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THE EAST CAROLINIAN
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THURSDAY



Volume 79 Number 116

February 12, 2004

Students get sex education



Maggie Messick, sophomore English major, reaches into an STD bucket while Sean Yanok, senior industrial distribution major, watches the outcome. The event, held Wednesday in Wright Plaza, was part of Sexual Responsibility Week.



Hope McPhatter, graduate student, listens to Malik, from Real World and Road Rules, talk about STD awareness.



Booths were set up in Wright Plaza to help promote STD awareness through pamphlets, posters, games and other activities.

Board chairman asks for delay in vote on tuition

RALEIGH (AP) — The decision to delay a vote on proposed tuition increases for the University of North Carolina system doesn't make sense to Jonathan Ducote, the lone student on the UNC board of governors.

"All you're doing now is making it harder for students and families to plan their expenses," said Ducote, who opposes the increases.

"We're setting people up for harder times without any guarantee they'll be provided a better education next year."

Board of Governors Chairman Brad Wilson on Tuesday sent a letter to the board's budget committee, asking that final recommendations on the tuition increases be tabled from Thursday until March. The full board was scheduled to take up the issue Friday.

Wilson said requests from university officials for more information during a meeting last week convinced him more time was necessary.

"Given the importance of this issue, we must take action only after we have reviewed and considered all relevant information," Wilson said in the letter.

"I have become convinced that this would be nearly impossible by the day after tomorrow."

The budget committee was expected to discuss proposed campus-based tuition increases for the 16-campus system for the 2004-05 academic year. The hikes would range from 11 percent at NC State University to 23 percent at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Some schools have recommended bigger increases for out-of-state and graduate students.

Gov. Mike Easley over the weekend sent a letter to Wilson asking the board to vote against campus-based tuition increases.

Easley said raising tuition would hurt access to higher education in the state.

Peter Hans, a board member from Raleigh, thinks the delay is a good idea.

Hans said he wants more information from campuses to help him determine whether faculty retention and recruitment issues are serious enough to warrant higher tuition.

"The board needs to decide if tuition can be raised without hindering access to higher education," he said.

"Secondly, if the board does raise tuition, will the funds be spent to enhance the classroom?"

"If the university system can demonstrate its needs and how it will significantly improve the students' educational experience, then we'll have the credibility to make this decision."

Ducote, a senior at NC State, said he doesn't see the point in delaying the vote because campuses that don't have valid reasons for raising tuition won't have better reasons a month.

New look in works for Mendenhall

West End Dining Hall's opening will bring change to campus

LUKE SPENCER
STAFF WRITER



Many ECU students enjoyed winter activities during the ice storm that closed school this January.

No make-up day set for missed classes

Administration waits on president's decision before setting date

HOLLY O'NEAL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students fearing a shortened spring break can relax — your vacation from school won't be compromised to make up classes missed during late January's ice storm.

An official decision has yet to be made regarding whether or not a make-up day needs to be set, but John Crammer, assistant professor of computer science and chair of the Faculty Senate's Calendar Committee, said spring break is "safe."

The Calendar Committee maintains school calendars and schedules exams. However, UNC-system President Molly Broad will determine if an extra day of class

see SNOW page A2

Construction on the future West End Dining Hall has been underway for more than a semester and is scheduled for completion in September. But this new addition begs a question: What will be done with the space occupied by the existing cafeteria in Mendenhall Student Center?

"Currently, there are no major long-term plans, but we have hired a firm to study how the space should be used," said George Harrell, Ph.D., senior associate vice chancellor for campus operations.

"This study should take no more than six months and will significantly involve students." Though there are no definite plans, ideas are under consideration.

Suggestions include the installation of a mall-type food court in the serving area of the current cafeteria that could feature national chains such as Chic-fil-A.

Also under discussion is the construction of a quality sit-down style restaurant in a



Students and faculty will soon see one of three proposed plans for the space Mendenhall cafeteria now seats.

portion of the current seating area that would be run in part by hospitality management students, to give them practical experience in restaurant management.

However, due to the cost and time needed for construction, this section would probably not open until fall of 2006.

Possibly the most drastic change proposed is the construction of a stage area with sound and lighting equipment that could be used for late night programming in the style of Pirate Underground.

"We're excited about the ideas that we are currently studying for Mendenhall Student Center because we think they will provide a more enjoyable experience for students, as well as meeting the demands of a growing university," said Bill Clutter, assistant vice chancellor for student life.

Even with the coming changes, some parts of Mendenhall will remain the same or be slightly modified. The Spot will continue normal operation, although there is a possibility of expansion.

The convenience store will remain operational, but the hot food service area of the Spot will move into the food court.

No modifications are in discussion for the non-food related areas of MSC.

"I think the changes are a hot idea," said Aaron Holmes, junior physical fitness and activity major.

"It'll be great to have some better food selections on West Campus."

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

Black History Awareness
throughout February

Feb. 27, 1869 Congress adopted the 15th Amendment, making it illegal for the government to deny the right to vote "on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

The Fourteenth Amendment passed, making blacks U.S. citizens on July 28, 1868.



Forecast TEC REQUIRED
READING
Rain
High of 44

Grading
Visit www.theeastcarolinian.com to read about Jermaine Dupri stepping down from his Grammy post for girlfriend Janet Jackson.

News page A2
The DMV will now require applicants to show two forms of ID and a document proving they live here.

Features page B1
Will you be celebrating Valentine's Day solo this year? TEC has alternative activities for those with no mate.

Sports page B5
ECU lost another heartbreaker against Memphis last night. The Pirates fell 79-73.

FYI
Smarts, a game show based on the TV show "Street Smarts," tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

tec NEWS

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News Editor

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Announcements

Sexual Responsibility Week

The ECU Health PIRATES showcase games and activities, including a raffle drawing to win free dinners, DVDs and an MP3 player, continuing today through Friday in Wright Plaza for Sexual Responsibility Week.

Sex Smarts

Wellness Education presents "Sex Smarts," a game show based on the TV show "Street Smarts," tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

Nursing and Allied Health Career Fair

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

Deans and Issues Forum

The ECU chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa will host the Deans and Issues Forum today at 7 p.m. in 244 Mendenhall Student Center. Garrie Moore, vice chancellor for Student Life, will moderate open discussion on diversity, campus safety, transportation, parking, expansion, faculty involvement and student organizations.

Science and Chemistry Career Fair

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

Leadership Academy Applications

The ECU Leadership Academy will accept applications until Friday. Applications are available online at www.ecu.edu/leadership, in the Faculty Senate Office in the Rawl Annex on Reade Street and at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences in Brody. The two-hour classes will meet on Fridays beginning Feb. 27 and will focus on preparing faculty and staff members to assume enhanced campus roles. Requirements for applicants are a bachelor's degree and three years experience at ECU.

Self Defense Registration

Learn how to defend yourself in a progressive training system. Registration is Friday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. in 240 SRC. Cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members, and the program runs March 21 - April 31.

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.

Book Drive

The ECU NC Teaching Fellows Program will sponsor a book drive on Saturday, Feb. 14 at Greenville Nissan and Greenville K-Mart. Books and donations will be distributed to area schools affected by Hurricane Isabel. All contributors (books or cash) will receive a chance to win a dinner for two at one of several participating Greenville restaurants. Books may be dropped off at the book drive, or sent/delivered to the Teaching Fellows office in 204 Spellman. Contact Mary Beth Corbin at 328-4126 for more information.

Negro Spiritual Presentation

The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will sponsor "The History of the Negro Spiritual" presented by Doretha Taylor, soprano, and Louise Toppin, piano, on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. at Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church on Hooker Road.

Resume Blitz

Career Services offers a Resume Blitz where students' resumes are critiqued on sight, Monday, Feb. 16 from noon - 2 p.m. in Bate Lobby.

Interviewing Workshop

Career Services offers a workshop on interviewing Monday, Feb. 16 from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. in 1012 Bate.

Criminal Justice Applications

The deadline for students to apply for admission into the criminal justice program is Monday, Feb. 16. Applications are available outside 104-B Ragsdale. Contact Virginia Parker at 328-4192 for more information.

PRSSA Meeting

The Public Relations Student Society of America will meet Monday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in 202 Joyner East.

Drop Deadline Extension

The last day for undergraduate students to drop term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades has been extended to Wednesday, Feb. 25. Block courses may be dropped only during the first 40 percent of their regularly scheduled class meetings.

Media Speaker

J. K. Chambers, professor of linguistics at the University of Toronto will speak on "Mass Media, Literacy and Your Language" Friday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. in 1026 Bate.

Paper Person

The person pictured at the top of today's paper is Cliff Johnson, freshman biology major.

News Briefs

Local

Report: Education, recruitment funds key to expanding NC biotech

RALEIGH (AP) - North Carolina must increase funding for community colleges and industrial recruitment to expand the state's biotechnology work force and capitalize on a fast-growing industry, according to a report released Wednesday. A panel led by former Govs. Jim Hunt and Jim Martin presented the eight-month study and its 54 recommendations to Gov. Mike Easley. While North Carolina is among the top five states in the biotechnology industry, the work force needs to grow several times over in the next 20 years to help narrow the gap with losses in traditional manufacturing in the state, the report's authors said. More than 150 biotechnology companies currently call North Carolina home, creating 18,500 jobs and \$3 billion in sales, the report said.

The jobs, however, are about equal to the number of textile and furniture positions lost during 2003 alone, according to employment figures. More broad layoffs could be ahead as quotas on Chinese textile products are set to be lifted by the end of this year.

Eight injured in Laurinburg nursing home fire

LAURINBURG (AP) - Eight people were injured, one critically, in a fire Wednesday at a nursing home that was the scene of a fatal fire eight years ago. Scotland County deputies said 41 residents were evacuated from Aberdeen Meadows after the fire

began in an unoccupied room about 3:20 a.m. The fire was contained in the one bedroom, but smoke spread throughout the building.

Eight patients were treated and one admitted to the critical care unit at Scotland Memorial Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Melissa Ciarrocca.

A fire killed eight people at the same location March 17, 1996, when the nursing home was called Scotch Meadows. At the time, it was the deadliest nursing home fire in North Carolina history. Ciarrocca said Meadow Homes, owner of Aberdeen Meadows, found other places for the patients and that most were taken to another home owned by the company. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

National

Comcast Proposes to Buy Walt Disney

NEW YORK (AP) - In a surprise move, cable TV giant Comcast Corp. proposed early Wednesday to buy Walt Disney Co., the iconic media and entertainment powerhouse that owns the ABC and ESPN television networks, movie studios and theme parks, for stock valued at about \$54 billion. The nation's biggest cable systems operator said it would also assume \$11.9 billion in Disney debt.

White House releases Bush's military pay records; spokesman says he fulfilled his duties

WASHINGTON (AP) - The White House has provided documentary evidence that President Bush completed his National Guard service during the

Vietnam War, but Democrats are still demanding proof he reported for duty as ordered in Alabama.

"The president recalls serving both when he was in Texas and when he was in Alabama," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Tuesday, holding up a 13-page packet of military records.

"We have provided you these documents that show clearly that the president of the United States fulfilled his duties and that is the reason that he was honorably discharged from the National Guard."

The records, some being released for the first time, didn't satisfy Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe. He argued that the payroll and summary service records posed more questions than they answered.

"The fact remains that there is still no evidence that George W. Bush showed up for duty as ordered while in Alabama," said McAuliffe.

World

Aristide supporters erect barricades, vow to attack rebels leading uprising in Haiti

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti (AP) - Vowing to keep rebels from advancing to other Haitian cities, loyalists of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide blocked roads with heaps of scrap metal, boulders and trees to stem a violent uprising that has killed at least 42.

Most of the country returned to relative calm Tuesday with Aristide supporters looking to the battle ahead. Opponents refuse to participate in new elections unless Aristide steps down.

"We're going to devour them," said

Jean-Claude Joseph, 35, standing arms crossed at a barricade with more than a dozen others at Cap-Haitien, the nation's second-largest city.

The State Department authorized the departure of family members and non-emergency employees of the U.S. Embassy even though most of the country was unaffected by the uprising. The U.S. government also issued a travel warning to private citizens, although few tourists travel to Haiti.

Racing to find radioactive material, Chinese authorities warn thieves: Don't open it

SHANGHAI, China (AP) - Authorities are racing to find a canister of potentially deadly radioactive material stolen from a northern China construction site and are urging those who took the material not to risk radiation poisoning by opening it, officials said Wednesday.

The football-sized lead container of cesium-137 was taken from a power plant construction site in Pucheng, a county in northern China's Shaanxi province, about five days ago, according to a county government official, who refused to give his name. He would not provide further details. A report in the state-run newspaper China Daily said police believe the canister was mistaken for scrap metal—a material often stolen for sale to salvage companies.

Cesium-137, a highly radioactive material, is used in soil-testing gauges in construction and is found in photoelectric batteries and vacuum valves. It explodes if it comes into contact with water, and exposure can cause blood diseases, sterility and birth defects.

Law creates havoc among latino groups

Many will be turned away at DMV

TABATHA JAMES
STAFF WRITER

It was standing room only in the cramped waiting room of the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Greenville Friday morning.

Just after the office opened at 8 a.m., state workers had to close one of their five customer waiting lines to accommodate the people wanting to renew or obtain a North Carolina driver's license.

More than 225 people came through the DMV doors Friday, but countless others were turned away because they could not be helped before 5 p.m., said DMV officials.

Not all applicants had licenses about to expire. Instead, the majority were Hispanic residents who wanted a North Carolina driver's license before the new law takes effect, which requires applicants to show two forms of identification and a document proving they live here before a

new license is issued.

"I don't even know if I have the type of ID they're going to be asking," said 20-year-old construction worker Ed Lozano, who was born in Mexico City but has lived in Greenville for six years.

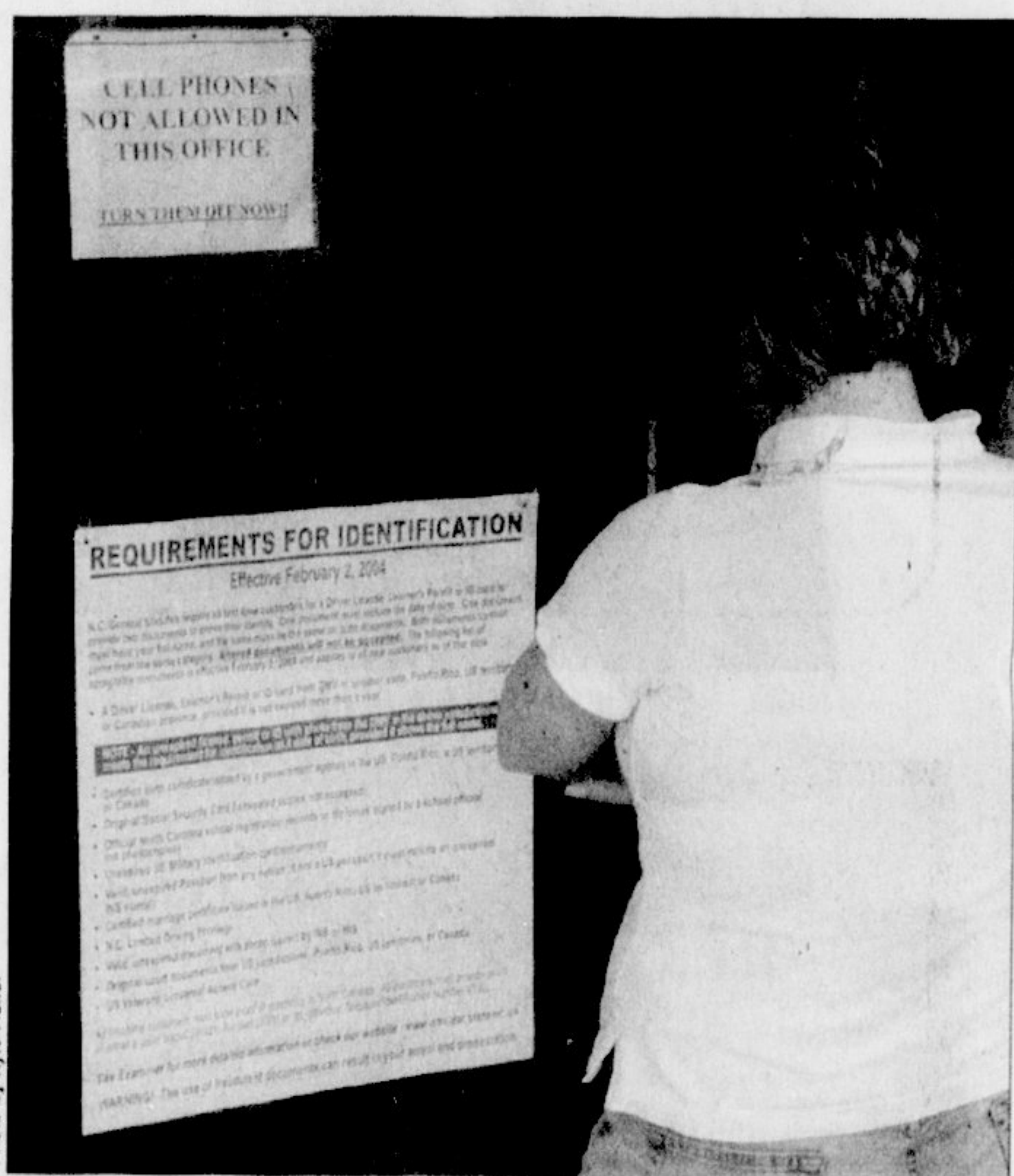
"I need my license to get to work and I just wanted to make sure things were going to be right."

Under the revised DMV guidelines, people can no longer show an expired license, valid tax identification or any identification card issued by a foreign government through a consulate's office to get a state driver's license.

Last Thursday the Durham-based Latino Community Credit Union and Latino Community Development Center sued state DMV Commissioner George Tatum in Wake County Superior Court, saying he did not follow proper procedures to put the new rules in place and asked the court not to allow the restrictions to be implemented.

State DMV officials responded to the lawsuit by saying the ID

see LAW page A3



Greenville residents looking to renew their driver's license must follow a new North Carolina law that requires two forms of ID and a document proving they live here.

New dates set for SGA's spring elections

Filing for executive office begins March 1

ZACK HILL
STAFF WRITER

As the nation goes to the polls this spring to choose an opponent for President Bush in the fall presidential elections, ECU students will vote to fill several spots in the executive branch of the Student Government Association.

Filing for office, which originally was set for Feb. 16 will now start on March 1 at 9 a.m. in the SGA office in Mendenhall Student

Center. The offices of president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary will be up for grabs.

After filing, candidates are required to attend a compulsory meeting held by the SGA on March 8. Filing will be open until 5 p.m. on March 5. Elections will be held on March 30 and 31.

A student must have a 2.0 GPA, and be in good standing with the university to be eligible as a candidate. The only other limit on candidates is they cannot be a first semester freshman.

At the March 8 meeting, campaign guidelines and regulations are established, and the candidates get a chance to meet their opponents.

After attending the meeting,

students begin their campaigns.

Students usually form a ticket, with candidates for each office running together on the same ballot. Each ticket is assigned a letter. If they choose, students may also run independently for an office.

"Last year we had around fifteen candidates, which was the most ever," said Krista Wilhelm, executive administrative assistant for the SGA.

Last year's tickets ran through E, with five tickets and two independent candidates.

Voting is done online, and all students can vote in the elections. Voter turnout was also at an all-time high last year, with 16 percent of the student body

voting - between three and four thousand students. Most of the students participating in the elections were Greek.

The SGA funds more than 100 student organizations that represent the diverse interests of the student body.

"It's really amazing everything they actually do for students," Wilhelm said.

The SGA president sits in on the UNC Board of Trustees and gets a vote.

"They represent the student voice, and they are responsible to the students and the university," Wilhelm said.

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

Snow from page A1

is necessary.

The Committee will then make a proposal to the Faculty Senate for approval, and the Senate sends the approved proposal to the chancellor for authorization.

Broad could not be reached for comment at the time of publication.

Crammer said the process of scheduling make-up days is complicated because ECU, unlike county schools, does not set aside extra holidays in case of emergencies.

"It would be nice to establish guidelines so we could have something in hand ... like two reading days [before exams]," said Cram-

mer.

This year, a change in university policy called for 750 contact minutes per credit hour between students and their professors.

When Hurricane Isabel struck Greenville last September, the committee debated two options to replace the contact minutes lost in the aftermath.

They chose Saturday, Dec. 6 as a make-up day since it affected fewer people than moving an exam, and they added an extra five minutes to Tuesday/Thursday classes.

The decision to have class on Saturday, Crammer said, wasn't "stupendous." Many

students agree.

"Classes should be on week-days," said Josh Luther, senior communication major.

Luther said he didn't attend the Saturday make-up day. The administration should not schedule to have a make-up day for the snowstorm, he said, especially one on Saturday.

Others had obligations to fill during last semester's weekend school day.

"My teacher didn't schedule class, so I didn't have to go," said Crystal White, senior history major.

"I couldn't have gone anyway—I go out of town every weekend."

Lack of enthusiasm to attend the Saturday class was found on

both sides of the desk. But Seodial Frank H. Deena, associate English professor, said he found a compromise.

"My students decided to use Blackboard, and we accomplished much more there than we would have in class," said Deena.

Deena said he hasn't heard from a professor that did hold class on Saturday, but that reduce instruction time.

"Professors generally have this sense of responsibility—I have material we need to cover. Whether we have days or not, we find ways to cover the work."

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



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Presentation attendance is required.

East Carolina University
Thursday, February 19, 2004; 6 p.m.
Bate Building Room 1032

Walt Disney World
COLLEGE PROGRAM

Dream it. Do it. Disney.

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Weird News

Sea lion found on California road

LOS BANOS, Calif. (AP) — A sea lion that apparently swam upriver from the ocean into the inland canals of central California was captured Monday after motorists spotted it flopping along the roadway, 100 kilometers from the sea. The 135-kilogram animal, first reported Monday morning, basked in the sun on the back of a highway patrol cruiser while officers waited for a marine rescue team to fetch him. The adult male was expected to be held several days for observation before being released into the ocean, said Cynthia Schramm, a spokeswoman for the Sausalito-based Marine Mammal Center. "We don't think anyone grabbed him. We just think he went all the way through the San Joaquin River, into some canals, and probably got out and started wandering around," Schramm said. "Maybe he was going after fish, and there are far fewer sea lions to compete with in the delta."

Man who shipped himself sentenced

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A man who shipped himself in an airline cargo crate from New York to Dallas because he was homesick and didn't want to pay for a plane ticket was fined \$1,500 Wednesday and placed on probation for a year. Charles D. McKinley was also sentenced to four months under house arrest. McKinley, a 25-year-old shipping clerk at a New York warehouse, pleaded guilty in November to stowing away on a cargo jet and could have gotten a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. He had no comment Wednesday. The fine was far more than what it would have cost to fly first-class. U.S. Magistrate Charles Bleil said McKinley committed a crime that was "wrong and stupid," but his intent was to save money, not breach airline security.

Norwegian paper convicted of pimping

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A Norwegian newspaper has been convicted of pimping and ordered to pay fines by an Oslo court Wednesday for publishing advertisements for prostitutes. Prostitution is legal in Norway, while profiting from prostitution by others is illegal. The weekly tabloid SoendagSoendag, which means Sunday Sunday, routinely publishes advertisements which the Oslo district court found clearly offer sexual services for pay. The court ordered the newspaper to pay a 30,000 kroner (\$4,285 US) fine and surrender 300,00 kroner (\$42,850 US) in revenues from the advertisements. In its nine-page ruling, the court said even though some advertising texts were ambiguous, such as "Gentlemen visitors wanted. You won't regret it," pictures of scantily clad women that accompanied most of them left no doubt about

Law from page A2

restrictions are designed to reduce the number of illegal immigrants who get licenses or obtain them with false documents through "Operation: Stop Fraud."

Judge Don Stephens ruled Friday that the state can limit the types of identification it will accept from people applying for driver's licenses and the new regulations began Monday Feb. 2.

Greenville resident Sandra Crisp agreed with the judge's decision. She approves of tighter immigration laws and said requiring more documentation is a step in the right direction.

"When we allow illegals to determine our laws, we're lost," said Crisp.

"These illegal aliens have become a rapacious, aggressive population and they're jostling other citizens out of the line. They may have a card from Mexico, but we don't know who they are from Adam's house cat."

The DMV says the changes are designed to reduce the number of illegal immigrants who get licenses and to make

tracking down fake documents easier.

Unacceptable forms of identification will include expired licenses, individual tax identification numbers and licenses and other identification cards issued by the Mexican government — including the popular matricula consular, an identity card issued by the government through its consulates.

Approved identification will include valid licenses from other states or Canada, Social Security cards, valid immigration papers and state vehicle registration or title certificates.

Patrick Tapia is executive director of El Centro Community Center, a nonprofit organization that helps an estimated 100 Latino residents each week obtain basic community services and acts as an advocate for the well being of the Latino community.

El Centro was one of the organizations the Latino Community Development Center filed their lawsuit on behalf of this week, and Tapia said he was disappointed to hear the new rules will be used.

"As a leader of my organization, I would like to understand what the state is trying to accomplish here," said Tapia.

"If we're concerned about the security of the country, is this the right way to go about it?"

The changes have created long lines at DMV offices, like the scene in Greenville Friday, as people tried to beat the deadline.

Sharon Sheetz moved to Greenville from Florida and was not able to get a driver's license Friday because her Social Security card had been laminated.

The 52-year-old risk management coordinator was puzzled about the need for the DMV revisions.

"This just looks to me like we're doing something that doesn't make much sense," said Sheetz.

"These people must have some sort of legal status, otherwise they wouldn't need to get a driver's license. I just find it all a little astounding."

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

PICL PRESENTS...

Mardi Gras

big easy style 04

east carolina university
9:00PM UNTIL 1:00AM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19
MENDENHALL STUDENT CENTER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:00-8:00	JAZZ DANCE	8:00-9:00	UNKNOWN DANCERS
8:00-9:00	UNKNOWN DANCERS	9:00-10:00	UNKNOWN DANCERS
9:00-10:00	UNKNOWN DANCERS	10:00-11:00	UNKNOWN DANCERS
10:00-11:00	UNKNOWN DANCERS	11:00-12:00	UNKNOWN DANCERS

Students need only present a valid ECU OneCard to enter Mardi Gras. Students may bring a guest (high school or older), but must obtain a guest pass prior to the event with a limit of 1 guest pass per student. Guest passes will be available February 12-19 at the Central Ticket Office in MSC and the Meal Plan Office in Todd Dining Hall from 9am-5pm. Passes will also be available at the Student Recreation Center, February 12-19 from 9am-10pm.

PICL
Partners in Campus Life
We Relish Students!

Emerald CITY

BILLIARDS & SPORTS BAR

3101 E. 10th St. • Greenville, NC
Located in Rivergate Shopping Center
(Across from Hastings Ford)

Lingerie Contest
Friday February 13
Cash Prize • Call 757-0300 for more info

Thursday
Ladies Night
Coyote Ugly Contest
Cash Prize
\$1.50 Domestic
FREE Pool for Ladies
DJ @ 10pm

SUNDAY
MICHAPALOOZA
\$1.00 DOMESTICS
\$2.00 HIGH-BALLS
DJ @ 11
YOU KNOW IT!

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
21ST

Spare Change

AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES CALL 757-0300

LADIES FREE*

*Except for Special occasions, Emerald City is a private club for members and invited guests.

FEBRUARY 04

RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Date	Event	Time	Location
16	Indoor Soccer Registration Meeting	5pm	MSC Multi-Purpose
16	Indoor Soccer Officials Meeting	9pm	SRC 202
25	Softball Officials Meeting	9pm	SRC 202

FITNESS

Date	Event	Location	Registration
2/15	Swiss Ball Training	SRC 240	1/5-2/13
2/18 & 2/25	Living Well	SRC Classroom	1/5-2/6
2/25	Hollywood's Smoke and Mirrors	SRC Classroom	1/5-2/23

ARISE

Date	Event	Time	Location
12	Wheelchair Basketball	8pm-9pm	SRC Sports Forum
19	Mardi Gras Special Event	9pm-1am	MSC
26	Wheelchair Basketball	8pm-9pm	SRC Sports Forum
28	Cultural Arts Workshop	9am-3pm	ViQuest Center

ADVENTURE

Date	Event	Reg.	Pre-Trip	Cost
21-22	Backpacking-Croatan NF*	2/13	2/17	\$55/65
21	Sea Kayak-Goose Creek	2/13	2/18	\$25/35
22	Climbing Day Trip Pilot Mtn.	2/13	2/17	\$25/35
27-29	Backpacking-Uwharrie NF*	2/20	2/24	\$65/75
March 6-7	Climbing-Pilot Mtn.	2/27	3/2	\$75/85

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Adventure Trips

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OPINION

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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

No matter what you choose to do Saturday, just remember that Valentine's Day is what you choose to make it.

Common complaints about Valentine's Day are that the holiday has gotten "too commercial" or that it secludes singles.

However, the real problem with the holiday doesn't lie in the sappy romance of typical greeting-card holidays - the problem with Valentine's Day is that it causes people to be downright uncreative.

Every year, couples make plans for ridiculously expensive dinners, only to be added to the cost of a dozen roses or a box of gourmet chocolates. Not only are these gifts trivial and redundant, they are completely unnecessary.

Attempting to express your love to someone through such contrived gifts not only shows a lack of originality but also a lack of consideration.

Before you rush to the hearts' and teddy bears' aisle at Wal-Mart this Valentine's Day, take a minute to examine what is so special about your relationship with your significant other. Use this information to give a meaningful gift or plan a special date - something different than the norm.

Quit wasting your money trying to outdo the monetary value of your boyfriend or girlfriend's gift. Since when did feelings of love become expressed in dollars and cents? Love comes from the heart and can only be expressed from the heart - not the wallet.

Singles are also guilty of committing the Valentine's Day crime of unoriginality. Every year, singles across the nation sit around and mope simply because they happen to be lacking in the romance department.

Despite what Hallmark says, Valentine's Day doesn't have to be a holiday dedicated only to the love of your life. Instead of the usual whining, share the day with your friends and family - if they happen to be unavailable, be greedy and do something nice for yourself.

No matter what you choose to do Saturday, just remember that Valentine's Day is what you choose to make it. And if you happen to be alone on this particular day, there are 364 other days in the year for you to freely declare your love to someone.

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.

STAR TRIBUNE



IF WE HAVE TIME
WE'LL COME BACK
FOR THE RICIN.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am an alumni, class of '83. While on campus yesterday, I picked up the paper and read the "opinion" page.

It was interesting.

However I was offended by the comments made concerning the Iraq war.

Don't misunderstand. I'm not offended by the exercise of free speech, but rather by the lack of thought that went into the piece.

The whole thing sounded like a blurb from an a.m. "talk radio" show.

Over 500 American men and women have died. The number is growing. Over \$120 billion have been spent.

The number is growing. The entire region has been destabilized. The number of people who hate America is growing. We are not safer.

You boys and girls do not serve in the military. You don't have to kill other human beings or risk being killed yourself.

You get to go to college on your parents' dime. Use the time wisely.

Understand what it means to be lied to by the government and why it is so dangerous. A free press is a powerful tool. Use it wisely.

Peter Susi
ECU Alumnus, '83

Dear Editor,

Rarely have I seen an article so full of propaganda, misconceptions, falsehoods and a lack of understanding of basic government function.

Mr. Bream states that "Because of Christian conservatives in the state legislature" there has been no referendum on the lottery yet and that the people should be given a chance to vote. There are three glaring errors here.

One, the lottery is opposed in the legislature by Christian liberals non-Christian conservatives and liberals, as well as a broad coalition of people, Christian and non-Christian, conservative, liberal, independent, undecided, whatever, outside the legislature. Pulling out the old whipping boy "Christian conservative" is a tired ploy that has no basis in reality here.

Dear Editor,

I am writing you to express my disgust at the front page of your Feb. 3rd issue entitled, "Honoring African-American History."

I am deeply offended that you obviously believe that the way to honor African-American's history is with caricatures.

In my view it sends a clear message that we really don't honor it at all. Caricatures are reserved for portraying a message of light-heartedness, humor or things you want to make fun of.

I challenge you to give me example of when it is used any other way.

As an African-American, I don't find my history to be a

matter of light-hearted humor, especially not in America.

I really think the artwork is great, but not suited for honoring the history of a people.

After seeing the front page, this was the first time I didn't even want to read the paper.

However, I did look through the paper to see if I had judged prematurely. I don't believe I have. Your caricature of Jay-Z even seemed appropriate.

As the editor, I wished that you would have not allowed this to happen.

David Holloway
ECU Student



"When kids hit one year old, it's like hanging out with a miniature drunk. You have to hold onto them. They bump into things. They laugh, cry, urinate and vomit."

Johnny Depp, Actor

In My Opinion

Be romantic year-round

TONY ZOPPO
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

As many of you that there may be that disagree with me, Valentine's Day should not really be recognized as some special kind of romance holiday. It's flat out silly and pointless. A good man tells his woman how much he loves her every day of the week - and more than just once a day.

I know it's hard for most men to be creative when treating their ladies, but the problem that lies within most guys is that they never listen.

If you know your lady, what makes her happy and things she appreciates most, it's not hard to surprise her and make her feel like a queen. Not to mention that all women are hard wired to love flowers - c'mon ladies, you can't argue that.

Feb. 14 shouldn't have to be a special day where couples tell one another how much they're in love, it should be known and said by both everyday.

And since the main point of V-Day is to surprise your loved one, and females seem to have very little problem doing that for men (that or we're just really simple creatures), here's a few tips for you 'fellas out there.

Tell her you love her as often as you breathe. There should rarely be a moment when she doubts how you feel.

Call her unexpectedly, no matter where she is, unless she'll get in trouble if you call her at work. Even then, risk it every so often to sneak in a quick, "I love you and I miss you." It'll make a potential sour day for her shoot through the roof.

Always, always bring her roses whenever the chance presents itself. Especially if it's the end of a long day or you have a chance to leave them in her car when she gets out of work.

When she walks through the door with a smile on her face like the one she'll most



definitely have on, it'll put you and her in the best mood you could ask for.

Candlelight dinners. Either completely surprise her or make sure she has time one night for "something" without telling her what.

Cook a good meal, preferably pasta and salad (easy and tasty if cooked right) and when she gets back from work, don't let her see anything.

Have a hot bubble bath waiting for her and let her relax until you're done cooking.

Put something debonair on, get the dinner out on the table with maybe a red tablecloth, flowers, candlelight and relaxing music.

Make the night all hers in every way you can think of. It doesn't take a night in February to do that, you should want to do that for her more than once a year.

Now of course, she will appreciate these things with everything she's got, if you two truly have something, she will respond in ways that will definitely be more than enough reciprocation.

When she wears that beautiful smile and shows how excited she is along with a huge kiss, that's enough in return.

All in all folks, guy or gal, you can tell your loved one how much you care for them and love them everyday without it being called Valentine's day.

Do so more often. Appreciate the ones you love. If anything matters in life, it's the feelings shared between two people who love each other. Those feelings last much longer than just one Saturday.

In My Opinion

Washington should hear this WHO

(KRT) - Imagine the good advice your grandmother might give you about how to stay trim and fit: Cut way back on extra sugar, don't overdo it on fats, exercise.

One could hardly argue with such sage recommendations. But the Bush administration is.

In a stance that has caused an international flap, the White House - via the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - is opposing common-sense international dietary guidelines proposed by the World Health Organization.

The strictly voluntary guidelines aim to confront a worldwide "globesity" epidemic blamed for millions of deaths.

Infection, war and starvation used to claim most human lives. But now, says the WHO, non-communicable diseases related to lifestyle are the grimmest reapers - accounting for almost 60 percent of the world's 56.5 million deaths in 2001.

The WHO largely blames "malnutrition, both of deficiency and excess." In other words, people

are getting sicker even as they eat more - especially if it's food high in calories and low in nutrition.

Smart conclusion. But the Bush administration has found myriad ways to criticize, wrongly, both the proposed new global strategy and the research underpinning it.

There's no proof, said the Department of Health and Human Services in a letter to the WHO, that high-fat, high-sugar foods are linked to obesity and chronic ailments such as heart disease. There's also no proof, it said, that childhood obesity is influenced by TV marketing.

Imagine your grandmother rolling her eyes at those statements.

The Bush administration wants the WHO to say more about "personal responsibility" when it comes to nutrition choices.

Fine. Everyone can, to be sure, choose a salad instead of a burger. But who should bear "personal responsibility" for ad campaigns that push sweets and junk food - food marketers or children who succumb to the ads?

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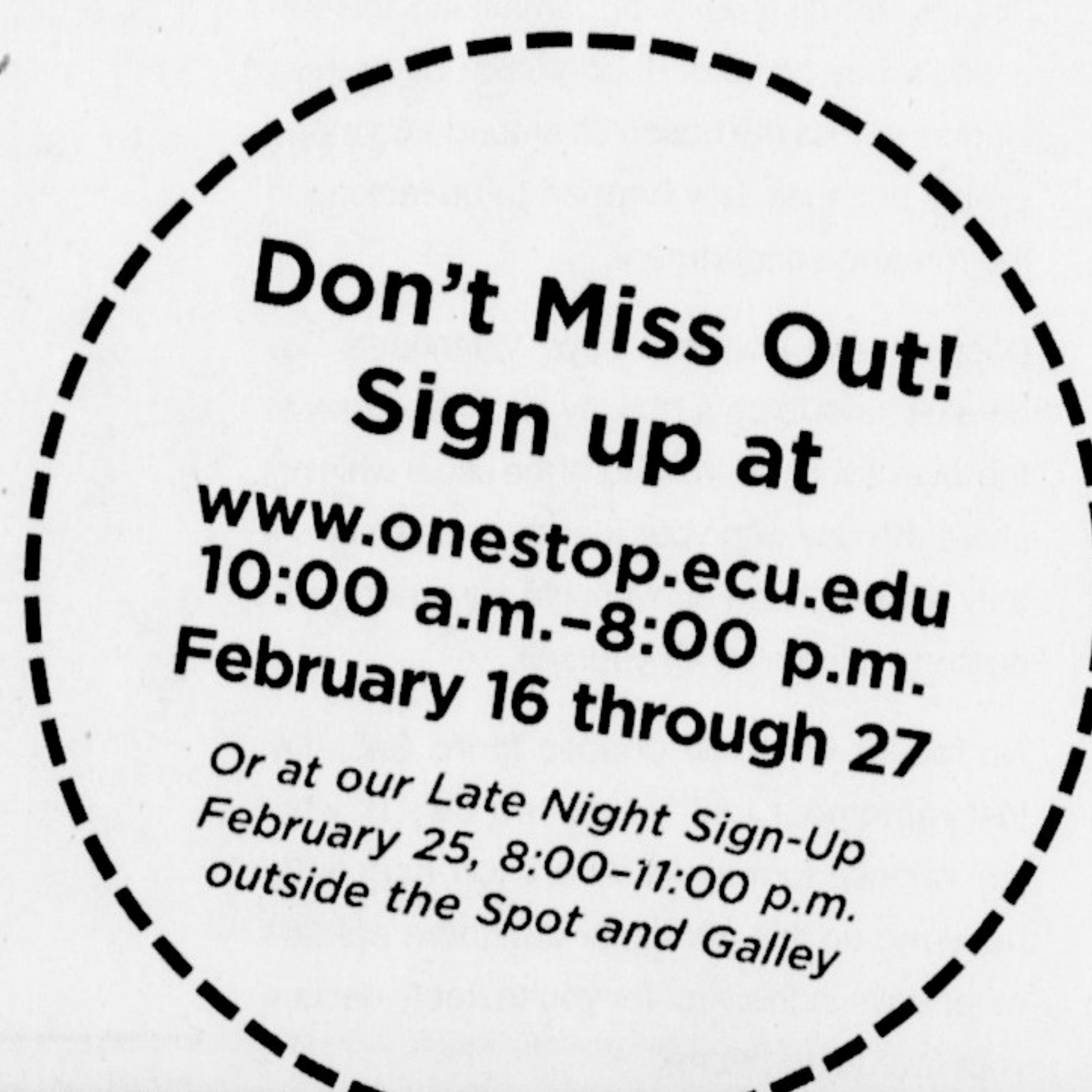
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DEADLINES

Thursday at 4 p.m. for the next Tuesday's paper

Friday at 4 p.m. for the next Wednesday's paper

Monday at 4 p.m. for the next Thursday's paper

FOR RENT

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.

Duplexes for rent: 2 & 3 bedrooms, 2nd Street, Lewis Street and College Towne Row. Close to ECU. Pet with fee at some units. For more information contact Wainright Property Management 756-6209.

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3 BD/1 Bath house on 1707 S. Elm St. Tailgate and walk to games. Hardwood floors, excellent condition, pretty yard w/ ample parking. \$850.00 no pets. Available March 1st. 321-4802

Sublease Available NOW! 2 bedroom

1 bath in Wyndham Court. End unit with private deck. Pets allowed. \$405.00 per month. Contact Bear Robinson (252)258-5526.

For rent: Upscale 3 BR--3 Bath Near campus, only if you like the BEST!! Call 252-561-7368 or dayle@bellsouth.net

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.

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2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex located on East 2nd Street. Close to ECU. \$375.00 per month. For more information contact Wainright Property Management 756-6209.

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.

Townhouses for rent: Cannon and Cedar Court- 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bath. Free basic cable with some units. Close to ECU. For more information contact Wainright Property Management 756-6209.

Room for rent 2 blocks from campus- just graduated. Great house with front/back porch. Washer/dryer. Heat/AC. For interview call 919-349-8321.

LOOKING FOR someone to sublease 1 or 2 bedroom apartment in Eastgate available now. Rent is \$410 a month and there is no security deposit. Contact Barrett at (919)656-7444.

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.

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2 blocks from campus!! Campus point, sub-lease immediately, 3rd roommate needed, lease expires July 31st, 2004, \$197 plus utilities. Corby, 1-919-218-0937 or 1-919-932-5284.

Responsible Roommate for 2 BR/BA home with indoor dog. Approx. 20 min from ECU. Call Paul @ 252-341-6998.

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Bartender Trainees needed \$250 a day potential, local positions 1-800-293-3985 ext. 306

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.

Christian Nursery workers needed. Sunday 9:15am-12:15pm. More hours available if desired. Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church, 510 S. Washington St., NC 27858. 757-1883 or 752-3101.

Part time & full time summer positions open in water Analysis/ Retail sales. Will train on the job.

Secure your job before you go on Spring Break. Greenville Pool & Supply Co. 3730 S. Charles Blvd. (Bells Fork). Pick up an application between 9 & 5 Monday-Friday and 9-2 on Saturday. Applications must be turned in by March 1st, 2004 for consideration. No phone calls please.

Work Hard! Play Hard! Change Lives! Girls resident camp looking for counselors, lifeguards, wranglers, boating staff, crafts, nature, unit leaders, business manager, and health supervisor. \$200-\$350/week! May 22-August 1. Free Housing! 1-800-672-2148 x 410 or keyauwee@aol.com. www.tarheeltriad.org for an online application.

Part-time help wanted. 17 people needed who will be paid to lose weight! Natural. Dr. Recommended. Teresa 888-892-1829.

Immediate need for an individual to listen to recorded rap music and to score the music. For more information, call 1 (252) 209-9060.

Responsible person needed to watch 5 month old on Mondays from 7:00am to 3:30pm. Nursing, Education, Child Development majors preferred. Please call 353-6680 between 3:30 and 9:00pm or email ladypahe@cox.net.

Inbound call Center Agents Needed. Must type 30+ wpm, excellent verbal skills required. Hiring for 2nd shift & weekends, 15-30 hours/week. Fax resume to 353-7125 to apply.

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GREEK PERSONALS

The sisters of Delta Zeta want to thank the brothers of Phi Tau for a crown pleasing Pref Night! We all had a great time!

Delta Zeta wants to thank Chi Phi for an awesome UNC vs. Duke social last week!

OTHER

Attention: Resort Recreation & Hotel Management Majors! Internships available in resort activities, front office & food service. Myrtle beach & Hilton Head, SC; Orlando, FL. Join us for a semester of summer gaining hands on experience in sunny resort locations! Call 1-800-864-6762 or Email: info@americanhospitalityacademy.com. www.AmericanHospitalityAcademy.com. \$300/month stipend, shuttled transportation, cultural events & socials, receive internship credits, make friends from around the world, furnished

housing, gain AH&LA certification, gain a cultural experience!

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The Card Post/Report #444. Wuv Inn- An evolution of Democracy (where every voice counts) an evolution of Philosophy (where every action counts) & an Evolution of Love (where every love counts) ...integral to each other... are evolving out of Wayne Co. NC. The new word to address the Evolution of Love... is "Wuv"... 1st published here & Goldsboro News Argues Valentine's Week of '99". The following is the 5th part of a story utilizing the word: Report #433 Charm Inn/Olivia's V-Day in the Land of Wuv (part 5). "Olivivia" wisped Mosey "...tell the lil' ones... of The Day...time began to be measured as BP & AP." To which Olivia wisped back... that all could hear... "The Day... we 'n 10 milyun surgeonsoldiers... laid down our arms at the border of the Cradle of Civilization... & arm'narmwithlovedones... proceeded to Bagdad... to build the finest babyhospitals... in the Universe?" "Yup" they all cried... with Mosey poke'n Olivia in the ribs. Olivia's smile poked... right back. One... tell'n "she'd rutha hear Mosey's version!" The Evolution TKD

P.S. The following is OVLW's theme song- 'Godeeva' (in honor of Godiva's great great great great granddaughter)- Go in the name of Wuv... & heal those ach'nharts. Go in the name of Wuv... & heal those broken hearts... We've thought it over.

P.S.S. The word 'surgesonsoldier' evolves out of a school of 'martial arts'... where one must master the 'healing arts' first... before advancing.

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- of ungrateful landlords
- of unanswered questions
- of high rents
- of grumpy personnel
- of unfulfilled promises
- of units that were not cleaned
- of walls that were never painted
- of appliances that don't work

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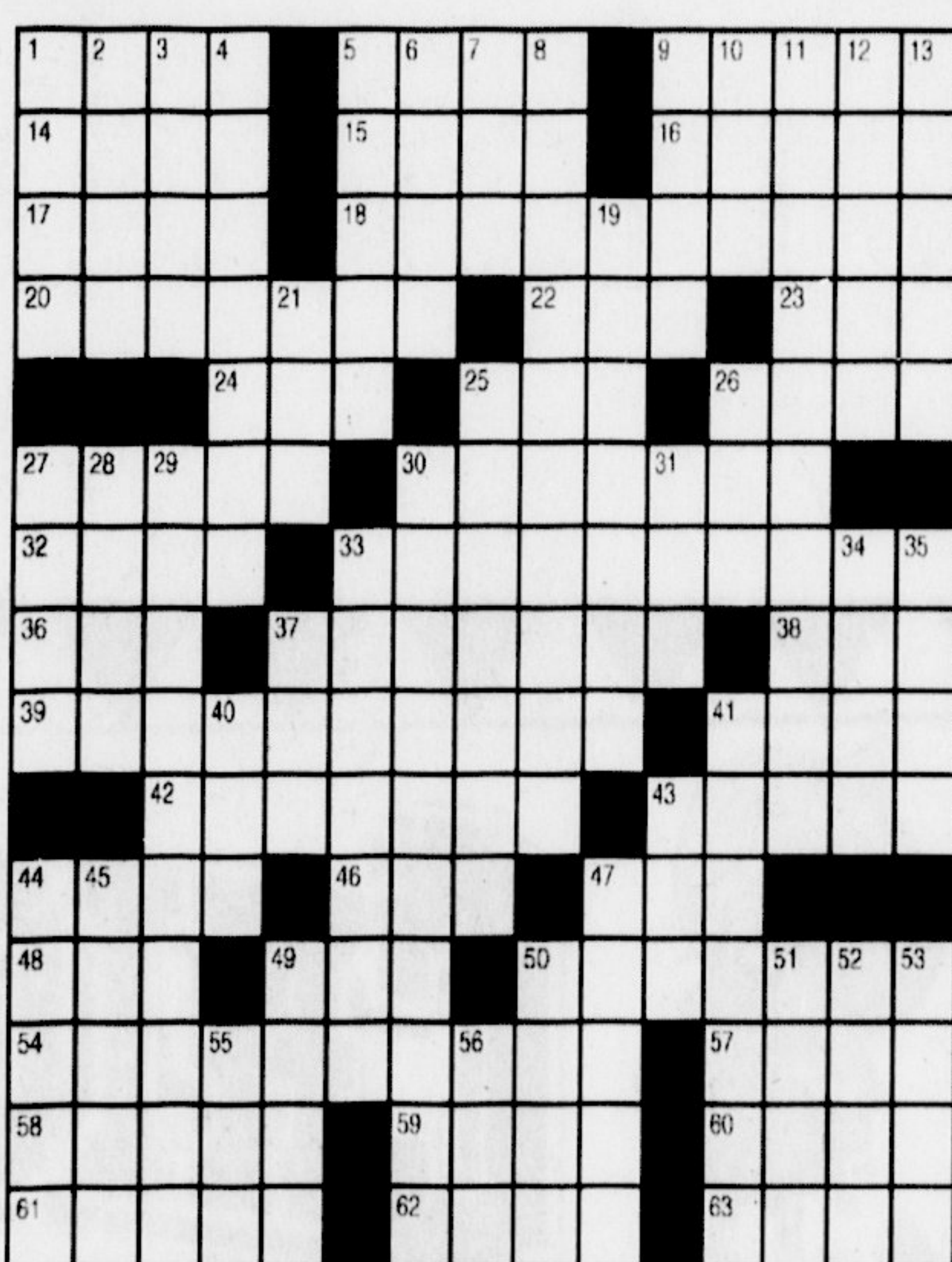
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Historic periods
- 5 Historic periods
- 9 Detach, as a brooch
- 14 Amorphous mass
- 15 Adam's youngest
- 16 Scandinavian
- 17 Buffalo's lake
- 18 Swindler's trait
- 20 Orange liqueur
- 22 Convened
- 23 Extinguished
- 24 Jay follower
- 25 Hot tub
- 26 Raw minerals
- 27 Slacken
- 30 Workout wear
- 32 Seniors' grp.
- 33 Drinking spots
- 36 "Born in the _"
- 37 Lush
- 38 Charleson or Carmichael
- 39 Swindlers
- 41 Not taken in by
- 42 Grangers
- 43 Stitch again
- 44 Landed
- 46 Tax grp.
- 47 Deity
- 48 Spasm
- 49 "Justice for All"
- 50 Plain-woven fabric
- 54 Acknowledging applause
- 57 Pocket billiards
- 58 Unmoving
- 59 Plumbing problem
- 60 Attention-getting sound
- 61 Military training unit
- 62 Grub
- 63 Profit's opposite

DOWN

- 1 Guinness of "Star Wars"
- 2 Spiritual guide
- 3 Kuwait's ruler
- 4 Talk louder
- 5 English assignment
- 6 Nevada city

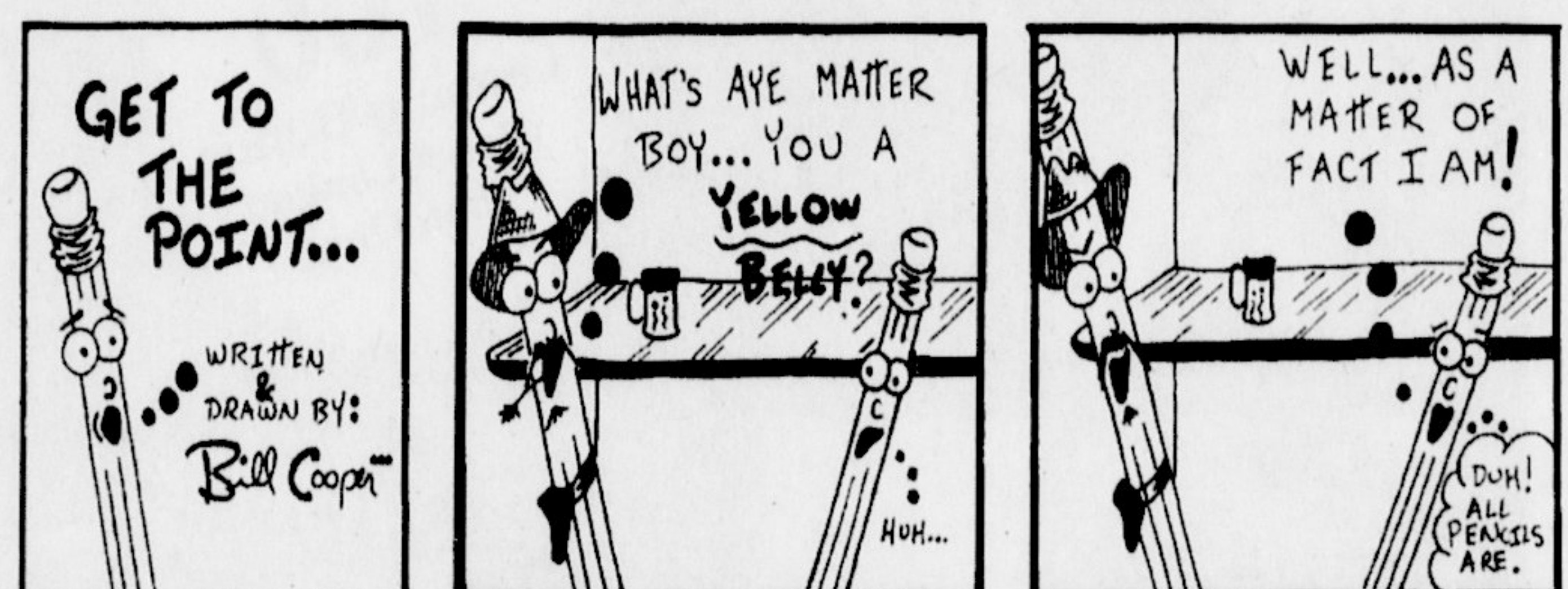


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Solutions



- 43 Decay
- 44 Garret
- 45 Vine
- 47 Stares stupidly
- 49 Starter chips
- 50 We're all in the same
- 51 London district
- 52 Little piggies
- 53 "Desire Under the"
- 55 Sale-tag abbr.
- 56 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"

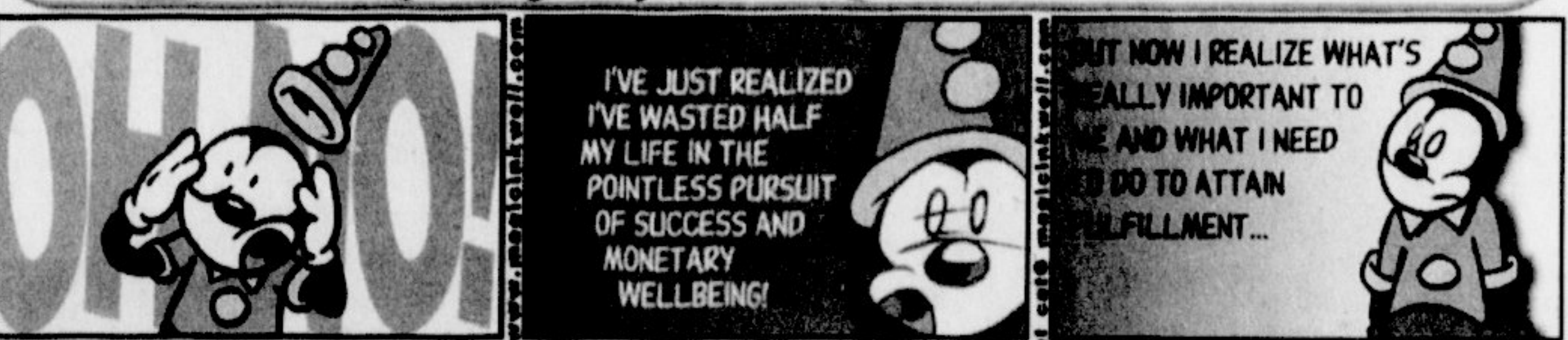


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Eastgate Village

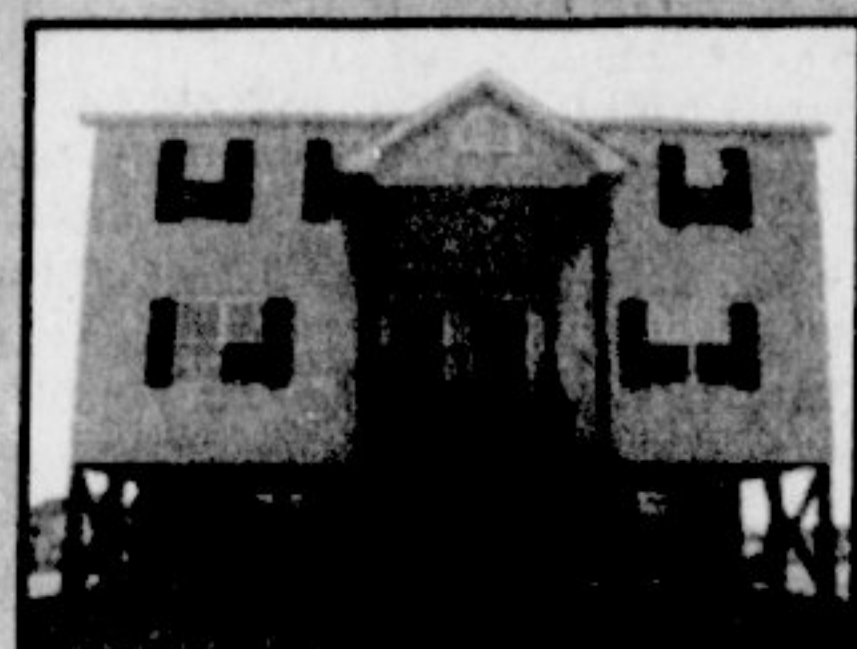
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Landowner protests for apartments on floodplain

Carroll files rezoning petition with Greenville City Council members

ADRIANNA DRAKE
STAFF WRITER

Landowner Phillip Carroll has requested to build apartments in a known Greenville floodplain with hopes of offering the growing number of ECU students a place to live.

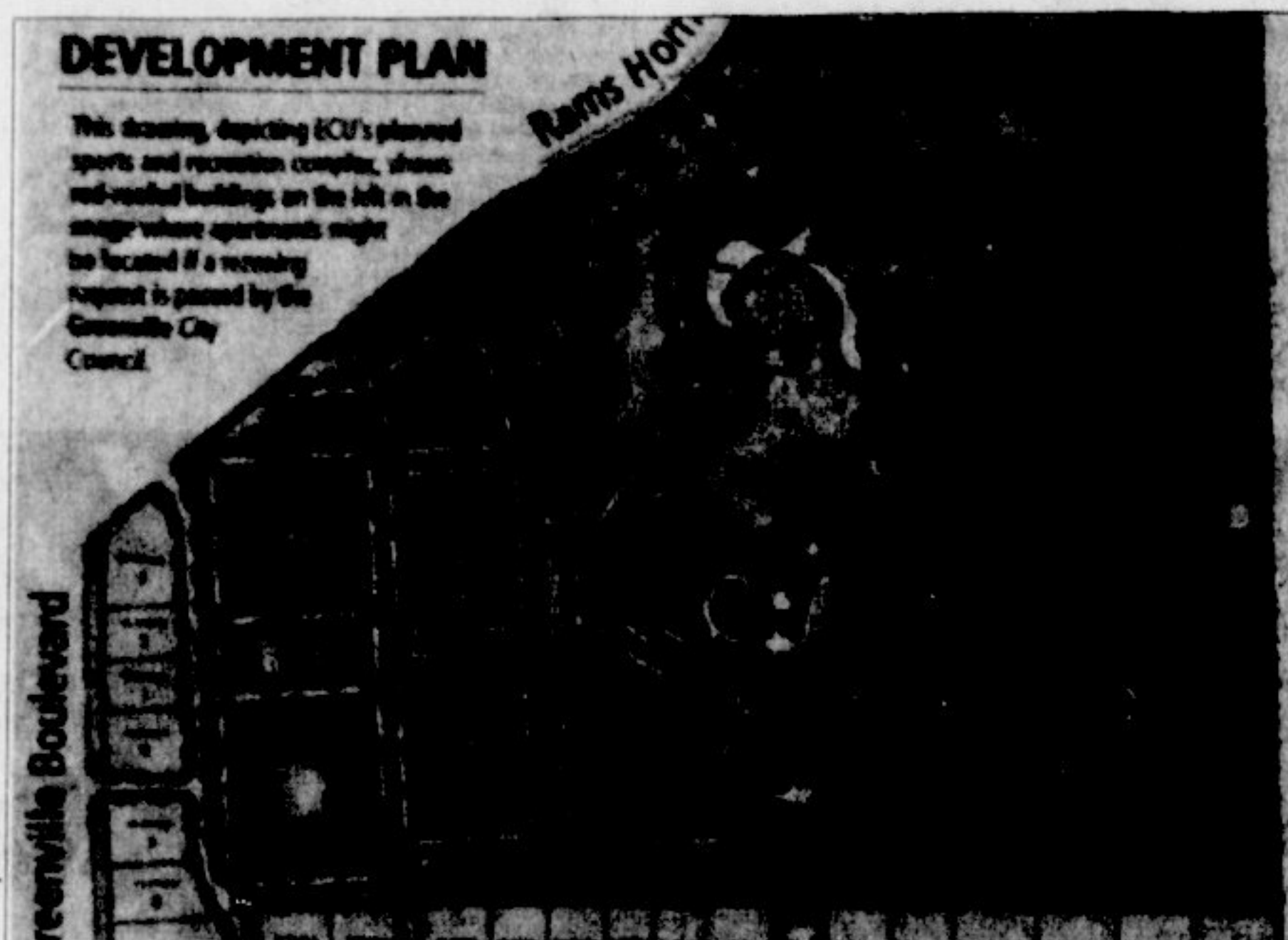
His plans challenge the Greenville City Council's Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Plan Map passed in March 2000. The orders deny any landowner access to build home dwellings in the 100 year and 500 year floodplains.

The plan was put into place after Hurricane Floyd caused massive damage in 1999. If Carroll's bid succeeds, he can build an estimated 455 apartments for almost 1,550 residents.

In September, Carroll submitted a proposal to build the apartments in the Tar River floodplain off of Highway 264 Bypass on Whitchard Road.

Phillip Dixon Sr., the attorney hired by Carroll, said Carroll asked the Council to agree to a small modification in the newly adopted plan so he could build.

Dixon said there is only a 1.3 foot difference between an apartment building or not, and even then not much would happen. The Comprehensive Plan does not allow residential buildings that fail to meet certain require-



The City Council will make a decision on the apartments Phillip Carroll wants to build at their regular meeting Thursday

ments in the floodplain area to avoid any possible disasters in the future.

If approved by the City Council on Thursday, the apartments would lie next to land purchased by the university to build a recreation complex.

According to Dixon, this would be the best location for apartments. Two major thoroughfares that do not see half as much traffic as they should based on traffic volume estimates around the proposed complex.

The planning and rezoning commission is a group that hears requests and gives recommendations to the City Council. When the planning and rezoning commission met on Jan. 20, they voted 7-1 against Carroll's rezoning request. Dixon said the

Council is focusing on one possible disaster, when many could occur.

"There is a greater likelihood that your apartment will catch fire than flood," said Dixon.

According to Harry Hamilton, chief city planner, almost half of the land owned by Carroll is out of the county's jurisdiction, which makes the vote more difficult. Due to partial jurisdiction, Carroll has not yet submitted a development plan to the Council and is not required to.

Carroll was unavailable for comment on this story.

The Greenville City Council is scheduled to meet on Feb. 12 to discuss the rezoning petition.

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

TEC is now hiring staff writers. Apply at our office located on the 2nd floor of the Student Publications Building.

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Bush's military record in question

White House releases payroll documents

PETER KALAJIAN
STAFF WRITER

Under increasing pressure from the news media, the White House released military payroll records

from President Bush's time in the National Guard as proof that Bush fulfilled his military duties.

In recent weeks, Bush's military service has come under intense scrutiny from both the national media and the Democratic presidential candidates.

According to an Associated Press article, the documents produced by the White House press office proved Bush was awarded service points and paid for the dates in question, yet suspicion

abounds.

Realchange.org, an anti-Bush Web site, said both the commander of the Alabama National Guard unit where Bush was assigned, and General William Turnipseed, and his then administrative officer, Kenneth Lott, said Bush never showed up for duty.

In a May 1973 official Air Force proficiency report, Bush's supervising pilots wrote, "Lt. Bush has not been observed at this unit during the period of the report" (i.e., through April 30, 1972).

These statements have been directly contradicted by both the President and members of his staff.

In an interview earlier this week, Bush told "Meet the Press" Tim Russert he had "fulfilled his duties" but would not further comment.

John Deitle, a senior political science major at ECU and a Veteran said he served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 25 years and saw action in Leba-

non, Panama and Southwest Asia.

"There's a lot of talk about military service [for presidents], but I think it's a non-issue," said Deitle.

"The reason being, if it is a non-issue, then Bill Clinton was never qualified to be president ... I don't think events which took place 30 years ago have any bearing on the effectiveness of the current administration."

Thomas Eamon Ph.D., professor of political science, warned against the seriousness of the accusations.

"The issue is potentially serious for the Bush administration, though I think it's too early to tell," said Eamon.

"There are too many conflicting statements, but it could potentially be very serious."

President Bush received an honorable discharge from the Air National Guard in May 1972.

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

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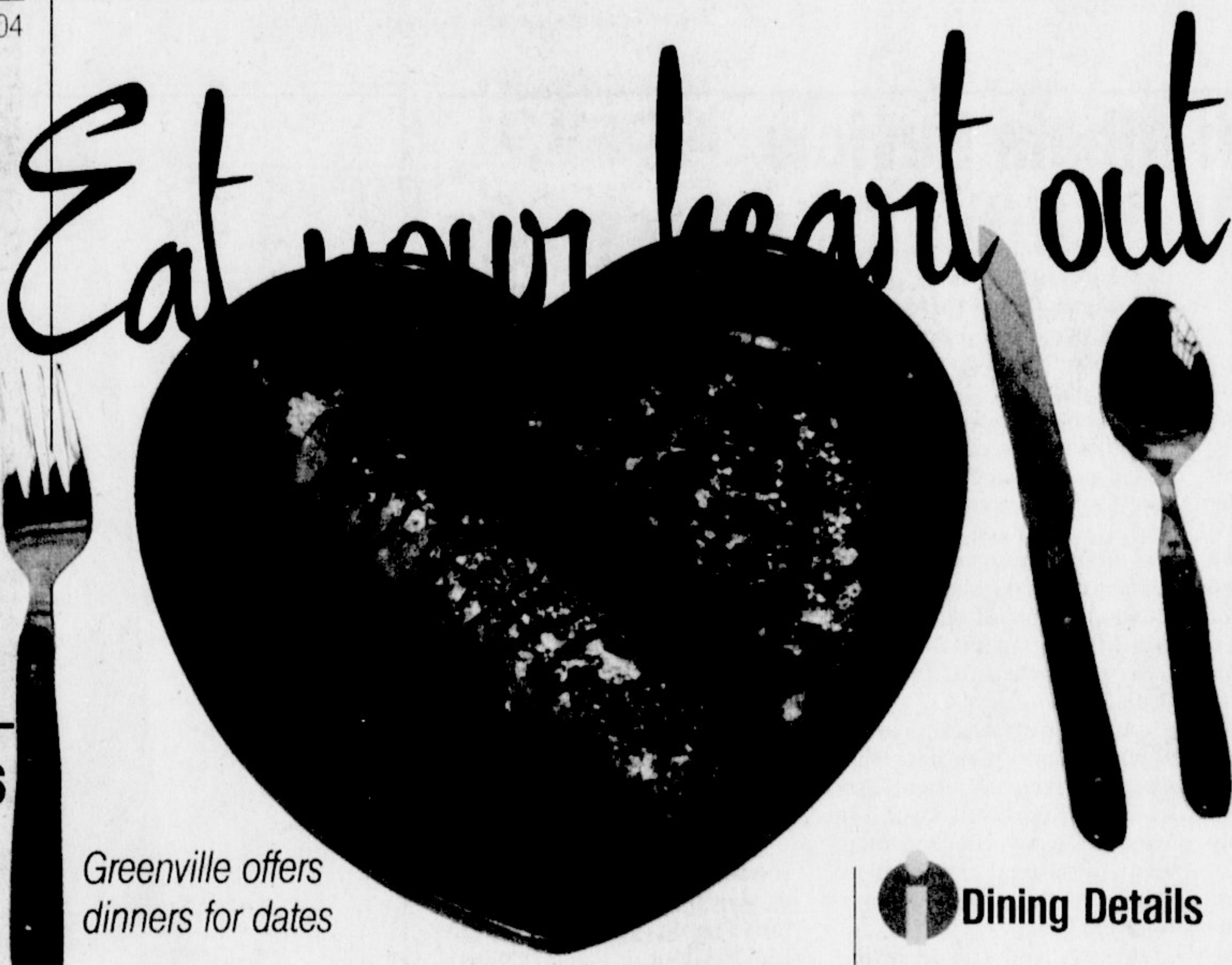
Valentine's Day Movie Picks



- 50 First Dates (2004)**
Starring: Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore
What better way to spend a date than watching someone go on 50 of them? Adam Sandler plays a man who is smitten with Lucy (Barrymore). Their love seems perfect - that is, until he discovers Lucy has no short-term memory. A great movie pick because it incorporates laughter with love. **Other great love-stories in theaters now: Along Came Polly (2004), Win a Date with Tad Hamilton (2004) and Cold Mountain (2003).**
- A Walk to Remember (2002)**
Starring: Mandy Moore and Shane West
Celebrate a day full of love with a movie chock full of emotion. Landon (West) is a troublemaker who meets Jamie (Moore) when he is forced to do community service. The two fall in love - a love that overcomes all the odds against them. **Other timeless love stories: When Harry Met Sally (1989), Sleepless in Seattle (1993), Jerry Maguire (1996) and Ever After (1998).**
- Say Anything (1989)**
Starring: John Cusack and Lorie Loughlin
Relive the anxiousness and nervousness of teenage infatuation with this classic tale of first love. Lloyd (Cusack) is a regular guy who dares to call the beautiful class brain Diane (Lorie Loughlin) after high-school graduation. Diane accepts and the two begin to fall for each other, much to the dismay of Diane's father. **Other teen-romance classics: Sixteen Candles (1984), Pretty in Pink (1986), 10 Things I Hate About You (1999), She's All That (1999) and Down to You (2000).**

Sour Cinema: Movies Without All That Sappy Romance

- Kill Bill Vol. 1 (2003)**
Starring: Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu and Vivica A. Fox
Thurman plays a character known as the Bride, a pregnant assassin who is shot by her boss on her wedding day, leaving her and the wedding guests for dead. The Bride survives and after being in a coma for five years, awakes to seek revenge on her boss. **Other romance-free revenge flicks: Heathers (1989), Waiting to Exhale (1995), First Wives Club (1995) and Diabolique (1996).**
- Monster's Ball (2001)**
Starring: Halle Berry and Billy Bob Thornton
Although this movie isn't entirely free of romance, it makes the list simply for the heavy sex scene between Thornton and Berry - something that single guys everywhere can enjoy while sitting at home alone on Valentine's Day. Thornton plays a racist prison guard who is forced to reexamine his views when he begins to date an African American woman (Berry). **Other "skinematic" picks: Last Tango in Paris (1972), Showgirls (1995), Bound (1996), Wild Things (1997) and Eyes Wide Shut (1999).**
- Thelma & Louise (1991)**
Starring: Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis
Alone on Valentine's Day? You're never alone as long as you have friends, and that's what this movie aims to prove. After deciding to run away from their ordinary lives, Thelma (Davis) and Louise (Sarandon) find themselves running from the cops toward Mexico. Only their friendship can save them. **Other friendship-friendly flicks: Fried Green Tomatoes (1991), Boys on the Side (1995), Now & Then (1995), Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (2002) and The Banger Sisters (2002).**
- Gigli (2003)**
Starring: Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck
Not interested in feeling sappy this Valentine's? This movie will make you sick. A hitman (Affleck) falls in love with the lesbian (Lopez) who is sent to oversee his abduction job. The plot is so bad that it's guaranteed to make you forget about romance altogether. **Other spew-worthy films: Spice World (1997), Glitter (2001) and Crossroads (2002).**



Greenville offers dinners for dates

RACHEL LANDEN
SENIOR WRITER

According to the old familiar adage, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." Perhaps then, a Valentine's Day dinner is the essential romantic holiday experience. And this weekend dining out is sure to be the popular solution for many hungry couples in Greenville.

Whether you're celebrating yet another Valentine's Day with your significant other or bravely venturing out on a hopeful first date this Saturday night, you should face no shortage in restaurant options.

Many Greenville eateries will offer dinner specials on Saturday and throughout the weekend. Restaurateurs plan to do what they can to make the occasion a memorable one, as well as a relaxing and stress-free time for dining duos.

Mesh Café has a package meal available for couples who make Saturday dinner reservations. Packages include an appetizer, two dinner entrées, a shared dessert and a bottle of champagne.

Although the holiday package price has not yet been set, expect to spend between \$50 and \$75 on dinner for two at Mesh this Saturday.

For an elegant finish, as well as a way to work off that three-course meal, Mesh will present a deejay to provide tunes for a night of dancing.

City Hotel & Bistro plans a similar evening of dinner and dancing. Dinner reservations are being accepted, and tickets for

the after-dinner dance party may also be purchased for couples.

As an extra romantic touch, each table will feature chocolate-covered strawberries and a rose.

The Plum Tree Bistro in Arlington Village is another upscale dining choice for Valentine's weekend.

Reserved spots are quickly filling up, but if you don't beat the rush and make plans early, you can still enjoy a holiday meal at the Plum Tree. Their special Valentine's menu will actually be available for the entire weekend.

Another dining option that's new to the city of Greenville is The Daily Grind.

"If I had to choose some place for Valentine's Day, I would love to go to The Daily Grind and eat," said Erica Cousen, senior political science major.

"They have great service and are very friendly. Also, it's smaller than the big chain places, so it's much more of a quiet and intimate setting."

However, Greenville does contain many chain restaurants appropriate for a fun and romantic evening.

"My boyfriend is taking me to Outback Steakhouse," said Dorothy Glick, freshman music education major.

"We have been together 10 months, so this is our first Valentine's Day together."

Red Lobster, Chili's and Applebee's are other great date choices. They offer varied menus at reasonable prices.

Although the atmosphere at one of these may not be

Dining Details

- Mesh Café**
1011 Red Banks Road Suite A
321-6374
Appetizer, two dinners, shared dessert, bottle of champagne
Approximately \$50 to \$75 dinner followed by dancing
- City Hotel & Bistro**
203 Southwest Greenville Blvd. - 355-8300
Six entrée choices ranging in price from \$14 to \$28
Chocolate-covered strawberries and a rose dinner followed by dancing at \$20 per couple
- Chico's Mexican Restaurant**
521 Cotanche St. - 757-1666
Shrimp, chicken and beef fajitas shared fried ice cream \$19.99
Gulp of Mexico margarita for \$6.95
- Carolina Pizza & Pasta Works**
2422 Stantonsburg Road - 757-7756
Dinner and wine for two
- Plum Tree Bistro at Arlington**
731 Red Banks Road - 353-0088 Full special menu available all weekend

quite as chic as one of Greenville's finest, the scene is still special enough for Valentine's Day. Think Disney's Lady and the Tramp and that famous spaghetti-slurping scene. Ragazzi's, anyone?

Chico's, Greenville's downtown Mexican establishment,

see DINNER page B4

What are your Valentine's Day plans?

- TIFFANY WALL**
JUNIOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MAJOR
"Being that I am single - holla! - I'll probably chill with some single friends. Maybe go out to eat and catch a movie. Happy Valentine's!"
- SHERRA' MCMILLAN**
SENIOR SCHOOL OF HEALTH EDUCATION MAJOR
"I plan to spend it with my friends and sorority sisters, Zeta Phi Beta Inc. - do dinner and a movie."
- LAURA CROSS**
SENIOR SOCIOLOGY MAJOR
"My boyfriend deploys Friday. So my sisters, Gamma Chi Epsilon, are going out for a nice dinner then watching cheesy romantic movies while drinking champagne."
- KELLY JENNINGS**
SENIOR SOCIOLOGY MAJOR
"Probably cruise around in my old van with a broken tail light and look for potential 'dates.'"

Valentine's Day History

Celebrating more than 1,500 years of love

LISA TUMBARELLO
STAFF WRITER

We celebrate Valentine's Day with those close to us year after year. We revel in the excitement of sharing special times filled with love and gifts with significant others, close friends and crushes. But do we really know why this holiday is dedicated to lovers?

"I don't know the history of Valentine's Day, but I do know that it's a day to show those you love how much you care about them," said Leanne Teal, sophomore accounting major.

Valentine's Day is named after the Roman holy priest, St. Valentine. Its stories date back to about 270 A.D. No one knows exactly how Valentine's originated, but there are a few theories that hold strong. The version that holds best when investigating the origin of Valentine's begins during the Roman Empire.

During the third century, the Romans practiced a pagan celebration that commemorated the rite of passage of young men. The festival in which this took place featured a matchmaking lottery where the young men would draw names of young ladies out of a jar. The pairs were expected to spend the next year together as companions. After the year had passed, many of the pairs had fallen in love and married.

At the same time, the unpopular Emperor Claudius (Claudius the Cruel) began building his army. He said that single men made better fighters than married men. He found that the married men didn't want to leave their loved ones and families. In order to fix this problem, Claudius cancelled all marriages and banned all engagements.

Defying the Emperor, Saint Valentine and his friend Saint Marius defied Claudius and secretly performed marriages for people. Eventually Claudius discovered their actions and St. Valentine was sentenced to be

stoned, clubbed and beheaded.

While St. Valentine was in prison, he fell deeply in love with his jail keeper's blind daughter. Supposedly, through the power of his prayers and the miracle of love, the girl gained back her sight just before his execution. Before he was executed, he gave his love a note in which he signed "From your Valentine" - the same phrase we use today in greeting cards and love notes.

St. Valentine was executed on Feb. 14 around 270 A.D. In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius set aside Feb. 14 as Valentine's Day in order to praise his sacrifices for love.

Some people say the meaning of Valentine's Day has been blinded by all the commercialism that the holiday receives. Yet others say commercialism reminds people of the meaning of Valentine's Day.

"In my opinion, Valentine's

see HISTORY page B2

Fast Facts

- Commercial Valentine's Day cards were introduced in the 1800s
- Valentine's Day is the second largest card-selling holiday
- An excess of 1 billion cards are sent each year on Valentine's Day
- Hallmark has over 1330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day
- Valentine's Day is celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia
- Women buy 85 percent of valentines
- Over 50 million roses are given on Valentine's Day each year
- Married on Valentine's Day: Sharon Stone, Prince, Roseanne, Jerry Garcia, Meg Ryan, Dennis Quaid and Elton John
- Born on Valentine's Day: Hugh Downs, Florence Henderson, Gregory Hines and Drew Bledsoe



Dinner with friends is a good way to spend Valentine's Day.

Celebrate single awareness day

Alternative ideas for singles on Valentine's

BETH GUNDERSON
SENIOR WRITER

For those who don't have a significant other, Saturday can leave you without plans for the day of hearts, candy and flowers.

But people find other ways to celebrate, or not celebrate, this Hallmark holiday.

There are many things single guys and gals can do to have fun on Valentine's Day even though they do not have a sweetie to share it with.

"I am having an anti-Valentine's Day party ... it is not necessarily for singles only but just against the holiday in general," said Brittany Bodart, senior psychology major.

Bodart also went on to say that one of the rules of coming to her party is that wearing anything red is not allowed.

Several local restaurants and clubs will have opportunities for entertainment for more than just couples.

Ham's will have live music starting at 10 p.m. Besides having

a couples package, Mesh Café will have a their usual Saturday night deejay playing for everyone.

Peasants will host the band Mac & Cheese starting at 11 p.m.

Jennifer Fermin, junior Child Development and Family Relations major, said last year she and group of her female friends got together and watched chick flicks.

"The Today Show" on NBC recently aired a segment with *In Style* magazine correspondent Charla Krupp about an alternative way to celebrate this holiday.

Think Pink. Krupp suggests having an all girl soiree where pink is everywhere as the main decorating accent color.

This party should be planned for 12 women. Krupp suggests holding the party at about 6 p.m. in case some have a significant other.

To decorate the table lay small mirrors as a runner and lay pink candles, vases of pink roses or any other pretty trinkets that are lying around.

To go all out for the table decorations, *In Style* suggests

see SINGLES page B3

Quick Picks: Album Review

Kanye drops most anticipated album

RYAN JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Chicago stand up, your boy has truly arrived. Kanye West, super-producer turned rapper released his debut album under Roc-A-Fella Records.

West first hit the scene as a producer that was guaranteed to give any rapper a hit. Known for his soulful classic R&B samples, he has developed and molded his own style that is recognizable to any hip-hop head.

Contrary to popular belief, it isn't an easy task to make the transition from producer to rapper and still be taken seriously (see P-Diddy and Timbaland). Not only do we take West seriously but his style, persona, beats and witty lyrics make us look to him to guide us into the new generation of hip hop.

The fourth track on the album *All Falls Down* features a sample by R&B living legend Lauryn Hill. West spits, "You think they want me up in this damn club? I still got to show ID to get up in Sam's Club." He reminds us that even though he's on television more than the President and has hits on the radio he still does discount shopping just like the rest of us.

However, there are times throughout the album in which he rhymes about whips, jewels, and women, but in these days of capitalist rap the listener can't really blame him, and in fact he does it in style.

There are times in the album where it seems a bit compromised to be more commercial. Guest appearances by Ludacris and Twista made the cut for the album to move units, but are not really needed. West can stand alone on all of the tracks and after a second listen the listener yearns for him unaccompanied.

Stand out tracks on the album include "Get 'Em High" featuring everyone's new favorite rapper Talib Kweli. Jay-Z joins West on "Never Let Me Down," an inspirational track on not letting anything slow you up or hold you back.

West's underlying humor comes in full force on the cut "New Workout Plan." A step by step guideline for all ladies to get into shape by rapping "get them sit ups right and tuck your tummy like this." Cruel, but funny nonetheless, he goes on saying "No more mocha lattes/ you gotta do Pilates/ you gotta pop this tape in/before you go back dating." Additional tracks like "Spaceship," "Jesus Walks" and "Two Words" bring this album together for a specific



Album Info

Title: 'College Dropout'
Artist: Kanye West
Release Date: Feb. 10, 2004

sound and a common message of youthfulness and consciousness that no other rapper before him has done. It seems that periodically throughout the album there was too much of a reach to be commercially accepted and at times that tends to be a let down.

The Bottom Line: West delivers a rare, solid album: but falls short of the expectations of being a hip-hop classic, which, in his defense, is nearly impossible to reach.

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

History from page B1

Day is based on commercialism – without it we couldn't express our true feelings. For example, I want to give my girlfriend something special, and without commercialism to help me out then I don't know what I would give her," said Taylor Chewing, sophomore broadcast journalism major.

This Saturday many people will celebrate this holiday of

love. When you are sharing this day with that special someone, remember the real reason we celebrate Valentine's Day.

It's not just for the pretty flowers or chocolates. It's to recognize the selfless acts of love that were committed many years ago and to continue to act on these accounts every Valentine's Day.

"Even though I don't have

a significant other to celebrate with, I still have my friends. I was once told that you don't need a lover on Valentine's Day, just love. So I'm going to make this Valentine's just as special as any other," said Kristen Carpenter, sophomore public relations major.

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



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It feels good, but it may also be good for you, doctors say

(KRT)—The mood is set
—candles, body oils, music.

Gradually, your heart rate
increases. The neural cells in
your brain begin releasing
endorphins — those feel-good
chemicals that give you a sense
of euphoria as potent as a shot
of morphine.

What you AREN'T likely
thinking are the health benefits
of the act you're about to be
engaged in. Doctors, psycholo-
gists and sex therapists say yeah,
it feels good, but it may also be
good for you.

Take note:

—Sex increases the blood flow
and circulation throughout the
body and may help reduce the
risk of heart attack.

—It is a mental health tonic
and stress reducer.

—Thirty minutes of sex burns
on average 150 calories.

"You're burning calories
and it beats the heck out of jog-
ging," said Eva Ritvo, associate
professor of psychiatry at the
University of Miami and head
of the Department of Psychiatry
at Mount Sinai Medical Center in
Miami Beach. "Clearly the longer
you're doing it, the more calories
you're burning."

Added Miami family practi-
tioner Dr. Fleur Sack, "Exercise
is good and sex is exercise and if
you're doing it at least three times
a week," you'll be healthier.

Though there's a mountain
of research on how often Ameri-
cans have sex and how much we
enjoy it — or don't — there is scarce
information on its physical and
health benefits. One reason may
be a lack of study subjects. Imag-
ine having your heart rate moni-
tored or blood pressure checked
before, during and after inter-

course? A real turn-off, right?

One study conducted a
decade ago by Dr. David Weeks
at Scotland's Royal Edinburgh
Hospital did look at 3,500 men
between the ages of 18 and 102
(yes, 102!). The survey concluded
that men having orgasms three
or more times a week had a reduc-
tion in heart disease and lived
longer than those who didn't.

During sex both men and
women release a hormone
called oxytocin, Ritvo said, the
same hormone stimulated when
women nurse babies.

"The oxytocin can also lower
blood pressure and reduce inci-
dence of breast cancer in women
who haven't nursed," Ritvo said.
"It makes you feel great and
makes you want to stay home
and care for your infant. That is
probably one of the reasons you
feel good in sex and relaxed."

Men release testosterone,
important for strengthen-
ing bones and muscles and
male's immune function, she
added.

Men also can take comfort in
this: The more sex you have, the
less your chances of developing
prostatitis — an enlargement of
the prostate due to fluid buildup.
More frequent ejaculation may
help relieve that buildup, accord-
ing to Sack, president-elect of the
Florida Academy of Family Physi-
cians, a group representing 3,500
family physicians.

She also cited the research on
heart rates. "When you're having
sex with your spouse or some-
one in a long-term relationship,
your heart rate goes up to about
120 beats per minute (from the
normal of 70)," she said, noting
that 120 beats per minute is a
healthy range for cardiovascular

fitness, but those whose rate goes
higher increase their risk of heart
attack. "If you're having extra-
marital sex, it goes up to about
180 beats per minute."

The incidence of heart attack
during sex for men having affairs
is higher than for those in com-
mitted relationships, she said:
"The risk of being caught is high
and it's more exciting."

Of course, doctors cautioned
against sex outside of a commit-
ted relationship and urged safe
sex to avoid contracting HIV/
AIDS and other sexually trans-
mitted diseases. They also advised
against unwanted pregnancies.

But if you follow these cave-
ats, you can have fun and boost
your health. "It can improve
sleep," said Amy Demner, a
Coral Springs licensed clinical
psychologist. "It can also help to
reduce worry and anxiety. When
your mind is focused on pleasure
and sexy things, anxious thoughts
will tend to not be present."

Those endorphins that are
released in the brain also act
like a booster-shot for the body's
immune system.

Nothing beats stress — that
silent menace that many believe
contributes to ulcers, migraines
and other disorders — like a good
round of sex, experts say.

"One of the mental health
benefits is being able to have
complete trust in another human
being ...," said Gary Neuman, a
Miami Beach marriage counselor
and author of "Emotional Infidel-
ity: How to affair-proof your mar-
riage and other secrets to a great
relationship." "We are very anx-
ious about losing control, but if we
allow ourselves to lose our sense of
control with another person, it's a
mental health benefit."

Singles from page B1

affixing pink silk flowers to
ribbons in order to make pretty
feminine napkin holders.

Not only is the table deco-
rated in pink but the guests can
also drink pink.

Krupp has a recipe for
a Valentine's Day martini,
or Valentini, that includes
Currant vodka, champagne
and raspberry schnapps
with a martini glass rimmed in
sugar.

For the non-alcoholic route,

you can mix sparkling water
with a splash of cranberry juice
and lime.

Askmen.com suggests ways
for single guys to spend their
Valentine's Day.

One idea is to just have a
guy's night out and go shoot
some pool, or host a party and
invite unattached friends and
those whose dates are unavail-
able.

For guys not in the party
mood, just order take out, rent

a movie and veg out.

Treat a friend or co-worker to
dinner by showing appreciation
for all they have done or just
hang out with a favorite female
friend.

"I don't have a significant
other. I just want one thing for
Valentine's Day — sleep," said
sophomore jazz studies major,
Matt Roehrich.

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

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Thursday 1-2 p.m.

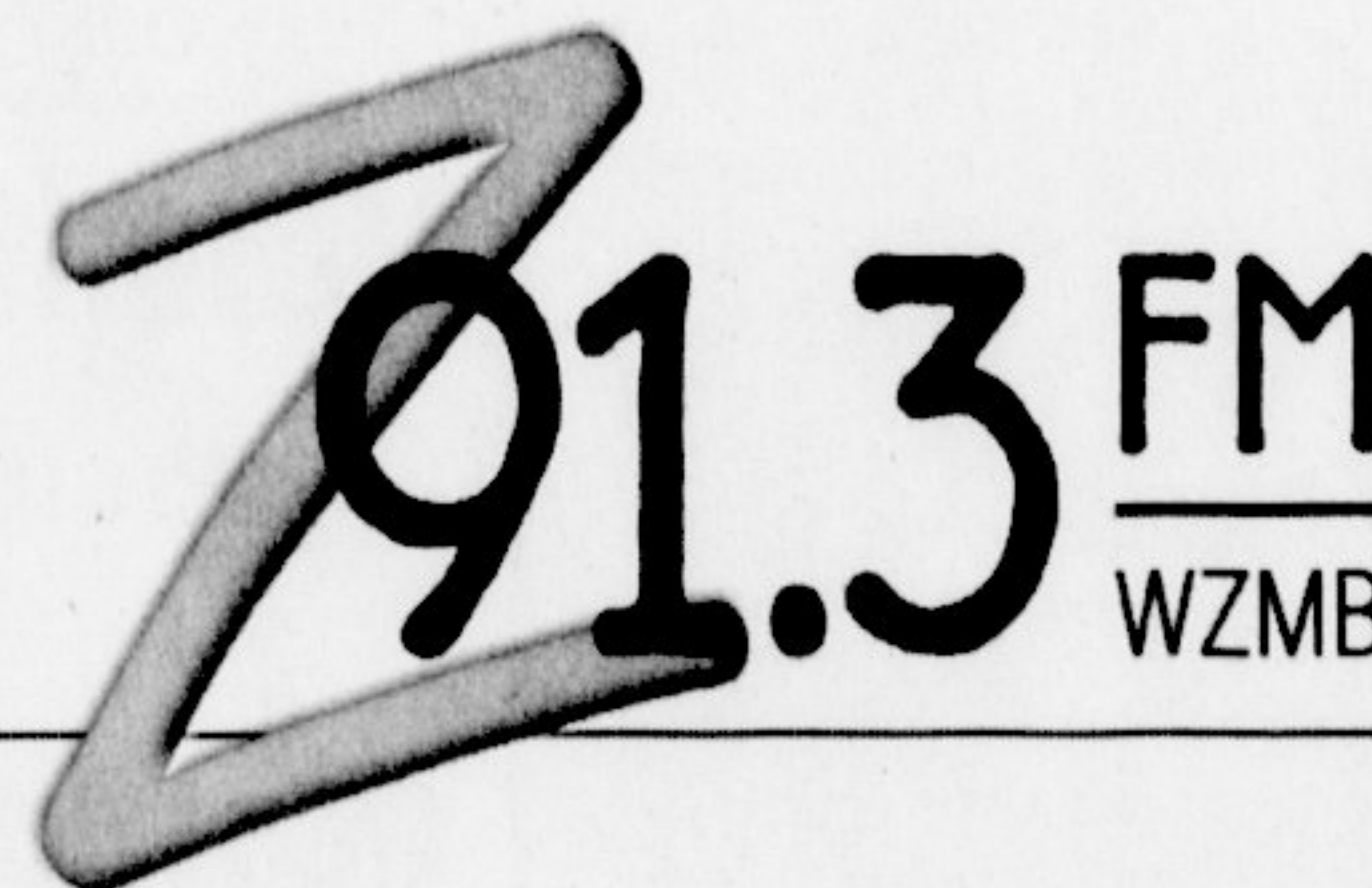
Wright Place Dining Area

Worst Love Poem Contest

Thursday 7-8 p.m.

Mendenhall Dining Area

Anyone can participate.
Bring a poem or pick-up line
or take a chance at being
picked as a judge. Either way,
you don't want to miss this
because love is in the air!

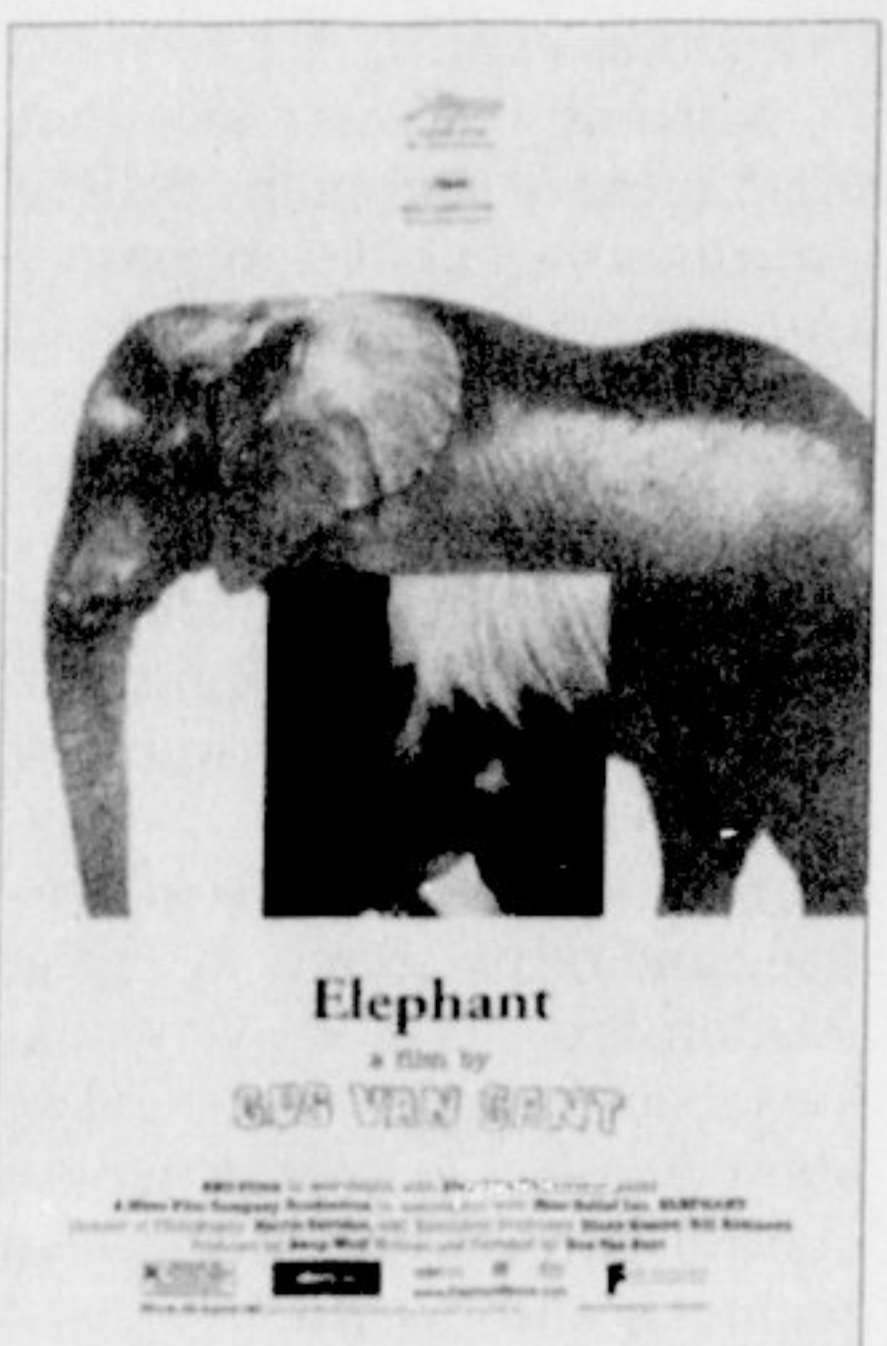


Cinema Scene

Student Union Films
Free with a student ID



The Matrix Revolutions – starring Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne and Carrie-Anne Moss. Neo fights to free the human race from the machines. A few thousand humans who have managed to escape cyberimprisonment join his fight for freedom. Rated: R.



Elephant – starring Alex Frost, Eric Deulin and John Robinson. Covers the time frame of a single day in the high school of a sleepy Oregon town. Before the end, two students will massacre their fellow students and teachers in a shooting similar to the events that occurred at Columbine High School. Rated: R.

Carmike 12

21 Grams – starring Benicio Del Toro and Sean Penn. The complex interconnected story drug addict and mother, a terminally ill mathematics professor, Paul (Penn), and a spiritual ex-convict, Jack (Del Toro) that intersects tragically and redemptively following a car accident. Rated: R.

Along Came Polly – starring Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston and Phillip Seymour Hoffman. A newly wedded husband (Stiller) is cheated on by his wife during their honeymoon. Soon after, he becomes involved in another relationship with a free-spirited woman named Polly (Aniston). Rated: PG-13.



Barbershop 2 – starring Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer and Queen Latifah. Sequel to this fall's runaway hit – spend another day with the crew of Calvin's barbershop in the South Side of Chicago. Rated: R.

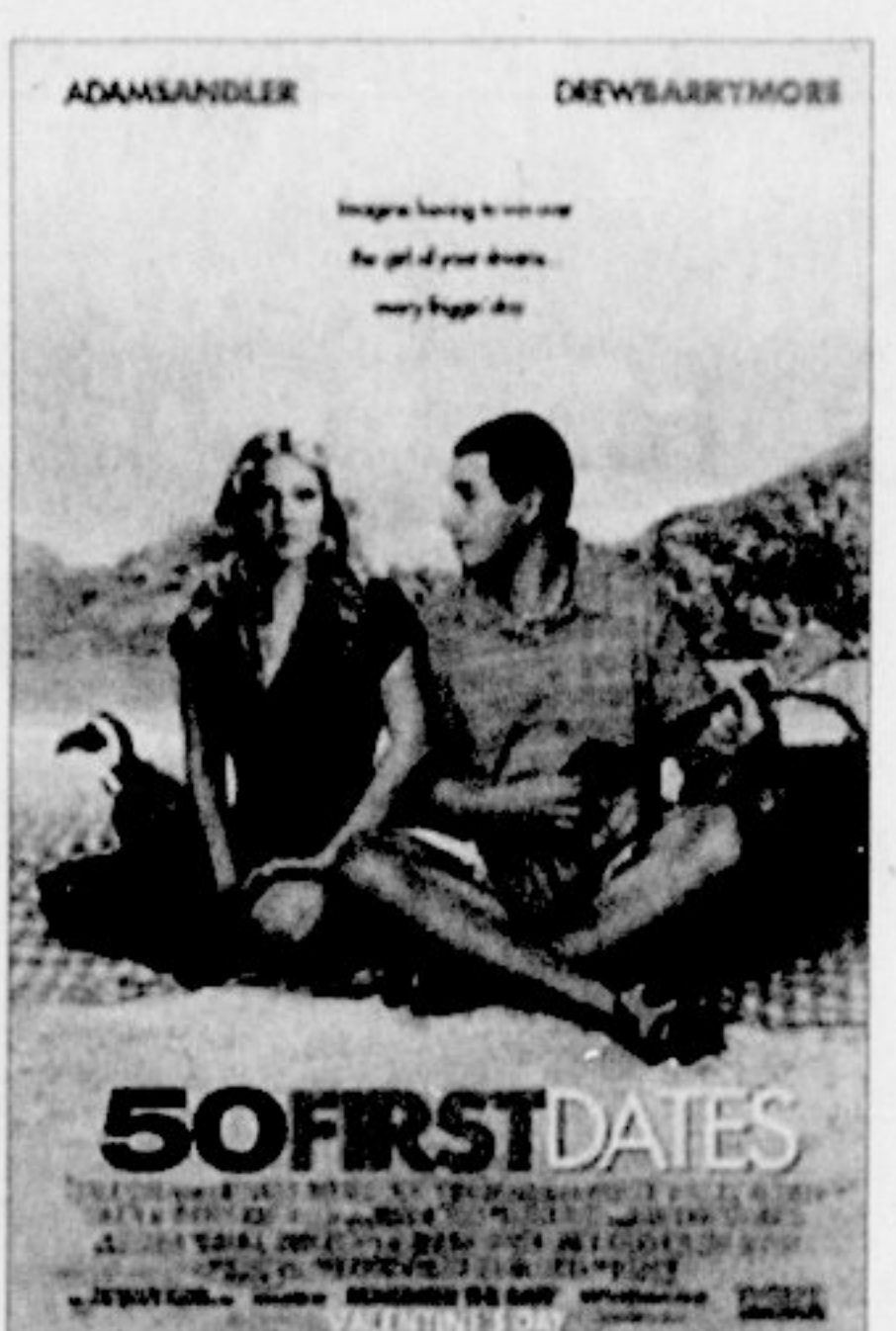
The Butterfly Effect – starring Ashton Kutcher, Amy Smart and Melora Walters. A young man with a dark and troubled past discovers that he has the ability to travel back in time and occupy his childhood body. He soon finds that with every trip back in time, it alters his future, leading him to keep traveling back to repair the damage, with disastrous results. Rated: R.



Catch That Kid – starring Kristen Stewart, Corbin Bleu and Max Theirot. A youngster who, with the help of two friends, robs the state-of-the-art bank where her mother works to acquire the cash needed for a costly operation to save her ailing father. Rated: PG.

Cheaper By the Dozen – starring Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt and Tom Welling. Story of a family of 12 children's move to Chicago and their often humorous adjustments to big city life. Rated: PG.

Cold Mountain – starring Jude Law, Nicole Kidman and Rene Zellweger. Story of the long journey home of a wounded Civil War soldier who returns home to North Carolina to be reunited with his wife. Rated: R.



50 First Dates – starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. A veterinarian in Hawaii falls in love with a girl who has short-term memory loss and must repeatedly get her to fall in love with him so she'll remember their relationship. Rated: PG-13.

The House of Sand and Fog – starring Jennifer Connelly and Ben Kingsley. A man who struggles to make ends meet

sees his golden opportunities in a house that is being sold back for taxes. The house was wrongfully taken from its owner, who vows to get it back at any cost. Rated: R.



Miracle – starring Kurt Russell, Patricia Clarkson and Noah Emmerich. The amazing story of the 1980 U. S. Olympic hockey team, which stunned the heavily favored Soviet squad in the semifinals to advance to the championship game, inspiring the famous question: "Do you believe in miracles?" Rated: PG.

The Perfect Score – starring Scarlett Johanson, Chris Evans and Darius Miles. Five desperate high school students who break into the Princeton Testing Center in order to steal the answers to the SAT. Rated: PG-13.

Welcome to Mooseport – starring Ray Romano, Gene Hackman and Fred Savage. A two-term president moves to a small New England town to retire and write his memoirs, but instead becomes involved in a tough race for mayor with the local hardware store owner (Romano). Rated: PG-13. Special sneak preview at 7:00 p.m. Sunday.



Win a Date with Tad Hamilton – starring Kate Bosworth, Josh Duhamel and Topher Grace. A small-town girl from West Virginia wins a contest to meet her big screen idol Tad Hamilton. Rated: PG-13.

You Got Served – starring Marques Houston, Omarion, J-Boog and Fizz. The social subculture of street dancing is explored through a pair of friends, David (Omarion) and Elgin (Houston), who want to open their own hip-hop dance and recording studio, but in order to do that, they must first win a street dance competition against another group of street dancers to prove that they have talent. Rated: PG-13.

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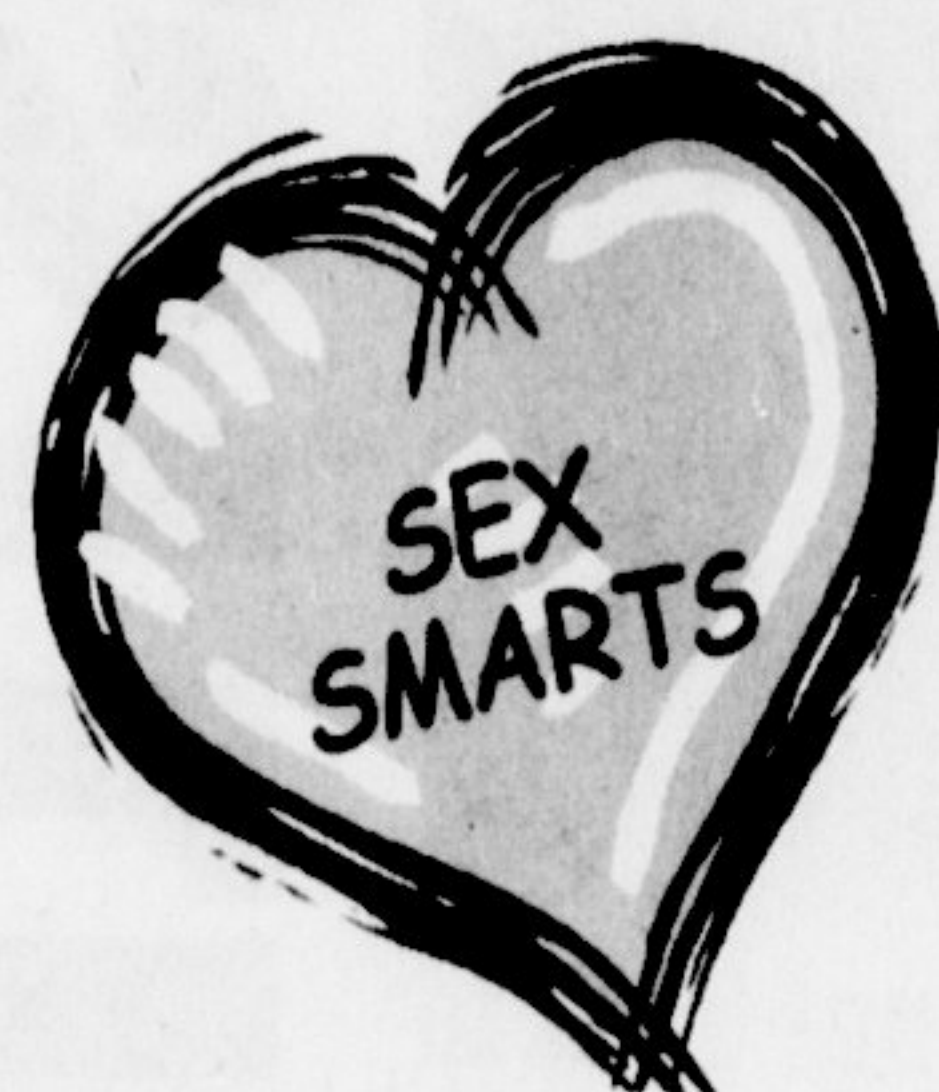
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Dinner from page B1

offers another casual (and ethnic) choice. Make reservations now to enjoy Fiesta Fajitas for Two, which include beef, chicken and shrimp. Dinner also includes a complimentary fried ice cream.

Top it all off with a Gulp of Mexico, a 46 ounce lime margarita made with Chico's own special love potion – also known as tequila.

But if dining out isn't your idea of a quaint, romantic evening, staying in on a Saturday night isn't too bad.

"The best place to eat in Greenville is at home," said Rob Wall, senior education major.

"A home-cooked meal prepared with care and love is the end of all romantic venues."

Of course, whether you enjoy dinner at home or out on the town, share it with your Valentine. After all, that's what this Saturday is all about.

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

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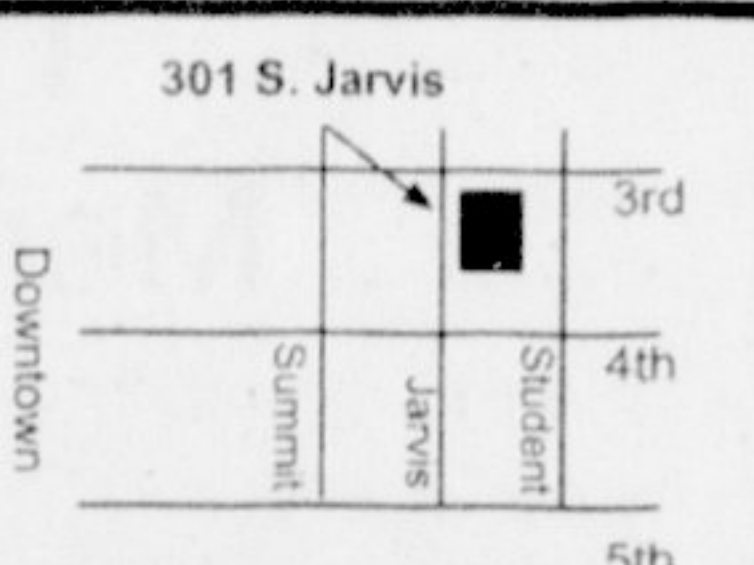
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SPORTS

RYAN DOWNEY

Sports Editor

TONY ZOPPO

Assistant Sports Editor
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252.328.6366

Sports Briefs

More Claret controversy

A federal judge refused to suspend her ruling Maurice Claret is eligible to play in the NFL, and his lawyer said Wednesday the Ohio State running back will enter the draft. U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin ruled the NFL would not suffer irreparable harm if Claret and other underclassmen are allowed to participate in April's draft. Scheindlin rejected NFL arguments that she must suspend the effect of last week's ruling in which she concluded an NFL rule barring eligibility to Claret and other young athletes violates antitrust laws. Scheindlin said the NFL's concern that younger players might over-train or resort to steroid use to better qualify for the draft "makes no sense" in arguing for a stay since players must announce they are entering the draft by March 1.

Crowd jeers U.S. team with chants of 'Osama!'

The boos nearly drowned out The Star-Spangled Banner, and a few dozen fans chanted "Osama! Osama!" as the United States was eliminated by Mexico in Olympic men's soccer qualifying. A loud anti-American crowd hollered as Mexico beat the United States 4-0 Tuesday night in the under-23 tournament, claiming a berth in the Athens Olympics. As U.S. players left the stadium for their bus, several fans -- some clutching beers -- chanted "Osama! Osama!" in reference to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Police in riot gear held back the crowd and urged people to calm down. For Mexico, the game partly avenged a 2-0 loss to the United States in the second round of the 2002 World Cup, a far more important tournament involving national teams.

New development in Williams case

Former NBA star Jayson Williams killed a limousine driver while fooling with a shotgun, then tried to cover up his role by putting the victim's fingerprints on the weapon, a prosecutor said in opening statements Tuesday at Williams' manslaughter trial. Williams, 35, is charged in the death of Costas "Gus" Christofi, 55, who was killed in 2002 at Williams' 40-room mansion. Defense lawyer Billy Martin said the shooting by Williams -- whom he referred to as "a big Teddy bear" -- was an accident, and suggested that the retired New Jersey Nets center would testify to that. Prosecutors maintain that while Williams did not intend to kill Christofi, he acted with reckless indifference when he took a Browning 12-gauge shotgun from a cabinet in a bedroom and opened it and closed it in one motion. It fired and hit Christofi, who was about 3 feet away. Anticipating the defense, Lember insisted the shooting "wasn't any accident at all."

Ryan's door open to work with Astros

Now that he's cut ties with the Texas Rangers, Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is free to start working again with the Houston Astros. Ryan already owns the Round Rock Express, which is the Astros' Double-A team and is expected to become a Triple-A team in 2005. He also is co-owner of a Corpus Christi minor-league team, which will become the Astros' Double-A team in 2005. Astros general manager Gerry Hunsicker said Tuesday that Ryan and Astros owner Drayton McLane Jr. have had several conversations about a possible position with the organization. Ryan has said it was natural that if he develops a relationship with another club that it would be Houston. Ryan ended his formal relationship with the Rangers on Monday by deciding not to sign a new personal services contract. Ryan pitched for the Astros from 1980-88. He was 324-292 with 5,714 strikeouts and a 3.19 ERA in 27 major league seasons with the New York Mets, California, Houston and Texas. The Angels, Astros and Rangers have all retired his jersey. He spent the final five seasons of his career (1989-93) with the Rangers, throwing the last two of his seven no-hitters and recording his 5,000th career strikeout during that span.

Mets sign reliever Bottalico to minor-league deal

The New York Mets signed relief pitcher Ricky Bottalico to a minor-league contract Wednesday and asked him to spring training as a non-roster invitee. Bottalico, 34, appeared in just two games for the Arizona Diamondbacks last season and pitched just 1 2/3 innings. He was 1-0 with a 5.40 ERA, spending most of the year with Arizona's Triple-A affiliate in Tucson. The 6-foot right-hander opened his career with Philadelphia and spent seven seasons with the Phillies during two stints in the city. He was an All-Star with the team in 1996, posting a career-best 34 saves during that season and again in 1997. During a 10-year major-league career, Bottalico is 28-38 with a 4.03 ERA and 114 saves over 462 relief appearances with Philadelphia, St. Louis, Kansas City and Arizona.

Millwood avoids arbitration with \$11M

Kevin Millwood agreed Tuesday to an \$11 million, one-year contract with the Philadelphia Phillies, avoiding arbitration. Millwood, who made \$9.9 million in his first season with the Phillies, had been seeking \$12.5 million, while the team had been offering \$10 million. In November, the Phillies offered the right-hander a three-year deal believed to be worth \$30 million with an option for a fourth year. Millwood's agent, Scott Boras, rejected the offer, which the Phillies withdrew when they acquired former All-Star Eric Milton from Minnesota in December. Millwood went 14-12 with a 4.01 ERA for the Phillies last year, and pitched a no-hitter against San Francisco on April 27. He had a poor finish, going 0-3 with two no-decisions in his last five starts, including two disappointing outings against eventual World Series champion Florida. At the time, the Phillies and Marlins were battling for the wild-card berth. In his last start, Millwood left the field at Veterans Stadium in a strange moment, throwing his glove and hat into the stands as many fans booed. He said he had planned to do that all along, hoping to give fans a souvenir in the final game at the Vet.

Avalanche put Nikolishin on IR, recall McCormick

Colorado Avalanche center Andrei Nikolishin was placed on injured reserve Wednesday because of an abdominal strain. The move is retroactive to Jan. 24, meaning he can return when he feels up to it, team spokesman Damon Zier said. A player must remain on injured reserve for seven days before coming back. Colorado also recalled Cody McCormick from the Hershey Bears. He opened the season with the Avalanche, scoring two goals in 34 games before being assigned to Hershey on Jan. 8. On Tuesday, the Avalanche said All-Star defenseman Rob Blake was out indefinitely with a hairline fracture of his left leg.

Baseball: Destination Omaha

Pirates pitching, offense both improved

BRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

It's every college baseball player's dream. To run out onto the field at

Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska in front of 22,000 fans as one of the final eight teams in the country. The sensation that has eluded ECU for so long now seems closer than ever with nearly 20 guys returning from last year's squad along with a mixture of some outstanding freshmen and junior college talent.

The Pirates return their main offensive threat, Darryl Lawhorn, for his junior season. Lawhorn was tabbed as preseason player of the year in Conference USA, but in order for the superstar to live up to the hype, assistant coach Tommy Eason believes that he will need protection in the line-up.

"You have to surround him with good players," said Eason.

"You can't expect Darryl to be a one man wrecking crew. Everybody from top to bottom has to have a good year for Darryl to have a good year and vice versa."

With Ryan Norwood, Ryan Jones, Jamie Paige, and others in a high octane lineup, it will become increasingly difficult for teams to pitch around Lawhorn if Norwood, Jones, and Paige are consistently putting up good numbers.

One of the main concerns of this year's squad is a lack of experience on the mound. Greg Bunn, who spent the last two seasons closing games for the Pirates, will become one of the go to guys as a starter. Freshman Ricky Brooks, who was selected in the 2003 MLB draft, and junior college transfer Brody Taylor, may emerge as key performers in the Pirates rotation.

Preseason C-USA polls have selected the Pirates to finish fifth in the conference this season, probably due to the lack of pitching.

Despite preseason polls and

the pitching staff's lack of experience, Eason believes that these guys will be ready for the long haul.

"I told our guys if they can pitch against our team, then they can pitch against anybody in America," Eason said.

"You know, I don't put a lot of weight on that stuff [polls]. Every team in this conference lost some key players from last year and no one knows who anyone else has brought in to replace them."

Tulane, which was number one in the poll, returns all their starters from a season ago. According to Eason however, the Green Wave lost players just like everyone else.

"They lost a ton of offense, and probably the best player in the country last year. Those types of players are hard to replace," Eason said.

As Eason puts a hush on pre-season poll talk, the focus turns to spring practice, where he feels the squad has performed exceptionally.

"This is probably the best spring we've had in the last few years," Eason said.

"I think it's time to play somebody else in a different uniform."

They will this weekend as UNC-Asheville comes to town for a weekend series. The Pirates will start Brody Taylor on Friday, Greg Bunn on Saturday, and Ricky Brooks on Sunday. 10 to 12 different pitchers could see mound time this weekend as all pitchers are on a low pitch count to begin the season.

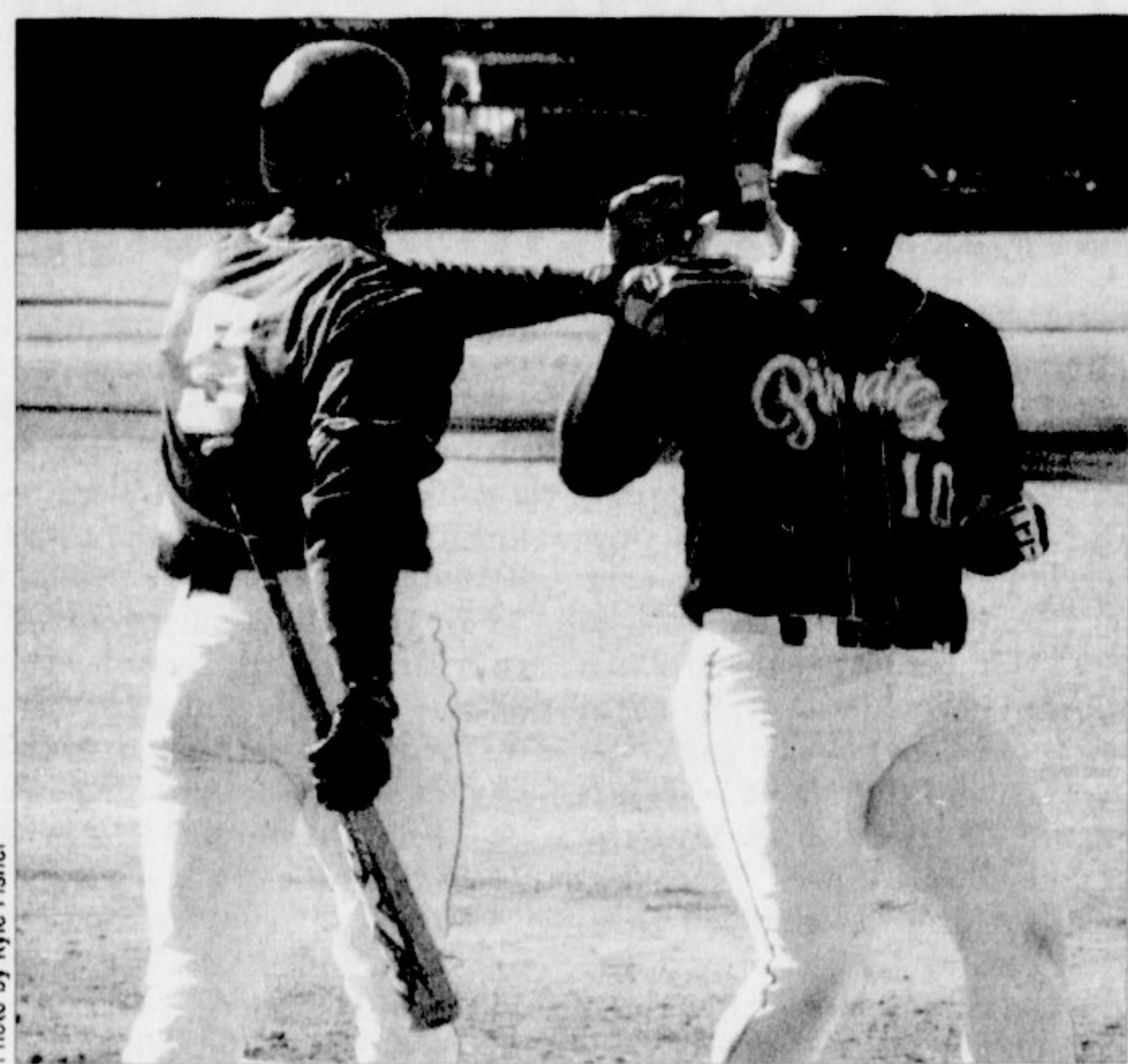
Also, the new \$450,000 scoreboard that is part of phase one of the new Harrington field set to open next year will make its debut this weekend.

The weekend games will be at 3 p.m., 2 p.m. and 1 p.m. respectively.

With the season kicking off this weekend, the question that everyone seems to want answered these days is, is this the season for Omaha?

"We definitely have the talent to go, there's no doubt about it."

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



The Pirates will open up their 2004 season against UNC-Ashville in Greenville on Friday at Harrington Field.

Pirate Radio Broadcast Schedule

Sunday, Feb. 15	UNC-Ashville	Greenville
Sunday, Feb. 22	Delaware	Greenville
Sunday, Feb. 29	Ga Southern	Greenville
Sunday, March 14	Charleston Southern	Greenville
Friday, March 26	Memphis	Memphis
Saturday, March 27	Memphis	Memphis
Sunday, March 28	Memphis	Memphis
Wednesday, March 31	UNC Wilmington	Wilmington
Friday, April 2	Charlotte	Charlotte
Saturday, April 3	Charlotte	Charlotte
Sunday, April 4	Charlotte	Charlotte
Wednesday, April 7	Duke	Durham
Saturday, April 10	South Florida	Greenville
Sunday, April 11	South Florida	Greenville
Wednesday, April 14	UNC-W	Greenville
Friday, April 16	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
Saturday, April 17	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
Sunday, April 18	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
Wednesday, April 21	N.C. State	Raleigh
Saturday, April 24	Louisville	Greenville
Sunday, April 25	Louisville	Greenville
Saturday, May 1	Houston	Greenville
Sunday, May 2	Houston	Greenville
Wednesday, May 5	Duke	Kinston
Wednesday, May 12	N.C.State	Kinston
Saturday, May 15	TCU	Kinston
Sunday, May 16	TCU	Kinston
Thursday, May 20	So Miss	Hattiesburg
Friday, May 21	So Miss	Hattiesburg
Saturday, May 22	So Miss	Hattiesburg
Wed-Sat, May 26-29	Tourney	Houston

ECU loses another heartbreaker

Pirates fall short to streaking Memphis

TRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

The Memphis Tigers made their first visit to Minges Coliseum last night and made it a first time to be remembered. Antonio Burks dropped 25 points on the Pirates, handing them yet another Conference USA defeat by a score of 79-73.

Derrick Wiley and Moussa Badiane combined for 40 points and 22 rebounds but ECU still couldn't muster up quite enough to defeat the red hot Tigers.

Badiane was dominating inside, adding eight blocks to his credit on Wednesday evening.

The Memphis victory marked their eight straight win as they improved to 8-2 in the conference and secured themselves the third place spot in C-USA for the moment.

Head Coach Bill Herrion was confident about his team's ability to win the game but stated after the game that two key components killed the Pirates.

"I put two things on the board after the game: shot selection and untimely bad fouls," said Herrion.

"Our margin of error in this

league is razor thin."

In the loss, the Pirates out-rebounded the Tigers and held them under 40 percent shooting on the night as well.

"We out-rebound them and we hold them to 36 percent from the floor. I say we are going to win the game," Herrion said.

Another problem for the Pirates was freshman standout, Mike Cook. He got himself into early foul trouble, which limited him to just three first half minutes. It proved to be a big blow to the Pirate offense.

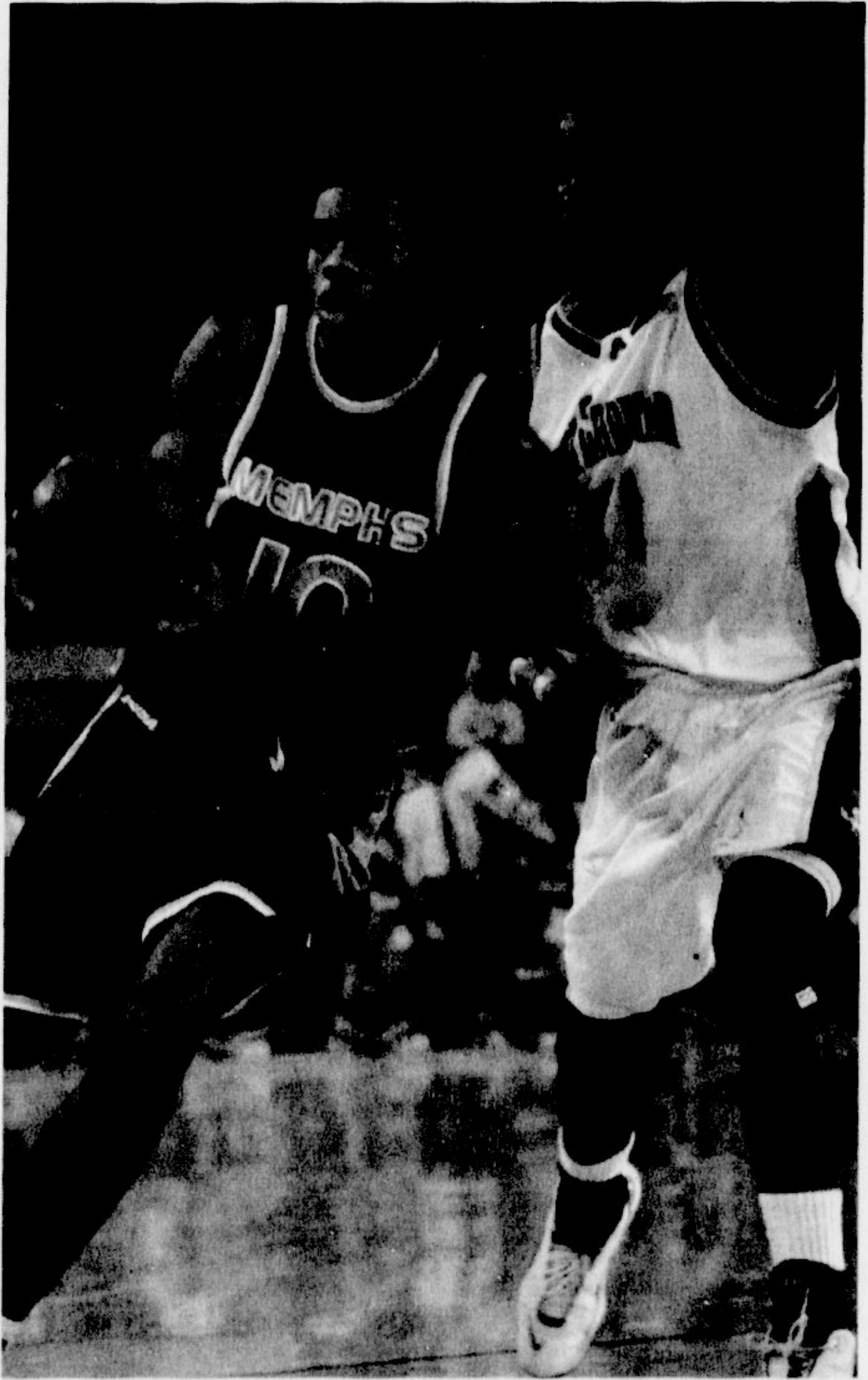
"We could not guard Cook," said Memphis head coach, John Callipari. "I thought East Carolina played great and Billy did an unbelievable job of having them ready and doing what they needed to do to beat us."

"I would be surprised if they don't hit .500 the rest of their games going out," Callipari said.

ECU will look ahead to UAB this weekend and then to a three game home stand, a vital part in the Pirates run for the tournament.

"Now we have a six game season and I told our kids that we can win every game that we play, I think we are good enough to do that," Herrion said. "We have to win some games down the stretch to get into the tournament."

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



The Pirates lost yet another heartbreaker in the last minutes.

Willis to lead Lady Pirates this weekend

Senior forward/center having a great year

ERIC GILMORE
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team will take on nationally ranked teams in TCU and Houston this weekend. It will mark the last home games for three Lady Pirate seniors. Fifth year senior Angela Sye, guard Alisha Bishop and forward/center Courtney Willis will leave their legacy with the women's basketball program.

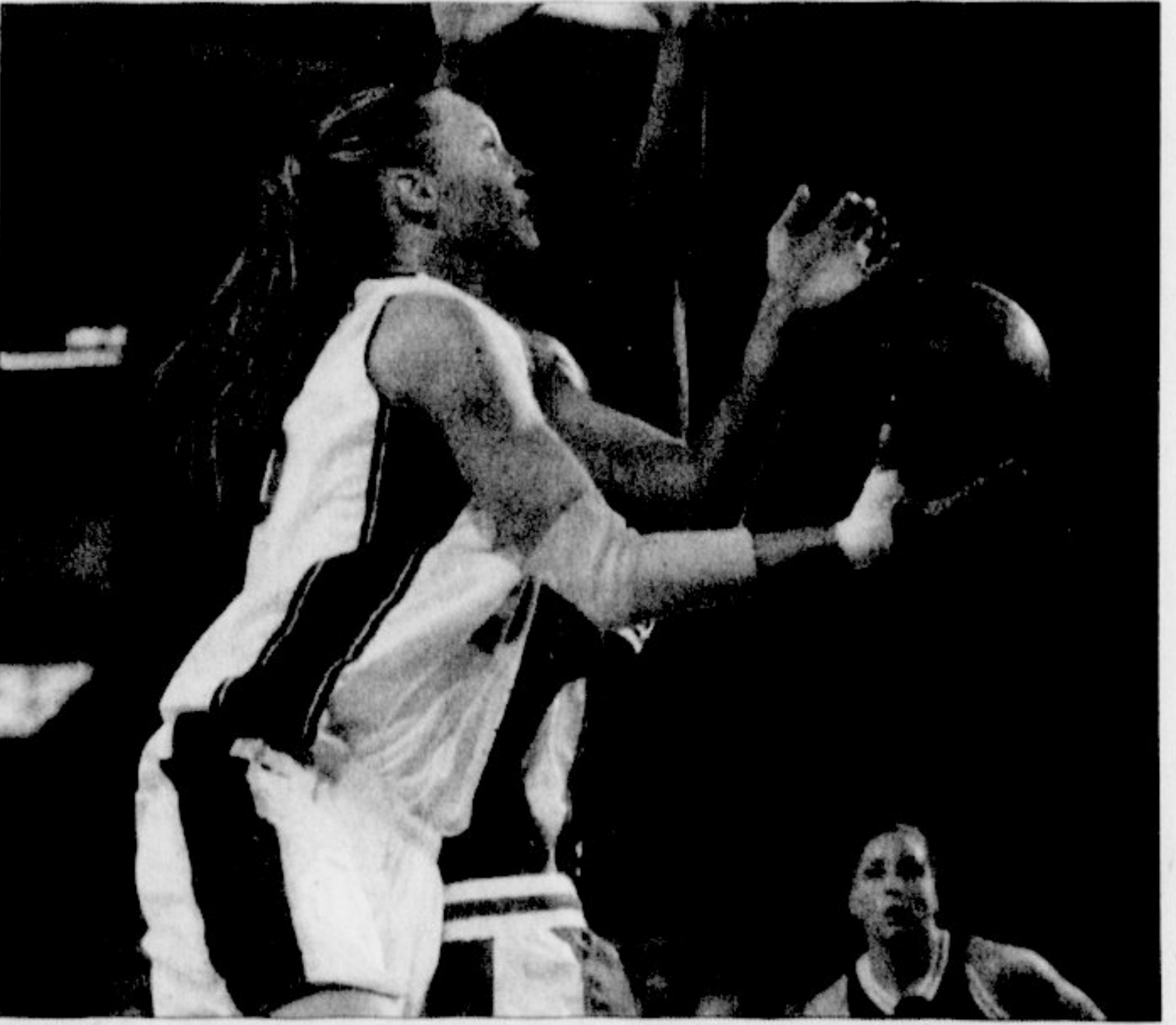
Willis is perhaps the most intriguing player of the three. With 1,250 points the Fayetteville, NC native just moved into seventh all-time in career scoring. She needs just 13 points to move into sixth and has

a chance to move into the top five overall. The humble Willis does not care about records, "I think these are all great honors, but the further the team goes, it means more than individual things."

With Willis, there is more to her than fancy footwork, double-doubles, and all-time records. The Communication major was named female athlete of the year in 2000 while in high school. The three-sport star led her team to the state championship. In trying to balance everything Willis simply said, "I had no social life, but that's what I chose. I love sports so it wasn't a big decision for me."

Regarding the state championship, Willis remembers the

see BASKETBALL page B7



Courtney Willis has been a go-to player for ECU this season.

ECU heads to Birmingham Saturday

Pirates to face one of C-USA's top dogs

TRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

The University of Alabama-Birmingham's basketball program has been on the rise in the past couple of years. The Blazers, ECU's upcoming opponent this Saturday, made a surprise run to the conference title game last year where they came up short against Reece Gaines and the Louisville Cardinals.

Nothing has changed from last season. UAB is contending for the Conference - USA regular season title, as they are in a five-

way deadlock for first place.

How have they done it? Balanced scoring from their starting five and solid defense night in and night out are the top two reasons. The Blazers have not given up more than 80 points in a game since their early season loss to the No. 6 Mississippi State Bulldogs, 86-84.

In their first meeting with the Pirates this season, the Blazers shot the ball extremely well from beyond the arc in the second half and fought off a very hostile crowd en route to a close 71-68 downing of ECU.

"You can see why they are tough at home," said UAB head coach, Mike Anderson on ECU's efforts in the first meeting.

"Bill does a tremendous job and their kids work so hard."

Hard work from the Pirates is definitely showing on the court, but not so much in the win column.

"I think we have proven that we can play with the teams in this league," said head coach for the Pirates, Bill Herrion.

"Now, we just have to start winning the games."

The UAB loss earlier this season is just one of several tough losses for the Pirates in conference play this year. Houston, DePaul and Charlotte are games that ECU saw themselves in good position to get the 'W' only to watch it slip through their fingers.

The Pirates second time around, now with UAB, will be an even tougher task. ECU was sporting a healthy Gabriel Mikulas and a strong home crowd the first time the two teams went at it.

Although winning a road game in C-USA may seem like a monumental task at times for the Pirates, Coach Herrion believes that his team is showing mass improvement.

"If our kids can keep giving the effort and playing the way they've been playing, we're going to win some more games down the road," Herrion said.

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

National basketball scene heating up

March Madness approaching rapidly

BRANDON HUGHES
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Conference races are heating up in college basketball and the games have a renewed intensity with the NCAA tournament quickly approaching. The past week saw some great finishes to some big games.

No. 1 Duke outlasted in-state rival North Carolina in double-overtime 83-81 as senior Chris Duhon drove and his reverse-lay-up won the game for the Blue Devils. An unlikely hero emerged for No. 2 Stanford over the weekend as Nick Robinson's 35-footer at the buzzer iced Pac-10 rival Arizona and kept Stanford's perfect run alive.

And it's not just Division I basketball with the goose bump inducing endings. Previously undefeated Pfeiffer fell to No. 20 Mount Olive in Division II on a 75-footer at the buzzer in overtime.

The 2003-2004 season has been filled with surprises and disappointments alike. Mississippi State and Oklahoma State have come out of nowhere to break into the Top 10. Connecticut was the preseason favorite to go all the way but has lost some close games including one to Notre Dame Tuesday night.

Duke is ranked No. 1 for the seventh straight season and is dominating the ACC while UNC, who was expected to contend with the Blue Devils, has looked spectacular one night and flat the next.

St. Joseph's and Stanford are still undefeated but both face

an uphill battle to reach that perfect plateau, one that hasn't been climbed since 1991.

The teams have now found their identity and the best players in the country have emerged, some that have been there all along, and some you've never even heard of. Here are TEC's mid-season All-American picks (See TEC picks below).

One of the most valuable advantages a team can have is that important seeding in the NCAA tournament. As proved in year's past, the most highly ranked teams do not always merit a No. 1 seeding. RPI rankings are used to assist the "bracketologists" in determining who plays who and where.

The NCAA has used the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) since 1981 to help in the selection of at-large teams and the seeding of all teams for the NCAA basketball tournament. The basic RPI is derived from three component factors: Div. I winning percentage (25 percent), schedule strength (50 percent); and opponent's schedule strength (25 percent). Games against non-Division I opponents are not used in calculating the RPI (See RPI Rankings).

A Conference-USA tournament championship is the only way for the ECU Pirates to make it to the NCAA tournament. The Pirates need to finish the season strong to get an invitation to the postseason tourney. 15 teams are in C-USA and only the top 12 are invited. ECU is 14th with a 1-8 conference record. They are within striking distance of the 12th spot, currently held by Houston with a 2-7 mark.

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



Stanford celebrates after their last-second win over Arizona.

All-American

TEC All-American First Team
Emeka Okafor (Connecticut)
Jameer Nelson (St. Joseph's)
Andre Emmett (Texas Tech)
Ryan Gomes (Providence)
Ike Diogu (Arizona State)

TEC All-American Second Team
Luke Jackson (Oregon)
Francisco Garcia (Louisville)
Wayne Simien (Kansas)
Ben Gordon (Connecticut)
Raymond Felton (UNC)

TEC All-American Third Team
Rashad McCants (UNC)
Julius Hodge (N.C. State)
Devin Harris (Wisconsin)
Hakim Warrick (Syracuse)
J.J. Redick (Duke)

RPI Ranking

1. Duke (6949)
2. St. Joseph's (6821)
3. Kentucky (6719)
4. Connecticut (6561)
5. Louisville (6554)
6. Stanford (6535)
7. Miss St. (6526)
8. Florida (6441)
9. Texas (6436)
10. Kansas (6434)
170. ECU (4903)

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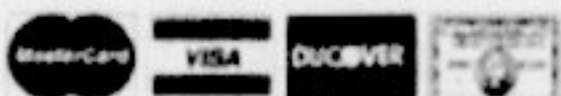
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Stanford recruit recovering after suffering stroke during celebration

PALO ALTO, Calif. (KRT) — The night before Nick Robinson's game-winning basket brought Stanford fans onto the floor at Maples Pavilion, a similar scene played itself out with tragic consequences at a high school gym in Tucson, Ariz.

Joe Kay, a Tucson High senior headed to Stanford on a volleyball scholarship, suffered a stroke and partial paralysis Friday in a pileup when about 200 fans stormed the court to celebrate a victory.

Kay, 18, was tackled by an exuberant crowd after his two-handed slam punctuated a win over powerful Salpointe. His jaw was broken and he suffered a ruptured carotid artery. Kay remained in serious condition Tuesday at Tucson's University Medical Center, where he has been hospitalized since the game.

Stanford men's volleyball coach Don Shaw learned of

Kay's injuries Monday morning while searching for a high school result on a volleyball Web site. Shaw phoned Kay's parents in the hospital and said Stanford would honor the partial scholarship awarded to Kay, a 6-foot-6 outside hitter.

"I just wanted the parents to know that no matter what happens, I wanted to have something to give to him," Shaw said.

During lunch Monday, Shaw shared the story with Stanford basketball coach Mike Montgomery, whose team stunned Arizona, 80-77, when Robinson hit a 32-foot shot at the buzzer.

"I hate to snap you back to reality," Shaw told Montgomery, "but this is what happened to one of my recruits."

Stanford's case was slightly different because Robinson was already on the floor when the crowd poured onto the court.

Still, he tried to protect himself by raising his forearms up near

his face, to keep arms and legs away from his face and neck.

His elbow was wedged into someone's neck. Arms were tangled and bodies contorted. Teammates screamed, "get off, get off."

"You worry," Montgomery said. "They're coming onto the floor and there's nobody in front of them. I worry about the opposing team. Once we had a student swing at one of our students, I've had people spit in my face."

Montgomery was not optimistic similar situations could be prevented.

"The way it happened was just about as exciting as anything you could imagine," Montgomery said. "It's so spontaneous. I don't know what you're going to do to correct that."

Kay is a National Merit Scholar, valedictorian, and plays first sax in the school jazz band. Though he was injured much of last season, he impressed Shaw

at Stanford's volleyball camp last summer.

"He's just a great kid," Shaw said. "The guys really like him, he liked our team. We're just going to hope and pray. I'll do everything I can, which isn't much. But he signed a letter of intent, he's part of the Stanford volleyball family."

Kay remained in serious condition Tuesday night at University Medical Center. His condition was improving, but he was unable to move his right arm and had limited use of his left. Kay's parents said he was speaking in short sentences but much of his speech was garbled.

Said Shaw: "You know, Nick Robinson probably doesn't even know about this guy right now. But those guys who were under that pile at Maples probably had a moment of fear there."

And if they find out about Joe, they're going to feel very fortunate."

Basketball from page B5

game as if it was yesterday, "I have never forgotten that game because every game this year. She was one of the main reasons why ECU was in second place in the conference two weekends ago at 5-0. "You can either win or lose from here and I think we chose the wrong path," Willis said about the current four game losing streak.

The main cog of the Lady Pirate program does not know where she sees herself after graduation. "My mom wants to know too. We have five games left and we'll see what happens. I want to evaluate my options. I want to keep playing until my body falls apart and I have to play on nubs. I would love to go overseas and get the opportunity to travel," Willis said.

No. 22 TCU (18-4, 7-2) will be no easy match-up for the Lady Pirates. The Horned Frogs are tied for third in the conference standings. Sandora Irvin will lead TCU into the

match-up averaging 15.4 points per game and 11.6 rebounds. Her rebounding average is second in the league. TCU also sports Ebony Shaw who just broke the record for games played for the Horned Frogs. She averages 11.0 points per game. Their game against Charlotte scheduled for Sunday will be televised nationally on ESPN2.

The University of Houston is riding momentum off their triple overtime victory over Tulane on national television. The No. 21 ranked Cougars are led by pre-season conference player of the year Chandi Jones. Jones scored a career-high 39 points in the triple overtime thriller. Jones is averaging a conference leading 22.0 points per outing and was named Co-CUSA Player of the Week. Houston

(19-3, 8-1) is tied for the conference lead with DePaul and has won four straight.

"We've lost four in a row. These will be deciding games to

see what our team does and how we step up to losing. We know what we have to do to win and we know how we can beat teams so all we have to do is execute." Willis said about the importance of these last two home games.

ECU will face No. 22 TCU on Friday, Feb. 13. Tip-off is scheduled at 7 p.m.

The Lady Pirates will have little rest before concluding the home schedule on Sunday, Feb. 15 when they take on No. 21 Houston at 2 p.m.

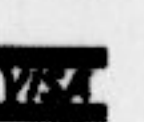
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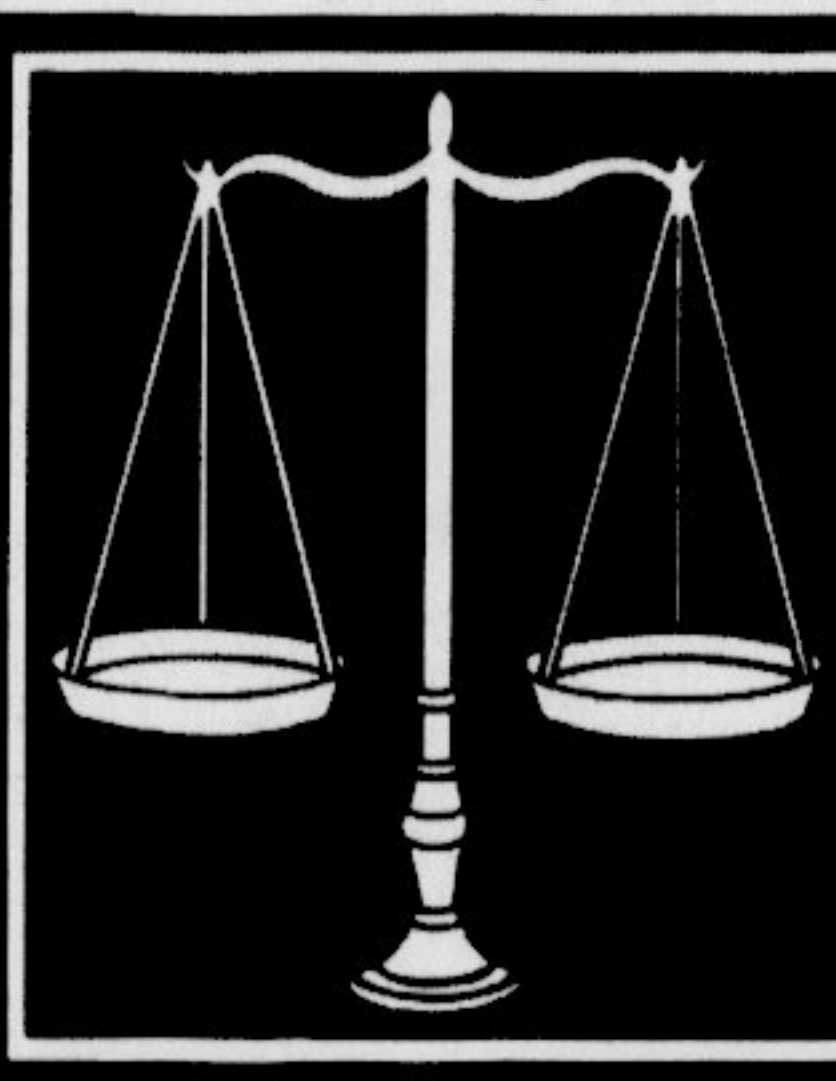
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Feat at Joe's: Tiny school becoming a big story

(KRT)—On Friday, six guys and two gals played 4-on-4 at the Saint Joseph's Field House. Since this was Philadelphia, they were setting staggered picks for each other.

Underneath the stands, Phil Martelli sat in his office remembering the high school game he saw in 1999 - Chester vs. Pennsbury - and the night he knew Jameer Nelson would be his point guard. The "point" was merely a descriptive term. Nelson, a junior at Chester, didn't score one.

"I just sat there and said, this kid knows how to play," Martelli said. "He was playing a different game. He was on one level and everybody else was on another. I was amazed - and then I started looking around to see if there were other coaches around."

Jameer understood that he was a point guard. Nowadays people have turned that into "the guard who scores." Jameer knew exactly who he was.

Practice would begin in a few

hours, and the noontime pickup game would stop, but the pickup players could stay around if they wished. Practices are open at Saint Joe's. When the phone rings on the coach's desk, he answers it. When the students see him, they tell him, hey, great game last night.

At Duke, Mike Krzyzewski's office is on a floor where the elevator won't go, unless you have a special key. At most big Division I basketball foundries, the coach is a mythic presence, more inaccessible than the school president.

Martelli and Nelson and Saint Joseph's are in those clouds today - No. 3 in the polls and winners of their first 20 games. This might or might not continue, but they know exactly who they are.

There are only 3,750 undergraduate students. Usually, the Hawks are trying to earn elbow room in Philadelphia's Big 5. They aren't rich kids, like Villanova's, and they aren't think-tank candidates, like

Penn's. Their campus takes up a couple of blocks on the south side of City Line Avenue, the jammed four-lane road that defines the boundary of Philadelphia. The Hawk, who flaps constantly during games, often has a chip on his wing. The adjustment this season is not campaigning for respect but handling a national wave of it.

"The kids on this campus have great passion," Martelli said. "Everything they do they do it to the hilt. We have a weekend in the spring called Hand-in-Hand, where the students are matched up with a disabled person. Ninety percent of our students participate in it, and it's great."

Basketball is the floodgate for that passion, yet at Saint Joe's they don't just wear funny wigs and bounce up and down. They open the hood of the game and study all the moving parts. The Hawks have sent seven coaches to the NBA, including the revered Dr. Jack Ramsay.

Martelli's Hawks were in the

Final 16 in '97 - memorable for Martelli's tirade at whoever put a "Pa." behind "Saint Joseph's" on the courtside banner - and were in the NCAA's in '01 and '03. He also suffered three consecutive losing seasons, and the administration never budged.

"We had a good program and we've got four starters returning next year," Martelli said. "But Jameer was the difference-maker. He's the one who has put us in this position."

Nelson plays with a slight, all-knowing smile. He is 5-foot-11 yet has led the Hawks in rebounding for an entire season. He is a master at finding all the possible geometric angles for using screens and is undoubtedly the nation's best at shooting the gap between screener and screener, then doing whatever he likes.

And he doesn't go point-less anymore. He is averaging 20.4 points and 5.2 assists, shooting over 50 percent from the field and over 77 percent

from the line.

"I lifted a lot of weights over the summer," Nelson said. "I probably improved my bench-press by about 50 pounds. That's paid off, with all the physical contact. The rest of it is just natural. They didn't used to let me play on the playgrounds in Chester because I was so small, but then they saw what I could do. I think a lot of playing point guard is instinct."

Martelli called the Chester coach after the Pennsbury game. "You told me he was good, you didn't tell me he was great," he said. He pledged to himself that he would sign Nelson, and he kept looking in the stands for other coaches. They were chasing the more famous high school point men - Omar Cook, Andre Barrett, Taliek Brown.

"Martelli and I stuck with each other," Nelson said. "Some bigger schools showed up at the end, like Temple and Villanova and UMass. I liked the

atmosphere here. I'm just a regular student who plays basketball, no different from anybody else."

Martelli showed up for the home visit. Nelson's mother is a school administrator. His dad works at the shipyards in Marcus Hook. The two divorced and are remarried but come together for Jameer.

"There must have been 35 relatives and friends there, and they kept bringing these vats of food," Martelli said.

"They asked me where our first game was next year. I said, at Colorado. Pete Nelson, Jameer's dad, gets up and says, 'I'm going! Who's going with me?' Right then I had a pretty good idea we were going to get Jameer."

Barrett and Brown are solid point guards at Seton Hall and Connecticut, respectively. Cook played one year at St. John's and entered the NBA draft, disastrously. He is currently on a 10-day deal with Portland.

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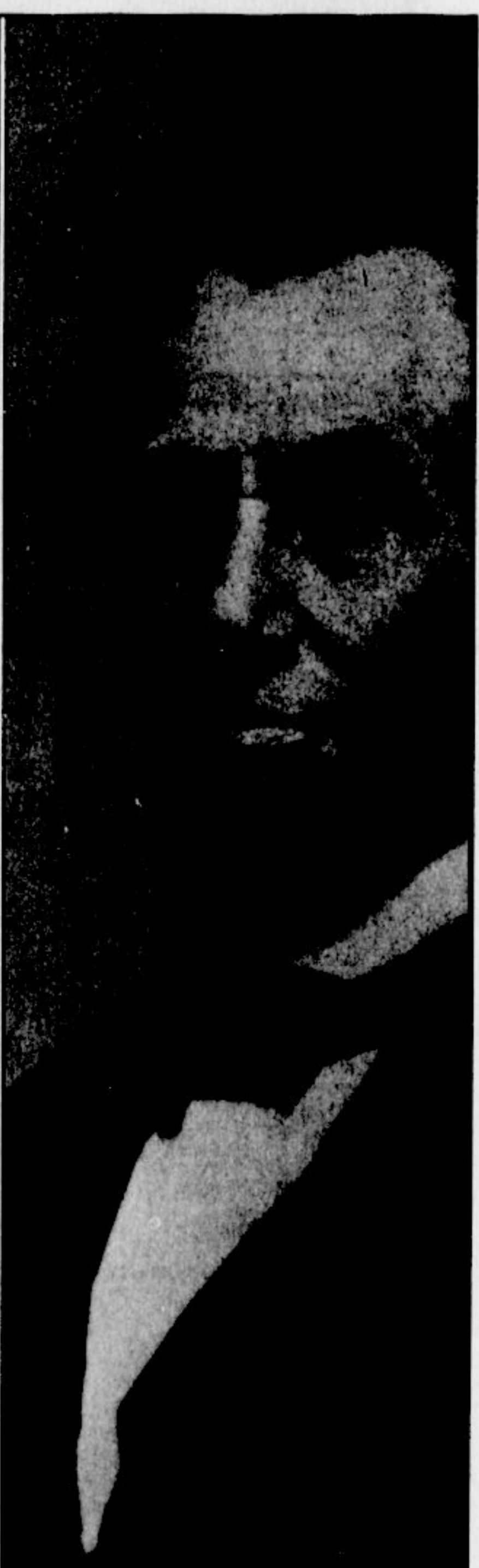
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