Under the law passed by Congress, farmers who grew tobacco in 2002, 2003 and 2004 would receive \$3 per pound, based on their 2002 quota. Owners of tobacco quota, which includes landowners who lease their production licenses to active farmers, would get \$7 per pound.

World

Iraq's parliament reverses last-minute change it made in referendum voting rules

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's National Assembly voted on Wednesday to reverse last-minute changes it had made to rules for next week's referendum on a new constitution following criticism by the United Nations and a boycott threat by the Sunni minority.

After a brief debate and with only about half of its 275 members present, the assembly voted 119-28 to restore the original voting rules for the referendum, which will take place Oct. 15. Washington hopes a "yes" vote in the referendum will unite Iraq's disparate factions and erode support for the country's bloody insurgency.

U.S. and U.N. officials hope that restoring the original rules will avert a boycott of the referendum by the Sunni minority, an action that would have deeply

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provide \$17 billion in student grant aid.

Cuts in federal graduate student aid have also been part of the discussion in Congress. A group of about two dozen conservatives in the House of Representatives has proposed eliminating subsidized loans to graduate students.

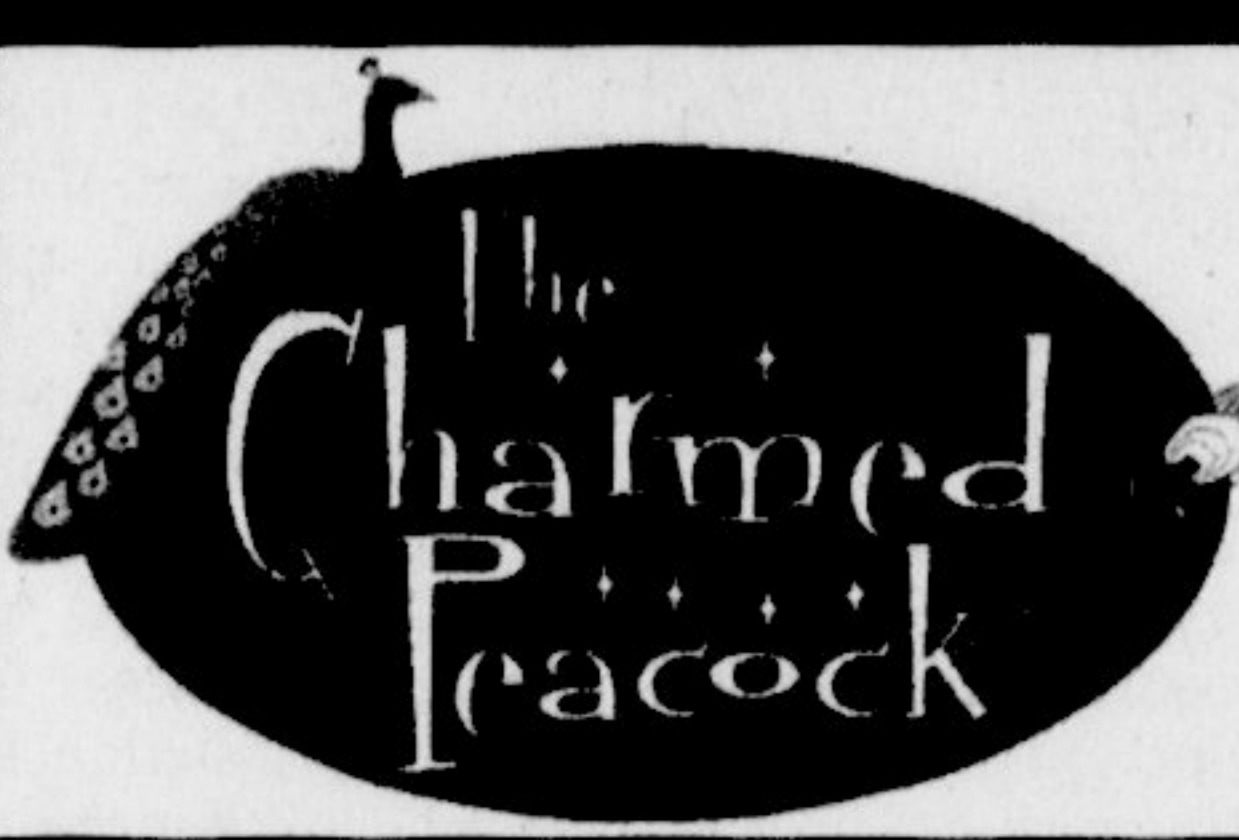
"Undergraduate aid is on the chopping block in H.R. 609 and Budget Reconciliation and grad student loans are on the chopping block in 'Operation Offset,'" Franks said.

Organizations nationwide organized a protest call to congressional representatives on Sept. 20. Several petitions are circulating online in an attempt to dissuade politicians from allowing the cuts.

For information, students can visit the UNC-ASG Web site at uncasg.org or the United States Students Association Web site at ustudents.org.

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

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German from page A1

Merkel and Schroeder are negotiating over how to govern together in a so-called "grand coalition" because neither won a majority for their preferred coalition in inconclusive Sept. 18 elections. Merkel's Christian Democrat-Christian Social Union group has an edge of four seats, 226-222, over the Social Democrats in the 614-seat lower house, or Bundestag. To build a government, a bloc needs at least 308 seats.

Parliament must convene by Oct. 18 - if it cannot choose a chancellor in three rounds of secret-ballot voting, President Horst Koehler can name the candidate with the most votes to head a minority government - or dissolve parliament for another election campaign.

Speaking to an agricultural industry union in Bonn, Franz Muentefering, the SPD party chief, said the Social Democrats were ready to move ahead and could vote on Thursday whether to enter into formal, full-fledged coalition talks with the conservatives.

News Briefs Continued

undermined the credibility of the vote and set back efforts to bring Sunnis into the political process.

"The government is completely keen to make the constitutional process legitimate and of high credibility and we are concerned about the success of this process rather than the results of the referendum," government spokesman Laith Kubba said after the vote.

Many Sunnis oppose the charter and want it rewritten, believing it would divide Iraq and leave Shiites in the south and Kurds in the north with virtual autonomy and control over the country's oil wealth.

The original rules, now restored, mean that Sunnis can veto the constitution by getting a two-thirds "no" vote in three provinces, even if the charter wins majority approval nationwide. Sunni Arabs are dominant in four of the 18 provinces.

On Sunday, Iraq's Shiite- and Kurdish-controlled parliament effectively closed that loophole with their rule change. The

legislature decided that a simple majority of those who cast votes means the constitution's victory - but that two-thirds of registered voters must cast "no" ballots in three provinces to defeat it.

That interpretation had raised the bar to a level almost impossible to meet. In a province of 1 million registered voters, for example, 660,000 would have had to vote "no" - even if that many didn't even come to the polls.

After Wednesday's vote, the deputy speaker, Hussein, said the parliament now agreed that the word "voter" throughout the election rules means someone "who did really cast his vote in the referendum" - both for the purposes of passing the referendum or for getting the two-thirds threshold needed to defeat.

In behind-the-scenes negotiations Tuesday, U.N. and U.S. officials pressed Iraqi legislators and government officials to reverse that change. The U.N. said the change was a violation of international standards.

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"I think it will be over and be over very soon. And I think I will go back to be majority leader," said DeLay in a Fox News interview.

The damage done to the Republican majority in Congress may outweigh the damage of DeLay. Researchers believe people focus more on Congress as a whole.

"Many may hold the Congress in very low regard but they nonetheless love their congressman," wrote Richard Fenno, author of *If, as Ralph Nader says, Congress is 'The Broken Branch?'* *How Come We Love our Congressmen so Much?*

If this theory holds true, DeLay's constituents will still support him, if he gets past his legal dilemmas.

A *New York Times*/CBS News poll showed Congress at only a 34 percent approval rating earlier in September. Pollingreports.com conducted surveys asking Republicans, Democrats and independents whether or not DeLay should return to his post as majority leader if he is acquitted of charges.

Seventy-eight percent of Republicans said he should return. While 50 percent of Democrats and 66 percent of independents think he should return as floor leader.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi does not believe DeLay's scandal will affect the opinion of Congress. She said the scandal is more of a referendum on congressional Republicans. She said they were "plagued by a culture of corruption."

New York Representative Tom Reynolds, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said Democrats are attacking DeLay because he wins against them.

"Democrats resent Tom DeLay because he routinely defeats them - both politically and legislatively," said Reynolds.

Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Party, gave a speech to Massachusetts Democrats, criticizing the former house leader.

"[DeLay] ought to go back to Houston where he can serve his jail sentence," said Dean.

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

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Our View

Can the Pirates redeem themselves this weekend against Rice?

The ECU football program lost a golden opportunity to strengthen the Pirate nation last week in a 33-7 loss to Southern Miss. Granted, the gridiron Bucs were just 1-2, but students were excited about the prospect of a competitive football team, because for once in most of their college careers, the Pirates were expected to win this season.

Following moral victories against Wake Forest and West Virginia, if there is such a thing, ECU fumbled the ball against Southern Miss, literally. College football enthusiasts across the country will dismiss the 33-7 loss as a blowout and continue on across their local sports page. But for the first time in years, ECU has competed in all four of their matchups this year. Five turnovers against the Golden Eagles doomed their chances, but any fan with knowledge of the game can take a look at the statistics and take solace in the fact the Pirates went toe to toe with the opposition.

ECU has another opportunity to right the ship when they host Rice on Saturday and win some of the student fans who were lost in the wake of another defeat. There isn't much pride around campus in the program for fair-weather fans across campus, but a victory over the Owls will match ECU's win total for last season and maybe get some of the people who love Saturdays more for the tailgating than for the action on the gridiron into Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

A softer Conference USA schedule will help the Pirates turn the program around and it looks as though the coaching carousel in Greenville has stopped and will keep newcomer Skip Holtz squarely in control. There are some bright young stars hitting the field this weekend, including quarterback James Pinkney and receiver Aundrae Allison. The duo will have the opportunity to rewrite some of the school's record books before their career is over. Let's just hope someone is there to see 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.



Pirate Rant

To the couple in my physics class, please stop making out during class. I think it is absolutely ridiculous that during an hour-long class you cannot control yourselves and keep off of each other. It's really disgusting and annoying. Do me a favor, get a room!

I'd be Ed McKim's personal trainer any day. He looks like he knows how to make a woman happy.

Kristin M. from features, will you marry me?

Why is it that some people feel the need to cheat and ruin the testing environment for their fellow students? If you cheat on tests while you are in nursing school then how did you get into the program initially? Have some class and do your own test because eventually you will get caught.

I love George W. Bush!

I think it's ironic that the Marketing Education bulletin board on the second story of Bate has nothing posted on it.

Hey Mr. Frat-tastic pink shirt with your popped collar, not all art students listen to that trash. Stop grouping us together and maybe you won't be grouped either.

Why do Ford and the other American car manufacturers even bother running advertisements claiming their sedans get 25 MPG? That's like saying you're the smartest student in the remedial math class.

Did they have a sale on ugly brown culottes that I didn't know about? Wish they had told me so I can conform to every other girl here.

First of all, Good Charlotte sucks and anyone who likes them must be lame. Second, I would rather work in a coffee shop in NY than live in Greenville with boat shoe-wearing, beer guzzling conformists. And third, Dave Matthews blows.

To the guy who said that it must really suck to be like every other girl: We do not all look the same. Maybe you're just too shallow minded to look past the hot blondes who all dress the same. There actually are hot girls out there with their own style, and their own minds.

Attention Southern Drivers: YOU SUCK! Don't block the right lane at a stoplight when the left lane is wide open. I want to turn right on red!

I tried to get my student ticket from the box office before the game on Saturday but was told my OneCard wouldn't swipe. It swipes everywhere else, but why couldn't the ticket staff just type in my social security number?

What does the 'd' in "B-GLAD" stand for?

I am writing to persuade TEC to run an article of the election of Erskine Bowles to be president of the UNC System. This is a major decision that will affect all students in the state public university system.

<insert dry/sarcastic/mean comment here about people who complain about people in the Pirate Rant column. Silly people.>

I understand how difficult a task it must be to swipe someone's OneCard. But could the employees of the SRC, especially the management, be a little nicer. You people have no customer service concepts at all.

To the annoying individual who kept making stupid remarks about the Southern Miss coach's stick at the game Saturday: you weren't funny. However your little jazz hand dance was. Too bad you were being serious on that one.

To all of you people who are anti Greek. STOP coming to our parties (especially Reggae), hitting on sorority girls, and popping your collar!

To the person who dislikes Flag Football referees, become one and see how it is dealing with people like yourself, who would never miss a call.

If the salad was that nasty, why did you buy it? They come in clear plastic containers so you can see if it's starting to rot. In fact, why did you buy a salad on campus? You were just asking to be ripped off.

To the sorority girl in my marketing management class, when you come in and your usual seat isn't open, don't get the pissed off look on your face. There are 20 other seats in the room that you can sit in.

I am a freshman here at ECU and I love TEC. However, I was seriously disgusted about the articles on "What's Hot." Shouldn't we be enforcing uniqueness and individuality, not how to look like everyone else?

Not that I'm hating or anything, but don't some of you people have things to wear that aren't plastered with Greek letters?

Why do you have to sign in to the computer labs, you ask? Because when you steal something, we can catch you.

With flag football it is not the best athletes who win the games it's the team who understands the rules because it is not the ref who is throwing the ball down the field or committing the penalties, it's you so get over yourself you perfect person!

Whoever made that comment about Music Appreciation being easy... you must not have Newsome. He makes that class ridiculously hard! Professor N: This is music APPRECIATION... thanks to you none of us appreciate music anymore.

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.

Opinion Columnist

Did Bush make the wrong decision in nominating Miers?

Or was he just exercising his executive privileges?

GARY MCCABE
CAUSAL OBSERVER

Still taking heat for an unpopular war, a lackluster response to Hurricane Katrina and skyrocketing gas prices, you would think that President Bush would be walking on eggshells right now. Bush's popularity is reaching what I like to call "Jimmy Carter territory" and lame duck or not, you would think that he would use every opportunity to try and win the support of Americans.

Recently, a golden opportunity presented itself: the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor from the Supreme Court. This was a chance for Bush to knock one out of the park. It wouldn't be easy, but maybe, just maybe, if Bush found the perfect candidate—one which liberals, conservatives and everyone in between could get behind—maybe he could finally make some real progress with the American people.

But somehow, Bush has managed to choose a candidate that nobody wants. And some exhaustive search it must have been for him—he chose his former personal attorney, Harriet Miers. Maybe it's me, but when the president looks for a candidate for any position, they probably should also consider people who aren't on their Buddy List. If Bush had done that, maybe we wouldn't have had an expert on Arabian horses in charge of FEMA during Hurricane Katrina.

Or maybe I have it wrong. Maybe he's finally trying to be the "uniter" that he's always claimed to be. Maybe his grand design is to bring people together in opposition to Miers. I'm not sure why. It's just the only theory I can think of. I don't understand his reasoning with this selection because there's something for all sides to hate about her.

Bush's hardcore, conservative base cannot be satisfied with the selection of Miers, a successful lawyer with a paper-thin portfolio and apparently pro-gay leanings. Never before serving as a judge, conservatives will have no track record to refer to and instead, must simply take her word that she stands for their conservative values.

That's a hard pill to swallow with Justice Souter fresh in their minds. Justice Souter was nominated for the Supreme Court by President H. Bush and confirmed in 1990 but clearly is now one of the most liberal justices on the bench. Are conservatives willing to take that chance with Miers?

As for liberals, if Bush is offering Miers as some sort of peace offering because she's apparently more moderate than his other options, then it's another one of the many words he doesn't know the meaning of. According to the Oct. 5, 2005 edition of the Washington Post, Miers is a devout born-again Christian and fiercely pro-life.

What does President Bush expect Democratic Senators to say? "So let me get this straight, Mr. President. In exchange for a smooth confirmation for

Miers, we get a Justice who might vote to overturn Roe v. Wade if it ever came up? Awesome!"

Basically it comes down to this. If Miers wasn't so close with President Bush, she would never have been in the running, let alone chosen to replace Justice O'Connor. She has no credentials. She's never been a judge. She's never written opinions. We don't know where she stands on most issues and we probably won't any time soon either because all of her legal documents from her work as a counsel in the White House will be withheld from the public and Congress because President Bush is exercising his executive privilege.

The fact that she's a liberal or a conservative doesn't really bother me. It's the fact that she's been nominated to the most important court in the United States and she has absolutely no right to be there. Does George Bush seriously think that she's the best candidate to be the next Supreme Court Justice—the court which directly affects the lives of every U.S. citizen?

There are hundreds of more qualified people in this country. Hell, just turn on your television to in the early afternoon and you'll see a handful of them. I mean, seriously, Judge Joe Brown would be 10 times the Justice that Miers would. I guess that's why he'll never have a shot at the job: we only get mediocre public officials these days. It's especially true with the Bush administration. It seems like he appoints the worst people possible so in contrast it looks like he's doing a great job as president.

In My Opinion

Harriet, we hardly know you

(KRT) — President Bush's choice of Harriet Miers for the Supreme Court should eventually end the debate about his intelligence.

Democrats, who have long questioned his intellect, now must hope their rhetoric matches reality and he isn't smart enough to judge how she'll rule once on the bench.

Conversely, his supporters must take the pick on faith — trusting that she won't be this Bush's David Souter, whom the president's father named to the court and turned out to be among its more liberal members.

That's because there is little evidence how Miers thinks about some of the most controversial issues of the day. Given the confirmation process, we are unlikely to find out until she begins issuing rulings.

Of course, it's pretty apparent that Miers is a pro-business conservative who had previously given money to some Democrats — in the 1980s, when the party actually was competitive in Texas — before joining the president's team more than a decade ago.

She pays lip service to the notion that judges should interpret existing statutes, not make them by taking the law further than the elected representatives are willing to go.

Because she has never been a judge, or gone through congressional confirmation hearings for her White House jobs, however, we really don't know much about the nitty-gritty of how her

mind works.

Barring a revelation that one assumes the White House vetting process has screened for, the chances of stopping her confirmation are slim to none.

It's poor politics, especially for Red State Democrats who have to seek reelection, to turn someone who looks like your grandmother into Public Enemy No. 1, no matter how much cash abortion- and gay-rights groups may have given to their campaigns.

Which is why if Bush's criterion for picking a Supreme Court justice is someone whose personal views are so unknown their impartiality can't be called into question, he gets an A.

But if his goal is a justice he can absolutely count on to be a reliable conservative vote on controversial cases, then it's not clear to the rest of us — although obviously it is to him — what grade he should get.

After all, Bush is one of the few people on Earth who has the insight to know, or reasonably suspect, how she will rule.

One would assume that the president is sure of her views and values. He has known her for more than a decade, and she is the chief White House lawyer.

Yet because there is little, if any, public record that would lead a prudent person to conclude where she stands on the most controversial matters — like abortion, gay rights, immigration, etc.

— it will not be clear to most of us or, for that matter, to the senators who must confirm her, how she will vote.

Goody-goody types will applaud that, but practical politicians want to know what they are getting.

We have our suspicions, and the company she has kept in recent years would appear to provide clues.

Yet history shows that presidents can appoint Supreme Court justices expecting them to have a specific judicial philosophy and be proved wrong.

Just look at Souter, a New Hampshire Supreme Court justice when tapped for the high court on the expectation by the elder Bush that he was a reliable conservative vote like Antonin Scalia.

Dwight Eisenhower was none too pleased with many of the rulings by Earl Warren, whom Ike made chief justice.

But in both of those cases, the presidents did not know their nominees or their judicial philosophies well before hand.

Miers is another story.

Howard Dean & Co. have been arguing for years that Bush isn't intellectually up to the job. Making fun of his intelligence has been standard cocktail-party chatter since his first election.

We won't know for a while, but, in the end, picking Harriet Miers for the Supreme Court will prove once and for all just how smart Bush really is.

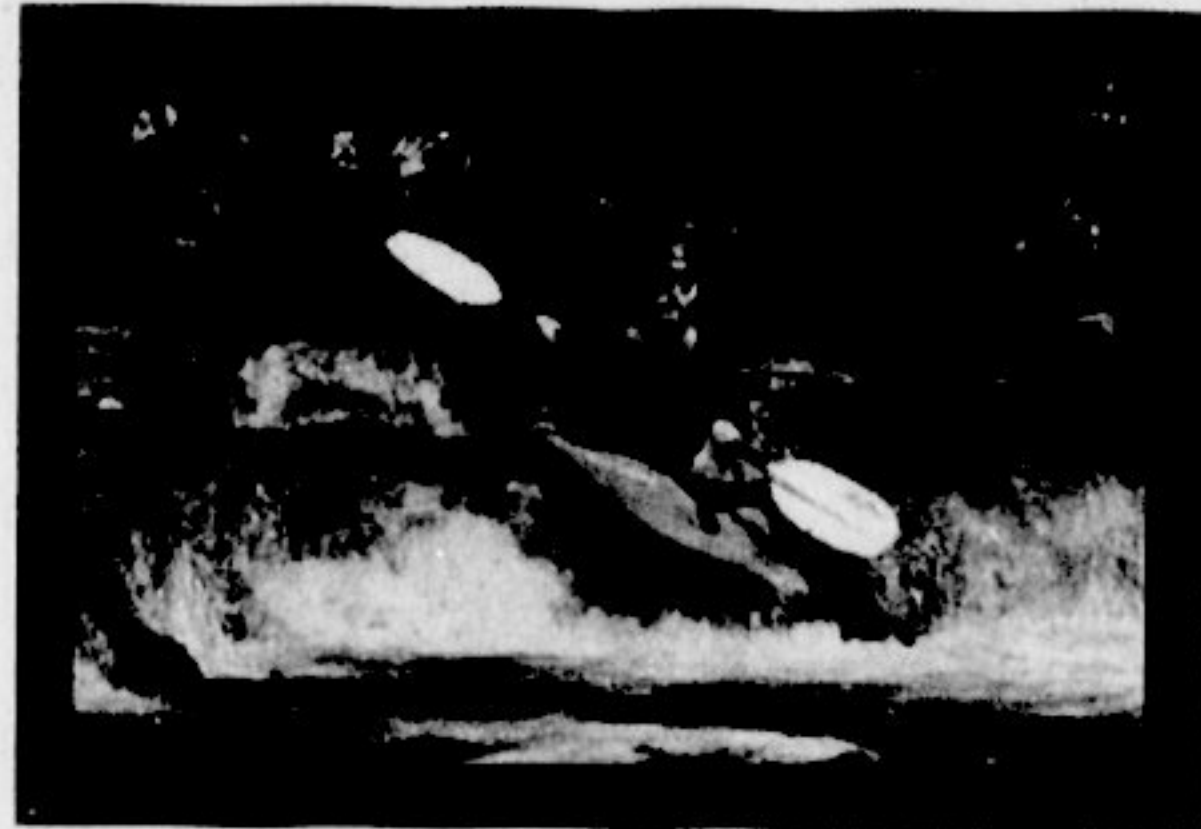
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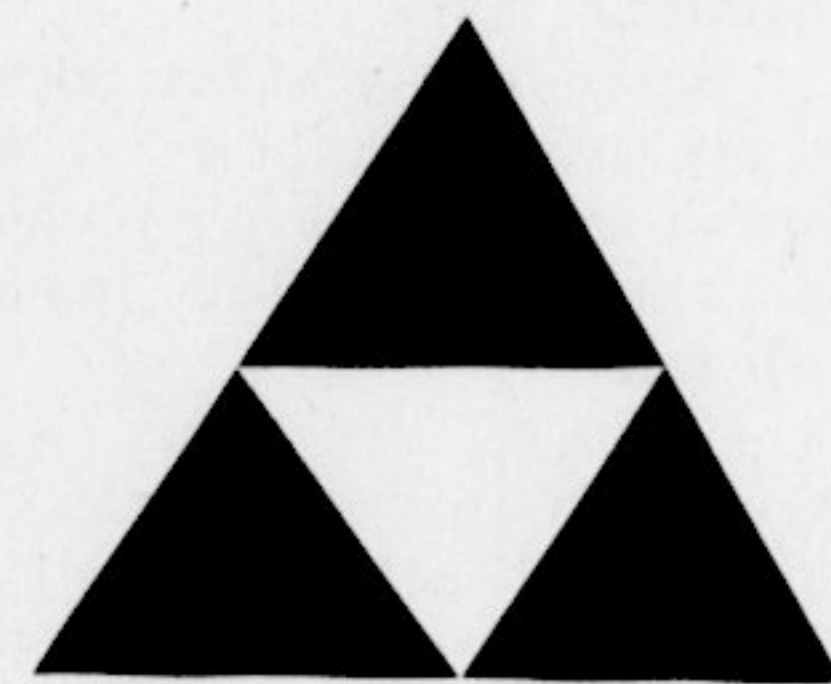


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"Accreditation underscores our long-standing commitment to providing the highest possible levels of quality care to our students, staff, and faculty," said Mrs. Jolene Jernigan, Director, Student Health Service. "We are pleased and

proud to have our efforts recognized with this accreditation."

Ambulatory health care organizations seeking accreditation by the AAAHC undergo an extensive on-site, peer-based survey of its facilities and services. This includes staff and patient interviews, review of our record-keeping processes such as Logician, our electronic medical record; credentialing; and the safety and security of our facilities. Not all ambulatory health care organizations seek accreditation, and not all who undergo the on-site survey are granted accreditation.

Accreditation is an ongoing process. ECU's Student Health Service has been granted the highest honor of accreditation for three years, which concludes that ECU Student Health Service is in compliance with the standards of AAAHC, and the survey committee was satisfied with our commitment to continued high quality care and services.

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Economy from page A1

Iraq and Afghanistan, rebuilding after Katrina and rising deficits paralleling former President Lyndon Johnson's problems with the Vietnam War and his ambitious Great Society spending program in the late 1960s. He underscored the fact that the economy in the 1960s could not hold up against the strain, which led to tax increases and a long battle to control rampant inflation.

Parker is adamant about the fact that forecasting economic trends tends to be a very difficult exercise.

"Prediction is always a difficult thing, especially when it deals with the future," Parker said.

"You must remember to always look at these things in the long term."

Although the rebuilding efforts in the Gulf will increase the deficit, there is no doubt that the Gulf ports will be rebuilt with federal funding, Parker said.

"I know people have called on the president to raise taxes or get rid of the tax cuts fearing massive deficits, but there are ways to pay for this without hurting economic growth, which raising taxes would do," Parker said.

"The tax cuts from 2000 and 2001 have made the recent recession not as bad as [it] could have been, and raising taxes is not a good way to cut deficits as studies have shown."

Allowing the economy to grow without touching taxes and getting a good handle on spending is the way to pay down the deficit, Parker said.

"President Bush has done everything, but in spite of Iraq and Katrina, he hasn't controlled spending and that's why the deficit continues to grow," he said.

"But the deficit is actually under control if we look at it in absolute dollar terms."

In proportion to the Gross Domestic Product of our economy, the deficit is 3 percent. Parker said if the ratio reaches 7 or 8 percent, then the deficit will be a major issue.

"You've got to keep it in perspective, those foreign investors who are holding our bonds are increasing the line of credit here - so they're actually doing us a favor," Parker said.

"Financial capital flowing into the country is a sign of strength, not weakness - they're looking at the U.S. as a good investment."

Interest rates have also been an issue in recent years as they dropped to a historic low of one percent, but have gradually been increased by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

"The worry is about curbing inflation," Parker said.

"Greenspan is raising interest rates while the economy is growing to reach an equilibrium rate that would control inflation and maintain growth."

Some people believe that Greenspan is doing this to slow down the real estate bubble before sharp price drops burst the bubble, Parker said.

"This bubble cannot be sustained any more than three to five years," Parker said.

"Nobody knows what will pop it, but ask yourself what drives the herd mentality - I don't know."

Parker is especially concerned about salt water real estate, homes being bought and sold on the coasts, which are appreciating at amazingly high rates.

"In Miami, people are buying beach front property and selling it within days with an appreciation rate of 25 percent a year," he said.

"This simply can't last."

Banks allowing creative financing gimmicks and giving out risky interest-only loans are heading for financial ruin if the bubble bursts.

"Assets will take a hit elsewhere but not nearly as bad as the salt water real estate," he said.

"People are saying, 'Gorilla? I don't see a gorilla' - so as an economist I say, 'Hey, look at that gorilla.'"

Poverty is also a problem now brought into the forefront of debate after the debacle in New Orleans exposed rampant poverty in a major American city.

"You could go into any city and find the same kind of poverty, and if people weren't aware of this they're not paying attention," Parker said.

"It reminds me of the famous line in *Casablanca*, 'I'm shocked

- absolutely shocked - to find gambling here."

Since Johnson's Great Society, more than \$6 trillion has been spent on eradicating poverty, yet the rate of poverty remains the same.

"There are four ways to avoid poverty: graduate from high school, don't get married when you're a teenager, delay having children until you're married and don't abuse drugs or alcohol," Parker said.

"Among people who follow this advice, the chances of living in poverty are almost nothing."

According to Parker, the government can do little about the rate of poverty.

"It's the cold hard truth - if we could do something, I'm more than willing to spend more," he said.

Another 500 pound gorilla in the room is Medicare, which may be in dire straits in the future.

"Social security does have a solvency issue, but it can easily be solved even without privatization - the real problem that no one's talking about is Medicare," Parker said.

Funding for Medicare is largely dependent on technological innovations, and such things are very difficult to estimate the costs of using.

"We don't have a clue how much it will cost in the future to keep all our citizens healthy - if anyone says they know, they're lying," Parker said.

"No one even wants to talk about it."

All in all, Parker is optimistic about the economic trends in the U.S.

"You have to think in terms of long term growth," Parker said.

"If we continue to have a trained workforce, available educational opportunities and the entitlements question is addressed, I'm very optimistic about the future - in other words, there's not going to be a deficit monster chasing you down any time soon."

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

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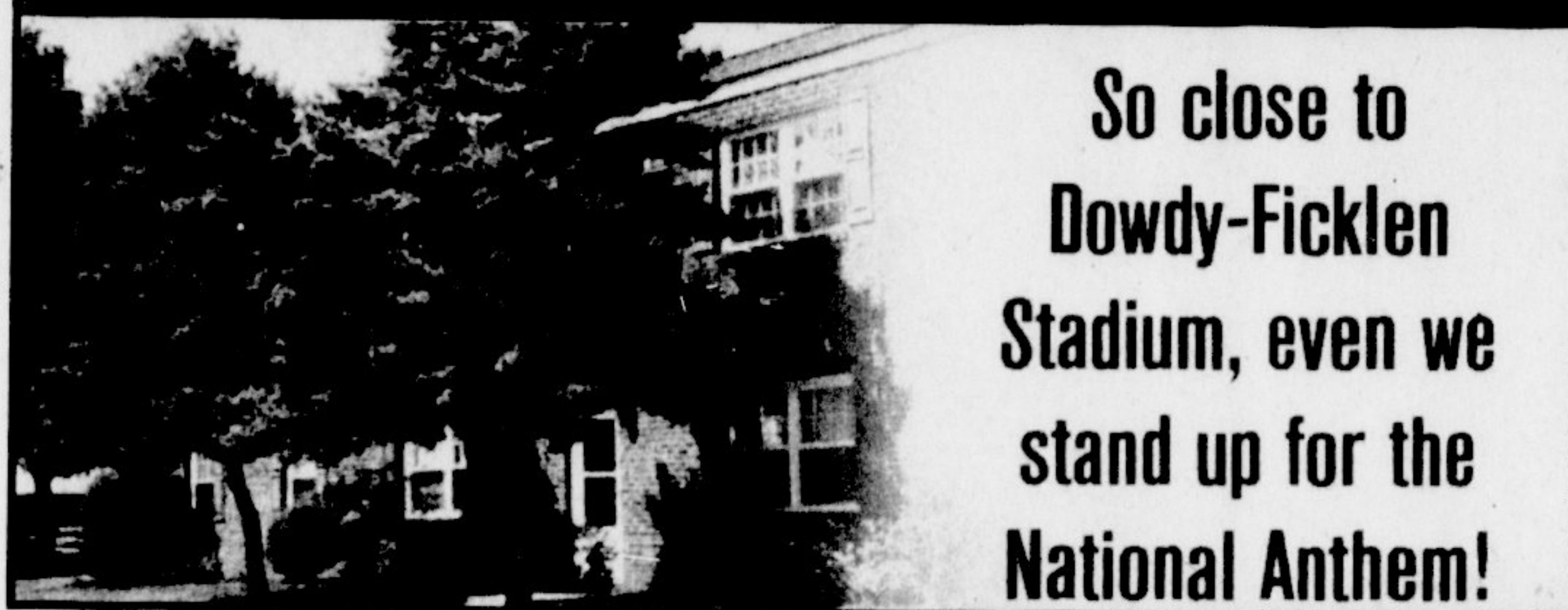
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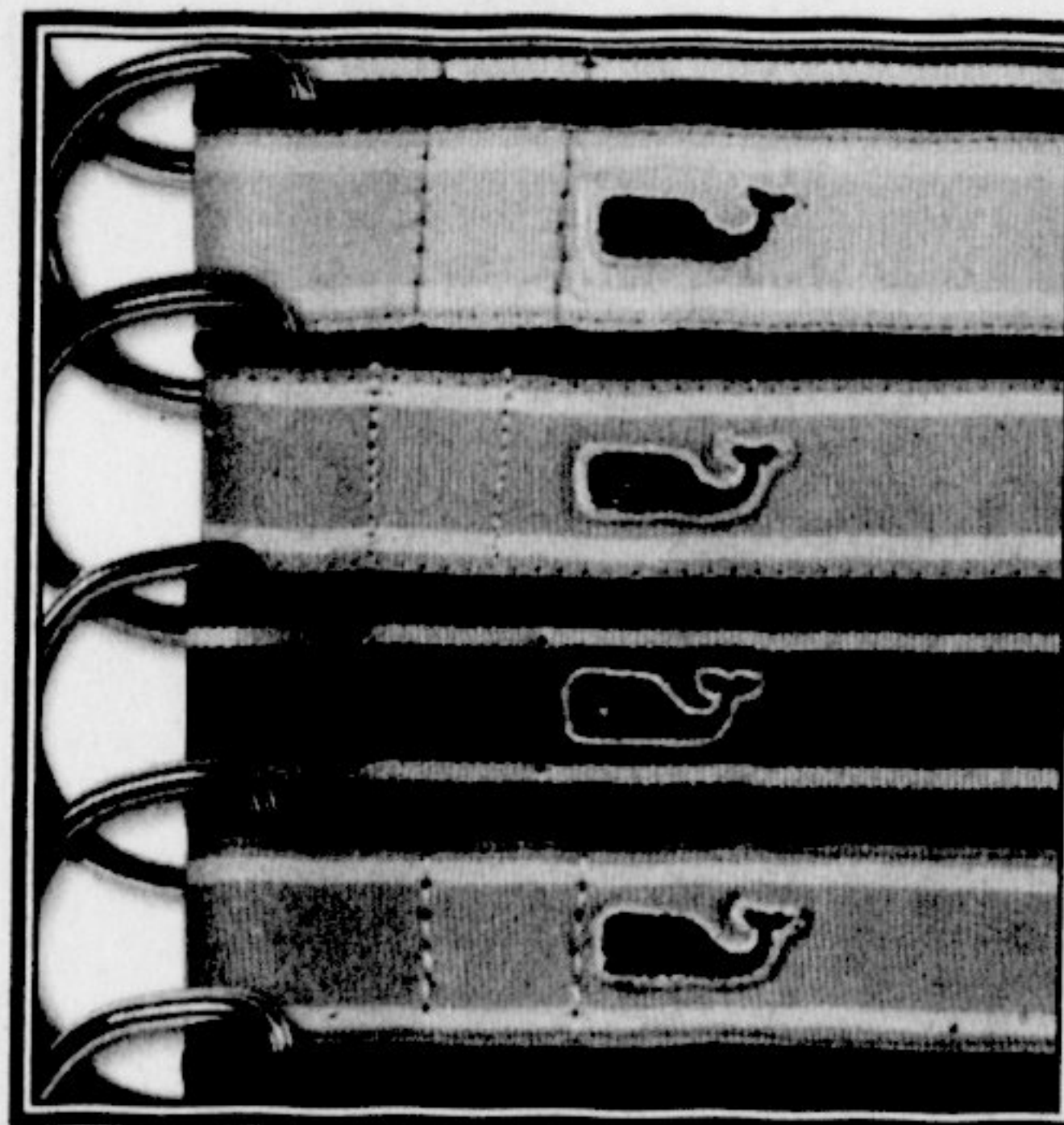
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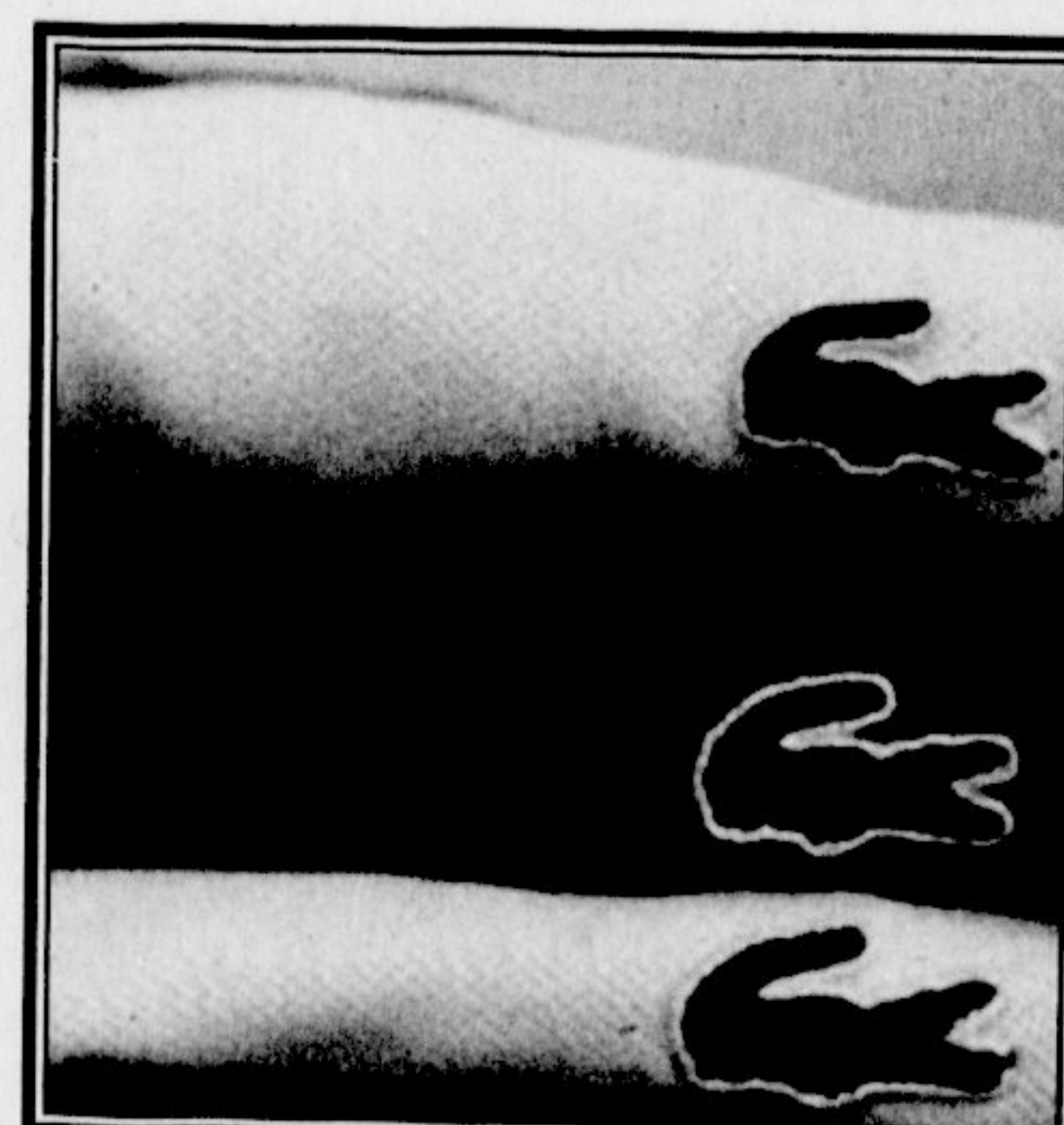
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Page A8

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GREEK PERSONALS

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OTHER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NAMI ECU meets Thursday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center on the ECU campus. There will be a speaker. See you there!

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Page B1

Got Que...

Dear Feature... Why is there... with men and... relationship... with multiple... cool or 'play... get lots of ac... hoes. I don't... appreciate it... standard ooc... Gettin' down...

Dear Gettin'... We are not... double stan... agree that it... whether it b... seem fun at... quite dang... around here... about one in... an STD. Whil... calling or ste... you that cas... thing to do... safe sex is a... go, unless y... another of th...

Recipes:

Apricot Chic...

2 tablespoo... turns of the p... 2 pounds ch... 1/2 across o... Salt and pep... 1 large onio... 2 tablespoo... 12 dried pitte... 2 cups chick... 1 cup apricot... 3 tablespoo... parsley, for g... Heat a large... medium high... Season with c... brown the c... on each side... minutes. Add... let it evapor... stock. When s... add preserv... Cover pan, re... 10 to 15 mi... with a sprin... **Grilled Gre...**

3 fresh chi... poblanos -- a... according to... 4 (12-inch) la... 3 cups (3/4... cheddar (re... brand, shred... 1 cup store... available on... in Mexican fo... 1 cup sour cr... 2 tablespoo... Heat a grill p... whole chiles... about 10 min... and split chil... with a spoon... Heat a large r... over medium l... and blister it... then flip torti... with cheese a... Press down g... quesadilla 15... side, transfer... Pile up two o... a time and c... wedges. The... from four qu... on a large pla... salsa verde an... Garnish the p... chopped cilan...

Pina Colada

2 tablespoo... 1/2 cup suga... 1/2 inch peel... 1/4 ripe pinea... cut into chun... 1/2 cup rum... Maraschino c... Ginger cooki... In a small sa... Add the suga... until the suga... stir until the s... brown, about... pineapple ch... saute for 2 to... pineapple thr... Scoop ice cre... cream dishes... Remove the e... add the rum... igniter, flame... quickly to e... Pour the pine... ice cream, gar... cherry and a...

Black and W

1 cup chocol... 2 pints vanill... 2 quarts skim... 1 tray ice cub... In a blender, f... 3 squirts of ch... cup) 1/2 pint l... 2 to 3 scoop... and 4 ice cub... smooth and... In soda foun...

Got Questions?

Dear Features,
Why is there such a double standard with men and women and their sexual relationships? Men who have sex with multiple people are considered cool or 'playas,' while women who get lots of action are called skanks or hoers. I don't understand it and I don't appreciate it. Why does this double standard occur?
Gettin' down in G-Vegas

Dear Gettin' down in G-Vegas,
We are not exactly sure why this double standard exists, but we do agree that it is not right. Promiscuity, whether it be male or female, may seem fun at the time but is actually quite dangerous. The STD rate around here is awfully high, with about one in four students carrying an STD. While we can't fix the name calling or stereotyping, we can advise you that casual sex isn't the safest thing to do. Also, never forget that safe sex is always the best way to go, unless you're planning on being another of those one in four students.

Recipes:

Apricot Chicken:

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, 2 turns of the pan
2 pounds chicken tenderloins, cut in 1/2 across on an angle
Salt and pepper
1 large onion, chopped
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
12 dried pitted apricots, chopped
2 cups chicken stock
1 cup apricot all-fruit spread or preserves
3 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley, for garnish
Heat a large skillet with a lid over medium-high heat. Add oil and chicken. Season with salt and pepper. Lightly brown the chicken a few minutes on each side, add onions. Cook five minutes. Add vinegar to the pan and let it evaporate. Add apricots and stock. When stock comes to a bubble, add preserves and stir to combine. Cover pan, reduce heat and simmer 10 to 15 minutes. Serve chicken with a sprinkle of chopped parsley.
Grilled Green Chili Quesadillas:

3 fresh chile peppers, such as poblanos -- any variety may be used, according to your tolerance for heat
4 (12-inch) large flour tortillas
3 cups (3/4 pound brick) smoked cheddar (recommended: Cabot brand, shredded)
1 cup store bought salsa verde, available on chip and snack aisle or in Mexican food section
1 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro leaves
Heat a grill pan over high heat. Place whole chiles on grill and char all over, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and split chiles. Scrape away seeds with a spoon and slice.
Heat a large nonstick skillet or griddle over medium-high heat. Char the tortilla and blister it on one side, 20 seconds, then flip tortilla. Cover half of the tortilla with cheese and chilies, then fold over. Press down gently with spatula. Cook quesadilla 15 seconds more on each side, transfer to a cutting board. Repeat. Pile up two completed quesadillas at a time and cut into three generous wedges. The yield will be 12 pieces from four quesadillas. Serve slices on a large platter with small dishes of salsa verde and sour cream for topping. Garnish the platter and toppings with chopped cilantro.

Pina Colada Sundaes:

2 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 inch peeled ginger, grated
1/4 ripe pineapple, peeled, cored and cut into chunks
Coconut sorbet or ice cream
1/2 cup rum
Maraschino cherries, for garnish
Ginger cookies, for garnish
In a small saucepan, heat the butter. Add the sugar and ginger. Stir together until the sugar dissolves. Continue to stir until the sugar starts turning light brown, about 3 to 4 minutes. Add the pineapple chunks, toss to coat, and saute for 2 to 3 minutes to warm the pineapple through.
Scoop ice cream into each of four ice cream dishes.
Remove the pan from the heat, and add the rum. Using a kitchen torch or igniter, flame the rum, tossing pineapple quickly to extinguish the flames. Pour the pineapple flambe over the ice cream, garnish with a maraschino cherry and a ginger cookie.

Black and White Shakes:

1 cup chocolate syrup
2 pints vanilla ice cream
2 quarts skim milk
1 tray ice cubes
In a blender, for each shake, combine 3 squirts of chocolate syrup (about 1/4 cup) 1/2 pint vanilla ice cream (about 2 to 3 scoops), 2 cups skim milk and 4 ice cubes. Blend on high until smooth and icy. Serve with straws in soda fountain or other tall glass.

Don't dive 'Into the Blue'

Hollywood's recent failure at adventure

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

Into the Blue attempts to be too many movies at one time. It doesn't know what type of film it wants to be and by the time the film ends, we've been treated to so many different types of films we're not entirely sure what film we just watched.

Paul Walker (*Fast and the Furious*) plays Jared, a beach bum living on a shipwrecked houseboat in the Caribbean who has aspirations of finding buried treasure underneath the waters someday. His girlfriend is Sam (Jessica Alba), but we never get any feel for who she is. Yes, she's Jared's girlfriend but it appears the only reason why Alba is in this film is so she can swim around in next to nothing as a ploy to only make more box office money.

Jared's brother Bryce (Scott Caan) pays a visit to his brother for a week with a new girl he just picked up named Amanda (Ashley Scott). The four hang out on a boat and go diving as a means for relaxation.

They start to find articles of "treasure" under the sand and decide to go digging for more. This becomes very difficult seeing how they don't have the proper tools to be searching for a shipwreck. What they do find, however, is the remnants of an airplane crash. Inside, they find something of a little more value than pirate treasure. Due to legal issues surrounding the contents of the airplane, they decide it would be in their best interest to leave it alone. But they know this plane is down there now and they assume someone will come looking for it. Well, guess what? They do. Now we're into the thickness of this less than menacing plot.

Written by *Torque* scribe Matt Johnson, *Into the Blue* is a film that attempts to be another adventure film. This film would



Paul Walker plays Jared, Jessica Alba plays Sam, Scott Caan plays Bryce and Ashley Scott is Amanda.

have worked had there not been any plot twist surrounding the illegal contents of a plane wreck in the waters. This portion of the plot was added as an attempt to add thrills. The thrills fail. We do see a nice development between the brothers Jared and Bryce, but the women of this film are only there for looks and not for plot development. This film would have worked fine without Alba and Scott, but it may not have sold many tickets at all.

The one positive note about the plot is that the types of

obstacles these divers encounter are nothing too extraordinary. They don't have to do superhuman things in order to get away from a conflict. We see this happening in every other action thriller lately where the main characters have to get away from something in a most unrealistic fashion. This is not the case in *Into the Blue*. Everything that happens is real and our suspension of disbelief is not required, except for the fact that their breath can be held underwater as long as a whale.

Directed by John Stockwell (*Blue Crush*), *Into the Blue* goes from beginning to end in less than two hours and covers just about every single genre of film one can think of. It succeeds at being an adventure film, but it doesn't cross into the action realm with any ease. Its thrills are misused and ill-timed. It attempts at a romance, but with Alba's character not being developed, we don't feel for either her or Walker. It attempts at being

see **BLUE** page B2

Don't get 'Trapt' into buying this CD



Familiar, yet odd images represent Trapt's sound.

New album by nu-metal band will ruin your day

GARY MCCABE
STAFF WRITER

For me, the best part of writing for *TEC* is that I get turned on to a lot of cool new music which I probably would

never hear otherwise. It's very refreshing when I have to review an album that I've never even heard of and I find myself really enjoying it.

The worst part of writing for *TEC*, on the other hand, is when I have to review and album that is absolutely atrocious. I hate it for two reasons. First, when I

review an album, I try to listen to it at least three times from beginning to end so that I may give a fair and qualified analysis of it. When it's an incredibly bad album, it's hard enough just listening to it once without scrolling through the playlist of your MP3 player looking for something better. Three more times is simply torture.

Second, when I sit down to write my review, I'm not allowed to use the four-letter words which come so naturally, and describes these albums so accurately. It forces me to be creative with my thoughts and really challenge myself to convey my feelings properly. Trapt's latest album *Someone in Control* is one of those atrocious albums.

Someone in Control is every four-letter word that you can imagine rolled into a ball of pretentious nu-metal garbage. And if it weren't for my minimum word count, I would leave it at that, wipe my hands clean of this article and run to

the nearest neurosurgeon to have the portion of my brain which contains the memory of listening to this album removed forever. However I do have a minimum word count and I am a professional, so instead, I'll explain myself.

First and foremost, I can say with absolute certainty that Trapt singer and guitarist Chris Brown could be the worst lyricist since Fred Durst. Brown tries to come off like he's some sort of profound, tortured soul like Kurt Cobain.

The only problem is I doubt that Cobain ever would have written this: "You're going to have to carve me from stone / Right to the bone or I'll end up alone." "Weird" Al Yankovic has written deeper lyrics than him. It gets worse. On "Stand Up," Brown writes: "How my anger has grown / I've got a feeling inside that I can't seem to control." Who does he think he is? The Incredible Hulk?

see **TRAPT** page B2

HIM's 'Dark Light' attempts to lyrically light up United States

New CD hits the airwaves hard

AMANDA WINAR
STAFF WRITER

Globally known rock stars of HIM have finally come out with an American debut titled *Dark Light*. HIM has been in the rock scene since 1997 when they came out with their first album *Greatest Lovesongs, Vol. 666*. Since then they have produced two additional albums, but never in the United States until now.

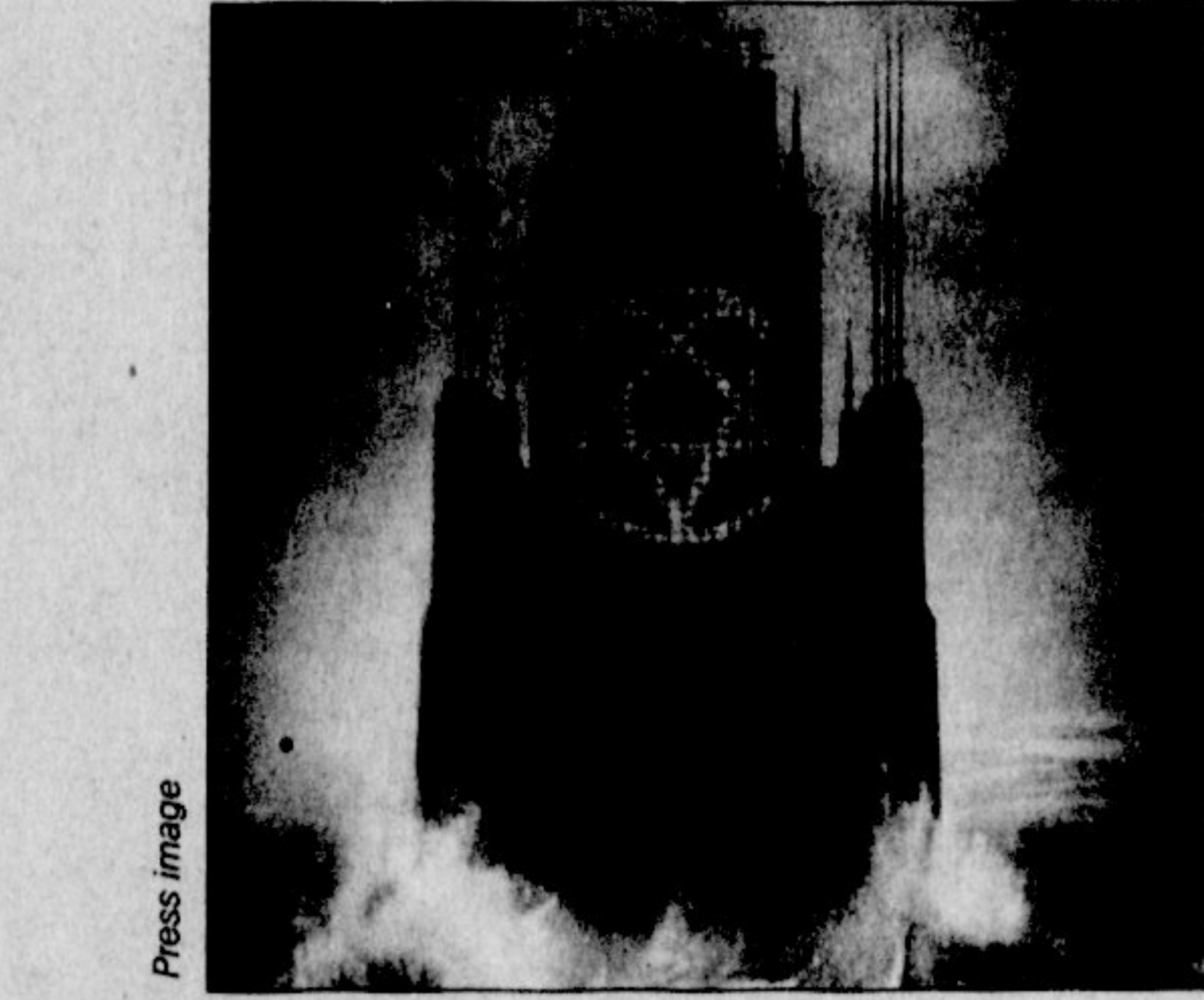
HIM's first single off of *Dark Light*, "Rip Out The Wings Of A Butterfly" presents the public with lyrics like "Come on, and show them your love, rip out the wings of a butterfly. For your soul, my love, rip out the wings of a butterfly." With darker and slightly violent lyrics and song titles like "Killing Loneliness" and "Vampire Heart," the actual melody and mood is something quite differ-

ent then you would expect. The tempos of the songs are constantly fluctuating with HIM's combined hard-rock edge and classic lyrics in such a way that is quite appealing to a range of listeners, and meshes well with different genres.

Melodically the songs are quite interesting, especially with the tracks "Killing Loneliness" which begins with a piano introduction that flows into more hard edged rock, and "In The Night-Side Of Eden," which ends with the lyrics "Forever we will be, forever we'll be crucified."

Junior Rob Hileman, a management major at ECU said "HIM is the greatest band in the entire world and everyone needs to realize it." Hileman has been a dedicated HIM fan since they came out with their first album, and claims that this new one is surprisingly very different.

"*Dark Light* isn't exactly what I expected out of HIM, but I think they have just made a change to their music style and it's some-



An image like this can only portray darkness.

thing I'll have to get used to."

Ville Valo, lead vocalist of the group said in a recent press release that he knew exactly what HIM was striving for with their new album.

"I wanted them to be cool live songs, straight in the face kind of stuff. But it's really melodic at the same time," he said.

The group feels their songs

in this new album are classic HIM songs, which include famed tales of love and desire that inspire fans to worship at the altar of the Heartagram.

"It's very much what I wanted us to be since the beginning," Valo added.

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

TEC's Masterpiece Spotlight



'Capturing the Friedmans'

GARY MCCABE
STAFF WRITER

For longer than I'd care to admit, I thought that all documentaries were the outdated, boring films I was shown in my sixth grade science class. For all I knew, the pinnacle of documentary filmmaking was *The Miracle of Life* or those car-crash films they showed in Drivers' Education.

I was young. I was stupid. I was about 20-years-old. Then when working at a very prominent video chain, which I won't name because they don't deserve any free publicity, I stumbled upon the film *Capturing the Friedmans*.

From the opening montage, a collection of clips from actual home movies, the Friedmans appear to be an average, middle-class American family. The patriarch of the family, Arnold, is a retired, award winning high school teacher. His wife, Elaine, is an astute, headstrong homemaker. The couple had three children: David, Seth and Jesse.

Any sense of normalcy, however, is dashed immediately. In November 1987, Arnold was nabbed in a sting operation for the possession and distribution of child pornography. As police investigated the matter, though, they realized that the problem may have much greater than a stash of lewd magazines.

Arnold taught a computer class for young children out of his basement and while searching the Friedman home, police seized a roster of enrolled students and followed up on the lead. Things became even darker for the Friedman family the day before Thanksgiving in 1987. Arnold and Jesse were both arrested for sexually abusing multiple children from the computer class.

The rest of the film focuses on the subsequent trials of the two Friedmans and grapples with the essential question at hand: "Were Arnold and Jesse guilty of the horrific crimes for which they were accused?"

At no time during the film does filmmaker Andrew Jarecki offer an answer to that question. Instead, he focuses on presenting the facts and points of view from nearly every perspective possible.

The film features in-depth interviews with Jesse, Seth and Elaine Friedman as well as students who claim to have been molested, students who claimed that they were not, lawyers, experts and nearly everyone involved with what would become of the most bizarre criminal cases in American history.

The most engaging portions of the film, though, are the home video and audio recordings of the Friedman family which present a candid look of a family as it disintegrates before our eyes.

From the family fights about the accusations to the emotional confessions, Jarecki unabashedly shows the fear, the anger and the uncertainty of the Friedman clan as they attempt to deal with the situation which has presented itself.

This film has stuck with me in the two years since I originally saw it. Unlike the propaganda of Michael Moore films, it has no agenda and ultimately leaves viewers unsatisfied in that even the filmmakers do not know what the truth is. But that is the beauty of the film -- the truth, as in life, can never be certain. Watch this film and prepare for the months of personal in-depth contemplation of your own.

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

Trapt from page B1

Unfortunately for Trapt, bad song writing isn't the only problem plaguing this album. I can deal with bad song writing. Admittedly, I'm not the toughest music critic in the world and normally I will find some redeeming quality in music that I dislike. I hate The Doors but I'll listen to the extended keyboard solo during "Light My Fire" any day. There are no such redeeming qualities on *Someone to Control*.

Describing the music is easy. Tune into 99X for an hour and you're bound to hear their breakout hit "Headstrong" from their debut album. Once you hear it, you'll know exactly what to expect from *Someone to Control* because that's exactly how the music sounds – exactly like everything else they've done. After 20 minutes of listening, I had to double check that my stereo wasn't set on repeat.

If this is the state of metal music, then metal is officially dead. Their "power chords and pouting" feels so indolent and boring. Trapt seriously needs to loosen up. I have to believe that they're capable of something better – anything would be a step up from this album. The band

needs to expand their horizons, try playing more than one chord maybe. I think that they're talented instrumentally but they just seem dead-set on making awful music.

Above all else, Brown needs to lighten up. Rock 'n' roll is supposed to be fun. I would assume that he's a millionaire from "Headstrong" alone and probably has a nice life. So why does he come off like the gloomy guy at the coffee shop reading his poetry that no one likes. Every song on *Someone to Control* pits Brown as a victim or an outcast. Maybe people don't like him because he's such a pretentious crybaby. Lighten up!

I do have one positive comment about the band to end with, though. Trapt is a very good name for this band. It describes perfectly the feeling people have when they buy this album and realize the next day that most retailers won't give them their money back just because it's terrible. Don't be one of those people.

Rating: F

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

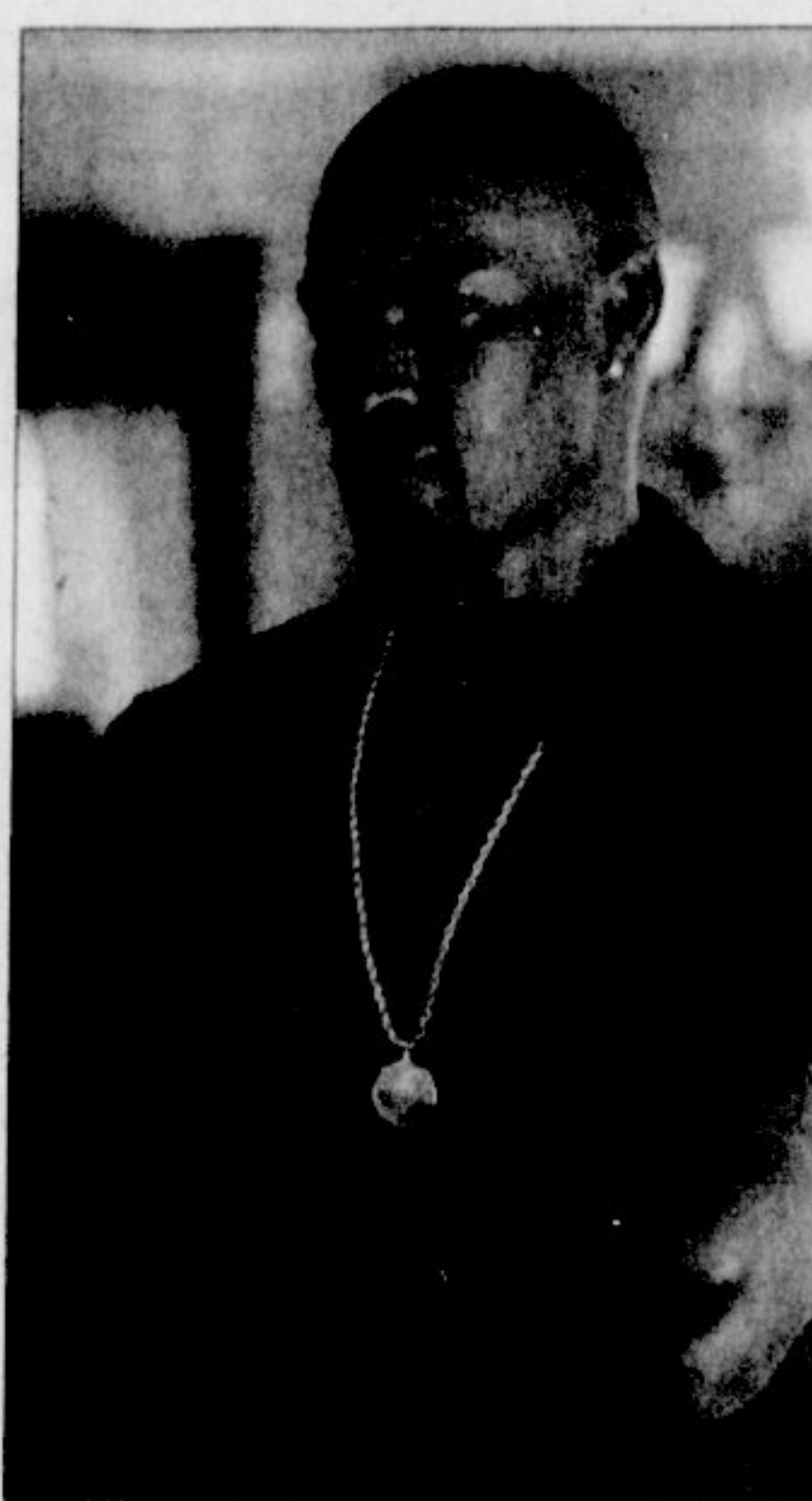
Blue from page B1

a horror by taking place in the most shark infested waters of the Bahamas, but the sharks are introduced as friendly rather than menacing. This does not create the element of fear for the sharks that was desired by the filmmakers. In films like *Jaws*, the shark was the villain and was introduced to us as such. In this film, they are just kind of there.

Had this film stayed an adventure film of four people in search of buried treasure, it would have been halfway decent. Instead it's a film that will quickly be forgotten in the minds of filmgoers who would prefer the best films from every genre this film tries to cover.

Grade: C-

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



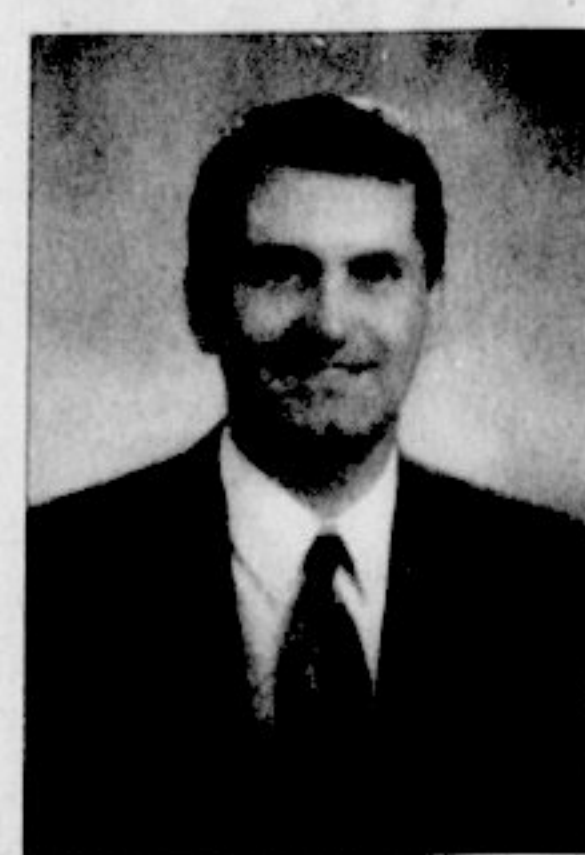
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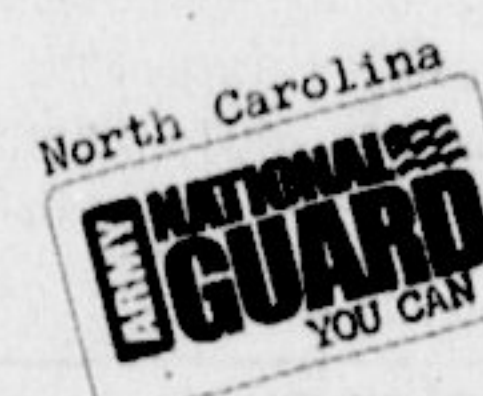


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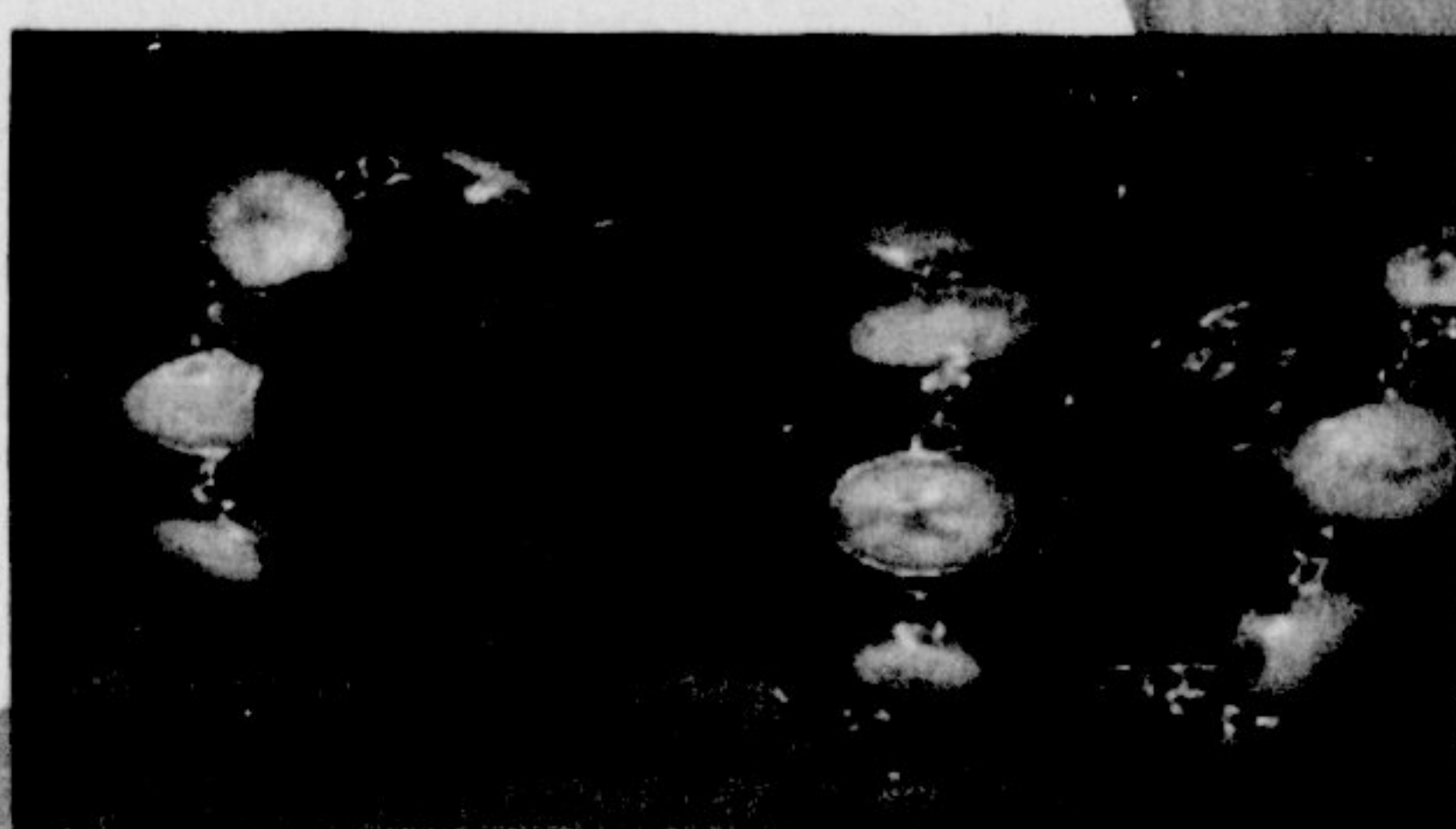
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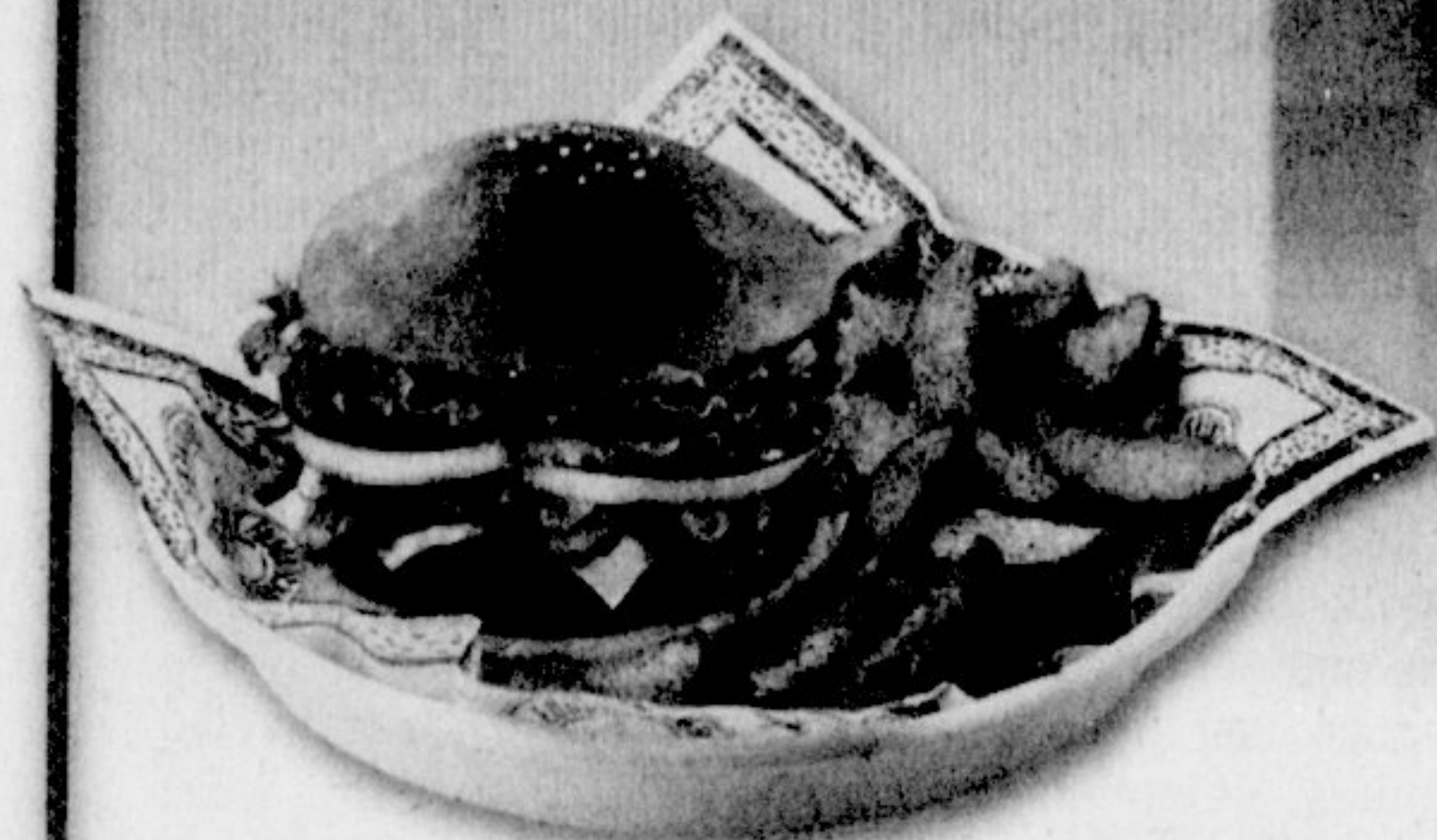
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'Family Guy' movie now on DVD

The popular cartoon
packs 90 minutes of
pure laughter

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

Fans of the hit FOX series rejoice as the hit show "Family Guy" now has a movie out on DVD. *Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story* is the film and it is out in stores as of Sept. 27.

The movie plays out like one long episode. For those who haven't seen an episode of "Family Guy" before, the series follows a Rhode Island family, the Griffins. This dysfunctional family is headed by Peter (voice by creator Seth MacFarlane), one of the most thick-headed television characters ever created (second only to Homer Simpson). His redheaded wife Lois ("MadTV's" Alex Borstein) is somewhat sane, but oblivious to Peter's ignorance. They have three children. Meg (Mila Kunis),

the eldest, is the accidental child who the family is actually embarrassed to be around. Chris (Seth Green), the middle child, is as ignorant as Peter. The baby is Stewie (MacFarlane) who has aspirations of world domination. He's the most intelligent member of the family. There's also the dog, Brian (voice also by MacFarlane) who talks to members of the family, especially Stewie. Brian is the voice of reason for the Griffin family.

The film follows Stewie as he continues to struggle in finding himself. He rants about how he cannot believe that he comes from the same gene pool as Peter and Lois. Meanwhile, Peter takes on a job at the local television station doing a segment in which he rants about things that really grinds his gears. This propels him to celebrity status throughout the town.

Stewie senses something one day while watching the TV with his family. He sees a news report from San Francisco featuring

a guy who looks just like him. Stewie thinks that this is his real father. He and Brian head out west to track this guy down. He's in for a surprise, however, once he gets there.

For those who have seen the show, imagine all the laughs that are packed into one 30 minute show. This film has enough laughs to fill up three episodes. There are some classic "Family Guy" moments and some classic characters from past episodes making cameo appearances (remember Mr. Kool-Aid from the very first episode?). There are moments that will make you fall from your chair because of the ridiculous things said from everyone's favorite fat guy, Peter.

Fans of this hilarious television series that do not yet own *Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story* don't deserve to be called fans for much longer. It has been out for over a week now so all the retailers around town should probably be restocked. I highly recommend this for the true fans and for those who have not even seen an episode. It introduces the characters well enough so people who know absolutely nothing about the show will be able to follow. The gags might not make a whole lot of sense, but hey, it's meant to be funny, not thought provoking. Being a huge fan of this show myself, I was floored from the first minute all the way to the end. Fans new and old will cherish this absolutely hysterical DVD.

Grade: A

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

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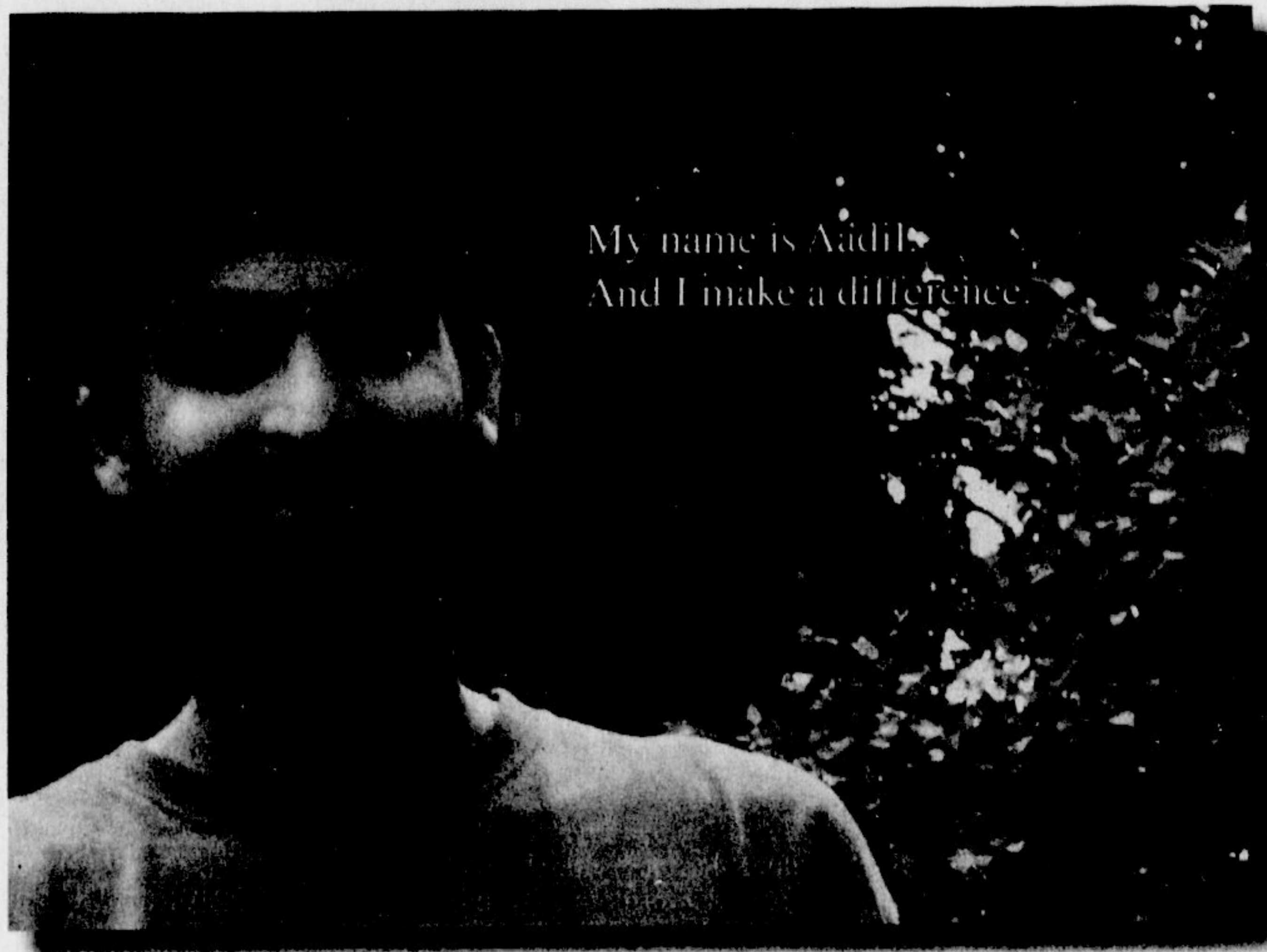
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Get caught
reading.



TEC Top 10: Week 2

Look inside this weekend's top
times

ANDON HUGHES
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With college football in full swing and several surprise NFL teams emerging with impressive starts, TEC Top 10 can only get tougher as the season rolls along.

Week one featured several upsets in the college ranks, and the record books accordingly with a 6-4 mark. As a coach, it's disappointing to my high standards, but it features some key conference NCAA games, and the game of the week was No. 5.

[illegible]

Northern State No. 16 Penn State
 Penn State continued to roll with a convincing
 win over Minnesota last week and enters their battle
 with the Buckeyes undefeated 5-0. How long can

Carolina at Arizona
The Panthers saved a season in danger of going south early by holding off a Green Bay comeback last Monday night. Now Carolina is right in the thick of the NFC race again. Talk of a Super Bowl appearance may have been more hype than anything before the season started, but if quarterback Mike Dittoh can find other targets besides emerging superstar Steve Smith like he did against the Packers, Carolina could have one of the top teams in the league. Arizona is Arizona, a losing team with little hope for a playoff appearance. But there are bright spots, in particular quarterback Josh McCown. With Kurt Warner out with an injury, McCown has shown ability. Needless to say, the Panthers have them overmatch and improve to 5-2 with a convincing 31-15 win.

If the season ended today, Eagles' quarterback Donovan McNabb is the league MVP. McNabb has

at No. 28 Georgia Tech with the Wolfpack. Tech will attempt to rebound from a 51-7 loss to Virginia Tech last week. The Jackets are 3-1 this season, but have a shaky record on offense since their opening game. Tech's quarterback Reggie Ball needs to get his 47.3 completion percentage and lead the team to a second one touchdown. Tech's defense has been solid in two solid defenses against the Wolfpack. Tech is in my upset of the week.



Cal Bruins

Victims at No. 18 Boston College

It may pain old school diehard ACC fans for Boston College to be chewing up the conference competition, but that's exactly what's happening this season. The Eagles have earned a national ranking with a 4-1 record and will take on a Cavaliers squad that may or not be for real. The Cavaliers are waiting to bust into the rankings with a 45-33 loss to Maryland as their season opener this season. But five of their first seven opponents are ranked, including the Cavaliers, who could set the tone for a downslide in the bottom half of the ACC. Line for that to happen on Saturday. Boston College's two-headed monster in the backfield will combine to rip up the competition. L. V. Whitworth and Andre Calender have combined for 627 rushing yards, averaging 4.6 yards per carry, but it's the Eagles' defense that has Boston College earning respect around the country. BC is allowing just 10 points per contest and has given up more than one touchdown just once in five games. The trend continues with Virginia falling 28-13.

Washington at Denver

The Redskins dominated one of the premier teams in the NFC for three quarters last week before nearly allowing Seattle to come back and win it in regulation. But their field goal bonked the left upright, allowing Washington to hit the game winner in overtime. Now the Redskins will attempt to improve to 4-0 in Denver, which looked like a break in the schedule before the season started. But the Broncos are riding a bruising defense and quarterback Jake Plummer has taken care of the ball for the most part, throwing four touchdowns and three interceptions this season. Redskins running back Clinton Portis returns to face his former team in what could be a breakout game for the star in 2005. Portis is on a mission to prove he belongs among the NFL's elite backs and will need the Washington passing game to keep up their output that got started during the fourth quarter against Dallas for that to happen. I think Washington's defense rattles Plummer to force a couple turnovers and take another close victory. 23-14.

...is over, finished, done. Now Eng-
...ing to resemble the Pats of old, you
...ies with the horrible uniforms and the
...he helmet? OK, not quite, but coach Bill
...eds to prove he's as good as everyone
...s. The loss of two assistants and some
...to injury is more than enough to deter
...eam. Why should the Pats be any
...ent? They may get a break this week with
...unhealthy Michael Vick under center for the
...Falcons. This may be a boon to his mobility. If he
...recovers, New England has the trouble of falling to 2-5.
...If not, the Patriots will go without the knowledge of
...the Patriots' coaches and trainers, I'm going to
...guess what I know, sports and say that Vick will
...oss is 60 percent and that the Dirty Dozen



2005-06 ECU swimmers, divers preparing for season

Kobe setting lofty goals for Pirates

SCOTTY WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

Usually, the closest many ECU students come to the university's swimming and diving team is taking the swim test in Minges Pool. Well, the complex isn't there just for exercise students. It also is the home turf of one of the most successful teams on campus. The glory days aren't over for this juggernaut, however.

Head Coach Rick Kobe's swim team has an ambitious outlook as always this season, as they prepare for the season with much the same goal Kobe has sold his team on for the past 23 years. His attitude is to aim high — Kobe's team goals for this year are to go undefeated, win the

Conference USA championship, and have a team grade point average of 3.0 or above.

"We've never done all three, we've done two out of three a lot of times," said Kobe.

Coach Kobe's office is a very visual representation of the swim team's success. On one side of his office sit a number of C-USA championship trophies, the most recent from 2003, and his highly vaunted Master's Coach Award hangs on the wall behind him.

In his 23 years as ECU head swimming coach, his athletes have set 214 varsity records. 24 NCAA qualifiers were Pirate swimmers, as were four NCAA All-Americans, one Olympic participant, and 138 individual event conference champions. He has personally won a Coach of the Year honor eight times. Yet with all his success, and his .724 win percentage standing as the

best among Pirate coaches with five years experience, Kobe still demands success from his team year in and year out.

The year will demand the highest level of competition from his players as usual, also. His team has been invited to swim in the Nike Cup and the U.S. Open of swimming, two events which will put his swimmers up against the best in the country and the world. Add that to a schedule that already brings major schools like Duke, Virginia Tech and Georgia to the pool and there is little room for error.

Kobe has a lot of confidence in his swimmers even with their tough schedule. He believes that this year's women's team could be the strongest ever, with nine seniors leading the squad. He also sees strength in the men's team even though they've graduated a very talented group. They

have one senior, so Kobe sees a lot of development to come for them.

"They both will be very strong. The girls are more of a veteran team, and they could have a special year."

The women's team returns a strong lineup that looks to be tough to beat in the individual medley, and returns a deep lineup in the backstroke. They also look to be very strong in the sprint freestyle and distance freestyle events. Look for senior Holly Williams to be prevalent on scorecards, as well as Jackie Royce, Kelly Shinton and Sarah Hunt.

The women's diving team also looks for a huge season. Diving Coach Rich MacDonald expects a lineup of experienced, strong divers. The team will be led by seniors Lucy Hicks and Abbey Hillen, as well as last

year's Most Outstanding Diver winner Christie Icehower.

The men's swimming team's lone senior, diver Robbie Derr, sat out last season due to shoulder surgery but looks to end his career on a high note after breaking numerous freshman and varsity records (all but one of each, to be specific).

The swimming team for the men should be strong in the individual medley and the backstroke, as well as a deep group in the butterfly event. Charlie McCannless, Rob Pearce, Josh Barthlow and other Pirate men will be very important to watch this year as the young men's swim team builds a strong foundation for success.

For those swimming illiterate individuals, Kobe invites you to come and watch an ECU swimming meet. You need to come early to get a seat, however

— ECU's swim meets regularly fill up the Minges Pool complex, with a 340-350 average that fills up the area. Every person who comes to an ECU swim meet gets a pamphlet with the scoring systems and schedule, so you can keep up. You will be comfortable, because the Minges complex has a computer controlled climate that helps alleviate one strain of seeing swim meets.

Kobe feels that the swimming team is truly something worth watching and looks forward to another successful year.

"The tradition of swimming here is second to none, it's one of our top programs and we're proud to keep it at that level. These are top Division I athletes that could've gone elsewhere."

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

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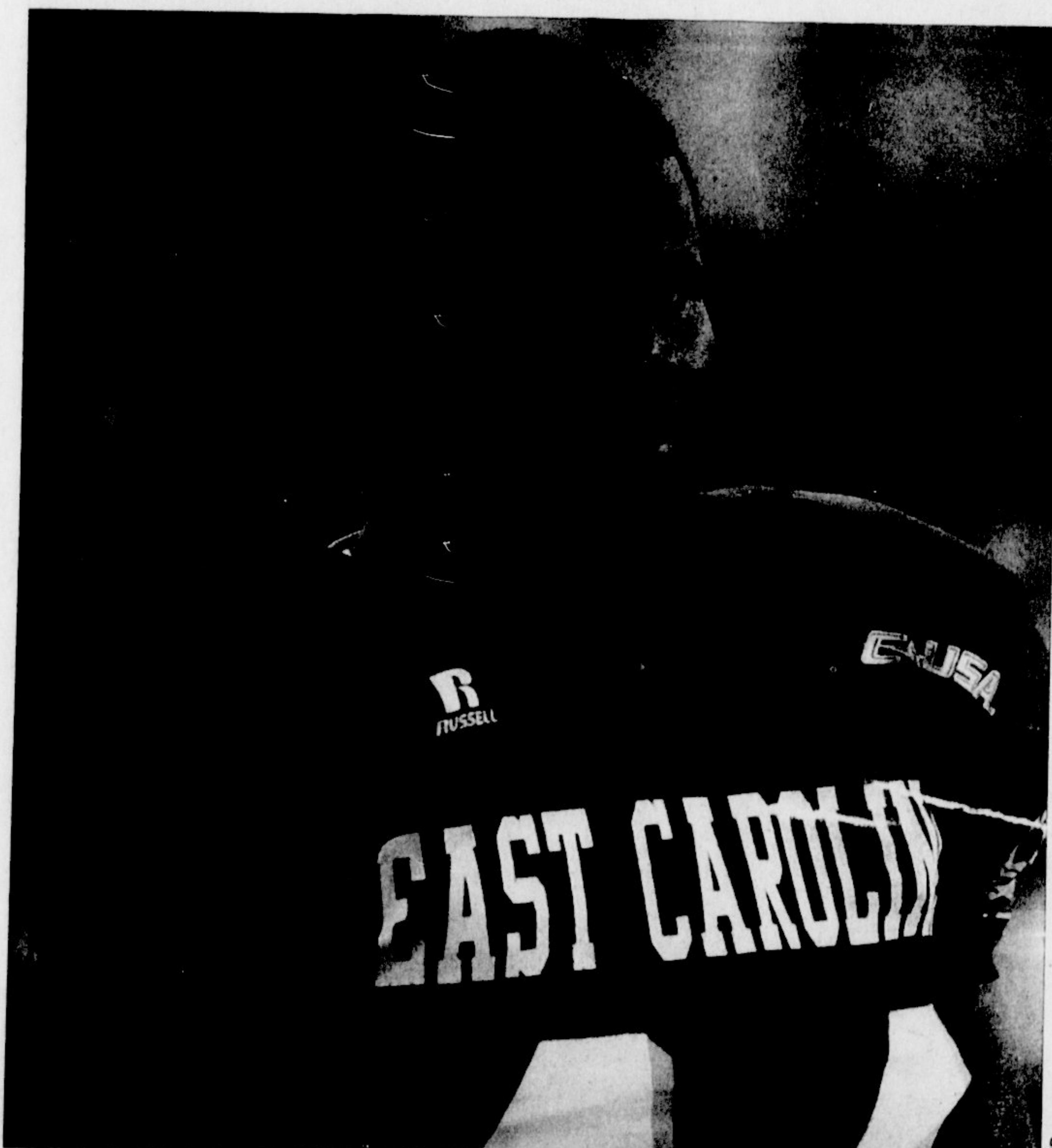
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THE END ZONE



Jermarcus Veal: Leading the way



Senior fullback helps
ECU open up offense

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

Sandwiched in between film sessions and practice time, Jermarcus Veal had a rare chance to relax on Monday night. Veal watched his fullback predecessor Vonta Leach get a starting nod while paving the way for the Green Bay Packers' backfield.

"That's who I want to be like," said Veal referring to Leach.

"You see him now in the NFL. In the back of my mind, I'm like 'all I have to do is play 10 times harder than he did.' Then, I can do the same thing."

For Veal, emulating Leach is not something new. Veal apprenticed two years behind Leach as a linebacker before being converted to fullback in 2003. The understudy has been doing it his entire career.

"At practice, when Vonta was here, I'd look at every play he ran," Veal said.

"I'd see how he took on the blocks and how physical he was."

Veal established his roots in Warner, Robins, Ga. While at Northside High School, Veal recorded 250 tackles, 150 as a senior. It was only natural for Veal to be at headhunting from the linebacker position.

"I'd played linebacker since I was seven years old," Veal said. "I picked that up from my

family members. A lot of them were linebackers so I was carrying on the tradition."

After two years at ECU as a linebacker, Veal's spot was reflected to the offensive side of the ball. Much like Leach, Veal was upended from a position he'd played since his youth.

"I love hitting," Veal said with a smile.

"The transition to fullback, it's the same. You're still going to hit people, but this time you have to stay on and move them out of the way."

In 2004, Veal was in the starting lineup for 10 of the 11 games. While he was the lead blocker in a two-back set, Noah Brindise's spread offense didn't allow for him to get on the field very often.

"You can say that the fullback doesn't get a lot of attention," Veal said about his lack of statistics.

"I'm like a glorified lineman. I just get in there and do the dirty work."

Veal was rewarded for his continued work ethic through his eight receptions for 64 yards. He also caught two touchdowns, both in goal line situations.

"It felt good," Veal said of the two scores.

"The last time I scored a touchdown was in middle school so it was really exciting."

Veal has yet to find the end zone this season. So far, he has one measly three-yard catch. But ask anyone on the team and the

senior is a more dynamic player.

"He does everything we ask him to do," said running backs coach Junior Smith.

"He's improved his fundamentals. I think that all starts with him wanting to be a winner."

Veal's improvements has let the offensive staff open up the offense from a strictly four-wide receiver set.

"What you're looking for is size, toughness, physicalness, aggressive," said Head Coach Skip Holtz about his ideal fullback.

"I look for a guy who will really run in there and isn't going to stop his feet on contact. [Having an established fullback] makes our offense more multiple."

Trying to take the brunt of the offense off James Pinkney's shoulders in the passing game, ECU implemented more I-formations against Southern Mississippi.

"I'll help James," Veal said.

"If he's passing, I help pass protect. If Chris is running, I help block. It doesn't make a difference to me. I just try to be a team player."

Veal has seven games left to etch his mark on his Pirate legacy. Asked what he wanted Pirate fans to remember his as, Veal's answer wasn't typical in today's me-first attitude.

"A team player and a great blocker," Veal said.

"Kinda like Vonta Leach."

This writer can be contacted at
sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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GAMEBREAKERS



Marcus Hand

Ask Marcus Hands who is his idol is and he doesn't flinch. It's Ju Pepp.

"I like to come really hard off the end in pass rush," said Hands before the season started.

"Go straight for the quarterback or whoever has the ball in the backfield. Kind of like Julius Peppers."

Hands' infatuation with Peppers borders on obsession.

"Julius Peppers is a big part of my life," Hands said.

Hands wanted to emulate the footsteps of the Panther All-Pro defensive end so badly that he originally verbally committed to play for UNC. Hands attended Hargrave Military Academy directly from Laney High School in Wilmington, NC. Going to prep school helped him increase his grades and his maturity level.

But fortunately for the Pirates, one failed class landed him at ECU. He, along with teammate Brandon Setzer, had to make grade requirements before they were allowed to participate in football drills. Hands sat out

the entire 2004 season.

It didn't take long for Hands to make his presence known. Hands, a physical specimen at 6-feet, 5-inches and 270 pounds, made a sack in his first collegiate game. Just two games into 2005, Hands was inserted into the starting lineup.

Hands has recorded three sacks in four games. Since receiving the starting nod, Hands has batted down a pass, forced a fumble and recorded a season-high 21-yard sack. He is currently tied for 13th on the team with nine tackles.

"One of the biggest bright spots of the whole day was Marcus Hands," said Skip Holtz following the Southern Mississippi game.

"He played tremendous. He was all over the field. They could block [him]."

Hands will have a different duty this week against Rice. Instead of rushing the quarterback in the pocket, Hands will have a role in stopping Rice's rushing attack.

"This is assignment football," Holtz said. "You have to have



HANDS

somebody on the dive, somebody on the quarterback and somebody on the pitch."

Hands' role will be to force the Rice quarterback to make a decision. While doing so, he will face blocks from all angles. Unlike most weeks, he will be hit by tackles, wide receivers, tight ends and fullbacks.

"We're going to have to play well up front," Holtz said.

"It's going to be a big challenge for our front four. Our entire front seven is going to have to be accountable."

Joel Armstrong

Joel Armstrong has a perfect name for a quarterback. But in a sense of irony, Armstrong is rarely asked to pass. The Rice sophomore relies more on his feet.

In Rice's rushing attack, Armstrong runs the show. He can hand it off to the fullback on a dive or spread the field out with his athleticism.

"They have a very athletic quarterback in Armstrong," said ECU head coach Skip Holtz.

"He can turn and handle the ball. He moves the team up and down the field."

The Longview, Texas native burst onto the scene last season as a redshirt freshman. He uprooted incumbent quarterback Greg Henderson, starting the final four games. During that span, Rice went 0-4. But, that included a narrow 35-28 to UTEP.

Armstrong is the team's leading returning rusher with 608 yards on 114 attempts. He was the 22nd Owl to gain 100 yards in a game under Hatfield when he totaled 120 against San Jose St. The 2004 Rice squad led the nation in rushing averaging

306.5 yards per game.

Rice's option-oriented attack doesn't include many passes. But when Rice does air it out, Armstrong is capable. He passed for 341 yards and two touchdowns last season.

During the current three-game losing streak, Armstrong has passed for 119 and run for 111 yards in three games. He is the second-leading rusher on the team averaging 37 yards per game.

But the statistics are misleading. Armstrong is the important cog that keeps the rushing attack going. His speed has already caused some problems for the Pirates in practice.

"There aren't a lot of options," Holtz said in his weekly press conference referring to ECU's problems trying to find a guy to emulate Armstrong in practice.

"We're probably going to turn to one of the wide receivers."

Hatfield trusts Armstrong's decision making to go with his athleticism. On the option variations Rice employs, it's Armstrong's decision which lane to choose. He must make a defensive player commit to him before



ARMSTRONG

his pitches the ball. If a player doesn't step up to Armstrong, then he will eat up the clock and field position.

Armstrong shares time with redshirt freshman Chase Clement. But Armstrong has carried the few accolades thus far. He scored Rice's first touchdown of the season against UCLA. His 93-yard effort against UAB was the season-high for an Owl this season.

Pirates must convert on offense this time around



Demetrius Hodges and the Pirates' secondary are looking to get back on track against Rice.

BRANDON HUGHES
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

1. HOLD ONTO THE FOOTBALL

You wouldn't know it from ECU's crushing 33-7 home loss to Southern Miss, but the Pirates were proficient moving the ball on the Golden Eagles' defense last week. ECU racked up nearly 400 yards of offense, but with just one touchdown to show for their effort.

The reason? ECU turned the ball over five times, including four fumbles. Head coach Skip Holtz said it best in the post-game press conference.

"I don't care who you are - I don't care if you're the Packers playing a high school team - if you have five turnovers, you're not going to win," said Holtz.

"If you hold the ball high and tight and secure it properly, it shouldn't come out. But it seemed like the thing was greased tonight."

Running backs Chris Johnson and Brandon Fractious coughed it up three times and quarterback James Pinkney fumbled once and tossed an interception for the Pirates, who entered the game tied for second in C-USA in turnover margin.

ECU must get back to that mentality against Rice. The Owls haven't posed much of a ball hawking threat on defense, ranking dead last in the conference in turnover margin.

2. REESTABLISH THE PINKNEY-ALLISON CONNECTION

The double and triple teams have finally caught up with junior receiver Aundrae Allison. After ranking among the nation's leaders through the first three games of the season, the junior college transfer was corralled by Southern Miss, notching four interceptions for just 20 yards.

Allison still leads C-USA in

receptions per game (eight) and yards per game (116.0), and he needs to continue that output in order to give Pinkney a proven deep threat receiver.

It was evident the Pirates needed more targets for Pinkney to throw to, but other than converted running back Robert Tillman, ECU has had few options. Bobby Good, who led ECU in receiving last season, has been hampered by injuries and Kevin Roach, who caught 26 passes in 2004, has just two receptions this season.

Until someone steps up, Allison will have to fight through the attention opposing coaches will throw at him. He should find some openings in a porous Rice secondary. The Owls are 11th in C-USA in pass defense, allowing 273 yards per game through the air.

3. IMPROVE SPECIAL TEAMS

Coming into the 2005 season, the Pirates knew they had solid individual special teams performers. Their only question mark was transfer placekicker Robert Lee. It turns out Lee has been the only sure thing for that unit, connecting on all eight of his extra-point attempts and 6-of-6 field goals, including a long of 51 yards.

After a stellar season returning punts in 2004, Travis Williams has been held in check by opponents this year. Williams returned a punt 52 yards in the season opener against Duke, but has since tallied just eight return yards on five attempts. Even though teams are aiming kicks away from the speedster, Williams needs to make the big plays Pirate fans have become accustomed to when he does get his hands on the ball.

Junior punter Ryan Dougherty was among 40 college football punters named to the 2005 Ray Guy Award watch list as potential candidates for the top

collegiate punter of the year prior to the season, and rightfully so. Dougherty, a two-time All-Conference USA selection, was also named the No. 5 preseason punter nationally.

But Dougherty has struggled through the first four games, averaging 38.9 yards per punt, good for ninth in C-USA. He needs to kick that powerful leg into high gear to aid the Pirates in the field position battle. Dougherty witnessed a similar start in 2004, but recovered nicely, averaging 43.9 yards per kick in the last six contests.

4. SHUT DOWN THE INTERMEDIATE PASSING ATTACK

Southern Miss absolutely torched the Pirate linebackers and secondary with the short and intermediate passing game last week. Golden Eagles' quarterback Dustin Almond completed 23-of-34 passes for 324 yards and two touchdowns.

The gridiron Bucs should have little trouble improving on that area on Saturday. Rice is easily the worst team statistically in passing offense in C-USA, tallying just 86.7 yards per game through the air.

With the Owls posing such little threat with the passing attack, the Pirates should key on forcing turnovers, packing the box with eight defenders and jumping on those short routes that caused them such a headache against Southern Miss.

Rice quarterbacks Chase Clement and Joel Armstrong have combined to complete just 42 percent of their passes for 260 yards and just one touchdown this season.

Look for the ECU secondary to have a field day and senior safety Zach Baker, who is second in C-USA with three picks, to add to his total.

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

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

The Rice Owls soar into Greenville this weekend battered and bruised, mentally and physically. The Owls have lost their first three contests by a combined score of 57-159, and ECU poses another big defensive challenge for Rice, who hasn't proven that they can stop anyone yet. This marks their fourth straight road game to begin the season. Though their schedule has been brutal to this point, if they can do the following three things effectively this weekend, we might be in for a treat.

1. PROTECT THE BALL:

In their first three games this season, the Owls looked like ECU did against Southern Miss - they simply can't hang on to the pigskin. Rice has turned the ball over eight times in their first three contests. In turn, they only have one takeaway to their name.

Due to their abundant amount of turnovers, Rice has also given opponents excellent field position time and time again. Several times in their first three games the Owls have handed the ball over in their own territory, giving their opponents a short field to work with. No team can win a football game if they give their opponent field position like that often.

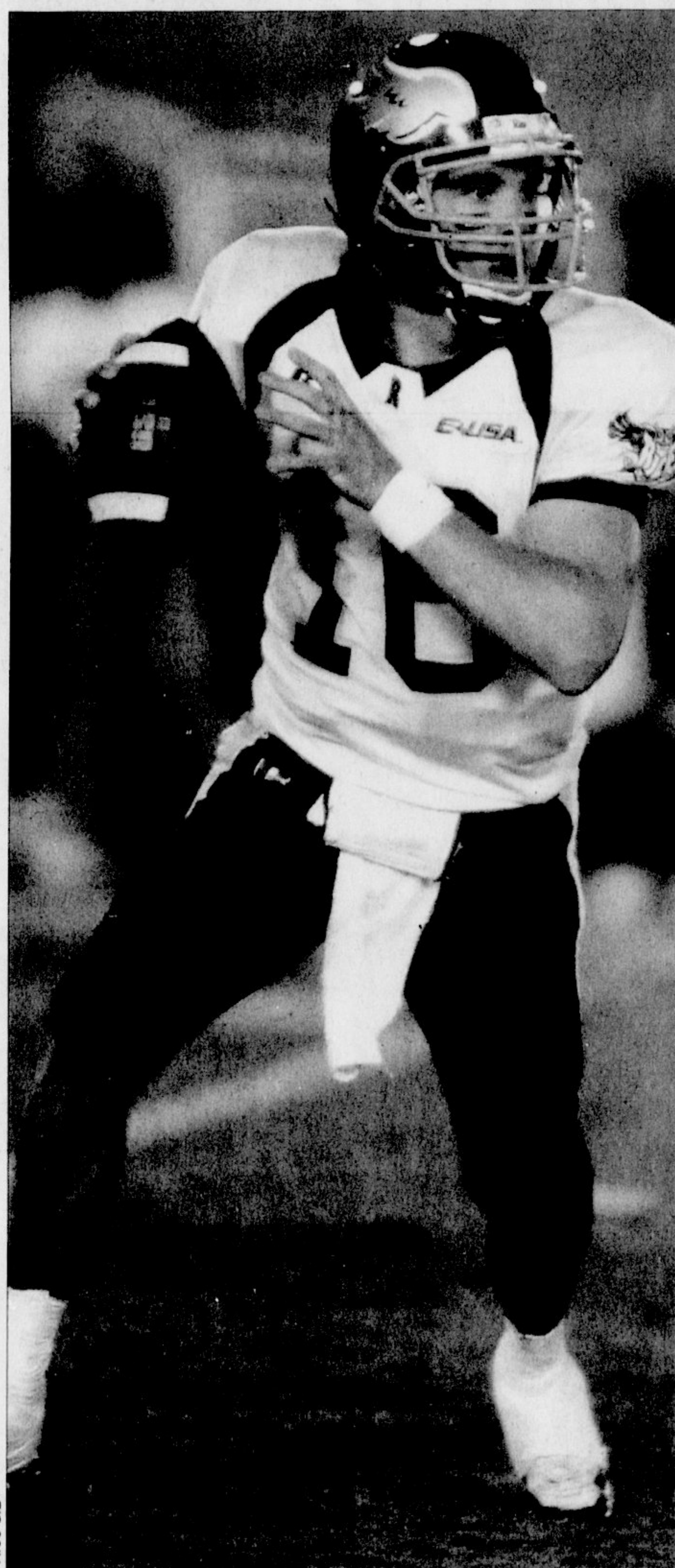
Protecting the football has been a major issue for this team all year, but you also have to consider the teams they have played - UCLA, Texas and UAB. Not to mention every single one of these games were on the road. They face another tough road test this week against ECU in Dowdy-Ficklen, a place where ECU usually plays solid football. However, if they can plug the holes long enough to play the Pirates for 60 minutes they will keep the game close.

2. CONTROL THE TIME OF POSSESSION:

Despite all the turnovers, the Owls have actually won the time of possession battle this season by a very slim margin, 30:34 to 29:26. That may seem impressive, but in their first three games opponents were scoring so quickly that Rice had no choice but to hold the ball longer than their opponents. Turnovers notwithstanding in this game, if James Pinkney and the ECU offense have the ball almost 30 minutes against a terrible defense, it's going to be a long contest for the Owls.

Rice will have to plan on doing what many teams look to do against ECU - focus primarily on the running game. If they can establish the ground game, particularly early, they will be able to increase their time of possession.

Tailbacks Quinton Smith, and Andrew Cates and quarterback Joel Armstrong will see the majority of the touches for



Chase Clement isn't the Owls' number one choice at quarterback but he will split time with teammate Joel Armstrong.

the Owls. If the Owls can avoid falling behind early and being forced out of their comfort zone into their passing game, the time of possession should lean in their favor.

3. PUT THE FIRST THREE GAMES BEHIND YOU:

Rice has already played in front of 44,000 fans at UCLA, 88,000 at Texas, and played the Conference USA frontrunner UAB on the road as well. These three teams have only a combined two losses. They aren't playing a top 25-caliber team this week, as much as we would like to dream.

Understanding that, the Owls can come into Greenville feeling strengthened by their tough early schedule. Anybody that opens with those three schools on the road will always have a degree of toughness coming into the next game. I expect the Owls



SMITH

to be hungry and determined flying into Dowdy this weekend, with as much confidence as any 0-3 team in the country.

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

Career possibly over for Asheville prep player

(AP) — El-Don Beasley has never cried this much before.

But when his tears dry, the pain in Beasley's voice is another indication that the 16-year-old from Asheville Roberson understands his football career is over.

"It's just really hard," Beasley said. "I get angry because it doesn't seem fair. Football is what I loved to do, and I had a lot of dreams."

Beasley's body went numb on Sept. 16 after the sophomore defensive back made a tackle just 57 seconds into Roberson's 17-10 win over Freedom. Beasley was taken from the field in an ambulance and later released from Mission Hospitals with a bruised neck and concussion.

But a magnetic resonance imaging test performed last week by Dr. Keith Maxwell of Southeastern Sports Medicine found a rare birth defect in Beasley's spine. Beasley was diagnosed with congenital spinal stenosis, a condition that increases a person's risk of damage to the spinal cord, especially through contact sports.

By continuing to play football, Beasley would risk paralysis.

"El-Don came into my office and told me, and at first I thought he was joking because he does that a lot," Roberson coach Mike

Houston said.

"But once I realized he was serious, you could see how heartbroken he was. He's a great, talented kid who always has a smile on his face. To see him teary-eyed like that, it was difficult to handle."

Beasley's family has given Maxwell permission to discuss his diagnosis with the Citizen-Times. Maxwell said this is only the second local case of congenital spinal stenosis he has seen in 19 years.

"If there was ever a kid around here who had major Division I college talent written all over them, it was El-Don," Maxwell said.

"But with his condition, he was an accident waiting to happen. I know these last couple of weeks haven't been easy on him. But as I've told him, God has closed one door in his life, and now a new one is open."

Without football, there are still plenty of avenues for Beasley to explore. Houston said that Beasley is an exquisite artist who often creates drawings of pro athletes. And Beasley was also a member of Roberson's state championship track and field team last spring.

"I've just told (Beasley) to keep his head up though all this," Rams senior tailback Vernon

White said. "No one deserves to have something like that happen to them. I know we feel lucky that he's OK, and I think it's taught everyone not to take things for granted."

Instead of shying away, Beasley has been at games and practices with the Roberson football team since his diagnosis. On Fridays, Beasley can be seen on the sidelines wearing the same navy blue uniform that emergency workers cut off the night he was injured. Beasley's mother, Eleanor, has since stitched the uniform back together.

"It's not easy to watch if I can't play. Sometimes I don't want to watch," Beasley said. "But I know my team needs me there to support them. Even if it is hard for me, I need to be out there."

Houston said he'd be disappointed if Beasley doesn't pursue his talents in art or another sport.

"I know that so many of El-Don's dreams revolved around football, and I hope he sticks with our team as long as he's here at Roberson," Houston said. "But there is so much more to El-Don than football. I don't have any doubts that his artwork is going to take him places. And it's not going to surprise me if he succeeds in another sport. That is one special kid."

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