



Jessica Johanson, graduate public health student from Sweden, paints a bowl to help support Greenville's homeless shelters.

Shelton ends hiring freeze

Two percent budget reversion creates 100 EPA, SPA positions

ERIN RICKERT
NEWS EDITOR

Interim Chancellor William Shelton announced in an e-mail sent to faculty that the two percent reversion imposed by the State Budget Office would be lifted.

Shelton said when ECU began this fiscal year, the university had to hold 2 percent of the appropriations that came to the university.

"There was a question on whether the revenue projections for the state could be met this year, so consequently [the State Budget Office] encouraged that we set aside for the possibility of another 2 percent," said Shelton.

"At this time, it's a pretty good estimate from our financial people that the revenues of the state are making it so there should not be ... anything else that comes up at this time."

The 2 percent, or nearly \$3.2 million, is a planning tool used by administration to fall back on in the event the state decides to make a mid-year budget cut.

Once ECU financial advisers saw a window to remove the 2 percent reversion, they notified Shelton, and he removed the hiring freeze on all EPA and SPA staff and gave the OK to fill almost 100 positions at the university.

"It allows us to get back to a staffing level that we believe we need to function appropriately as an institution of higher learning," Shelton said.

The additional positions will help fill holes in clerical and secretarial areas of the university that have been vacant since the freeze was set only days after our current fiscal year began in July.

But according to Chuck Hawkins, associate vice chancellor for financial services, "We are not out of the woods yet."

Hawkins said there are two more critical points in the state budget that may still affect ECU this fiscal year.

Hawkins said sales tax numbers, which will come out in the next month and income tax collection in April, could still influence the way the budget is handled before the fiscal year ends June 30.

"We are hoping the economy keeps going and we do not have issues to deal with at all," Hawkins said.



SHELTON

Hand-painted art helps support homeless

International students plan for Feast of Love

TABATHA JAMES
STAFF WRITER

Several ECU international students gathered around tables at the International House last week to give glass bowls a hand-painted touch from their native countries.

The bowls will be given as a token of appreciation to those who make a pledge at the Feast of Love, where diners' money will go to the Greenville Community Shelter.

Tom Best, volunteer for GCS, said it's a new fundraiser for the international

students - one ECU wants to continue.

The money raised will profit the unemployed in Greenville and give them a secure, hospitable place to live by assisting with the expenses of shelter.

"We are hoping to raise at least \$100,000 through donations during the cause to support the GCS," Best said.

"They are decorating the bottom of the bowls first, and then on the rim each student is writing 'Feast of Love' in their native language and in English," Best said.

"It's our pleasure being here to decorate the bowls," said Shahla Naghiyera of Azerbaijan.

"We've written our 'love words' in our very own language

on the bowls for the people to have."

Best said more than 200 international students from 50 different countries are studying, conducting research and participating in educational, cultural and social activities each year.

"We try to interact with the international students and have them connect with the American culture," said Bill Mallett, international student adviser.

"Volunteering is a big thing in our society but not so much in other societies around the world, so this is one of the ways we can share it."

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

Feast of Love

The Feast of Love is Friday, Jan. 13 at St. James United Methodist Church on 2000 E. Sixth St. from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Call the Greenville Community Shelter at 752-0829 for more information.

Recent incidents spark fire safety concerns on, off campus

Officials say everyday routines cause most dormitory disasters

ADRIANNA DRAKE
STAFF WRITER

Cooking and smoking are two of the leading causes of deadly fires, making student housing a prime location for a potential blaze. Statistics show, three years ago, a steady decrease in reported campus fires.

ECU residence halls experienced minimal fires and haven't reported any type of fire-related injury in the last 10 years.

"We receive approximately 100 alarms a year to the dorms," said Tony Smart, battalion chief for the Greenville Fire Department.

"Of these, only around two or three are actual fires, which are mostly small in nature."

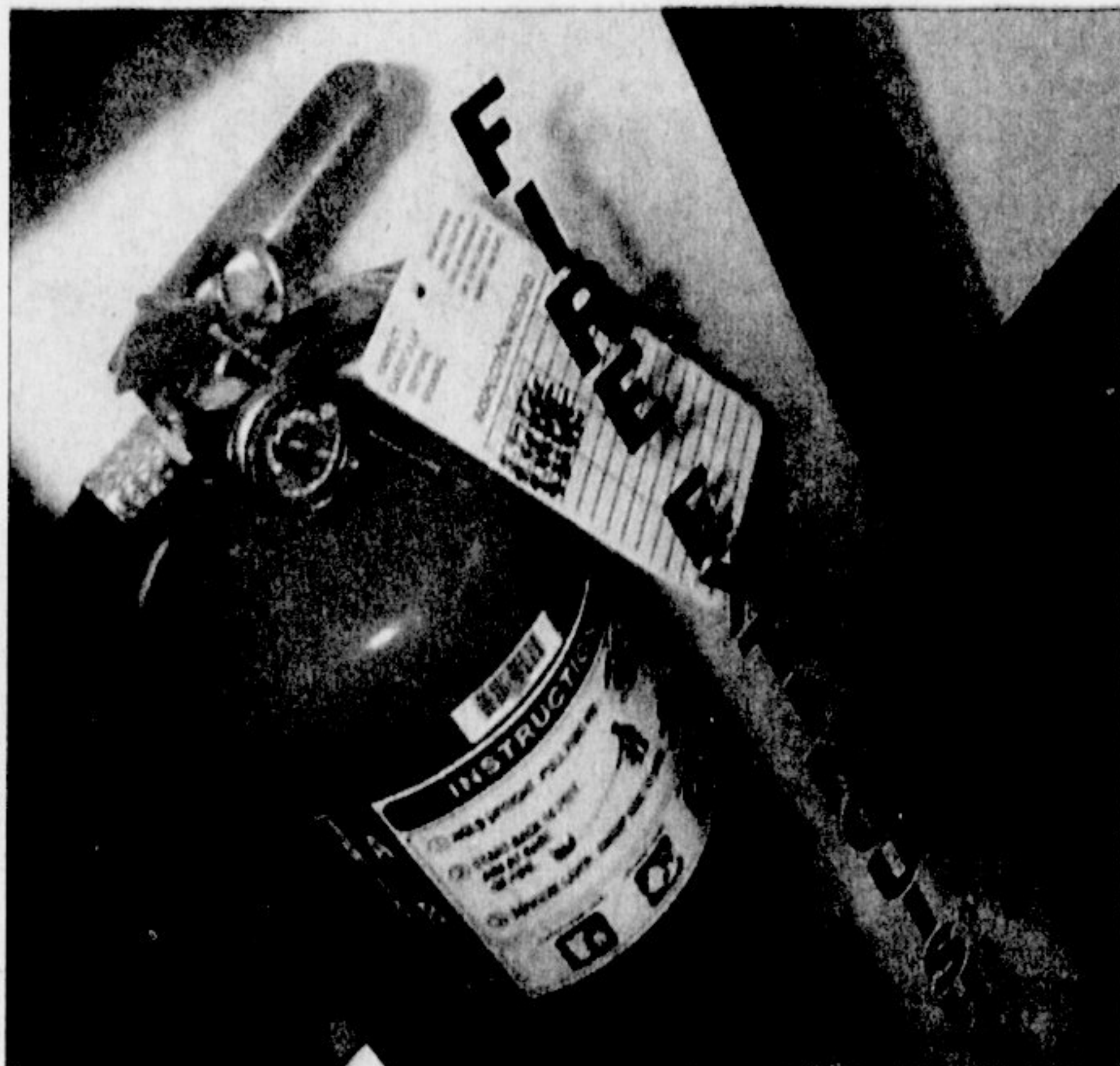
The increase of housing fires at ECU and across the nation necessitates a greater need for safety precautions.

Since everyday routines often become the source of disaster, ECU emphasizes the importance of students practicing safety in their rooms.

"Students can prevent fires in the residence halls by first and foremost following the guidelines established by ECU campus living," said Eddie Johnson, safety manager for environmental health and safety at ECU.

"Most of these construction materials are resistant to fire - it's the building contents that most often contribute to fires."

see ON page A2



Students should always be aware of fire extinguishing tools.

Tips to prevent fire from destroying your apartment

ADRIANNA DRAKE
STAFF WRITER

The mixture of smoking and alcohol causes most apartment fires in Greenville, and although the majority haven't resulted in fatalities, all ECU students residing in apartments should be aware of fire safety precautions.

"There has to be at least one smoke detector [outside of the bedroom area] in any apartment code," said Tony Smart, chief battalion for the Greenville Fire Department (GFR).

According to the National Fire Protection Association, having a smoke detector in your apartment increases your chance

for survival up to 50 percent, but one-third of all homes and apartments have smoke detectors that don't work.

"It is the residents' responsibility to check [smoke detectors] ... they should be checked every 30 days to make sure they are in working condition," said Diane Allen, property manager for Hite Properties.

Other apartments around Greenville are also equipped with fire extinguishers. Many complexes request their tenants purchase a fire extinguisher and receive basic training on how to use the device, but since many apartments in Greenville are constructed in various materials, only some are fire resistant.

"The basic framework on most all of the apartments in Greenville are wood frame," Smart said.

see OFF page A3

Black History Awareness throughout February

Sept. 9, 1739 there was a slave revolt led by a slave named Cato.

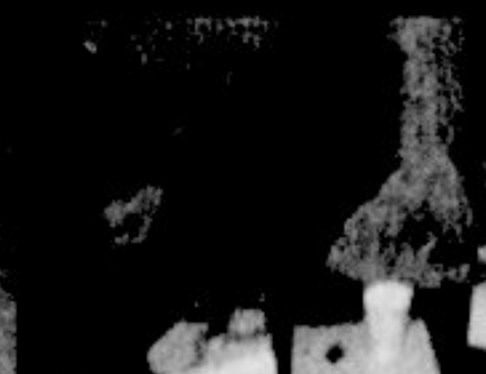
Congress passes an act declaring that slaves count as three-fifths of a man in determining representation in the House of Representatives in Sept. 1787



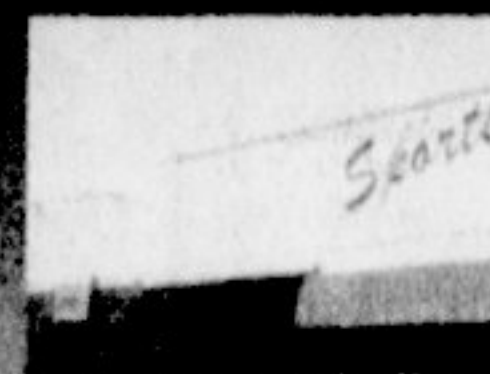
Forecast TEC REQUIRED READING
Sunny High of 53



Online Visit www.theeastcarolinian.com to view the latest standings of the 2004 democratic presidential hopefuls.



News page A2 A recent report found that ECU's College of Education retains and recruits more educators than any other NC university.



Features page A5 This year marked the closing of several local businesses including popular downtown hangout The Sports Pad.



Sports page A8 TCU announced that the university will become a member of the Mountain West Conference.



Don't forget to catch the last performance of Dance 2004 today! For more information contact 328-6829.



NEWS

ERIN RICKERT
News Editor

HOLLY O'NEAL
Assistant News Editor

news@theeastcarolinian.com
252.328.6366

Announcements

Job Fair Workshop

Career Services presents a workshop to inform students how to get the most out of a job fair on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in 1003 Bate.

Childhood Diabetes Presentation

Dr. Anton-Lewis Usala, Department of Pediatrics, will speak on the recognition and treatment of a co-existing endocrine problem in children with diabetes. Presentation will be Friday, Feb. 6 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in 2E92 Brody.

Resume Blitz

Career Services offers a Resume Blitz for students to have their resumes critiqued Monday, Feb. 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Both sessions will be in Bate Lobby.

Career Readiness Workshop: Interviewing

Career Services offers a workshop on how to prepare for an interview Monday, Feb. 9 from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in 1012 Bate.

Women in Academic Medicine Seminar

The Office of Academic and Faculty Development presents a seminar on women in academic medicine Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. at the Ironwood Golf and Country Club. Call 744-3420 for more information.

Construction and Industrial Career Fair

There will be a Construction Management and Industrial Technology Career Fair Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the first floor of the Science and Technology Building.

Nursing and Allied Health Career Fair

There will be a Nursing and Allied Health Career Fair Thursday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Carol Belk Building.

Science and Chemistry Career Fair

There will be a science and chemistry career fair Friday, Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Science and Technology Building.

Language Arts Conference

The College of Education will sponsor the Mary Lois Staton Reading/Language Arts Conference Friday, Feb. 13 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Greenville Hilton. The conference will feature newspaper columnist and author Susie Wilde, children's author Pansie Hart Flood and 25 sessions on literacy issues. Contact Susan Ranson at 328-6830 for registration.

Latino/Hispanic Education Conference

The College of Education and the NC Center for International Understanding hosts the first Latino/Hispanic Education Conference on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 8:30 a.m. at the Greenville Hilton. Contact the Division of Continuing Studies at or 1-800-767-9111 for registration.

Drop Deadline

The last day for undergraduate students to drop term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades is Wednesday, Feb. 18. Block courses may be dropped only during the first 40 percent of their regularly scheduled class meetings.

Graduate Scholarship Competition

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation offers a scholarship valued at up to \$50,000 per year for up to six years to graduating seniors and recent alumni. Applicants must be a college senior or have graduated since May 1999, have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale, plan to begin graduate school in fall 2004 and be nominated by their undergraduate institution. Deadline for application is March 29. Contact Michael Bassman at 328-6373 for more information.

Computer Virus

ECU Information Technology Security reports a new form of malicious software named "Beagle" spreading quickly through the campus computer network. The virus represents a threat to personal data. More details including actions to take are available at the top of the "Latest Virus Threats" list Web site at www.sarc.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Literacy Volunteers of Pitt County need individuals to tutor English as a second language to adult immigrants. Knowledge of a second language is not necessary. Sessions will be Friday, Feb. 6 from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., continuing to Saturday, Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 504-A Dexter St. Contact Sharon Schlichting at 353-6578 for more information.

Summer Study Abroad

An opportunity to study abroad in Ghana and receive class credit is offered May 20 - June 9. Contact Seodil F. H. Deena at 328-6683 for more information.

Paper Person

The person featured at the top of today's paper is Eric Sylvester, freshman undecided major.

News Briefs

Local

NC Supreme Court rejects Republican redistricting request
RALEIGH (AP) - The state Supreme Court has denied a request to hold this year's legislative elections using temporary district maps imposed by a judge in 2002. The court issued an order late Friday refusing to grant an injunction requested by a group of Republicans who want to block the use of maps drawn by the General Assembly last fall. The justices did agree to an expedited schedule to hear a broader complaint brought by the Republican plaintiffs, setting a hearing date for March 18. With state lawmakers still waiting for the new maps to be given federal approval, Republican lawyer Tom Farr said Monday that using the old maps could avoid having to delay this year's primary election, which is scheduled for May 4.

Former Winterville officer sentenced for planting pipe bombs

GREENVILLE (AP) - A former Winterville police officer convicted last year of planting pipe bombs along NC 11 has been sentenced to five years in prison. Thomas Uzenski, 35, also must serve three years of supervised probation and pay a \$5,000 fine as part of the federal sentence imposed Monday by Judge Malcolm Howard. A jury found him guilty in October of two counts each of possessing and manufacturing a destructive device and one count of obstruction of justice. The sentence came almost two years after Uzenski was called a hero for finding a pipe bomb on the side of NC 11 near Fortlines Road on March 25, 2002. Another bomb was

found the next day in almost the same place. A month later, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents arrested Uzenski for planting and pretending to find the bombs.

National

Poisonous ricin shows up in Frist mailroom, at least 16 people decontaminated
WASHINGTON (AP) - Three Senate office buildings were closed Tuesday after a suspicious white powder, apparently delivered through the mail system, was found in the Senate majority leader's office. Officials said several preliminary tests - but not all of them - were positive for ricin, a deadly poison. More definitive test results were expected later Tuesday. "This is a criminal action," said Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., whose staff discovered the white powder in their Dirksen Senate Office Building mailroom Monday afternoon. Dirksen and the other two main Senate office buildings were closed Tuesday as authorities were to remove and test all mail that has been delivered there. Senate officials were hoping that process would take only a day, said one congressional official speaking on condition of anonymity. The closures were forcing the cancellation of committee meetings scheduled for those buildings. But the Capitol was to remain open with the Senate convening Tuesday morning as scheduled. There were no reports of anyone becoming sick from exposure as of Tuesday morning, the congressional official said.

Kerry, Edwards tangle over South Carolina as front-runner eyes sweep
GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) - After back-

to-back wins in Iowa and New Hampshire, Sen. John Kerry was hoping for a sweep in the biggest test yet for Democratic hopefuls, seven states holding primaries or caucuses. But the race's two Southerners were angling to slow the Massachusetts Democrat's gathering momentum. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina was counting on a victory in South Carolina's first-in-the-South primary on Tuesday to keep his own campaign alive. And retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark of Arkansas hoped for a win in Oklahoma and a respectable showing in both Arizona and New Mexico to propel his campaign into the next round of contests. One-time front-runner Howard Dean was hoping to put his campaign back on track, but was looking beyond Tuesday's contests - where he is not running any TV ads and where polls show he is badly lagging - to later races. Dean's campaign, which has severely cut back on spending, engaged in another round of layoffs, aides said Monday night. Tuesday's contests in Arizona, Delaware, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Carolina are expected to help winnow the field of major contenders, perhaps to two.

World

Blair announces inquiry into intelligence on Iraqi weapons
LONDON (AP) - The British government announced Tuesday that it would hold an inquiry into the intelligence used in deciding to go to war with Iraq, and expected findings to be ready months before a similar investigation in the United States. "I think there are issues" about intelligence that need to be looked

at, Prime Minister Tony Blair told a Parliamentary committee. But he insisted Saddam Hussein had "weapons of mass destruction capability" when Britain and the United States went to war in March. Announcing details in the House of Commons, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the inquiry would look at the accuracy of prewar intelligence about Iraqi weapons and "discrepancies" between that intelligence and what eventually was found. It is due to report before Parliament breaks for the summer in July. The five-member committee will be chaired by Lord Butler, a retired senior civil servant, and include a Labour and a Conservative lawmaker.

Taiwan's leader calls for demilitarized zone with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - Taiwan's leader on Tuesday called for a demilitarized zone with China, the island's biggest security threat. President Chen Shui-bian said at a rare news conference that troops, missiles and other weapons would be removed from the zone. Chen didn't say where the zone would be. Leaders from China and Taiwan have not met since the island territory split away from the mainland in 1949. Beijing has repeatedly threatened to use force to take over Taiwan, just 100 miles off China's coast. Chen's proposal might be difficult to carry out as long as the two sides disagree about Taiwan's political status. Chinese leaders have insisted that before any talks or formal cooperation begins, Taiwan must agree that it is an inseparable part of China. The Taiwanese president has refused to accept any preconditions for talks.

On from page A1

According to Campus Living rules and regulations, the use of candles, incense, propane stoves and gas and charcoal grills are not permitted in residence hall rooms, hallways, breezeways, porches or roof areas. The use of electric frying pans, open coils (including hot

plates), oil lamps, electric or kerosene heaters, deep fat cookers and cooking with grease is also prohibited.

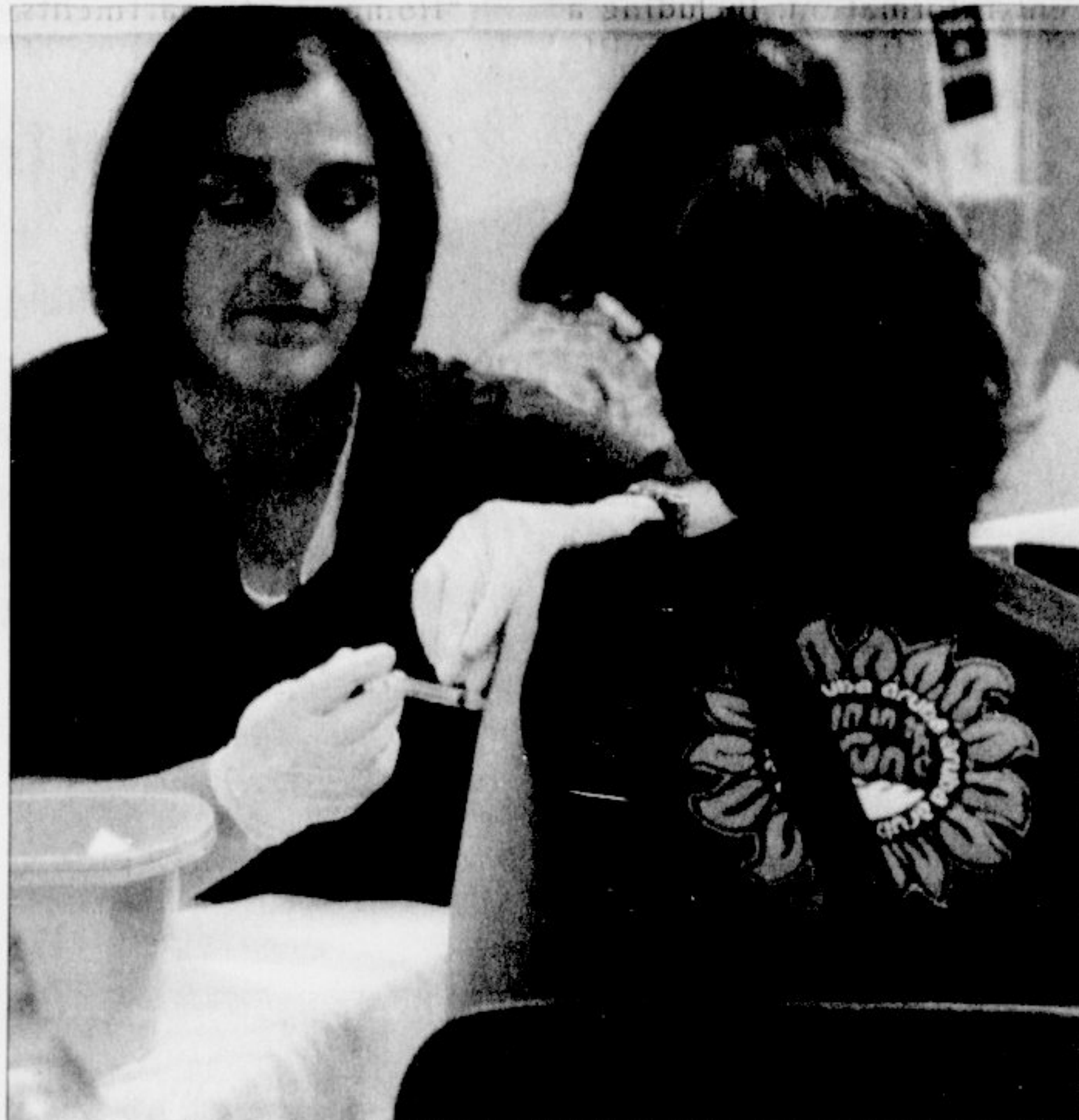
"Most damage is caused by smoke, not the fire, in most cases," said Waz Miller, interim director of housing. "Folks should try to remem-

ber to close their doors on their way out [during a fire] if at all possible."

After a fraternity house fire in Chapel Hill on Mother's Day weekend in 1999, state officials created a new law to protect students mandating monthly fire drills and installation of spring-

er systems in new and present residence halls.

Colleges and universities are required to disclose information on all fire incidents to parents and students before enrollment, if requested, in the Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act of 2003.



Jennifer Chitwood, sophomore criminal justice major, receives a flu shot from Nurse Josie Bertin at a flu clinic in Dowdy Student Stores.

Flu season hits students hard

Campus battles severe strain, insufficient vaccination supplies

NICK HENNE
STAFF WRITER

A substantially higher number of students were diagnosed with the flu this year than in the past even though Student Health Services gave 1,250 vaccinations. According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, this year's flu season started earlier than usual, and laboratory work across the country showed an increase in the number of specimens reporting positive for type A, a more severe strain of the flu virus.

Michelle Camarena, managing nurse of SHS, said there were 1,177 symptomatic and diagnosed cases reported.

"The problem this year is that the strain of influenza was believed to be one not covered in the vaccine," said Camarena. "They thought the vaccine

would help, but it may not be preventing as much as it would if it were covered."

Camarena said while the vaccine does help prevent this strain of the flu, it's still possible to get the flu after being vaccinated.

Christina Alfonso, freshman psychology major, who battled with the flu this year, said it spread to three of her friends in her dorm.

"It [the flu] was bad; I hated it. I got the flu shot, but it didn't work," said Alfonso.

SHS took several measures to increase education about the flu and the services it offers to students.

Information

ECU Health Services gave approximately 1,000 flu shots during last year's flu season, and 1,250 have been given to date this year.

see FLU page A3

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ECU produces more educators than any other NC university



Students in a North Carolina public school get together to finish school work before class lets out for the day.

Partnership East program helps recruit public school teachers

LUKE SPENCER
STAFF WRITER

A report released by the North Carolina State Board of Education showed ECU's College of Education recruits and retains more full-time teachers for North Carolina public schools than any other institution of higher learning in the state.

The state's Institutions of Higher Education report showed more than 11,700 ECU College of Education alumni reside in North Carolina and are pursuing careers in education at North Carolina public schools.

Out of 126,513 state employees, around 11 percent graduated from ECU's College of Education.

Figures show significant increases in both the number of incoming graduates and undergraduates in the College of Education.

Undergraduate on-campus hours increased for the spring by 12 percent and by 77 percent for off-campus and distance education programs.

Additionally, graduate student enrollment is projected to be 4,667 for this spring, a 15 percent increase from the same period in 2003.

"The College of Education's rapid growth can be attributed to the strength of the curriculum and faculty and the way our program addresses

the entire public school system," said Yokima Cureton, director of communication for the College of Education.

Data collected in the IHE report also points to the success of a program developed by the College of Education in collaboration with a North Carolina Community College System, the Partnership East program.

The program, designed to put more teachers in the eastern part of the state where educators are desperately needed, has led to an increase in ECU education graduates placed in counties east of I-95.

Due in large part to the success of this program, Pitt, Craven, Wayne, Nash, Lenoir, Johnston, Onslow, Beaufort and Cumberland county districts became the most popular destinations for ECU graduates after the Wake county district.

"We are extremely proud of Partnership East and see it as a national model for universities and community colleges to address the current teacher shortage in a sustainable manner," Cureton said.

Marilyn Sheerer, dean of the College of Education also thought Partnership East was successful in improving conditions in the eastern part of the state.

"Partnership East is the most powerful vehicle we have for addressing the teacher shortage in rural North Carolina," said Sheerer.

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

Flu from page A1

"We did more campaigns as far as educational materials in our lobby, on hand washing and respiratory etiquette," Camarena said.

"We actually did some things out on campus during our flu vaccine clinic with hand sanitizer and tissues and talking to people about respiratory etiquette."

SHS offered walk-in flu shots as well as satellite clinics, temporary set-ups at locations across campus where students could receive flu shots.

"We gave a good thousand [flu shots] at the satellite clinics, and then the last 250 were probably walk-ins," Camarena said.

These flu shot services are offered yearly throughout the typical flu season, but students can begin getting shots as early as October, Camarena said.

It's good to get the shot before a flu outbreak occurs because the shot takes up to two weeks to have an effect.

Shots are recommended for people who have chronic health problems such as diabetes, asthma, or hypertension.

"Their immune systems are already compromised, and for them to be sick, the illness would be much more severe than a healthy person," Camarena said.

Camarena said flu seasons typically run through January and February, but the majority of the cases this year with students occurred in December.

"It seems to be a typical time

it's cold, people's immune systems are lower, and that's when the flu just seems to pop up," Camarena said.

Karen Warren, director of Wellness Education, said in the winter months people generally spend time indoors where they're exposed to one another more.

The flu is transmitted through respiratory systems in droplets when people cough or sneeze, and people who have the flu should practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently and covering their mouths when they sneeze or cough.

Camarena said there wasn't a major difference in the number of cases of the flu between people who live on campus and in apartments; classrooms are probably the place where the flu spread.

The flu is a virus and can't be cured with antibiotics; the best thing for the flu is to drink plenty of fluids and get sufficient rest. Typical symptoms include fever, chills, body aches and headaches.

Between 10 percent and 20 percent of U.S. residents are infected with the flu each year. Although most people who get the flu recover within a couple weeks, the flu can lead to serious illnesses, such as pneumonia.

An average of 36,000 people in the U.S. die each year from the flu, and 114,000 are hospitalized.

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

Off from page A1

"This in and of itself is not combustible, however it will support combustion if ignited."

Inside walls are covered with sheetrock, a material that is only fire resistant for up to 30 minutes if in contact with direct flames.

Whether a possibility of fire is minor or major, there are simple precautions apartment residents can take to protect themselves and their guests.

In many apartment settings, when a resident moves in, they are given a packet with different information, including a tip sheet from the Greenville Fire Department.

Allen said all residents should read this sheet because there are many tips to protect themselves.

When cooking, watch your food. Do not walk away for any period of time. Do not disconnect smoke detectors and remember to change the battery.

The sheet suggests a replacement of batteries every six months and to check your smoke detector once a month. "ECU and GFR want to promote awareness in students that live off campus," said Eddie Johnson, safety manager for environmental health and safety at ECU.

"Homes and apartments do not always get the type of information and training that students on campus receive."

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

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| 10AM-12PM | new music | | | | | RISE & SHINE | RISE & SHINE |
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| 2PM-4PM | new music | | | | | SKA | RETRO |
| 4PM-6PM | DRIVE @ FIVE | | | | | punk | roots rock |
| 6PM-8PM | Pirate Talk | Insights | Locals | Expressions | 100/SGA Forum | | |
| 8PM-10PM | Club 91 | | | | | Request Rock | Klassic Rock |
| 10PM-12AM | Music to Annoy the Narrow Minded | | | | | | |
| 12AM-2AM | R&B | | Techno | | Techno | | |
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OPINION

Editor-in-chief

Michelle A. McLeod
 editor@theeastcarolinian.com
 252.328.6366

Erin Rickert
 News Editor

Amanda Lingerfelt
 Features Editor

Ryan Downey
 Sports Editor

Meghann Roark
 Head Copy Editor

Tanesha Sistrunk
 Photo Editor

Holly O'Neal
 Asst. News Editor

John Bream
 Asst. Features Editor

Tony Zoppo
 Asst. Sports Editor

Mike Mashburn
 Web Editor

Daniel Roy
 Production Manager

Newsroom..... 252.328.6366
 Fax..... 252.328.6558
 Advertising..... 252.328.2000

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

Our View

The planets must have realigned recently because in some strange twist of idiosyncrasy, neither player made the cut.

The NBA All-Star game is approaching and anyone who has paid a little attention this season expected LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony to be shoe-ins for at least reserves on their respective Eastern and Western conference squads.

The planets must have realigned recently because in some strange twist of idiosyncrasy, neither player made the cut.

At the age of 19, LeBron James is averaging 20.8 points, 5.9 rebounds and 5.9 assists per game.

Only three other players are averaging over 20 points, five boards and five helpers per game and they are Ray Allen, Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce, players who are much older, much more experienced and are on far better teams than James.

Anthony is averaging 19 points per game and scored a career high 39 against the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday night, marking him as the youngest player ever to drop 39 points in a game. Not only that, but he did it against a potential playoff contender.

Both rookies are also on teams that had identical records of 17-65 last season. So far this year, James's Cavs are 18-29 while Anthony's Nuggets are 29-21, meaning that if the season were to end right now, Denver would be in the playoffs.

Are the coaches and David Stern insane? We're talking about two kids, kids who are both in the top 20 in the league in scoring. James already has six double-doubles this year and has been one or two assists or rebounds short of plenty more and even triple-doubles several times.

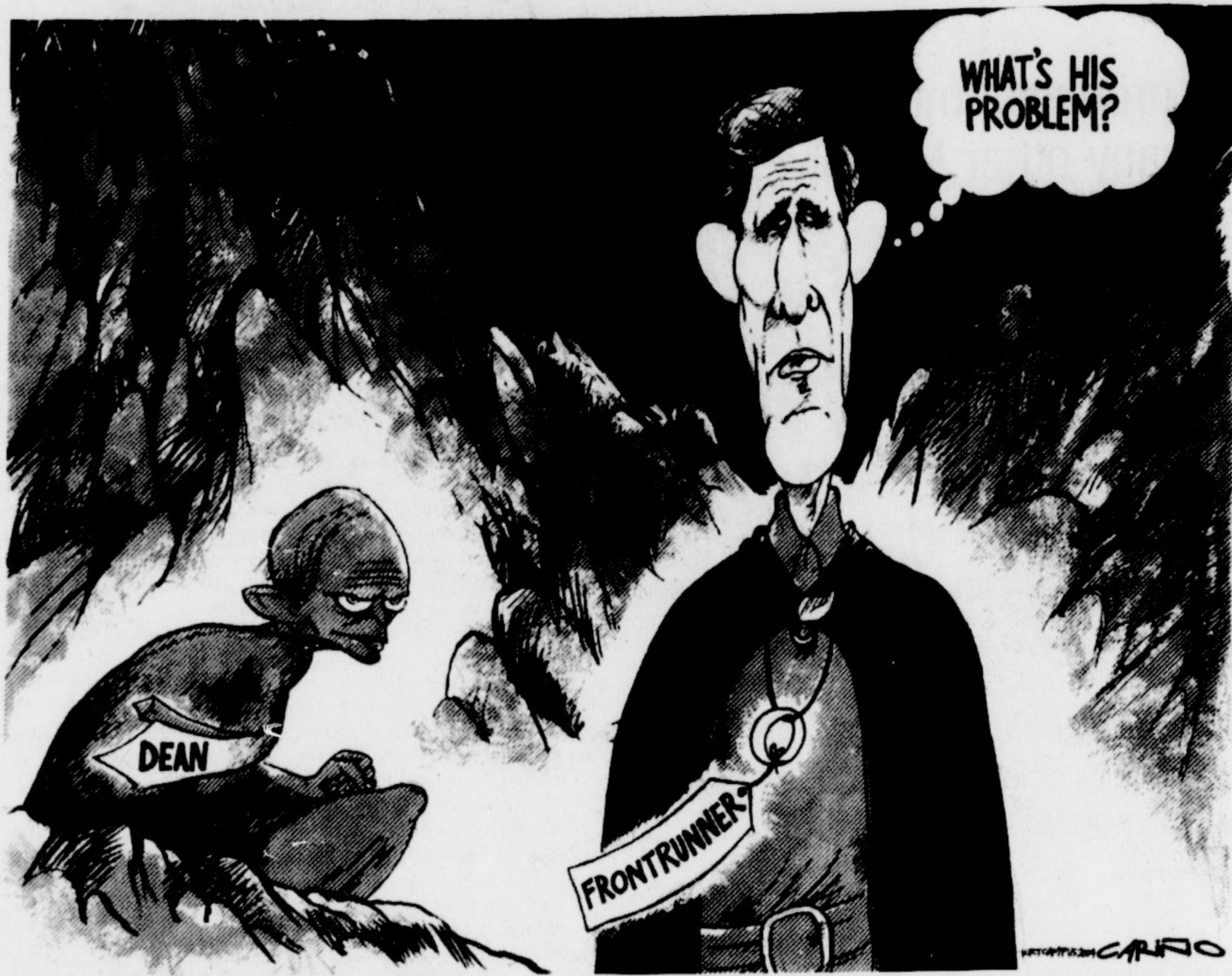
Putting statistics aside, what about the buzz this game could create if these two squared off against each other in the All-Star game their rookie year?

It's an atrocity that neither player made the All-Star game but they do have plenty of years ahead of them to show everyone what they missed out on back in 2004.

Poor David Stern.

Tell us Dave, can you see the money slipping through your fingers?

The purpose of TEC's opinion pages is to invoke conversation in ECU's community. To respond to an opinion on this page, please send your letter, with your contact information for verification, to editor@theeastcarolinian.com.



Opinions In Brief

Extra week disrupts players

In the NFL these days, teams are allowed two weeks between conference championships and the Super Bowl.

NFL greats, Bradshaw and Montana, were only provided a week between games, which is routine for players on their regular schedule. But today's players are now provided with an extra week, in addition to more training, better facilities and more qualified staff, resulting in pansy players.

In my opinion, this extra week is uncalled for and not only disrupts the natural rhythm of the NFL for the players, but the fans as well.

Bush is on his way out

By choosing John Kerry, voters in Iowa and New Hampshire have shown that Democrats desperately want to evict Bush from office. One of Kerry's main campaign strategies is to convince potential supporters he is the man to sway middle-of-the-road and right-leaning Americans away from the incumbent.

But few know or even care what Kerry stands for. This anti-

Bush sentiment, though unifying in its cause, obscures issues and prohibits candidates with an agenda focusing on change from having a chance.

Too often, voters complain of choosing "the lesser of two evils." In a country full of desperate ideas and people, there should be more focus - from the media, the public, the candidates - on platforms, not party politics.

Leaders not offering options

I don't know how many people watched the last Democratic candidates debate Thursday. I did, but when it was done I wasn't sure if I had learned anything.

What I did see was that the most interesting ideas came from candidates who were so far off the charts that they might as well not even been at the debate in the first place. Dennis Kucinich is a fun candidate who seems to care. In politics,

of course, it doesn't matter what people seem like, it comes down to what they do in office. What I can say is that the

front runners didn't have any answers for the tough questions. If they want to lambaste the President over the loss of manufacturing jobs, then they should be able to say what they will do in order to keep it from happening on their own watch. How they answer those questions will determine whether they have a chance to be elected next November. If they just continue to snipe at each other and criticize without offering up another option, they are not going to win and really don't deserve to.

Technology creates a cold world

I noticed it the other day when I went through the self-checkout at the grocery store. The "cashiers" were getting paid to do two things - make sure nobody steals anything and work out any glitches in the system. The world's gotten lazy, folks. What ever happened to customer service?

Need more proof? The machine that lets you check your books out yourself at

Joyner Library ... or the ability to order a pizza online ... call it an advance in technology if you

want, I call it avoiding work and interpersonal communication, thus creating the beginning of a cold world.

ECU e-mail needs help

Chances are, you've experienced this problem in some way. Maybe you have e-mailed a professor with an important question and are waiting for him or her to respond through e-mail.

Or maybe you forgot your password to E-bay and are waiting for it to be e-mailed back to you. Or maybe, as in my case, you are waiting for an e-mail telling you of important news about a family member's medical condition. Whatever the situation, you go to check your ECU e-mail account, and surprise, the darn thing is "experiencing problems."

Can't the technical support people fix this problem? It'd be understandable if the server was down once in a while, but now it seems to be a weekly, sometimes daily, occurrence. If places like Hotmail, Yahoo! and even other schools' e-mail accounts can keep their systems working efficiently, then so can we.

In My Opinion

Howard Dean goes down

(KRT)—There is no question, Tuesday night's New Hampshire primary was a huge disappointment for Howard Dean fans. Many of us awoke that morning convinced that short of an outright upset, the former governor would place only a respectable few points behind the winner. We were painfully wrong.

Dean's double-digit loss in the Granite State to Sen. John Kerry, following his even poorer showing in Iowa, constituted a staggering one-two blow to the Dean movement. While his second-place showing was strong, many pundits now question whether Dean can regain his previous momentum, and revive his once-formidable standing in the polls.

With Kerry as the new front-runner in the primary race, Democrats are now faced with the very real prospect of a nominee who amounts to a watered-down version of what President Bush's challenger should be.

Kerry is a decent-enough guy - a war hero with a respectable record in the Senate, but his motives for seeking the presidency seem less noble than they are ego-based. Kerry, much like Bob Dole in 1996, seems to view a bid for the presidency more as a reward for a long and distinguished political career than as a call to public service.

Kerry's original stint as the presumptive front-runner was blindsided by the resurgence of an upstart from Vermont by the name of Howard Dean. For a four-term senator from Massachusetts, the former governor from a state of merely 600,000 residents should have posed no serious threat. Despite this, Kerry stumbled and fell into the middle of the crowded roster of candidates, while watching Dean's remarkable rise to the top.

What Kerry lacked was a strong, solid message. He spent more time touting his resume than advancing his ideas. Explaining to Democrats why he would make a better president than any of the others proved to be a struggle for the senator.

Dean's campaign, in sharp contrast, inspired supporters at every turn and was a strength Kerry simply could not match. The former governor's unprecedented use of the Internet for fund rais-

ing, coupled with his outspoken opposition to the Iraq war and passionate stump message, drove the powerful grass-roots movement that propelled him to the front of the pack.

The sudden resurgence of Kerry's campaign stunned political observers, who had been prepared to crown Dean the Democratic nominee.

It appeared that Kerry had found a message. While attacks from another opponent distracted Dean in Iowa, Kerry quietly sewed together this new message from usurped fragments of the campaign themes of Dean and other contenders.

What ultimately drew voters to Kerry was not his ideas, but the imaginary air of electability he possessed. While Dean was taking some critical beatings, Kerry sneaked in with his newly adopted message, dubbed himself "Senator Electable," and swooped away with dual victories in Iowa and New Hampshire.

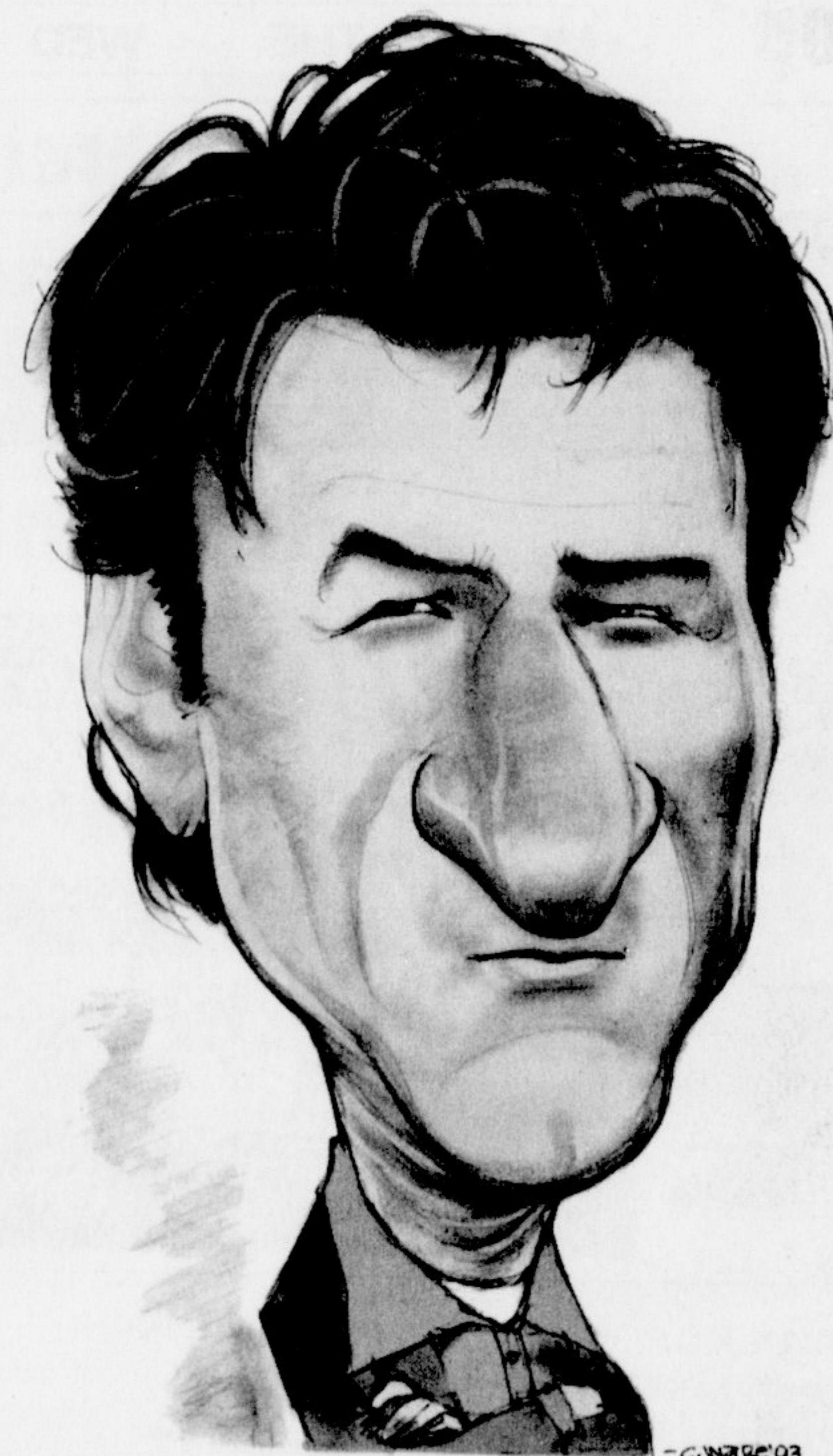
The dilemma now facing primary voters could prove daunting. In the coming weeks, they will be asked to make a choice between their heads and their hearts.

In Kerry they have a candidate whose strategy is careful and crafted. He is someone who makes all the necessary moves in order to win the nomination, but lacks a vision for moving this country forward.

In Dean is a candidate who is honest and straightforward, whose motives are genuine and heartfelt. He has made some mistakes, but has learned from them.

Throughout the remainder of the primary season, Kerry will continue to claim the corner on electability. This may appeal to Democrats with cold feet over Dean, but the notion that Kerry has the best shot against Bush is a myth.

While it is too early to gauge how well any challenger will fare against the president, a close race is widely expected in November. When it comes to Bush's overall approval ratings, the country is still evenly divided. The president appears vulnerable, and if Kerry can take him on, so can Dean.



"Family makes me feel there's a reason I'm alive... I'm feeling my life, which I didn't always do ... partly because I'd be drunk a lot."

Sean Penn
 Actor

FEATURES

AMANDA LINGERFELT
Features Editor

JOHN BREAM
Assistant Features Editor
features@theeastcarolinian.com
252.328.6366

Did You Know?

- Boxer Oscar De La Hoya (1973) and former Vice President Dan Quayle (1947) both call today their birthday.
- Today is African American Coaches Day and National Girls and Women in Sports Day.
- This month is Bake for Fabulous Florida Strawberry Month.
- Today marks the midpoint of winter.
- On this day in 1998, Bill Gates gets a pie thrown in his face in Brussels, Belgium.

Announcements

Films

The Student Union Films Committee presents *In America* tonight at 7 p.m., Thursday at 9:30 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m. and midnight, Saturday at 9:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. *Love Actually* is showing tonight at 9:30 p.m., Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 9:30 p.m., Saturday at 7 p.m. and midnight and Sunday at 3 p.m. All movies are free with a student ID and are located in the Hendrix Theatre. For more information call 328-4700.

Slam Poetry

The Student Union presents a Slam Poetry Competition tonight at 8 p.m. in the Pirate Underground.

Political Film

See a hard-hitting video of Michael Moore speaking on his best-selling book, *Stupid White Men*, with commentary ranging over today's hot issues. Stick around for a group discussion. Register to vote on the spot. Learn what's at stake in the upcoming presidential elections. Free and open to all. The film shows tonight at 7 p.m. in Room 14 Mendenhall. For more information, visit www.peacedowneast.org.

Percussion Ensemble

The School of Music presents a Percussion Ensemble directed by Jonathan Wacker on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. This event is free.

African Storyteller

Shindana Cooper, an African Storyteller, will give a presentation on Friday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the MSC Great Room.

Jazz Concert

The School of Music presents the ECU Jazz Ensemble A and the ECU Wind Ensemble in Concert directed by Carroll V. Dashiell Jr. and Scott Carter on Friday, Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. This event is free.

Top Fives

Top five albums



1. *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below*, OutKast
2. *The Very Best of Sheryl Crow*, Sheryl Crow
3. *Fallen*, Evanescence
4. *2004 Grammy Nominees*, Various Artists
5. *Soulful*, Ruben Studdard

Top five singles



1. "Hey Ya!," OutKast
2. "The Way You Move," OutKast featuring Sleepy Brown
3. "Slow Jams," Twista featuring Kanye West & Jamie Foxx
4. "You Don't Know My Name," Alicia Keys
5. "Me, Myself, and I," Beyonce

Top five movies



1. *You Got Served*
2. *Along Came Polly*
3. *The Butterfly Effect*
4. *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*
5. *The Perfect Score*

Top five DVDs

1. *Out of Time*
2. *Freddy vs. Jason*
3. *Underworld*
4. *Uptown Girls*
5. *American Wedding*

Top five books



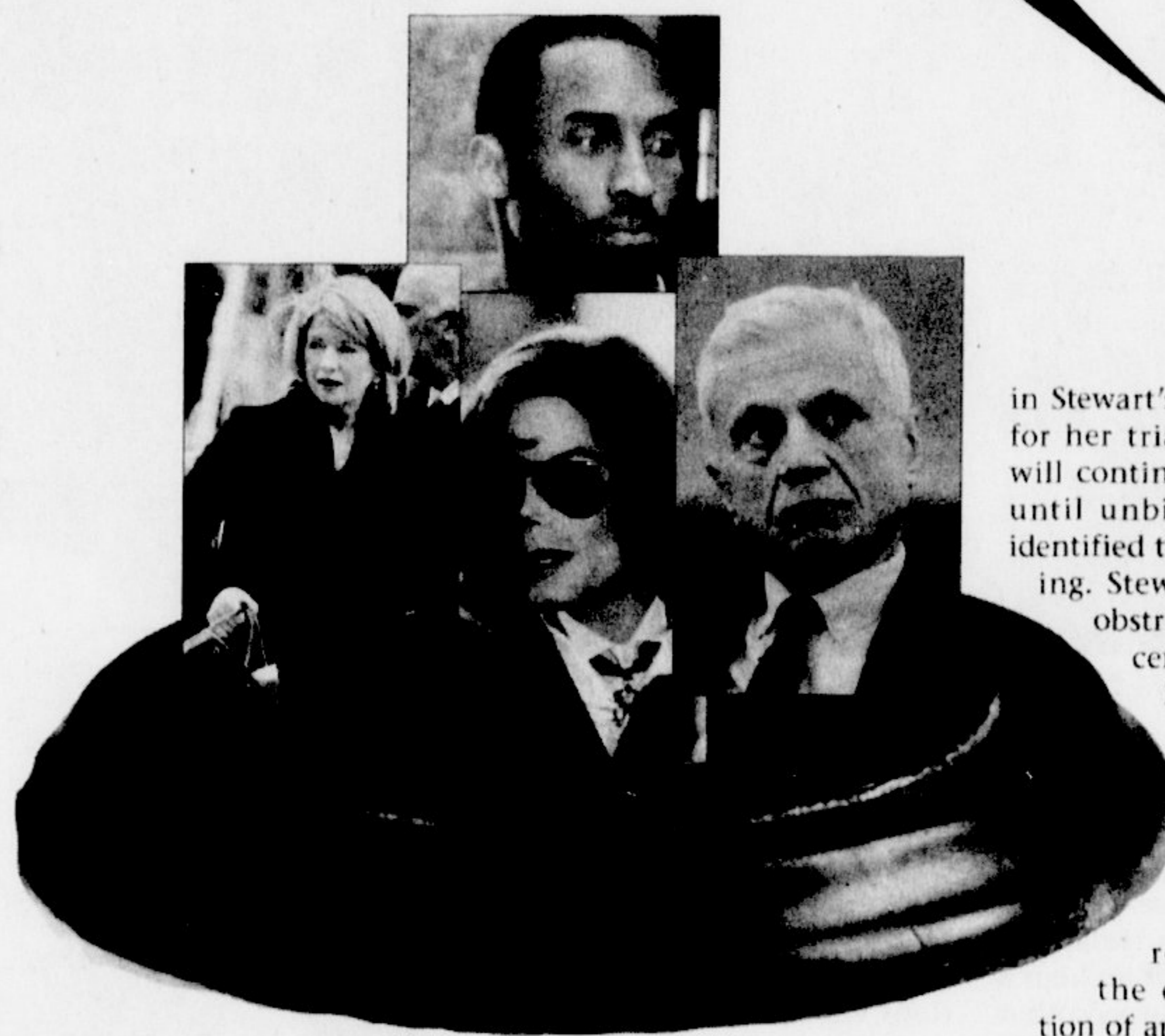
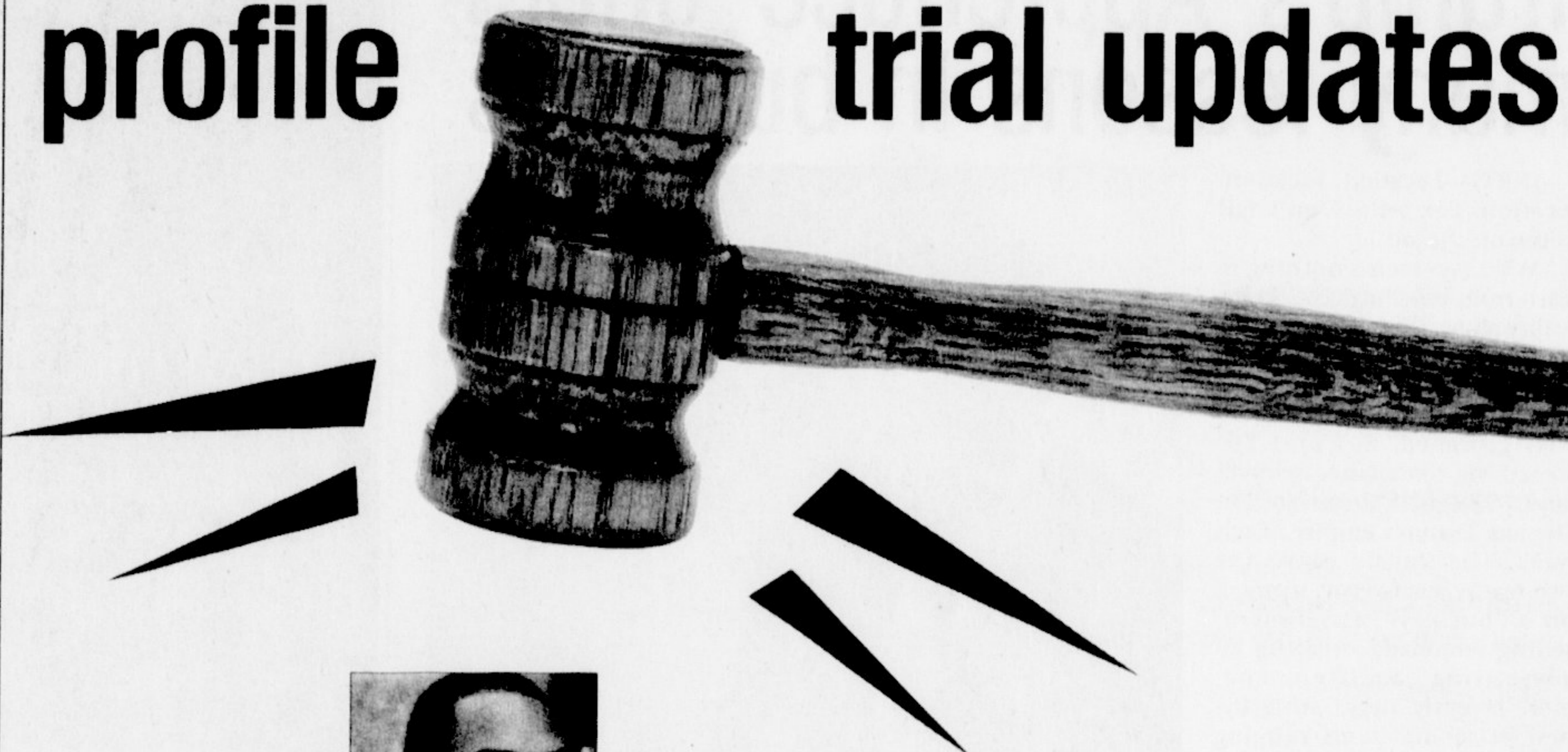
1. *The South Beach Diet*, Arthur Agatston Rodale
2. *The DaVinci Code*, Dan Brown
3. *The South Beach Diet Good Fats and Good Carbs Guide*, Arthur Agatston Rodale
4. *Angels and Demons*, Dan Brown
5. *The Ultimate Weight Solution Food Guide*, Phillip C. McGraw

Top five TV shows



1. "The Golden Globe Awards" NBC
2. "American Idol - Tuesday," FOX
3. "American Idol - Wednesday," FOX
4. "American Idol - premiere special," FOX
5. "Friends," NBC

Celebrities in court: High-profile trial updates



in Stewart's trial. Jury selection for her trial began Jan. 6 and will continue for two weeks or until unbiased jurors can be identified through rigorous testing. Stewart is charged with obstruction of justice, concerning her sale of stock in ImClone Systems, and fraud.

Stewart sold almost 4,000 shares of ImClone stock on Dec. 27, 2001, a day before regulators rejected the company's application of approval for new drug testing. Many people believe she knew the application would be rejected. Stewart faces up to 30 years if convicted on all counts.

Stewart resigned as chairwoman and CEO of her own company in June 2003. This was due to the stock of the company starting to dwindle from the accusations made against her. The company and K-Mart, who marketed her line, are now doing every thing possible to dissociate from Stewart's name.

Perhaps the biggest trial of the decade is that of Jackson. He was charged with molesting a young boy suffering from cancer on Dec. 18, 2003. The charges also report Jackson convinced the boy

to drink alcohol and other harmful substances.

The nine felony charges allegedly took place at Jackson's Neverland Ranch in February and March 2003. Jackson may face three to eight years, if convicted.

"I believe Michael loves kids and that he's not a molester, but at the same time, I wouldn't leave my kids with him if I had some," said Tiffany Bonaparte, sophomore sociology major.

The first day of Jackson's trial was Jan. 16. Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville was assigned to the trial. Jackson showed up 20 minutes late for the arraignment and was scolded by the judge who frowns on tardiness and bathroom breaks.

Jackson pleaded not guilty to molesting the boy. He created a commotion outside the courtroom before entering by greeting fans, dancing on top of an SUV and then blowing kisses to the crowd. Jackson may have to endure another trial with the mother of two of his children, Debbie Rowe.

Rowe is Jewish and isn't happy her children are cared for by Grace Rwamba, of the Nation of Islam. Reports claim Rowe seeks custody of Prince Michael and Paris. She also offered to raise

see TRIALS page A6

Crime is new trend for many famous people

TOMEKA STEELE
STAFF WRITER

It seems another celebrity's charged with a crime every day. High profile cases are sweeping television stations, and viewers tune in to see what verdicts will be thrown at today's hottest celebrities.

You can't go a day without hearing about the trials of famous celebrities Michael Jackson, Martha Stewart, Kobe Bryant and Robert Blake.

A question viewers have is whether these prominent people will be able to get a fair trial given their wealth and fame. Since celebrities are involved, it will be hard to find jurors who don't already know about the cases or have bias.

Apparently, bias is a problem

Closing time for area hot spots

Greenville says 'goodbye' to several local businesses

LAUREN MASON
SENIOR WRITER

The downtown and restaurant scene has changed dramatically in the past few months with the recent closings of five well-known establishments.

Since November, Kohl's Frozen Custards and Oh! Brian's have closed their doors to local restaurant visitors, while Main Street Beer Company, The Paddock and the Sports Pad have all left a noticeable absence in the downtown area. Though each business closed for different reasons, the total effect can speak for the ever-changing economy and dining atmosphere in Greenville.

The Sports Pad was one of the best-known clubs on Fifth Street, boasting an entertainment complex with a sports bar, a karaoke bar and a dance club. Typically drawing on the downtown crowds, many patrons were surprised to hear of its closing after New Year's Eve. The club's former owner, Mark Saieed, made sure to emphasize that the closing was by choice.



The Sports Pad, a favorite downtown destination for students, closed its doors in January.

"We chose to sell the property for real estate reasons. We were ready to make a move and another deal came, so we chose to sell," said Mark Saieed.

In a recent article with *The Daily Reflector*, Saieed spoke of his 30 years working downtown and his need for a change.

He now manages Emerald City Billiards in the Rivergate Shopping Center.

The Paddock was another downtown fixture that drew in a diverse crowd with its weekly shows and open atmosphere.

The primarily gay club was known for bringing in people - no matter their sexual preference, and it was recognized as the best place to "pick up chicks" by *Playboy* when they listed ECU as one of their top 25 party schools in 2002.

The Paddock was a haven for the gay community over the years, and a commonplace where people could mix, mingle and make friends.

The recent opening of Barcode on Memorial Drive has given the regular Paddock customers another place to get

see CLOSE page A7

Precautions help to keep ECU students safe



The blue light phones on campus are one of the many ways that students can help protect themselves late at night.

Tips to prevent on-campus crime

LENORA BOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Campus safety is not to be taken lightly. All students of a large university should recognize the importance of correct safety precautions and be mindful of all surroundings.

ECU has a large, open campus that is constantly growing, allowing anyone to come and go. So just how safe is our campus?

"[ECU] is a safe campus - it's as safe as what you make it," said Crime Prevention Sgt. Amy

Davis. While the police department is doing everything they can to minimize the crime on campus, students have to help out.

Sgt. Davis said students must be aware of their surroundings, and the Resident Advisers need to educate the students on their floors.

Marie Oliver, Resident Adviser of Fletcher Hall, said because of the construction, she feels the campus has been slacking in providing protection for students in the construction areas.

Oliver said she would like to see police officers around

see SAFETY page A7

Trump's 'Apprentice' offers many lessons in business

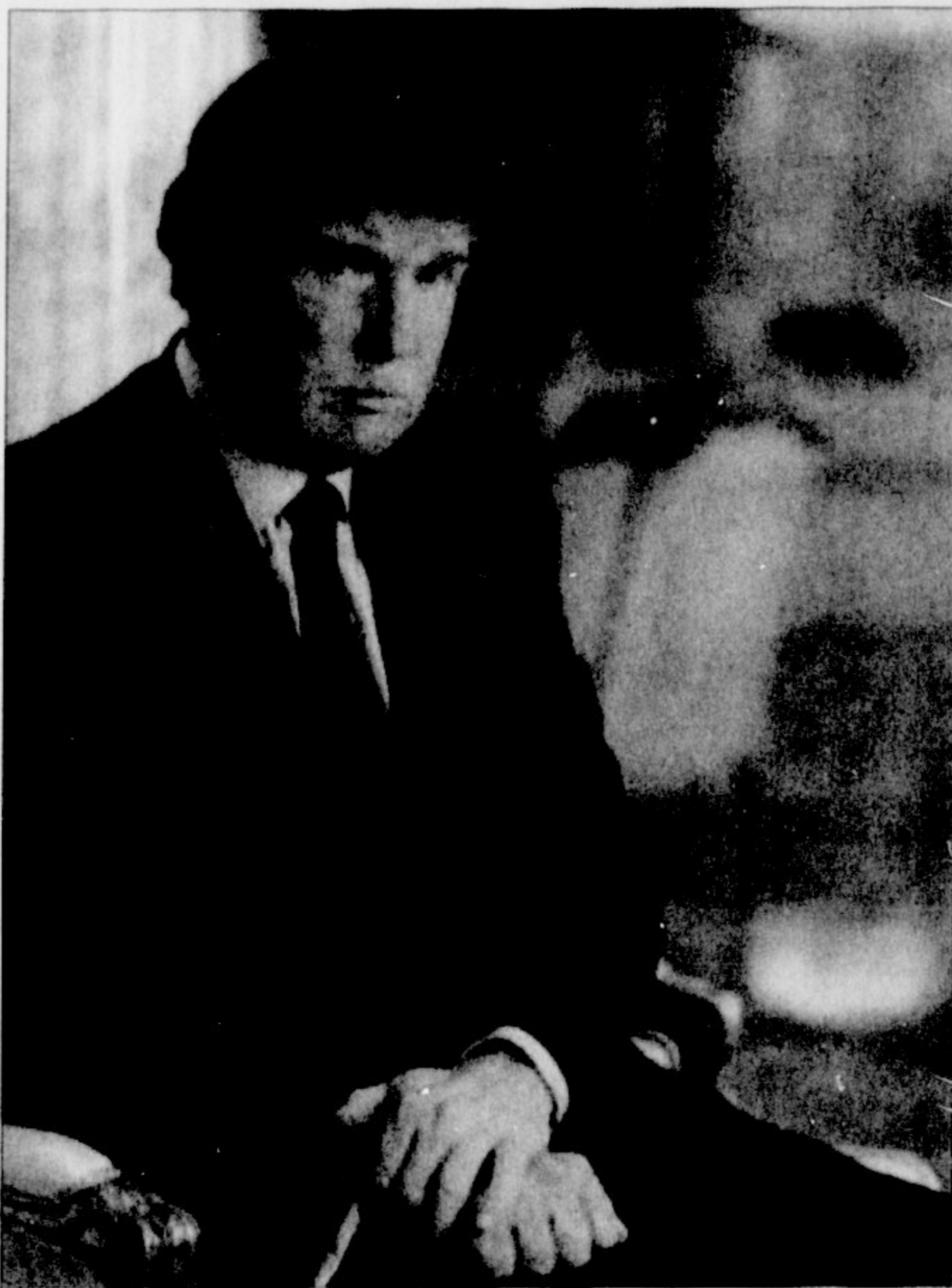
(KRT)—Location, location, location. Sex sells. Don't fall asleep on the job.

Who says there's nothing to learn from watching NBC's new reality show "The Apprentice?"

Produced by Donald Trump and Mark Burnett of "Survivor" fame, the series stars 16 well-groomed, 20- and 30-something contestants vying to land a \$250,000 "dream job" in Donald Trump's empire. Each week, The Donald sends the two teams, men versus women, on a "business" assignment: selling lemonade, creating an advertising campaign, and, more recently, negotiating the best prices for items ranging from squid to cigars. The winning team receives a reward — such as a tour of Trump's lavish apartment — and the other is sent to the board room. At the end of each episode, Trump barks "You're fired!" and points the loser to the "down elevator."

The show has caught the attention of millions of viewers, including some business school students and professors. After all, instead of stranding them in the Amazon or forcing them to eat pig's brains (really, where's the educational value in that?), this show throws the contestants into the real jungle, the fast-paced, dog-eat-dog business world. But could it become worthy of textbook fodder for budding entrepreneurs?

"I think Donald Trump might be giving some feedback that just might be valuable," said Eugene Muscat, senior associate dean of the University of San Francisco's School of Business



Donald Trump plays boss to two teams in "The Apprentice."

and Management.

Muscat suggests that students track the candidate they most identify with — the Harvard MBA graduate, for instance — and see how the person fares. He doesn't advocate setting aside an hour a week to watch it but said that if there's any lesson to learn, it could be in the feedback that each contestant receives.

Kathleen Kane, an organizational behavior professor at the same school, said she might use clips of the show to spark discussion. Analyzing how the groups interact could offer insight into building trust and forming coalitions, she said.

Certainly, the show so far has displayed examples of how not to run an operation.

Trials from page A5

Prince Michael II — the baby Jackson dangled from a German hotel balcony — whose mother has yet to be named.

Bryant is on trial for allegations of raping a young woman during his stay at a Colorado hotel. His lawyer, Pamela Mackey, used Bryant's race as one of primary reasons he was accused.

This shocked many people. Mackey also told the judge that there is a history of African American men wrongly accused of rape by white women. This is unfortunate since all parties

involved hoped race would not become an issue.

"I think the sex was consensual. Why would Bryant rape her when he has girls throwing themselves at him all the time?" said Victoria Blue, junior English education major.

Blake is on trial — accused of shooting his wife, Bonny Lee, on May 4, 2001. If Blake is convicted, he'll face life in prison without parole.

The 70-year-old is free on a \$1.5 million bail but remains on house arrest. Blake's trial takes place in February. He hopes a cast of hundreds will help beat his

murder charges. Blake's lawyer submitted a list of 670 potential witnesses to the judge.

With all of these celebrity trials, there is bound to be someone who'd document them in an interesting way. Starz Behind Barz is a deck of cards in which the faces are mug shots of celebrities. It was created by Ryan Friesner and Smoky Burns. The story behind the stars' arrest is printed on each card.

Bryant is the ace of spades.

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

GREENSBORO

I HAD THE SAME QUESTIONS.

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Can I study abroad?

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Can I reach my goals?

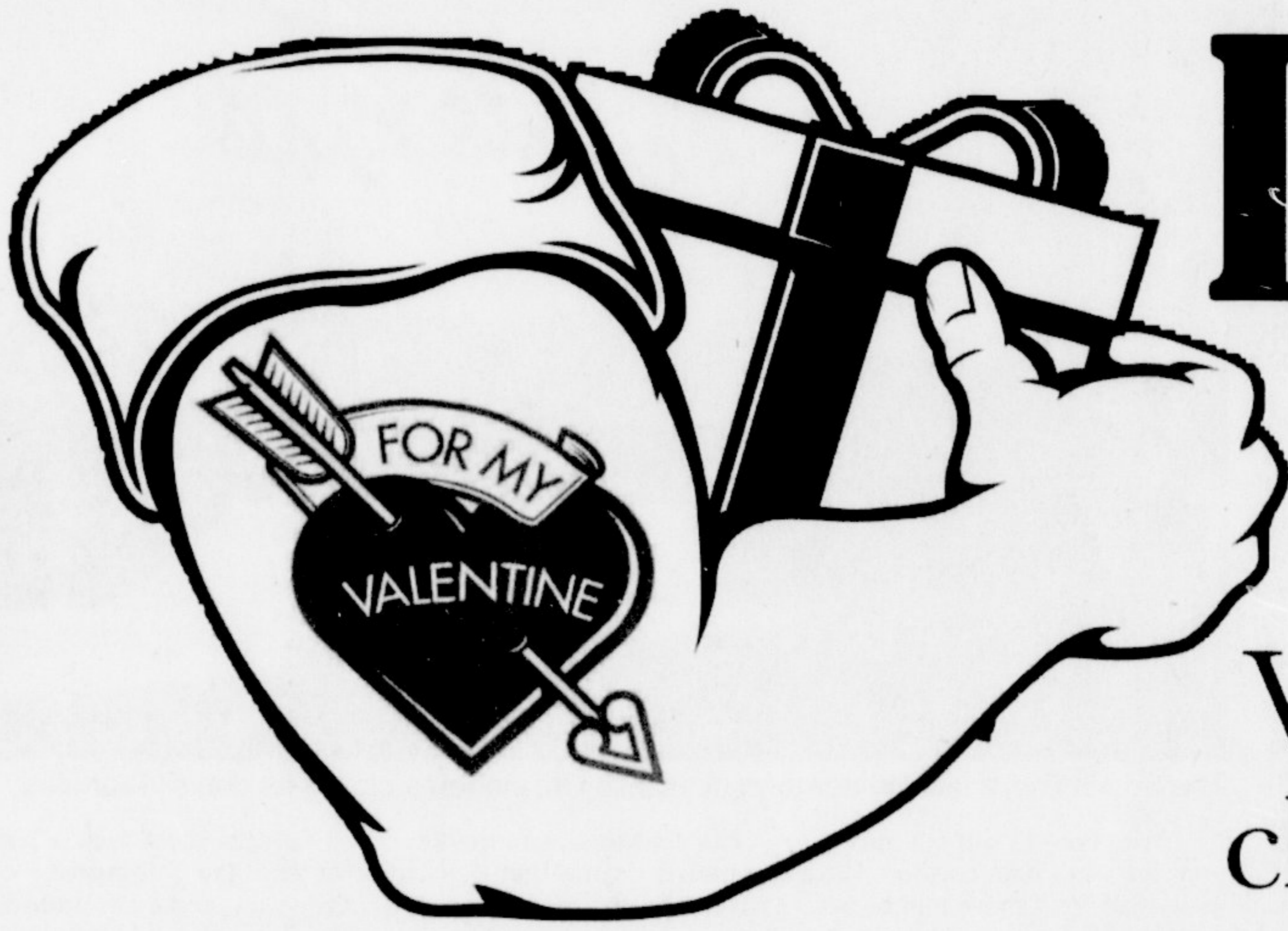
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SLAM POETRY CONTEST WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY THE FOURTH 8 PM AT THE PIRATE UNDERGROUND

SIGN UP IN ADVANCE IN THE STUDENT UNION (MENDENHALL 236)
 OR 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE EVENT IN THE PIRATE UNDERGROUND



RULES AND REGULATIONS

All contestants will need to arrive 15 minutes before showtime.
 Poems can be on any subject in any style.
 No contestant is allowed to have any props, costumes, or musical instruments.
 All poems must be the original work of the poet/spoken word artist.
 There will be a 10 minute time limit on all performances.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistry, originality, delivery, and emotions.

PRIZES

3rd place winner: \$25
 2nd place winner: \$50
 1st place winner: \$100
 Each winner will receive two tickets to Russell Simmons
 Def Poetry on March 8th at 7:30PM



SPONSORED BY POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT AND SPECTRUM COMMITTEES

Safety from page A5

unlit areas near construction sites and at the main entrances of the dormitories. As an RA, Oliver said she is doing her part in educating the residents on her hall. She urges them to use the buddy system and to "never hesitate to call the police for ride."

Many safety services are offered for students to use to their advantage. Including calling campus police, they can also call SafeRide, use the emergency blue light posts or the university escort service.

The ECU Police Department has met and discussed placing camera surveillance systems outside of dormitories and/or using the ECU OneCards to enter dorms. They believe that these actions will help to reduce the crime on campus.

Tiffany Kenner, sophomore undecided major, lives on campus and said that she feels pretty safe.

"I haven't really heard about anything that has happened," Kenner said.

Safety Tips:

Top Ten Campus Crime Prevention Tips:

1. Don't walk or jog alone. Walk in well-lit, populated areas.
2. Participate in Pirate Protection. Mark your valuables.
3. Lock car and room doors to prevent theft.
4. Report suspicious activity.
5. Use the blue light phones throughout campus to report suspicious activity or if you feel threatened in any way.
6. Use the ECU Police Night Patrol Escort Service at 328-RIDE (328-7433), must show OneCard.
7. If heading out alone, tell someone where you are going.
8. ATM visits should take place during daytime hours, if possible.
9. Do not carry or keep large amounts of cash in your room.
10. Park in well-lit areas.

According to criminal statistics from the Police Department, larceny, liquor law violations and drug violations were the most common criminal offenses in 2002. The least common criminal offenses were non-forcible sex offenses, murder and forcible sex offenses.

The majority of crimes take

place around 12 a.m. - 4 a.m., usually in dark areas. The Police Department urges students to utilize the buddy system when traveling at night and remain in well-lit areas of campus.

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

Close from page A5

together, but many will miss the downtown icon.

Main Street Beer Company was nestled back in the neighborhoods close to campus off Jarvis Street and served many of the students and locals who lived nearby.

Their relaxed atmosphere and wide selection of beers brought in many customers, but their closing in the past months has left many wondering what happened.

"They changed their menu and nothing happened. They tried to change from a pizza and beer place to a more up scale restaurant and it didn't work," said Nick Pittman, senior electronics major.

Though the restaurant was well-advertised and often ran lunch specials for students, the most recent renovations seemed to be too much of a change for regular customers. This could prove to be a pattern for other small local cafes in the area that have to compete with larger

national chain restaurants.

Kohl's was best known for its custard and other frozen treats, but the popular Greenville eatery closed recently, much to the dismay of the local customers. Located in the Red Banks Road Shopping Center, the shop was often difficult to see from Greenville Boulevard, and may not have been able to bring in as much business as needed for the growing property rates.

The recent changes in owners at Overton's and other nearby stores may have also influenced the sudden closing.

"I didn't know about the store because I never go back into that shopping center. It's hard to find unless you know where to look, and I can understand why more people didn't know about it," said Linda Rusnak, senior accounting major.

Oh! Brian's, found along Greenville Boulevard, was the place to get a good rack of ribs or other freshly grilled meals. Up until recently, the only obvious

sign of the closing was the lack of traffic in the parking lot. However, with the recent additions of several new restaurants in the area, Oh! Brian's was competing with better-recognized chains and wasn't able to keep their business.

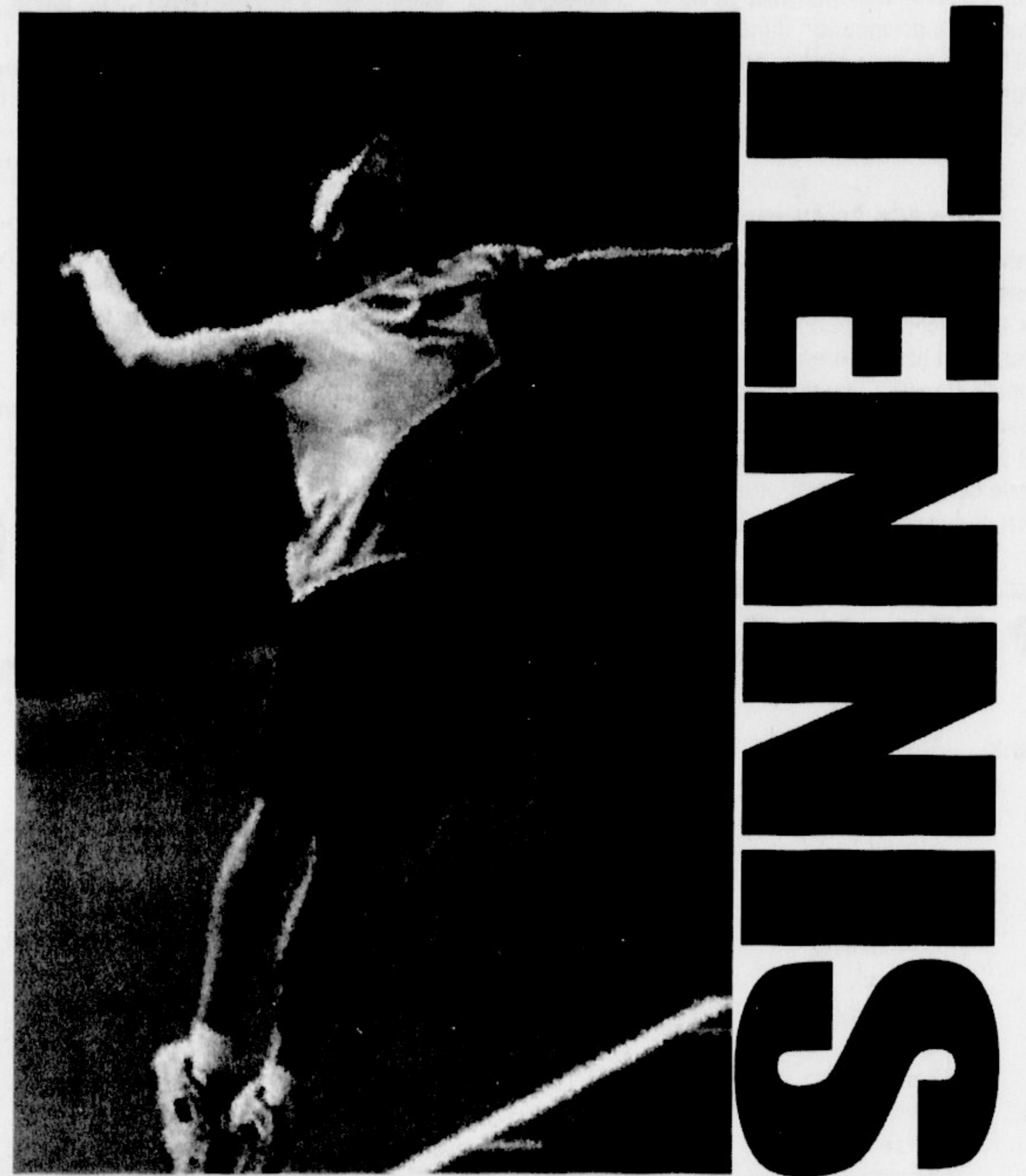
"I've been to Oh! Brian's several times in the past few years, and it was always busy with a long wait for seating, so I was surprised to hear that it had closed," said Megan Brewer, senior hospitality management major.

With Greenville bringing in more national chain businesses to accommodate the ever-growing city, it is likely that more local businesses will feel the economic pressure.

With any luck, the long-standing Greenville icons will remain, but expect change for this typically transient college town.

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

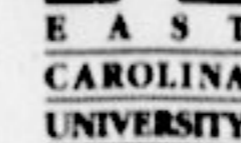
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SPORTS

RYAN DOWNEY

Sports Editor

TONY ZOPPO

Assistant Sports Editor

sports@theeastcarolinian.com

252.328.6366

Announcements

Women's tennis splits matches at VCU Invitational

East Carolina University's women's tennis team opened the spring semester portion of its 2003-04 schedule by splitting four matches in last weekend's VCU 4-1 Invitational. The Lady Pirates defeated Drexel, 4-1, and Georgetown, 3-1, while suffering losses to 17th-ranked VCU, 4-1, and American, 3-2. ECU is scheduled to open its home schedule on Wednesday, Feb. 4, against Charlotte. Match time at the ECU Tennis Complex is 2 p.m. See chart on p A10.

Sports Briefs

James not voted to All-Star team

LeBron James missed the cut Tuesday in voting for All-Star reserves, finishing behind Eastern Conference guards Paul Pierce, Michael Redd, Baron Davis and Jason Kidd. The league's 29 coaches selected the reserves. Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers was among the Western Conference reserves for the league's showcase event Feb. 15 in Los Angeles. Other All-Star reserves for the West are: Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas, Peja Stojakovic and Brad Miller of Sacramento, Sam Cassell of Minnesota, Andrei Kirilenko of Utah and Ray Allen of Seattle. The other East reserves are: Jamaal Magloire of New Orleans, Ron Artest of Indiana and Kenyon Martin of New Jersey.

Henson headed to the NFL

Drew Henson has agreed to leave the New York Yankees to pursue a career in the NFL. Henson's agent, Casey Close, told the Yankees the third baseman is quitting after three mediocre seasons in the minor leagues, a baseball official said on the condition he not be identified. Henson will forfeit the \$12 million he is owed from the contract he agreed to with the Yankees in 2001, the official said. The NFL's Houston Texans, who hold the quarterback's rights, announced that Henson would work out with the team on Feb. 12 in a showcase for the other 31 NFL franchises.

O'Neal loses pay check

Shaquille O'Neal was suspended without pay by the NBA, one day after using obscene language and publicly criticizing the officials during a television interview. The suspension was announced just hours after O'Neal issued a statement apologizing for the comments he made following the Lakers' victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday. O'Neal will serve the suspension Monday night, sitting out a game against the Indiana Pacers. It will cost him nearly \$295,000.

Williams and Bulls agree to buyout

Jay Williams and the Chicago Bulls agreed on a contract buyout. Bill Duffy, Williams' agent, said the buyout was in the \$3 million range. Williams had two more years worth about \$77 million left on his original deal. Williams played one season with the Chicago Bulls before he was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident on June 19. He spent two weeks at a Chicago hospital before being transferred to Duke University Medical Center, where he continues to rehab. The buyout allows the Bulls to gain a roster spot and flexibility with the salary cap.

Colorado to investigate sex allegations

The University of Colorado's president agreed to form an independent commission to look into allegations the school uses sex to recruit football players. President Elizabeth Hoffman said that she hopes to convene the commission in two or three weeks and will take action if it turns up any impropriety or makes any recommendations. After meeting with Hoffman, state Sens. Peter Groff and Dan Grossman agreed to delay plans for a special legislative investigation, which could include subpoena powers. The move comes less than a week after the allegations were disclosed in a federal civil lawsuit against the state's flagship university.

AP Men's Top 25

| Rank | Team | Record |
|------|-----------------|--------|
| 1. | Duke | 18-1 |
| 2. | Stanford | 18-0 |
| 3. | Saint Joseph's | 18-0 |
| 4. | Pittsburgh | 20-1 |
| 5. | Connecticut | 17-3 |
| 6. | Louisville | 16-2 |
| 7. | Mississippi St. | 18-1 |
| 8. | Gonzaga | 17-2 |
| 9. | Kentucky | 14-3 |
| 10. | Cincinnati | 15-2 |
| 11. | Texas | 14-3 |
| 12. | Arizona | 14-4 |
| 13. | Oklahoma St. | 15-2 |
| 14. | Wisconsin | 14-3 |
| 15. | Georgia Tech | 16-4 |
| 16. | Wake Forest | 13-4 |
| 17. | North Carolina | 13-5 |
| 18. | Syracuse | 14-3 |
| 19. | Texas Tech | 16-4 |
| 20. | Kansas | 13-4 |
| 21. | Florida | 13-5 |
| 22. | Oklahoma | 13-4 |
| 23. | Providence | 14-4 |
| 24. | Utah St. | 17-1 |
| 25. | South Carolina | 18-3 |

Others receiving votes: Air Force 116, Vanderbilt 113, Seton Hall 101, S. Illinois 65, N.C. State 58, Florida St. 53, Marquette 49, Dayton 27, Purdue 26, Charlotte 20, Creighton 17, W. Michigan 17, Memphis 10, Hawaii 7, Kent St. 4, Rice 4, Illinois 3, Michigan St. 3, Iowa St. 2, Vermont 2, Va. Commonwealth 1.

ECU plans new facility

Project to start in 2005

BRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

Plans are underway to begin the process of constructing a new intramural/club sports facility for ECU students. This is no ordinary facility however, and according to Nance Mize, the Director of Recreational Services, the new complex will be enormous.

"It will be the largest outdoor facility for intramural and club sports in the nation," said Mize. With six softball, multi-purpose, and soccer fields, six tennis courts, six batting cages, four basketball and volleyball courts, two rugby fields, and one stadium soccer field, the new athletic facility will most be breathtaking.

Also in the plans are a six acre lake for water sports, a skate park, Frisbee golf courses, an outdoor pool, and much more. See the diagram for a complete outlook of the project.

The complex is slated to be 129 acres, some 109 more than the current site for intramural sports, Blount Fields.

Ohio State University will become a distant second, as they currently boast a 45-acre facility for students.

The facility will be about 4 1/2 miles away from the heavily populated neighborhood that Blount Fields is in the middle of. This will allow for more night games and a better, louder sound system for playoffs and tournaments. Mize believes the new location is perfect.

"We have had a lot of complaints from people living around Blount Fields about the noise level and how long we keep the lights on," Mize said.

"This new facility will grant us a tremendous amount of freedom as far as the sound and lights are concerned."

The new complex gives club and intramural teams more opportunities to practice and will allow ECU to host larger tournaments.

By collecting interest on debt service accounts and student fees, money has yet to become a big issue in the plans. The initial phase of the complex which includes the fields and courts, the restrooms, and a storage building will cost anywhere from \$6 to \$6.5 million dollars.

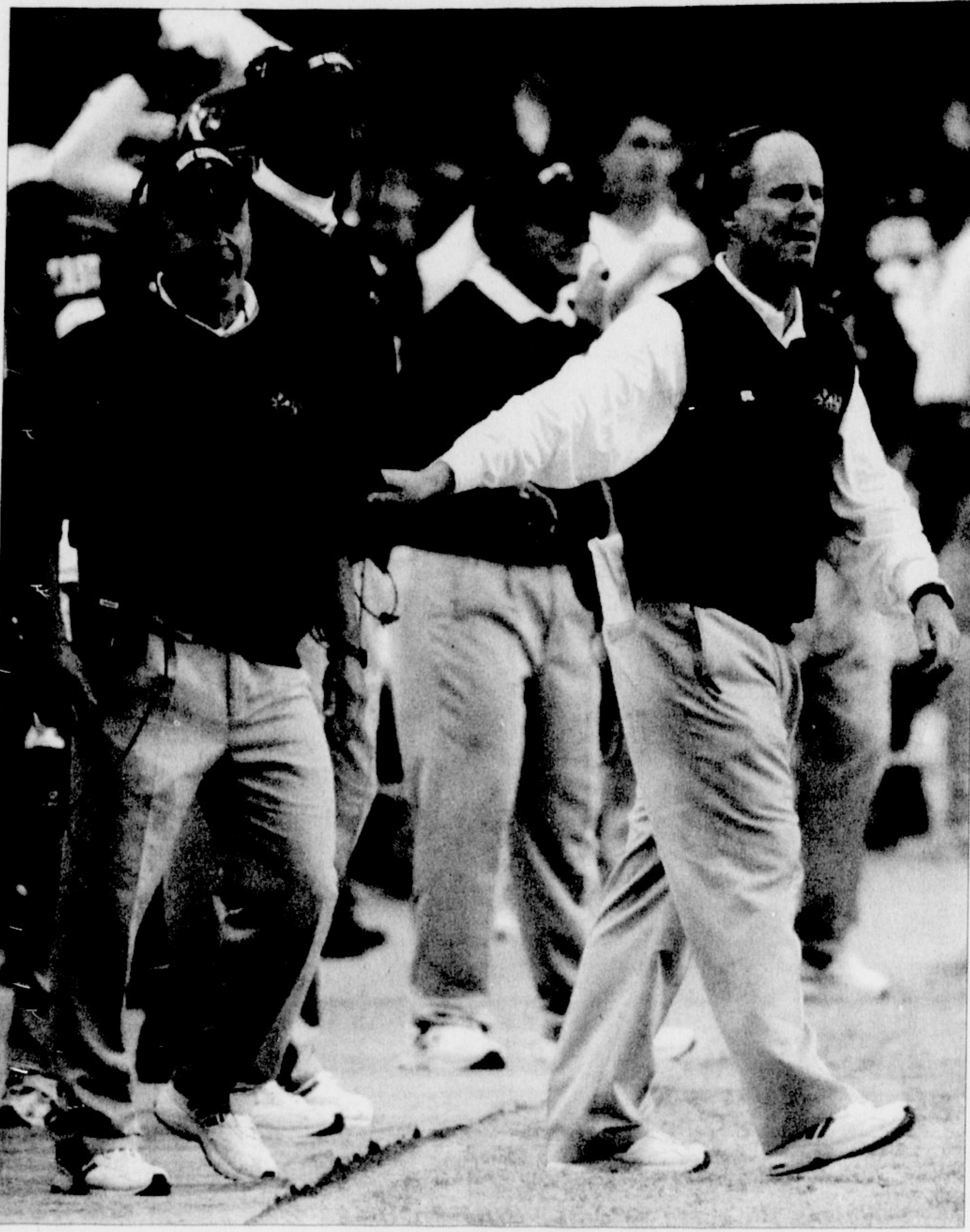
Mize believes the project will cost \$30 to \$40 million.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2005, but Mize is hopeful that it can be completed by that time. Before construction can begin, officials must enter the design stage in which they must hire an architectural firm to do the design for the new facility.

After the design phase is completed, officials will then begin to form committees that contain faculty and students in order to gather valuable opinions on how the campus community would like the place to look.

If everything goes according to plan, get ready students, because one of the most elite facilities in the nation is on its way to Greenville.

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



Fans will get a first glimpse at the future of ECU football at the signing party Wednesday.

Football signing day party

ECU Head Football Coach John Thompson will officially unveil his 2004 signing class on Wednesday, Feb. 4, during a special Signing Day Party at 5:30 p.m. at the Murphy Center.

The event, held in the Harvey Hall banquet room, is open to the

public and free of charge.

Thompson will formally announce the newest additions to the Pirate family. A tally board with details on the signees, video highlights, and light refreshments will all be part of the festivities.

The ECU coaching staff will also be on hand to meet and greet fans. ECUpirates.com, the official web site of the Pirates, will list complete details of the 2004 signing class late Wednesday afternoon in conjunction with the signing day party.

A Saturday full of surprises

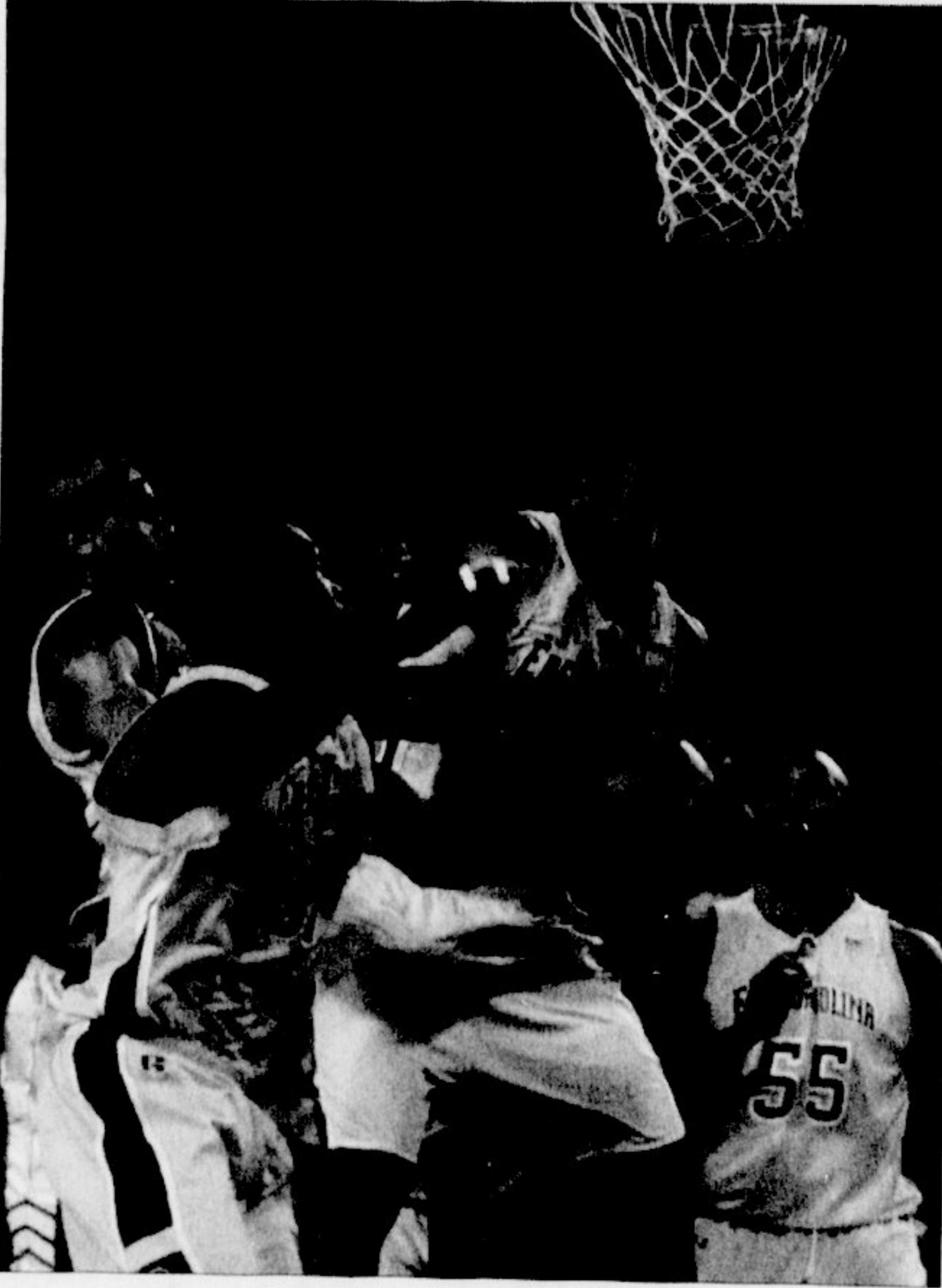
Men's and women's teams shake up the court

ROBERT LEONARD
STAFF WRITER

If you like predictable games, Saturday was not the day for you. On a day where ranked teams around the country lost, ECU provided its own surprises as both the men's and the women's team played host to Conference USA opponents.

The women were the first to take the court in Minges, as they took on a defensive minded Marquette team. The key to this game was to convert on every offensive chance down the floor.

And they did. The Pirates put up 61 points on Marquette's swarming defense as Courtney Willis, Keisha Anthony and Jennifer Jackson all scored in double figures. Marquette is only giving up an average of roughly 56 a game, so 61 was no doubt a



Both of ECU's basketball teams provided drama Saturday.

NCAA basketball season hitting high gear

Duke tops national rankings

TRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

Since the NFL season just ended last weekend, and the NBA is never worth watching, almost all sports-lovers' eyes will be fixated on college basketball.

So far it has been a year that has showcased inconsistent play from the number ones and surprise upsets week in and week out.

Duke's rise to the top took a shaky path through the beginning of the season, losing to Purdue and almost going down to a few no-names. However, since the Purdue loss, the Blue Devils have been on a tear, ripping through the rest of their non-conference schedule and early ACC opponents. Though the Blue Devils look poised to win yet another ACC title, they may have their toughest contest up to date this Thursday night when they travel to Chapel Hill.

While the Tar Heels have been struggling lately, Duke has shifted to high gear, winning their games by an average of 21 points during their current 15-game winning streak.

However, this is Duke and Carolina - a game where numbers never have any bearing on the outcome.

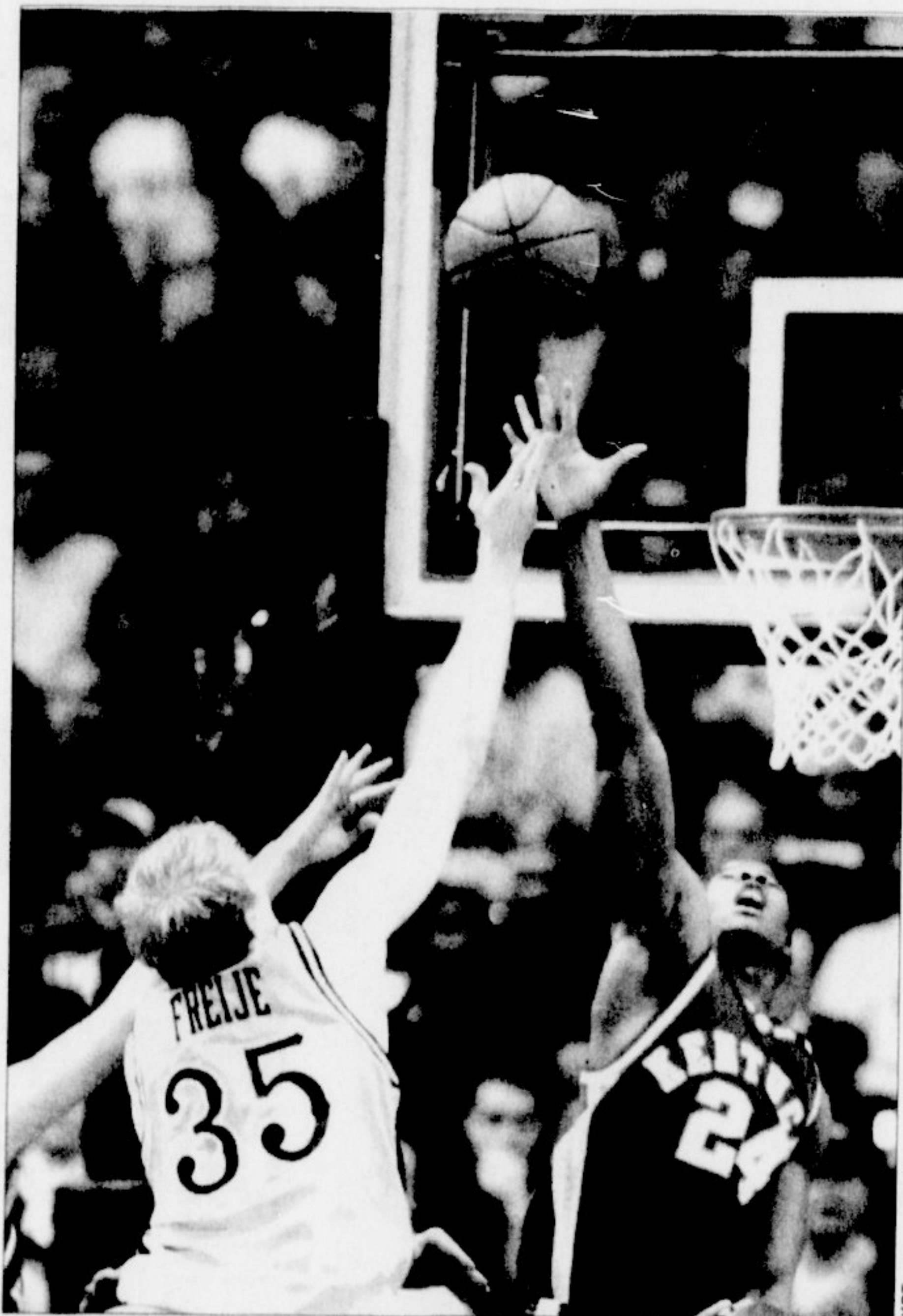
Like the Blue Devils, the Louisville Cardinals have also proven their ability to win games after an early loss in the season. Opening the season with a heartbreaking loss to Iowa, the Cardinals reeled off 16 straight before falling to Marquette over the weekend. Steve Novak did all he could to single-handedly end the Cardinal streak, dropping 30 points on Rick Pitino's men.

For Duke and Louisville, the hopes of being undefeated ended very early. It seems like being undefeated at the beginning of February would get your team some notoriety for the top spot, right? Wrong.

Preseason polls, as terribly biased as they are, secured the chances of holding the nation's top spot early on in the season for teams like UConn, Duke, Florida and Kansas. UConn (#6), Kansas (#15) and Florida (#22), the preseason positioned teams, now have no shot of rising back to the top of the polls.

And why is that? Because they should have never received early

see NCAA page A10

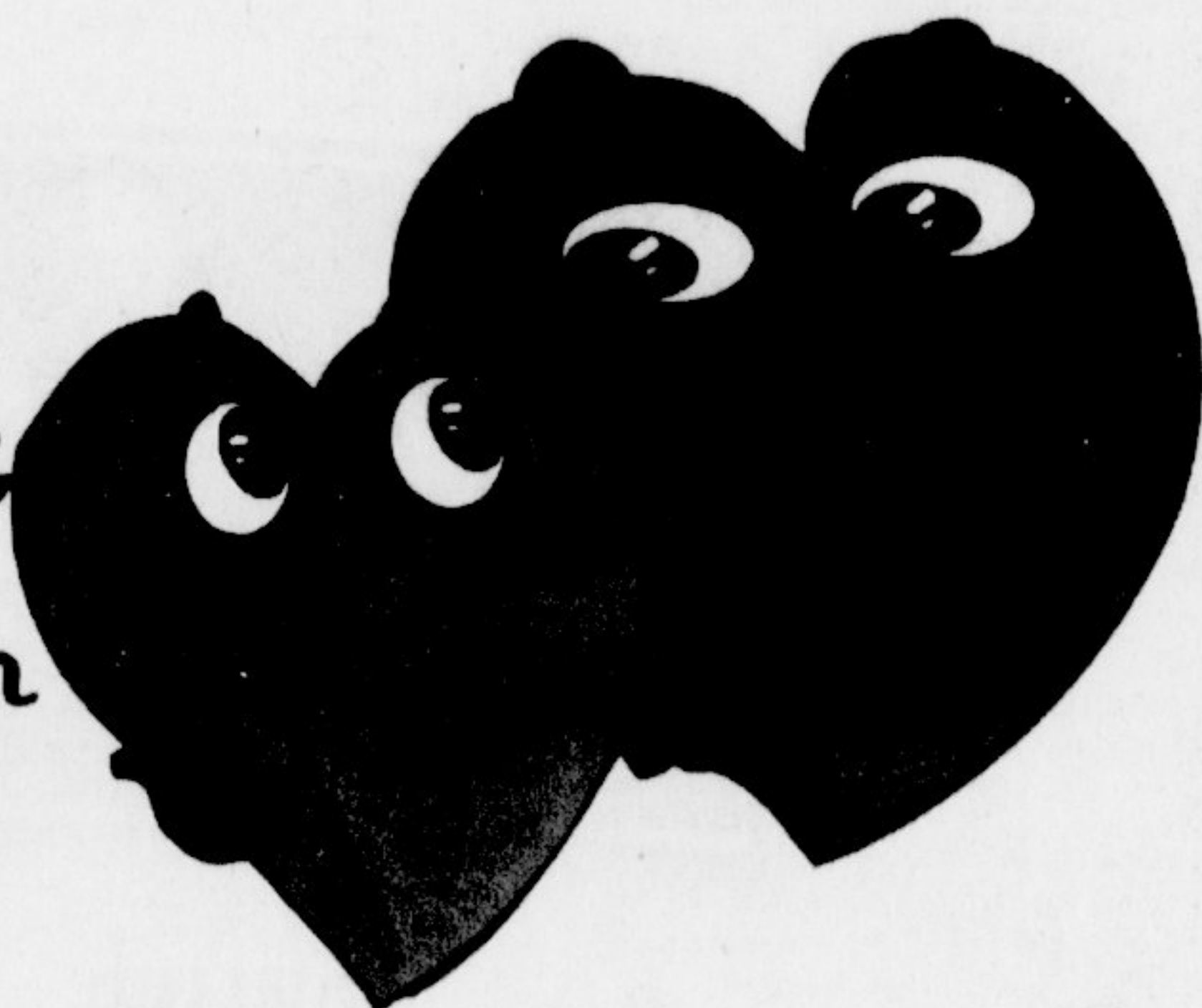


Kentucky was one of many teams to fall last weekend.

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ECU announces ticket promotions for remaining women's home games

ECU Athletics has announced ticket promotions for the three remaining Lady Pirates' home basketball games in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

The Monday, Feb. 2 game against nationally ranked (No. 13) DePaul has been designated as Fan Appreciation Day.

All Pirate fans may purchase a ticket to this game at the Minges ticket window for only \$2.

On Friday, Feb. 13, the Lady Pirates will take on nationally ranked (No. 21) TCU with a 7 p.m. tip off. This game is highlighted by a Baseball Ticket promotion. Anyone who presents their ECU

vs. UNC Asheville baseball ticket stub to the Minges ticket window is eligible to receive a free admission ticket to the game.

In addition, the Take A Kid to the Game promotion allows any adult who purchases a ticket at full price to receive a free child's ticket to the game. Minges ticket office will open at 6 p.m.

For the Lady Pirates home finale of the 2003-04 season against Houston, three promotions are being offered to Pirate fans starting at 1 p.m. Senior Citizen Day allows all senior citizens (62 years or older) to receive free admission.

Youth League Day presents

Ticket Info

For more information on any of these promotions, call the ticket office at 1-800-DIAL-ECU or 252-328-4500.

an opportunity to any youth who wears a recreation, youth, or church league jersey to receive free admission when accompanied by an adult.

Finally, all Girl Scouts wearing their uniform will receive a free ticket to the game on Girl Scout Day.

TCU to join Mountain West Conference

(KRT) The TCU Board of Trustees announced today that the University has accepted an invitation to become the ninth member of the Mountain West Conference, beginning with the 2005-06 academic year. In so doing TCU will be joining with the United States Air Force Academy, Brigham Young University, Colorado State University, University of New Mexico, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, San Diego State University, University of Utah and University of Wyoming.

In making the announcement, Board Chairman John V. Roach said, "We studied the pros and cons very carefully. After taking all the factors into consideration as best we can, our decision is based on what we believe to be in the best long-term interest of the overall institution."

Athletics Director Eric Hyman echoed Chairman Roach's comments and added, "Conference alignment is a very difficult issue at this time in the history of intercollegiate athletics and lots of people have debated the pros and cons of movements all over the country. Conference USA helped elevate us to where we are today and our experience in the league was overwhelmingly positive. However, for us now the debate is over. We look forward to new and exciting opportunities in the Mountain West Conference as we continue to build our nationally prominent



TCU Athletic Director Eric Hyman announced that the University will become a member of the Mountain West Conference.

athletics program."

The Mountain West Conference was conceived on May 26, 1998. The cornerstone of the conference's formation was the maintenance of long standing athletic rivalries among its member institutions. Hence the Mountain West Conference was formed. Located in Colorado Springs, Colo., when the MWC's doors opened for business the new league had in place a seven-year contract with ESPN, giving the broadcaster exclusive national television rights to MWC football and men's basketball; and three-year agreements to send the league's football champion to the Liberty Bowl and a second team to the Las Vegas Bowl.

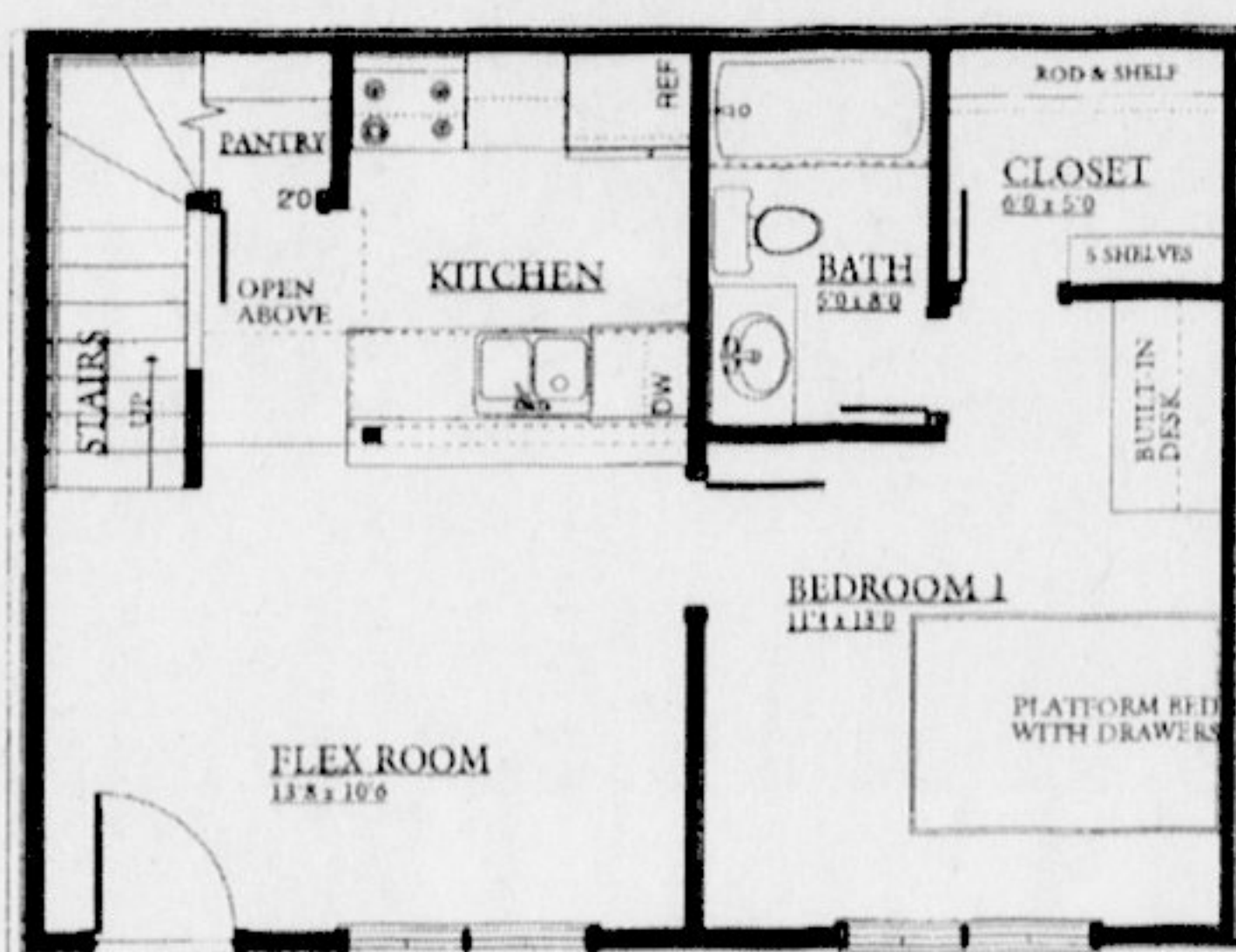
The Conference officially

began operations on July 1, 1999. Prior to opening its doors an executive committee was established and named Craig Thompson commissioner. Thompson had less than one-year to name the new league, settle on a city to serve as the league's headquarters, find a television partner, arrange for bowl tie-ins, hire staff, and develop a logo.

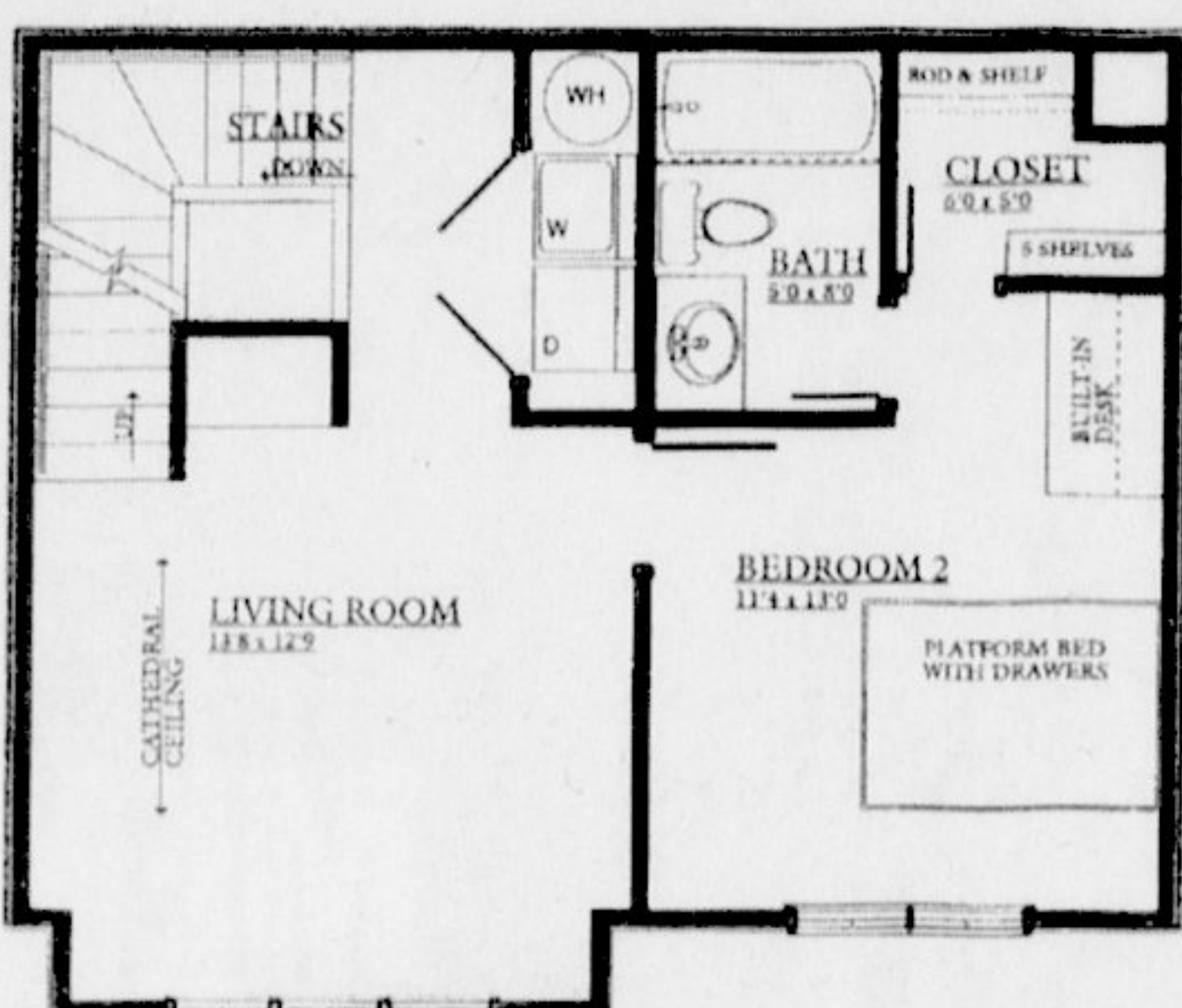
TCU Chancellor Victor Boschini said, "I am extremely excited about the opportunities ahead in the Mountain West Conference, but we also need to say that we had a great experience competing with the fine universities in C-USA and with that association. We leave with nothing but high regard for those institutions and will continue to

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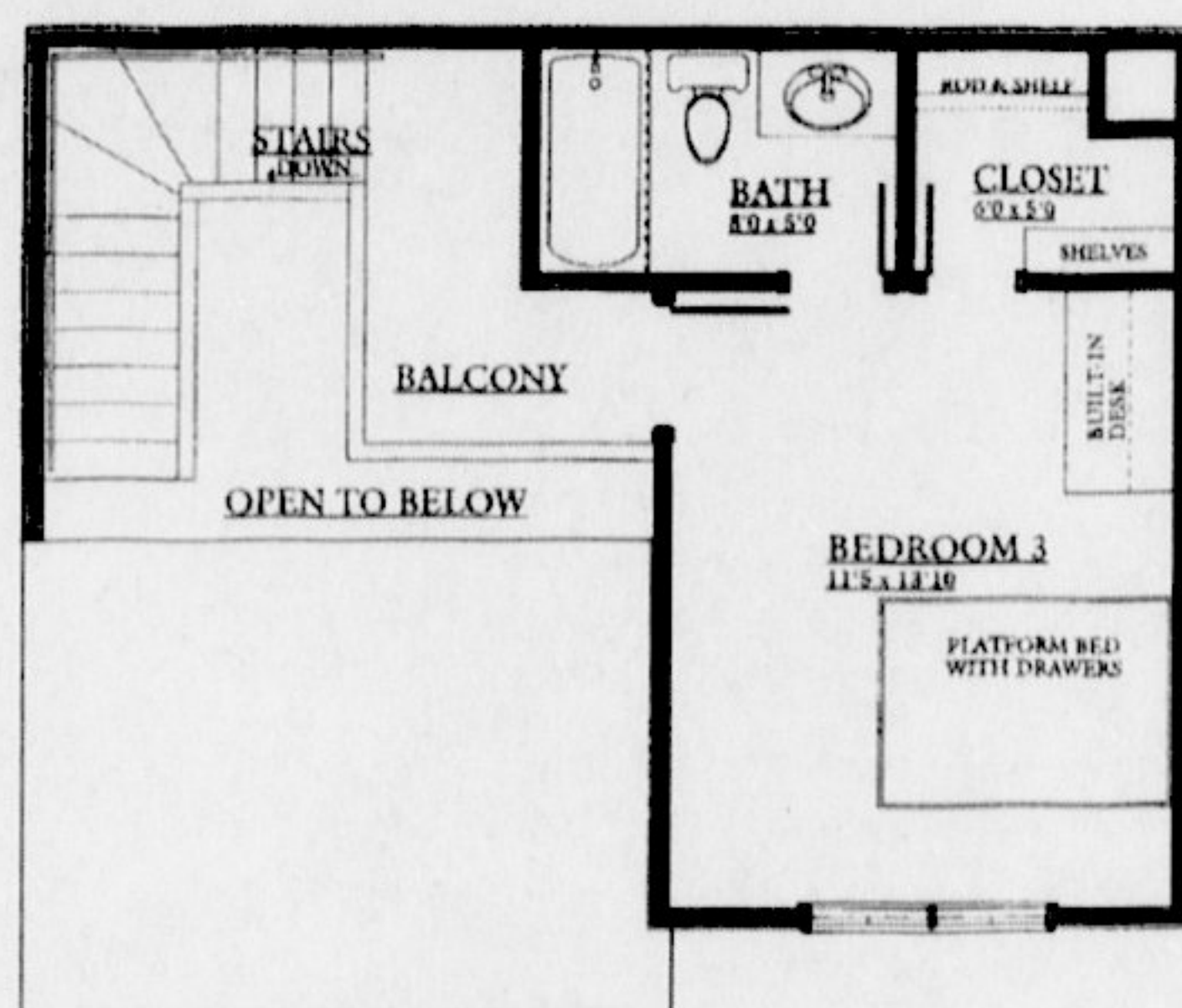
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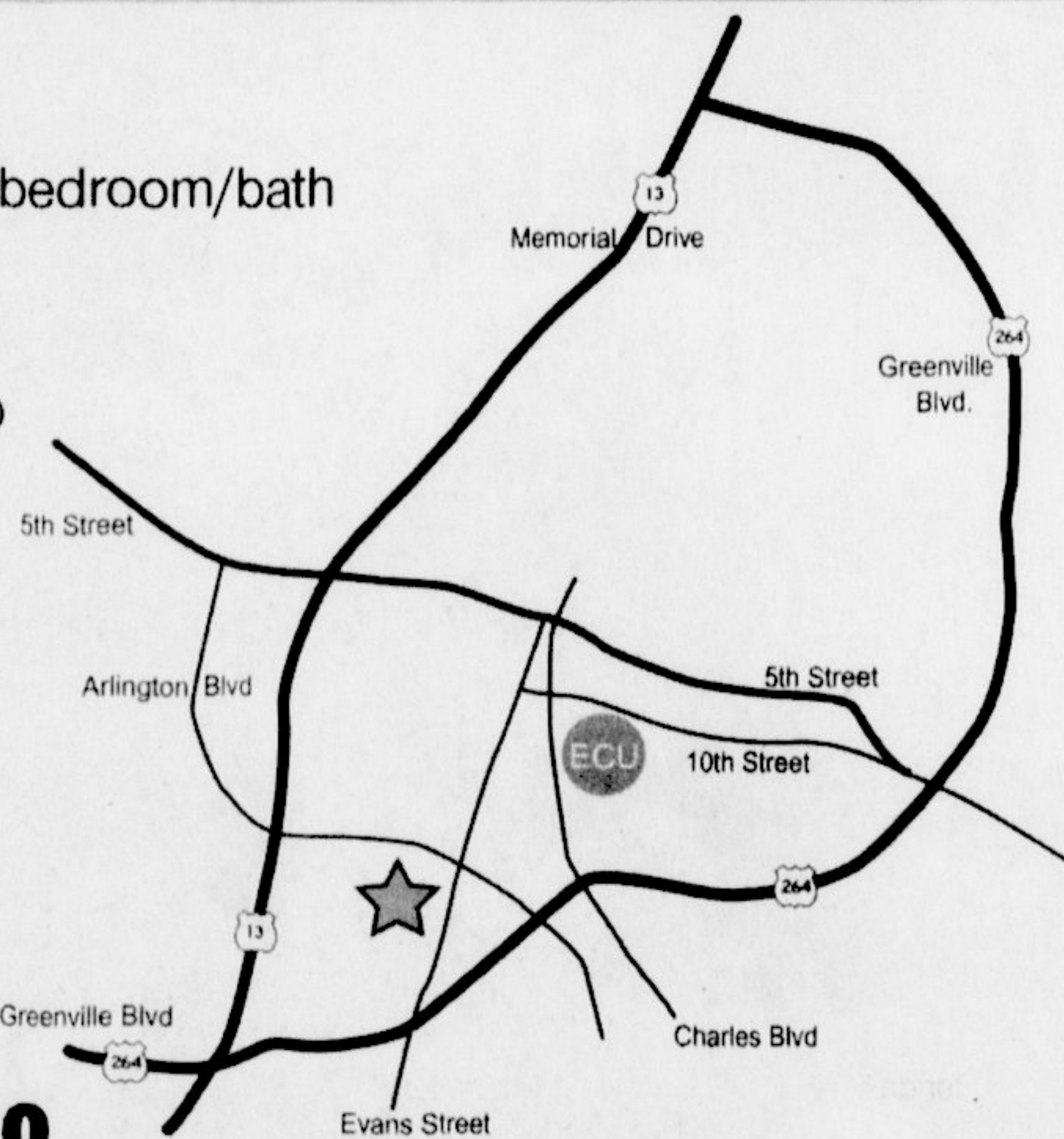
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Tennis VCU Invitational results

ECU 4, Drexel 1
Individual scores not available

VCU 4, ECU 1

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Singles | | |
| 1. Silvia Urnikova (VCU) def. Kirstin Buchanan (ECU) | 6-1 | 6-0 |
| 2. Olga Borisova (VCU) def. Raluca Baiu (ECU) | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| 3. Cristina Gago (VCU) def. Cristina Mellicke (ECU) | 6-2 | 6-1 |
| 4. Gillie Bailey (VCU) def. Diana O'Campo (VCU) | 6-4 | 6-4 |
| Doubles | | |
| Cristina Ambras/Camille Ripert (VCU) def. Ashley Perkinson/Sara Boseman (ECU) | 6-0 | 6-0 |

ECU 3, Georgetown 1

| | | |
|--|-----|-------------|
| Singles | | |
| 1. Kirstin Buchanan (ECU) led Jordan Botjer (GU) | 4-6 | 6-2 3-2 DNF |
| 2. Raluca Baiu (ECU) def. Lara Madonia (GU) | 6-0 | 6-0 |
| 3. Cristina Mellicke (ECU) def. Sana Malouf (GU) | 6-0 | 2-6 6-4 |
| 4. Gillie Bailey (ECU) def. Kristin Dew (GU) | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Doubles | | |
| Nora Gardner/Eileen Boyle (GU) def. Ashley Perkinson/Sara Boseman (ECU) | | |

American 3, ECU 2

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Singles | | |
| 1. Kristina Georgieva (AU) def. Kirstin Buchanan (ECU) | 6-1 | 6-2 |
| 2. Raluca Baiu (ECU) def. Sasha Zerkalova (AU) | 6-3 | 6-1 |
| 3. Julia Colarusso (AU) def. Cristina Mellicke (ECU) | 6-2 | 6-2 |
| 4. Gillie Bailey (ECU) def. Ashley Wroten (AU) | 6-3 | 6-3 |
| Doubles | | |
| Brandi Klugman/Rachael Honig (AU) def. Ashley Perkinson/Sara Boseman (ECU) | 6-1 | 6-0 |

NCAA from page A8

consideration from the beginning. Preseason polls may cost a team like St. Joseph's a number one seed in the NCAA tournament. Both St. Joe's and Stanford had to climb their way to the top of the rankings and still have not attained the number one spot. Duke lost early on in the season, but made it back to the top.

The way college basketball is handled in the beginning of the season and throughout the remainder of the year may never change, but the excitement will always be there. Whether it is five ranked teams falling in one day, three overtime games in one night, or just listening to Dick Vitale commentate on a nail-biting game, college basketball will never lose its luster. Kids play with heart and passion night in and night out, striving to earn a spot in the tourney in March.

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

Saturday from page A8

success. If you had told me our women would score 61 on the Golden Eagles, I would have said you were crazy. And that's not a knock on ECU, just a compliment for Marquette.

The second surprise came with Marquette's hot shooting night. Four players scored in double figures on route to a 14-point victory. The team's 75 total points was the second highest scoring game of the year for Marquette, only one point shy of matching the season high of 76. The Golden Eagles are like all other defensive minded teams, if they could beat you 1-0, they would probably take it, so scoring 75 was a major shock.

The third surprise, no doubt the best news about the game, was the crowd. Over 1,500 people showed up to cheer on the ladies. The game was even televised around the area. The women deserve it; they play with great emotion, and are fun to watch.

The first oddity in the men's game came before the tip off. With Gabriel Mikulas out for the season and Corey Rouse sidelined as well, the lay up drills gave me the impression that some players

were still in the locker room, but that was not the case; the team looked that thin.

With only nine of the potential 12 players dressed (Freshman Keith Foster remains academically ineligible), the Pirates knew they had to stay out of foul trouble and remain fresh. In addition to the shock of only seeing nine players dressed, Head Coach Bill Herrion started a new lineup.

Freshman Mike Cook, who has emerged as a big scoring threat, started at the point ahead of fellow freshman JaPhet McNeil.

That wasn't that big of a shock considering how well Cook has played. But Herrion wasn't done throwing curve balls. Freshman Frank

Robinson saw his first start of the year at the shooting guard ahead of Belton Rivers. The rest of the lineup was the same, so no shake up there.

I thought that Herrion is either trying something new, or is sending a message to his team. This five proved to have an amazing start. I was by far the best start of an ECU basketball

game I've ever seen.

Two and a half minutes into the game, the Pirates had forced two turnovers including one on a charge call. DePaul's head coach received a technical foul, giving Eroyl Bing two free throws and ECU the ball.

Bing would make both shots and eventually hit a three to extend the Pirates' lead to 12-2. The hot start was the biggest surprise on Saturday. Unfortunately, the next 37 and one-half minutes proved to be more of an unwelcome surprise as DePaul won 70-65.

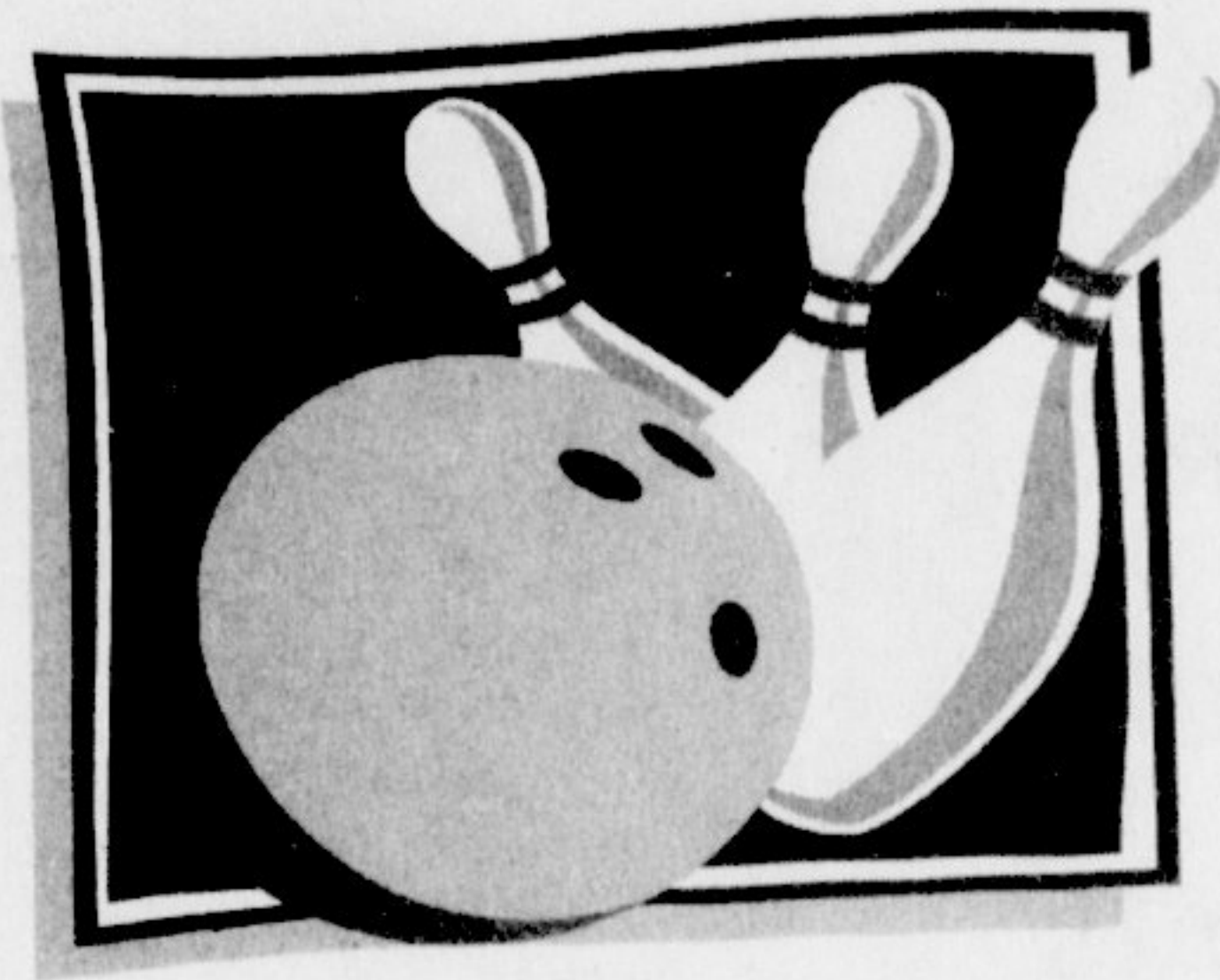
Another strange development for the men was the first man off the bench. It wasn't McNeil or Rivers as I expected. Three-point sniper Luke McKay was the first to check into the game, and scored nine points, all from behind the arc.

His shooting ability drew the defense to him all night and left one on one match-ups down low. That will factor in largely in this team's ability to win for the rest of the year.

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

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with fee at some units. For more information contact Wainright Property Management 756-6209.
House for rent: 204 13th Street- 3 BR, 2 BA close to ECU. Short term lease available. Small pet allowed with fee. For more information contact Wainright Property Management 756-6209.
For rent- 2 bedroom, 1 bath, brick duplex, Stancill Drive. Walking distance to ECU, central air. \$525/month. Pets OK w/fee. Call 353-2717 or 353-2713.
Apartments for rent: 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms, Beech Street Villas, Cypress Gardens, Cotanche Street, Gladiolus, Jasmine, Peony, Woodcliff, Forest Acres, Wesley Commons, Park Village. All units close to ECU. Water and sewer included with some units. For more information contact Wainright Property Management 756-6209.
For rent- 2 bedroom, 1 bath, brick duplex, Stancill Drive. Walking distance to ECU. Central air. \$525/month. Pets OK w/fee. Call 353-2717 or 353-2713.
\$475 Large 1 BR apt. with fireplace, 24-hour workout facilities, cable, quiet neighborhood. No undergraduates. Renting

immediately. (252)258-6622.
3 BR, 2 BA, all appliances, fenced backyard, large bonus room, utility shed, three blocks behind ECU football stadium. \$900.00/mo Call 756-8137 or 412-1696.
pinebrook apt. 758-4015- 1&2 BR apts, dishwasher, G/D, central air & heat, pool, ECU bus line, 9 or 12 month leases. Pets allowed. Rent includes water, sewer, & cable.

ROOMMATE WANTED

Female Roommate needed to sub-lease apt. @ Pirate's Cove for 300 a month. All utilities included. Call Kristen (252)551-3849 or Melanie at (919)818-3403.
Responsible Female roommate needed to share 2 BD/1 BA house 2 blocks from ECU. Available immediately. Furnished or unfurnished. Call Miranda at 758-4774 leave message.
Roommate needed to share 2 BR apt. No security deposit. Free water, cable, washer/dryer. \$297/mo., 1/2 utilities. Located downtown across from Peasants. Call 252-635-8758 or email cdaub73@hotmail.com.
Two Female Roommates wanted to share a 4 bedroom 3 bath townhouse at Sterling for fall '04. *Almost furnished* Call for more details (910)520-5964 or (252)412-4998.

FOR SALE

1983 Knox 14' x 60' Singlewide Trailer. Partially furnished, plywood floors, plus more. Asking 8,500. Call 927-2576 or 923-0075 for more info.

HELP WANTED

Office Assistant: Part-time/Summer Full-time. Answering telephones, filing and customer service. Apply at Wainright Property Management 3481-A South Evans Street Greenville. 756-6209
Bartender Trainees needed \$250 a day potential, local positions 1-800-293-3985 ext. 306
Help wanted for stock and sales. Heavy Lifting Required. Apply at the Youth Shop Boutique, Arlington Village, Greenville 756-2855.
Are you looking for the experience of a lifetime? Horizon Camps consists of 3 outstanding co-ed summer camps located in NY, PA, and WV. We are seeking amazing staff to work with incredible kids. Contact us...www.horizoncamps.com or 1-800-544-5448.
BARTENDER TRAINEES needed \$250 a day potential, local positions call 1-800-293-3985 ext. 306.
Up to \$500/Wk processing mail. Get paid for each piece. Create your own schedule. (626)821-4061.

Summer Job in the Outer Banks! Steamers Shellfish to Go seeking full-time employees from early May until end of August. Job includes food prep, expediting, steaming, and/or cashing. Housing available. Contact Matt at 916-7345.

The Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting part-time youth soccer coaches for the indoor soccer program. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of soccer skills and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Applicants must be able to coach young people ages 3-18 in soccer fundamentals. Hours are from 3:30 pm to 9 pm, Monday-Friday with some weekend coaching. Flexible hours according to class schedules. This program will run from March 8 to mid May. Salary start at \$6.25 per hour. Apply at the City of Greenville, Human Resources Department, 201 Martin L. King Dr. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10 am until 7 pm.

Food Delivery Drivers wanted for Restaurant Runners. Part-time positions (6-12/hr including tips). Perfect for college student! Some Lunch Time (11a-12p)M-F availability required. 2-way radios allow

you to be anywhere in Greenville when not on a delivery. Reliable transportation a must and knowledge of Greenville streets advantageous. Call 756-5527 or check out our website @ www.restaurantrunners.com. Sorry no Dorm Students.

GREEK PERSONALS

ADPI's "Heart to Heart Social" Spring Recruitment February 5th, 4:00-7:00 @ ADPI House. Call for a ride: 758-5447.

OTHER

Full Time Students!!! Stop wasting your Time and Talents on PT jobs with bad hrs. & pay!!! LOOK! For 1 weekend a month the National Guard wants you to go to college, FREE TUITION! Learn a job skill & stay a student! FT students get over \$800/mo in Education Benefits & PAY for more info. call 252-916-9073 or visit www.1-800-GO-GAURD.com
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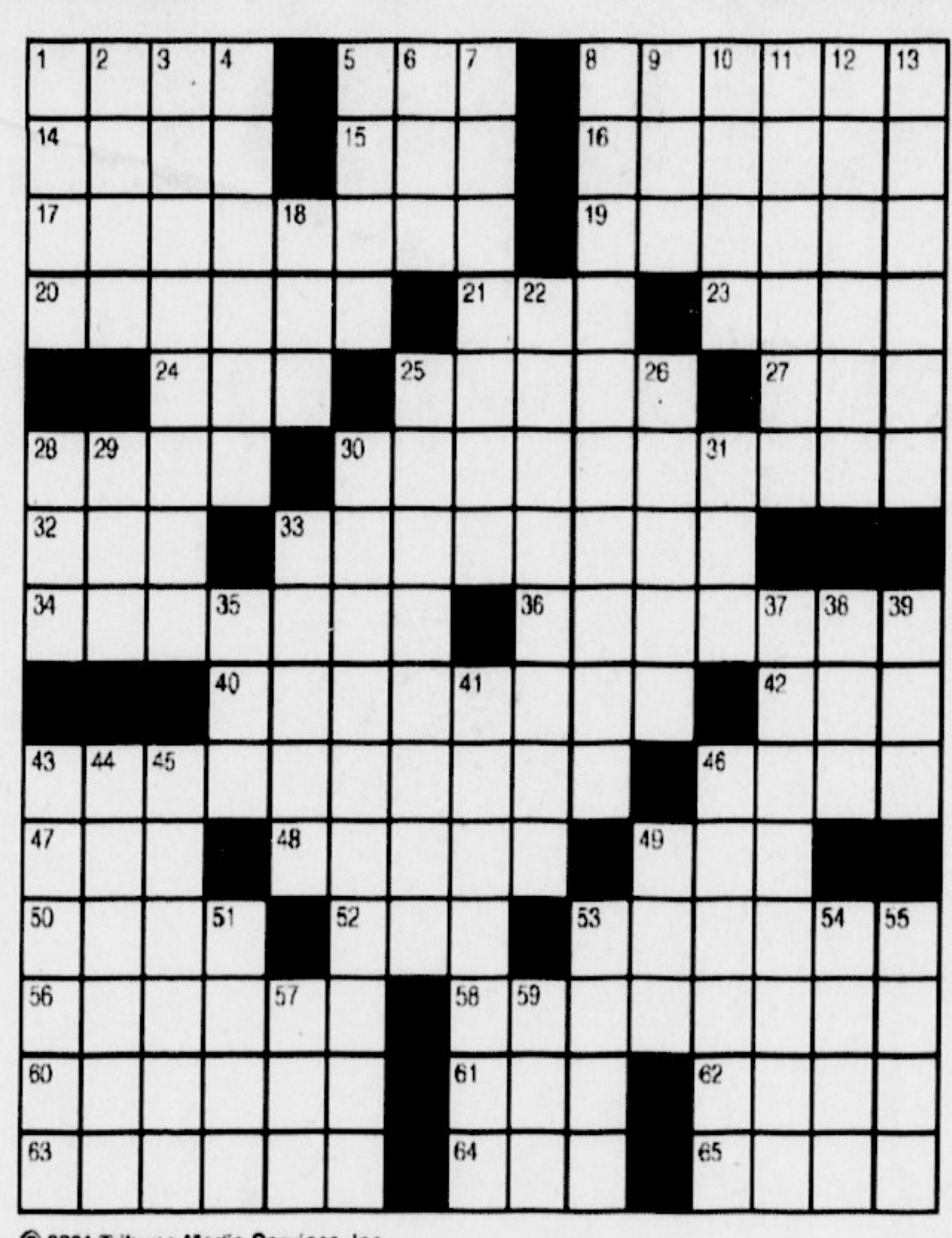
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Get caught reading.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Exchange
5 Butterfly snare
8 Fitting
14 Stadium level
15 Olympic "Dream Team"
16 Interior lining of eyes
17 Eradicated
19 Proclamations
20 Fatalities
21 Network of "Nature"
23 Pass over
24 Thanksgiving guest of honor?
25 Angler's rods
27 Expert
28 Show teeth
30 Sketched out
32 Long period of time
33 Modestly
34 Field research
36 Struck out
40 Current-measuring instruments
42 "Norma ___"
43 Bishop's aides
46 Overdo the TLC
47 First of a count
48 Laurel and Mikita
49 Scottish cap
50 Small bottle
52 Part of TGIF
53 Asiatic deer
56 Motionless
58 Deceptive
60 Premier passive protester
61 Also
62 A single time
63 Compositions
64 Slangy affirmative
65 Loch for monsters



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Solutions

6 Wind dir.
7 Polliwog
8 Oscar-night VIPs
9 Carmine, e.g.
10 Elevator man?
11 Nag
12 Lure
13 Spoke roughly
18 Resistance measure
22 Vision restrictors
25 Ate like a chicken
26 Offers to buyers
28 Solidify
29 Caviar base
30 Skin problem
31 Gobs' agreement
33 Cupolas
35 Open hostilities
37 Brass instrument
38 Take in food
39 Sandra or Ruby
41 State of being on edge
43 Unusually tall
44 Loos and Louise
45 Eats one's heart out
46 Eurasian plum
49 Greek letter
51 Clytemnestra's mother
53 Swill
54 Circle parts
55 Bread choices
57 Reticent
59 Bud's sidekick

CAPTAIN RIBMAN in Team Captain RibMan

CAPTAIN RIBMAN HAS THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSEMBLING A STAFF FOR THE OFFICE OF CHIEF VIGILANTE.
I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE MY FIRST APPOINTMENTS. I'VE RECRUITED THE BEST PEOPLE TO ADVANCE MY CRIME-FIGHTING AGENDA!
IN CHARGE OF SHIELDING ME FROM UNFLATTERING PRESS COVERAGE, IS REX "PAPPA" RATZ!
HEADING UP THE DEPARTMENT MAKE-UP AND BLEMISH MANAGEMENT IS POCKY ZITTERMEN!
IN CHARGE OF VIGILANTE ETHICS IS MY STINKING RICH ATTORNEY, F. LEE LOOPHOLE!
YOU WATCH! MY STAFF WILL BE ABLE TO "SPIN" THE IDEA OF ME CAPTURING AN ESCAPED MASS-MURDERER SEEM JUST AS LIKELY AS A PEACEFUL ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CEASE FIRE!

GET TO THE POINT...
HUMMM... DOCTOR...
... I HAVE THIS STRANGE FEELING THAT 'SOMEONE' SPINAL TAPPED ME. IS IT THE GOVERNMENT? WHY ME? ALIENS? DO YOU THINK I'M TRACEABLE?
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: Bill Cooper

fritz THE WEEK'S UNPUNISHABLE BETS EPISODE: a guaranteed, certified, honest to goodness comic strip
magico Inkwell comic strip
Cayetano written and drawn by
"the art of mind control"

PAUL BY BILLY O'KEEFE www.MRSBILLY.COM
HEY YOU, HOW COME YOU DIDN'T CALL ME AFTER OUR DATE?
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T CALL ME, HMM?
I LOST YOUR NUMBER. SOME GANGSTERS-OR GANGSTAS, I DON'T REALLY KNOW--MUGGED ME AND TOOK IT.
OH, OF COURSE. THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY IS JUST LITTERED BY GANGS FIGHTING OVER SMALL PIECES OF PAPER!
KNOW. IT'S JUST TERRIBLE.
OH... YOU'RE LUCKY SOMEONE SPY-BLOODED IN THE FUNNY PAGES!

Pirate's Cove

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Monitored Alarm Systems

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4 Bedroom Units

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2 Sparkling Pools With Tanning Deck



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Private Bathrooms

Basketball/ Sand Volleyball/ Tennis

Cable With Hbo Included!

Huge Game Room And Tanning Beds

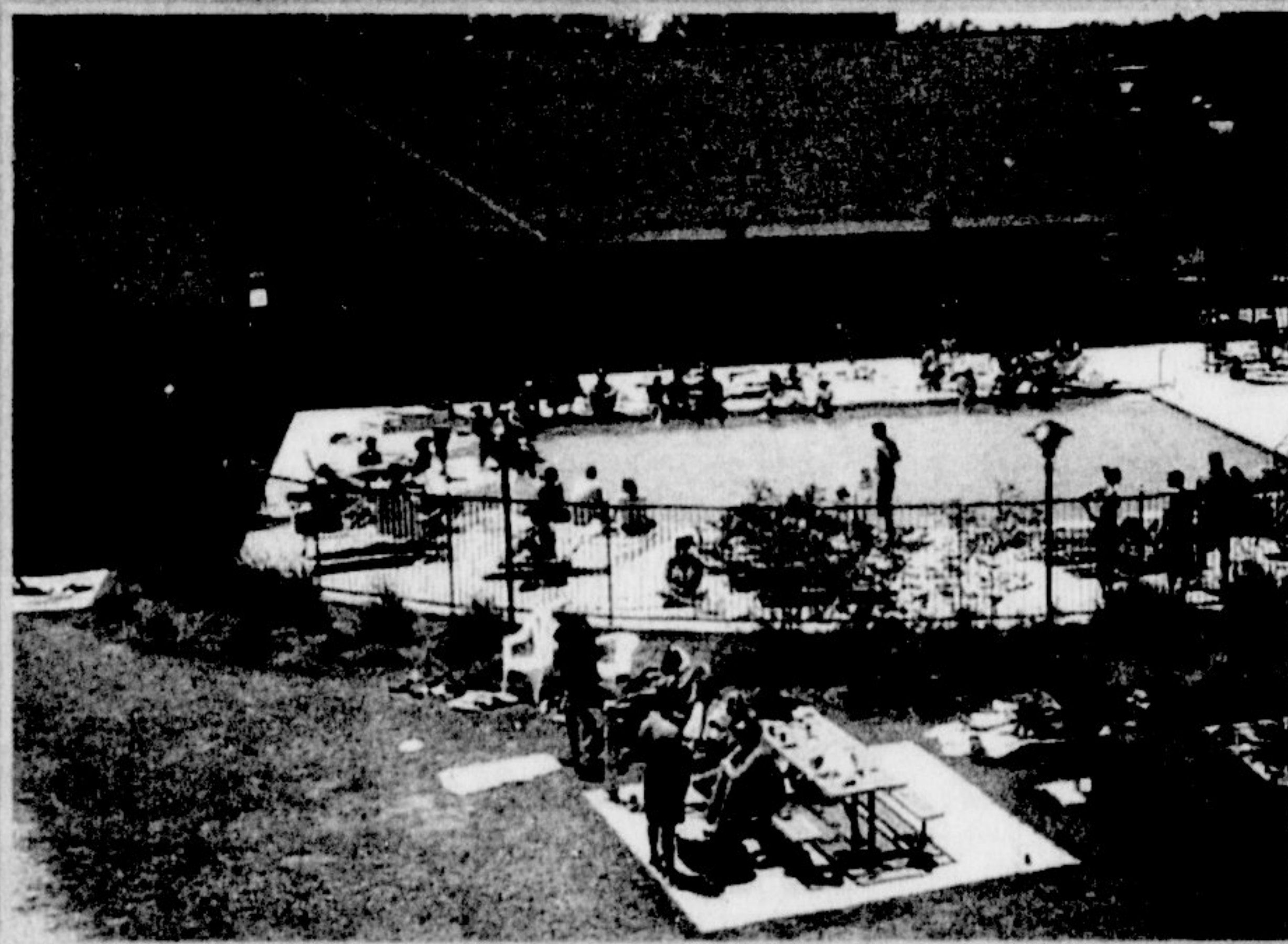
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Speech

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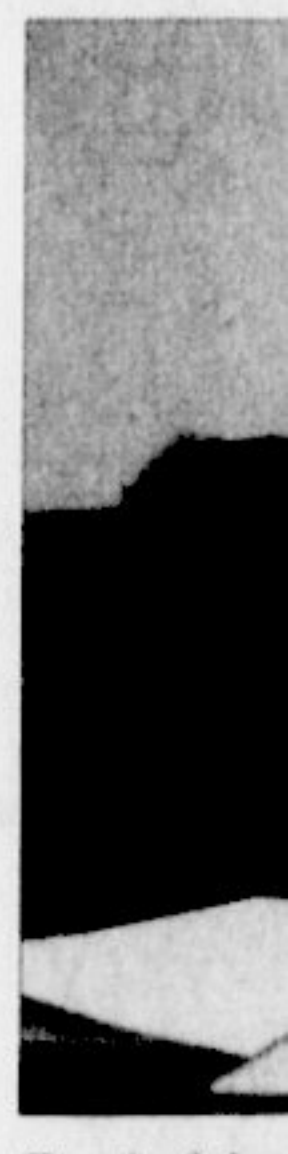
No

Seven
to fight
Easley

HOLLY O'NEILL
ASSISTANT

elec
20
by the No
Court ma

Lau



Ruth Mos

B

