



tec

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Tenure system, faculty pecking order



Lecturer

Instructor

Assistant Professor

Associate Professor

Professor

Constant monitoring, feedback keeps professors on track

SCOTT EATON
STAFF WRITER

The complex and time-consuming tenure system at ECU is designed to procure the most qualified professors to advance the university nationally and provide the best possible education for students.

The procedures for to evaluate the professional competence

of a professor have become more complex through the years and take up a large amount of time. Universities use the tenure system to recruit and retain qualified professors.

"Twenty years ago we hired professors to teach but now we expect them to perform research and be involved in a multitude of other responsibilities, as well as retain the ability to be a good teacher," said Richard Kearney, Department of Political Science Chair.

"We look to hire faculty who will be tenurable at this univer-

sity and the process is complex because our requirements are so high."

This tenure track system requires performance reviews and constant monitoring by department chairs and a department's personnel committee. The committee consists of a department's tenured professors and is necessary to make decisions about a professor's career. This system leads to a professor becoming tenured and a permanent member of the faculty.

"There is a post-tenure review that can provide a continuance or

warnings for improvement and this provides protection against undesirable behavior of tenured professors," Kearney said.

"Professors are given security by this system. However, any felonious behavior or harassment will result in dismissal."

According to the Faculty Manual, there are three types of faculty appointments.

Fixed term appointments are given to faculty who are considered visiting professors, lecturers, visiting associate professor or clinical professors and are can be extended either year to year or

each semester. These professors are not evaluated or considered within the tenure track system.

Probationary appointments or reappointments are given to members in the tenure track system and are assistant professors during this period.

Appointments with permanent tenure are given after seven years and are continuous until retirement, resignation or removal. Faculty members are associate or full professors after tenure is granted.

"We evaluate our faculty members in the tenure track

system after an initial three year contract and decide whether to issue an extension and then we repeat the process every two years until the seven-year mark when they will be considered for tenure," Kearney said.

"The personnel committee will make a recommendation for tenure, the department will give concurrence or non-concurrence, the recommendation then moves to the dean of the college and then the provost and trustees have the final say on the recom-

see **TENURE** page A2



Parking lots have to be handled carefully by officials at colleges, amusement parks and other venues.

Why ECU has parking regulations

Checking the reasons behind the rules of campus parking

CHRIS MUNIER
NEWS EDITOR

All parking rules and citations a student or faculty member will encounter are regulated by ECU Parking and Transportation Services, an organization looking to improve communications with students by disclosing all information about the parking situation many people dread.

As hopeless as students think parking is, there are methods to handle the situation better. Mike Van Derven, director of Parking and Transportation Services, dispelled the myth that parking officials are looking to earn money by gouging students.

"I have no benefit in giving tickets," said Van Derven.

"We're not about revenue generation."

He said money collected by

issuing tickets and towing fees is primarily dispersed to public schools. All fines have to be approved by the Board of Governors and the state.

ECU Parking wants students to pay more attention to the different things you can do with a permit. Van Derven said certain passes work at different lots during different points in the day. Once it gets late in the day, C lot passes can be used in other locations. He said people have a hard time reading signs and get ticketed for things that are avoidable.

People often argue for ECU to build a parking deck on campus. However, it is very problematic to try this because of expenditures.

"You have to look at the basic financing of that structure," Van Derven said.

A parking deck is one the most frequently asked questions ECU Parking has to answer.

"Since no state funding is available or allowed for building a parking deck, the burden of such a high cost would be put on

the students, staff and faculty," according to the FAQ's on ECU Parking's Web site.

"Basic parking deck construction costs would be in the \$7 million range."

Furthermore, it is much easier for a school like Duke University to build a parking deck. They just spent about \$62 million to build one.

Parking can also be a dilemma when there are large events hosted on campus or during the beginning and end of semesters at the dorms.

Most individual fines are not hefty, but they tend to pile up when multiple or repeated infractions occur. There are also some violations that can result in having a car towed. Such violations would include using a revoked permit or parking a vehicle in a space that impedes traffic.

There are cases where people cannot find a parking spot and resort to parking at the end of lot in places not designated as parking spaces. People also park

see **PARKING** page A5

People nationwide prefer Firefox web browser over Internet Explorer

Security measures, extra options are popular among users

TAYLEIGH DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Mozilla Firefox is literally catching fire with Internet users and college students around campus.

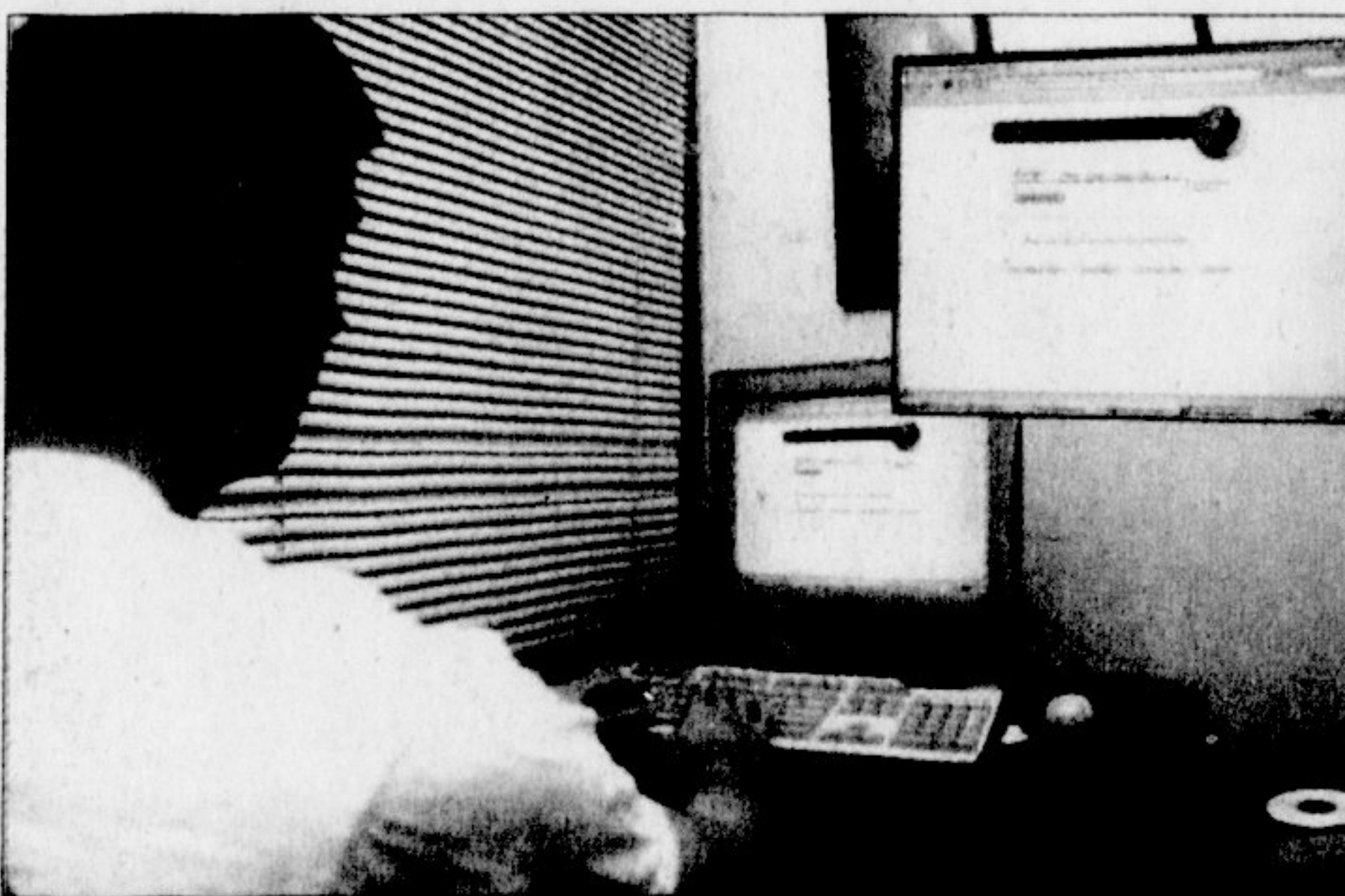
Many people are already switching to Firefox because it has several added features including extra virus protection, customized options and multiple browser tabs.

A big advantage of Firefox is its multiple browser option, enabling users to open several Web sites all within the same browser window. Users may click the tabs to get back and forth from each page whereas in Internet Explorer multiple windows have to be opened.

Kari Chase, manager of the ECU web browser at Information Technology Computing Services said she likes Firefox because the Google search engine is built directly into the browser.

In Internet Explorer, the Google toolbar is built in separately. Firefox users are restricted to just Google. Different search engines are available including Yahoo, Ask Jeeves and Wikipedia.

Based on users' interests, the toolbar features a variety of extensions, some ranging from web blogging and entertainment to web developer tools and pri-



More and more students are electing to use alternative browsers.

vacy and security.

Different themes for style and appearance of the web browser are also available.

"The theme is actually how the buttons look on the [browser]," said Chase.

"I have about five or six different themes on my computer."

The RSS feed is another added feature that sets Firefox apart from Internet Explorer. The feed shows updated articles from every Web site the user places in the bookmark list.

"I have [my Web sites] bookmarked, so that everyday when there's a new article out there, it shows up in my bookmark list," Chase said.

"I don't have to go to that sight to see if there's anything new."

Along with several Internet options and extensions, Firefox is also considered to have better

security and virus protection than Internet Explorer.

Chase said she can permanently turn off pop-up windows, but if she does so in Internet Explorer, they still find a way to reappear.

"By default Firefox catches them a lot faster," Chase said.

When users are downloading information from Web sites, Firefox will also warn them if a Web site is secure by displaying a "lock" symbol in the URL.

Chase also recommends Firefox to students living off campus because they are more susceptible to viruses than students living on campus who are protected by Cisco Clean Access Agent.

"You can keep your virus protections more up-to-date [with Firefox]," Chase said.

see **WEB** page A5

Announcements

Book Donations

The Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology will be accepting book donations for the Greenville Community Shelter. Books can be dropped off at the Joyner Library Conference Room 2406 through Dec. 15. For more information, contact Al Jones at 328-6803.

Toys for Tots

Student Health Service will be collecting new, unwrapped toys until Friday, Dec. 7 as part of the annual Toys for Tots program. The drop box is located in the lobby of Student Health Service. For more information, contact Georgia Childs or Ellen Goldberg at 328-6841.

Student Store Holiday Sale

Dowdy Student Store's Annual Holiday Sale and Festivities will take place Thursday, Dec. 1 from 4 - 8 p.m. in the Wright Building featuring discounts on ECU gifts and apparel. The ECU Gospel Choir will perform and the ECU Cheerleaders will be on hand. Bring a donation of canned food or a toy and have a holiday photo taken with PeeDee for free. Donated goods go to the ECU Holiday Drive. Patrons may register for an hourly gift certificate giveaway. For more information, visit studentstores.ecu.edu or call 328-6731.

Pilobolus Dance Theatre

PTOO is considered the "little luxury edition" of Pilobolus Dance Theatre, one of the dance world's most renowned ensembles. Its two bravura dancers will present an evening of new and classic Pilobolus works at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 in Wright Auditorium. Purchase a Crown Subscription by Dec. 1 to receive a choice of six events. Prices are \$162 for the public, \$150 for faculty and staff, \$84 for youth and \$48 for students. Advance individual tickets, if available for \$25 for public, \$23 for faculty and staff, \$13 for youth and \$10 for students. All tickets at the door are \$25. Group discounts are available for groups of 15 or more. For more information, visit ecu.edu/ecuarts.

New Musical

John and Jen, a new musical, will be performed at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 in the Studio Theatre. *John and Jen* is an original musical that takes a look at the complexities of relationships between brothers and sisters and parents and children. The story is set against the background of a changing America between 1950 and 1990. The event is free, but tickets are required and seating is limited. For more information, call 328-6829.

ECU Arts Tickets

Subscriptions for the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series and Family Fare are both currently on sale. The S. Rudolph Alexander Series is ECU's flagship performing arts series, presenting a season of nine of the world's top orchestras, ballet companies, jazz artists, dance ensembles, Broadway shows and much more. The Family Fare series provides kid-centered cultural excursions for the entire family. For more information, contact the Cultural Outreach Office, or visit ecu.edu/ecuarts.

Women's Committee Luncheon

The ECU Committee for the Status of Women will be hosting a diversity luncheon entitled "Traditions & Gift Giving" from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 in the Mendenhall Great Rooms. This festive luncheon event will feature a variety of speakers who will share holiday stories about traditions in giving gifts and celebrating occasions and holidays with families and communities from cultures around the world. There is no charge for ECU students. For all others, the cost is \$5.

Art Holiday Sale

The Annual School of Art and Design Holiday Exhibition and Sale will start Thursday, Dec. 1 and run through Saturday, Dec. 3. Art guild members will have a wide array of unique art gifts on display. All items will be in Wellington B. Gray Gallery, Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

News Briefs

State

Teen shoots 11-year-old sister to death in Greensboro

GREENSBORO, NC (AP) - An 11-year-old girl was shot to death by her teenage brother in their home, police said. The circumstances were still under investigation. Raanika Denette Seagraves and her brother were apparently downstairs in their apartment when the brother, whom police declined to identify, picked up a .410-gauge shotgun and it went off. "It may be a week or so before we know for sure if there will be any charges filed," police Capt. Gary Hastings said. "We don't have any evidence of any kind of altercation that we know of so far."

Police said four people were in the apartment at the time of the shooting: the girl, her older brother, her father and another, unidentified person. The father was upstairs at the time. No charges were immediately filed. Possibilities range from manslaughter to murder, depending on whether investigators believe the shooting was an accident or deliberate. In other shootings involving minors, adults in the home have been charged with leaving a gun within reach.

ASU to study nutrient's kick to sustain tired troops

BOONE, NC (AP) - The largest research award in Appalachian State University's history will be used to examine whether a substance found in red grapes and red onions can help troops deprived of sleep or food. Researchers were awarded \$1.1 million by the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, for a two-year study of the effects of quercetin in helping maintain the immune systems of troops under intense stress, the school said Monday. Quercetin (pronounced CURE'-see-tin) is a nutrient found in red grapes, red onions and other fruits and vegetables. The average American ingests about 25 milligrams of the substance a day in a normal diet, said David Nieman, a professor in the university's Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science. The federal grant will examine

whether the plant pigment can help U.S. soldiers on long missions without sleep or food, Nieman said. If the substance helps boost immune system function, it could end up in military combat rations, he said. The study will examine immune system cells of endurance athletes, starting with a group that includes bicycle racers from western North Carolina. The study's second phase will take place next summer at a 100-mile trail run that starts in Squaw Valley, Calif.

National

Astronomers discover possible miniature solar system

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Astronomers have discovered what they believe is the birth of the smallest known solar system. Peering through ground- and space-based telescopes, scientists observed a brown dwarf or failed star less than one hundredth the mass of the sun surrounded by what appears to be a disk of dust and gas. The brown dwarf located 500 light years away in the constellation Chamaeleon appears to be undergoing a planet-forming process that could one day yield a solar system, said Kevin Luhman of Pennsylvania State University, who led the discovery. It's long been believed that our own solar system came into existence when a huge cloud of gas and dust collapsed to form the sun and planets about 4.5 billion years ago. The new finding is the smallest brown dwarf to be discovered with planet-forming properties. If the disk forms planets, the resulting solar system will be about 100 times smaller than our own, scientists said.

Brown dwarfs, which are bigger than a planet but much smaller than a star, are thought to be balls of gas that failed to collect enough mass to start shining. **Top U.S. military officer contradicts his civilian boss: Americans must stop Iraqi abusers** WASHINGTON (AP) - The nation's top military man, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, said American troops in Iraq have a duty to intercede and stop abuse of

prisoners by Iraqi security personnel. When Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld contradicted Pace, the general stood firm. Rumsfeld told the general he believed Pace meant to say the U.S. soldiers had to report the abuse, not stop it. Pace stuck to his original statement. "If they are physically present when inhumane treatment is taking place, sir, they have an obligation to try to stop it," Pace told his civilian boss. The unusual exchange occurred during a discussion at a news conference about the relationship between U.S. forces in Iraq and an Iraqi government considered sovereign by the United States.

A questioner asked whether the United States and its allies might be deemed responsible for preventing mistreatment of people under arrest in Iraq, given that the U.S. and its allies train Iraqi forces. He said soldiers who hear of but don't see an incident should deal with it through superiors of the offending Iraqis. That's when Rumsfeld stepped to the microphone and said, "I don't think you mean they have an obligation to physically stop it. It's to report it." Pace then repeated to Rumsfeld that intervening when witnessing abuse is the order the troops must follow, not just reporting it.

World

Eight reported dead, 700 hospitalized in Pakistani quake zone as cold descends

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) - More than 700 people - many suffering from pneumonia and hypothermia - were treated at hospitals Wednesday as winter descends on Pakistani Kashmir and the millions who lost their homes in last month's earthquake. Media reports said eight people have died in northwestern Pakistan and Kashmir due to the bad weather, and doctors said the situation could worsen in the coming weeks if arrangements are not quickly made to provide winterized shelters to quake survivors. Rain and snow began lashing Pakistan's part of Kashmir late Saturday, blocking several roads and

grounding helicopters used to ferry aid to remote areas. Since the quake struck on Oct. 8, killing more than 87,000 people, aid agencies have been warning of another disaster among the survivors, who have been living in tents in the Himalayan highlands. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Pakistan has said the onset of winter conditions is severely hampering relief operations. Donors have pledged more than \$6 billion, but much of it is meant for reconstruction. MacLoed said less than half of the \$550 million appeal for relief funds has been received.

Tony Blair says Britain considering new generation of nuclear power stations

LONDON (AP) - Prime Minister Tony Blair opened a fierce debate on energy and the environment Tuesday, saying the British government will consider building a new generation of nuclear power plants. In a speech briefly delayed by anti-nuclear activists, Blair said an energy study due to be finished next summer would look specifically at nuclear power. He acknowledged that reconsideration of a longstanding move away from the use of atomic reactors to generate electricity is a "difficult and challenging" issue. Many Europeans have strongly opposed nuclear power plants since the 1986 Chernobyl reactor disaster increased fears about its safety, but Britain is not alone in beginning to rethink that aversion. Opponents, including many in Blair's governing Labour Party, worry about accidents or terrorist attacks at nuclear plants and the need to dispose of radioactive waste safely. Advocates say nuclear power, which does not generate greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, is environmentally beneficial. They also believe it will become increasingly necessary as world oil supplies tighten. For Britain, the problem is getting worse as oil and natural gas production in its own North Sea fields declines. Blair said that by 2020, coal and nuclear plants that now generate more than 30 percent

of the country's electricity supply will be decommissioned. A government policy paper on energy resources will be issued early in the summer of 2006 and will address the possibility of a new generation of nuclear reactors that could help provide enough energy for Britain, Blair said. Nuclear power now provides a fifth of Britain's electricity, but the country's 12 nuclear power plants are aging and unless replaced will provide only four percent of electricity by 2010.

Basnight recommends finance consultant for lottery board

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - An information technology consultant from Charlotte was recommended Wednesday by state Senate leader Marc Basnight to join the new North Carolina State Lottery Commission. Bridget-Anne Hampden is president and chief executive officer of JHR & Associates LLC, a management consulting firm with clients including Lexmark International and the Charlotte Sting of the Women's National Basketball Association. Her nomination is confirmed by Gov. Mike Easley, she will replace Malachi Greene of Charlotte, who resigned because of health issues and his schedule. Basnight originally chose retired educator Shirley Frye of Greensboro to replace Greene. But she withdrew her name after learning of potential conflicts of interest because of clients of her husband's law practice. The nine-member commission has another vacancy, created when Gordon Myers stepped down Nov. 14. Myers cited a potential conflict of interest because he is a former vice president of the Asheville-based Ingles Markets grocery store chain, which may seek to sell lottery tickets. A third commissioner, Kevin Geddings of Charlotte, resigned amid questions about work he did for a potential lottery vendor as state lawmakers debated lottery legislation this summer. Prosecutors are now investigating whether he and others violated the state's lobbying law. State House Speaker Jim Black, who must name Myers' replacement, chose former UNC-Charlotte Chancellor Jim Woodward to succeed Geddings.

Tenure from page A1

mentation."

Upon establishing a cadre of nationally recognized research and an excellent track record within the department, a professor can be promoted to a full professor, Kearney said.

"Department chairs are a bit different as we try to pull in faculty from other universities that are considered on a higher

level in the hierarchy of schools," Kearney said.

"The idea is to bring in faculty who can continue to advance ECU beyond its current level."

There are ways for professors to file grievances with the university if the system is not correctly applied, they feel they have not been treated fairly or mistakes are made in the process,

Kearney said.

The process and procedures for the UNC university system's tenure system can be found on the ECU Web site in the Faculty Manual at ecu.edu/data-fsonline/facultymanual/appendixd/appendixd.htm.

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

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Housing bubble: to burst or not to burst is the question



Economists are watching the housing market closely.

The future of the housing market in the U.S.

LEE SCHWARZ
STAFF WRITER

In the last seven years housing prices have outpaced inflation by 60 percent.

Usually, home prices are correlated very closely to inflation. This has been attributed to low interest rates and the fact that the economy was doing well enough for people to buy affordable homes for the first time. Many people believe this incredible pace cannot endure and that the sudden halt in growth will cause the bubble to burst much like the way tech stocks did in 2000.

The housing bubble and the tech stock bubble are not the same, however. In 2000, there were many Internet companies that had no earnings and were selling for high prices. The demand for these companies created the market and drove the prices higher.

"Amazon is priced at more than Ford and General Motors

combined despite the fact that Amazon has never made a dime," said Berkshire Hathaway Chairman Warren Buffett.

"That does not even make sense to the inexperienced investor."

When bubbles are allowed to continue too fast and for too long, a depression can take hold like the Great Depression, which marked the last time that housing prices fell so precipitously because unemployment was around 25 percent.

Houses are not nearly as volatile and have an intrinsic value, meaning they will not go to zero in price.

This is mainly due to Keynesian economics, stating that builders and manufacturers will seldom, but probably never, sell their products for a price lower than what it costs them to produce it.

Keynesian Economics refers to John Maynard Keynes, the noted economist who virtually invented modern economics by de-bunking classical economic thought and citing what he

observed happening in the real world in that producers often will lay off workers in bad times rather than take less money for their goods. Keynes resigned in protest due to the harsh stipulations placed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War I.

Houses cost a lot of money to build in terms of raw materials and labor and a house has an intrinsic value that a lot of stocks do not have. Housing is a significant part of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product, with about 5 percent of it based on home building.

While the steep increase in price may not continue much longer, due in part to the increase in interest rates, the market will not completely "bottom out" as the average person owns a home for 14 years and 85 percent of houses in the U.S. are owned by individuals rather than investors, thereby making for a drastically less volatile market — one based largely on value.

In addition, the age demographic with the largest percentage of homeowners is senior citizens who have a "buy-and-hold" mentality.

In general, the real estate market catches up to economic changes much more slowly than the stock market because of the physical nature of buildings.

In short, a housing bubble of tech bubble proportions should not be feared because the incredible rise in prices may soon cease.

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

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OPINION

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JENNIFER L. HOBBS Editor in Chief

THURSDAY December 1, 2005

My Random Column

Exams, holidays a time of stress and frustration

"Exam" - it is the word that strikes fear in the hearts and minds of college students everywhere. The time is upon us at ECU. As most people are filling malls to do the perfect Christmas gifts and preparing for family visits, college students are piling into the library for precious silence.

It is a time of year when stress mounts and patience can easily run out. And how unfortunate - this stressful time of year manages to coincide with the time of year when holiday jitters and pesky colds are also at their peak. The lack of sleep, the chaos of late-night study sessions and the germs can get to anyone if they aren't careful.

Sleep becomes a thing of the past during this hectic time of year, and healthy eating habits are often neglected for the much easier option of grabbing a quick snack and a highly caffeinated drink between study sessions.

The staff of *TEC* understands the pressure of balancing exams, work and personal responsibilities. This is an exciting, yet somewhat pressure-filled time of the year. However, there are some things we can all do to minimize the effects of stress through exam time.

Remember to get as much sleep as possible - as difficult as that may sound. Staying up all night to study may seem like a great idea the day before an exam, but it can often leave you too tired to perform well when exam time finally arrives.

Don't forget to eat three healthy, balanced meals everyday. Meal time can be a great excuse to take a relaxing break from studying. Stock up on vitamin C to help protect against colds and viruses. After all, this is the time of year when no one can afford to be sick.

Study diligently and make use of Joyner Library's study rooms and resources and find relief in the fact that in a week or so, you'll be enjoying a nice, relaxing break.

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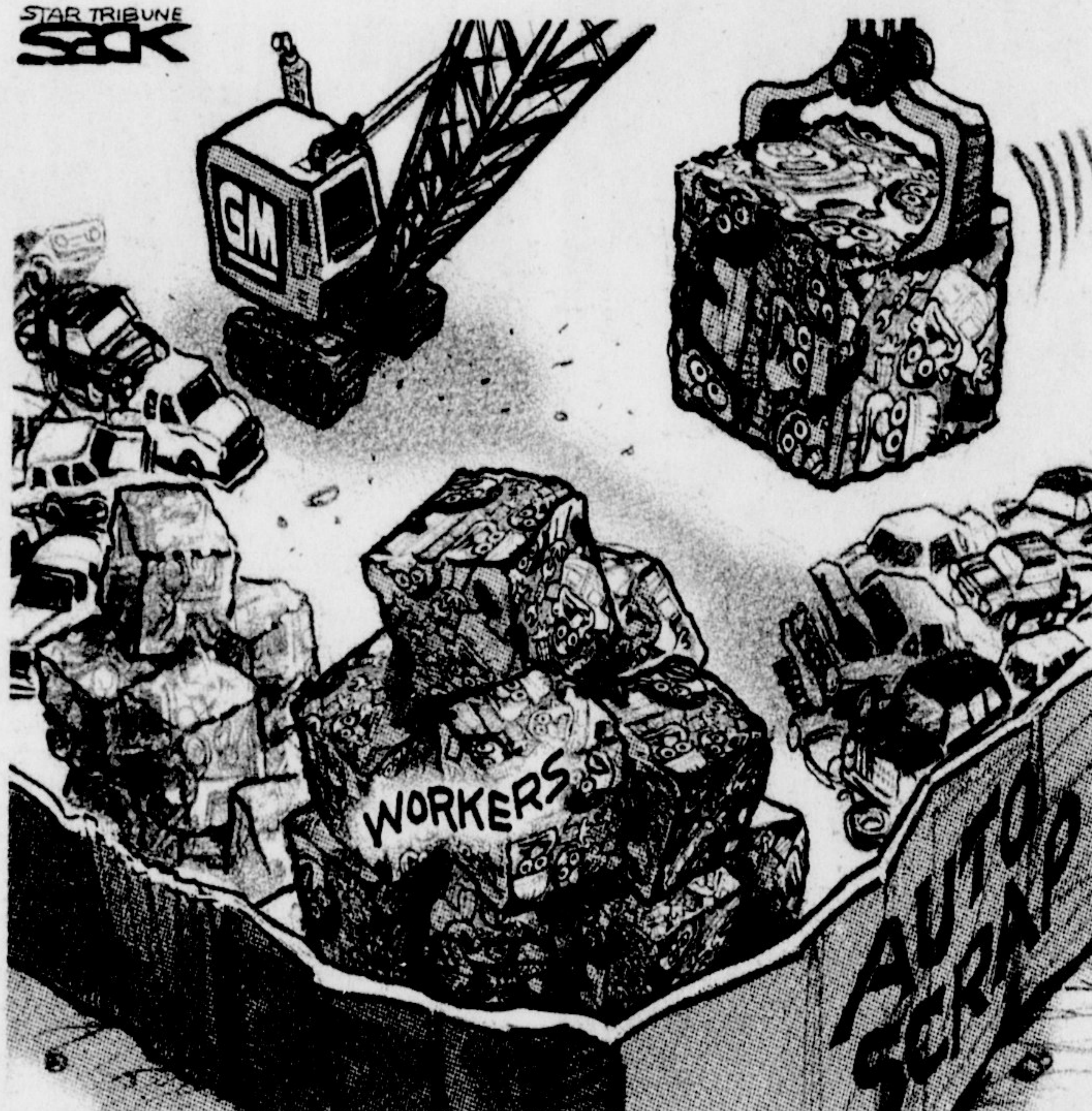
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STAR TRIBUNE
SAC



Opinion Columnist

The ten things that I hate most right now

And no, people aren't things - that list would be too long

GARY MCCABE
BITTER BOULEVARD

I'm being told that last week's column had mixed reviews. I understand that a lot of people liked the article. I understand that readers enjoyed my sticking up for "Arrested Development," whose last day on the air should be celebrated each year as a national holiday in memorial of what a great show it was.

However, I'm also being told that some readers didn't like what I had to say. Namely, they didn't appreciate when I said that I hated the South and the Midwest. I mean, I guess that I really can't blame them for not looking at those statements in a larger picture and see that I meant that I hate the Midwest because I'm subjected to a ton of shows catering to that audience yet shows I'm interested in get cancelled because they don't appeal to Midwesterners and Southerners.

I guess I shouldn't take that leap of faith and expect so much from people. I shouldn't expect people to read on a level above that of a caveman. I shouldn't expect someone to read an article actively, trying to make interpretations and observations of their own.

What I should expect, I guess, are angry Pirate Rants, such as the one which so eloquently stated, "Stupid people write stupid articles," just because I denigrated your region of choice.

So I'm going to be very plain with the article today. Don't worry - I'm not going to try and make you think too much today. Instead of some political commentary on - oh, I don't know - President Bush admitting to not having a timetable for pulling out of Iraq. Instead, here's a list of ten things that I really hate right now - in order.

10. FedEx: I'm waiting on a package from CircuitCity.com with my new XM gear and you know what, I've been waiting too long. It was supposed to be on my door early on the first day of Thanksgiving break. It didn't come.

In My Opinion

(KRT) - Those still doubtful about the reality of global warming would do well to note the most recent issue of the Journal Science. An article describes the findings of researchers who drilled two miles into the ice of the Antarctica, retrieving a sample that has yielded information about the Earth's climate the past 650,000 years. Never before have climatologists traveled so far back in time. The previous record extended back an estimated 440,000 years.

What did scientists learn? Today's levels of carbon dioxide

So on Friday morning, I get a call from the main office confirming my address. Here's the gist: "Can we bring it today?" "No. Now I'm gone. Bring it Monday, please." "We only deliver to businesses on Monday." "Fine. Tuesday - early." "Sure thing." Now it's Tuesday afternoon and - shocker - no package. I wonder what Brown can do for me...

9. "Lost." The first season was amazing and I'll admit it, I jumped on the bandwagon late and got hooked watching season one on DVD. Season two on the other hand has been awful. The pieces are still there and I still watch, but it's been very frustrating to watch.

It's eight or nine episodes in and I've learned next to nothing. The show is moving at a snail's pace, constantly teasing me with something promising only to let me down. But the worst move was killing off the cute blonde and adding the "feisty" Anna Lucia who's dialogue sounds like it was ripped from Dirty Harry. Good move.

8. Pink Shirts. I think the day after Kanye West became famous, an announcement was made: "It's okay to wear pink shirts, guys." I think that guys have been waiting forever to break out the pink - like they kept in a case on a wall that says: "In case of rap star making it OK, break glass." Pink shirts are disgusting, you trend whores.

7. The Philadelphia Eagles. It's not exactly their fault but every time you turn on ESPN or open a sports page, all you read about is the Philadelphia Eagles and Terrell Owens or Donovan McNabb. Philly is awful this year and won't even make the playoffs but somehow they get all of the attention while the Indianapolis Colts quietly sneak up on an undefeated season and players like Shaun Alexander, Carson Palmer and LaDainian Tomlinson have amazing seasons.

6. The Democratic Party. I've already gone on record as a Libertarian so you know how I feel about both the Democratic and Republican Parties. But the Democrats especially raise my ire because they seem to think that Hillary Clinton has a chance at winning the presidency in 2008.

America is regressing socially and somehow they think she shocked the world despite fighting for a percentage of a percent-

age of the vote? Because you have to assume that at least 40 percent won't vote for her purely because she's a woman. Get ready for a Republican dynasty because the Democrats don't even want to put up a fight.

5. Nintendo. First they push the only Gamecube game anyone wants to play (The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess) to spring 2006 and now they introduce their new hardware (Revolution) with a controller that looks like a cheap television remote. I'm sure it'll be great for Pokemon games and the other kiddie garbage Nintendo puts out but there's no way I'll want to play a real game using it. I wonder what the PS3 can do for me...

4. The NHL. Hockey is back! Only it's completely different because of the rule changes to make it more appealing to stupid Midwesterners. More goals! Less contact! More penalties! A league full of mediocre teams! The NHL whored out their entire sport.

3. "Black Friday." Black Friday is the day human beings devolve into animals for the sake of saving a few dollars. Old women, children - no one is safe from a good old fashioned trampling when \$3.99 DVDs are on the line. Animals, I tell you, animals.

2. "The Howard Stern Show." I used to love Howard Stern - now I've finally seen the light. Hearing about how great and revolutionary is fine - if he's actually doing something great and revolutionary. Instead of going on and on about how entertaining the show will be on Sirius, the best way to sell the move is by - get this - actually doing an entertaining show, not complaining about your perfect life. Long live the new kings of radio: XM's Opie & Anthony and Ron & Fez.

1. The South and the Midwest. I'll briefly explain this with an analogy: Let's say I was an aspiring weatherman. I get out of ECU and I begin working at one of the local stations. Then if I'm lucky, I can move to Charlotte. Then, maybe if I'm lucky, I can move to Indianapolis. But here's the thing: the pinnacle would always be a northeast city like New York City or Boston or somewhere on the west coast like Los Angeles. And there's a reason for that but I'll let you draw your own conclusions as to why that is.

much slower and more gradual past increases in the amount of greenhouse gases.

Something critically telling occurred in the 19th century: the advent of sharply increased burning of fossil fuels. It follows that reduced use of those fuels (coal and oil) is required to reverse a steady trend that threatens to alter our environment and way of life. That change need not arrive overnight. It must begin. In this country, it should start with a mandate that cars and trucks burn gasoline more efficiently.

Pirate Rant

To all the smokers who actually defend their gross habit: Do you know what smoking does to you? It stunts your growth, it yellows your teeth and blackens your lungs. Is that what you want? To be a yellow toothed midget with lung cancer?

To the people who complain about slow drivers on 264: You do realize that the speed limit applies to both lanes, right? I can't stand it when I'm going 70-75mph in the left lane and some jerk tailgates me because he/she wants to go 85 mph. Slow down! It will save you gas and possibly a speeding ticket.

Gary McCabe, do you hate everybody? And if you don't, you sure act like it.

Bicycle riders are supposed to have the same rights as cars. OK... so why aren't they given tickets for going too slow and reckless driving?

If Greenville is called G-Vegas because it's a city in the middle of nowhere like Las Vegas, then why can't the train engineers figure out how to go through town at some time other than a.m. or p.m. rush hour?

To the dark haired girl that works at the Java City in the library, thank you for always being so nice to me and my friends when we come to get smoothies at night. You make them the best. You are the reason that we come there!

I hate when people collect friends on Facebook! You don't know 1,000+ people at ECU. Stop collecting.

Five and a half years and summer school each time, congrats roommate you finally made it.

Why do girls always try to steal guy's clothing and personal things? Yet love to leave their toothbrush and other things around my house?

To the girl who wants her guy to "feel special." Boys don't deserve to feel special...and in the wise words of the girl in my dorm who practically lives in the lobby, "Boys are stupid. Throw rocks at them."

To the boy who thinks that downtown girls aren't classy... maybe I like to have a few drinks, socialize once in a while... that just makes me not boring... not unclassy don't be mad cause your attempt to spin your game was unsuccessful.

To the person who came up with the rules of driving on Highway 264, I am glad that I am not the only one who feels this way. I am in with you on that.

Number of detailed large projects: six. Avg. amount of hours spent in Rivers building this semester: 500. Number of Nervous Breakdowns within our class: 20+. Having someone else to cry with you: priceless. The enormous amount of stress, pressure and few hours of sleep this semester has been hard on us but we had each other to get through it! I love my Jr. IDMR girls!

I hate it when people talk on their cell phones in class when the professor steps out...um hello we're in college. Last time I checked it was still rude!

To the person that replied that breathing in smoke from another person's cigarette won't cause cancer. You are completely wrong - second hand smoke is actually worse. You are still breathing in the same 4,000 carcinogens but in even higher concentrations because the temperature of the tar is lower.

You didn't get in because your "slightly messed up" ID was probably fake, and we don't let underage people in. If you are really of age, go get a new ID or try PD's. How stupid are YOU?

I hate it when no one else in my group project responds to e-mails except for two people - the other two I will tell our teacher that you didn't contribute jack.

Saying "Merry Christmas" isn't unconstitutional until the Supreme Court determines so. Until then, Merry Christmas everyone!

It's not my job to carry your habit, so stop asking me to bum a cigarette. If you can't afford it, then quit.

I think a professor's gone overboard when he thinks he can get away with calling a student fat in class! AND loudly arguing with a student and belittling him in front of the class. Watch out all you Shakespeare lovers, stay away from professor H.

Well here we go again... SGA once again throws more money at issues in an attempt to make them go away. When will people learn that more money will not solve a problem, it takes a plan and then implementing it. A budget would be a smart start.

I am not comfortable having my social security number written down because the ECU system is down... if you can't do it like it's suppose to be done, then shut the place down until it's fixed. How do I know that I can trust a part time worker or another student with that piece of paper? How do I know that it will be shredded so that no one else will see it? How do I know that I'll be charged right? Joke could be on you because I may not have any decline left.

If people want to go to ECU and spend thousands of dollars to do nothing but party and slack off that's up to them so stop worrying about what they are doing and do your own thing.

I'm sick of being sick!

To the person who claimed that police only name the race of suspect if they are 'black,' it's people like you who cause a racial divide in this country.

Don't forget your New Year's resolution over the holidays!

Rules for driving on 264 (and any other road), first MIND your own business and let the police officers do their job. On another note, let me guess what the police said when you reported a person for speeding. We'll keep an eye out for the suspected vehicle and the area. According to a Wake County Deputy Sheriff, this means they will do nothing, unless you are willing to take the accused to court and have reasonable evidence that that person was doing something wrong. My source said this is very hard because a simple, "he was going faster than me" doesn't count. So go ahead take us all to court, I bet you can't afford it. P.S. Stay to the right and there will be no problems.

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.

AUDITIONS!

Ladies, is your voice your instrument?
If so, we're looking for you to audition
for a new, all female a capella group at ECU.

Auditions will be held on Wednesday, December 7th
from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Mendenhall Social Room.

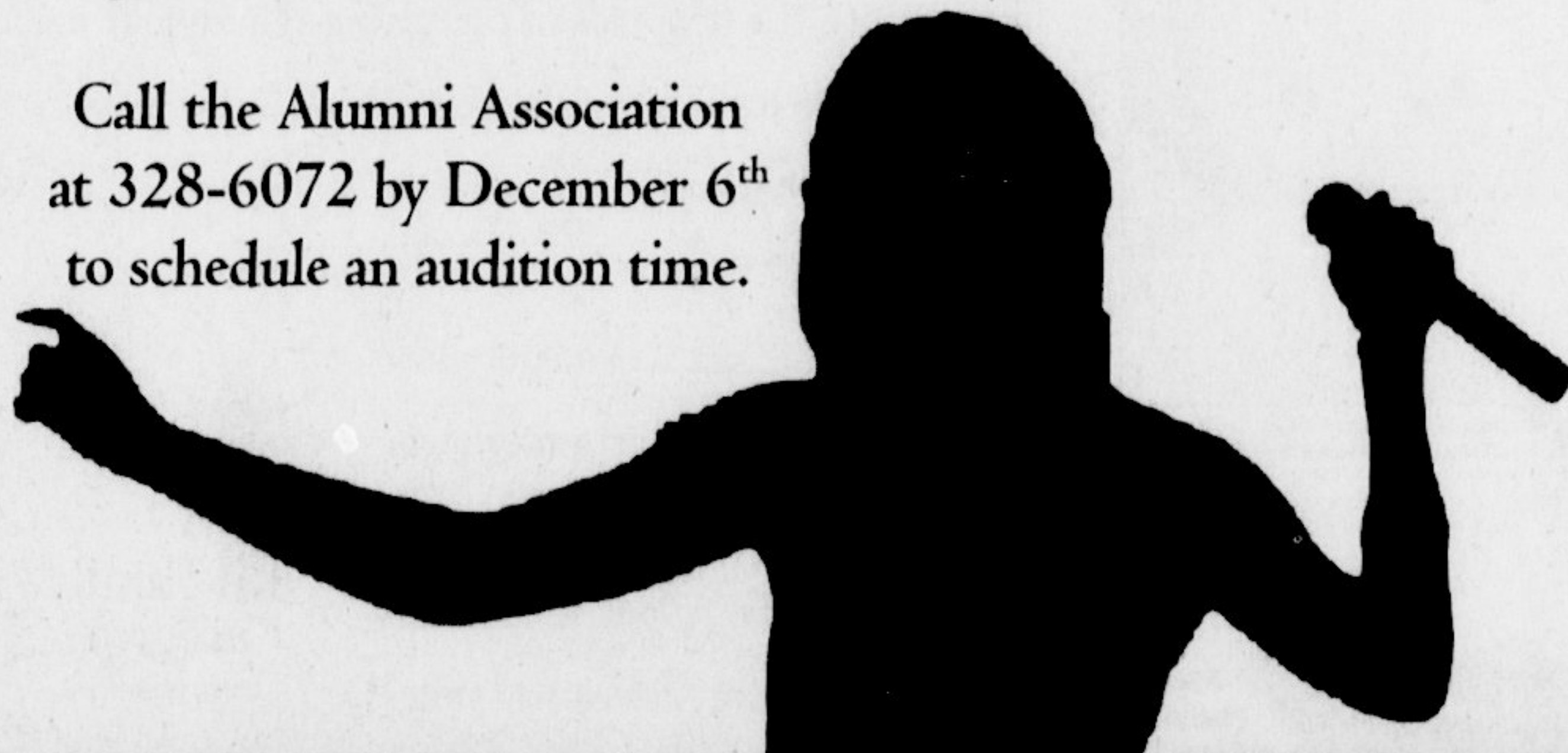
AUDITION:

- Bring a résumé with experience in performance of any kind
- Bring your spring schedule and a list of any school related performances you plan to be involved in during the spring
- Must be able to sing the school Alma Mater. Words and music to the Alma Mater can be found at PirateAlumni.com under Pirate Spirit.
- Must prepare an upbeat song as well as a ballad of 1 minute each. Ladies may sing together in groups, in at least three different harmony parts.

CRITERIA:

- 2.5 GPA
- Must have knowledge of basic music theory
- Previous group vocal experience is a plus
- Must be able to sing harmonies and parts
- Must be willing to give a 4 hour time commitment a week
- Hardworking and good attitudes are required!
- Must be graduating in the Fall of 2006 or later

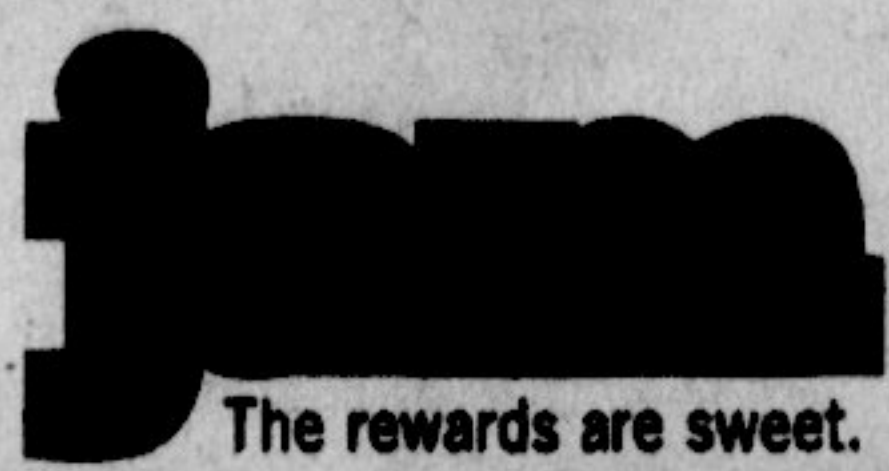
Call the Alumni Association
at 328-6072 by December 6th
to schedule an audition time.



EAST CAROLINA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PirateAlumni.com 328-6072

Reason #62:
You never have to do the dishes.

Join the family.
Buy a meal plan.



Spring meal plan info:
www.ecu.edu/dining

Parking from page A1

next to the curb in areas perpendicular to other cars. This has been the source of damage resulting from others backing a car out of a space and hitting the illegally parked car from the rear because of the lack of room in which to reverse. ECU Parking encourages students and faculty to take time to read about what can be done with the different permits and to read the yellow signs that show "parking by permit only." Visit them on the Internet at ecu.edu/parking/.

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

Selected Violations and Penalties

Unregistered vehicle	\$35
Parking in unauthorized zone	\$20
Illegal turn	\$35
Driving or parking on the grass	\$25
Blocking driveway or service entrance	\$25
Parking facing the wrong direction	\$10
Failure to stop at stop sign	\$35
Overtime parking/meter and/or timed area	\$15
Parking disregarding painted lines	\$10
Failure to signal stop, turn, etc.	\$10
Permit not displayed properly	\$5
Failure to yield to pedestrians or vehicles	\$35
Intentionally moving a ticket from one vehicle to another vehicle	\$25
Riding bicycle on the sidewalk	\$15
Unauthorized parking in a Fire Zone will result in vehicle being towed	\$25
Exceeding safe speed by 15 mph	\$35

Web from page A1

It's important to have a secure Web site because people can also steal personal information when users fill out online forms.

John McCarron, a computer repair technician for ACE Support Center, prefers Firefox because the minimal pop-up displays give people a less chance of getting spyware.

Spyware is software made by publishers that allows them to snoop on your browsing activity, invade your privacy and flood you with horrible popup ads, according to the *Dallas Morning News*.

However, Charlie Justice, coordinator of student initiatives in ITCS, chooses Internet Explorer over Firefox because of recent security concerns.

"Firefox is good, and for a while people were saying it was more secure [than Internet Explorer], but recently because more people have been using it, more viruses and hackers have turned their attention to it,"

said Justice.

The Mozilla foundation which built Firefox is constantly upgrading security and fixing problems that may slow down the browser.

In some cases, Internet Explorer is more efficient, but with open source browsers Firefox loads more quickly and offers more options.

The only time Chase prefers Internet Explorer as opposed to Firefox is with Pirate-mail because it is operated by Microsoft technologies, which are compatible with Internet Explorer.

To fix this problem, *Businessweek* reported that the Mozilla foundation has organized a campaign to persuade Web sites to adopt open standards and welcome all browsers. Firefox would be welcome in this case.

Many people say Firefox is better than Internet Explorer for designing Web sites and Chase testifies to that because the

widths and measurements on the Web sites make it easier to line up information correctly.

"I love Firefox. I think it's great," Chase said.

According to a survey on OneStat.com, Firefox's usage share has increased compared to Internet Explorer, even though Firefox has taken in 12 percent of its shares compared to 85 percent by Internet Explorer. Open source browsers that allow Firefox show that its usage share increased nearly 3 percent since April compared to a 2 percent decrease in Internet Explorer usage.

As far as the future is concerned for Firefox, Chase said she has no doubt it will keep growing. There are also icons found on the Mozilla Web site that people can put on their Web sites to invite other users to Firefox.

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

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Memo

Date: 11/18/2005

To: Organization Leaders

From: Levy Brown Jr.,

Assistant Director for Student Activities and Organizations

RE: Student Organization Registration/Important Dates

We are excited as a new office "Student Activities Center" to provide support to our 280 + student organizations at East Carolina University. Over the past several months, my office has talked with numerous students about their needs within their student organizations. The top needs expressed were:

- Improve space reservation process.
- Increase communication among student organizations.
- Better training and orientation for student leaders and faculty advisors.

In response to these needs, the following process has been implemented.

EARLY STUDENT ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION FOR 2006-2007:

- All student organizations who desire to reserve space "early" for fall 2006 must register by February 28, 2006.
- All student organizations who desire to receive SGA funding must register by February 28, 2006.

REGULAR STUDENT ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION FOR 2006-2007:

- The final deadline for student organizations to register for 2006-2007 is September 29, 2006.
- Remember that student organizations must be registered to receive SGA fund and reserve a space in MSC.

Please know that this new process will be most beneficial to student organizations and will help alleviate registration and room reservation concerns. January 9, 2006 will begin the early student organization process for fall 2006-spring 2007. Please view the important dates listed below regarding the new registration process for the upcoming year.

IMPORTANT DATES (2006):

(January 9 th)	06-07 Early Student Organization Registration Begins
(January 9-13th)	Information sessions for registration/SGA funding.
(February 28th)	Deadline for 06-07 Early Student Organization Registration.
(March 20th-31st)	06-07 Early Space Reservation
(ONLY REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS)	
(March 28-29th)	Founder's Day Student Leader Installation
(April 1, 2006)	Mandatory Organizational Training Session
(April 7, 2006)	SGA Annual Funding Deadline
(September 29th)	Final deadline for returning Student Organizations to register.

The Student Activities Center is here to assist you in anyway we can. Please feel free to stop by our office in 109 Mendenhall Student Center or email us at studentactivities@ecu.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

Page A6

THURSDAY December 1, 2005

FOR RENT

3 BR 3 bath houses available now or next semester. Includes washer dryer. Short term leases available. \$990 per month. Call Chip 355-0664.

For Rent 2013A River Drive (Docks) 2 Bedroom - 2 Bath - 1st month rent free - Available January - \$600/month - Call 252-355-6339 or 252-341-1726

Three bedroom two bath new inside two blocks from campus January 1st \$1100 252-341-8331

One two Brs. on-site management maintenance Central heat air 6, 9, 12 month leases Water Cable included ECU bus Wireless Internet pets dishwasher disposals pool laundry (252) 758-4015

3 BDR 2 BA Plus Bonus Room All Appliances, Fenced Yard, Deck, Pets OK. 4 Blocks from ECU \$750 Per Month. Sec. Dep. Negotiable. Avail. Now. Call 252-258-1810.

Two Bedroom Apartment For Rent Downtown Greenville Above Catalog Connection. \$500 Per Month Plus Utilities. Available End of December. Call Jack At Uptown Properties 717-9711.

2 B.R. Apt. @ 1212 A Charles Blvd. Near Campus. Air Con. Nat. Gas Heat, double glass windows. Dishwasher, Dryer, Washer Hook-Up. Carpet - \$400 ph: 329-0385 - Available Jan. 1st '06

2 & 3 Bedroom units 1-3.5 Baths - Rent from \$575.00 Blocks from ECU & ECU Bus Route. Call 717-9871; 717-9872

FREE! 1st Mo. Rent plus High Speed Internet - 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, Central heat/AC, fireplace, fenced yard, dogs OK. Near ECU, PCMH, 427W. 4th St. \$1000/Mo. 347-6504

Three bedroom new inside fenced in backyard and deck two blocks from campus \$1100 341-8331

1 & 2 bedroom apartments, walking distance to campus, W/D conn., pets ok no weight limit, free water and sewer. Call today for security deposit special - 758-1921.

Roommate needed in beautiful 3 BDR house, 2 Bath one block from campus, females non-smoking; high speed wireless internet option; W/D, all kitchen appliances, parking, no pets. Please call 347-1231

Blocks to ECU, 2 or 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, All appliances, Central Heat/AC, Reasonable Rent, Available Dec/Jan - Call 321-4712 or www.collegeuniversityrentals.com

ROOMMATE WANTED

Female roommate needed for Spring Semester. 4 Bedroom 2 Bathroom House walking distance to campus. \$435 includes rent & all utilities. Contact Jenni @ (336) 918-8871.

Sublease Jan. '06 thru June '06 Rent \$235 a month plus split cable and utilities Near Campus On bus route call Stephanie 252-531-3217

HELP WANTED

Bartenders Wanted! \$250/day potential. No experience necessary. Training provided. Call (800) 965-6520 ext. 202

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OTHER

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**CAN YOU BE THERE
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WITHOUT ACTUALLY HAVING TO BE THERE?**



One out of five adults finds themselves as the designated "caregiver" for a loved one who can no longer manage alone. This role can often snowball, weighing heavily on you as you cope with the demands of caregiving. There may be services and organizations right in your parent's neighborhood that can help when you're not around. The outcome is better care for your parent, and less anxiety for you. Visit www.familycaregiving101.org and discover a world of support, answers and advice - for both of you.



From the National Family Caregivers Association and the National Alliance for Caregiving with the generous support of Biogen Inc.

"Before giving, I always look for the Humane Seal."

NOAH WYLE, Star of NBC's hit show ER

The Humane Charity Seal of Approval guarantees that a health charity funds vital patient services or life-saving medical research, but never animal experiments.

Council on Humane Giving · www.HumaneSeal.org
Washington, D.C. · 202-686-2210, ext. 335
PHYSICIANS COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE MEDICINE

World AIDS Day 2005

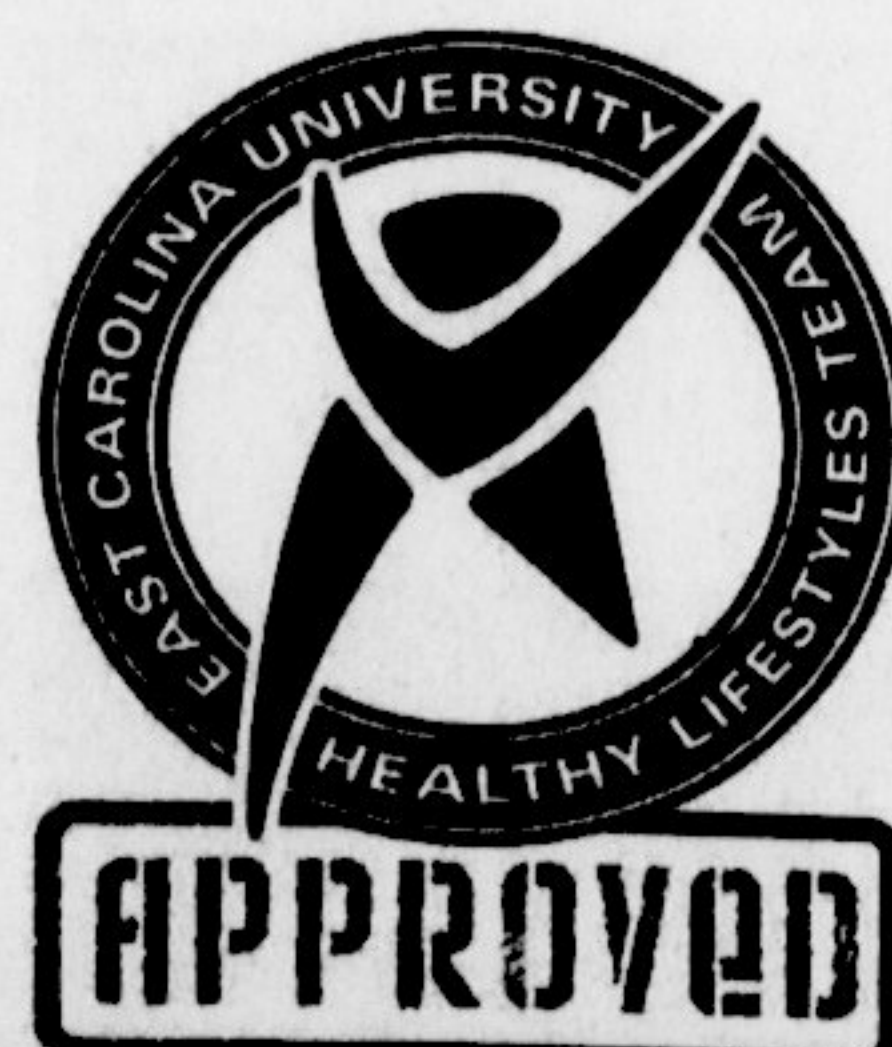
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 180,000 to 280,000 people have HIV and **do not know they are infected.**

Free and confidential HIV testing is available at the ECU Student Health Service year-round.

Isn't it worth a few minutes of your time to know your status?
Get Tested!

So what is the current state of HIV on NC college campuses?
Join us for this eye opening discussion on December 5th, 2005 at 7pm in the Bate Building.

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Call 328-5771 for more information



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Free Food & Festivities

December 1, 2005 - 8pm
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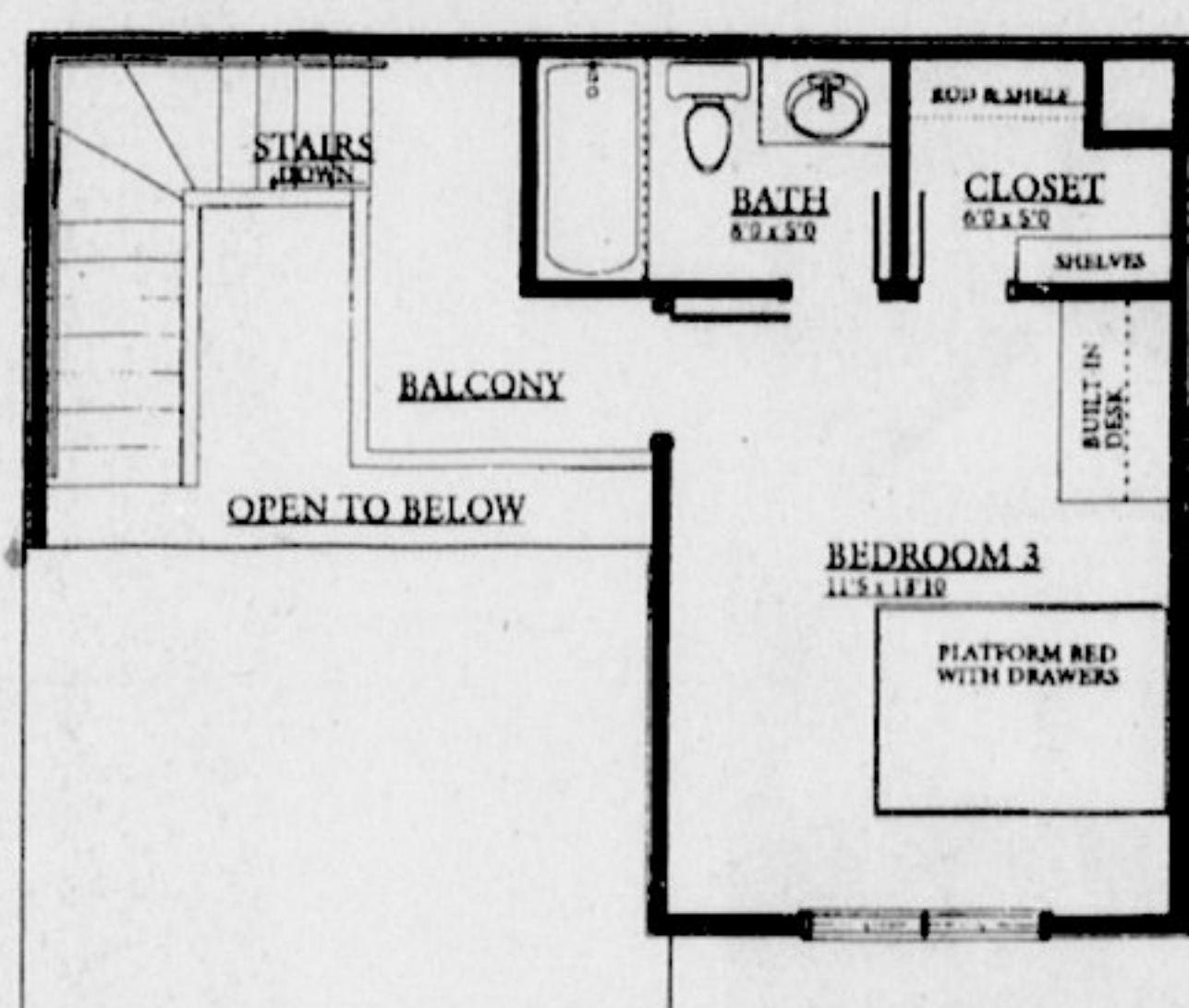
Advent
Winter Solstice
Diwali
Hannukah
Yule Jole
Daeborum
Christmas
Kwanza

There will be food and festivities from each holiday around the world.

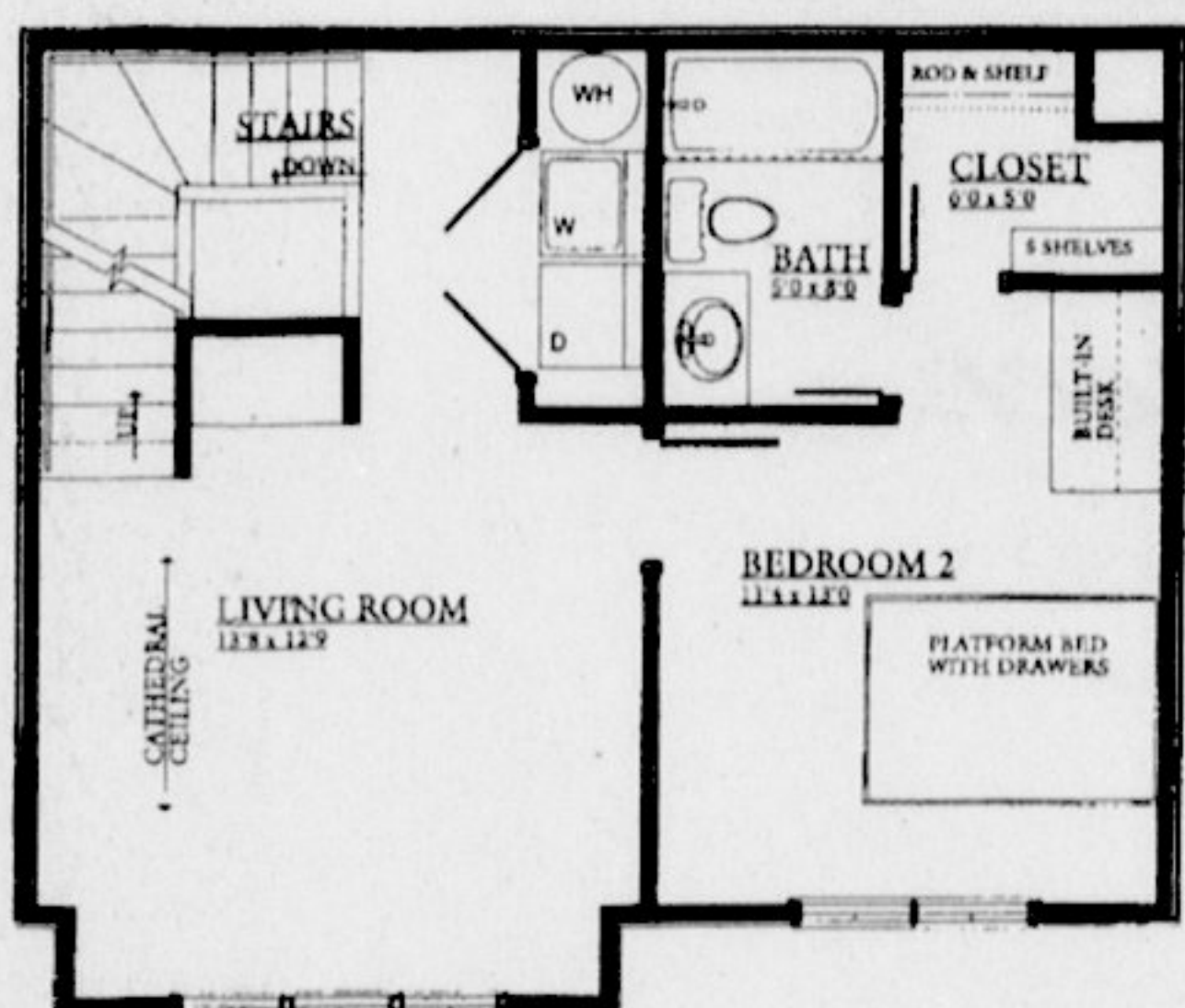


252-328-4715 www.ecu.edu/student_union

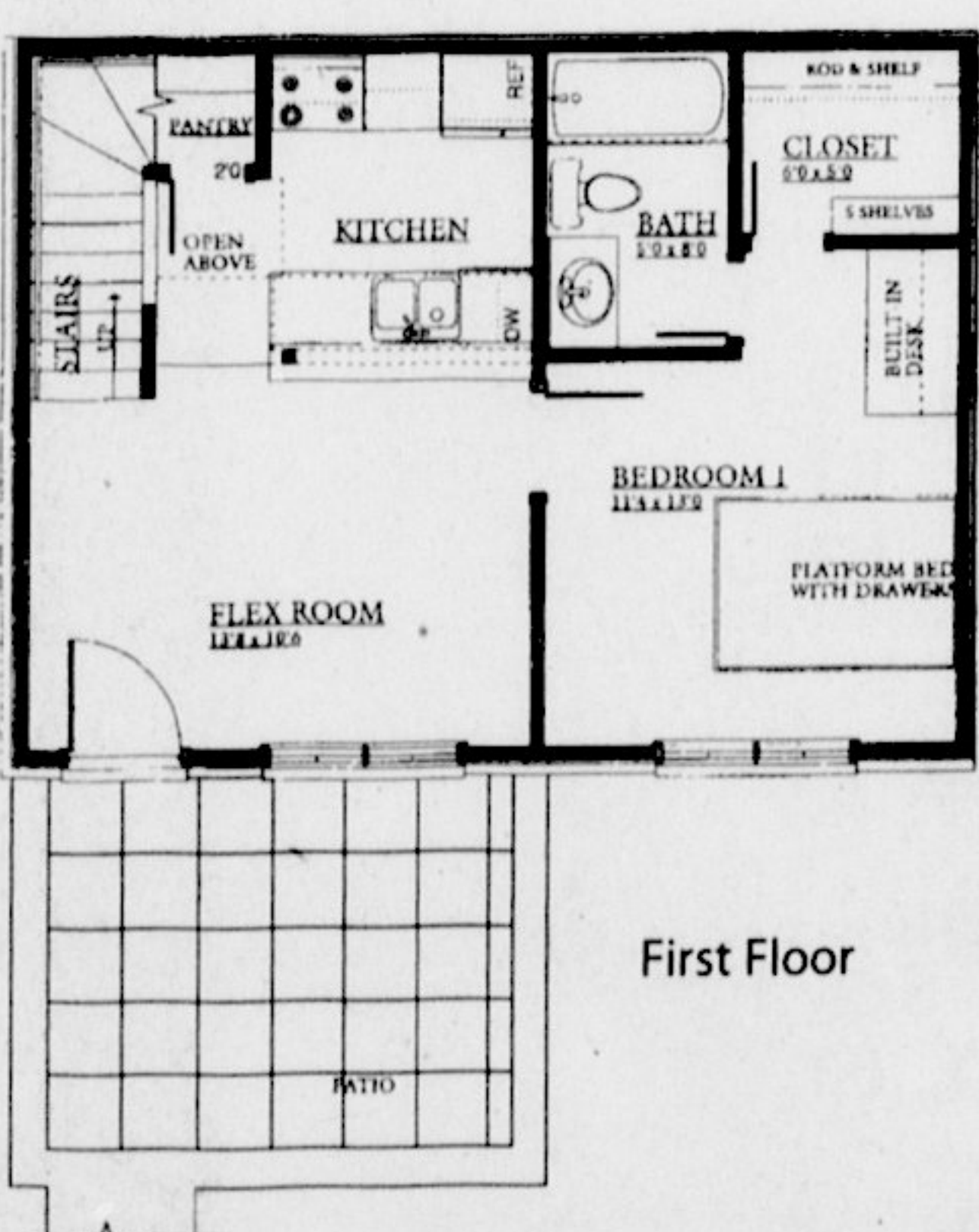
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2046

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SHOWTIMES:

Thu Dec 1st at 9:30pm

Fri Dec 2nd at 7pm

Sat Dec 3rd at 9:30

Sun Dec 4th at 7pm

All movies are shown in
Mendenhall's Hendrix Theatre

THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

Blockbuster Film

Thu Dec 1st at 7pm

Fri Dec 2nd at 9:30pm

Sat Dec 3rd at 7pm

Sun Dec 4th 3pm

NEXT WEEK:
RED EYE

PULP FICTION

Special Featured Film

Dec 2nd at Midnight

Dec 3rd at Midnight

World Fest

Dec 1st at 8pm

In Mendenhall's 2nd Floor Gallery

A Holiday Celebration Around the World with Free Food and Festivities.

Presented by **cultural
awareness**

Questions? Call 328-4715, Visit www.ecu.edu/student_union or email STUDENTUNION@MAIL.ECU.EDU

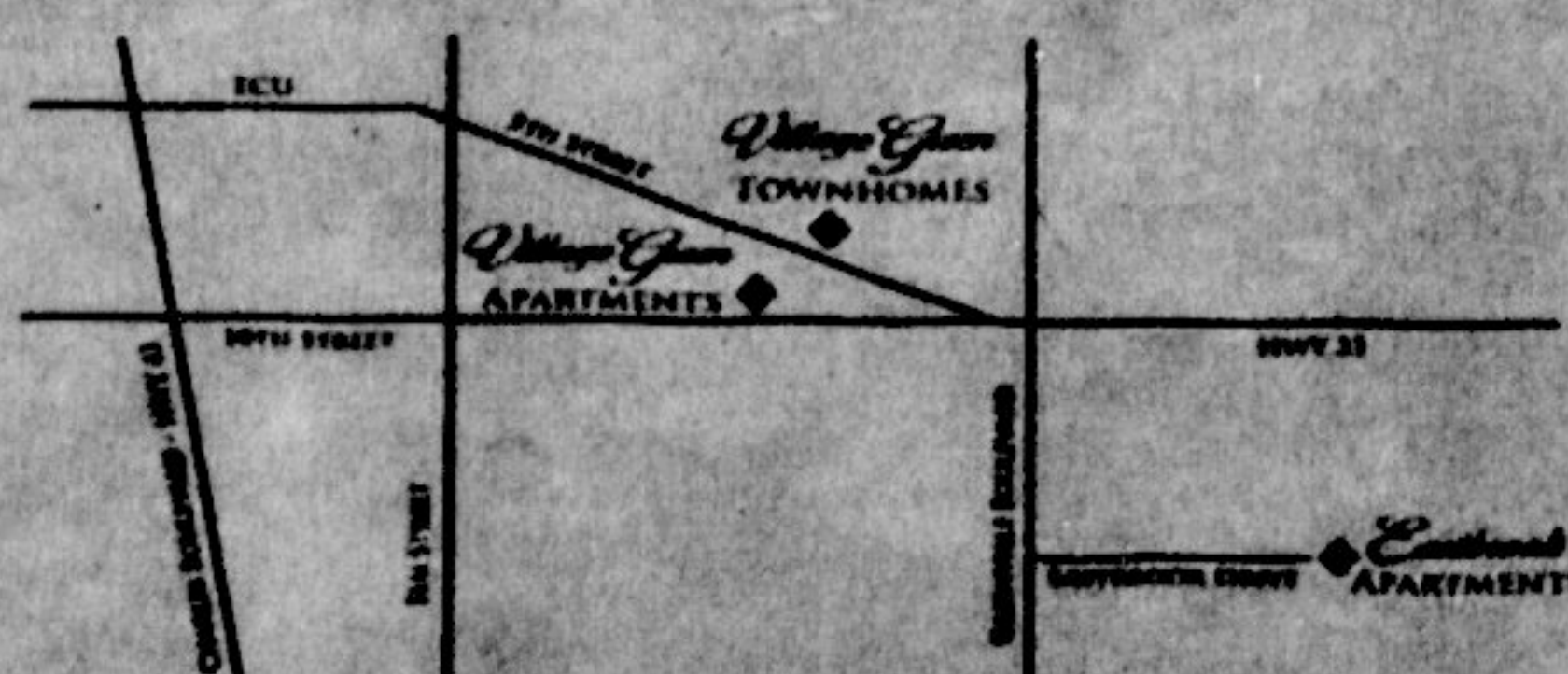
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Got Questions?

Dear Features,
Why is it only called "cheating" when guys do it? My girlfriend enjoys clubbing more than I do and I'm tired of her rubbing against other men all night.
-It wasn't me

Dear It wasn't me,
This is another one of those beautiful double standards. Girls typically think that everything that ever goes wrong in a relationship is always the guy's fault (and this is not a bias column, you have two females writing this). Girls also tend to become more jealous than guys do, therefore they suspect more instances of foul play. Cheating comes in many different forms, depending on what your significant other feels. It can vary from anything like flirting with someone else to engaging in sexual activity with someone else (duh). Granted, it's probably not right for your girlfriend to go out to a club and grind against various other guys all night, but we can't tell your woman what she can and can't do.

Recipes:

Potato Latkes

2 pounds russet (baking) potatoes
1 medium onion
1/2 cup chopped scallions, including the green part
1 large egg beaten
Salt and pepper to taste
Vegetable oil for frying
Peel the potatoes and put in cold water. Using a grater or a food processor coarsely grate the potatoes and onions. Place together in a fine-mesh strainer or tea towel and squeeze all the water over a bowl. The potato starch will settle to the bottom; reserve that after you have carefully poured off the water. Mix the potato and onion with the potato starch. Add the scallions, egg, and salt and pepper. Heat a griddle or non-stick pan and coat with a thin film of vegetable oil. Take about two tablespoons of the potato mixture in the palm of your hand and flatten as best you can. Place the potato mixture on the griddle, flatten with a spatula, and fry for a few minutes until golden. Flip the pancake over and brown the other side. Remove to paper towels to drain. Serve immediately.

Hot Chocolate with Peppermint Schnapps

1 quart milk (skim, 2 percent or whole) or half-and-half
6 ounces bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, chopped (recommended: Scharffenberger)
9 ounces peppermint schnapps
Whipped cream, for serving
Heat one cup of the milk in a medium saucepan over low heat. Add chocolate, stirring constantly, until melted. When the chocolate has melted, increase heat to medium and add the remainder of the milk while whisking rapidly. Do not allow to boil. Serve in small cups fortified with a jigger (1 1/2 ounces) of peppermint schnapps and a dollop of whipped cream. Add a peppermint stick to stir.

Poached Apples with Vanilla Cinnamon Syrup

4 granny smith apples, peeled with the stem on
3 cups of sugar
2 vanilla beans, split and scraped
4 cinnamon sticks
2 quarts of water
Juice of one lemon
In a roomy one gallon pot place peeled apples, vanilla, cinnamon and sugar. Cover with water then bring to a simmer over medium to low heat for twenty minutes. Once the apples are soft enough, pierce with a knife. Remove the apples with a slotted spoon to a holding plate. Reduce poaching liquid to a light syrup, then place the apples back in sauce pot and hold on warm until ready to serve. Use four small serving bowls with matching underliner plates then place one apple in the middle of each bowl. Pour warm syrup over each apple and then garnish cinnamon sticks and vanilla beans.

Candied Yams

4 pounds yams (or sweet potatoes), peeled and cut to large bite-sized pieces
2 cups orange juice
3 cups light corn syrup
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 cup vanilla extract
2 teaspoons lemon zest
2 tablespoons flour
1 1/2 cups light brown sugar, packed
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Boil yams until slightly underdone, to avoid breaking. Strain, cool and set aside. In a large container whisk together orange juice, corn syrup, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla and zest. In another bowl, whisk flour and both sugars together. Put cooled yams in a deep baking dish, add dry ingredients and stir to coat. Pour liquid over yams and bake for 20 to 25 minutes.

Another Jane Austen film classic

Keira Knightley delivers Oscar worthy performance

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

Another celebrated Jane Austen novel has found its way to the big screen – again. *Pride & Prejudice* is, according to the Internet Movie Database, the ninth adaptation of the popular book first published in 1813. This new version was adapted by Deborah Moggach, directed by Joe Wright and stars Keira Knightley as the story's heroine.

Knightley plays Elizabeth Bennett, one of five daughters to Mr. and Mrs. Bennett (Donald Sutherland and Brenda Blethyn). Mrs. Bennett is hard pressed to see that one of her daughters, preferably her eldest Jane (Rosamund Pike) will marry the wealthy bachelor Mr. Bingley (Simon Woods). The daughters meet Mr. Bingley that night at a ball along with his sister Caroline (Kelly Reilly) and his friend Mr. Darcy (Matthew MacFadyen).

Mr. Bingley takes an immediate liking to Jane which flatters Mrs. Bennett. Elizabeth, on the other hand, doesn't want anything to do with men right now. However, she is strangely attracted to Mr. Darcy. He is too at first, though he doesn't admit it right away.



Keira Knightley as Elizabeth and Matthew MacFadyen as Mr. Darcy, star in the film 'Pride & Prejudice.'

Mrs. Bennett isn't too concerned if her daughters are in love with the men she wants them to marry, so long as they marry. With Jane and Mr. Bingley pretty much sealed up, she turns her attention to Elizabeth. She wants her to marry Mr. Collins (Tom Hollander) who has just moved into town. Elizabeth laughs at the thought of this, but her mother won't put up with that – she must marry this man. Elizabeth blows Mr. Collins off at another ball, this one at the Bing-

ley's, especially when Mr. Darcy surprises her with a dance request.

Soon after this, Elizabeth finds herself being more and more attracted to Mr. Darcy, but she tries to resist her temptations. Mr. Darcy does the same thing, but they always seem to end up at the same place together. One such incident occurs at the house of Lady Catherine de Bour (Judi Dench), who is hard set on Mr. Darcy marrying her daughter. Her thoughts are that both she and Mr. Darcy were born into

privileged families, and although the Bennetts are somewhat privileged, they have nowhere near the amount of estate that she and Mr. Darcy have.

This is one of the most celebrated stories in the history of literature. Anytime someone takes a stab at bringing such a story to the big screen is running the risk of messing it up somehow. In order to stay completely true to the book, the film would need to run somewhere near six hours in length or more. This

has actually happened before. A&E did a TV miniseries for this story in 1980.

Joe Wright's version is very true to the original book, and it does so in just over two hours. Every shot in this film is soaked with the same love that Austen used to create these characters and this story almost 200 years ago. Director of photography Roman Osin paints the picture of eighteenth century England with better than anyone else has in the past. His work on this film has some of the best cinematography in any film this year.

Keira Knightley, fresh off an abominating performance in *Domino*, shows that she truly is a great actress with the potential of having a long and lustrous acting career ahead of her. She commands every scene she's in, including the ones alongside her former Oscar nominated and Oscar winning counterparts (Blethyn and Dench respectively). By the end of the award season, she too should be joining the ranks of Oscar nominees such as the aforementioned actresses.

Matthew MacFadyen is a sensation in his first leading performance. Everyone all the way down to the other sisters (Pike, Talulah Riley, Jena Malone and Carey Mulligan) are perfect in the roles they play. Dench, who is only on screen for a few minutes,

see PRIDE page B2



Seen above: The main characters in Chris Columbus' screen adaptation of the Broadway musical.

Better not pay this 'Rent'

Some musicals should just stay on the stage

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

The Broadway production of *Rent* is probably a phenomenal musical. I wouldn't know this because I have never had the opportunity to watch it on stage before. I still would like to have a chance to see it performed on stage somewhere even after seeing Chris Columbus' big screen adaptation, despite the absolute abomination that it is.

Rent is the latest in the big screen musical adaptations in recent years. *Moulin Rouge!* resurrected the movie musical after lying dormant for about three decades. The following year, *Chicago* won the Best Picture Oscar, the first musical to win since *Oliver* in 1968. And last year, *The Phantom of the Opera* came to the big screen. This was a very good film, but it was not

nearly as magical as witnessing it in person.

This was the attitude I had going into *Rent*. Having never seen it, I was wondering if there was anyway for me to view it with an unbiased perspective. I hadn't even heard any of the music from the show before, except for the song that was in the trailer.

The big screen adaptation of *Rent* reminds us of why the movie musical became such a box office disaster in the 1970s. It's one of the most painful movie going experiences I've had all year long and I hope to soon forget it.

Rent follows several friends in New York City who deal with the everyday things such as life, love and happiness. At the center of the story are two roommates, Mark (Anthony Rapp) and Roger (Adam Pascal). Mark has just been dumped by his girlfriend Maureen (Idina Menzel) for a lawyer named Joanne (Traci Thoms). Roger has just made friends with the tenet downstairs,

a stripper named Mimi (Rosario Dawson). Their friend Collins (Jesse L. Martin) is back in town and soon meets a new lover, a cross-dresser named Angel (Wilson Jermaine Heredia). Mark and Roger's former roommate turned landlord is Ben (Taye Diggs), who only appears when an antagonist is needed in the story. Other than that, there are no true bad-guys or dramatic conflicts in the story.

The only types of conflict revolve around certain individuals' sexual preference and how a few of them deal with having AIDS on an everyday basis. Not everyone in this group is infected with this deadly disease, but a few of them are.

The characters sing. Then they sing and sing again. There is very little dialogue between characters other than the lyrics in the songs that the late Jonathan Larson had written. Some

see RENT page B3

LeeVees: 'Hanukkah Rocks' album

More than just another holiday album

AARON BORREGO
STAFF WRITER

Well, it seems that holiday time inspires more to life than just spiked eggnog, endless lines at the local mall and most of all, presents! Now we have the glorious return of holiday flavored music. Christmas music mainly has a Christian feel to it, but now the Jewish faith has something modern to listen too.

Hanukkah Rocks is certainly a well welcomed response to barn burners such as Mariah Carey and Kenny G busting out their respective arsenal to accost unsuspecting Christmas ballads.

With this change, gone are the 20 thousand live renditions of "Santa Claus is coming to town" done by fore mentioned artists. Also, gone are the head-



Creators of the album, Adam and Dave, sing their Hanukkah songs.

aches of listening to these audio masterpieces in every store, for 72 hours straight, this side of the Pecos.

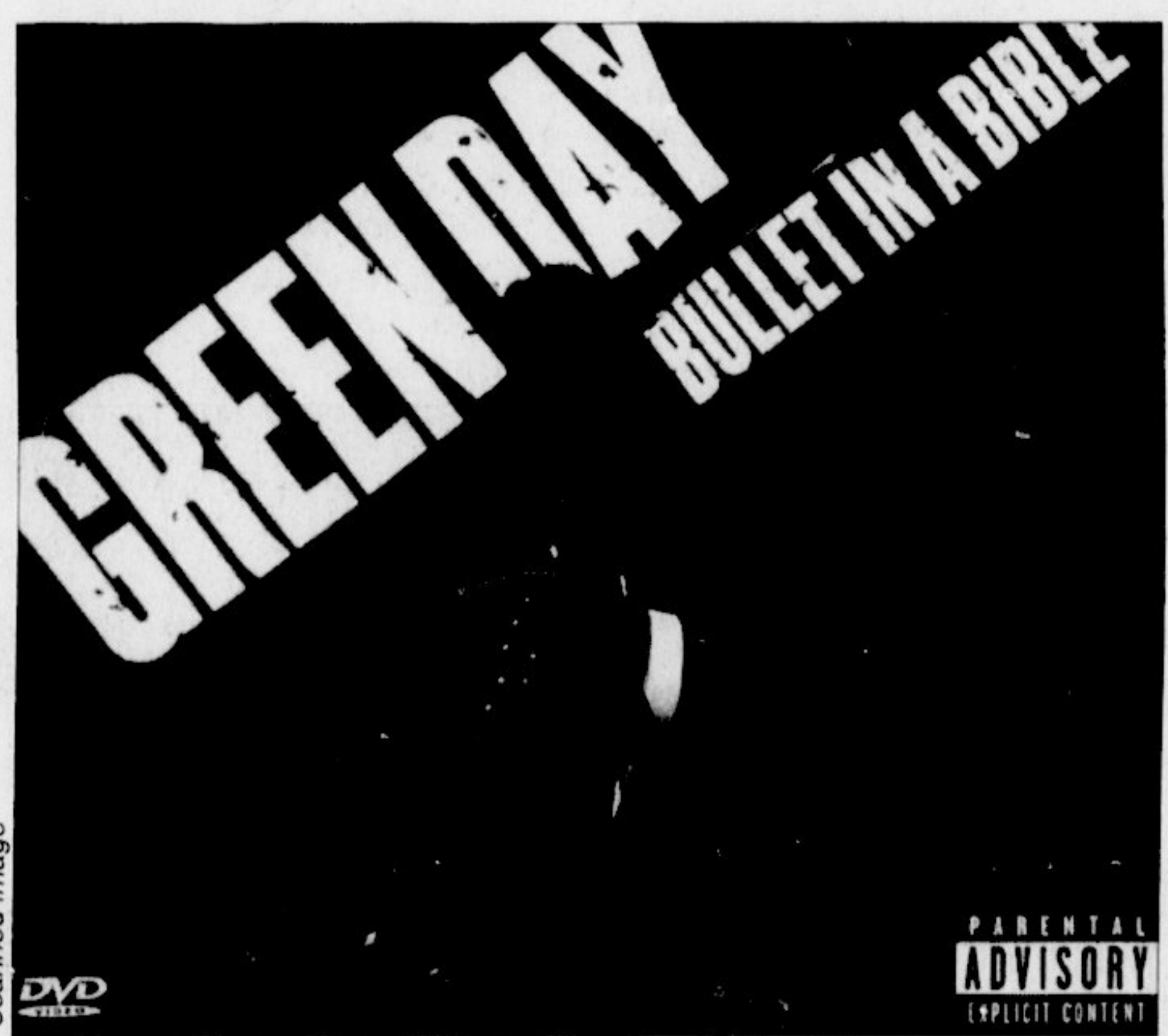
Having said all this, what does the CD *Hanukkah Rocks* by the LeeVees, give everyone? Above everything, some

glimpse of what holiday music potentially could be like with out the traditional commercialization accustomed to being a part of this holiest of holidays.

This quirky, humorous

see LEEVEES page B3

Green Day conquers fans with new 'Bullet in a Bible'



The three members of Green Day, Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool, released their DVD/CD combination on Reprise Records.

This album rocks the biggest house of them all

SCOTTY WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

Billie Joe Armstrong and Mike Dirnt formed a band called Sweet Children in California when they were 14 (or 16, depending on where you look). Once they added a drummer named Al Sobrante, they changed their name to a moniker you might just recognize, unless you've been living under a rock for quite some time – Green Day. The term Green Day came from a slang term for smoking marijuana. Lead singer Armstrong actually had the nickname "two dollar bill" since he used to sell it in high school for that price.

In 1989, they were signed to a label named Lookout! Records and released their first EP entitled *1,000 Hours*. In 1990, Tre Cool joined the band to drum and soon became a permanent drummer.

Now, 16 years later, Green Day has been through the northern California underground punk scene and survived a few letdown albums and had some boomers, but has persevered to their current status as a world-famous punk rock band since 2000. In 2000 after the release of their album *Warning*, many fans and critics declared the Green Day was dying a slow death, but wouldn't live much longer.

The band fought through the criticisms and crash of *Warning*, as well as some other obstacles. The members dealt with some infighting and fixed their own conflicts. Then the master tapes for their newest album (20 tracks in all) were stolen. They still persevered, starting over from scratch and creating a new album, *American Idiot*, which released in 2004. This album drew on much of the political unrest of the time (the title track became very popular around the release of the album).

American Idiot debuted at number one on the Billboard charts, the first ever Green Day album to do so. It has been billed as a "punk rock opera," but whatever you would call it, it signaled the band's rise from near-death and they changed everything from their wardrobe and hairstyles to the instruments they play.

Now, they've released *Bullet in a Bible*, the CD and DVD of two live shows from the Milton Keynes National Bowl in London, England. The album is a performance of mostly singles from *American Idiot* with some songs from other albums mixed in, like "Longview," "Minority" and "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)." The group's popularity has clearly gone international if this album's background noise is any indication. Their reception (they rocked a crowd of more than 130,000 screaming fans) can signify that they have completed the journey from the despondent children of punk rock to the distorted guitar voice of political discontent throughout the world. For any who disagree with that statement, listen to their performance of "Minority," and hear the words of Armstrong, "Remember one thing – regardless of who the powers that be are, the people that you elect, the people that I elect into office, remember, you have the (expletive) power, we are the (expletive) leaders, don't let these (expletive) dictate your life or tell you what to do."

The album itself is actually very good, the music a refreshing mix of new and old that long-time fans are sure to delight in, as well as fans who (you can admit it, it's not a sin) have been won over by *American Idiot*. Don't throw away or store away the DVD, either – in many ways it will be more of an experience than listening to the CD. When you watch 130,000 plus with

see GREEN DAY page B3

TEC's masterpiece spotlight: Rock bands



Uncovering the best cover songs

GARY MCCABE
STAFF WRITER

Even more rare than the sober 1960s rock star is the cover song, which eclipses the original version. Many have tried and thus, the world has been subjected to a barrage of atrocious covers so bad that they destroy the legacy of whatever song the band is attempting to pay homage to.

The list of terrible covers is staggering – Motley Crüe doing The Beatles' "Helter Skelter," The Lemonheads doing Simon & Garfunkle's "Mrs. Robinson," No Doubt doing Dexy's Midnight Runners' "Come on, Eileen," Alien Ant Farm doing Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal," Elton John doing The Beatles' "Lucy in the

Sky with Diamonds" and Limp Bizkit doing "Faith." And that's just off the top of my head.

These are all songs that not only make me turn the dial of my stereo when they come on, they make me think much less of the original version simply because anytime I hear the good version, I'll think of the bad version.

There should be laws protecting certain songs from this kind of treatment. I mean, if I ran the world, covering anything from The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Cat Stevens, Led Zeppelin, Neil Young, Lou Reed, Tom Petty or anyone in that class of musicians would be punishable by death. The means for the execution, of course, differs depending on how bad the cover is. If it's pretty bad, you get the firing squad. If it's U2 doing "Helter Skelter" bad, you get raped with a hatchet and left to bleed to death violated, cold and alone. I wish the White House had a suggestion box.

Don't get my wrong, though. There have been a few covers worthy of praise. Even fewer in number are the covers which eclipse the original and become the definitive version of a song. This week, I would like to high-

light the very few elite cover songs which fall into the category of "masterpiece."

Joe Cocker – "With a Little Help from My Friends." I know, I know – this song breaks rule number one by covering a Beatles song and had my ideas been implemented in the 1970s, the world have to go on without this amazing version of a throw-away song Lennon and McCartney threw to Ringo.

Where the Beatles version sounds hollow behind Ringo's timid vocal delivery and the band's simple arrangement, Cocker's version is a lush powerhouse of a song with Cocker doing providing a vocal tour de force.

I defy you to find a singer with more passion and power in their performance than Cocker. Cocker was gutsy to take a Beatles song of all artists and completely retool it until it's hardly recognizable, but he was and we as listeners are better for it.

Jimi Hendrix – "All Along the Watchtower." Bob Dylan's original attempt at "All Along the Watchtower" is an incredible exercise in songwriting however is lacking in its performance. I'm not a huge fan of the original simply because the harmonica Dylan uses hurts my ears.

Hendrix's take on the song is a whole different story. Pounding into your headphones with drums that would have woken Terri Schiavo, Hendrix takes the Dylan classic and infuses it with guitar licks that envelop the song throughout. The words don't matter. Hendrix's guitar is doing all the talking. And that guitar work is more expressive than even Bob Dylan could

ever be. I read that Bob Dylan has used Hendrix's arrangement whenever he performs the song. Good move.

Johnny Cash – "Hurt." "Hurt" was the coup de grace to Trent Reznor's *The Downward Spiral*, an emotional bloodletting about, well, bloodletting – cutting yourself, mutilating yourself with knives or drugs to make sure you're even alive.

When Johnny Cash covered "Hurt" for his final album *American IV: The Man Comes Around*, it was the coup de grace to his entire career. Only Reznor's lyrics ring more true for the man who's finally realizing his own mortality. With his steady and striking baritone, Cash pierces the listeners' souls as he wails, "What have I become/My sweetest friend/Everyone I know goes away in the end," only to barter with fate for another chance at life.

The arrangement and Cash's voice is nothing short of haunting. The feeling you get listening to "Hurt" is a feeling you can never shake. The song attaches itself to your soul and relentlessly holds on for dear life. The song is all the more powerful considering the circumstances around it. His wife June Carter Cash died shortly after his release. Cash himself died four months later. Cash personified pain and anguish throughout his career. "Hurt" exemplifies Cash's entire life in three minutes, 38 seconds of beautiful, sorrowful bliss. If "Hurt" becomes Cash's legacy, it's only fitting.

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

Pride from page B1

is as solid as always. And don't be fooled by lack of screen time – she won an Oscar for *Shakespeare in Love* and only clocked in eight minutes. The best supporting role is that of Blithyn as the Bennett mother. She's a scene stealer in almost every shot she appears in. Her character's witty humor keeps everyone engaged in the story being presented on the

screen. This is ensemble acting performance of the year for everyone on screen.

Pride & Prejudice is the type of film that defines what a romance movie truly is. Every year we see these pointless romantic comedies that are just like everything else that came out the week before it. This one may also be like everything, but guess

what? The story is 192 years old. If anyone is copying stories here, it's all these contemporary films that take their ideas from stories like this. When the same story is being repeated year in and year out for that amount of time, that's a legacy.

Pride & Prejudice reminds us of where our favorite romance films of today comes from, and

it does so in the true filmmaking sense that is all but gone in the vast majority of today's films.

If you are looking for a film to see on your holiday break, remember this one.

Grade: A+

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

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LeeVees from page B1

and truly unique album leaves listeners in limbo wondering where music like this originates.

To this end, we have the creative minds of Adam Gardner of Gusto and Dave Schneider of The Zambonis to thank for their collaboration. These two met on a tour featuring both of their current bands in April of 2005. Somewhere along the trip, Gardner mentioned to Schneider they should write a CD based on Hanukkah. Being that both men, of the Jewish persuasion, were writing an all Hanukkah album, humor was at a premium during their collective efforts.

"Applesauce vs. Sour cream" is very indicative of this seemingly effervescent statement. It is quite a humorous song that chronicles the choice these strapping young lads faced during Hanukkah time. Headlined by tunes such as "Latke Clan" and "Goyim friends," this album is pretty humorous to non-Jewish listeners. This might be because I don't quite understand the meanings behind the words. The song styles range from early British invasion to Ramones inspired punk, and yet, is not for everyone because it is purely so different in the delivery.

For all those who didn't know, the miracle of Hanukkah

is where the "Eternal Light" was to be made in a temple from a small lamp and jug of oil. The oil was only supposed to last for one day, but instead lasted for eight days which is a true miracle indeed.

Going along with religious doctrine, the LeeVees wrote the entire album in just eight days! I will be the first to admit that the songwriting leaves a lot of room for improvement, however, should still be noted as entertaining and a descent listen to who venture for this album.

The music itself is quite pleasing and easy to listen to. The entire album is nice to listen through from start to end and should be given a chance to music "thrill seekers."

Overall, this album is good but not great or even for everyone. Songwriting gets a C-, the music gets a B and overall album gets a hard earned C. Hopefully someone will come across this album and appreciate it for what it is, a humorous attempt at holiday music, which everyone could use a little bit of humor during this time of year.

Grade: C

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

Rent from page B1

of the actors have very poor singing skills, so it's a little hard to follow when they're singing.

In an attempt to avoid both spoilers and large amounts of controversy over my opinion on this film and the filmmaking, I won't go into any types of hard criticism on the quality of filmmaking being presented here.

However, I will say that some musicals should be meant to stay on the stage and not be moved to the silver screen.

People who have not seen Larson's musical on Broadway are not aware of some of the flashy staging technique used to bring the story to life. That's what makes the stage such an amazing medium - everything happens right before your eyes.

It's a jaw dropping sight to see set pieces that weight over a ton disappear in a mere two second blackout. This type of magic is completely void on the screen.

The type of magic that one would look for in a motion picture would be an engaging story and identifiable characters that you could grow to love.

Rent contains neither of these elements. You find yourself being too distracted by the singing and the dancing that you forget to attach yourself to the lives these people are leading. And when director Columbus (*Home Alone*, *Harry Potter*) wants you to feel sorry for his characters, you only feel sorry for yourself for not buying the large popcorn that comes with

free refills when you're done.

I'm not saying that *Rent* is a bad musical. It's just not the first show I would have picked to make into a movie. The movie musicals that should be out in theaters are musicals that are written directly for the screen.

Recently, John Turturro premiered his newest film as a director at the Toronto Film Festival. His film, *Romance & Cigarettes*, stars James Gandolfini and Susan Sarandon and it is a musical. Turturro wrote all the music and lyrics for the movie.

This film, due for an independent release in the spring, has nothing to live up to. There's no stage musical for this film to draw comparisons with. These types of films are

what movie musicals should be.

I still plan on seeing *Rent* when it comes around North Carolina next time. I'm sure the story and characters would be much more engaging to watch as all the drama unfolds. Musical like this with catchy songs and amazing performances would be so much better if it happens in front of you.

This works better instead of having to sit through 135 minutes of people who can't sing or dance and who act with about as much excitement as a three toed sloth.

Grade: F

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

Green Day from page B1

you watch 130,000 plus with arms in the air and rocking out to popular Green Day tunes, you'll be reminded of watching groups like Queen rocking European audiences. If you want a scale of what 130,000 people is in a big group, consider the paid attendance of this year's Super Bowl was 78,125. So the concert totals nearly doubled that of the largest

sporting event held in America. To put it succinctly, in the words of *Rolling Stone* magazine, Green Day has "conquered the world."

To see a band perform its songs live is an entirely different animal than sitting in a room listening to the album. The experience is something entirely different, because music that gets to your ears also comes alive before

your eyes, if the band is truly committed to making powerful music. Green Day has revitalized a commitment to this musical experience, and it shows on the DVD. Armstrong and Dirnt frequently take off running across the stage, engage the audience on numerous occasions, and the performance is full of those moments when you can feel the

blood running in your veins and heating up from passion.

Grab a copy of *Bullet in a Bible* if you're a Green Day fan. Grab a copy of *Bullet in a Bible* if you like to see great performances. Just grab a copy of *Bullet in a Bible*.

Grade: A

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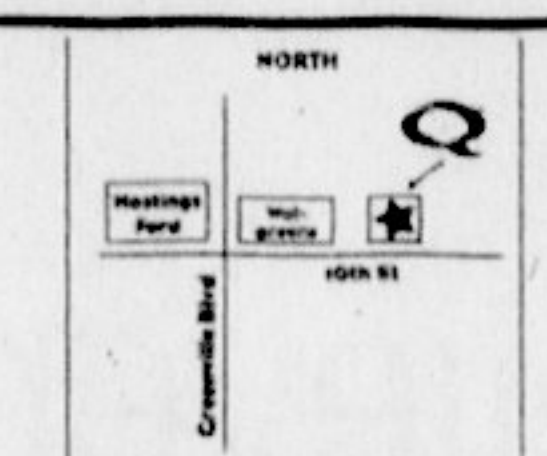
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NCAA football conference championship weekend

Longhorns, Trojans will be tested once more before postseason

BRANDON HUGHES
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The college football regular season has come to an end and all that's left before a heap of bowl games featuring mediocre matchups are the conference title games this weekend.

USC and Texas roll into their meetings with undefeated records and a clear path to the national championship, but must take care of business to set up that January clash. It's time to preview the powerhouse Big 12, Pac 10, SEC and ACC conferences.

2.4 yards per carry.

Prediction

There's no contest here. Texas completely overmatches Colorado in every aspect of the game and add in the fact that the Longhorns are disappointed with last week's performance and you get a blowout in the making. I think Texas is a virtual lock for the national title game, which is more than can be said for the USC Trojans.

Last meeting

USC did not play UCLA this season, but did last year in a close 29-24 win. Bush ran for over 200 yards, but the Bruins held Leinart in check to keep the game close. The Trojans' defense forced three turnovers and held UCLA to just 17 yards rushing on 25 carries.

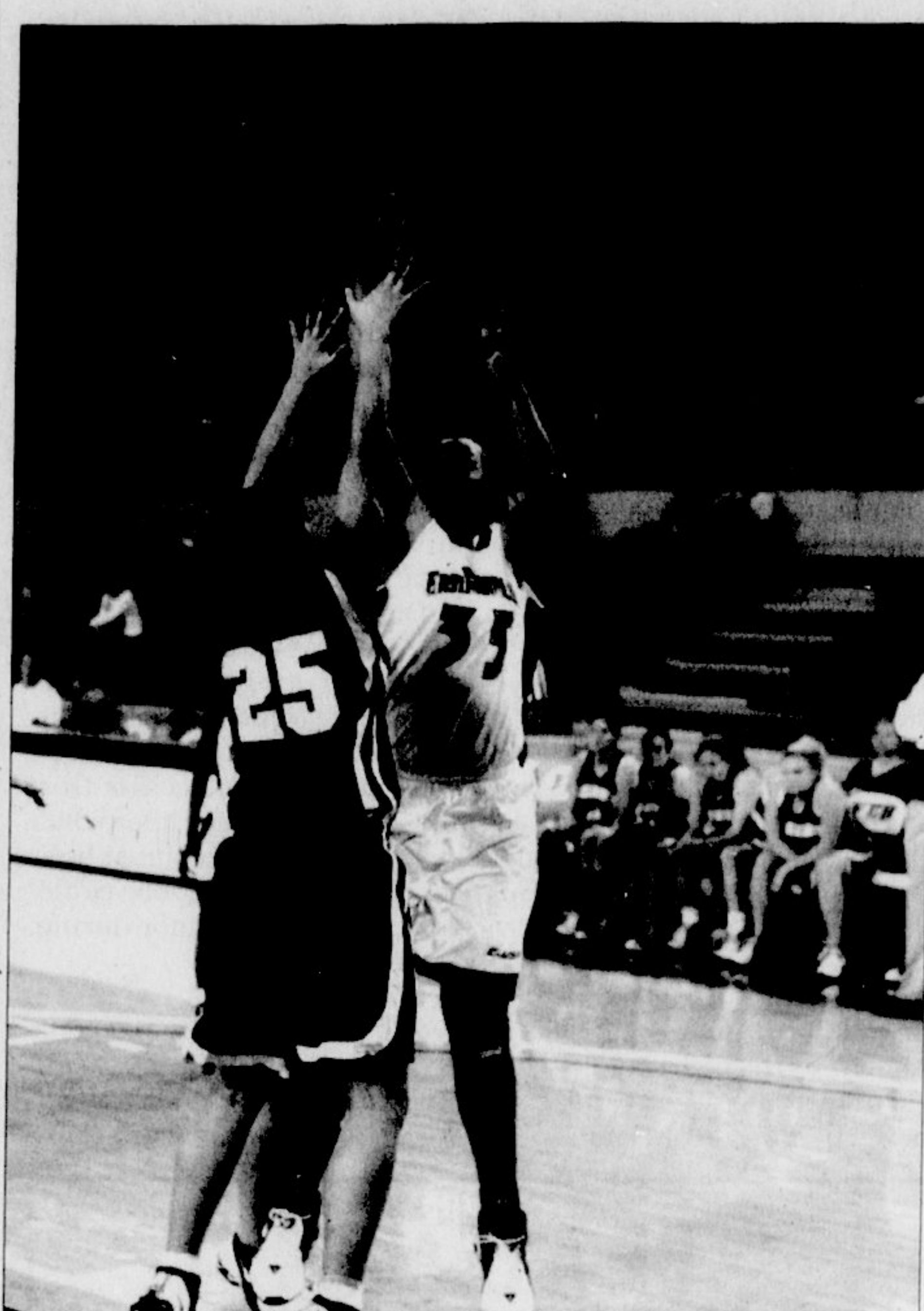
Prediction

This one could be much closer than the three-touchdown spread USC is favored by. The Trojans' defense is above average at best, allowing over 20 points per game and this game will be a shootout, but I'll take USC to march onto the national championship to face Texas.

Prediction

These teams could easily be undefeated at this stage of the season, but this game could knock the loser out of a BCS bowl, especially if it's Georgia. The Bulldogs will come out on top of this defensive battle because I think Shockley has the advantage over Russell when it comes to sheer athletic ability and making a big play that could decide the outcome of the game.

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Cheri Mills scorched the Aggies with a career-high 36 points.

Lady Pirates claim another early road victory, 74-71

(SID) — The ECU women's basketball team continues to show that it can win on the road, following a tightly contested 74-71 victory over N.C. A&T at the Corbett Sports Center Tuesday night. The win precedes the CPW/Atavola Lady Pirate Invitational which will take place on Saturday and Sunday at Minges Coliseum in Greenville.

Cheri Mills had a breakout performance leading all scorers with 36 points and grabbing eight rebounds in the victory. She is now sandwiched between Jennifer Jackson who scored 31 points (Nov. 13, 2004 vs. Louisville) and Danielle Melvin, who scored 39 points against Richmond (March 5, 1999) as the last three players to score between 30 and 40 points for the program. The Lady Pirates (3-1) inside game, which manufactured 26 points in the paint, proved to be the difference down the stretch as Mills scored 18 points in the second half.

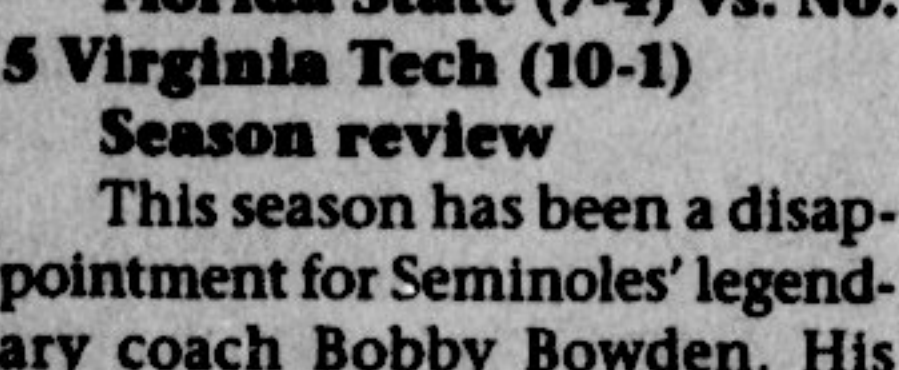
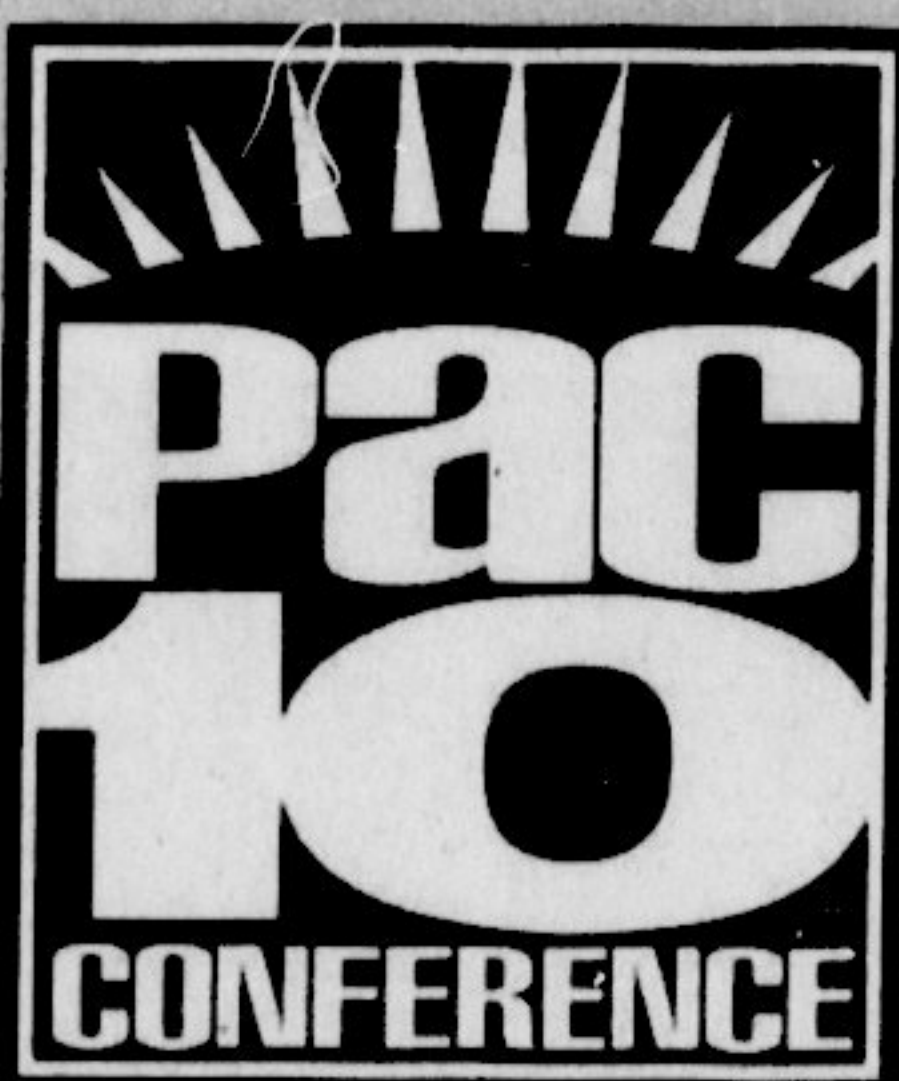
With ECU leading 64-59 at the 7:42 mark of the game, the Lady Aggies (0-4) knotted the contest with a 5-0 run over the next two minutes. Mills put the Pirates back on top, and a back-and-forth contest over the final minutes, the lead was stretched to one following two clutch Jas-

mine Young free-throws. Leading 72-71, ECU turned up the heat on defense to force a turnover and subsequent foul by Shareka Glover. Unable to force a defensive foul, ECU closed out the game with a layup by Mills with one second remaining.

Young matched Cherie Mills as the only Pirates player in double figures with 11 points. Eight other ECU players scored at least two points or more.

"I am very excited to get out of here with a victory," Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener said. "Our young players were able to handle the environment, because it is a great place to play basketball."

ECU led the Lady Aggies after one half of play 35-32, with center Cherie Mills leading all scorers with an 18 point performance. The Lady Pirates dominated from the inside, scoring 22 points, while connecting on all three free throw attempts. Trailing by 10 points on two different occasions, the Pirates went on a 10-0 run at the 8:20 mark of the contest to tie the game at 25-25 with 5:44 remaining in the half. A tight game over the following minutes, ECU assumed a four point lead at 34-30 with 2:06 left and would take a three-point advantage into the half.



Colorado (7-4) vs. No. 2 Texas (11-0)

Season review

The Longhorns have steam-rolled opponents all season in convincing fashion, facing little competition since a 25-22 win over Ohio State in early September. Junior quarterback Vince Young is one of the front runners to win the Heisman with the phenomenal year he's had through the air and on the ground. Young did have a rough outing last week against Texas A&M, but that may be just the motivation this veteran squad needs to pummel the Buffaloes on Saturday.

Colorado boasts only a 5-3 conference mark, but that's enough to garner a spot in the title game. Coming off a 30-3 blowout loss to Nebraska, the Buffaloes are just trying to prepare for a no-name bowl in a few weeks.

Last meeting

Young was flawless in a 42-17 drubbing between these two teams earlier this season on Oct. 15, completing 25-of-29 passes for 336 yards and two touchdowns and also rushing for three scores. Texas sprinted out to a 28-0 advantage midway through the second quarter and held the Colorado rushing attack to just

No. 11 UCLA (9-1) vs. No. 3 USC (11-0)

Season review

Everyone knows the talent of quarterback Matt Leinart and running back Reggie Bush, but they overshadow a stellar supporting cast. LenDale White has rushed for over 1,000 yards and 19 touchdowns and receiver Dwayne Jarrett has over 1,000 yards receiving. Steve Smith could also eclipse 1,000 yards receiving before the season is over. It's a good thing the Trojans are ridiculously awesome on offense, because their defense isn't national champion caliber. Fresno State and Notre Dame have both given USC a tight battle earlier this season.

UCLA has one blemish on their record and it's an ugly one. The Bruins suffered a complete meltdown at the hands of Arizona, losing 52-14. Other than that, UCLA has been impressive, led by senior quarterback Drew Olson. Olson isn't getting much Heisman attention, but you would be hard pressed to find better numbers. The signal-caller has thrown 30 touchdowns and just three interceptions and he went 22-of-27 for 510 yards and five scores in his last outing.

No. 13 Georgia (9-2) vs. No. 3 LSU (10-1)

Season review

These respective SEC squads will look back at this season and think about what could have been. Georgia fell to Florida when starting quarterback D.J. Shockley went down with an injury and lost to rival Auburn on a last second field goal. LSU led Tennessee 24-7 heading into the fourth quarter, but came away with an overtime defeat for their only loss.

Both teams have outstanding defenses, allowing around 14 points per contest. Offensively, Shockley is the catalyst for the Bulldogs, throwing for 19 touchdowns and just five picks. On the other side, quarterback JaMarcus Russell is a sophomore and will be a star before his career is over at LSU.

Last meeting

Georgia blew out LSU in a 45-16 win last season on its way to a 10-2 overall record. The Bulldogs won with a balanced offensive attack as quarterback David Greene threw for 172 yards and five touchdowns and the team tallied 221 rushing yards. Receiver Reggie Brown hauled in five passes for 110 yards and two scores.

Florida State (7-4) vs. No. 5 Virginia Tech (10-1)

Season review

This season has been a disappointment for Seminoles' legendary coach Bobby Bowden. His team has suffered three consecutive losses to N.C. State, Clemson and Florida heading into this matchup and the offense is way out of sync. The usual suffocating defense has also been missing in action this season, giving up 21.6 points per game.

Barring a 27-7 loss to Miami, Virginia Tech has been arguably the most dominant team in the country this season. The Hokies' defense is giving up just over 10 points per game and other than Miami, no team has scored more than two touchdowns against them.

Last meeting

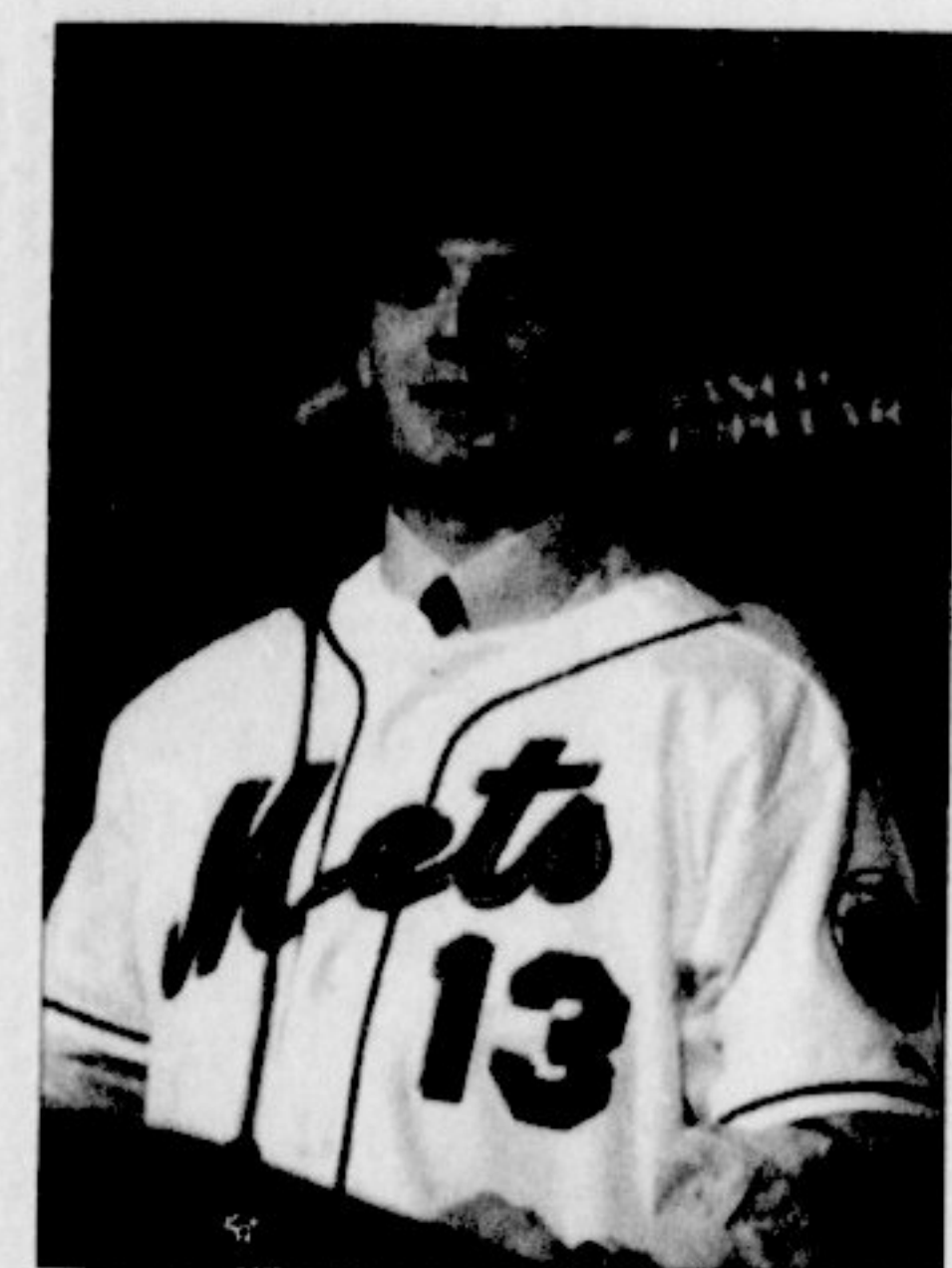
FSU last met the Hokies on Jan. 1, 2002, in the Gator Bowl, winning that matchup 30-17. Seminoles' Head Coach Bobby Bowden has never lost to Virginia Tech.

Prediction

FSU could give quarterback Marcus Vick some headaches with their team speed on defense and I don't think freshman quarterback Drew Weatherford is mature enough to lead his team to a win on this stage against Virginia Tech. This game should be close throughout, but look for the Hokies to pull away late for a win.

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

Relievers fetching big bucks on MLB free-agent market



Wagner

(AP) — Now that Billy Wagner is the New York Mets' closer and Bobby Howry is a setup man for the Chicago Cubs, a handful of attractive relief pitchers remain on the free-agent market.

It sure looks as though they'll cost big bucks.

With so many teams trying to upgrade their bullpens, prices are soaring for reliable relievers. And the New York Yankees haven't even signed one yet though they've intensified talks with Kyle Farnsworth and Tom Gordon.

The Yankees and Farnsworth have been talking about a two- or three-year deal averaging

\$4.5 million to \$6 million, a high-ranking baseball official said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the negotiations were ongoing.

Gordon, who spent the past two seasons as Mariano Rivera's primary setup man in New York, has been seeking a three-year contract. His agent also has been talking with the Indians and Phillies, who are looking for a closer to replace Wagner.

"I don't think internally that we have the key to solve the situation," new Philadelphia general manager Pat Gillick said. "We'll have to go outside the organization."

The Phillies did find an infielder Tuesday, agreeing with Abraham Nunez on a \$3.35 million, two-year contract that includes a club option for 2008 and performance bonuses.

Other relievers available include Trevor Hoffman, Bob Wickman, Todd Jones, Octavio Dotel and Jose Mesa. They all must be smiling about the \$47 million, five-year deal closer B.J. Ryan finalized with Toronto this week, the richest total ever for a reliever.

No wonder general manager Omar Minaya and the Mets were so eager to get Wagner off the market, even at a cost of \$43 mil-

lion over four years.

"When the B.J. Ryan thing came down and the fifth year was given, I knew that the teams that lost on B.J. were going to be in on Wagner, and that was exactly what happened," Minaya said. "I felt that, look, let's try to get this done sooner rather than later."

Wagner, a four-time All-Star who saved 38 games for Philadelphia last season with a 1.51 ERA, got a no-trade clause from the Mets, which he said was very important. The deal includes a club option for 2010 that could raise the value to \$50 million over five seasons.

"It seemed like all roads kind

of led to New York," Wagner said after slipping on his new No. 13 Mets jersey at a Shea Stadium news conference. "I think it was always the Mets' ball to lose."

His agreement has a \$10.75 million average salary, topping Rivera's \$10.5 million as the highest for a reliever. Wagner, who has 284 career saves, takes over as the Mets' closer from Braden Looper, another free agent.

"I expect great things," Wagner said, one day after the busy Mets held a news conference to introduce slugging first

see **WAGNER** page B6

Williams' view from the sideline this season couldn't be much different

(AP) — The last time most of the nation saw Roy Williams, he was walking slowly up the sideline, adjusting his eyeglasses to make sure he was reading the scoreboard correctly.

This was just before the long-suffering coach waded into the middle of North Carolina's championship celebration and a half-dozen bear hugs from kids who eventually left for the NBA rather than stick around to help him defend it.

Williams got to use those glasses again Tuesday, against the Illinois team he beat nearly

nine months earlier to finally nail down that elusive championship.

He professed to be pleased by plenty of what he saw. Of course, saying anything else this early in the rebuilding process would have been asking for serious trouble. And nobody knows how that works better than Williams.

He began this season as the answer to a trivia question: Who was the coach of the last college basketball team to go unranked the season after winning it all? Williams took over at Kansas following Larry Brown's 1988

title run with Danny Manning and the so-called Miracles. And besides being hamstrung by the penalties Brown left in his wake, he had to put together a respectable product fast from a lot of spare parts.

So Williams knows this could be the shortest championship celebration ever. Just as he knows patience among the North Carolina faithful, even in the afterglow, won't last any longer than it did at Kansas. But first, he has to get his own kids to buy into the plan.

"I'm really proud of my team,"

Williams said after the Illini got a small measure of revenge with a 68-64 win Tuesday night in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

"They were down 13 or so and they kept playing and trying to make plays. I told them that they played harder and better than I coached. And I apologized to them for that," he added. "I looked out there a couple times and we had four freshmen and somebody else out on the court."

The Tar Heels actually trailed by 14 before a 12-0 run engineered by the freshman quartet

of Tyler Hansbrough, Marcus Ginyard, Bobby Frasor and Danny Green brought North Carolina back within 64-62. That's when Illinois' slight edge in experience proved telling.

Redshirt sophomore Brian Randle countered with a layup and a moment later, grabbed a big rebound off a missed free throw. Then, guard Dee Brown, a star in last season's tournament who would have joined teammates Deron Williams and Luther Head at the next level if



Williams

see **WILLIAMS** page B6

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752-BOLI (2654) Corner of 5th & Cotanche**T.J. more than Chad's sidekick**

Houshmandzadeh has been an integral part of the potent Bengals' offense and their 8-3 record.

(AP) — T.J. Houshmandzadeh beamed as he reached out and accepted the scuffed white cleats with black trim and purple padding.

An attendant was delivering the gift he had requested from Deion Sanders.

"Deion's my favorite player of all time," the Cincinnati Bengals receiver said. "He started all the flamboyancy in football. He brought charisma to the game. He set the trends that guys do now."

While Houshmandzadeh turned the cleats upside down, examining the gift from his famous friend in detail, receiver Chad Johnson dressed quietly at a neighboring locker. Together, they had just played the biggest role in sending Deion's Baltimore Ravens to a 42-29 loss.

They couldn't be more different T.J. and Chad, that is.

Johnson makes the national highlights with his bold statements, big touchdowns and choreographed celebrations that would do Deion proud. Houshmandzadeh makes his big catches without fanfare, the way players did before Deion came along.

Different, yet indispensable.

The Bengals (8-3) are in first place in the AFC North because opponents haven't been able to stop both of them. Johnson has 66 catches for 1,085 yards, hurting defenses with his speed and athleticism. Houshmandzadeh has 51 catches for 655 yards, making the tough receptions with his sure hands.

"They're both unique," quarterback Carson Palmer said. "They do completely different things well and complement each other perfectly. T.J.'s a physical guy, a physical blocker, physical when he gets the ball. He's like Hines Ward. And Chad, he's just physically a freak. He's so much faster than anybody else and so much quicker and explosive."

Their temperaments are very different, too.

Earlier this season, Johnson tried to get Houshmandzadeh to join him in having fun talking to the media about upcoming games. Houshmandzadeh politely declined he's not into

see MORE page B6

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Wagner from page B4

baseball Carlos Delgado. He was acquired on Thanksgiving in a trade with Florida.

New York also has offers out to free-agent catchers Bengie Molina and Ramon Hernandez. Molina's agent, Alan Nero, said he hasn't had a chance to talk to Minaya recently.

"He's been pretty busy. We haven't heard from him," Nero said. "The ball's in his court."

Howry and the Cubs finalized a \$12 million, three-year contract. The right-hander went 7-4 with a career-low 2.47 ERA in 79 appearances for Cleveland

last season and held batters to a .191 average.

Chicago also added left-hander Scott Eyre to its bullpen this offseason, and now the Cubs would like to sign free-agent shortstop Rafael Furcal, a speedy leadoff hitter.

"If he chooses to stay in

Atlanta, obviously nobody could fault him for that," general manager Jim Hendry said. "I just told him what we're trying to do, what my plan may be for the next month, be open and honest."

Free-agent starter Paul Byrd visited with the Indians, who

are still searching for a closer and have been reluctant to throw big money at any pitcher this offseason.

Cal Eldred, who came back from serious injury and illness in the last three seasons to pitch for St. Louis, has decided to retire.

Nunez started 77 games at third base for St. Louis last season and hit .285 with five homers and 44 RBIs in 139 games overall. He probably will platoon at third with David Bell, who batted just .199 against right-handers last season. Nunez hit .277 against righties.

Williams from page B4

not for an unfortunately timed broken foot, put the game away by coolly knocking down a pair of free throws.

"As long as we keep competing as hard as we are and get better - we've got to execute better, we've got to get better defensively - we're going to be OK," Williams said. "We're going to be OK."

Then again, he doesn't have a choice. Such is the state of college basketball these days - lonelier than ever at the top and tougher to stay there as the game gets younger and younger.

Williams lost his top seven scorers and the four biggest stars off his championship team to the NBA, their quality measured by the fact that all four were among the first 14 picks in this summer's draft. But he gets little sympathy, and expects even less.

Before the season began, Williams talked about how

much he enjoyed teaching again. But now that the games have begun in earnest, he's just as likely to complain about having to teach the same lessons over and over. Williams is determined to play the same up-tempo style that has him closing in on 500 wins in his 18th season, even knowing that the deeper he dips into his bench to buy a breather for his starters, the more he risks letting the game get away from him.

It's a calculated gamble that would turn Williams' hair white if it wasn't already. He's got a tough conference schedule waiting, with a seasoned, talented and top-ranked Duke team on one side of him and a surging North Carolina State team on the other - in the most basketball-mad state in the country.

"Can I make the NCAA tournament with this team?" Williams said in a preseason

interview. "I have no idea, but we're going to try like crazy. If you look at it on paper and add up our numbers compared to everybody else, it's not real good, let's be honest."

Williams has reinforcements on the way, a recruiting class with a half-dozen prospects so good that some already think Michigan's famous "Fab Five" may be unseated as the best ever. But that's a year away. In the meantime, Williams is looking for help anywhere he can find it.

"Coach Williams, he really got intense. When we were coming out of huddles, he got into a stance, growling," recalled Frasier. "He was in our face making us believe that we could win this game if we just play hard every possession."

Get used to that scowl. Chances are we'll be seeing it a lot this season.

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shock.

"That's not me," he said. At one time, it was. As a player at Cerritos Junior College in California, he was as much of a showoff as any of them.

"I'd be outrageous, going up into the stands, going to the concession stand and getting a hot dog," Houshmandzadeh said.

The coaches told him to stop, so he did. He stayed low-key when he moved to Oregon State, where he first became Johnson's teammate. Both came to Cincinnati in the 2001 draft Johnson in the second round, Houshmandzadeh in the seventh.

When Peter Warrick got hurt last season, Houshmandzadeh got his chance and again formed a tandem with Johnson. Suddenly, Houshmandzadeh was known for more than his long last name and his long, curly mane.

He's a proven No. 2 receiver

who considers himself much more. In his opinion, he's just as good as his college buddy, and maybe better.

"If you think any other way, you have a problem," Houshmandzadeh said. "It's a competition with each other on the team. He knows how I feel about his game, how I respect his game. But for me to say he's better than me..."

He stopped without saying it.

"They compete over who's going to have a better game," Palmer said. "You can't ask for more than that as a quarterback. You've got one guy who wants to play better than the best receiver in the league. That's a tough combination to defend."

When defenses double- and triple-team Johnson, Palmer looks to Houshmandzadeh. That's what happened Sunday, when Sanders and the other

Ravens defensive backs made sure Johnson wouldn't have a sensational game.

Johnson was good - five catches for 88 yards. Houshmandzadeh was sensational, getting 147 yards on nine catches.

"They took Chad away," Palmer said. "They didn't think T.J. could beat them. He took every one of their corners out of the game."

Houshmandzadeh even talked a little trash to cornerback Chris McAlister and spiked the ball at his feet after a sideline catch.

"He started talking trash and that got me into the game," Houshmandzadeh said, getting animated as he remembered the moment. "I was ready to go. They've got all the high-priced corners there, so let 'em (line) up and let's go."

Chad and Deion would be proud.

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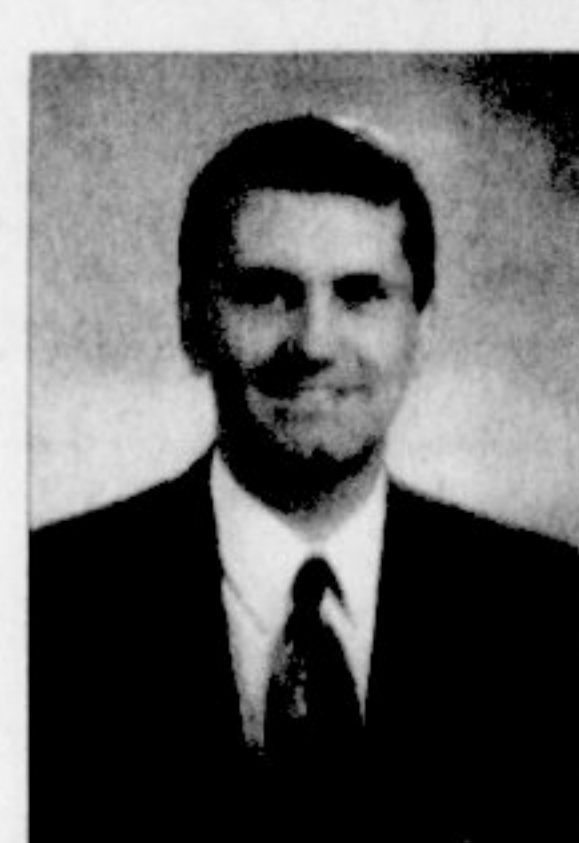
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