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THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Volume 81 Number 34

TUESDAY

December 6 2005

www.theeastcarolinian.com

## Student Poll

Higher One cards:  
yea or nay?



**ATHANASIOS  
STERGIOULAS**  
SOPHOMORE  
COMMUNICATION/  
BUSINESS MAJOR

"The debit card is something new and is a step up for students."



**KIMBERLY WESTON**  
SOPHOMORE  
COMMUNICATION  
MAJOR

"I think if you want the card, you should get it. It sounds like a good idea, but some things need to be implemented better such as distribution and information - people don't understand it."



**BILLY ANDERSON**  
SOPHOMORE CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE MAJOR

"I'm a little skeptical about a third party having my money."



**NATE PETERSON**  
SENIOR IDIS MAJOR

"I think the debit card simplifies the process by eliminating some of the paperwork. It seems more efficient."



**M. COLE JONES**  
SENIOR MARKETING/  
PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY  
MAJOR

"On behalf of the Student Government, we totally agree that the students of ECU have not been properly educated about the truth of the Higher One initiative - therefore we have created a student forum so students can get all of their questions and concerns officially addressed from representatives of Higher One and the university."

# Pros, cons of new Higher One Card

## No more long lines for refund checks

Advantages of new debit card

**KIMBERLY BELLAMY**  
STAFF WRITER

ECU has teamed up with Higher One to initiate the system of getting refunds through a debit card.

A total of 33 institutions, including ECU, are under contract with Higher One to distribute refunds through debit cards. Many students are skeptical of receiving their refunds through Higher One and wonder how credible the company is at keeping their personal information confidential.

Charles M. Hawkins, senior associate vice chancellor for financial services, checked out the company's credibility before agreeing to a contract with the company.

"We called other institutions, and they were very positive about their experience with this," said Hawkins.

Students are also worried that the company will be able to release or sell their information to other companies.

"This is still a very secure environment," Hawkins said.

"The company cannot sell this information. They are held to the same standards ECU is held to."

There are two main reasons why ECU decided to introduce the debit card. The school was

receiving a lot of complaints about the long wait for the refund checks and the school would not be able to continue to produce the checks with the same administrative systems.

"We're putting in new administrative systems and [as] part of that, it's going to be a very difficult process for us to produce these types of checks," Hawkins said.

A misconception students may have is that the debit card would be the only source for receiving their refunds.

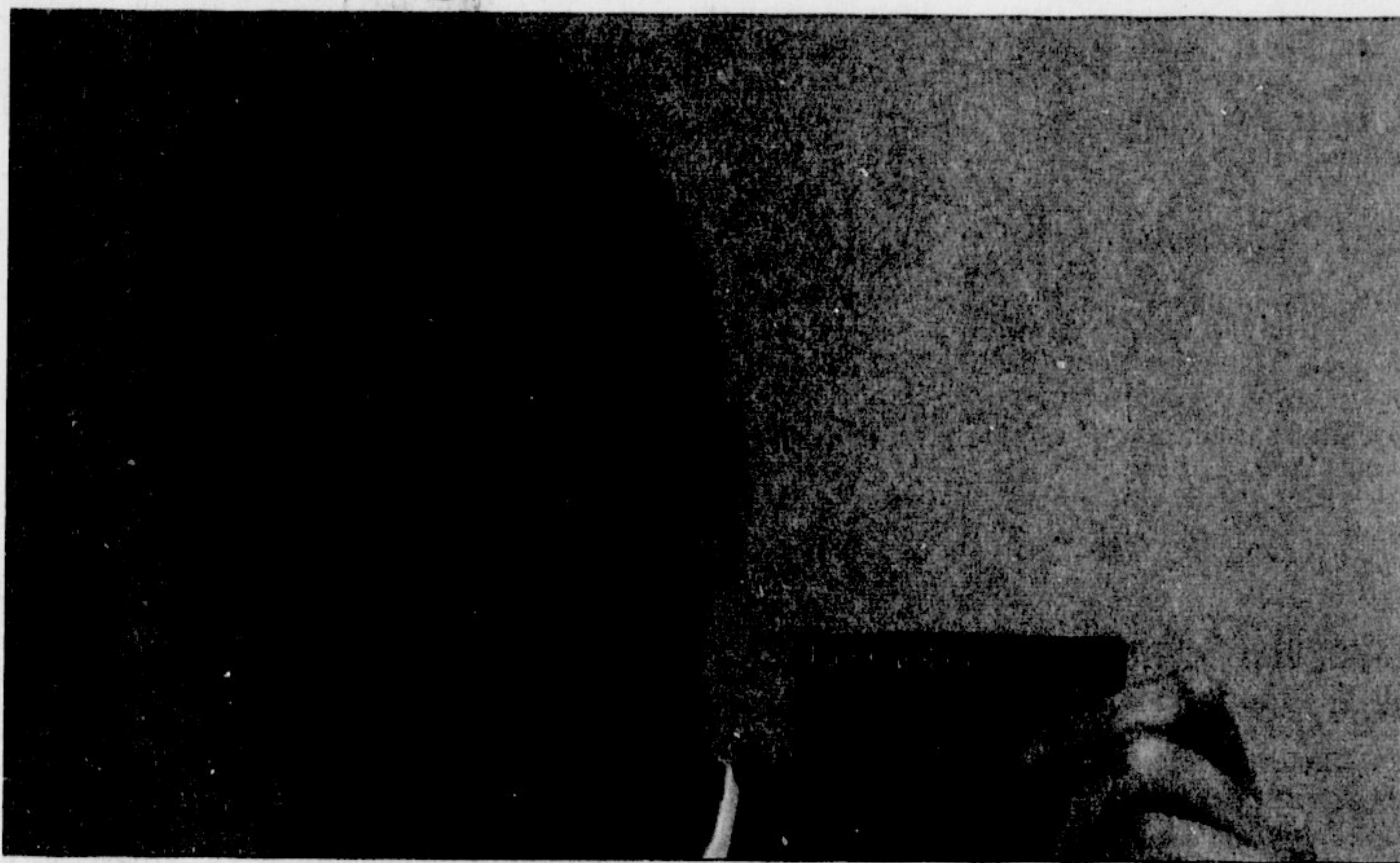
A direct deposit to your OneAccount is just one of the options available to students to get their refunds. The two previous options of direct deposit to another bank of your choice and a mailed paper check are still available.

There are three options in total. All of these options are available through Higher One.

There are numerous advantages to students getting their refunds through the new card versus the previous way. Some of the advantages include reduction in waiting time for a refund and summary and status of refund viewable 24 hours a day online at Higher One's Web site.

Students are not locked in their method of receiving their refunds. They are free to choose an alternative method to get their refunds from the three options

see PROS page A3



Chris LaConte with the new ECU Debit Card. LaConte is Higher One's Student Liaison for ECU.

## Cons

## Disadvantages of ECU Debit Card

Students express negative opinions

**TAYLEIGH DAVIS**  
STAFF WRITER

Many students are upset with the ECU debit card that has been distributed throughout the university.

Students are concerned about whether or not they are secure using the ECU debit card and many still question how the process works.

Portland State University already attempted to boycott the Higher One financial management company, and now ECU students are following a

similar pattern. Many students who walked by the Wright Plaza Friday were handed flyers saying to boycott the ECU debit card.

Even though the problem was resolved with PSU, some people at ECU still do not trust Higher One. David Mason, senior English major who passed out the flyers, said he did not want to sign up with Higher One because he was concerned they already have too much of his personal information.

Mason does not trust Higher One because they are not a member of the Better Business Bureau.

Higher One, a Connecticut-based company, partnered with

ECU in October 2005 to improve the disbursement of financial aid checks, which will take affect Jan. 4, 2006.

Along with students who have expressed their opinions on ECU OneStop and PartyEastCarolina.com, Mason said Higher One gave out his personal information including a photo without his consent and he feels that is neither right nor legal.

ECU provided Higher One with students' names, addresses and Social Security numbers. However, ECU spokesman John Durham said in an article with *The Daily Reflector* that ECU

see CONS page A3

## Stereotypes, racism discussed in forum

'Can you judge a book by its cover?'

**ZACK HILL**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

What is racism? Is it a part of human nature? What are stereotypes?

These are just a few of the questions posed at "Can You Judge a Book by Its Cover?" a forum on stereotypes, racism, and discrimination held by the Black Student Union in Bate 1032 on Wednesday, Dec. 30.

"This is a program for the whole campus," said Patrick Dixon, event facilitator.

"We want to break down misconceptions about certain groups and people."

In response to the question "what is racism?" the panelists had varying responses.

"Race is something that is socially constructed, we have

to unlearn this behavior," said David Dennard, professor of history.

Carolyn Schacht, professor of sociology, pointed out that race is not always easy to see.

"Today racism has mutated into a more subtle form," Schacht said.

"You might find whites with attitudes that whites are smarter, not blacks are dumb. It is not necessarily an overt hatred, but a slight discomfort, distrust or fear."

Another topic evoking an array of answers was stereotyping.

"We all stereotype. Our brain uses it to make sense of the world," Schacht said.

"But when we become fixated on them, we can't learn from experience and then we're stuck."

Reginald Watson, professor of English, pointed out the connection between stereotyping

and racism.

"It's the foundation for racism," Watson said.

As an example, he recalled an incident during his first days of college in which a professor assumed he was an athlete instead of an English major because he was black.

"We have to deal with stereotypes on all levels," Watson said. "Stereotypes cross all boundaries."

Dennard said stereotypes are not necessarily the result of ignorance.

"In some cases, they are created to justify something, like slavery," Dennard said.

Dea Papajorgji, graduate student in International Studies, warned against developing bias.

"You're setting yourself up that if you don't look like me, we don't have anything in common," Papajorgji said.

"You don't learn as much

about your environment."

Allison King of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship noted that stereotyping and racism often come from feelings of apprehension.

"At the heart of stereotyping there is a fear of the unknown," King said.

Discrimination does not always follow racial boundaries, as homosexuals are often more outcast than any other group.

"It's not learned, it's something you are born with," said Thomas Doyle, senior class president.

Dennard followed by expressing some of his own personal views on homosexuality, namely that there are no certain behaviors and appearances by which homosexuals can be determined.

"If we were to try and get rid of all the gays and lesbians in society, civilization would crum-

see FORUM page A2

## Boli's: Best pizza three years strong

Pizza in downtown area

**CLAYTON BAUMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Students and faculty alike searching for delicious pizza must search no longer.

Just take a walk down to 123 East Fifth St. to be greeted by Boli's Pizzeria, home of the best pizza in Greenville for three years running.

In a recent taste test held in pursuit of the best pizza this year, Boli's was voted tops by the city of Greenville for its third consecutive year.

Currently in its 15th year of operation, Boli's was founded in 1991. Since then, it has become a popular eatery as well as night-spot featuring live music, bar specials and an entertaining atmosphere.

Owner John Tesoriero, who has been running the restaurant for three of the 15 years the establishment has been around, attributes Boli's success to a number of things.

"We have a waiting staff that pays attention to its customers. We make everything from scratch. Everything is fresh and I think quality is a big part of it all," Tesoriero said.

Tesoriero was asked which pizza venues he thought were the best competition.

"As far as pizza goes, Michaelangelo's," Tesoriero said. "And CPW's is a good restaurant as far as comparing us with them."

Boli's is purely local to the Greenville area. There was an expansion of Boli's some years ago in Nags Head named Cicero's. The establishment is no longer there.

Tesoriero, while focusing solely on Boli's management right now, is considering expanding the Boli's name again.

"I'm in the process of buying this out right now, and then we'll go from there," Tesoriero said.

"But we are thinking about opening another location."

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

## A decade later, Lasik good, not revolutionary

CHICAGO (AP) — Christopher Tomes, 43, opened his eyes one morning, looked out the window and could read the license plate of a parked car without his glasses.

He'd had Lasik eye surgery the day before, becoming one of the 5 million Americans seeking to shed their eyeglasses with laser vision correction during the past decade.

"It's exceptional," Tomes said of his vision nine days after surgery. "I'm extremely happy I did it."

Since U.S. doctors began offering laser vision correction in 1995, safety has improved and new methods give people with more severe vision problems a chance to have the procedure.

But there's still no guarantee of 20/20 eyesight, the procedure's long-term safety is unknown and one recent study showed nearly 18 percent of patients require a second Lasik treatment. A lack of health insurance coverage keeps the procedure a luxury item, affordable only to people who can spare \$3,000 to \$5,000.

In addition, a technology arms race means some vision clinics are bragging about their new equipment and techniques, such as wavefront-guided Lasik and a new "blade-free" method.

That further complicates a consumer's decision.

"You listen to the radio, you hear the ads," said Chicago refractive surgeon Dr. Colman Kraff. "A lot of it is trying to market to the patient to scare them a little bit into having one procedure over another."

The average Lasik patient is about 39 years old with an income of about \$88,000, said Dave Harmon, president of Market Scope, a company that tracks the industry.

"Their education level is significantly higher than average," Harmon said. "Very few people in their 20s have it done. Very few people in their 50s have it done."

Patients choose their doctors by word of mouth, Harmon said.

Friends' endorsements led Tomes, the Chicago Lasik patient, to Kraff's downtown clinic. Tomes, who heads a company that creates animated advertising for the Web, had grown tired of misplacing his glasses.

"Glasses are easy to leave on an airplane," he said. "I was losing, on average, three or four pairs of glasses a year, and that got expensive."

Tomes met with Kraff and learned he was a good candidate for Lasik. He chose all the new tech-



Lasik recipients tend to be wealthier with higher education levels.

nology Kraff had to offer: both the "wavefront" method, which creates a custom map of the corneas, and the "blade-free" procedure.

Conventional Lasik surgery is based on the patient's glasses prescription. Wavefront-guided Lasik bounces light waves off the back of the eye to create a 3-D map that's used to guide the laser treatment. One small study of 25 patients suggested that wavefront Lasik yielded fewer nighttime distortions, such as halos and glare, than conventional Lasik,

and resulted in better vision for slightly more patients.

Tomes didn't have severe nearsightedness or an astigmatism, but wavefront-guided Lasik recently was approved by the Food and Drug Administration for both those conditions, expanding the number of people eligible for the surgery by about 1 million. It's also been approved for farsightedness.

Tomes also chose to go "blade-

see LASIK page A2



## Announcements

### Tuition Increase forum

Students are invited to an open forum to discuss proposed tuition increases Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. in the Mendenhall Multipurpose room. This will be an opportunity to provide input and ask questions.

### 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.

### Computer Science Club Meeting

The Computer Science Club is meeting this Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. in Austin 307. They welcome anyone who has an interest in computers or technology.

### 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](http://ecu.edu/ecuarts).

### Globalization lecture

Dr. Victor Da Rosa, a professor of sociology at the University of Ottawa in Canada, will present "Globalization and the Impact on South America," Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 6:45 p.m. in Flanagan 265. Dr. Da Rosa is a native of Portugal and has conducted research all over the world. For more information, contact the office of International Affairs.

### Semester wrap-up

The last day of classes is Wednesday, Dec. 7. Thursday, Dec. 8 is Reading Day. Exams begin Friday, Dec. 9 and end at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Commencement is Friday, Dec. 17. Classes for the spring semester resume on Friday, Jan. 6.

### ECU sculptor wins best in show

Hanna Jubran, a sculpture professor at ECU, was awarded best in show this month for his work, *Mountain Landscape*.

Jubran won the Great Eastern Management Prize for Best in Show 2005-2006 from the ArtInPlace Foundation of Charlottesville, Va.

Landscapes are often depicted in two-dimensional formats, Jubran said, and he wanted to challenge himself to capture a landscape in a three-dimensional format. The circle represents either the sun rising or setting, and the diagonal forms represent the clouds, mountains or the horizon, he said.

"Although this sculpture is painted specific colors, its hues change depending on the time of day and season," Jubran said. "They also change as you move around the sculpture and as its relation to the background shifts. Between nature and the sculpture I am condensing time and space."

The painted steel sculpture, located on Emmet Street near Barracks Road in Charlottesville, will be on display through September 2006. Jubran shares the best in show title with another sculptor.

## News Briefs

### State

#### NC Democrat among four proposing changes to curb lobbyist influence

WASHINGTON (AP) - Four Democratic House members, including one from North Carolina, on Monday proposed rules changes that would make it more difficult for lawmakers to sneak provisions into legislation on behalf of special interests. The proposals also aim to stop lobbyists from arranging and secretly financing travel for House members. Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, said he did not seek support from majority Republicans and didn't expect any. Rather, Obey and his colleagues hope for public support, following revelations that members of Congress gave legislative help to lobbyist Jack Abramoff who returned the favors with contributions and privately financed travel.

Obey is joined in the effort by Reps. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, Tom Allen of Maine and David Price of North Carolina.

Obey, in an interview, said he was angry that a recently passed food and farm spending bill included a measure that allowed small amounts of non-organic substances in products labeled "USDA Organic." He said many appropriators who approved the compromise bill did not know the provision was there.

"If you got some lobbyist working the system so he gets something slipped in without a vote, or he convinces the leadership to take something out, you might as well hire the lobbyist to be your congressman," Obey said. The Justice Department is investigating whether Abramoff, already charged with fraud in a Florida case, won any undue influence through donations and favors for lawmakers.

Obey said the travel restrictions were designed to "separate legitimate

travel from illegitimate travel. You get stories that make the whole institution look bad."

Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, was among lawmakers whose travel was financed by Abramoff, although DeLay said he was not aware of that at the time. A nonprofit group was listed as the sponsor.

House ethics rules ban lawmakers from accepting trips financed by lobbyists or registered agents of foreign countries.

#### Former N.C. congressman gets send-off before prison

MURFREESBORO, N.C. (AP) - Several hundred supporters of former Rep. Frank Ballance Jr. gathered for a farewell lunch before the Democrat heads to prison at the end of the month.

"It just validates what I've already known, that friends stand by you. Regardless of hardships and difficulties in life, friends don't let you down," Ballance said.

The gathering was held Saturday at Nebo Baptist Church in Hertford County.

Ballance, who resigned his seat in Congress for health reasons, is scheduled to report to federal prison Dec. 30. A federal judge sentenced him to four years in prison after Ballance pleaded guilty to funneling tax dollars into his foundation and using \$100,000 for himself and his family.

Many of his family members also attended the luncheon including his son, former District Court Judge Gary Ballance who was sentenced to nine months in prison on a misdemeanor tax charge.

not financing the travel or having influence over it.

### National

#### Former Sept. 11 panel: U.S. unprepared for next terror attack

WASHINGTON (AP) - The former Sept. 11 commission is giving Congress and the White House poor marks on protecting the U.S. against an inevitable terror attack because of their failure to enact several strong security measures.

The 10-member panel, equally divided between Republicans and Democrats, prepared to release a report Monday assessing how well their recommendations have been followed. They say the government deserves "more F's than A's" in responding to their 41 Since the commission's final report in July 2004, the government has enacted the centerpiece proposal to create a national intelligence director. But it has stalled on other ideas, including improving communication among emergency responders and shifting federal terrorism-fighting money so it goes to states based on risk level.

Congress established the commission in 2002 to investigate government missteps that led to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 people were killed when 19 Arab hijackers organized by al-Qaida flew airliners into New York City's World Trade Center and the Pentagon and caused a crash in the Pennsylvania countryside.

The panel's 567-page final report, which became a national best seller, did not blame Bush or former President Clinton for missteps contributing to the attacks but did say they failed to make anti-terrorism a higher priority.

The commission also concluded that the Sept. 11 attack would not be the nation's last, noting that al-Qaida had tried for at least 10 years to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

Rice defends U.S. terrorism policy as she heads to Europe amid reports of secret CIA prisons

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice turned the tables on European critics of tough

U.S. tactics in the war on terror Monday, maintaining that intelligence gathered by the CIA has saved European lives.

Responding for the first time in detail to the outcry over reports of secret CIA-run prisons in European democracies, Rice said the United States "will use every lawful weapon to defeat these terrorists." But in remarks as she prepared to leave on a trip to Europe, she steadfastly refused to answer the underlying question of whether the United States had CIA-operated secret prisons there.

### World

#### Strong earthquake jolts east Africa, workers in Nairobi flee buildings in panic

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - A strong earthquake struck the Lake Tanganyika region of east Africa on Monday, sending workers in tall buildings in downtown Nairobi fleeing their offices in panic. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6.8, struck at 2:20 p.m. (7:20 a.m. EST) and was centered near the Congo-Tanzania border, about 600 miles southwest of the Kenyan capital, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The USGS said the quake was located about six miles below the surface, and shook the ground in at least three Kenyan towns, including Nairobi. It also was felt in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa.

"We felt the tremor in our offices. People fled their buildings to save their lives, but so far we have no reports of casualties," said Elmon Mahawa, the regional commissioner for Kigoma, a Tanzanian town on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. In Bujumbura, the capital of the central African nation of Burundi, an Associated Press reporter felt

the three-story building sway in two waves of the quake.

The region is located along the Great Rift Valley, which runs for 3,000 miles between Syria and Mozambique and passes through the Dead Sea, below Jerusalem's eastern hills.

#### Not quite marriage, but gay civil unions are coming to a taboo-smashing Britain

By THOMAS WAGNER  
Associated Press Writer  
LONDON (AP) - Pop star Elton John is tying the knot with filmmaker David Furnish four days before Christmas, when gay civil unions become legal in England. Fellow pop star George Michael says he'll follow suit next year.

Dec. 21 marks a transformation in social attitudes in this country, where only 17 years ago Margaret Thatcher's government enacted "Clause 28" a law banning local authorities and schools from doing anything that could be seen as promoting homosexuality.

The change has been generally cheered and Britain's two gay meccas, Soho in London and the southern beach resort of Brighton, are competing to be the center of attention on Dec. 21. London's Westminster borough, which is run by the same Conservative Party that enacted "Clause 28," is opening its town hall to gay couples early on the big day.

The Netherlands, Canada, Belgium and Spain have legalized same-sex marriage. But Prime Minister Tony Blair's center-left government dropped the word "marriage" from its legislation rather than run afoul of legislators who feel the word has religious connotations.

The law passed last year permits civil ceremonies that will give same-sex couples such benefits as the right to a partner's pensions and exemption from paying inheritance tax on a partner's home.

# Christmas economy should feature heavy retail sales



larity of the Internet, expect this number to increase even more three years later.

Many holiday shoppers fall victim to the allure of credit card spending. According to holidays.about.com, many people do their holiday shopping with a credit card, promising themselves that they will pay off the debt in the next few months. Thanks to credit card interest and other factors, people end up over their heads in debt unexpectedly. Most people refer to this as "holiday hangover."

The Web site goes on to offer advice as to how to avoid the misperceived credit card benefits. Cash is the best way. Throughout the year, set aside money for the purpose of buying gifts. It helps to figure out ahead of time who you are purchasing gifts for and how much you plan to spend. Once your money runs out, you are finished with your shopping.

Many students have found responsible ways of dealing with an alternative to cash, while others are determined to stick with cash when paying for their gifts.

Buying presents is a large part of what makes the economy go.

### Spending overload can occur

CLAYTON BAUMAN  
STAFF WRITER

With the impending Christmas holiday only weeks away, the American economy is braced to feel the effects of a massive shopping flock at malls and department stores around the country.

With children and teenagers being a big proportion of Christmas gift giving, the toy industry comes away from the season smiling. Toy sales alone accounted for nearly \$30.6 billion in 2002 according to the Census Bureau's Web site census.gov. Of this amount, \$10.3 billion was a

result of video game sales. With the release of Microsoft's X-Box 360, expect this number to rise dramatically this year.

Dec. 2002 had retail sales pocket around \$32.4 billion in consumer cash. This amount was up 47 percent from the previous month, which was \$21.9 billion. Other stores that had sizable jumps in profit between November and December were clothing stores (44 percent), jewelry stores (163 percent), book stores (87 percent), sporting goods stores (59 percent) and radio, TV and other electronics stores (56 percent).

The Internet managed to pull in \$13.8 billion in sales back in 2002. With the increasing popu-

### Forum from page A1

ble because they are all over the map," Dennard said.

Jon Massachi recalled some of his own difficulties caused by people's preconceptions about people with disabilities.

"People will ask because I use crutches, am I also deaf, dumb or retarded," Massachi said.

"The answers are no, no and no." Because of his middle eastern and Jewish heritage, Massachi has encountered additional discrimination.

"I get searched every time I go to the airport," Massachi said.

"They ask, 'Is he Jewish? Is he Muslim?' It doesn't matter, I'm an American citizen."

Hanna Zhu, White Hall residence coordinator, feels that

many problems of racism and discrimination are rooted in people's lack of effort in forming their own beliefs.

"I think we tend not to think for ourselves, we just believe what we're told," Zhu said.

"But we're all capable of thinking for ourselves."

Refreshments were available to the near 100 attendees, and audience members were invited to pose their own questions after the panel finished discussing the topics.

"This is a way to share our knowledge in an open dialogue and strengthen the Black Student Union at ECU," Dixon said.

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

### Lasik from page A1

free," that is, the doctor used a new laser technique, instead of a disposable blade, to create a flap in the cornea. All Lasik surgeries include making this thin, hinged flap, a layer that is folded back into place after the laser treatment to speed healing.

In the blade-free procedure, the surgeon uses a brand-name laser, called the IntraLase, to create thousands of tiny bubbles under the surface of the cornea. The bubbles allow the surgeon to peel a flap from the cornea with a small blunt tool, called a spatula.

The blade-free procedure takes a few minutes longer compared to the usual method, is more expensive and is not necessarily superior for every patient, Kruff said.

Although the only studies comparing the two techniques are small or funded by industry, results in vision correction appear similar.

Some doctors have reported more redness of the eyes with the bladeless technique, possibly due to the longer time the patient's eye is held still by suction.

But the word "blade-free" makes patients more comfortable psychologically, Minneapolis refractive surgeon Dr. Elizabeth Davis said. "They have the heebie-jeebies about a blade going across the eye," she said.

Even with "blade-free" in his plans, Tomes felt a moment of anxiety before his operation. That was when he read and signed forms listing all Lasik's risks.

"It was quite daunting: a list of many, many complications," he said. "One in particular jumped out at me. It was the potential, but rare, that the machine in the middle of the procedure could malfunction with a quarter of the eye still to be done. And it would be difficult to fix that."

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## Pros from page A1

given by Higher One.

Students would not have to worry about using the card in select locations. The card would practically be accepted everywhere.

"Students have the flexibility of using the card anywhere in town that accepts MasterCard," said Dee Bowling, cash operations manager.

"Students do need to realize the card can only be used under those circumstances and that it isn't a credit card."

A free checking account with no minimum deposit or overdrafts is included. An option called "friends and family" is also available.

"So if parents want to deposit money or send money to a student's account to be deposited on behalf of the student, it's a way for the family to make funds available to students also," Bowling said.

There is a huge difference in the amount of waiting time students would have to endure under the new system versus the old one.

Students will be able to access their funds the same day through the choice of receiving the refund through the debit card. The options of direct deposit and paper check would also be a lot faster.

"With the debit card, they will receive their funds the same day," Bowling said.

"We will transfer that data to Higher One daily. Direct deposit is one to two days and then five to seven days, taking into account the mailing for a

paper check."

Some students seem to realize how much faster they will be able to access their funds using the new ECU Debit Card.

When asked if the new card was a good alternative to the previous ways of receiving refunds, Craig Brown, freshman architecture design major, quickly responded on the matter.

"Yes, because with some people, they might need the money right away," said Brown.

"Instead of waiting because of a posting date, they could go ahead and slide the card through and get the money they need if they have to pay a bill or something."

Brown also believes the new card will cut back on the hassle involved in getting refunds if an incident were to occur with a discrepancy in not getting money on the correct date or not getting the correct amount.

The contract with Higher One is not a permanent setup. ECU has a three-year contract with the company. After the contract expires, ECU will resort to other methods of disbursing refunds.

According to Hawkins, during the three-year period, proposals will be sent to other companies and banks in hopes of finding someone who will be able to offer the same options to students to receive their refunds and also combine the OneCard services with the debit card.

There is student involvement in the distribution of information about the debit card. Hawkins admits that there have

been a lot of questions about whether or not students were involved in the implementation of the card.

"Part of the implementation plan with Higher One includes what they call the B-4 campaign," Bowling said.

"Basically, Higher One e-mailed all students and said 'here's what we're getting ready to do, and we would like to invite students to participate in the B4 campaign, learn more about Higher One and your refund options.'"

"The first 100 students who signed up for B-4 were also the first 100 students to receive their cards, so they got their cards before anyone else," Bowling said.

"As far I understand, these students have been meeting with other students so that students can talk to students about the program."

SGA also has been involved in letting students know about the new card system and how it works. To answer any questions and concerns that students may still have about how the card works, they can attend the open forum that will explain how the card works.

The forum will be Wednesday at 5 p.m. in Hendrix Theater. The forum will be open to questions for ECU administrators, SGA and Higher One representatives.

More information can be obtained from their Web site at [ECUCard.com](http://ECUCard.com).

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Cons from page A1

complied with federal laws to provide information with Higher One, which is considered to be a university partner.

Under the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act, ECU is allowed to share information with its partners.

Students are also afraid that Higher One could sell their information to other companies or schools.

"I want to know what's going on with my money because I don't trust this company," Mason said.

"The card is only complicating things," said Jesse Creech, sophomore psychology major.

"Most people already have a bank account and either a credit or debit card. Everyone on campus has a OneCard, so I don't see the point of having an ECU debit card too."

Chuck Hawkins, senior associate vice chancellor for financial services, said the only advantage to having a debit card is for students receiving financial aid who do not already have a checking account.

There are three options to receive financial aid refunds - through the debit card, direct deposit or a mailed check.

Dee Bowling, cash operations manager, said each student who anticipates receiving a refund of any sort still needs to use the card data to authenticate themselves to Higher One and then make a choice.

Steps for authenticating the ECU debit card can be found on their Web site at [ECUCard.com](http://ECUCard.com).

Using this third party system brings up concerns among students who think the money will still take longer to transfer from a bank so far away, but it will still take the same amount of time or even quicker.

Students also do not understand why ECU cannot direct deposit checks directly into their existing account.

Students can still use their bank accounts to directly deposit financial aid, but since the university is in contract with Higher One, they must first sign into the Higher One system and make the choice between continuing their own accounts or signing up for the Higher One account.

ECU never directly deposited checks directly from the university into students' accounts. They

always used a third party system. The system will be exactly the same, except ECU will be going through Higher One instead.

"I would still have to give Higher One my banking account numbers, and I really don't trust that," Mason said.

The Higher One bank also does not have local ATMs nor does it have a local branch office. ECU will soon have three ATMs on campus, two on east campus and one on west campus said Bowling.

There is no service charge for students who choose to withdraw from a Higher One ATM.

However, students who choose to withdraw money from other bank companies aside from Higher One, like Wachovia or BB&T, will have to pay a service charge.

When asked if ECU thought about the rarity of Higher One ATM machines nationwide, Bowling said she could certainly talk to Higher One about some change, but for now the marketing plan includes the three Higher One ATMs that will soon be on campus.

If students are not near the university, the only way they can have access to a Higher One ATM is if they are near a university town that is partnered with Higher One.

"It doesn't make sense because if you can't find a Higher One ATM, you're going to get charged using another ATM," said Starla Wood, junior dance performance major.

This is especially true since there are only 33 schools in the nation who have Higher One ATMs.

Students are still concerned that Higher One charges hidden fees. When he entered his debit card pin number, Mason said he was charged 50 cents every time.

It is important for students using the ECU debit card to select the "credit" option when paying rather than "debit" in order to avoid being charged an extra 50 cents from their account.

"Don't treat the ECU debit card as a pin transaction and you will be fine," Bowling said.

Like any checking account, there are fees for additional services such as overdrafts, wire transfers or stop payments.

Yet, students are concerned

they can only take out a maximum of \$500 a day out of their Higher One account. However, that is a common process among the banking industry for there to be a limit on daily withdrawals Bowling said.

The ECU debit card is not the same as the ECU One Card, and ECU does not currently have the software capability to combine both cards.

Willy Lee, director of university printing and graphics, is currently working on a system to allow the One Card to be combined with the ECU Debit Card. When the temporary arrangement with Higher One expires in 2007-2008, the university plans to look at a request for proposal to eventually integrate both systems.

Soon the system will be similar to that of UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State, which are both partnered with Wachovia Bank.

Katie Tinney, sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill, said she loves her UNC One Card.

"I use it every day, mainly the debit part of it," said Tinney.

In the meantime, Higher One has launched its B-4 campaign to serve as a liaison between SGA and students. Considering that Higher One is such a new company, students in the campaign may not know all there is to know about the company, which may pose problems.

Michael Bannister, junior nursing major, said he has not heard much about the B-4 campaign but he did read about the Higher One Card Forum, which will allow students to ask questions about the debit card.

"Even though Higher One has contracts with 32 schools, these three guys who graduated from Yale four years ago who opened up this business can do whatever they want with students' money," Mason said.

A question and answer session will be held Wednesday at 5 p.m. at Hendrix Theater. Students and faculty are welcome to attend.

For more involved questions, students may also contact the student liaison department at 1-888-809-6180. The Higher One customer service number is 1-866-663-1313.

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Stepfather trying to keep daughter alive after he violently beat her

WESTFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Photos hanging on Allison Avrett's living room wall show her daughter Haleigh as a smiling little girl with brown bangs hanging over her squinting eyes.

Most of the pictures were taken before Avrett gave Haleigh up for adoption five years ago and long before the alleged beating that landed the 11-year-old in a hospital attached to the ventilator and feeding tube that keep her alive.

Now, with Haleigh's doctors saying she will never recover from her vegetative state, the child is at the center of a right-to-die legal struggle.

The state Department of Social Services, which has had custody of Haleigh since she was hospitalized Sept. 11, wants to remove her from life support.

Her stepfather, Jason Strickland, who is charged in her beating and could be tried for murder if she dies, wants to keep her alive. Strickland is free on bail while awaiting trial.

A juvenile court judge has ruled that Haleigh should be allowed to die. Strickland has appealed, and the state's highest court is scheduled to hear arguments in the case Tuesday.

Avrett, who gave up her parental rights when she let her sister Holli adopt Haleigh in 2000, says her daughter should not suffer anymore.

"They say the most she might ever do is open her eyes," said Avrett, a 29-year-old stay-at-home mom with two other

children. "I don't want her to sit there longer than she needs to."

Police say the injuries that left Haleigh with severe brain stem injuries came at the hands of Strickland and his wife Holli, Allison Avrett's sister.

Within two weeks of the couple pleading innocent to the beating, Holli Strickland was dead, fatally shot in her grandmother's West Springfield apartment. The body of her 71-year-old grandmother, Constance Young, was beside her. The possible double suicide or murder-suicide is still under investigation.

In a legal brief filed ahead of Tuesday's hearing, Strickland, 31, asks to be declared Haleigh's de facto parent. His lawyer, John Egan, insists his client is not motivated by the chance he could be charged with murder if the girl dies.

"We should be coming down on the side of life as opposed to death," he said.

In 1998, Avrett moved with Haleigh to Virginia to live with her boyfriend. A few months later, Avrett sent Haleigh back to Massachusetts to spend the summer with Holli and her former husband, Jonathan Poutre.

Within a few weeks of her daughter's return to Massachusetts, the Department of Social Services took custody of Haleigh and began investigating allegations she was abused by Avrett's boyfriend in Virginia. A DSS spokeswoman refused to comment because of privacy issues.

Avrett said her boyfriend was

ultimately cleared. But by then, the Department of Social Services had placed Haleigh in permanent foster care with Holli and Jonathan Poutre. By her own admission, Avrett was not doing everything she could to regain custody.

"I stopped all contact for a while with DSS, my sister and Haleigh," Avrett said. "I couldn't handle the stress, so I took myself out of the situation. I needed a break from it."

Avrett broke up with her boyfriend and married another man in 1999. A year later, after what Avrett said had been several years of strong recommendation by the social services department, she agreed to let her older sister formally adopt Haleigh.

Holli had a degree in child care and had been Avrett's role model growing up. The arrangement was OK for Avrett, who was content to have frequent visits with Haleigh and still felt involved in her life.

"We were always a close family," Avrett said. But Avrett said things started to change after her sister divorced Jonathan Poutre and married Jason Strickland.

"When Jason came into the picture, we started seeing less of Haleigh," she said.

According to court documents filed by Strickland's lawyer, Haleigh had been hospitalized during the past three years for self-inflicted injuries. The girl's alleged tendency to hurt herself is a cornerstone of Strickland's defense.



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## Our View

### Basketball season finally underway

As the ECU men's basketball season gets underway, Pirate fans can only wonder what might have been. ECU has started the year 3-2 under the direction of new head coach Ricky Stokes. A solid yet humble beginning as the Pirates have fallen to Gardner-Webb and Old Dominion with two wins against Wofford and another over North Carolina A&T.

The Pirates have some young talent anchored by veterans Corey Rouse and Japhet McNeil and Rouse has been exceptional thus far, averaging 18.2 points and 11.8 points per game. Newcomers Sam Hinnant and Courtney Captain have also provided offensive firepower.

Unfortunately, Stokes has little depth on his bench. That has fans wondering how far the Pirates could go in Conference-USA with the services of recent transfers Frank Robinson, Belton Rivers and Mike Cook.

All three could have been stars in the league and with Rouse down low, given ECU a great chance to make the NCAA tournament. But as it stands now, Robinson is averaging almost 10 points per game at Cal St. Fullerton, Rivers is scoring 15 points per game for Tennessee Tech and Cook is sitting out a year after transferring to Pittsburgh.

Hopefully Stokes can keep his current talent in the program while continuing to bring in fresh faces that will take ECU to the next echelon in Conference-USA.

With the former conference powerhouses departing, such as Louisville, Cincinnati and Marquette, the Pirates looked primed to finally make a run at the top of the standings in the 2005-2006. It's still early, but it looks as though ECU will not be making a NCAA appearance come March with the lack of size and depth on their roster.

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## Opinion Columnist

### Liberals can't change Christmas

*What has happened to Christmas?*

**TONY MCKEE**  
CONSERVATIVE CORNER

I noticed a rather disturbing and troubling thing when Christmas decorations started appearing in stores shortly after Memorial Day... Christmas is missing.

As the decorations gradually appeared "Season's Greetings" "Happy Holidays," "Merry X-mas" and other generic greetings proliferated while "Merry Christmas" appeared to be missing in action. Christmas' disappearance didn't really register at first, especially since few stores put out Christmas decorations in September. As the months have progressed however, and more and more stores and businesses have put up decorations, Christmas has become conspicuous in its absence, both in writing and as a verbal greeting.

That is wrong. I have heard and read news reports highlighting the actions of sick, morally bankrupt individuals who have destroyed Nativity scenes or sent threatening letters to homeowners who put up Christmas decorations.

That is wrong. I have followed the court rulings stating that towns and municipalities cannot display Nativities or any decorations that even slightly hint at a religious theme. As always, the justification for this lunacy is the non-existent, wholly invented Constitutional "separation of Church and State" clause.

That is wrong. I, along with every clear thinking person who heard or read the news report, shook my head in amazement and

contempt at Boston's attempt to rename their official Christmas tree the "Holiday Tree." Their reasoning? They did not want to offend anyone.

THAT is wrong on SO many levels as to be incalculable.

All this nonsense is the result of Liberalism and Political Correctness run amok. We are now reaping the rewards of years of policy making by head-in-the-orifice Liberal politicians and judges who have made it a personal goal to outlaw any reference to Christianity in this country, all in the name of "diversity" and not "offending" people from other cultures/religions. What a load of crap.

This country was founded by Christians as a Christian nation. Even the most cursory examination of historical documents will bear that out. God is as much a part of the fabric of this nation as the land we stand on, and nothing that Liberals do or say can change that fact, no matter how hard they try. And they have been trying.

They have managed to get the Ten Commandments out of many public buildings and courthouses despite the fact that the Western system of laws and morals are built upon those Commandments. They have made it illegal to pray in schools or on public property despite the fact that Congress, the Supreme Court and many other Federal Courts start each session with a prayer.

Liberals have done all this, and are doing still more, with a straight face while hypocritically violating their own top Commandment: offend no one. It strikes me as odd that Liberals are so willing to offend the vast majority of the citizens of this country (i.e. Christians) in the name of promoting diversity and not offending people

from other cultures.

Liberals tell us that they know more, understand more and care more than the rest of us and that we should just let them run our lives for us. We are told that our beliefs and culture are evil and we shouldn't try to force them upon others. They tell us all this without giving a damn that they are defecating on the culture of the very people who put them in power. I don't get it. Then again, I'm not supposed to - I'm not a Liberal.

There is a backlash beginning against such insanity. There is a Pastor in Raleigh who has started a movement to not spend money at establishments that do not display or say "Merry Christmas." This movement is growing extremely rapidly, and it is not just a local phenomenon. There are grass root groups popping up all over the country with the same message: you want our business you respect our beliefs. Things will change very rapidly once the wallet feels the pinch.

I am not advocating or suggesting you only spend money at establishments that respect this country's Christian heritage. That choice is yours. I am suggesting that if you are tired of being trod upon, bad mouthed, and derided by Liberals for what you believe, do something.

Say "Merry Christmas" to everyone you see or off campus. Say it to every cashier and door greeter. Say it to every stinking Liberal you know just to watch the steam come out of their ears.

This is the season to celebrate the birth of Christ. It has been Christmas for centuries Liberalism cannot change that.

So, say it loud. Say it proud. Just say it.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS.

## In My Opinion

(KRT) — Happy holidays, workers of the world! It's that joyous time of year when workplaces resemble the joke about Russian factory workers: "We pretend to work, and the bosses pretend to pay us."

Alas, for those without secure employment, that's not funny. Recall the old social contract regarding work: A person started his career as an enthusiastic young person who overperformed and was undercompensated for it. That was acceptable because, over the next 35 years, he rose to a position where he could underperform and be overcompensated. It all evened out over the lifetime.

This caricature of secure employment is now just another joke. That industrial-era bargain is going, going, gone. See General Motors' big reductions in employee health insurance, while its suppliers seek wage cuts of as much as two-thirds.

The old industrial-era system assumed fixed employment, not mobility, with education and training primarily associated with promotion (and college tuition deductible only if improving skills in the present job). That system gave us employer-funded health insurance and pensions - benefits that were lost if the employee left. That era also produced legal definitions of full-time, part-time and overtime that seem quaint when work can occur anytime, anywhere linked by communications networks.

Today, people have been cut loose. For some, this is liberation from indentured servitude; they set their own terms of work as

self-employed "free agents." But most are simply adrift.

For well over a decade, some companies have tried to make people a "variable cost" rather than a fixed obligation by converting employees into independent contractors without benefits. The term "outsourcing" originally referred not to shifting jobs to China and India but to replacing permanent employees with temporary ones on someone else's payroll. In the 1990s, the temporary-staffing industry accounted for 10 percent of all U.S. job growth, despite accounting for only about 2 percent of total jobs, an MIT economist found. In 2000, Microsoft settled a lawsuit by "permatemps" (who claimed they were indistinguishable from regular employees) for \$97 million, ending a dispute that started in 1992.

Demographic changes pose a further challenge. If you've missed the media hype, baby boomers start to turn 60 on Jan. 1. Surveys show that a high proportion of them want to keep working, perhaps at a new career, perhaps community service, but with time for leisure or grandchildren.

Social policies and organizational practices have not fully dealt with new realities. America needs creative ideas that are good for people and for the future of a dynamic economy.

Health care. Instead of demanding more from employers, including squeezing small businesses as some states propose, let's work toward universal tax-supported health-care coverage. A Gallup poll shows that 79

percent of Americans want it, and 69 percent are willing to pay for it with higher taxes.

Lifelong learning. Imagine a GI Bill for veterans of industry wars to pay for college after they suffer from corporate restructuring. Or Pell Grants (designed for young college students) extended to retirees who want education for a new career. Higher education builds skills that build the economy.

Savings. It's time for portable tax-advantaged savings accounts accessible at times of greatest need and matched by low-interest loans as well as employer contributions. People could draw funds when the family is growing, or for education when changing fields, without losing tax advantages. This would supplement, not replace, Social Security.

Work time. Some people have flexible work hours. Why not extend this and add flexible work years? Parents of young children might want months off during their kids' summer vacation. Mature workers might want months off during the cold winter season. Internet auctions could be used to match them, inside a company or across. Continental Airlines' Web site enabling flight attendants to trade schedules is a useful model.

What are your own needs, preferences and ideas? Whether you're burdened by end-of-year deadlines or pretending to work between holiday preparations, take a moment to e-mail me about your situation. A national dialogue about the future of work could produce the holiday gift that keeps giving.

## Pirate Rant

It's funny how PB's was charging \$7 to get into that hole in the wall. Then we can wait shoulder to shoulder for 20 minutes to get a warm beer and be expected to tip. Bars in NYC, DC, and Philly sometimes don't charge that much and their bathrooms are worth more than PB's itself!

Gary McCabe gives libertarians a bad name. First, he admits to arbitrarily writing off entire sections of the country, particularly the ones who wished to fight for self government instead of submitting to the federal government, then he writes dumb opinion pieces which include him admitting to liking "Lost" while admonishing us for not watching "Arrested Development."

I've got Nextel too...turn OFF your DC speaker it's just obnoxious in public.

Damn these final exams - is it our professor's job to make our lives hell? Did you know suicide rates are up around exam time?

Where are the rest stops and gas stations along 264? I'm getting tired of stopping on the side of the road!

Is it me or does it seem like there are too many fake, shallow valley girls on campus?

All the conservatives who are so against liberals, times are changing, so I suggest you open your minds a tiny bit and learn something about society.

To the girl who doesn't think boys deserve to feel special, now there's a good reason why boys cheat on girls!

Attention ECU students: Where is the school spirit? Majority of the students I see on campus are wearing shirts and hoodies displaying the names of schools other than ECU! Why don't you just go to that school instead?

Never take your car to Aamco Transmission. My car was gone for two months, came back with more damage than it went in with and they still charged me for the repair. And customer service can't do jack!

I hate it when people who go to school on grants and stuff like that get that huge refund then brag about it and end up blowing it all away. Get a life.

Hey Subway! Don't turn on your OPEN sign if you're not open, and won't be open for another 45 minutes! You give us hungry people false hope.

Why does the Political Science Library have a picture of every modern president except Richard Nixon? I thought the Political Science Department was supposed to be the most unbiased department on a college campus.

I am so sick and tired of coming to the library at night and there are kids/teenagers on the computers downloading music. Where is the security? We need some type of system of knowing who is an ECU student to use our library!

Everyone should attend the Higher One meeting on Dec. 7. Come with questions, because we deserve answers!

To the girl who decided to get the lab assistant to kick me off the computer lab in Mendenhall thank you. I understand that you needed to use the scanner but was it necessary for you to make me move when I was right in the middle of printing off my homework?

Yaay! Classes will be over soon and I'll have plenty of free time to celebrate and what not. I'm sure some will spend ALL their time studying. Stop fooling yourselves thinking that makes you better than everyone. Go out, enjoy college and live a little. It costs you to come here, have fun while it lasts!

I seen you downtown last weekend with your Michael Jackson jackets. Salt and Pepa WAS hot...

DEAR TREVOR KIRKENDALL, You wrote in Thursday's paper that "the actors in [Rent] have very poor singing skills," yet you maintain that you would have liked to have seen the musical on the stage. Moron. The original Broadway cast (minus 2) stars in the movie so you wouldn't have liked the stage production either.

I understand that the Commuter Shuttle runs on a 20 min. schedule but why does it have to sit at the bottom of Minges for so long? Why not have the library and the stadium be the stops where they sit? Because its a real pain to get off and get to class at Minges with a whole bus load of people who try to cram on the bus right before the classroom buildings.

Why does WZMB play so much Kanye West? I tuned into Blue Note last week and heard Hip-Hop. There are ten stations in Greenville that play Kanye. Why can't WZMB be different?

To the person who broke into my car when it was parked in my driveway and stole a whole bunch of my friend's stuff, you're a worthless loser. I mean seriously, who steals change?

Fellow Rec center users: Please take the time to remove plates from bars, machines, etc. If you can shoulder press 270 pounds, you can move them back to the rack. It isn't as easy for some of us to lift that much - and I'd rather get the workout in correct form than from struggling to pick up behind you. And yes, I know there are weight-room attendants, but this isn't their sole responsibility.

I am pretty sure that the writer who "reviewed" RENT for this paper didn't see the same movie I did. I, as well as all the other people I know who have seen it, thought that it was absolutely amazing.

Why does every computer in the Rawl computer lab take at least five minutes to boot?

To everyone who rants about the smokers, cell phone users, and excessive parties, get over it. North Carolina is a tobacco state, everyone has one, and if they can make it to their 8 o'clock the next day more power to 'em. It's the same Pirate Rant every week. Thank you everyone who has something original to say. God Bless... Whoever he/she may be.

Why do I do just fine with mediocre girls and when the gorgeous ones approach I panic?

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](http://www.theeastcarolinian.com), or e-mailed to [editor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:editor@theeastcarolinian.com). The editor reserves the right to edit opinions for content and brevity.



## Picks of the Semester:

### Movies

40 Year-Old Virgin  
Harry Potter: The Goblet of Fire  
Jarhead  
Walk the Line

### Music

Nickel Back - All the Right Reasons  
Spill Canvas - One Fell Swoop  
Madonna - Confessions on a Dance Floor  
Green Day - Bullet in a Bible

### Television

"Nip/Tuck"  
"Desperate Housewives"  
"Boston Legal"  
"Grey's Anatomy"

## Local Concerts:

U2 will be at the Charlotte Bobcats Arena Monday, Dec. 12.

Saves the Day, Senses Fail and The Early November will be at The NorVa in Norfolk, Va. Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Dolly Parton will be at the Charlotte Bobcats Arena Thursday, Dec. 15.

Clay Aiken will be performing at the RBC Center in Raleigh Thursday, Dec. 22.

General Johnson and Chairman of the Board will be performing at the Lincoln Theatre in Raleigh Friday, Jan. 13, 2006.

Nada Surf will be at the Cat's Cradle in Carrboro Friday, Feb. 10, 2006.

Jerry Seinfeld will be performing at the Progress Energy Center for Performing Arts in Raleigh Friday, March 10, 2006.

## Names in the News:

### It's a girl

While the rest of the world is preoccupied with war and global warming, this column chews on different meat. Our philosophy is simple, sure, Baghdad doings are important, but, goodness gracious, we're dying for dish on that irrepressible Britney Spears (more on her later). Star struck as we are, we're telling about the good news out of the Jennifer Garner-Ben Affleck camp. As The Associated Press tells it, the beautiful 33-year-olds have produced a beautiful offspring - Violet. "Mother, father and baby are doing great," the couple's publicists say. The flower child was born around 6:30 p.m. Thursday, although no one will say where. Garner and Affleck were married in June. Little Violet is the first child for Bennifer two. Affleck costarred with Garner in 2003's "Daredevil." She divorced actor Scott Foley in March 2004 after a three year marriage. Affleck famously courted Jennifer Lopez (Bennifer one) until the two broke off their engagement in January 2004.

### When titans meet

Folks at CBS are agog, atwitter and very happy with the news that Oprah Winfrey's appearance Thursday night on "Late Show With David Letterman," her first appearance with Dave in 16 years drew an audience of 13.45 million viewers. That's the largest group to tune into the program in more than 10 years, CBS officials say.

### Actors and alcohol, part one

Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston, another fun couple we love to keep track of, were pulled over by Scottsdale, Ariz., police this week. Vaughn, who was driving, was given a sobriety test, which proved he was "not drunk." We determined he had something to drink but was not over the legal (impairment) limit," cops told The AP. "We suggested that he not continue to drive." Vaughn parked the van he was driving, then he and Aniston got into the car of a friend who'd been following them. (Entourages can be oh-so handy.) Cops didn't say why they pulled Vaughn over in the first place. Maybe they wanted Vince's take on global warming. Vaughn and Aniston will costar in next summer's *The Break Up*. We're not sure whether it's biographical.

### Actors and alcohol, part two

Apparently the pressure of starring in a hit TV show drives gals to drink a bit too much. Such is the word from Hawaii, where "Lost" actresses Michelle Rodriguez and Cynthia Watros were arrested in separate incidents on the same day for driving under the influence. The AP reports that each woman failed sobriety tests after their vehicles were spotted weaving on the same highway 15 minutes apart Thursday. They were released on \$500 bail apiece.

### Staying together?

There is good news in Hollywood coupledom. The New York Post tells us that comedian Kathy Griffin is "trying to make it work" with husband Matt Moline. Though the marriage has had some bumps lately, the two were seen partying together in L.A. the other night.

# Survival of the Fittest: Final thoughts

We are finally done with this semester challenge

KRISTIN MURNANE  
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Wow, what a crazy semester this has been. I would have never imagined back in October that by the time December rolled around, I'd actually enjoy going to the gym and anxiously wait for each Friday afternoon where I'd get my butt kicked by one of our personal trainers. I know that I didn't win this

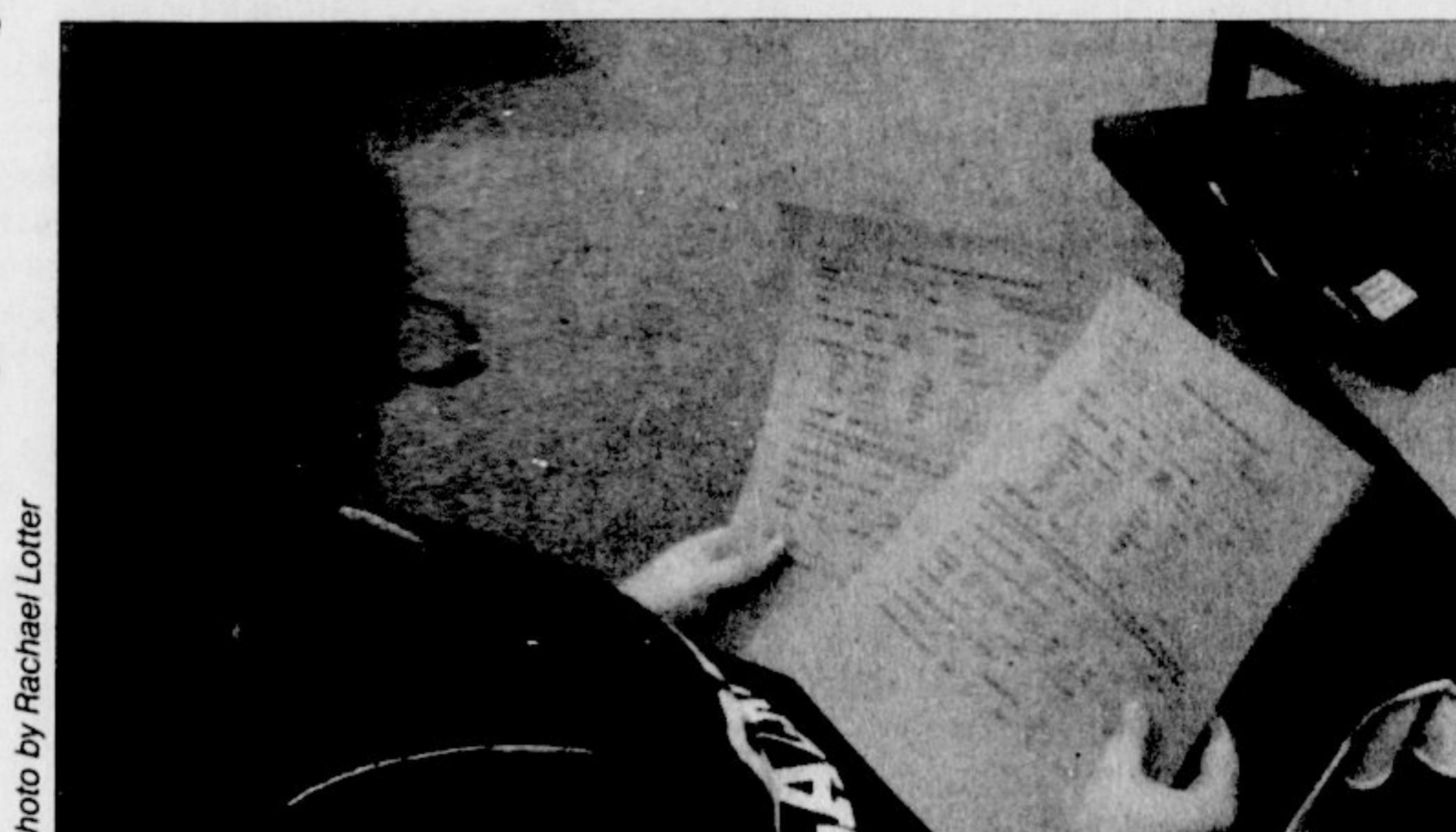
competition, but I'm definitely pleased with my improvements.

For me, it wasn't losing the pounds that was important, it was getting my BMI down (which I did) losing some inches (which I also did) and lowering my heart rate (which I definitely did). I feel healthier now than I did a few weeks ago, and I feel like I'm actually kind of in shape. Granted I still eat pasta like it's my job, but I'm working on it.

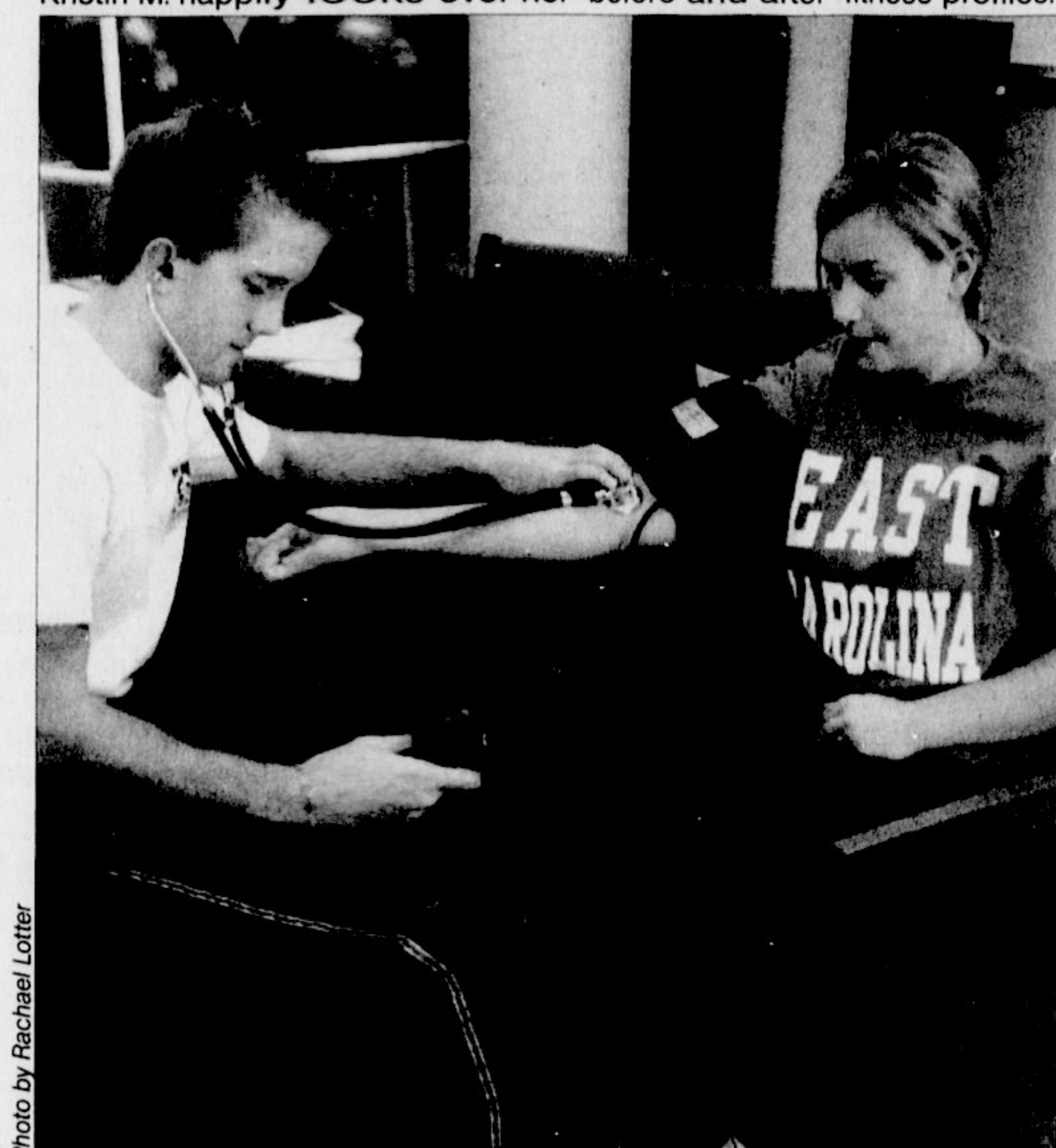
I want to thank all of the higher-ups at the SRC for making this happen, but most impor-

tantly, I'd like to thank our trainers Warren and Nathan for putting up with me. I've enjoyed this experience so much that I'm hiring Nathan to kick my butt for another couple of months next semester. So hopefully by the time school ends, I'll be one sexy assistant editor. Thanks for reading, and I hope that we've motivated you to start a healthier lifestyle. Heck, if I can do it, so can you.

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



Kristin M. happily looks over her "before and after" fitness profiles.



Kristin D. gets her BP taken, proving her to be the "Survival" winner.

## The numbers say it all

KRISTIN DAY  
SENIOR WRITER

It's over. It's finally over. No more skipping work to go to the gym. No more rampant delirium from hunger. But it was all worth it.

Now that we're done, I'm actually kind of sad. While I struggled through many of Nathan's training sessions and Erin's insane RPM classes, the whole thing was starting to get easier and, surprisingly, more fun (although I'm sure discussing *Showgirls* and *Cartman* in the Special Olympics helped).

Most of all, now that I've "won" whatever competition we were having, I wish we would have put some sort of prize in the deal. Like, a bonus check or a car or even drinks at \$19 on TEC's tab. Hell, I ended up there anyway.

While we didn't lose many pounds, Nathan says the amount

of inches we lost in seven weeks is pretty amazing, so it's good to know we really did accomplish something we were all too lazy to do on our own. I think I did reach my goal to look better for my upcoming bridesmaid appearance and as long as I don't go out of control during Christmas, I shouldn't have to worry too much about the summer.

We have to attribute most of our success to our trainers Nathan and Warren, but I also know most of us don't have a couple hundred dollars to spend. For anyone like me who wants to shape up but doesn't have the money for a personal trainer, you should really consider getting a group fitness pass. They're not that expensive and the instructors really know how to push the class.

Thanks to everyone at SRC for putting up with us and we'll definitely be seeing you there a lot.

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



Ed M. is running so fast that no camera could capture a clear image.

OK, so I didn't win, but it was all worth it

ED MCKIM  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

For this year's Survival of the Fittest competition, I had no doubt in my mind that I was in for a tough challenge. My lifestyle was sedentary at best and I needed to change that. Though I didn't get as dedicated as Kristin Day, I found the overall experience very helpful. The fitness evaluation was thorough, heartbreaking and the trainers we worked with (Warren, Nathan and Chelsea) did a wonderful job.

The trainers we worked with outside of our personal training sessions were demanding as well, (I did spinning with Hannah, and Erin) but it was very worth it. I, unfortunately, got a little too caught up in schoolwork as I usually do and missed two workouts. It was at times like these I would kick myself for not listening to an old friend's adage, "It's just that you have terrible time-management skills."

Anyway, I learned a lot of good things, and I plan to spend the \$50 on a GoldPass next semester so that I can continue to do the Wednesday and Sunday RPM spinning classes and anything else that looks good. The personal workouts topped all, but as a poor college student in one of the most demanding degree programs at ECU, I can't afford to do that next semester until I make a Web site where I hold a little rabbit hostage until I earn enough money to set him free ... which has already been done, so I'd have to think of something new.

I would have also liked to have met with a dietician during this time, so that I could get a stable diet and grocery list that I could use to help me eat in a healthy manner again. But all and all I commend Kristen Murnane for the job she did setting this up and I commend Kristin Day for being the most dedicated.

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

# A day in the life of: Shopping Mall Santa



One of Santa's little helpers sits on his lap for a well deserved break.

What those jolly men have to go through

DANIEL BROCK  
STAFF WRITER

Around the holidays, shopping malls are crazy places. People run amok buying as much as they can, as quickly as they can (except for those high school punks that loiter in and around the food court). In the center of all this someone thought it would be a good idea to construct a giant castle, bring in bushels of fake snow and have Santa come hang out to listen to the demands of insane children.

Well it worked.

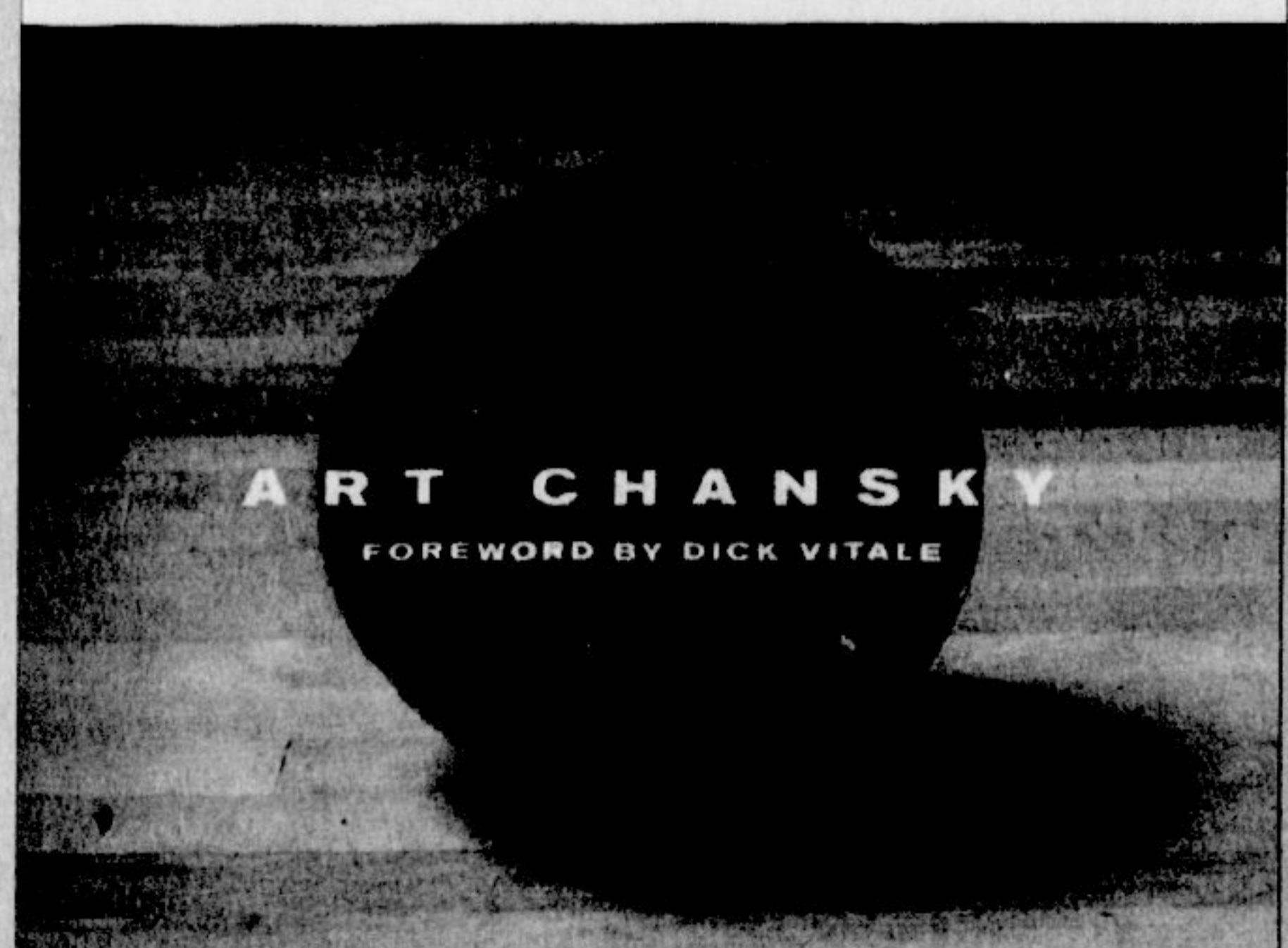
Parents are pushed, pulled and dragged into line by kids demanding every toy on earth. Along with that they must wait ... and wait ... and wait in line to see "Santa Claus." Once they reach the front of the line, they're face to face with The Man. It's time to put up or shut up for the kids, and when was the last time a kid shut up? They drone on and on, about this and that, blah, blah, blah. But when it's all done they get a photo with Chris Cringle, flash an adorable smile, and behave like civilized people for at least the next 30 minutes. But after every kid leaves and Santa becomes a fading memory in their minds, there's another

see SANTA page A6

## Barnes and Noble book signing event



BLUE BLOOD



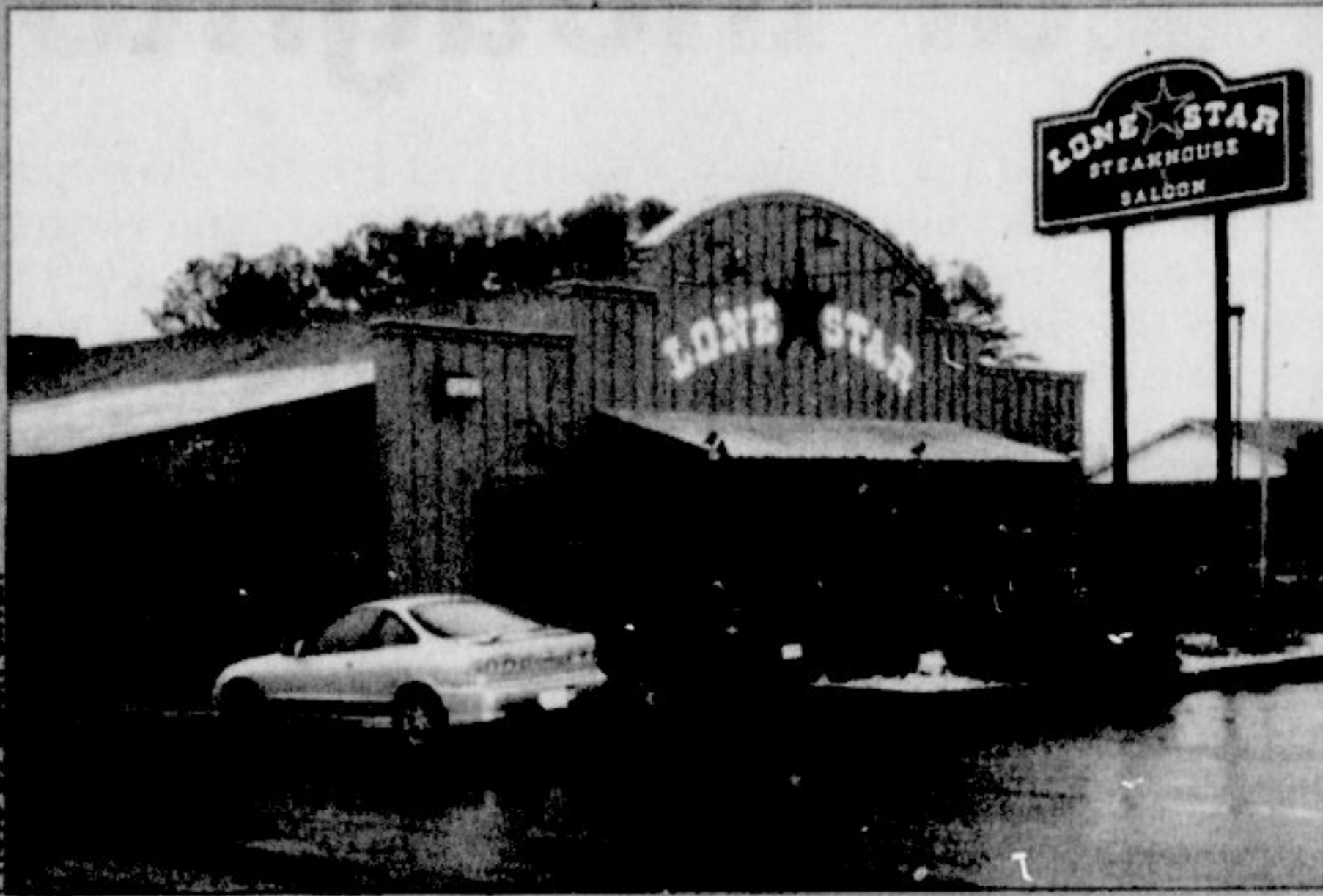
DUKE-CAROLINA  
INSIDE THE MOST STORIED RIVALRY IN COLLEGE HOOPS



Barnes & Noble is hosting a discussion and book signing on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. with Art Chansky, author of *Blue Blood: Duke-Carolina: Inside the Most Storied Rivalry in College Hoops*. The book chronicles the 50 years of rivalry between Duke and University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Remember to get to the event early to purchase your copy of the book and get a good seat. Enjoy this amazing opportunity.



# Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon: A little piece of Texas and Heaven



Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon is located off of Greenville Boulevard.

**The place to go for a great experience**

**AARON BORRERO**  
STAFF WRITER

There is a place in Greenville that everyone should go to eat and it's called Lone Star. While many other places try to find an equal balance of good food and good service, this eatery stands alone. Not only do the servers at Lone Star possess unparalleled service but they also contain a kitchen staff able to properly create your favorite menu items.

As an example, I order a sirloin steak medium rare expecting it too be well overcooked. However, much to my pleasant

surprise, the steak was perfectly created. I was completely taken by surprise in the fact that this was the first time in all of Greenville I had ever received my food the way I wanted it.

Being a man from the great state of Texas, this establishment had a lot of pressure to overcome from my expectations. Equally as surprising was the service at Lone Star. The waiters and waitresses were quite able to take care of my dining needs. These individuals actually anticipated what I would potentially require next and would bring it to me before I even had to ask for anything at all. Doing something because you know it will have to be done is what I call service. Maintaining this type of service all the

while talking to me about sports, my food quality and service made me feel quite comfortable.

As impressed as I was by the service, this lets me further know that it couldn't have been possible without some great managers backing their employees and training them properly. Under new management, the Lone Star Steakhouse is fronted by the GM Gene McKain, Brice Baxter and manager Randy Watts. I personally met McKain and Watts, both of which were very interested in how the meal was meeting my expectations. Everyone at the establishment was so helpful and truly sincere about helping me with anything I needed which included recommending a few dishes and drinks to serve my palette. The rating process and some examples of offered items are features of this article you are sure to enjoy.

**Food: A+.** Never have I been so satisfied with the actual getting of what I ordered. Some things to recommend steak and lobster combo, San Antonio sirloin, smoked prime rib and don't forget about the grilled chicken and sweet bourbon salmon. Honestly, you can't go wrong with any of their other combo's such as the filet & king crab combo.

**Service: A+.** I can't overstate the importance of good and timely service. The staff holds

the air of really caring about serving their customers and getting it done right. I did not have to wait for anything while dining, it was already there or in the process of getting there.

**Drinks: A+.** I personally tasted the mistletoe martini and thought it was great. Made of Malibu and Midori melon liqueur, it's a very nice smooth and sweet taste to balance the light alcohol taste. Also, try the holly jolly colada. This is one of the best drinks I have ever had. It was like a strawberry piña colada with alcohol. Visit my friend Jeff Gorich, MBA in international business and get some of this goodness while it's still cold.

To wrap up the review, an A+ is the order of the day. I further recommend the queso and spinach dip, as the spinach dip is brand new and very tasty. If you have room, try the key lime pie or homemade cobbler. Be sure to get a great gift for someone in the form of gift certificates. I'm sure everyone involved would be very thankful for such a gift. Keep in mind that Lone Star also does large parties in their designated Alamo Room. Try this great eatery and see what I am talking about. I promise you will not be left unsatisfied.

*This writers can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.*

## Features fitness tips

Personal Trainer

### Exercise can lift the blues

Getting active helps relieve the sleeplessness, anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed that stress and moderate

How different kinds of physical activity help



Around the winter holidays is one of the most common times for people to feel a little down in the dumps. It has been scientifically proven that exercising can help you get out of that slump, have more energy and reduce any stress or anxiety about the end of 2005.

## Santa from page A5

child poised to leap into Santa's lap. All day. Every day.

Who is this man sitting in a castle, wearing a ridiculous suit, as children sit in his lap and babble on? No, in this instance it is not Michael Jackson. It's your local Shopping Mall Santa.

If you're able to read this, it's fairly reasonable to assume that you know this man is not really Santa. He's not some sort of North Pole stem cell project, he's not a lieutenant in Santa's crime syndicate and he's not, contrary to popular belief, Santa's younger, less marketable brother. No, this is just a regular guy, but for all that he puts up with, he truly does

possess the real Christmas Spirit.

Many children remember sitting on Santa's lap when they were little, but whether that was a pleasant experience or not is another story entirely. Everyone knows that each mall Santa is different, which begs the question, what about Greenville's Shopping Mall Santa?

Having the curious mind that I do, I went to the Colonial Mall last week to have a word with the man that would be Santa. He seemed to be in good enough spirits, although he repeatedly berated women, referring to them as, "Ho, Ho, Ho's." I could have thought of a more comfort-

able place to do an interview than someone's lap, but I went with the flow. This St. Nick had plenty to say about being a Shopping Mall Santa, the Chris Cringle in whose image he was created and, of course, the ladies.

**TEC:** How did you get started as a Shopping Mall Santa? Were there any special skills involved?

**Santa:** No, you need a beard. Pretty much a beard and tolerance for kids.

**TEC:** Is there a Santa Union or Guild that you're required to join?

**Santa:** Not that I'm aware of.

**TEC:** One question I'm sure many people have: What do you do the rest of the year?

**Santa:** I'm unemployed right now. I'm on disability.

**TEC:** Is it a point of pride for you that you're the premier Santa in Greenville and not the Santa at the crummy mall across town?

**Santa:** I think being a Santa anywhere is a good thing. I'm not so proud of a mall, or any particular place. As long as you're a good Santa with the kids.

**TEC:** Walk me through your typical day being a Shopping Mall Santa.

**Santa:** Well you come in and you put your Santa suit on (pauses). And then you come and you sit here, and you wait for children to come and visit you.

**TEC:** Do you have any horror stories or amusing anecdotes that have happened with the kids?

**Santa:** Not horror stories really. One time I had a boss' daughter throw up on my lap ... she wanted a pony.

**TEC:** Did she end up getting that pony?

**Santa:** No, I don't think so.

**TEC:** A question that I know the public wants to hear the answer to, when you're taking photos with the kids, which side is your good side?

**Santa:** I don't know if there is a good side to tell you the truth. Whatever side they take it on.

**TEC:** All right. Finally, is

being a Shopping Mall Santa a young man's game and how much longer do you see yourself being Santa?

**Santa:** I'll do Santa till I can't do it anymore. When you reach a certain age you're better at it than when you're younger. I did it when I was young too, because I've had the white beard for years now. I think you get better with age.

**TEC:** Like wine?

**Santa:** Like wine and women.

**TEC:** Ha, ha, ha.

**Santa:** Ho, ho, ho.

*This writers can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.*

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# SPORTS

Page A7 sports@theeastcarolinian.com 252.328.6366

TONY ZOPPO Sports Editor BRANDON HUGHES Assistant Sports Editor

TUESDAY December 6, 2005

## Sports Briefs

### Kansas State hires Prince as Snyder's replacement

Kansas State has hired Virginia offensive coordinator Ron Prince to replace Bill Snyder as head coach, athletic director Tim Weiser said Sunday. Weiser said the school will formally announce the hiring Monday. The 36-year-old Prince, raised about 20 miles from Manhattan in Junction City, will become only the fourth black head football coach in Division I-A, joining Washington's Ty Willingham, Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom and UCLA's Karl Dorrell. A lineman at Dodge City Community College and Appalachian State, Prince spent five seasons at Virginia, the last three as offensive coordinator. He also coached at Dodge City, Alabama A&M, Cornell, South Carolina State and James Madison, and spent four seasons as an NFL Minority Fellowship intern with Jacksonville, Washington, Atlanta and the New York Giants. Snyder led Kansas State to a 5-6 mark this season. He took the Wildcats from being the nation's only 500-loss team in 1989 to 11 consecutive winning seasons through 2003, when they won the Big 12 title. Two of Snyder's former assistants who had been prominently mentioned in speculation about his replacement took themselves out of the running last week. Jim Leavitt agreed to a contract extension as South Florida's head coach, and Brent Venables said he wants to remain defensive coordinator at Oklahoma.

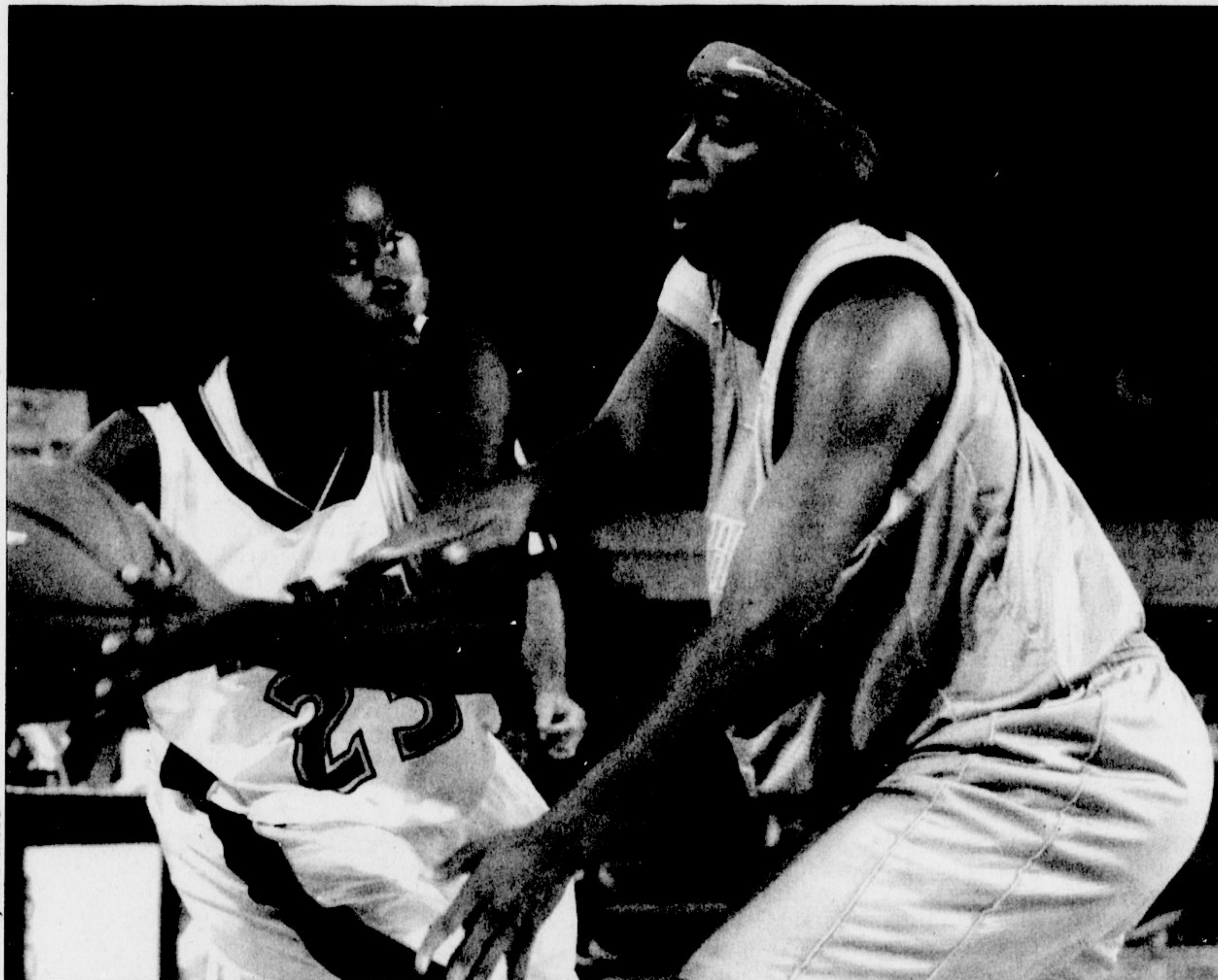
### Browns' Edwards out for season

Browns' rookie wide receiver Braylon Edwards will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury, yet another setback for one of Cleveland's first-round draft picks. Edwards, the No. 3 overall selection in the draft, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee while trying to make a leaping catch in the fourth quarter of Sunday's 20-14 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars. Edwards' knee buckled awkwardly to the inside after he landed stiff-legged on the incompletion. Edwards had caught two touchdown passes from fellow rookie Charlie Frye. Coach Romeo Crennel said surgery has not been scheduled. Players with similar injuries typically need eight to 12 months of rehab to recover. Since the Browns rejoined the NFL in 1999, their top picks have either been busts or injured. Of the seven picks, only center Jeff Faine (2003) is starting for the team. Last season, tight end Kellen Winslow, the club's top pick in 2004, broke his leg in Week 2. He missed all this season after injuring his knee in a motorcycle accident, and was on the sideline for the first time on Sunday.

### Indians sign Byrd - eye Nomar, Hoffman

Free-agent pitcher Paul Byrd signed a two-year, \$14.25 million contract Monday with the Cleveland Indians, the club's first move in what could be a busy few days at the winter meetings in Dallas. Byrd will make \$7 million in 2006 and 2007, and the deal includes a club option for 2008 that could raise the value to \$22 million over three seasons. The 35-year-old Byrd went 12-11 with a 3.74 ERA in 31 starts for the Los Angeles Angels last season. He turned down a new deal with the Angels and offers from Baltimore, Kansas City and Texas to rejoin the Indians, who drafted him in 1991. Byrd joins a solid rotation that includes C.C. Sabathia (15-10), Cliff Lee (18-5) and Jake Westbrook (15-15), but still needs another starter. But a bigger priority is a closer, and the Indians appear to be targeting Trevor Hoffman, who has been offered a two-year deal to stay with the San Diego Padres. Also, the Indians have expressed interest in signing free agent Nomar Garciaparra. The club has discussed using Garciaparra as a utility player at first base, third base and right field. Byrd and Shapiro broke in with the Indians at roughly the same time, and have remained friends since the early 1990s. Cleveland selected Byrd in the fourth round in 1991, and he spent four seasons in the club's minor league system before being traded to the New York Mets in 1995. Byrd had his best season in 2002, going 17-11 with a 3.90 ERA for the Royals. He brings the Indians some postseason experience. Byrd made two starts in the AL championship series, beating eventual World Series champion Chicago White Sox in Game 1.

# Women's basketball wins Lady Pirate Invitational



Freshman guard Alicia Person looks to escape a defender in the Lady Pirate Invitational.

### ECU center Cherie Mills takes MVP honors, records second double-double

JOSH FERNANDEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Since their season-opening loss at Duquesne a couple weeks back, the Lady Pirates basketball team rebounded by collecting a tournament victory, six-straight wins, and a top spot in the Conference USA standings, not to mention getting off to their best start in 18 years.

The Pirates (5-1) faced off against Southern University (2-2) on Saturday to kick off the CPW's/Atavola Market Café Lady Pirate Invitational Tournament.

The teams went back and forth throughout the first half, exchanging the lead six times. However, the Lady Pirates dominated the Jaguars in the paint outscoring them 18-8.

The give and take play continued in the second half yet the Lady Pirates maintained their lead throughout, staying ahead by a thin margin.

"We have a really young team and, as you can tell sometimes, it really shows," said Lady Pirates Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener in a quote to ECU Sports Information.

"Sometimes [the players] make bad decisions but every day they come out and they want to compete and they want to win."

With 1:30 left on the game clock, Southern guard Rolanda Monroe managed to cut the deficit to only two off an ECU turnover.

A few moments later with the score 56-53, Southern missed a chance to tie it up with a three.

see BASKETBALL page A8

# Heavyweights set to settle it on the field



USC running back Reggie Bush celebrates his team's blowout victory over rival UCLA on Saturday.

(KRT) — Top-ranked USC pounded UCLA so badly in its 66-19 victory Saturday, the Coliseum scoreboard couldn't take it, malfunctioning after the Trojans had scored their eighth touchdown.

Some 1,500 miles away, second-ranked Texas already had made a statement of its own, scoring on nine of its first 10 possessions in a 70-3 blowout of Colorado in the Big 12 championship game in Houston.

Now, these two undefeated heavyweights ranked 1-2 all season in the polls will square off in the BCS championship

game Jan. 4 at the Rose Bowl. This is one time the BCS which is designed to match up the two best teams in the national title game got it right.

The BCS' flaws have been cannon fodder for media criticism since 2000. But this time, there is no real controversy to explore no team like Auburn, which was knocked out of the BCS game last year by USC and Oklahoma, then finished 13-0 after its Sugar Bowl win, to gum up the works — or no repeat of 2003, when USC finished No. 1 in both polls and still was eliminated from the BCS title game

because the Trojans who eventually split the title with LSU were No. 3 in the computers.

"I saw Texas was winning big just like we did," USC defensive end Frostee Rucker said.

"They've been outstanding week in and week out. We're going to give the people the game they wanted."

The Trojans, who have won 34 straight games and arguably have the best offense in modern history, are an early six-point favorite.

"(USC) has just been blowing

see FOOTBALL page A8

# Trade talk bubbling ahead of baseball meetings

(AP) — The winter meetings are back in Texas for the first time since 2000, when teams spent nearly \$739 million on 24 free agents, including \$252 million on Alex Rodriguez and \$160 million to Manny Ramirez.

With many top free agents this offseason already committed, the focus this time around is likely to be on trades rather than signings.

Relievers Billy Wagner and

B.J. Ryan, first baseman Paul Konerko, outfielder Brian Giles and shortstop Rafael Furcal already have agreed to contracts, with Furcal leaving the Atlanta Braves over the weekend to accept a \$39 million, three-year offer from the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Top remaining players in a weak free-agent group include center fielder Johnny Damon and pitchers A.J. Burnett and Kevin Millwood. With a paucity of top

talent available to sign, there will be plenty of trade talk going on at baseball's annual swap session, which has been devoid of big-name deals in recent years.

"This particular free-agent market is difficult," said New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman, stymied in his search for a center fielder. "Because of that, it's going to promote a lot

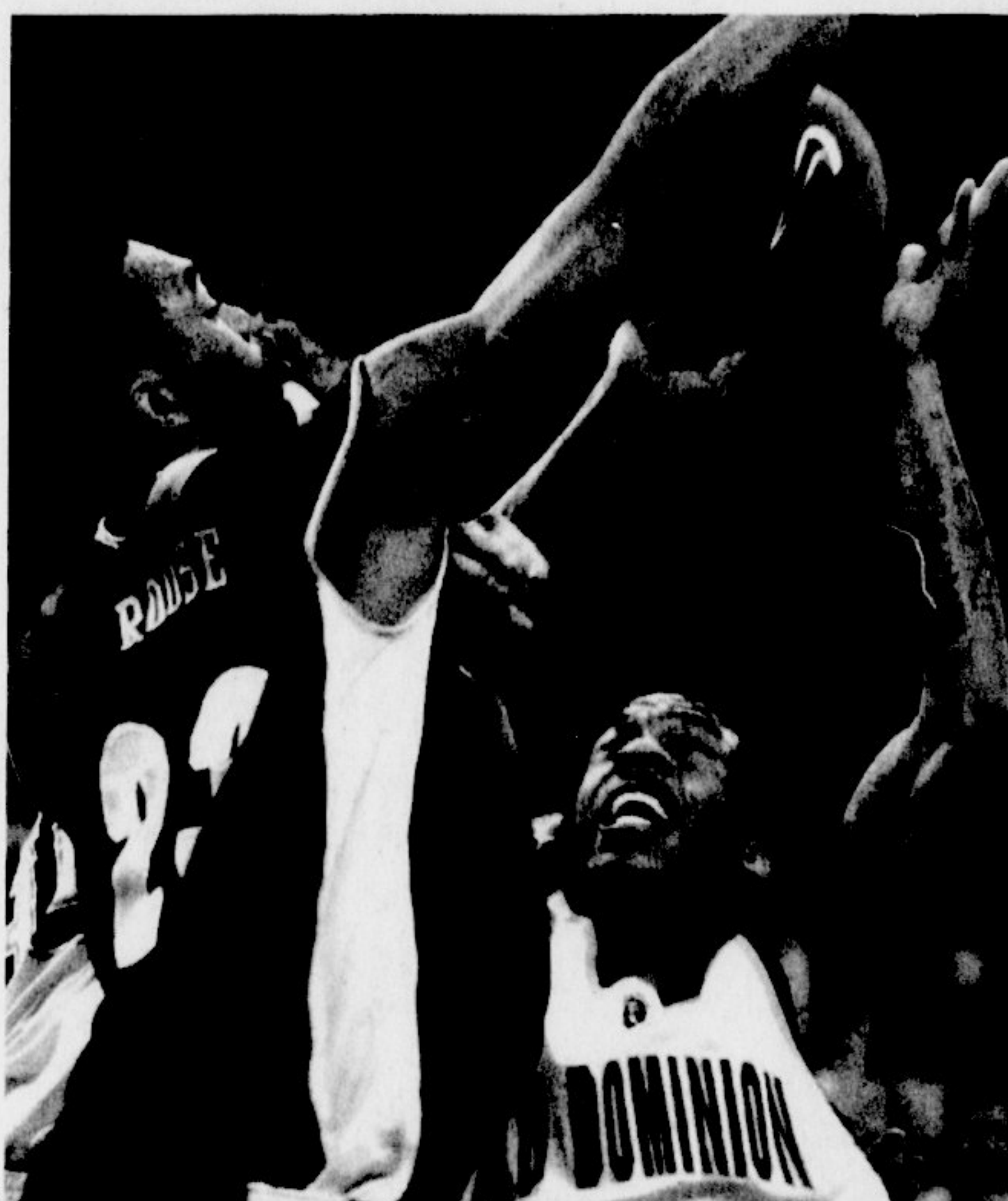
see BASEBALL page A8

## Hockey splits with VMI



The ECU Club Hockey team split its weekend series against VMI, winning the first matchup 6-4 and dropping the second 5-2. Mike Ormsbee, Ian Falcon and Tyler Falcon led the attack in game one, scoring a goal and notching one assist each. VMI rebounded in game two, breaking a 2-2 tie with three goals in the final period. Seth Percy and Ormsbee tallied goals for the Pirates in that meeting. ECU now sits at 7-2 overall and in second place behind VMI in the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference. The Pirates will face Clemson on Jan. 13.

## Pirates fall to ODU



Corey Rouse poured in 14 points and pulled down nine rebounds in the Pirates 79-53 loss at Old Dominion Saturday night. Monarchs' senior guard Isaiah Hunter led the way for ODU with 20 points, sparking his team to their fifth win of the season as they improved to 5-1. Alex Loughton, another ODU senior, also played a big role in the Monarchs efforts as he scored 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for his third double-double of the season. ECU will return home this week for home games against UNC Greensboro and Western Carolina. The Pirates will take to the floor against UNCG tomorrow night at 7 p.m. in Minges Coliseum.



**Basketball** from page A7

The Jaguars were forced to foul to try to keep the win within reach but the Pirates converted three free throws to stay on top and take home the win, 59-55.

"...It is teaching us a lot by playing in these close games," said Baldwin-Tener.

ECU center Cherie Mills recorded her second double-double on the season, tallying 21 points and grabbing 14 boards.

"Cherie is doing a great job," said Baldwin-Tener.

"She was big on the boards ... I thought she played very physical against their players."

The Lady Pirates continued their winning ways Sunday against Drexel (2-3). The game saw three Pirates reach double figures in the 12-point victory.

By the 10-minute mark in the first half, ECU was up 17-5. The Lady Pirates managed their lead the entire game, never giving it up once.

"We have a lot of balance and depth and I knew that we were going to have to play a lot of people today," said Baldwin-Tener to ECU SID.

"We had a tough game yesterday."

Jasmine Young led all Pirate scorers with 16 points and four steals in 35 minutes.

"She makes a lot of things happen and she played a really solid game today," said Baldwin-Tener.

The Lady Pirates held the Dragons at bay in the second half to seal the victory, 66-54. Almost a third of ECU's points came off the bench.

"It is good when you can have people playing 10-12 minutes, be able to help us and be productive on the floor," said Baldwin-Tener.

It is the first time since 2002-2003 that ECU took home the Lady Pirate Invitational tournament championship.

The Lady Pirates are back on the hardwood again Dec. 7 as they take on Virginia Commonwealth in Greenville. They will be contending for their 500th win in program history.

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

**Football** from page A7

people out right and left," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "When I walked out of the stadium Saturday, I was feeling pretty good and a guy walks up to me and says, 'Don't get too comfortable, big boy. Reggie Bush has run for 175 yards in the first quarter.' That will put a dent in your celebration."

Brown has enormous respect for what USC coach Pete Carroll has accomplished. He made a point to call Carroll just last week to tell him as much.

"We're sitting on 19 (straight wins) and there's tremendous pressure on our players to keep it going," Brown said. "When I first got to Texas, somebody said to me, 'You know, coach (Darrell) Royal won 30 in a row.' You've got to be kidding."

Brown knows better than to bait the Trojans, especially after UCLA's trash-talk backfired.

The Trojans ripped off 679 yards of total offense against the Bruins and never punted once as they rolled to the most lopsided victory in the series since USC's 76-0 victory in the schools' first meeting in 1929. As for USC's supposedly porous defense, it sacked UCLA quarterback Drew Olson five times, forced five turnovers, recovered three, and contributed one touchdown.

"A lot of people were talking about our D-line and them being

able to run on us," defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis said. "I can't speak for the whole defense, but it bothered me."

Carroll has been bothered himself, according to an ESPN report, privately complaining to NFL scouts about the media trying to influence Bush's decision whether to turn pro, suggesting his All-American junior tailback will come out if he is assured he will go No. 1 in the draft. Bush's father Lamar said after the game that it was time for his son to take his talent to the next level.

Bush, who rushed for 260 yards against the Bruins, has been operating on a different planet and appears to be a lock for the Heisman Trophy, ahead of Texas quarterback Vince Young.

Bush and junior tailback Len-Dale White, who added 154 yards on Saturday, should be salivating about the thought of running against a Texas defense that gave up 277 yards on the ground two weeks ago to Texas A&M.

As explosive as the Trojans are, though, it's the Longhorns who lead the country in scoring. They averaged 50.9 points and have gone over 60 points four times. They have the necessary speed to match the Trojans, along with the defense, quarterback and special teams. And they will have additional motivation

after Bush makes his Heisman acceptance speech on Saturday in New York.

DUCKS, BUCKS AND BRADY QUINN

While there was no controversy over the BCS championship game, there was still Pac-10 sentiment to make Oregon (10-1) one of the two at-large selections in the BCS.

But the Fiesta Bowl, which lost its Big 12 anchor Texas to the Rose Bowl, had been salivating over the idea of selecting a resurgent Notre Dame (9-2) with its first pick for the past month and had no choice but to take Big Ten co-champion Ohio State (9-2) as a second at-large after the Buckeyes rose to fourth in the final BCS standings, guaranteeing themselves a spot in a BCS game.

Notre Dame likely would beat Oregon on a neutral site, especially with quarterback Brady Quinn. But the Irish figure to have a much more difficult time with the Buckeyes, who looked like they had Texas beaten at home early in the season and have a better defense by far than anything Notre Dame has seen.

It should be interesting to see how Quinn, who grew up in Dublin, Ohio, not far from OSU's Columbus campus, does against his state school. A big day could make him a preseason favorite for next year's Heisman.

**Baseball** from page A7

more aggressive trade discussions."

Ramirez, unhappy with life in Boston despite winning the World Series MVP award in 2004, is the biggest name available. But he can veto trades and is owed \$57 million over the final three years of his contract, complicating efforts to deal him by the Red Sox, the only major league team without a general manager.

"He's still one of the top three or four hitters in baseball," Boston assistant GM Jed Hoyer said, adding that more than a dozen teams have inquired. "They haven't been able to meet the price that we would want for Manny. We're certainly not going in with the expectation that we're going to have to make a trade. Teams would have to step up and beat our expectations."

Florida has been the most active team in the trade market, dealing 2003 World Series MVP Josh Beckett and third baseman Mike Lowell to Boston, first baseman Carlos Delgado to the New York Mets and second baseman Luis Castillo to Minnesota.

Catcher Paul Lo Duca could be joining Delgado on the Mets, and center fielder Juan Pierre appears to be available.

"Obviously we have been very active. I would anticipate as we head to Dallas we're going to remain active," said Marlins general manager Larry Beinfest, who has cut about \$32 million from a payroll that was \$60 million at the start of last season.

Pitchers who could be switch-

ing teams include Boston's David Wells, Oakland's Barry Zito, the Mets' Kris Benson and Arizona's Javier Vazquez, who filed a trade demand last month. Texas might part with a pair of All-Stars, second baseman Alfonso Soriano and third baseman Hank Blalock, as it seeks pitching. Tampa Bay catcher Toby Hall and Philadelphia's Bobby Abreu and Pat Burrell could possibly get dealt, as could outfielder Jason Michaels.

"We've had enough dialogue that something could happen," said new Texas general manager Jon Daniels, at 28 the youngest GM in the majors.

Blalock could be a fit for Minnesota, looking for a third baseman and a designated hitter after acquiring Castillo on Friday.

"You can kind of compress exactly who you need to talk to," Twins general manager Terry Ryan said. "You diminish your needs a little bit, and now you can move on to the next."

Arizona, Baltimore, the Los Angeles Dodgers, Philadelphia, Tampa Bay, Texas head into the meetings with new GMs.

"There are so many people down there, it can be somewhat hectic," Oakland general manager Billy Beane said. "We all go into the meetings expecting a lot. Once a guy signs, that speeds up trade talks. With a lot of new GMs in place who are probably looking to do something, there is an atmosphere of anticipation."

Free agents still on the market include designated hitters Mike Piazza and Frank Thomas, reliev-

ers Bob Wickman and Trevor Hoffman, catchers Bengie Molina and Ramon Hernandez, and outfielder Sammy Sosa. Then there's Nomar Garciaparra, who appears willing to play just about any position.

Pitcher Paul Byrd and Cleveland agreed Monday to a \$14.25 million, two-year deal.

Baseball's big free-agent deadline passes at midnight EST on Wednesday. Free agents not offered salary arbitration by their former clubs before the deadline can't re-sign until May 1. After the deadline, teams won't lose draft picks for signing any free agent not offered arbitration.

"It's quite possible it could be a dog and pony show until after Dec. 7," San Francisco Giants general manager Brian Sabean said late last week.

Teams that didn't land their top free-agent choices are trying other paths.

"We were looking at Konerko, but I think now what we're going to have to do is get some alternatives in place," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "If a magic bat isn't added to our lineup, hopefully we'll have some help from in-house."

Cashman said the narrowing of choices forces decisions.

"When people strike out on Plan A, B, C and D," he said, "they go into overdrive for the remaining opportunities. And, therefore, teams are more willing to do certain things in mid-December and January that they may not have considered doing in early November."

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# Do you have questions about the ECU Debit Card?

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Wednesday, December 7, 2005

5:00 p.m.

Hendrix Theater

After a short presentation, the forum will be open for questions to ECU Administrators, SGA and Higher One representatives.

Forum sponsored by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and the Student Government Association

## CLASSIFIEDS

Page A9

TUESDAY December 6, 2005

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The Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of NC is accepting applications for a temporary, part-time (up to 20 hours per week), Clerical Assistant for the Greenville office. The position will be available between December 12 and January 22, 2005. Responsibilities include receptionist duties, word processing, and a variety of clerical tasks. Salary is \$13.00 per hour and direct deposit is mandatory. Please submit

a cover letter and resume to Thomas P. McNamara, Federal Public Defender, 150 Fayetteville Street Mall, Suite 450, Raleigh, NC 27601. Application deadline is December 16, 2005. No telephone inquiries will be accepted.

One part-time position available for the 4-H After school program. Hours are 2:30-6 and 12:30-6 on early out days. Experience preferred but not mandatory. Excellent for college students going into a child related field. For more information, please contact Sarah Best at 747-5831.

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### GREEK PERSONALS

The sisters of Kappa Delta would like to thank all of the Greek organizations for supporting our Late Night Pancake Dinner.

Kappa Delta would like to thank everyone that participated in our Late Night Pancake Dinner!

Congrats to the Alpha Pi new member class, Jamie Allen, Melissa Benton, Jena Bradley, Jessica Brenton, Heather Clayton, Haley Hawkins, Taryn Hollister, Dayna Hohlfield, Megan Lord, Molly Mace, Rachel Maddox, Rachel Melnick, Laura Modlin, Lauren Potter, Madison Riel, Ashley Rodman, and Stephanie Rogerson for being initiated on Thursday! Welcome to the sisterhood! Love the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha!

Congratulations to Meg and Blair for being Kappa Delta's sisters of the week! You did a great job with our semi-formal.

### OTHER

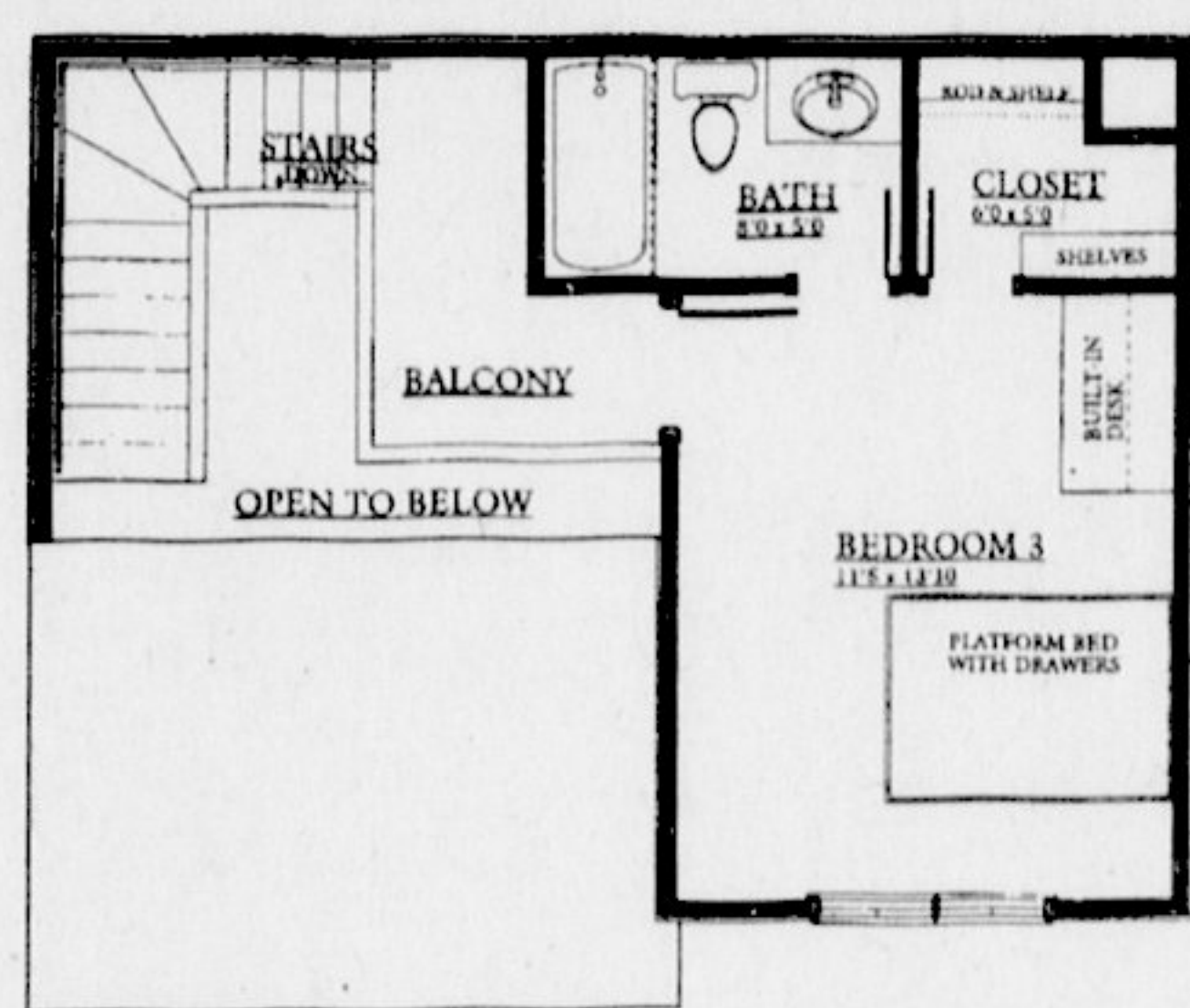
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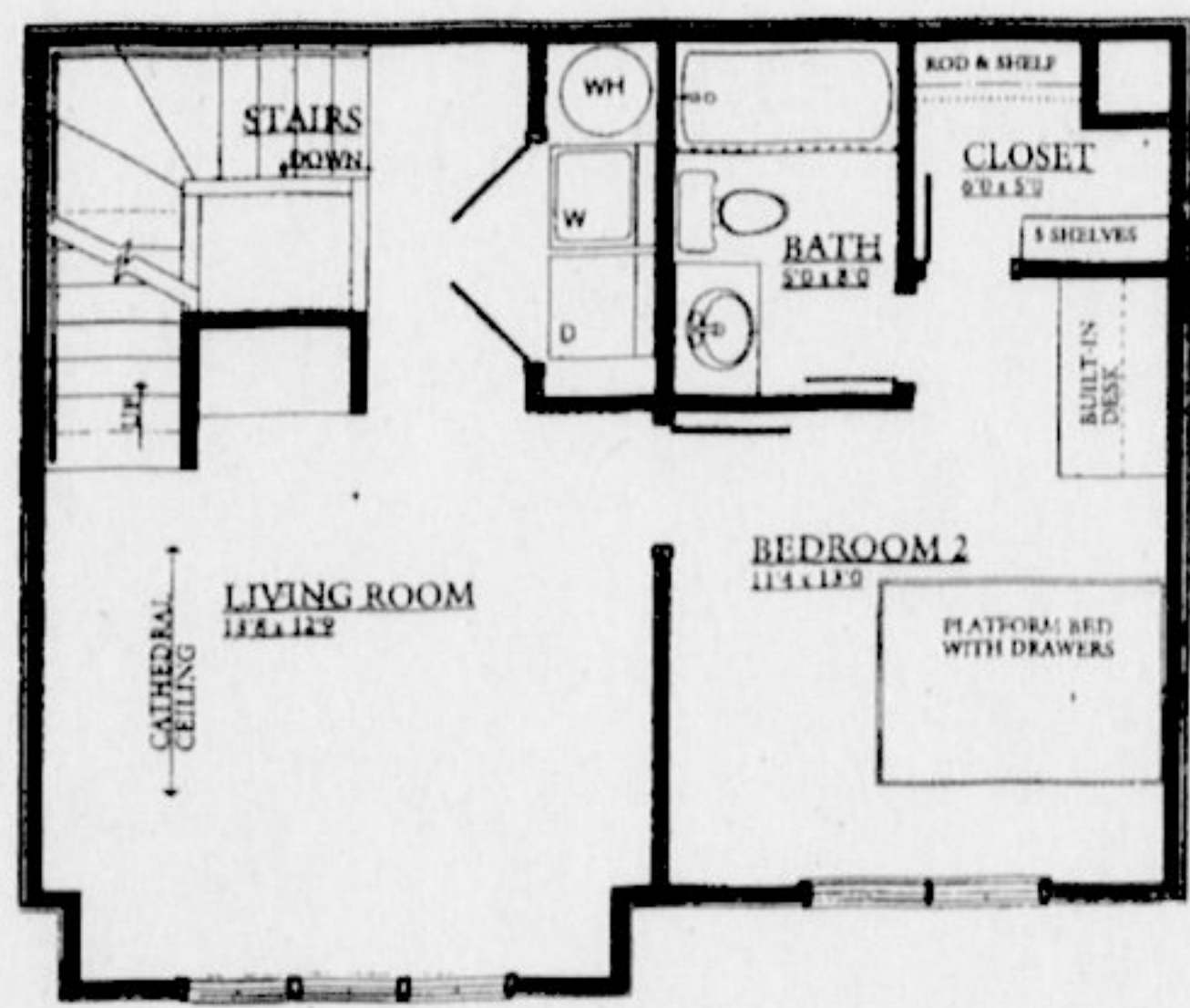
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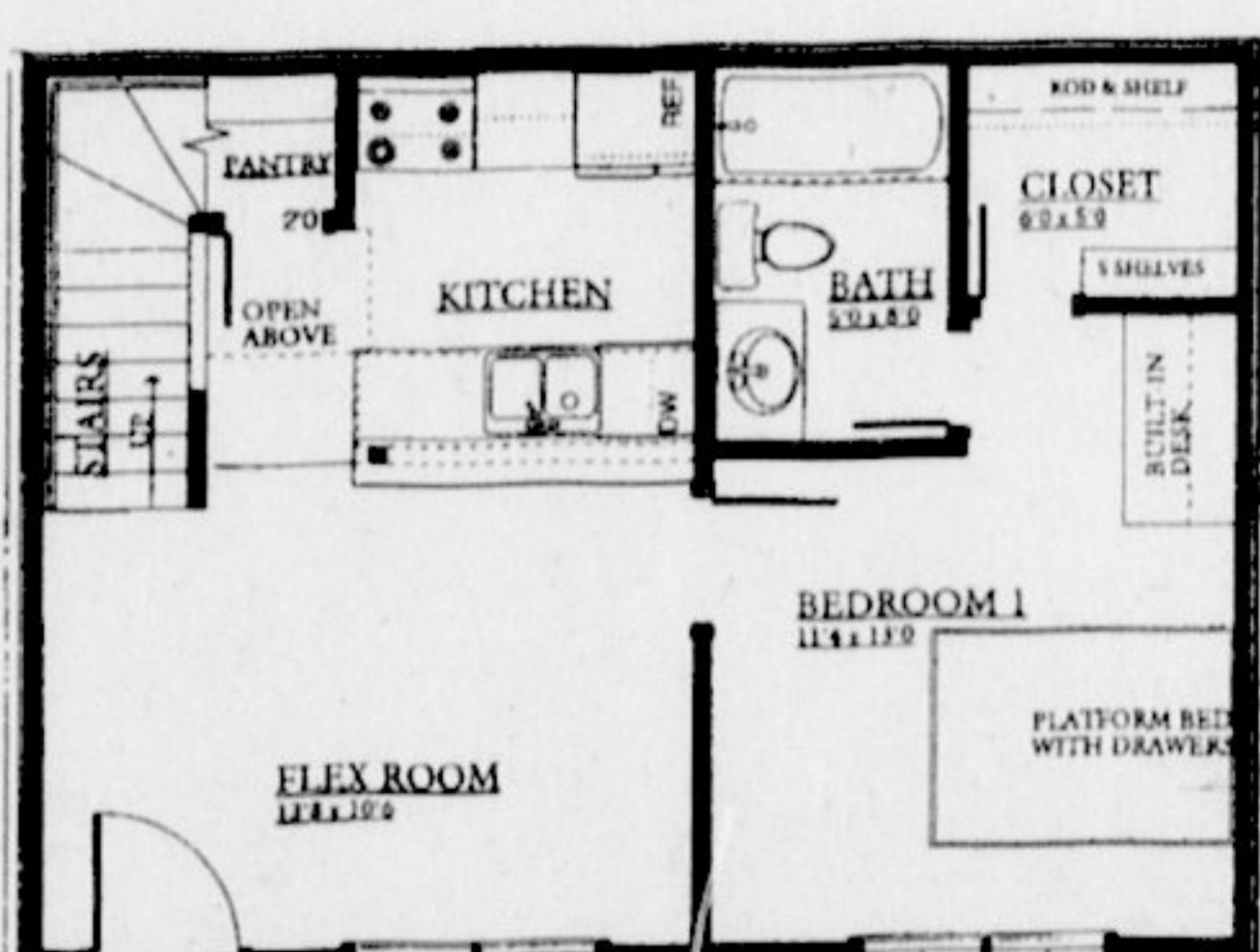
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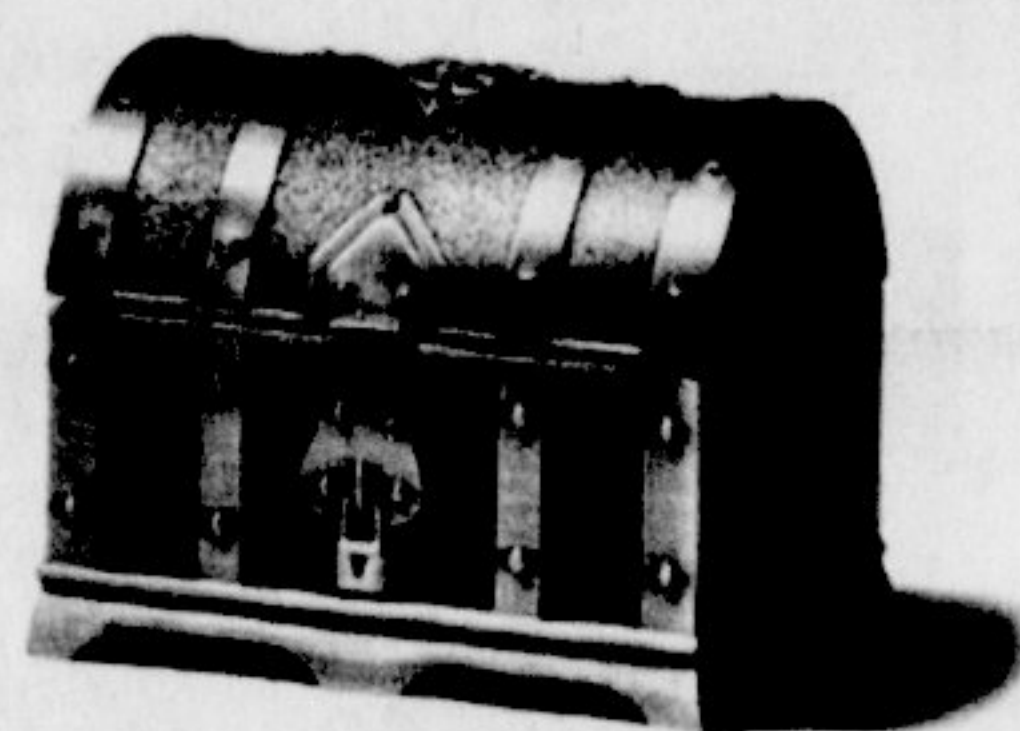
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HOURS	Wednesday & Thursday, December 7&8	9:00 <sub>A.M.</sub> to 6:00 <sub>P.M.</sub>
	Friday, December 9	9:00 <sub>A.M.</sub> to 7:00 <sub>P.M.</sub>
	Saturday, December 10	10:00 <sub>A.M.</sub> to 5:00 <sub>P.M.</sub>
	Sunday, December 11	CLOSED
	Monday-Friday, December 12-16	9:00 <sub>A.M.</sub> to 7:00 <sub>P.M.</sub>
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HOURS	Saturday, December 17	9:00 <sub>A.M.</sub> to 6:00 <sub>P.M.</sub>
<b>U.B.E. Remote Book Buyback at the Alpha Phi House</b>		
(Bottom of College Hill) Just jog down to Alpha Phi and trade those books for cold cash!		
HOURS	Wednesday, December 7	9:00 <sub>A.M.</sub> to 5:00 <sub>P.M.</sub>
	Thursday, December 8	NO REMOTE (READING DAY)
	Friday, December 9	9:00 <sub>A.M.</sub> to 5:00 <sub>P.M.</sub>
	Saturday & Sunday, December 10-11	NO REMOTE/CLOSED
	Monday-Friday, December 12-16	9:00 <sub>A.M.</sub> to 5:00 <sub>P.M.</sub>

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