



Students', professors' rules for dating



Don Joyner discusses tuition options with students.

Students and professors have certain guidelines for what can and cannot be done in terms of mingling and relationships at school.

Student response is mixed

RACHEL KING
STAFF WRITER

ECU's faculty manual states that the school "does not condone amorous relationships between students and employees. Members of the University community should avoid such liaisons which can harm affected students and damage the integrity of the academic enterprise."

This section also mentions the possibility of criminal liability

ity should the student in question be under the age of 18. However, that statement only scratches the surface of a somewhat-sensitive issue on campus: Who defines what an "improper relationship" is and why has the university adopted this policy?

The policy stipulates that there are two situations in particular that are prohibited at ECU. One is when a student is having a relationship with an employee that "is responsible for evaluating or supervising the affected student," and the other concerns having a relationship with a student

that "is a minor, as defined by North Carolina law."

Basically, if a student is dating an employee that is responsible for giving a grade at the end of the semester, or any employee that has any bearing on a student's academic performance, the relationship is prohibited. Such actions are "subject to disciplinary action" by the university.

Those are the rules, but every policy needs definition. Here are some pertinent definitions to this particular policy.

What is an amorous relationship? "An amorous relationship

exists," states the faculty manual, "when, without the benefit of marriage, two persons as consenting partners (a) have a sexual union or (b) engage in a romantic partnering or courtship that may or may not have been consummated sexually." To be in a position to "evaluate" or "supervise" a student, means "To assess, determine or influence (1) one's academic performance, progress or potential or (2) one's entitlement to or eligibility for any institutionally conferred

see **RELATIONSHIP** page A3

Proposed tuition increase intended to help students in need

Campus-based tuition increase causes mixed feelings

RACHEL KING
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday evening's open forum for proposed campus-based tuition increase drew curious students and allowed everyone to voice opinions and concerns that he or she may have about the possibility of higher tuition bills.

Don Joyner, senior associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Kevin Seitz, vice chancellor for administration and finance, fielded student questions and concerns. They also explained some of the finer points of the proposal, which would increase a student's campus-based tuition by about \$100 a semester.

If implemented, 50 percent of the increase would go toward financial aid and student access, said Joyner. This would assist students who have financial aid. Thirty percent would go to the Faculty Retention Program, which maintains the salaries of ECU faculty, and would provide the funds necessary to keep quality instructors at ECU since the state does not always supply the desired funds. The final 20 percent is aimed at Student Academic Enhancement, which is a key to student success.

"We need to provide opportunities to allow students to become more scholarly and to have more educational opportunities outside of the classroom," said Joyner.

The increase would also help to initiate a "value-added educational opportunity," which is basically anything that is an extracurricular activity. ECU is striving to create new programs for students to make them well rounded, including leadership programs, advising programs and skill development programs.

Joyner refers to some aspects of the increase as "students helping students" because of the new programs that will be offered if the increase is made. He also feels strongly about the school's responsibility to give back to the community.

"One of our charges as an institution is to economically help eastern North Carolina," Joyner said.

"We have a responsibility to our communities to help their high school students that don't even know that they, too, can go to college."

This goal can be achieved by taking half the increase and putting it toward assisting students who have financial aid.

"One of the best ways to help a community develop economically is through education," Joyner said.

What will students get out of the increase?

For some, the answer is help. There are around 1,200 students at ECU who come from families that fall under 150 percent or less of the state's poverty level, which equates to around an annual income of \$22,000 for a family of four. In the state, there are 13-14 Tier 1 counties, which have been described as the lower echelon counties. Of those, around 10 are in eastern North Carolina and need economic development, which is what inspires the tuition increase.

One student asked how those who come from other states will benefit from the proposed increase. The response was to reiterate that the funds going toward financial aid benefit anyone who receives financial aid, regardless of where he or she resides.

"The proposed fee increases – some of them – are simply ridiculous," said Erick Smithwick, graduate student in business administration.

Some of the increases Smithwick referred to were those for the Athletic Department and a prepaid legal service for students who get into trouble at school. Seitz addressed these concerns, stating how the Athletic Department is "in the middle of the pack" in terms of funds it receives due to tuition compared to the rest of the UNC system schools. The prepaid legal service has been "taken off the table," and consequently will not be part of the increase.

"Those types of increases are detrimental to students," Smithwick said.

"I just don't see why students have to bear the burden."

A panel called "How to Look at Tuition over Time," was formed earlier this year to address and scrutinize tuition. Its goal was to answer questions like "How do we keep tuition affordable?" or "How do we cover our needs as a university?"

"One of the most difficult things to do is balance out the cost/benefit equation here," said Seitz.

"The equation has two parts: revenue and expenses. As the school grows, expenses grow."

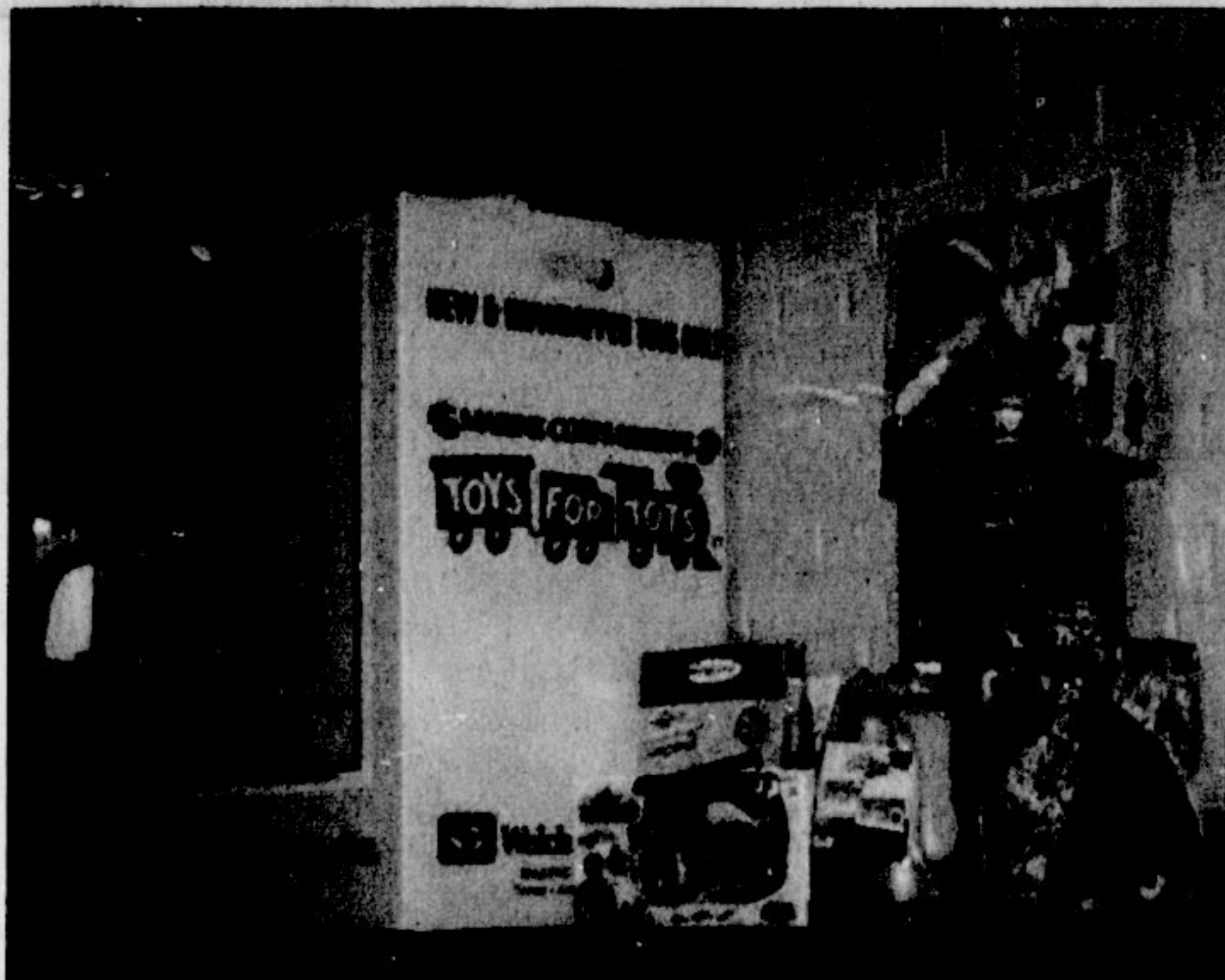
The revenue has to balance out and if we don't get the revenue we need from the state, it has to come from elsewhere. This is a big institution."

A major issue that rose during the forum was safety and whether or not any of the tuition increase would go toward making the campus safer for students.

"We didn't use fee or tuition money, but we have put in a different proposal for campus safety which includes adding new officers," Seitz said.

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

SHC sponsors charity drive



Toys for Tots is a giving tradition started by the Marine Corps.

Toys for Tots drive aids needy children

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Student Health

The drive encourages everyone in the community to donate toys during Christmas season for needy children. Everyone is encouraged to donate.

Toys donated are required to be new and packaged. Used toys are not allowed.

With no outside support, the drive is a purely grassroots effort at giving back to the community.

"The drive is going very well so far," said Ellen Goldberg, Student Health Center representative.

"The toys are on display at the student health center."

According to marforres.usmc.mil, the Toys for Tots program was started back in 1947 by U.S. Marine Corps reservists. Taking place in Los Angeles, Calif., the Toys for Tots came about when Major Bill Hendricks noticed there were no charities that distributed toys for the Christmas season.

With Hendricks efforts, the charity managed to collect 5,000 toys the first year the program took place. Since then, the drive has spread into a national event with businesses and communities of all types holding collection boxes. The aim is to teach disadvantaged children the meaning of holiday giving through a new toy.

The program has grown tremendously since its inception. In the past four years alone, Toys for Tots has collected and distributed more than 30 million toys. Since the program came about, the Toys for Tots program has given away 231 million toys to more than 116 million children.

The drive at the Student Health Center will be finishing up Dec. 7.

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Great Decisions course set for next semester



Great Decisions is essentially a study of global affairs and policy.

Speakers from around nation to speak at international symposium

SCOTT EATON
STAFF WRITER

A seminar style course about international issues will be held at ECU in the spring semester for

eight consecutive Saturdays from Jan. 21 - Mar. 11.

Great Decisions is a program created for the university as well as the community that includes discussions and presentations on international affairs, national security and U.S. foreign policy.

"The programs are targeted for anyone yearning to learn more about international issues

the United States faces currently," said Kirsten Lee, junior psychology major and political science minor, who is acting as the refreshment coordinator and publicist at the university level for the seminars.

Issues in the course will include reform of the United Nations, human rights in the face of terrorism, U.S. relations with Iran and global health issues with a focus on pandemics, Lee said.

"Speakers from many professions will be presenting such as Thomas Guedes Da Costa from the National Defense University, Dr. Jalil Roshandel from Duke University and several other experts on the scheduled issues," Lee said.

The hour-long lectures, which begin at 10 a.m. each Saturday, will be followed by a short break with refreshments and then a question and answer period that will last until noon.

"It is important for students, faculty and community members to attend the programs because feedback will be retrieved and sent directly to federal policy makers in the U.S. State Department," Lee said.

"This is an opportunity to voice

opinions of those who attend."

Next year, Richard Kilroy, visiting assistant professor of political science and assistant director of military programs, intends to allow the newly formed local World Affairs Council, a 501(c)(3) local organization, take over the planning and execution of the lectures.

"We tried to bring in the community and students and get them involved, so we're hoping the World Affairs Council, which is evolving, can take over next year," said Kilroy.

Great Decisions is also being offered as a graduate level course and will be videotaped and offered on Blackboard, he said.

The programs are free for ECU students and faculty, although a briefing book can be purchased for an additional charge of \$20.

Individuals interested in earning academic credit for taking part in Great Decisions can call 328-2349.

For more information, visit ecu.edu/cs-acad/cpe/great-decisions.cfm.

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

Announcements

Book Donations

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

Toys for Tots

Student Health Service will be collecting new, unwrapped toys until Friday, Dec. 9 as part of the annual Toys for Tots program. The drop box is located in the lobby of Student Health Service. For more information, contact Georgia Childs or Ellen Goldberg at 328-6841.

New Musical

John and Jen, a new musical, will begin 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, onvise@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. 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, and Thursday, Dec. 8 is Reading Day. Exams begin Friday, Dec. 9 and end at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Commencement is Saturday, Dec. 17. Classes for the spring semester resume on Friday, Jan. 6.

Commuter Breakfast

Adult Commuter Services is offering a Good Morning Commuter Breakfast from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7 in Brewster B-104.

Christmas Break Parking

Freshman Parking Permits will be honored in student parking Zone B2 on 5th/Reade, 4th/Reade, 3rd/Reade and in the A2 zone gravel lot only 14th Street beginning 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. The earlier time for freshman permits in these zones is to accommodate individuals loading their vehicles. Loading permits may be obtained from the Residence Halls Neighborhood Service Desks. ECU Red Line provides transportation to the freshman lot. Please contact ECU transit or check their Web site to confirm departure and arrival times. The Freshman Shuttle will run 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Unregistered vehicles for move-out must display a one-day permit from the Department of Parking and Transportation Services in order to utilize a 30-minute loading permit. Loading Permits may be obtained from Parking and Transportation Services when purchasing a one day permit. The 30-minute loading permit is not valid in lieu of a University parking permit.

Grief Workshop

The Center for Counseling and Student Development will present a grief workshop on Thursday, Dec. 8 at noon in Wright Building 316. This one-time workshop will be for students who have lost a loved one (romantic partner, friend or family member). The workshop will be facilitated by Angela Holman, counselor at the Center for Counseling and Student Development. Information about grief and bereavement will be provided. Development of coping skills and support services that are available on campus also will be discussed. For more information, contact Center for Counseling and Student Development, 328-6661. Advance registration will not be required.

Briefs 12-7

State

Yadkin commissioners seek referendum on wine sales

YADKINVILLE, NC (AP) - Wineries are a big part of Yadkin County's growing tourist industry. But except in five vineyard tasting rooms and the town of Yadkinville you can't buy a glass of wine within its borders.

County commissioners want voters to say whether they'd like that to change. They voted 5-0 Monday night to hold a referendum some time next year probably February or March on whether to legalize the sale of wine throughout the county.

The county's Economic Development Council recommended the ballot. Tourism revenue in Yadkin County rose from \$24.17 million to \$26.95 million an 11.5 percent jump between 2003 and 2004, according to the state Department of Commerce.

Every county around Yadkin allows wine sales, and it's also legal in Yadkinville after voters in 2003 voted 317-315 to legalize the sale of wine, though not beer or mixed drinks. Federal and state laws allow vineyards and wineries to sell their own wine on their properties. The county now has five tasting rooms, the newest of which Flint Hill Vineyards outside East Bend opened in October.

Legalizing wine sales throughout the county would provide an incentive for tourists who visit those vineyards to eat in the county's restaurants and stay in its hotels, industry participants say.

Navy to conduct flights to analyze sound

PLYMOUTH, NC (AP) - Navy jet fighters will fly over fields and forests of eastern North Carolina for two days this week to collect data on noise levels and the effect of jet noise on wildlife.

The flights will be conducted by F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft. Navy

leaders want to build a landing strip in Washington and Beaufort counties. The strip would let jets practice night carrier landings without the distracting lights currently near a field in Virginia.

The proposed \$186 million project would be built in the middle of a 30,000-acre site.

Opponents of the project sued in federal court and an appeals court said the Navy didn't properly consider environmental damage the field may cause. Judges on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last month that the Navy must conduct more studies but could move ahead with preliminary work at the site, which is 3.5 miles from the refuge where thousands of geese, ducks and swans spend the winter.

The Navy said which days the flights will occur depends on weather conditions.

National

More on hurricane aftermath

WASHINGTON (AP) - Facing a growing body count and shortages of food, water and ice, federal emergency officials braced for riots in Mississippi in the days following Hurricane Katrina, new documents reveal.

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials knew their response system had been shattered by the Aug. 29 storm and were unable to provide fast help even when the needs were obvious.

"This is unlike what we have seen before," William Carville, FEMA's former top responder in Mississippi, said in a Sept. 1 e-mail to officials at the agency's headquarters. He was describing difficulties in getting body bags and refrigerated trucks to Hancock County, Miss., which was badly damaged by the storm. Carville wrote that he personally authorized Hancock County to buy refrigeration trucks because "the coroner was going to have to start

putting bodies out in the parking lot." The next day, in another e-mail to headquarters about substandard levels of food, water and ice being distributed in Mississippi, Carville reported, "System appears broken."

The eight pages of correspondence among FEMA officials, provided Monday by a special House committee investigating the government response to the storm, followed the release last week by Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco of more than 100,000 documents. Taken together, the details from both states provide evidence of a system in disarray. The House Government Reform Committee, chaired by Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., is reviewing hundreds of thousands of documents from local, state and federal officials who were involved in the disaster relief effort.

People in countries allied with U.S. concerned about interrogation of terror suspects

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is traveling in Europe this week, said Monday the United States is following all laws and treaties on the treatment of terrorism suspects and has shared intelligence with its allies that has "helped protect European countries from attack, saving European lives." Like other U.S. officials, Rice has refused to answer the underlying question of whether the CIA operated secret, Soviet-era prisons in Eastern Europe and whether CIA flights carried al-Qaida prisoners through European airports. She said the U.S. "will use every lawful weapon to defeat these terrorists."

Officials with the European Union and in at least a half-dozen European countries are investigating the reports of secret U.S. interrogations in eastern Europe. The EU has threatened to revoke voting rights of any nation in the European Union that was host to a clandestine detention center.

After the report of secret prisons overseas, President Bush said, "We do not torture."

U.S. military forces have held hundreds of suspects at known installations outside the United States, including at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The U.S. has adopted aggressive interrogation techniques since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks techniques some fear occasionally cross the line into torture.

The Bush administration has taken the position that some terrorism suspects are "enemy combatants" not protected by the Geneva Conventions, which are international treaties that, among other things, spell out the rights of prisoners of war. In 2002, a group of Justice Department lawyers prepared internal memos that gave the government more freedom in the aggressive interrogation of terrorist suspects.

World

Iranian military plane hits tall building in Tehran suburbs, killing at least 119

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - An Iranian military transport plane crashed into a 10-story apartment building in the suburbs of the capital Tuesday, killing at least 119 people, according to state media and Tehran's mayor. Police said wreckage from the plane also hit a gasoline station.

All 94 passengers and crew of the plane were killed, Mayor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf told The Associated Press.

Tehran state radio said that of the building's residents, 25 people were killed and 15 were injured. Firefighters managed to put out the fire in the building, which was damaged and charred but still standing. The plane's wreckage was scattered around the building, which police cordoned off.

The C-130 aircraft struck the building while trying to return to Tehran's

Mehrabad airport, state television reported. The building is in the Towhid residential complex, a series of high-rise apartment buildings for army personnel.

The plane, which belonged to the army air force, carried 84 passengers and 10 crew members, Iranian television reported. The official Islamic Republic News Agency said the passengers were journalists who were going to cover a military maneuver in southern Iran.

Female suicide bombers kills scores at Baghdad police academy

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Two women strapped with explosives blew themselves up at Baghdad's police academy on Tuesday, killing 27 people and wounding 32, the U.S. military said.

The women blew themselves up in a classroom filled with students, the statement from Task Force Baghdad said. No U.S. forces were killed or wounded in the attack, it added.

U.S. forces rushed to the scene to provide assistance, the statement said. Iraqi police said one bomb exploded in a cafeteria, while the other detonated during roll call. Police Lt. Ali Mi'tab said the women were probably students at the academy, which is why they were not searched.

Five other female police officers were among the dead, he added. Iraqi insurgents have concentrated their attacks against Iraqi security forces. Tuesday's attack was the deadliest against Iraqi forces since Feb. 28, when a suicide car bomber attacked mostly Shiite police and National Guard recruits in Hillah, killing 125.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld acknowledged that the insurgency has been stronger than anticipated, but he also said the news media have focused on the war's growing body count rather than progress that has been achieved.

New suite dorm for College Hill



Photo by Zach Strawn

The new dorm is constructed a few yards from Todd Dining Hall.

New College Hill residence hall

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

A new residence hall is set to open in the College Hill neighborhood in August 2006 that will offer students somewhere truly suite to live.

The new suite style dorm will offer all new amenities including a kitchenette with a full refrigerator, kitchen sink and microwave, and a private bathroom for each double occupancy room.

The suitesmates will share a common public area as well. The public area will contain a sofa, a chair and the kitchenette.

Aaron Lucier, associate director of campus living, revealed that the dorm would contain some of the basic features students currently have access to.

"The new building will have some of the basic features that our current dorms have," said Lucier.

"Mainly, it's the Internet service, cable television and the laundry service that's included as part of the room rent."

The dorms will also include a few extra features. A large lounge area and conference room will be included in the residence hall.

"In addition, we use the term suite for Belk and Scott currently but these are true suites," Lucier said.

"It's almost like a mini apartment."

According to Lucier, a kitchenette will be placed in each suite. This will give students the opportunity to cook meals more often and not have to depend as heavily on meal plans.

"In addition, there will be a floor kitchen on each floor with a full stove," Lucier said.

"So if somebody really wants to roast a turkey for Thanksgiving, that will still be available to them down the hall."

A special meal plan will be offered to students living in the new residence hall. This will offer more flexibility for students as far as spending money on meals and

not depending so heavily on the meal plan according to Lucier.

Freshmen will not be able to experience living in the new dorm. Only upperclassmen will have the opportunity to live in the dorm.

"We feel that freshmen will benefit more from the community living style where they're really going to have the interaction with the whole floor and get something out of that experience and then find this as a better solution for people in their sophomore and junior years," Lucier said.

The new residence hall is a \$32 million dollar project according to Lucier. The cost of the project will result in higher prices to live in the new dorm as opposed to the current price of campus living.

"The building will be approximately 12 percent higher than the current air-conditioned double room," Lucier said.

This dorm is the first residence hall built since 1968. ECU decided to build the new dorm because they believed students wanted new amenities that were not available in the current dorms according to Lucier.

When asked whether or not the new dorm would be a big improvement from the other dorms, Kim Riddick, sophomore exercise physiology major, had a strong message about the idea of what the students think about the new dorm.

"Most definitely," said Riddick.

"A dorm setup like a suite-style apartment would definitely be something that ECU is looking forward to."

The College Hill neighborhood was the only area on campus with enough space to build such a big project. The new residence hall will be called College Hill Suites.

If the new dorm project stays on schedule as it is now, it will be finished in late July and will be ready for students by August 2006.

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Uncensored: Squirrels gone wild



Photos.com

Squirrels are all over campus.

College co-eds not only wild ones on campus

LISA DEVRIES
STAFF WRITER

They can be seen sprinting across the mall in a frantic rush or perched upon trees eating their nuts, but how much is really known about these spastic little creatures?

Recent evidence suggests they should not be trusted as much as they have been in the past.

Squirrelly resident, "Dave the Brave," who got his name after darting across a pathway seconds before the football team trampled that same spot, said there is a lack of consideration on the part of ECU for squirrels.

"A lot of people don't under-

stand us - they think all we do is sit around or run up trees in circles," said Brave.

"Well, we're tired of being treated like second-class citizens - we were on this campus first, and it will soon return to our paws!"

Should ECU worry? Most campus residents dismiss it as nonsense but a growing number of students are becoming eerily aware of their increasing presence. One close encounter involved Randall Powell, senior philosophy major.

Two weeks ago as he sat contemplating the metaphysical nature of squirrels, he noticed one of these furry creatures

was indeed staring back at him. Unable to divert the squirrel's gaze, he found himself trapped in a stare down. He thought nothing of it ... until the animal lunged at him with rabid vigor.

"If I hadn't ducked, he would have latched on to my face, man!" said Powell.

The reporter, a brilliant investigator and journalist, was able to track down that very squirrel. When asked about his behavior, Squirrel #64285 complained about his troubles sustaining enough food.

"I'm tired of people stepping on my acorns," said #64285.

"I mean, I have kids to feed, you know? I know it probably wasn't that particular guy's fault but the rage has just been getting to me, so I lashed out at the first person who looked me in the eye."

At this, #64285 spat on the ground

and ran off to join his posse, who was standing guard at a nearby bench.

Some suspect the squirrels are currently building up an army for an upcoming military coup. In addition to the "Take Back the Campus" march witnessed last week, some campus-goers claim they have caught glimpses of so-called "mini-gyms" in the highest branches, leading them to believe the animals may be preparing for a showdown.

According to one eyewitness, Amanda Johnson, senior communication major, the squirrels are definitely up to something.

"The other day, I saw a squirrel drag a piece of pepperoni pizza twice its size up a tree!" said Johnson.

"I thought only ants could do that sort of thing ... and all the while it was giving me this evil look, like it wanted to say, 'don't touch my pizza or I'll cut you!' ... it was scary."

Who will have the final say in this intra-species showdown? Should humans trust that their usually non-violent behavior will dominate the emerging movement or should mankind prepare for an all-out revolt? Does their subordinate position in ECU society make an attack inevitable? Regardless of your position, it cannot be denied these squirrels are upset and they are not going to take it anymore.

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

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

NOAH WYLE, Star of NBC's hit show ER

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Relationship from page A1

right, benefit or opportunity or (3) to oversee, manage or direct one's academic... activities."

What this means is this policy does not only affect instructors, it may affect many other types of employees as well.

Furthermore, if a student has had an amorous relationship with an employee in the past, he or she may not be enrolled in that employee's class or put under that employee's authority. This also goes for relationships of blood, law or marriage.

In comparison, Duke University has a very similar policy, as do many other North Carolina universities.

Duke's Policy on consensual relations states, "No faculty member should enter into a consensual relationship with a student actually under that faculty member's authority."

Why?
"Having consensual relationships with subordinates is likely to interfere in the ability of a superior to act and make decisions fairly and without favoritism. Even if the superior is able to avoid being biased, the other people in the workplace or

learning environment are likely to see themselves as being less favored and as disadvantaged by the personal relationship."

On the other hand, Winston Salem State University's consensual relationships policy is very different.

"While consenting romantic and sexual relationships between faculty and student, or between supervisor and employee are not expressly forbidden, such relationships are deemed inappropriate. Faculty are warned that where a power differential exists, i.e. faculty-student, supervisor-employee, if a charge of sexual harassment is brought, the defense of mutual consent will be exceedingly difficult to prove," according to Winston Salem State University's policy.

Although it is not expressly forbidden, faculty/student relationships have to be handled carefully here as well, due to the possibility of sexual harassment lawsuits.

For many students, faculty relationships are not at the forefront of their thoughts. However, when asked, some students had a good deal to say about ECU's policy and the subject in general.

"I don't like it," said freshman Josh Herring.

"Teachers should be able to date students. It's a free country and we're adults now."

"If you want to date somebody, be it your teacher or a janitor, you should be able to. Go for it," said Kayla Mautz, freshman exercise physiology major.

"I agree with the policy, but after you're out of their class, they're fair game," said Chelsea Parker, freshman nursing major.

"I've heard of situations where it (a relationship) does happen and not only does it question the credibility of the student and the professor, it questions the department and the institution in itself," said Craig Veltri, sophomore communication major.

"I'm for the policy ... but if I had a hot professor and I could get an 'A,' well ..."

"Having the policy is the right thing to do because more than likely it (a relationship) will influence grades," said Emily Hancock, freshman elementary education major.

"There should be no kind of

relationship outside of a professional one."

"I have no problem with it," said Jim Bynum, junior English major.

"If it happens, it happens. You should be honest with who you have a relationship with, and there shouldn't be any bias."

"I'd have to agree with the policy because of the young students," said Matthew Lovell, freshman communication sciences and disorders major.

"I mean, you have graduate students and older students, and it's different... I guess it's the age difference [between instructor and student] that make the biggest difference to me."

"If a student is not enrolled in a teacher's class and they're willing participants, they should be able to do what they want, definitely," said Ashley Williams, freshman art major.

"It just depends on what the ages are," said Jeff Felton, freshman print journalism major.

"I guess it's okay. These are people's personal lives."

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

Her identity secret, woman testifies at Saddam trial that she was tortured

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A woman testified at the Saddam Hussein trial Tuesday behind a beige curtain and with her voice disguised, telling the court of beatings, torture and sexual humiliation when she was a teenager at the hands of security agents.

The ousted Iraqi president sat stone-faced and silent during the woman's testimony but later exploded with anger. Waving a finger and pounding his desk, he told the judges to "go to hell" and vowed not to return to court when the trial resumes Wednesday.

Saddam, dressed again in a dark suit and white shirt and clutching a Quran, complained that he and the seven other defendants were tired and had been deprived of opportunities to shower, have a change of clothes, exercise or go for a smoke. "This is terrorism," he said.

The defendants are charged in the deaths of more than 140 Shiite Muslims in retaliation for an assassination attempt against him in the town of Dujail in 1982. Saddam accused Iran of ordering the attempt on his life.

Five witnesses — two women and three men — testified in the fourth session of the trial, all of them hidden from the public view

and with their voices disguised to protect their identities.

The most dramatic testimony came from the woman identified only as "Witness A," who was a 16-year-old girl at the time of the crackdown. Her voice breaking with emotion, she told the court of beatings and electric shocks by the former president's agents.

"I was forced to take off my clothes, and he raised my legs up and tied my hands. He continued administering electric shocks and whipping me and telling me to speak," Witness A said of Wadah al-Sheik, an Iraqi intelligence officer who died of cancer last month while in American custody.

The woman broke down several times as she struggled to maintain her composure. "God is great. Oh, my Lord!" she said, moaning.

Such treatment of a young woman is gravely offensive in traditional Arab culture, and Saddam was careful to avoid any insulting gesture in Tuesday's session, which was televised in Iraq. On Monday, he had angrily challenged male witnesses, insulting them and suggesting one needed psychiatric treatment.

"Witness A" strongly suggested she had been raped, but did not say so outright. When

Chief Judge Rizgar Mohammed Amin asked her about the "assault," she said: "I was beaten up and tortured by electrical shocks" but repeated that she had been ordered to undress.

"They made me put my legs up. There were more than one of them, as if I were their banquet, maybe more than five people, all of them officers," she said.

"Is that what happens to the virtuous woman that Saddam speaks about?" she wept, prompting the judge to advise her to stick to the facts.

She later quoted a security officer as telling her, "You should thank your God because you are here in the Intelligence Center. If you were in the directorate of security, no woman would remain a virgin."

Nevertheless, she also said security guards raped many fellow female detainees.

When asked by the judge which of the defendants she wanted to accuse, "Witness A" identified Saddam. "When so many people are jailed and tortured, who makes such a decision?" she said.

By the end of the day, Saddam was back to his combative style.

"I will not return," he shouted after the court decided to convene



Hussein reads the Quran.

again Wednesday. "I will not come to an unjust court! Go to Hell!"

Under Iraqi law, a court can force a defendant to attend a trial if he is not willing, said Iraqi lawyer Bassem al-Khalili.

But it was unclear whether the court would force the issue of Saddam's attendance. The court has shown considerable deference to the former president, tolerating frequent outbursts in violation of local rules of procedure.

Measures taken to preserve the witnesses' anonymity complicated the testimony. At first, defense attorneys complained they could not hear Witness A because of the voice distortion.

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Our View

Toothpaste confusion:
Common household
items a source of
inspiration and depth

"For best results, squeeze tube from bottom."

Supposed words of wisdom, printed on the side
of my brand-new Aquafresh toothpaste tube.

But are they really?

Will I have diminished results if I squeeze the
tube in the middle? Or, daringly, from the top?

My mother always cites one's toothpaste
tube squeezing method as a prime example
of a small detail that could make or break a
relationship, as if such a miniscule difference
in preference could overrule heaps of shared
interests, common goals or beliefs.

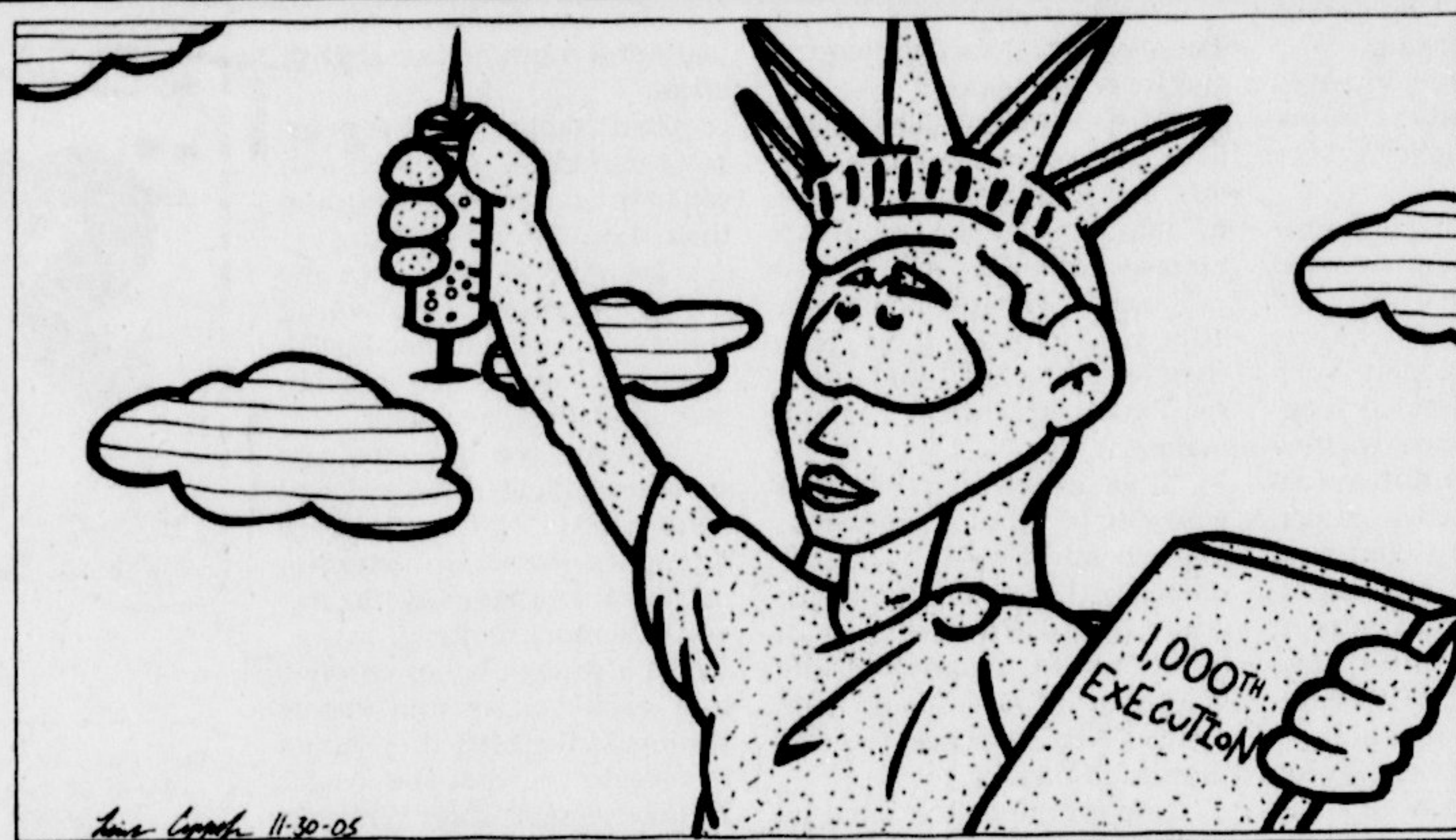
I never believed her, but now I'm starting to
wonder.

Are details what make us who we really are?
Surely they are what make us unique - many
highly valued things in life are appreciated
almost entirely for their details. The quote "it's
the little things in life" does ring true.

But if, in an effort to obtain the best results, we
miss, or lose, these little things - what then? If
we all squeeze the tube from the bottom, will
we be happier? If we don't, will we still get our
money's worth?

Perhaps we should put more thought into our
seemingly insignificant actions, the details of
our lives.

Perhaps it doesn't matter where we squeeze
the toothpaste, as long as we make damn sure
to get every last ounce out of the tube.



Opinion Columnist

Passion can be more than skin deep

Anything worth doing
should be done with pride

BENJAMIN CORMACK
CASUAL OBSERVER

I feel like I should apologize
for last week's article. It wasn't
exactly one that I put as much
effort into as I have for others.
What can I say? It was after the
holidays, I was full of turkey, I
have exams, final papers and
projects coming up... it's the per-
fect formula for writer's block.

It was especially nerve wracking
with it being close to the last article
I have to write for the semester. I'm
guessing that a lot of you can prob-
ably sympathize, especially since
the end of this semester means
similar things for all of us. Some
of you are finishing your first semester
at college, others are moving on
in your education either through
grad-school or just continuing your
college education and then some
of you are actually graduating. Who-
ever you are, whatever your major,
whatever your situation, we're all
going to inevitably face choices
about having careers. Whatever it is
you, my readers, plan to do, I hope
you find jobs that you not only
enjoy but are also passionate about.

Frankly, I don't think we
really see a lot of passion in what
people do in today's world. To
be honest, today's way of think-
ing seems to be to make a lot
of money with as little effort as
possible. As crazy as it may sound
to some, I can't imagine someone
with that kind of attitude being
very satisfied with their lives.
Sure money is nice, but it can't
replace true satisfaction.

Many of the professors I've
had here at ECU are very pas-
sionate about what they teach
and study. However, I can only
assume that this would only
serve to bore you to read about
ECU professors. So let me tell you
about someone else.

In the office and workplace of
a man named Neil Clark, there is
a lot of original artwork as well as
that of other local artists hang-
ing on the walls. However, to see
most of Clark's work you'd proba-
bly have to look on people's arms,
ankles, calves, backs, hips, lower
backs or other various places
on the human body. Neil Clark
is a tattoo artist at Garry's Skin
Grafix in downtown Greenville.
Clark's not only an artist, but a
client as well - his forearms are
practically covered in tattoos.

I interviewed Clark for a class
assignment and while talking to
him I felt this incredible sense
of passion that he had for what
he did. Maybe it was due to the
fact that his education was so old
school, he learned to be a tattoo
artist by being the apprentice of
another. That's something that I
feel you don't really hear about
anymore. Most people today get
their schooling in classrooms
and work programs, while being
an apprentice just has this classic
sense of history and pride about
it. I guess that's what really pulled
me into writing and learning more
about the world of tattoo artists.

Clark told me that he likes
to do a lot of bold color work,
and many of the tattoos that he
enjoys doing the most are comic
book inspired and related. In his
portfolio, he showed me this truly
amazing tattoo he did featuring
the comic book character Spawn.
While the style was not techni-
cally wholly his own, the essence
of his own personal style came
through. The picture itself was
a drawing he had done, and not
copied from a comic book.

The more I thought about
it, I began to realize just how
satisfying such a career can be.
If you think about it, each tattoo
he does is in some way unique.
While tattoo artists do use what
might be considered commercial
tattoos, or "flash" as they refer

to it in the business, Clark says
that he and other artists always
try to add some unique style to it
to satisfy their customers. What
makes it even more unique is that
each person that comes in and
asks Clark to do work on them
becomes, in essence, a living
canvas to display their art. While
someone may get a similar tattoo
in the same place as someone
else, there is always some essence
of individuality and original
quality that can be seen in the
works of artists like Clark.

People who appreciate the
work of Clark and other artists like
him come from all kinds of walks
of life: doctors, lawyers, preach-
ers, construction workers, moms,
dads, grandmothers, etc. To Clark,
making his clients happy, his free-
dom to create, the lack of the suit
and tie and being able to fulfill
his ambition of creating tattoos
that are better than the ones his
friends had is really what makes
his job worthwhile.

Most of America probably
thinks that having a job worth
being passionate about means
wearing a suit and tie, carrying a
briefcase, traveling to exotic
locations and making hundreds
of thousands of dollars. While
that may be true for some, in my
experience it is the jobs where
the actual work matters most and
actually interests and concerns
the workers that have people most
passionate about what they do. Clark
is just one of those kinds of people
I've had the pleasure to meet.

It is my hope that you, my
readers, and I can find jobs where
happiness, pride and satisfaction
can be found - even if it does
mean having to wear a suit and
tie. I just hope that you will base
your happiness and satisfaction
on more than dollars and cents.
In the end, money really only
makes the world go so far. It's that
little extra "oomph" that keeps it
spinning.

Pirate Rant

Contrary to what David Mason said about Higher One,
they don't have our pictures and you won't be charged
for credit when you use the card only debit. So just sign
and save the money!

Look for an interview with a Higher One rep either
today or tomorrow on channel nine WNCT TV. If you
don't catch it, at least go to the forum on Wednesday
because then we can stop wondering about this whole
thing and finally get some answers.

To the girl who thanked me for offering to help her
carry her bags up the stairs last Sunday: you are wel-
come. It's nice to see that there are still some girls on
this campus who actually appreciate a nice gesture.

The opinion section should come with Advil. Tony
McKee's horribly composed, ignorant drivel is headache
inducing.

The only place to stop on 264 is the exit you used to have
to take to go through Wilson... or here in Greenville...
sorry.

I agree with Tony McKee. I hate people who have to take
the Christ out of Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the
season, and this is a country founded by and for Chris-
tians. Read the constitution if you don't believe me.

The Java City daytime staff in Joyner rocks! These
women take pride in their frothed milk. The employees
at most of the other Java City stations don't know the
difference between steamed and frothed milk. If I'm
paying multiple dollars for a cup of cappuccino, I want
great frothed milk. Thanks to the awesome milking
mamas in Joyner who always make my day by froth-
ing so well!

A girl died this past weekend after being hit by a car
at ECU. It is on WRAL online, but not in the school
paper? Not in *The Daily Reflector*? I did not know her,
but I hope she will rest in peace and my prayers are with
her family and the girl who hit her.

Don't cut in line in front of two girls man, the ham and
frozen eggs aren't going anywhere!

If you want to celebrate Christmas with all its symbols,
etc. you have every right to do so in your home. How-
ever, when it comes to public spaces, there is no place
for religious specific symbols in this country.

Either you like me or you don't, make a decision. I
guess I just need to re-read "He's Just Not That Into
You." Apparently, you're still just too into your ex.

After four intensive writing classes, a million pages
to read a week and forgetting what sleep feels like, it's
great to know I can always count on my friends to see
me through such a hectic semester!

Gary McCabe, are you sure you aren't a Democrat? Very
few groups have mastered simultaneously whining with
baseless insults. -Concerned Libertarian

Why do Southern people say "do what now?" when
they cant hear what you said. What's wrong with
"excuse me?"

Why does everyone suddenly have it out for smokers?
Don't you have anything else to worry about? I mean I
know it's bad, but it's our choice and you shouldn't try
to prevent us from smoking outside. If you don't want
smoke in your face when you leave the dorm, then give
smokers a place to smoke.

Those gangster and slang references to George Wash-
ington ... wow I never thought I would be so happy to
be done with U.S. History in my life! Good ol' A.L. how
I will miss you.

Everyone needs to go to the meeting on Higher One
cards Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. in Mendenhall
Hendrix Theater! Even if you don't receive financial
aid, your information, including SS number, was given
to a third party by ECU administration without your
consent. Come to the meeting to learn more about what
we can do to change this!

To all the hot girls I see walking around on campus,
who the hell do you hang out with?

I think the Editor-in-chief should take a spelling, gram-
mar, and an overall writing class.

To the river dancer who lives above me: please practice
during normal business hours.

Don't you think there is already enough negativity
around here? Don't get me wrong I enjoy reading (most
of) the rants but maybe you should consider adding a
"raves" section to this paper. Maybe it will increase the
positive entries. My rave: A million thanks to the few
gentlemen still around who are willing to give up their
seat on an overcrowded bus to a female. I love seeing
that there are still some respectable men that hold on
to traditional values. Your parents did great!

This goes out to all those girls who think they live in
Orange County and worship "Laguna Beach" charac-
ters. Geez... get a life!

Here's an idea... instead of spending outrageous amounts
of money on fountains and stuff like that, how about we
get the dance and theater majors some new facilities? I'm
kind of tired of dancing around columns... Thanks!

To the sweet lady cashier at the Croatan: Thank you for
making me smile every morning at 7:30. You are always
so sweet and kind. You really brighten my day.

I am very thankful for the ECU Transit system. I rely
on it day after day. It would just be nice if they would
come on time and leave on time. I've been left in the
past two weeks because the bus left three minutes before
scheduled time. I have been late for class numerous
times because the bus has been 15-30 minutes late. I
understand traffic, but 15 minutes late I do not under-
stand.

OK, so I learned a very important fact yesterday about
Benjamin Franklin. I wrote a whole paper on him
leading up to his presidency. Newsflash, he was never
a president. Sad thing is, I am a history major. Let's just
say Mr. Ben and I are on bad terms right now.

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

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4353. Call 252-328-9238 for more information. One
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Letters To The Editor

Letter to the Editor,
In response to Tony McKee's
recent editorial, "Liberals Can't
Change Christmas," I have only
one thing to say: Mr. McKee, you
are the problem, not the solution.
I agree that the idea of a "Holiday
tree," is absolutely ridiculous.
Name one other holiday that
incorporates a tree and I can see a
point to the madness. It's a Christ-
mas tree. I don't have a problem
with that. I don't have a problem
with cashiers saying, "Merry
Christmas." I do, however, have
a problem with your approach to
the issue. You are a farce.

I've sat back and read your tripe
week after week and I just can't
take it anymore. You use the word
"liberal" as if it were an expletive.
I consider myself to be a liberal. I
also consider myself to be a patriot.
I consider you to be a mindless
buffoon who only regurgitates
"talking points" and shouts blindly
rather than dialogue intelligently
and peacefully. You, sir, are what
is wrong with this country. You,
sir, are what has polarized us.

It is your type of thinking
that has created the political
schism that is now so evident in
the mood of this country. Things
are not that simple. Politics are
not that clear. Issues are complex,
dynamic and delicate. Nothing
is so cut-and-dry as to say that
conservatives are the problem
or that liberals are. There are
subtle shades of gray. You don't
seem to realize that or don't
want to. I'm tired of people like
you doing all of the talking. The
silent majority of this nation has
stood by patiently waiting for
fools like you to stop shouting
into the void and let us live our
lives in peace. So I say, "Happy
Holidays," to that weary silent
majority. We all deserve a joyous

break from blowhards, windbags
and wannabes.
Jeremy Hartzell
ECU Graduate Student

Dear Editor,

The common route for many
students is to live in a residence
hall their freshman year at col-
lege. Following this custom, I
now call a dormitory home as
well. For the most part, my expe-
rience with the dorms at ECU has
been more than satisfactory. The
camaraderie developed between
the people within my suite helps
the year pass by. However, some
of the policies that govern these
buildings shape them to be more
like prisons than anything else.
Universities must be willing to
give students the same liberties
they would in an apartment since
they are already willing to charge
the same high price and follow
the same lease contract.

Perhaps the most controversial
rule in the dorms is that we are
not allowed to have visitors of the
opposite sex, regardless of relation,
in our rooms from the hours of
2-8 a.m. This rule makes it very
difficult for my sister to visit me,
because she will have to pay to stay
at a hotel instead of simply staying
with me during her visit, which is
an inconvenience to say the least.
Even if it was not a relative, what
malicious acts occur between 2
and 8 a.m. that cannot be between
midnight and 2 a.m.? The visita-
tion policy also stipulates that only
two visitors of the same sex may
stay on weekend and absolutely
no visitor is allowed to stay during
the week.

Campus living also reserves
the right to serve any resident
with a policy violation for pos-
session of alcohol or evidence
of intoxication. I am not argu-

ing whether or not it is right
for people drinking underage
to go without consequence, but
rather that campus living should
not be the ones to enforce this.
If someone is drinking in the
confines of their own room and
not bothering anyone else, there
should be no problem. The only
time disciplinary action should
be taken is if someone is causing
harm or disturbing the peace,
in which case the police should
handle the situation.

Any violation of these or any
other of the numerous policies will
result in a meeting with the warden,
or residence hall coordinator, as it
reads on his door. From there he
determines whether you leave with
a warning or a meeting with the
judicial officers on campus. If a
resident decides he or she is fed up
with the unjust rules, as many of us
are beginning to realize, there is no
option to get money back because we
all signed a nine-month lease prior
to moving in, a prison sentence to
most. In a nutshell, if we are to pay
the same high cost of an apartment
and abide by the same lease con-
tract, we should also be given the
freedom as if we lived on our own.

ECU has been slow to recog-
nize the demands for of its stu-
dents living on campus. Just this
year, the university has started a
pilot program letting visitors stay
overnight in upper class dorms,
regardless of gender. In order for
ECU to change its unjust policies
more quickly than the current rate,
we need to tell them our demands
as students living on campus. And
if they still refuse to cooperate,
they will have to deal with the
loss of profit when more and more
potential residents choose to live
in an apartment or house.

Joseph Gill
ECU Student

Top 5 Mov
1. Harry Pot
Fire
2. Aeon Flu
3. Walk the
4. Yours, M
5. Just Frie

Top 5 Pop
1. System o
2. Kenny Ch
3. Various A
4. Madonna
5. Various A

Top 5 TV Si
1. "Desperat
2. "CSI"
3. "Grey's Ar
4. "Without a
5. "Survivor"

Top 5 DVD
1. War of the
2. The Polar
3. Madagasca
4. The Skele
5. Christmas

Top 5 Books
1. Mary
2. Light from
3. At First Sig
4. The Came
5. Predator

Horosco

Aries - Finis

You gain a
satisfaction
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Taurus - Yo

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Pisces - All of

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Today's top fuel d

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Sheep can recogni

pictures.

Top 5s:

Top 5 Movies

1. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
2. Aeon Flux
3. Walk the Line
4. Yours, Mine and Ours
5. Just Friends

Top 5 Pop Albums

1. System of a Down
2. Kenny Chesney
3. Various Artists
4. Madonna
5. Various Artists

Top 5 TV Shows

1. "Desperate Housewives"
2. "CSI"
3. "Grey's Anatomy"
4. "Without a Trace"
5. "Survivor: Guatemala"

Top 5 DVD Rentals

1. War of the Worlds
2. The Polar Express
3. Madagascar
4. The Skeleton Key
5. Christmas with the Kranks

Top 5 Books

1. Mary
2. Light from Heaven
3. At First Sight
4. The Camel Club
5. Predator

Horoscopes:

Aries - Finish up what you promised. You gain a lot more than the satisfaction you get by marking the job done. You'll win valuable kudos.

Taurus - Your friends are eager to help and have lots of imaginative suggestions. Rely on help from them, rather than digging into your savings.

Gemini - Listen respectfully to a person with unusual ideas. If this works, you stand to benefit, so check it out.

Cancer - Postpone travel and new adventures until you've finished the job you've already agreed to do. It'll be more fun later, too.

Leo - It's good to know how much money you have and how to get more if you need it. Take on a second job instead of going into debt.

Virgo - There's a flurry of activity over the next few days. The overall outcome is good, however, so don't get stressed out about it.

Libra - Creative work pays well now, so crank out as much as you can. The stuff you make for your own house counts as money saved.

Scorpio - Encourage creative ideas and a loved one comes up with a doozy. Go along with the program and you'll have a wonderful time.

Sagittarius - Fix up your place with the help of items you've long kept hidden. Bring them out slowly to retain their value.

Capricorn - Study the situation carefully over the next few days. Then, follow a hunch to come up with the right answer.

Aquarius - An older, wealthier person is feeling much more generous now. Go ahead and ask for whatever you want. You'll get some of it.

Pisces - All of a sudden the sun comes out from behind the clouds. The world's a wonderful place again. Share this moment with your best friend.

Announcements:

The East Carolinian is looking for someone with savvy social skills and an exciting lifestyle to write a features column for next semester. Do you think you have what it takes to be the next Carrie Bradshaw? Come fill out an application at our office located downtown on Third Street. Any questions can be sent to features@theeastcarolinian.com

On Saturday, Dec. 10, The Edwin McCain Band will be performing at the Greenville Convention Center.

Fun Facts:

When gentlemen in medieval Japan wished to seal an agreement they urinated together, crisscrossing their streams of urine.

The sting from a killer bee contains less venom than the sting from a regular bee.

An 'aglet' is the plastic or metal tip of a shoelace.

Today's top fuel dragsters take off with more force than the space shuttle.

Sheep can recognize other sheep from pictures.

What to buy any man

From dude to Dad: Gift ideas for the hard-to-shop-for man in your life

AARON BORREGO
STAFF WRITER

Well kids, it's that wonderful time of the year. Time to buy everyone and their dog a gift for the holiday season. Now ladies, this is an article written by a guy for guy gift ideas, so don't be bashful about listening to ol' Borrego.

With the simple fact that the semester is ending coupled with nobody having any time due to finishing projects and papers, it is certain that there will be a mad dash to find whatever makes sense for a gift. Here are a few ideas.

For college guys: This should be electronically oriented. Video games such as "Madden '06" or "March Madness '06" are always safe bets. These games are available on multiple consoles and therefore are a convenient gift. If he doesn't like sports games, try any of the Medal of Honor series WWII shooting games.

DVDs such as War of the Worlds, The Family Guy Movie, Aqua Teen Hunger Force Vol. 4 and The 40 Year Old Virgin make great movie gift ideas. The Star Wars Trilogy, Scarface, Animal House and Full Metal Jacket should not be forgotten either.

iPods and Creative MP3 players are excellent for people who love listening to music everywhere. Look at the PSP, which functions as an MP3 player, portable hand held game console and DVD player. The games and DVDs are smaller to fit the portable unit, however- the PSP doesn't play regular sized DVDs or CDs.

Decent music CDs are hard to find through all the garbage "artists" put out these days and charge \$15 for. However, one album I will recom-

see GUY GIFTS page A6



Surprise the men in your life with many thoughtful, inspired gifts.

Holiday gifts for ladies



From Mom to maiden, any woman in your life will love jewelry.

What that special lady will love this year

TOMEKA STEELE
SENIOR WRITER

It's that gift giving time of year and guys everywhere want to know what the perfect gift is for that special woman in their life whether it be a sister, mother or girlfriend. Guys can go horribly wrong if they don't think about the gift or the personality of the recipient. It's easy to go wrong, but certain gifts are classics and are gifts every woman would love.

For starters, women of all ages love jewelry, especially something that sparkles. Earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings are always welcome gifts. Diamonds, after all, are a girl's best friend. Before buying jewelry for a woman, know the type of woman she is. Some women like platinum and some white or yellow gold. Make sure you check to see which type she prefers or she'll only wear it when you ask about it.

When buying a ring, one should know the ring size of the recipient. This will save a trip to the jeweler for a resizing. If buying earrings, please find out what type of earrings your woman wears. A lot of women still wear clip-on earrings and you'd never know the difference.

There are plenty of places to buy jewelry at Colonial Mall. Most of the jewelry stores have sales now that it's after Thanksgiving. They also have many special offers for the holidays. Some women are allergic to some types of precious metals, so find out before you purchase that type of item.

Another gift women always love is clothing. Clothes, purses and shoes are things most women can't go a month without buying. When buying clothes or shoes, it's always nice to know the recipient's size. It's easy to sneak a peak inside their

see GIRL GIFTS page A6

The most wonderful time of the year

Holiday celebrations fill the air

SARAH CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

The beginning of December signals the beginning of holiday preparations around the world. The winter months bring about many holiday celebrations not only for us here in the United States, but for countries around the world as well.

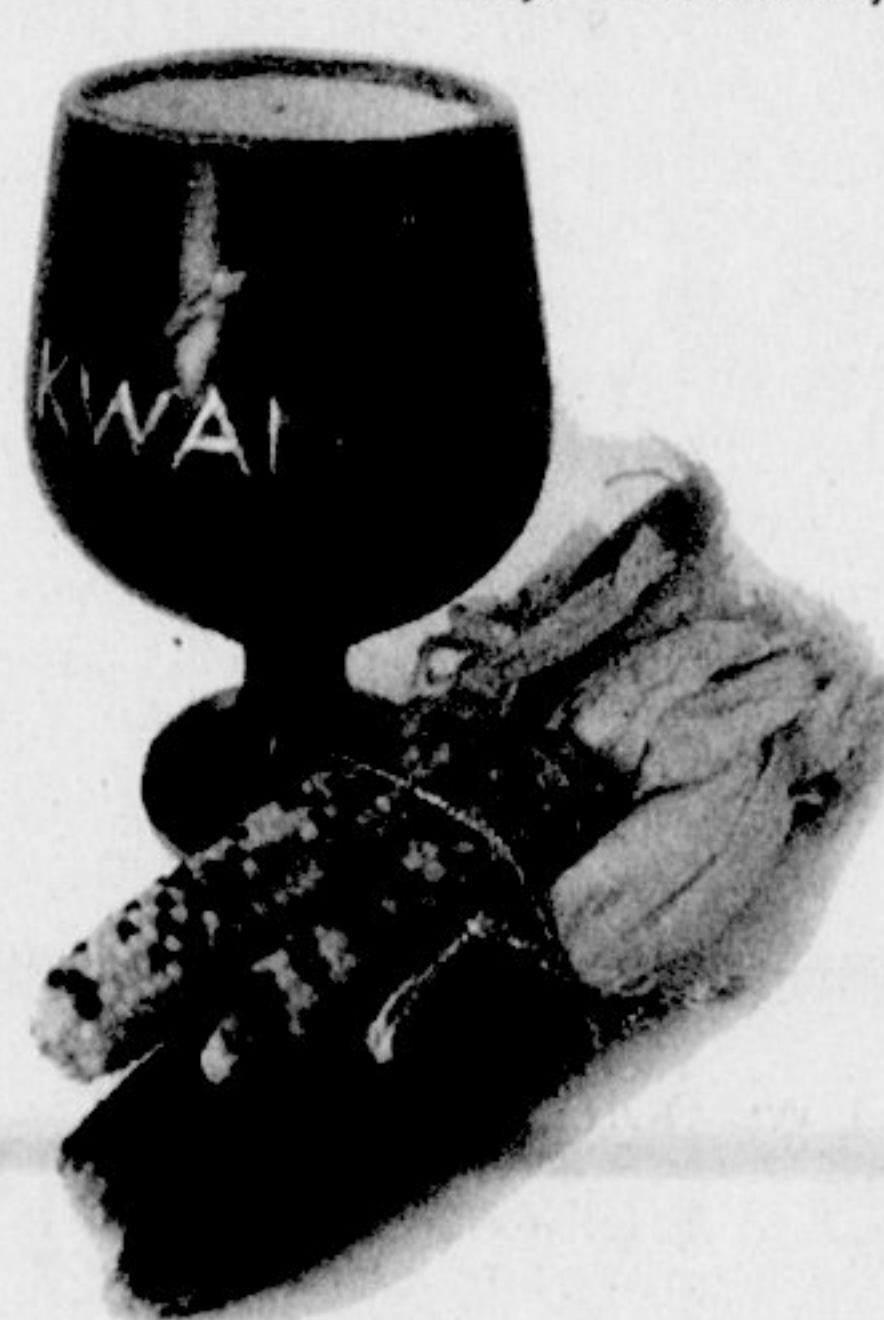
The most celebrated holidays in the United States are Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus on Dec. 25. Christians around the world celebrate Christmas by attending church services, exchanging gifts, decorating their homes and enjoying a feast with family.

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah will be celebrated this year from Dec. 25, 2005 - Jan. 2, 2006. The eight day celebration occurs every year on the 25th day of the ninth Jewish month of Kislev. Hanukkah means dedication and the holiday itself celebrates just that - the dedication of the Jewish people to their faith by struggling to obey God's commandments. The nine candles of the menorah are lit one each night during Hanukkah. Eating fried foods and playing dreidel, a gambling game played with a square top, are also traditional parts of the holiday festivities.

Kwanzaa is a celebration of African-American values such as family, community involvement and self-improvement. The holiday is not linked to any religious aspects - rather it is a time for African-Americans to better understand their ancestors and culture. The celebration begins every year on Dec. 26 and lasts until Jan. 1. During Kwanzaa, festivities are based around seven principles

known as the Nguzo Saba. On the last night of the celebration, there is a large feast in which ceremonies and cultural expressions are held to bring African-Americans closer to their roots. In the Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Norway and the Swedish speaking portions of Finland, people celebrate Saint Lucia day on Dec. 13, the shortest day of the year. On St. Lucia day, young girls dress in white dresses and a crown of candles, while boys dress in white pajamas while wearing gold pointed hats. In the morning, one of the daughters of the family will wake the household with coffee and saffron bread. Later in the day, boys and girls go about the streets singing traditional songs and everyone visits friends and family. In India, Diwali is celebrated as a way to signify the renewal of life. Diwali also signifies the approach of winter as well as the beginning of the sowing season. In following with the theme of the renewal of life, Indians often wear new clothes. Festivities for the day include the lighting of small oil lamps (diyas) all over the country, fireworks and the devouring of sweets.

see HOLIDAYS page A6



Celebrity Profile: Holiday elves, appreciation wanted

Santa's little helpers always gets short end

TOMEKA STEELE
SENIOR WRITER

He's making a list and checking it twice, no doubt since Christmas is just around the corner. Santa only works one day a year and he gets all the glory and all the credit. But it's the elves that are the true magic makers behind Christmas.

It's time we stop and give the little helpers a nod of appreciation, maybe even a cookie. After all they work every day of the year. What is it that we are teaching our children and youth when we praise a man who sits around eating cookies and drinking milk all year long while Mrs. Claus does his laundry and cooks his meals?

We should be teaching them how hard work and dedication should be praised. How the hard work of the little elves put smiles on the faces of children all over the world each year. Elves work hard during the year, acknowledge that.

The mythical creature known as the elf has been documented for hundreds of centuries in ancient Scandinavian and

German mythology. Elves were described back then as beautiful human-sized beings that possessed powers that could help or harm people.

The modern day elves are thought to live forever and never age. They spend most of their time in Santa's factory at the North Pole assembling homemade toys such as trains and wooden horses.

Elves wear little vests and tights with curly toed shoes and often sing songs during their toy making at an abnormally high pitch. They also tend to Santa's reindeer and the rest of Santa's property. Elves keep up the grounds and have many daily chores.

There have been many movies that are attributed to the image and characteristics of the modern day elf. One major movie was, wouldn't you know it, Elf starring actor Will Ferrell. Elves in the hit movie The Lord of the Rings have the original characteristics of the first mythological elves.

Elves have also helped to advertise for different types of foods. The Keebler Elves live in a tree and bake delicious cookies that we eat every day and can purchase from any grocery store.

The popular cereal Rice Krispies also utilizes elves as a mascot for advertising purposes. Snap,

Crackle and Pop are three of the most famous elves in today's society. They have paved the way for elf entrepreneurs.

There aren't any stories out there about Santa praising the elves for all their never-ending hard work. ECU should start a new tradition that includes acknowledging the determination, dedication and persistent labor of the elves. Maybe children should be encouraged to write thank-you letters to Santa for his one day of hard work as well as his little helpers that spent tedious hours hand painting scary porcelain dolls.

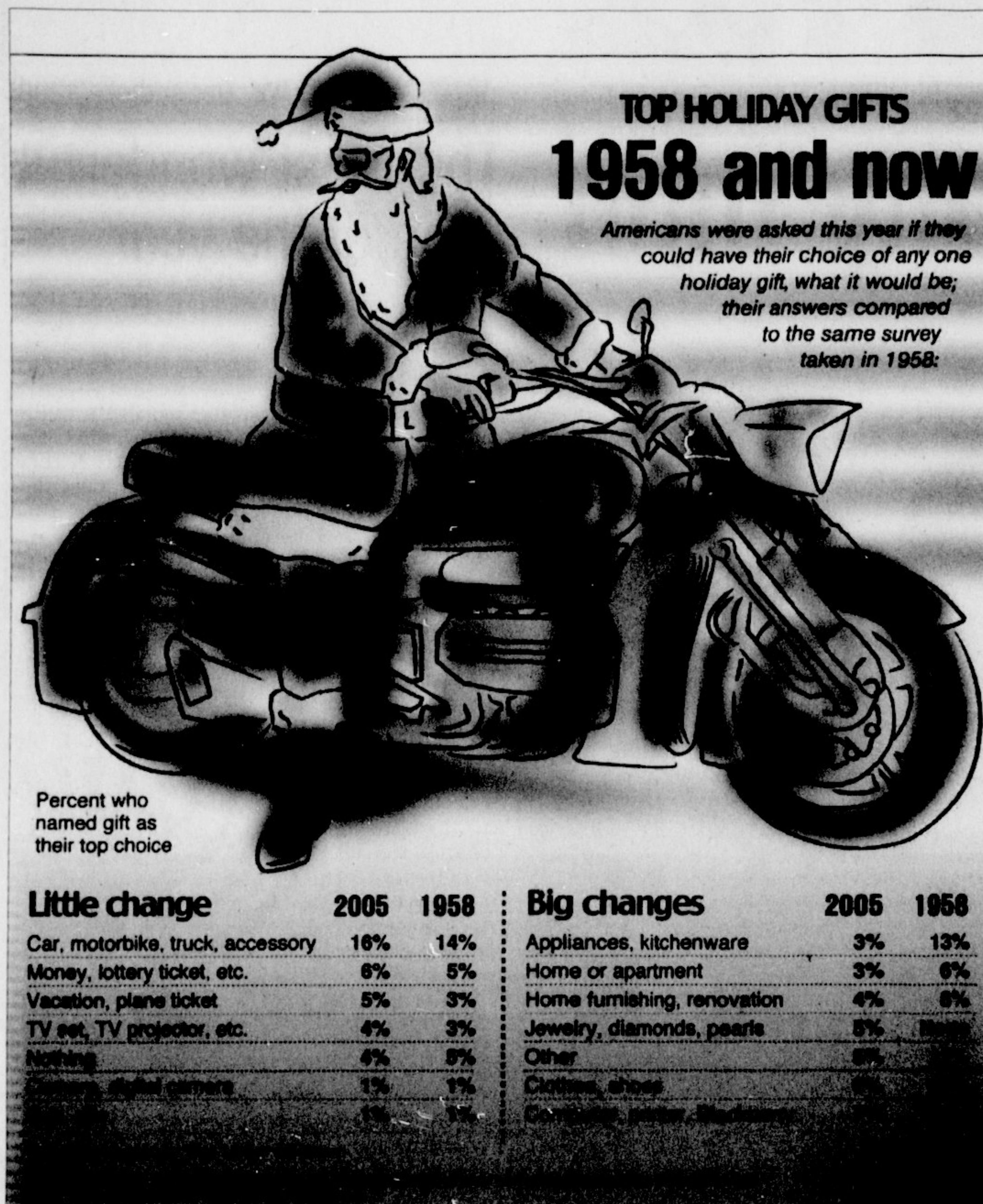
It's time that we pay more attention to Santa's little helpers as well as his wife Mrs. Claus. She, too, goes unnoticed and is merely mentioned as Santa's wife. She deserves credit for all the meals she prepares for him and cleaning his no doubt disgusting suit every year that's filthy with chimney soot.

For all those who appreciate elves and what they do to contribute to a successful Christmas, leave out an extra cookie this year and leave a note to let Santa know it's for his little helper ... not him.

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



Elves work hard all year to build holiday toys for children all over the world and never seem to get any credit from Santa or the world.



Girl Gifts from page A5

shoe. Make sure when you do look, you choose a shoe similar to the pair you plan to buy. This is because some women vary shoe sizes between dressy shoes and sneakers for comfort purposes. "I, personally, will be happy to just be rid of finals for Christmas, but materialistically I want a new laptop and maybe some clothes and shoes for Christmas or just anything I don't have to pay for," said graduate nursing student Tonica Brimage. Che Bella Boutique, Victoria's Secret, The Charmed Peacock,

Express, Gap and Old Navy have a huge selection of trendy clothes and accessories for women. If unsure of buying a certain item, purchase a gift card to a woman's favorite store.

Zappos.com has a wide variety of shoes that can be purchased online. They have huge deals on all major designer shoes and make it super easy to find exactly what you are looking for. Their search engine allows a person to choose the size, price, color, type and height of a shoe and picks it all out for you.

Women love technology just as much as the guys do so gifts such as laptops, iPods, Blackberries and digital cameras are good. If you know what types of things your recipient likes, it's always a great idea to incorporate that into the gift.

Best advice – listen very carefully for her little secret hints and on Christmas, she may just cry because your insight was so impressive.

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Holidays from page A5

Three Kings Day is the Mexican equivalent to Christmas. Celebrated twelve days after Christmas, Jan. 6, it is the last day of the Christmas season. Three Kings Day commemorates the Biblical story of the three kings that traveled to Bethlehem in order bring gifts to the baby Jesus. In Mexico, families give gifts on Three Kings Day rather than Christmas and children leave their shoes out in hopes that the three kings will leave them gifts and candy.

On the full moon in November, natives of Thailand celebrate Loy Krathong. On this day krathongs made of a flower, candle and three incense sticks are lit and placed in the water. This tradition is said to bring good luck

to the people by granting wishes. If your krathong stays lit until out of sight, it is said that your wish will come true. This celebration first began as a way to mark the end of the rainy season and the arrival of the rice harvest.

This is the most important time of the year to spend time with your family, friends and significant others.

Holidays may vary from country to country, but one thing is for certain – each one has their own blend of traditions and celebrations. There's no doubt that people everywhere are beginning preparations for the biggest holiday season of the year.

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



Guy Gifts from page A5

ment is Matisyahu's *Live at Stubb's*. This is a great reggae album with a bit of a message and laid-back demeanor. If the message isn't what he likes in music, try rap or anything other than Lilith Fair. I admire the feminist movement, but the last thing I want to hear in a gift from a girl is about how much I suck.

For Dad: Cologne, golf clubs, power tools and electronics, such as a computer or DVDs, should be well received. Also, sports apparel such as college/pro team hats, sweatshirts and coats are very nice gifts. Heck, I bet they even make sport team panties for the fellas.

DVDs seem to make good gifts for dad because they are convenient and easy to deal with. Even gift certificates to their favorite eatery is always good, because if you play your cards right, then you can go with him as well.

For Pets: If you are getting your pets something, that's kind of weird. It's cool to have an obsession,

but this comes off a bit creepy. Try giving your pet some of your food.

Now everybody, realize that the meaning of the holidays is nowhere near the mall, CD store or even the strip club. Wow, who said that? Leaving people alone is good enough for them at times. So don't underestimate the power of well-timed silence, which goes double for the guys reading this article.

If you find yourself in a bind for cash and in need of gifts, give of yourself. Do something nice for the people in your life. Make a CD, a collection of thoughts or even a simple thank you holiday card would be nice. The holidays are about giving of yourself, remember that people. Also, don't forget the power of a good bottle of liquor can go along way. Happy holidays everyone, enjoy it.

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

Gifts for Her

Che Bella Boutique
321-8864
698 E Arlington Blvd.

The Charmed Peacock
830-2625
408 S Evans St.

Colonial Mall
756-1748
714 SE Greenville Blvd.

Shop for shoes online at:
zappos.com



Wrapping that special gift for your lady will impress her.

This holiday season, put a little jingle in your pocket.

Sell your books back at Dowdy Student Stores.

Get cash for the holidays or next semester's books.

Stop in.
Say cheese.
Rock on.

Express yourself this holiday season and send your funniest pictures to your friends and family. Stop by ECU Dowdy Student Stores computer department during our Photo Booth event and we'll hook you up with a free song of your choice from iTunes® Music Store.

If your picture ends up being the wackiest of them all, you'll win 50 iTunes® songs!

Hurry in! Limited Time offer!

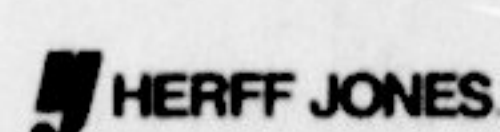
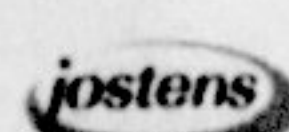


December 8 – 16

25% Off East Carolina Alumni Apparel, Gift items, and Diploma Frames

Congratulations, December Grads!!

Everything the "soon-to-be graduate" needs is available through ECU Dowdy Student Stores. An extensive line of diploma frames and the official East Carolina University class rings can also be found at the Dowdy Student Store. You're almost there. Let us help you make this a time you'll always remember.



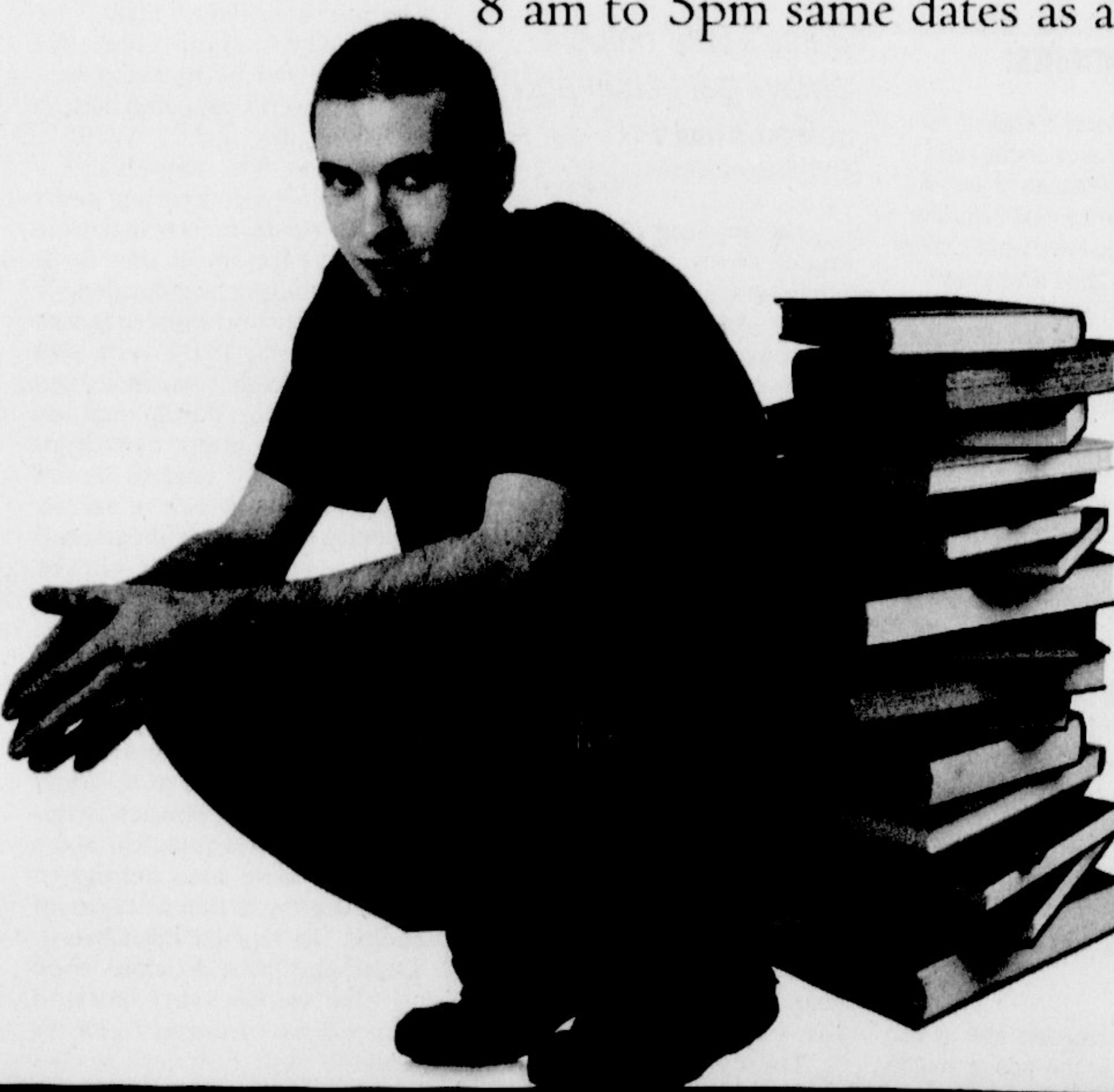
Authorized Vendors for East Carolina University



Ronald E. Dowdy

Student Stores

Wright Building • www.studentstores.ecu.edu
328-6731 or toll-free: 1-877-499-TEXT



Book Buyback runs December 7 – 16:

Wright Place:

Wednesday, Dec 7 - 8 am to 7 pm

Thursday, Dec 8 - 8 am to 5 pm

Friday, Dec 9 - 8 am to 5 pm

Saturday, Dec 10 - 11 am to 3 pm

Monday, Dec 12 - Thursday, Dec 15 - 8 am to 7 pm

Friday, Dec 16 - 8 am to 5 pm

Speight Bus Stop, Mendenhall Bus Stop, College Hill:

8 am to 5pm same dates as above

Sports

Union claim is 'double deal'

The NFL Players' Union claim that the NFL is a "double deal" is a grievance against the NFL. The union claims that the NFL is a "double deal" because it is a "double deal" between the NFL and the NFL Players' Union. The union claims that the NFL is a "double deal" because it is a "double deal" between the NFL and the NFL Players' Union. The union claims that the NFL is a "double deal" because it is a "double deal" between the NFL and the NFL Players' Union.

Burnett's five-year deal

The Toronto Blue Jays' five-year deal with manager J.P. Ricciardi is a "double deal" because it is a "double deal" between the Blue Jays and J.P. Ricciardi. The Blue Jays' five-year deal with J.P. Ricciardi is a "double deal" because it is a "double deal" between the Blue Jays and J.P. Ricciardi. The Blue Jays' five-year deal with J.P. Ricciardi is a "double deal" because it is a "double deal" between the Blue Jays and J.P. Ricciardi.

Ex-Boston as Dodgers manager

Former Boston Red Sox manager Grady Little is being considered as a candidate for the Los Angeles Dodgers' manager. Grady Little is being considered as a candidate for the Los Angeles Dodgers' manager. Grady Little is being considered as a candidate for the Los Angeles Dodgers' manager.

Sports Briefs

Union claims Eagles' request is 'double discipline'

The NFL Players Association filed a grievance against the Philadelphia Eagles on Tuesday, claiming the team breached Terrell Owens' contract by trying to get back part of the wide receiver's signing bonus and by leaving him inactive for the rest of the season. The union said the team was breaching the maximum discipline clause in its agreement with the NFL. Owens was suspended for four games by the team after run-ins with quarterback Donovan McNabb and coach Andy Reid. The suspension was upheld in arbitration and the team has said it will make him inactive for the rest of the season. But the union alleged that the Eagles' request to return a portion of signing bonus money constitutes "double discipline." The Eagles wouldn't comment on the matter. Owens' suspension without pay cost him \$764,706 of his \$3.25 million base salary for this season. He is owed \$955,882 over the final five games. The Eagles reportedly informed Owens he must repay \$1.725 million of the \$2.3 million signing bonus he received in March 2004. The team could withhold his pay the rest of the season because he never returned the signing bonus.

Burnett scores \$55 million, five-year deal with Jays

The Toronto Blue Jays kept up their spending spree on Tuesday by agreeing to terms with starter A.J. Burnett on a \$55 million, five-year contract. The deal was announced at baseball's winter meetings just hours after the Blue Jays gave general manager J.P. Ricciardi a three-year contract extension. The Blue Jays, who already gave B.J. Ryan the richest contract ever for a reliever, then reeled in Burnett, the best starter on the free-agent market. It was the second major free agent signing this offseason for the Blue Jays, who gave closer Ryan a \$47 million, five-year deal last week. A 28-year-old right-hander with a 98 mph fastball and a no-hitter on his résumé, Burnett was also coveted by the St. Louis Cardinals — they would only offer four years. Burnett is 49-50 in his career, all with Florida. He had reconstructive elbow surgery and missed almost all of the 2003 season, then went 12-12 with a 3.44 ERA last year before being banished from the team in the final week after criticizing manager Jack McKeon and his coaching staff. A.J. Burnett will have to learn a new league, but the fact he'll play second fiddle to the Yankees/Red Sox in his division and Roy Halladay on his own team is most significant. The former is potentially bad news, especially because he no longer has a pitcher's park to call home — his ERA was almost a run better at home, 2.95 — and those are some big lineups he'll have to face more regularly. The latter is the good news: Burnett is still a sub-.500 pitcher, so not having to serve as a staff ace will help him work on reaching his vast potential. Burnett received a \$6 million signing bonus and a salary of \$1 million for 2006 before his pay jumps to \$12 million through each of the last four years of the deal. He has a limited no-trade clause that allows him to block a deal to 15 teams.

Ex-Boston skipper Little hired as Dodgers manager

Former Boston Red Sox manager Grady Little was hired Tuesday to manage the Los Angeles Dodgers, who had been without a field boss for more than two months. The 55-year-old Little received a two-year deal with an option for a third. He beat out Jim Fregosi, John McLaren, Manny Acta and Joel Skinner for the chance to succeed Jim Tracy, who parted ways with the Dodgers on Oct. 3 — the day after the club completed its second-worst season since moving west from Brooklyn in 1958. With spring training just two months away, the Dodgers are behind every other team in trying to get ready for opening day. That would be Little's ill-fated run with the Boston Red Sox from 2002-03, where he compiled a 188-136 record. But he was second-guessed for leaving starting pitcher Pedro Martinez in too long in Game 7 of the '03 AL Championship Series, which the New York Yankees won in 11 innings. In the fallout, Little's contract was not renewed. But Red Sox president Larry Lucchino was glad that didn't prevent Little from getting another job. Little laughed when told of Lucchino's comments. Little said he didn't dwell on the Yankee Stadium collapse or the harsh commentary in Boston, where Web sites sprung up with names like "Surviving Grady." Some — but not all — of the venom dissipated when the Red Sox won it all the next year. But more than two years after Game 7 — when he was asked just two questions, both about leaving Martinez in — the same questions are being asked.

Pirates come up short to UNCG



Josh King hits the floor hard Tuesday night in the Pirates' loss to UNC Greensboro.

Spartans led for final 5:39, ECU drops second straight

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

ECU Head Coach Ricky Stokes has joked about how his team has given him a few more gray hairs. After two consecutive losses and an especially tough one Tuesday night, Stokes isn't laughing anymore.

A pesky UNCG (5-3) squad squeaked out a 78-70 win over ECU (3-3) in yet another sobering defeat to an in-state opponent at home. Twice the Spartans banked through 3-pointers as the shot clock was winding down in the second-half.

"We made some crazy shots," said UNCG Head Coach Mike Dement.

"It's a good win for us."

Ricky Hickman scored 24 points on 8-of-13 shooting. Kevin Oleksiak added 23 on 5-of-6 from beyond-the-arc.

"They took some tough shots in the second-half," said senior

forward Corey Rouse.

"It seemed like we were in the right spot at the right time, just that we couldn't respond."

David McClenny built a 59-52 UNCG advantage with 4:30 remaining with a 3-pointer from the top of the arc. ECU cut the lead to four with 3:39 left, but couldn't venture any closer.

"The ball did take a few peculiar strange bounces," said first-year Head Coach Ricky Stokes.

Freshman Sam Hinnant fresh off a 1-for-10 outing at Old Dominion led ECU in scoring, notching 18 points on 6-of-11 from the field. Hinnant, who has started every game, also had eight assists in 29 minutes.

The Pirates started off slowly against the Spartan match-up zone. After posting the first six points of the game, UNCG built 14-8 lead. ECU muscled back with a six-point spurt before both teams traded baskets for the 25-25 halftime score.

Courtney Captain notched

see PIRATES page A8

ECU discontinues men's soccer



Simms is an ECU soccer alumnus.

SID — The ECU Department of Athletics will discontinue its men's soccer program as an intercollegiate sport effective immediately, Director of Athletics Terry Holland said Tuesday.

After a two-month evaluation, which was conducted concurrently with the search for a new head coach, ECU's senior athletic administration (Holland, senior associate athletics director, senior woman administrator and faculty athletics representative) unanimously decided that the program should cease varsity competition.

"In our discussions with coaching candidates, it became clear that a significant increase in resources

would have to be made available to men's soccer to improve our competitive position in Conference USA," Holland said.

"The only source for the needed resources would be from the budgets of our other programs and we do not feel that any of our programs could withstand a significant budget reduction without an equally significant loss of competitiveness for the team(s) involved. It has become obvious to us that our current strategy has been largely ineffective in terms of on-field performance. Of even greater concern is the record against our conference opponents during a total of 23 years in the Colonial and C-USA."

Including the Pirates' 0-15-1 overall record in 2005, ECU has posted just one winning season in 41 years of competition dating back to 1965. Furthermore, ECU has produced a 17-151-5 league mark while a member of the CAA and C-USA. Since joining C-USA, the Pirates have registered a 7-37-3 record and have won just two conference games during the past three seasons.

"While we all regret the effect that this decision will have on current men's soccer players enrolled at ECU, we believe that continuing the current course is just as unfair to those young men, as well as to future recruits and staff members," Holland said.

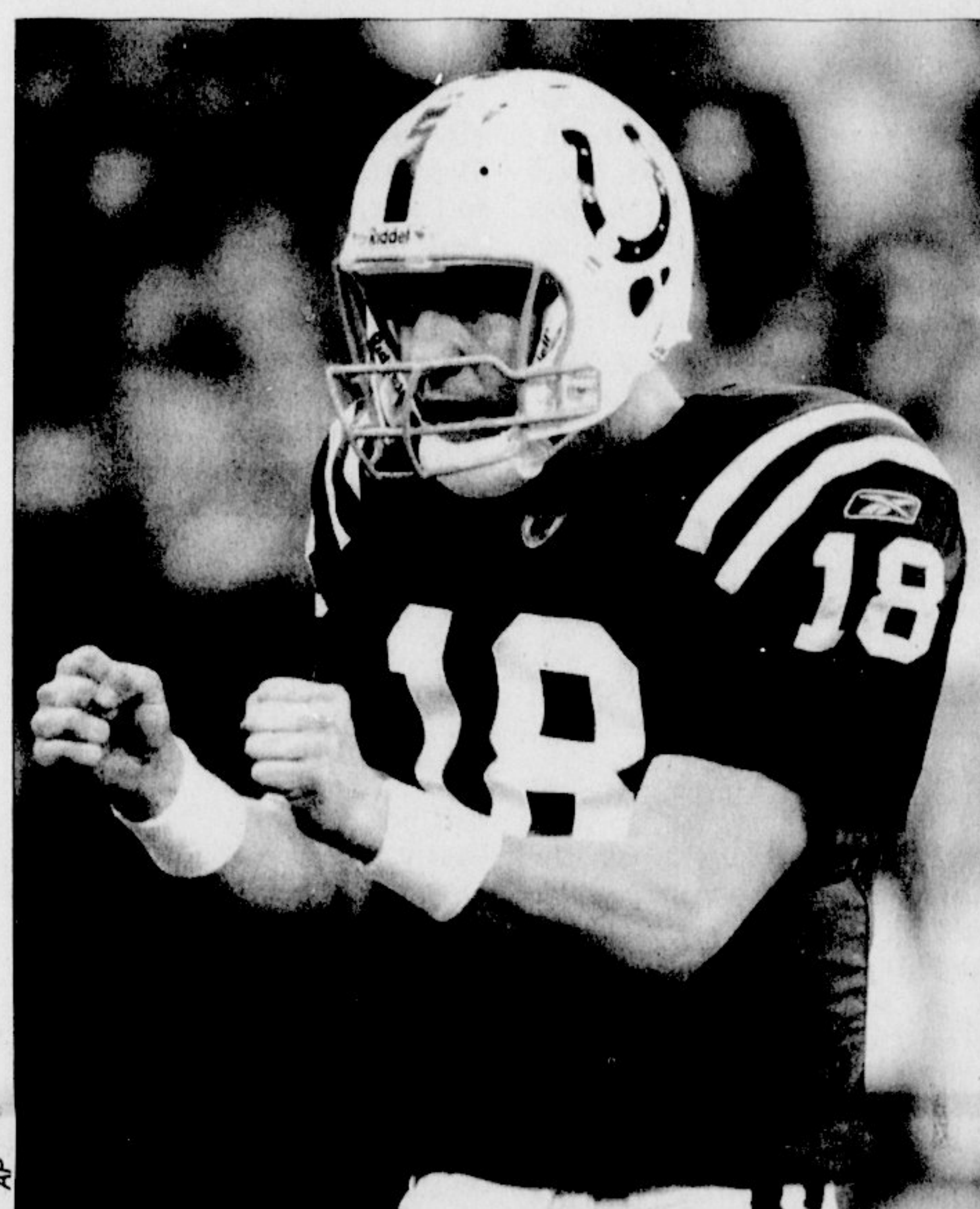
The athletics department will honor all current men's soccer scholarships as well as

any grants-in-aid that have been offered by the coaching staff. In addition, ECU will assist any team members wishing to transfer by granting a release and will provide ancillary support, as permitted by the NCAA, to the men's soccer club team(s) which play under the supervision of the ECU Department of Recreational Services.

"During the next three years, it is our desire to carefully evaluate the intercollegiate soccer environment to determine if there is a realistic approach to building a men's program on a solid foundation that provides varsity competition for ECU students with a better opportunity for on-field success," Holland said.

Chad Halverson, who was appointed the Pirates' interim head coach July 22 after the departure of Michael Benn, will be retained and has been offered a reassignment to a position on the women's soccer staff under the direction of Rob Donnenwirth.

Despite the termination of the men's soccer program, ECU, along with Memphis, tops all C-USA institutions with the highest number of intercollegiate sports sponsored with 19. Among regional competitors, the number of Pirates' programs will be consistent or higher than Cincinnati (17), Clemson (19), Pittsburgh (19), South Florida (18), Wake Forest (18) and West Virginia (17). ECU currently fields 10 women's programs and will now support nine men's teams.



Manning is on his way to yet another stellar season.

Perfection, performances and punishment

The NFL's Best, Worst and just Plain Bad

SCOTTY WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

The NFL this year has had its usual slate of powerhouses, performers and teams that are just stuck in purgatory. The stories of this year are captivating, some are the same old song and some are people who just need to face the music.

The Indianapolis Colts are in the playoffs, but no one's been questioning that for a few weeks. They're chasing something bigger

altogether. Peyton Manning and his invincible boys in blue are competing against the 1972 Dolphins for that perfect record, and they've already dominated the first half much like their football games. On the average they've won by about 17 points, and haven't had much tension to speak of all year. Coach Tony Dungy is trying to keep them focused on the playoff hunt, but it's very hard for him amongst growing optimism for the undefeated season. They've still got the playoffs to come, but it's a safe bet that Manning's Colts are making reservations in Detroit next year. They're pretty well safe as AFC South Champions.

Throughout the rest of the AFC, teams have been reversing fortunes all year. The Broncos have someone else wearing Jake Plummer's uniform and he's been guiding them to the top of the AFC West. The defending champion Patriots have become a MASH unit and are lucky to be at the top of the AFC East. The Cincinnati Bengals are for real and holding a tight grip on the lead in the AFC North after their win in Pittsburgh.

In the NFC things are a little more muddled up, but still tight. The Seattle Seahawks are flying over the hump and holding the lead in the NFC West. The Carolina Panthers are in control in

the NFC South over the Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The surprisingly powerful Chicago Bears are standing atop a flip-flopped NFC North. In the NFC East, which has been a dogfight all year, the New York Giants' big win over Dallas this weekend has put them on top and Eli Manning looking solid.

With that, who are the top signal-callers in their division? Which quarterbacks are for real and which are not who they say they are? Here are the top five in both divisions:

AFC:

1. Peyton Manning, Indianapolis Colts. Manning is a no-brainer at the top. He's too dominant, too cerebral and he can't be stopped. For the last two years every defensive coordinator to face the Colts has had to give Manning his two touchdowns straight up and hope that's all he gets.

2. Carson Palmer, Cincinnati Bengals. Considering this is just his second year as the starter in Cincinnati, Palmer is very impressive. After this week's performance against Pittsburgh, he set a single-season NFL record with a plus 100 quarterback rating in six straight games.

3. Jake Plummer, Denver Broncos. It's very hard to put Plummer on this list, but he's been too efficient to ignore. This season he's finally broken the barrier and thrown more career touchdowns than interceptions, and with a good running game he's been looking slick when throwing deep off the play action. I think Mike Shanahan just kidnapped Matt Leinart.

4. Drew Brees, San Diego Chargers. The Bolts are not leading their division but they have slid into the second wild card spot in the AFC and Brees has been very efficient in helping them get there. His three-interception game against Wash-

see PERFECTION page A8

Playoffs remain a whimsical daydream

(KRT) — Peace and joy reign throughout the college football land. Or at least there's no gnashing of teeth and bitter accusations of the usual idiocy.

The Bowl Championship Series, lo and behold, worked. For a change. Unlike the typical chaos, the system actually did what it was supposed to do: Ensure that the best teams in the land USC and Texas will square off in a reasonable facsimile of a title game.

Most everyone seems content. But not us.

If we were the boss of college football and could issue an official decree, there would be no BCS. No antiquated bowl games. No post-season matchups based more on popularity (hello, Notre Dame!) than merit (sorry, Oregon).

Imagine . . . a playoff. Sixteen teams. A national football tournament. A gridiron version of the NCAA basketball tourney, only better. March Madness with shoulder pads.

That's exactly what we've done, figuring that if the BCS can crown a mythical national champion, we can stage our own mythical national championship tournament. College sports

writer Jon Wilner, who has a vote in the Associated Press top 25 poll, selected his own 16-team field modeled on the Division I-AA system and then predicted how the brackets would play out. It's intended to be fun. You know, sort of like the way a playoff would be a blast.

Sure, the Orange Bowl contest between Penn State and Florida State is a nice story, and endless source of geezer jokes, with the Joe Paterno-Bobby Bowden showdown. Some people outside of Pennsylvania and Florida might even care. But what if JoePa's team was battling through a tough field as Wilner envisions to play USC in the title game? You bet the whole country would care.

And speaking of betting, imagine the bracket pool possibilities. (Not that we're endorsing blatant lawbreaking, of course.)

"I agree it would be a tremendous buzz," said Grant Teaff, head of the American Football Coaches Association.

So what are they waiting for? C'mon, this isn't exactly rocket science.

"But it's just not feasible," he added.

Teaff's point: Even if the

public holds its collective breath until turning Michigan blue in the face, there are too many entrenched interests, many well-meaning, that make a playoff impractical.

For instance, most college presidents say they won't endorse a plan that could lengthen the season into the second semester of school. Of course, these are the same folks who allowed conference title games as well as the addition of a 12th regular-season game starting next year. Both of those, of course, cut into the class time that presidents claim to be protecting.

The biggest issue, though, is that a playoff would require blowing up the bowl system, and that's not going to happen. The majority of presidents, athletic directors and coaches love the bowls, including the Meineke Car Care Bowl. This year's bloated, 28-bowl postseason means 56 teams get a postseason reward even if many don't deserve it and half of them go home happy.

And you, dear reader, are part of the problem. Except for a handful each holiday season,

see PLAYOFFS page A8

Bowl teams often come up short on academics

(KRT) — Fifty-six teams celebrated bowl bids that officially were announced Sunday. And then came the sobering reminder Monday, with the release of the annual graduation-rate study by the university of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, that many of the schools that produced winning teams this fall didn't manage quite the same success in the classroom.

Twenty-three of those teams, or 41 percent, didn't receive a passing score of 925 on the NCAA's new Academic Progress Rate, and 27 didn't notch 50 percent or better graduation rates based on the most recent statistics available from the NCAA.

"But I think there's almost an air of anticipation that things are finally going to get better," said Richard Lapchick, the study's author and the chair of UCF's DeVos Sport Business Management graduate program.

He pointed to NCAA sanctions that will kick in during the new year for schools that fall below the 925 mark, which

roughly correlates to a 50-percent graduation rate. The threat of lost scholarships may do more to spur change than an annual embarrassing mention in Lapchick's report.

Of the five bowl-bound Florida schools Florida State, Florida, USF, UCF and Miami UCF is the only program with a football team below the cutoff. The Golden Knights scored an 880, with a 34 percent athlete graduation rate compared with 51 percent for the overall student body.

APR numbers across the board are likely to improve next year, thanks to the threat of sanctions and tweaks that have been made to the NCAA's equation. In its first year, the APR penalized programs as not graduating athletes who transferred or left early for a pro draft, and didn't credit them when athletes transferred in and did graduate.

One flaw the NCAA has yet to address, Lapchick said, is that APR statistics aren't broken down by race, as graduation rates are. Such numbers are necessary, he says, to underscore an alarming

disparity between the educational experiences of black and white students whether they are athletes or not.

USF is one of the few schools that had a higher graduation rate by 21 percent of black football players than white.

Some conferences also fared better than others in the study, with the Atlantic Coast Conference and Big East hitting the 925 benchmark for all of their bowl-eligible schools. The ACC has eight such teams.

The Pac-10, on the other hand, does not have a single team in a bowl this year with an APR score of 925 including top-ranked USC, bound for the Rose Bowl next month.

Next year, though, the picture finally may look different with the long-awaited penalties in place.

"You could have not graduated an athlete for three or four decades and there would have been no NCAA sanctions," Lapchick said. "That's been one of the huge holes in the NCAA enforcement."

Pirates from page A7

13 points. Rouse and Tom Hammonds had 11 apiece. Hammonds built the biggest Pirate lead in the second-half off a 3-pointer with 11:10 remaining. But the Spartans' lucky breaks were too much to overcome.

"We were a little disappointed in our defensive communication," Stokes said.

"We didn't rebound the ball. But as we well know, [building a program] is a process."

ECU will play at home against Western Carolina on Dec. 10.

Familiar Faces

Despite a four-year hiatus in

the series, both squads were actually familiar with one another. Two sets of former teammates found themselves on opposite benches rather than exchanging high-fives. ECU guard Josh King and UCG forward Dustin Everett were teammates at Trinity High School. Up north, ECU guard Japhet McNeil and UCG forward Brian Beckford each attended Christ the King High School in Queens, N.Y.

UNCG Head Coach Mike Dement graduated from ECU in 1976. Sitting next to Dement was Spartan assistant coach Brooks Lee,

who served as director of ECU's basketball operations in 2004.

Missing something?

Mike Castro tried to enter the game with 13:58 remaining in the first half. But as senior from Brooklyn, NY ripped off his practice jersey, he only had a white T-shirt on. Castro had to wait for an equipment manager to retrieve his jersey, still in the locker room before entering the contest. Castro finished with six points in 18 minutes.

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Perfection from page A7

ington was an aberration—the Chargers are in a position now to look very bad if they release Brees for Philip Rivers next year.

5. Tom Brady, New England Patriots. Brady is a token addition to this list, but he's simply the leader on the field and always gives his team a chance to win games, even without a good running game. How long he can keep winning without it remains to be seen.

NFC:

1. Eli Manning, New York Giants. Yes, I do think Manning the Younger has the chops. In his second year in the NFL, he's got the G-Men on top of a division where Donovan McNabb, Drew Bledsoe and Mark Brunell are under generally center in competition. For a kid who was at Ole Miss three years ago, that's intangible you can't measure.

2. Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle Seahawks. He's not a cowboy anymore, he's just making good plays and is doing just enough to keep all the pressure off of Shaun Alexander. His QB rating is the highest of the NFC quarterbacks who have started all 12 games.

3. Mark Brunell, Washington Redskins. I would call Brunell a comeback player of the year candidate, because his arm was pronounced legally dead at one point. Santana Moss would beg to differ—he's hauled in more

30+ yard passes than anyone in the NFL. They will likely not make the playoffs, but things do look good for Joe Gibbs. Who wants to campaign to give the NFC East's second place team the NFC North's playoff bid?

4. Jake Delhomme, Carolina Panthers. Call me Homer, whatever, but Delhomme is the ragin' Cajun leader of this team, and unlike Michael Vick, he can't bail himself out by running, and ask yourself, would Steve Smith be an MVP candidate with Chris Weinke under center? Delhomme's QB rating is actually third in the NFC behind Brunell and Hasselbeck.

5. Michael Vick, Atlanta Falcons. Vick is still the most exciting player in the NFL to watch, but it's not because he's a great quarterback. He plays a position where he's always in a position to rip off 20 yards per rush, but he throws too hard for his receivers. He may have put up a lot of yards and played well against the Miami Dolphins, but so did J.P. Losman. We're still going to ask questions about your effectiveness, Mike.

Now, the one story in the NFL this year that is not being told is this: Brett Favre needs to finally hang it up this year. The man is old, too old to be effective anymore. Disagree? David Carr, Trent Dilfer and Chris Simms all have higher QB ratings, and he's

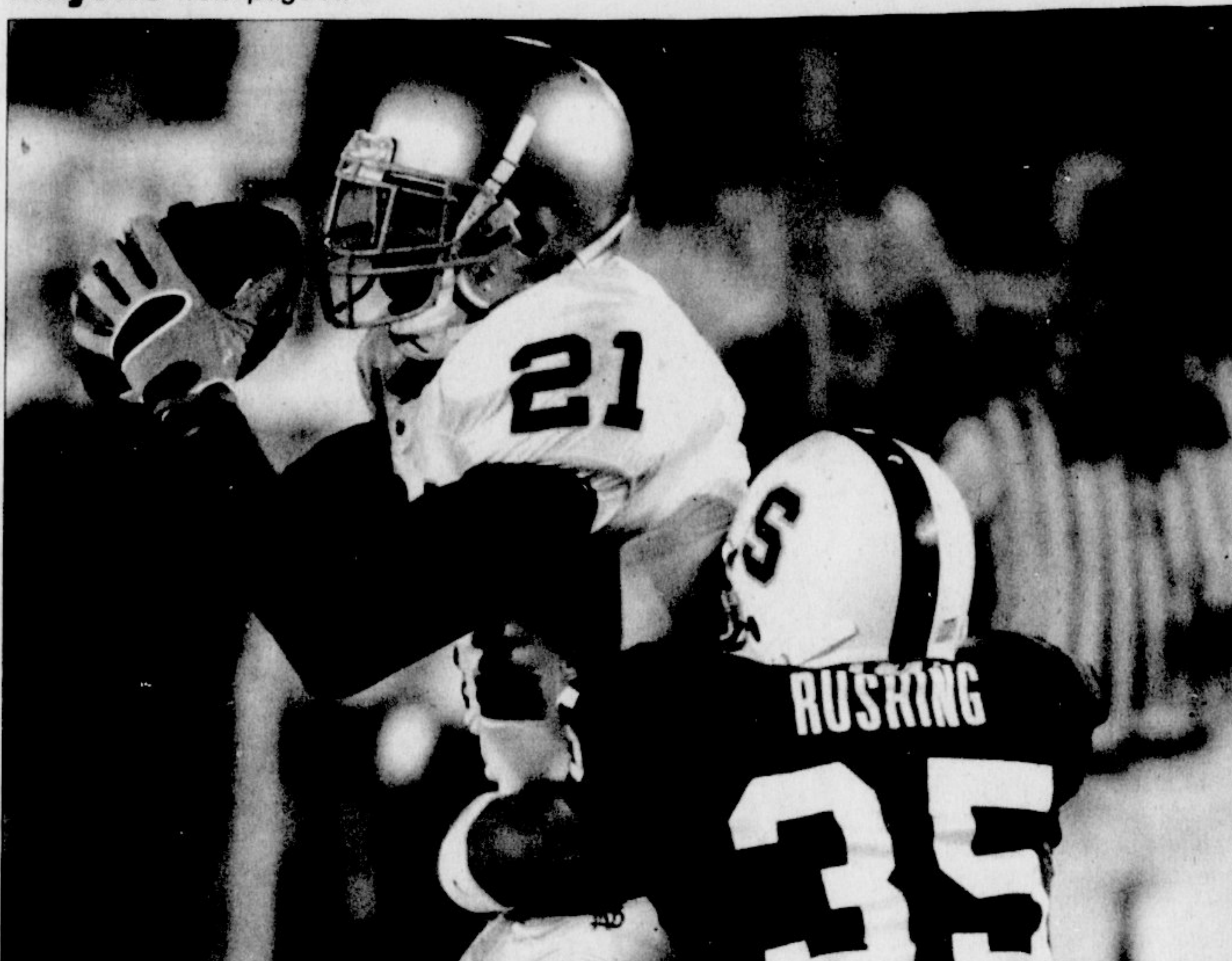
only on top of the NFL quarterbacks in one category: interceptions. He's thrown 21 this year, four more than second place Aaron Brooks and eight more than third place Jake Delhomme and Kyle Orton. He's fumbled away more footballs than Joey Harrington this year.

Say that he's had a depleted receiving corps if you will, but watch the games. Against Chicago this weekend, Favre had his team down inside the red zone near the end of the first half, and under pressure he threw an interception doing that classic Favre chucking. You know that classic Favre chuck, where he takes a minute on the run to say a prayer and then offers the football to the highest jumper.

Don't get me wrong, Favre has done some great things at quarterback over the years. At one point he was very effective, very good and very consistent. Over the last few years, however, his receivers have been making him look good by catching some high passes in the air and hauling in some errant throws. Now he doesn't have it and when he throws up those prayers, the other team is there to make the catch. It's time for Favre to call it quits and reflect on a great NFL career. At least he's got more Super Bowl rings than Dan Marino.

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Playoffs from page A7



Notre Dame received their BCS bowl bid against OSU while Oregon got the cold shoulder.

the bowls are essentially meaningless. But enough of us watch them on TV, or travel to Tempe, San Diego or Orlando to see them in person, to keep the illogical process alive.

If enough people stopped paying attention, you better believe that ADs, presidents and coaches would find a way to make a playoff "feasible" and keep the money flowing.

Instead we have the BCS the creation of a cartel of six major conferences, Notre Dame, TV executives and the four major bowls. Using a mix of human and computer polls, it's supposed to ensure No.1 playing No.2, but the system keeps proving to be flawed.

Two years ago USC, despite finishing first in both human polls, didn't get to play in the big game. Last season, unbeaten Auburn got stiff-armed from the title contest. And Cal also missed out on playing in a BCS game thanks to a voting process worthy of a banana republic.

It became such a fiasco last year that the AP no longer allows its poll to be used in the selection process.

This season the BCS didn't cause its usual controversy, marking the fourth time in eight years that it matched the consensus top two teams. That's not a blind-squirrel-finds-acorn percentages, but it's not good, either. One Texas congressman even is conducting hearings about the BCS.

"Why in the world can't we have a playoff system?" Auburn Coach Tommy Tuberville asked in July. "Until the media or the fans start really getting involved in this, we won't change it because our board is not loud enough."

He was referring to the coaches' association. But, Teaff contends, the group won't be beating the drum for a playoff which the presidents would have to approve anyway. Teaff recalls being on an NCAA committee in the early 1990s that looked into

making the change.

"We met and talked and studied and pondered every conceivable scenario, and it was finally concluded that Division I couldn't have a playoff," Teaff said. "That's the reason why there isn't one."

He offered another thought.

"The coaches, by and large, already believe we have a playoff system," Teaff added. "If you don't think so, just ask those folks with one loss if they feel the regular season really is a playoff."

The BCS is in business through at least January of 2010, and it will continue to slap duct tape on the contraption. Look for a "plus one" matchup where the two highest-rated teams after the BCS games meet in a showdown to eventually show up on a TV network near you.

So our national football tournament will remain only a whimsical daydream.

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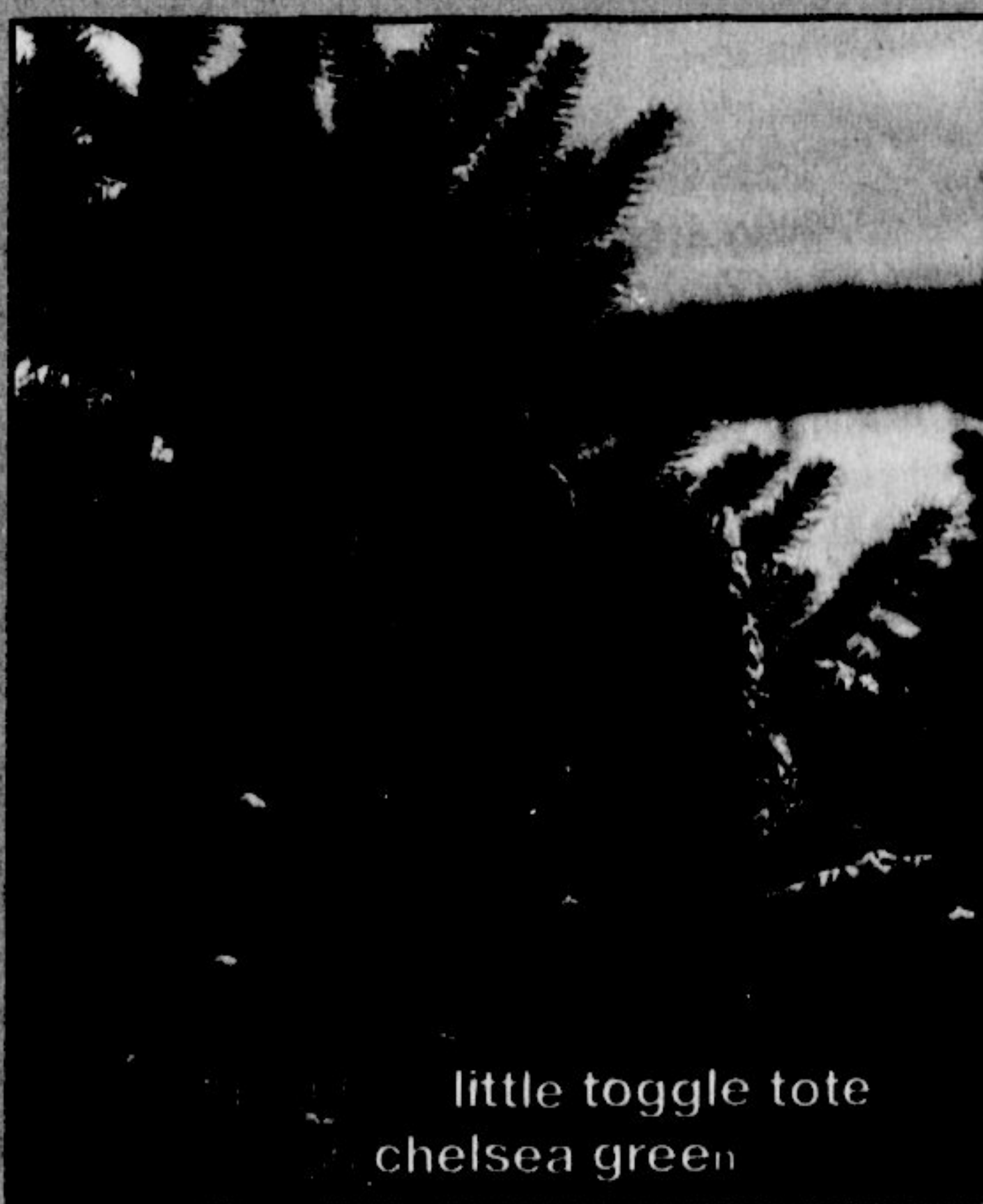
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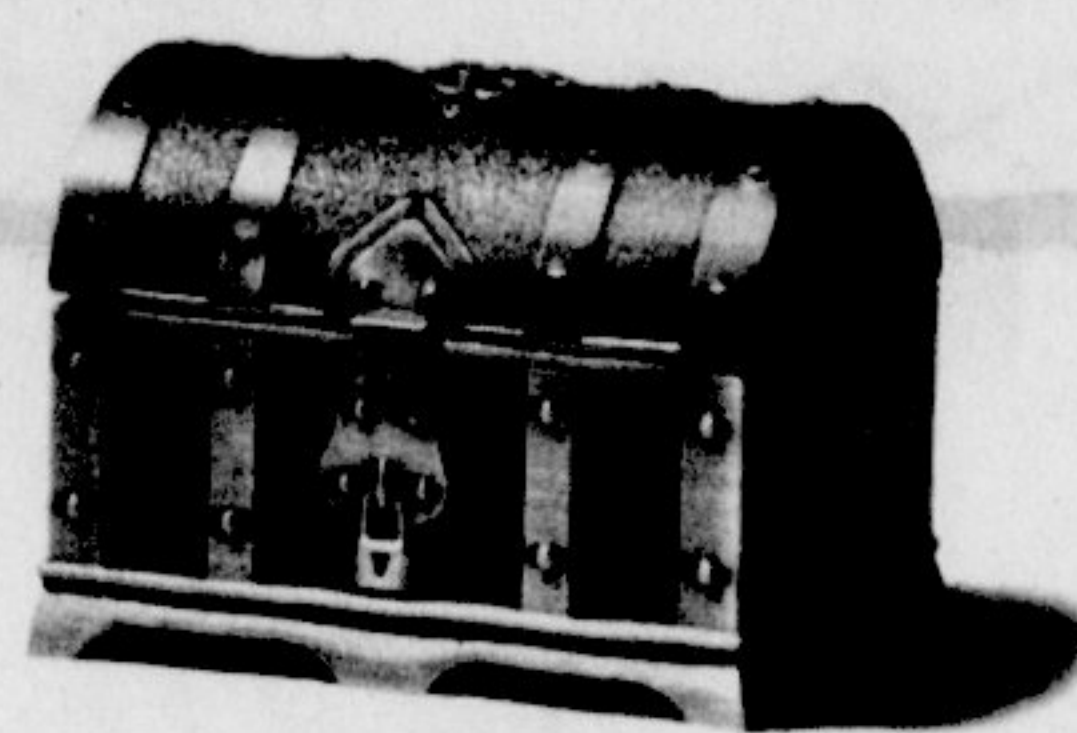
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