



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards dropped out of the race after John Kerry won nine out of 10 states voting in the Super Tuesday primary.

Democrats prefer Edwards for Kerry's vice president

WASHINGTON (AP) — If Democratic voters had their say, John Edwards would be the choice as John Kerry's running mate, according to a poll released Monday.

Edwards, the North Carolina senator who dropped out of the presidential race last week, was the choice of 30 percent of voters who are Democrats or lean Democratic, according to a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll.

Almost a dozen prominent Democrats were mentioned by poll respondents, but they drew support in the low single digits.

In a matchup of the presi-

dential candidates, Kerry and President Bush were about even, Kerry at 47 percent and Bush at 45 percent with independent candidate Ralph Nader at 5 percent among registered voters. Kerry was slightly ahead 50-45 percent when only he and Bush were included in the question.

In a three-way matchup among likely voters in the Gallup poll, Kerry had 50 percent, Bush 44 percent and Nader 2 percent.

An ABC-Washington Post poll out Monday found that almost six in 10, 57 percent, believe it's time for a new direction in the nation's leadership.

The survey also found when people were asked whether Bush or Kerry would do a better job

with the campaign against terrorism, Bush held more than a 20-point lead—57 percent to 36 percent.

In the ABC-Post poll, Kerry led Bush among registered voters by 53 percent to 44 percent, and had a slight edge in a three way race, 48 percent to 44 percent, to 3 percent for Nader.

The Gallup poll of 1,005 adults, including 892 registered voters, was conducted March 5-7 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, 4 percentage points for results with registered voters.

The ABC-Post poll of 936 registered voters was taken March 4-7 and has a margin of sampling error of 3 percentage points.

Hospitality management students protest professor's future absence from program

Open forum in early April will question administrative decision

NICK HENNE
STAFF WRITER

Students in the hospitality management program are organizing an open forum with the chair of the hospitality management department and other administrative officials to seek more information on why one of their professor's contracts is not being renewed.

Jim Dishaw, lecturer in the hospitality management department, has been with ECU for eight years and has received multiple awards. However, Dishaw is not a tenured professor, and his contract is not being renewed after this semester.

The students who are organizing the forum held a meeting to write a letter to William

Forsythe, chair of the hospitality management department, other university administrators and students within the department to inform them of the forum. When contacted, Forsythe said the matter was a personnel issue and neither he nor the dean could legally comment on it.

The students who attended the meeting agreed Dishaw has done an outstanding job in teaching and guiding them in their careers. They said the department would suffer if his contract were not renewed.

"I feel sorry for everybody else that will never have the chance to have Dishaw teach them at least one class," said Rickie Moore, senior hospitality management major.

Moore said Dishaw has many connections with businesses in the outside world and has put extra effort into getting students jobs and internships.

"Half of these students may never have the opportunity that



Megan Brewer, senior hospitality management major, wears a T-shirt she and a group of students created to support Dishaw.

all of us had to interview for jobs or internships," Moore said.

Moore said Dishaw arranged five to six interviews for him through his business world connections, and they will likely be lost if Dishaw leaves.

"There is no doubt Dishaw has the ability to network above and beyond," said Scott

Baer not all talk: Election promises delivered to ECU

Ticket A's letter-writing, campus involvement agenda accomplished

KRISTIN DAY
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President Ian Baer not only fulfilled each promise he made last year, but also fought for the students over every issue.

During the debates in March 2003, SGA presidential candidates were asked about tuition and how they would resolve issues surrounding it.

Baer said the executive branch has limited power in tuition, but Ticket A had the idea of starting a letter writing campaign to ensure the students' voices were heard.

Baer and the UNC Association of Student Governments took action when the UNC-system proposed an increase in tuition, including a three-year, \$900 increase at ECU.

Baer, the SGA and ASG gathered stories students wrote explaining how a tuition increase would affect them.

Baer said these were heart-breaking stories that told of parents and students having trouble getting by financially, and a tuition increase would keep them from going to college.

Baer continues working with SGA to keep his promise of reasonable tuition until March 19, the day the Board of Governors makes its decision.

During his campaign, Baer said he wanted to improve student life. Since he came into office, SGA has supported programs such as "What's Up Wednesday," which answers students' concerns with action.

"What's Up Wednesday" is maintained by the SGA Student Welfare Committee. It establishes a booth at Wright Place every week where students can voice opinions and concerns on issues around campus.

Baer said "What's Up



Baer

Wednesdays" has not been as effective as they hoped. To improve on this idea, he plans for an SGA Web site in early April. The site will provide an opportunity for students to voice their opinions online and see what SGA is doing.

Bylaws and other government documents will be available.

Students will be able to contact SGA through the site and get weekly updates on state and local issues, according to Baer.

The site is a part of his plan to increase services for students.

"We're trying to concentrate on being more effective," said Baer.

Baer said many students are not aware of services SGA has provided for years. These include free consultation from an attorney and a loan service for students who need financial help.

Baer said listening to students has been the main priority for him and the rest of SGA, and he thinks the SGA improved in his year as president.

"I am very happy about this year and what SGA has done for the students," Baer said.

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

What do you want SGA officers to do for you?



STACY CHAMBERLAIN
FRESHMAN

"Help improve safety around campus and dorms."



MIKE CONWAY
SOPHOMORE

"They need better places to eat and good quality of food."



DOROTHY GLICK
FRESHMAN

"More effective parking and better quality in the freshman parking lot."



LIZ GRADY
SOPHOMORE

"Parking should go back to resembling last year, and they need to work on the out-of-state tuition."

Gunfire, rape occur near area nightclub

Wilson man arrested for terrorizing Club Dynasty parking lot

KEITH S. BYERS
STAFF WRITER

A man was arrested early Sunday morning for opening fire on a group of people gathered outside Club Dynasty. An 18-year-old woman also reported being raped in the same parking lot.

Cpl. Shari Williams of the Greenville Police Department said police were already on the scene for crowd control after Club Dynasty had closed.

"All of a sudden they heard gunfire from all directions," said Williams.

There were reportedly no injuries, police said.

The man arrested, Larry Parker Jr., 19, was taken into custody by Greenville police after he was seen shooting randomly out of the window of his white Cadillac.

Police ordered several passengers out of the car, but only Parker was apprehended.

"A high point .308 semiautomatic handgun was recovered from the car," Williams said.

Shell casings from several guns were found at the scene as well, Williams said. Several spent shell casings were recovered from the parking lot.

Police said the casings came from a .22-caliber gun and a 9 mm. Police said they don't know how many shots had been fired.

Parker was charged for

see SHOOT page A3

Nutrition Awareness throughout March

- Chocolate cravings are caused by the body's lack of magnesium. They are the only way the body can let a person know of the deficiency.
- Freezing causes a 40 percent loss of nutritional value in foods.

Forecast Showers High of 50

TEC REQUIRED READING

Online Visit www.theeastcarolinian.com to read more about Sen. John Kerry sweeping four Southern primaries Tuesday.

News page A2 Studies indicate a new pill available in one to two years will help patients stop smoking and lose weight.

Football page A5 Even though TV show favorites like "Sex and the City" are off the air, fans can reminisce with DVDs.

Sports page A8 The football team tries out new offensive linemen and quarterbacks for the upcoming season.

FYI Don't forget: The Ceramics Guild will sell hand-made bowls today from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the Jenkins Fine Arts Foyer.



NEWS

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Announcements

Correction

In the Tuesday, March 9 edition of *The East Carolinian*, it was mistakenly implied in the article titled, "Handgun found in Tyler Hall bathroom," that ECU police left their guns in the bathroom on occasion. ECU Police Chief Robert Stroud said he knew of a situation at another department where an officer may have forgotten his gun, but this never happened at the ECU Police Department.

Co-ops and Internships Workshop

The Office of Career Development will offer a workshop on Co-ops and internships today from noon - 1 p.m. in 1013 Bate.

Ceramics Sale

The ECU Ceramics Guild will sell students' and faculty's hand-made, dishwasher safe bowls today from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the Jenkins Fine Arts Foyer. Prices range from \$6 - \$12 and proceeds benefit Guild students traveling to a ceramics conference during Spring Break.

Faculty Adviser Workshop

The Academic Advising and Support Center offers a workshop Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in B102 Brewster for faculty advising undergraduate students. Contact Marty Selby at 328-4294 for more information.

Spring Break

Spring Break begins Sunday, March 14 and classes resume Monday, March 22.

Fall and Summer Advising

The beginning of summer and fall 2004 semester advising is Monday, March 22.

Mac Users Group

The Mac Users Groups will meet Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. in Hovey Hall of the Murphy Center. The meeting will focus on Garage Band, the new music-creating software from Apple.

Habitat for Humanity Run

The Home Run 5K Road Race and One Mile Fun Run to benefit Pitt County Habitat for Humanity is Saturday, March 27 from 7 a.m. - noon at the City Hotel and Bistro. Participants can register the day of the race beginning at 7 a.m. or in advance at www.habitathomerun.com. Volunteers are also needed. Call 758-2947 for more information.

Special Olympics

Volunteers are needed to act as ambassadors Thursday, March 18 and Friday, March 19 for the State Special Olympics Basketball Tournament. Ambassadors will check in athletes and families and hand out room keys to hotels, while staying both nights in a hotel for free. Contact Cheryl Yarell at 413-1600 extension 1823 for more information. Volunteers are still needed for other Special Olympics activities. Contact Alice at 830-4216 or 830-4217 for more information.

Cash for Cats

Volunteers are needed to collect donations to provide medical care for cats Saturday, March 27 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at local Food Lions. Contact Greg Smith at 717-6339 for more information.

Summer and Fall Registration

Registration for summer and fall 2004 semester begins Monday, March 29.

Stroke Clinic

Volunteers are needed to perform various tasks, including registration, health assessment, cholesterol and glucose labs, blood pressure and counseling at five community stroke clinics. Contact Terry Congleton at 847-0162 for more information.

Ghana Summer Study Abroad

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

Community Service Scholarship

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Greenville is accepting applications for a \$500 community service scholarship. Applicants should be Pitt County residents, female, have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and are or will be attending Pitt County Community College or ECU. The application deadline is April 16. Contact Shelly Townsend at 341-0363 for more information.

ECU Child of Faculty Scholarship

Current or accepted ECU students who are children of active or retired faculty qualify for the \$1600 ECU Retired Faculty Association Undergraduate Scholarship. Applicants must have a projected or actual collegiate GPA of 3.0 and be pursuing their first undergraduate degree. Applications are due by April 9. Contact Vicky Morris at 328-9573 for more information.

Paper Person

The student at the top of today's paper is Rorik Koster, sophomore information technology major.

News Briefs

Local

RTP marketing plan aims for 100,000 new jobs

RALEIGH (AP) - A plan to revamp the marketing of Research Triangle Park could create 100,000 new jobs in a 13-county region over five years, organizers said Monday.

The plan builds on the high-tech foundation of RTP and seeks to incorporate universities and other organizations in stemming job losses and giving the state an edge in recruiting emerging industries, particularly in the biotechnology field.

"Each of those 13 counties will have more people working tomorrow than today," said Charles Hayes, president and chief executive officer of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership, one of North Carolina's seven regional economic development groups. Since its creation in the 1950s, RTP is credited with boosting wages, education levels and quality of life in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill region. In 1950, Triangle residents averaged about seven years of educational attainment; by 2000, that average was 14 years.

Legislative panel hears about NC license online renewal

RALEIGH (AP) - North Carolina motorists would be able to renew their driver's licenses online under draft legislation presented to a legislative committee Monday. The Division of Motor Vehicles is backing the Internet renewal idea, which is already in use in at least 13 other states, as a way to reduce lines at DMV offices, while boosting worker productivity.

If approved by the Legislature, online renewal could mean some drivers could go as long as 13 years without visiting a DMV office.

DMV generated more than 2.33 million original, duplicate or renewal licenses in 2003, about 33,000 more than the year before.

"This would get some people out of our offices," said Wayne Hurder, the head of DMV's driver licensing section. Those with complicated situations could receive more attention at DMV outlets, Hurder said.

National

Conviction clouds Martha Stewart's future

NEW YORK (AP) - Martha Stewart's felony conviction rattled through her rapidly eroding business empire as shares of her namesake company continued to fall. Viacom canceled her syndicated television show and she quit the board of cosmetic giant Revlon. But the big question that remained was the future of the domestic diva's bread-and-butter job as a leader within the company that bears her name.

Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia's board gathered Monday to discuss Stewart's future, according to a source close to the company who spoke on condition of anonymity. Company officials declined to comment; it was unclear late Monday whether the board took any action. Stewart stepped down from her roles as chairman and chief executive after being indicted in June but remains as a board member and chief creative officer. With her conviction, the government will likely press to have Stewart removed from the board.

Mother takes home daughter thought killed

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Luzaida Cuevas knew immediately when she saw a 6-year-old girl at a birthday party that she had found the daughter she thought had died in a fire after being kidnapped as a newborn.

Cuevas, 31, and the child she named Delmar Vera were officially reunited Monday afternoon at state family services offices in Burlington County, N.J., the mother's attorney, Alexander Murphy Jr., said in a statement. The family planned a "small, private gathering of friends and family" to celebrate, he said.

"Luz is taking a very private approach to this," Murphy said Monday, before the reunion took place. "It's been exhausting for her and for everyone, and she just wants to be able to focus completely on her daughter." Cuevas quickly ushered her daughter through a back door into her Northeast Philadelphia home as night fell. The girl, dressed in a blue hooded jacket and pink pants, giggled but did not speak.

World

Greek premier-elect takes personal responsibility for Olympic readiness

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - Greece's new prime minister took personal control Tuesday of Athens' troubled preparations for the Summer Olympics, naming himself the government point man on the games.

Announcing his new cabinet, Costas Karamanlis said he would lead the culture ministry, which is in charge of building and renovating numerous venues for the games - including a much-delayed project to build a roof

over the Olympic Stadium. His decision reflected the extreme urgency about finishing preparations before the Aug. 13-29 games. Authorities have struggled to overcome years of delays and other problems in preparations for the Olympics.

Athens organizers would not comment on the move.

U.S. Marines say they killed driver of speeding vehicle; second fatality by peacekeepers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - U.S. Marines shot and killed the driver of a vehicle speeding toward a military checkpoint, a spokesman told The Associated Press on Tuesday, the second reported fatality at the hands of the peacekeepers.

A passenger in the car also was wounded in the Monday night shooting, said the spokesman, Sgt. Timothy Edwards, in a telephone interview.

"When you see a vehicle approaching at high speed it is seen as a threat, so the Marines opened fire," Edwards said. "The driver was killed. A second man was injured and turned over to the Haitian police."

Marines said they shot and killed a gunman who fired at them during a demonstration Sunday in which seven people died, including a foreign journalist, and more than 30 were wounded.

Also Tuesday, militants demanding the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide threw rocks and set barricades of tires ablaze, blocking a main road in the capital and threatening renewed turmoil as officials gathered to pick a new prime minister.



John Allen Muhammad was sentenced to death, regardless of letters allegedly written by his accomplice exonerating him.

D.C. sniper slapped with death penalty

MANASSAS, Va. (AP) - A judge rejected John Allen Muhammad's insistence of innocence and sentenced him to death Tuesday, saying his actions in the Washington-area sniper shootings were "so vile that they were almost beyond comprehension."

Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. also turned aside a plea from Muhammad's lawyers to spare their client's life. He ordered that Muhammad be executed on Oct. 14, but that date likely will be postponed to allow appeals.

Muhammad, 43, was convicted of capital murder on Nov. 17 and a jury recommended he be sentenced to death for the Oct. 9, 2002, murder of Dean Harold Meyers at a gas station near Manassas. His teenage accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo, is to be formally sentenced Wednesday to life in prison.

Muhammad denied any involvement in the killings Tuesday, telling the judge, "Don't make a fool of the Constitution of the United States of America." "Just like I said at the beginning, I had nothing to do with this, and I'll say again, I had nothing to do with this," Muhammad said.

But Millette said the jury's sentence was supported by law and that "these offenses are so vile that they were almost beyond comprehension."

Larry Meyers, older brother of the victim, testified Tuesday that "Dean meant so much to each and every one of us. I'd prefer to remember the good times."

Defense lawyer Peter Greenspun said Muhammad is not inherently evil.

"I've represented a lot of bad guys," Greenspun said.

"I've represented guys that you look them in the eye and see evil. I've spent a lot of time with John Allen Muhammad and that's not him."

Defense lawyers had filed a motion Monday arguing that life in prison was the more appropriate sentence to eliminate the disparity between Muhammad's punishment and that of Malvo, 18.

Malvo, who was tried separately in Chesapeake, was given life in prison by the jury in the Oct. 14, 2002, slaying of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, 47, outside a Falls Church, Va., Home Depot store.

Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush has no leeway Wednesday to alter Malvo's sentence. In Virginia, judges can accept a jury's sentence recommendation or reduce it, but cannot increase it.

Earlier Tuesday, Millette had rejected a defense request for a new trial for Muhammad. Defense attorneys based their motion on letters that Malvo, wrote to another inmate in the Fairfax County jail.

Defense lawyers said they were unaware of the letters before trial and said they show Malvo acted and thought independently and was not under the sway of Muhammad.

Prosecutors said the letters added nothing to the case, and Millette agreed.

Muhammad's lawyers have raised several issues that will likely be primary points of appeal. First, they argue that under Virginia law only the triggerman in a shooting death can be eligible for the death penalty. The six-week trial never conclusively determined who was the triggerman in the killings, and much of the evidence suggests Malvo was the shooter.

But Millette sided with prosecutors who argued that the triggerman issue is irrelevant, and that Virginia law allows a death penalty in cases in which a defendant can be shown to be "the instigator and moving spirit" of a killing.

Student caught with marijuana, paraphernalia

Scents tips police to search dorm room

JASMINE D. HARRELL
STAFF WRITER

A male student on the seventh floor of Fletcher Hall was recently arrested for having 20.5 grams of marijuana and other drug paraphernalia.

The student was arrested and charged with a felony of possession with intent to sell and deliver a controlled substance and a misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Administrative Capt. J.P. Smith of the ECU Police Department said the arrest, which occurred Feb. 29, was triggered after the police responded to a report of a marijuana-type smell coming from one of the rooms in Fletcher.

Once the police received consent to search the

room, they found several drug-related objects, some of which they said were openly visible.

More than \$700 was found. Police said this was evidence the student had experience in selling marijuana and the intentions to sell again.

Other items found included glass pipes, tubes, rolling paper, measuring spoons, baggies, film canisters and marijuana seeds.

"If you are using a controlled substance or if you allow it to be used in your room, you run the risk of both criminal charges and university disciplinary action," said Smith.

Police said the student could face other charges that are currently pending due to another unidentified control substance also found. The substance was sent away for further investigation.

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

White House says Bush will answer all questions of Sept. 11 investigators

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush will privately answer all questions raised by a federal commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks, the White House said Tuesday, apparently dropping a one-hour limit on the president's testimony.

The shift came on the heels of accusations by presumed Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry that Bush was "stonewalling" investigations of the terrorist attacks and U.S. intelligence failures.

"It appears he doesn't want to let the facts get in the way of his campaign," presidential spokesman Scott McClellan said of Kerry.

It was the administration's second change of heart about the commission. Bush originally had opposed the panel's request for a two-month extension of its work but he eventually relented.

"This administration has provided unprecedented cooperation to the 9-11 commission," McClellan said.

"It provided access to every single bit of information that they have requested."

The 10-member commission sought interviews with Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney about what the administration knew before the attacks, potentially a sensitive

subject in an election year.

Bush had agreed to meet privately for an hour with the chairman and vice chairman of the commission, but said it was unnecessary for him to testify publicly. Cheney also has said he would meet with some commissioners.

McClellan indicated the one-hour limit had been dropped.

"He's going to answer all the questions they want to raise," he said repeatedly, without raising the time restriction.

Commission members are seeking public testimony from Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, who has refused to appear on the advice of White House lawyers. Rice has testified in private before the commission and, McClellan said, "only five members showed up."

In previous hearings, the commission has highlighted government missteps before the 2001 attacks, including miscommunications about al-Qaida operatives dating back to the mid-1990s and hijackers who were allowed to enter the United States repeatedly despite lacking proper visa documentation. Up to now, however, the panel has not assigned blame beyond midlevel officials in federal agencies.

Study suggests youths have effortless access to alcohol company Web sites

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Alcohol company Web sites are offering a "cyber playground" for underage youths despite promises from the companies to limit their access, according to a study released Tuesday.

The study by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at Georgetown University estimated that alcohol company Web sites received nearly 700,000 visits by underage people from July through December. Many played video games and downloaded music, e-mail gadgets and icons—all the while immersed in the marketing of beer and liquor, center director Jim O'Hara said.

"These alcohol Web sites are a virtual cyber playground with no adult supervision," O'Hara said.

"If a liquor store were this ineffective in policing underage visits, the community would be up in arms."

Frank Coleman of the Distilled Spirits Council in Washington called the study a publicity stunt aimed at generating fund raising. He said the Federal Trade Commission has "reviewed our ads and said they were directed to adults, that our Web content is directed to adults and that 99.9 percent of them had age verification in place, in addition to having responsible drinking messages throughout."

For the study, the Internet audience-measuring service comScore Media Metrix used its panel of U.S. residents as a statistical sampling of Internet users. The study was not a survey but instead monitored actual Internet usage, O'Hara said.

The study showed that about 13 percent of all visitors to 55 alcohol company Web sites were under the legal drinking age of 21. The most popular sites among young people involving distilled spirits, beer



Under aged youths can't physically visit liquor stores, but they can peruse companies' selections on the Internet, where they are subject to marketing directed at adults.

and so-called "malternatives," generally sweet-tasting alcohol products. Bacardi's site—www.bacardi.com—received about 59 percent of its visits from underage persons, according to the study.

The two sites receiving the most total hits from underage users were both affiliated with St. Louis-based beer giant Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc.—www.budlight.com and www.budweiser.com. Both received more than 90,000 estimated visits during the six-month study period.

Parental controls on computers block some, but not all sites, O'Hara said. The study found that while six of eight paren-

tal-control programs studied blocked access to the Bud Light site, only one kept underage users away from Bacardi's.

The sites themselves generally require age verification, though there is no way to verify the truthfulness of the user.

The study found that games were featured on 10 of 15 beer Web sites, seven of 19 sites for distilled spirits and four of 12 for so-called "malternatives"—beverages that are malt-based like beer but flavored to taste like liquor.

"There are a lot of features that appear to be in conflict with the industry's own marketing and advertising codes, where they shouldn't be using toys and

games," O'Hara said.

Eric Shepard, executive editor of Beer Marketer's Insight magazine, said many 20-somethings play video games, too.

"I don't know how you keep people off a Web site," Shepard said.

"What do you do? Take a credit card?" Anheuser-Busch did not return telephone calls Monday seeking comment.

Bacardi USA spokeswoman Pat Neal had not seen the report but said the company was "highly suspect of the science behind it."

"We are responsible marketers and we do not target underage consumers," Neal said.

New pill could help patients to quit smoking, slim down simultaneously

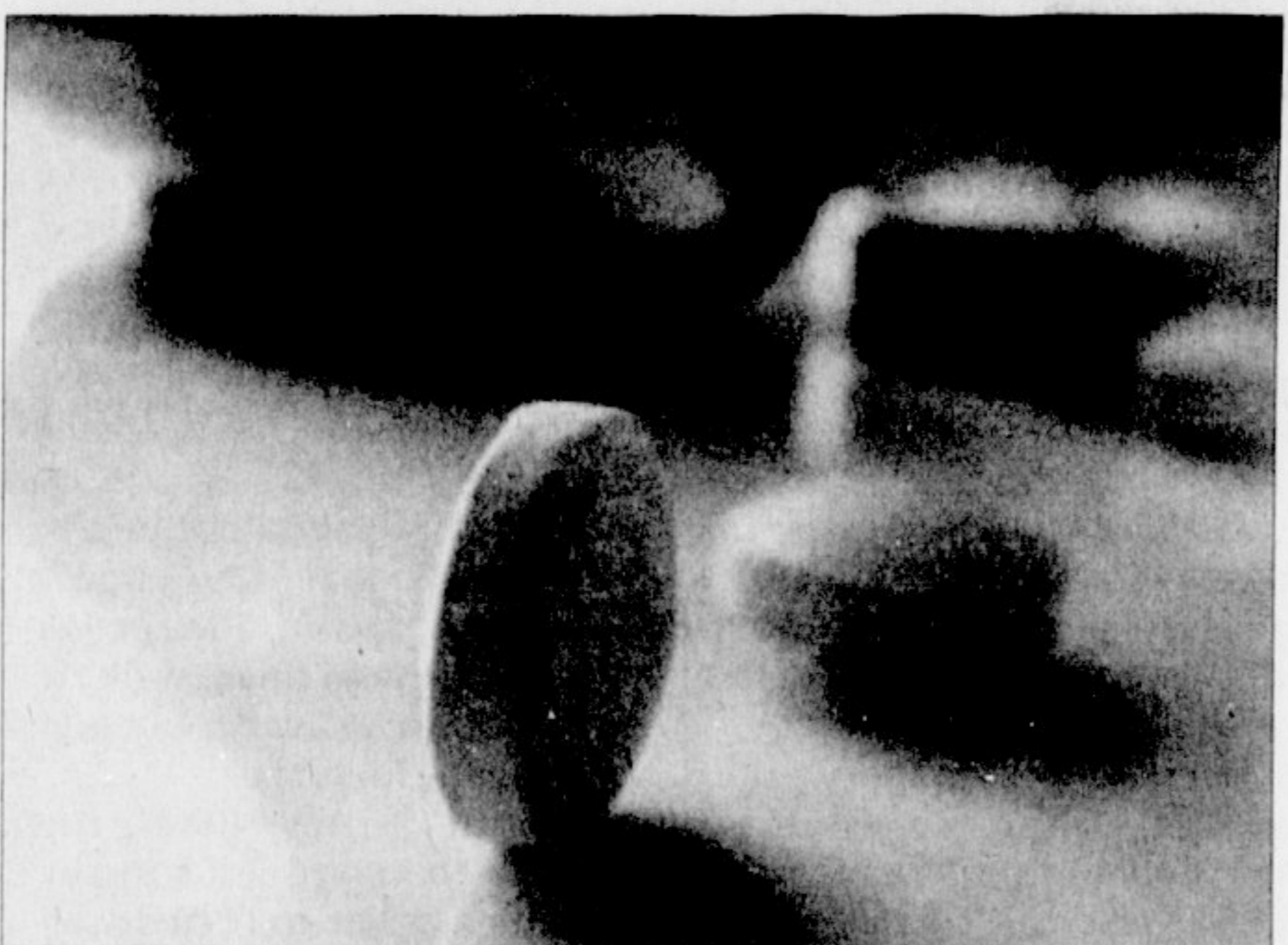
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A new pill in the final stages of testing shows promise in attacking two of humanity's biggest killers by helping people quit smoking and lose weight at the same time.

As government officials in Washington launched a campaign against obesity Tuesday, doctors at a medical conference here described the new drug as provocative and perhaps ideal for some people.

The drug, which could be available in a year or two, works by an entirely new approach—by blocking the same primeval circuitry in the brain that gives pot-smokers the munchies.

The development could offer a well-timed one-two punch against Americans' gravest health concerns. Smoking is the country's top killer, accounting for 435,000 deaths in 2000. The combination of poor diet, obesity and physical inactivity are right behind, with 400,000 deaths.

Doctors who heard data on the new pill said that while better living habits should still be the foundation of good health, a new pill could be an important boost for those who cannot accomplish it through willpower alone.



The dual-action pill could be available in one or two years.

"We tell people to diet and exercise, and that advice doesn't seem to be very effective," said Dr. Raymond Gibbons of the Mayo Clinic, who called the latest results "very provocative."

Two reports on the drug, called rimonabant, were released in New Orleans at a meeting of the American College of Cardiology. The research was financed by the drug's developer, the French firm Sanofi-Synthelabo, which plans to seek U.S. approval

to sell it under the brand Acomplia after more studies are finished next year.

One study found the drug helped people drop 20 pounds in a year, while the other concluded it doubles smokers' success at quitting, at least in the short run.

Doctors said the drug is likely to be marketed both for dieting and smoking cessation, but it is likely to be especially appealing to people beset by both problems.

Protest from page A1

their careers. "He's just irreplaceable, he's got the experience and personality that no one else can match," said Noonan.

ECU alumna Jennifer Kosiak, who graduated with a degree in hospitality management in 2001, works as a food and beverage manager at Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport.

Kosiak said she was first interviewed by the Hyatt Corporation at ECU under Dishaw's guidance.

"I am currently a department head at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport, a position that I would not have achieved without Mr. Dishaw's teaching and guidance," said Kosiak.

"I believe what has set my college experience apart from other people in my field is the support of my dedicated professors, and real world preparation."

Kosiak said Dishaw cared greatly about the success of his students and made many arrangements for company representatives to visit ECU to interview them.

Many of the alumni are still

in touch with Dishaw and return to ECU to talk to his classes, Kosiak said.

Megan Brewer, senior hospitality management major, is leading the committee of students into organizing the forum.

"If he's not here our department will suffer along with the university because it will reflect on our major and students that come out of this program," said Brewer.

"There are a lot of people who feel very strongly about this decision and don't really understand it. The forum is just to answer some questions."

Dishaw, who has received more than 100 e-mails from his students, said he finds everything overwhelming.

He said he is appreciative of the students who are acting on his behalf, but he said he has no part in their actions.

"I have not told them to do anything or not to do anything," said Dishaw.

"There's a lot of letters that made me cry ... I had no idea they felt about me the way they do."

Dishaw said he thinks his

contract is not being renewed because of work related reasons.

He said he feels it may be because of his age, health issues, relationships with other people in North Carolina and his opinionated personality.

"I'm a big, distinguished professor of teaching. I have been most outstanding faculty, I've been most outstanding adviser, I've been outstanding adviser to HMA, my student evaluations are good ... I've gotten scholarships for my students, I've helped to raise money for this school, I've done my job," Dishaw said.

Dishaw said he has had to miss workdays but his days missed were due to health conditions.

Former Chair of the Hospitality Management Department Dori Finley, who is a professor in the department, said ECU does not have any kind of policy for faculty members who take "extended health leaves."

Finley said ECU is the first university she has worked at that does not have such a policy.

Finley said Dishaw was a good worker under her term as the department chair.

Shoot from page A1

discharging a firearm within the city limits and "going armed to the terror of the people" — meaning he allegedly fired at random without targeting anyone in particular, with intent to frighten. A person wouldn't even have to fire the gun to be charged with the law, according to Williams.

"[A person would be] acting in a way to cause fear," Williams said.

Parker was placed in the Pitt County Detention Center on \$1,000 bond and released with a court date set for May 12.

The rape reported shortly before Parker opened fire occurred in the Club Dynasty parking lot. According to police, the 18-year-old woman said she had gone to lie down in a friend's car. The woman reported waking up with a man on top of her, and police say her father removed her from the car.

"She had missing clothing and blood on her legs," Williams said.

Police are currently questioning a security employee of Club Dynasty. The woman reported that her attacker was a 36-year-old acquaintance.

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

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Contact Info

KeepDishaw@yahoo.com is an e-mail address kept by Megan Brewer where students can send comments.

"Our hospitality management association grew, the activities the hospitality management association would do expanded," said Finley.

"They [students] became very active in professional travel, active in fund raising, very active in service projects, and that was solely at his direction."

Rick Donnelly, assistant hospitality management professor who started working at ECU in August of 2003, said he cannot see how a professor with this much student support and awards will not have his contract renewed.

"It [our future] is uncertain. That's the message I get," said Donnelly.

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

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

Based on these figures, it's clear who is picking our president — people with a lack of interest in the issues that face young adults.

On a walk through campus, you can hear students talk about many subjects: last night's party, the test they stayed up all night studying for or problems with roommates. However, one subject students are hardly ever heard talking about is voting — a subject that should be a concern for students across the nation.

Since 1972, when the voting age was dropped to 18, young people have been increasingly disinterested in casting a ballot for president. Turnout hit an all-time low in 2000, when an estimated 42 percent of voters aged 18-24 went to the polls. That same year, 70 percent of individuals age 25 and older turned out to vote.

Based on these figures, it's clear who is picking our president — people with a lack of interest in the issues that face young adults.

A common argument for apathetic voters is that our votes don't matter. According to the SmackDown Your Vote Campaign, in 1776, one vote made the United States' official language English instead of German.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment. In 1876, one vote in the Electoral College gave Rutherford B. Hayes the title of President of the United States. In 1960, Richard Nixon lost the presidential election to John F. Kennedy by a margin of less than one vote per precinct.

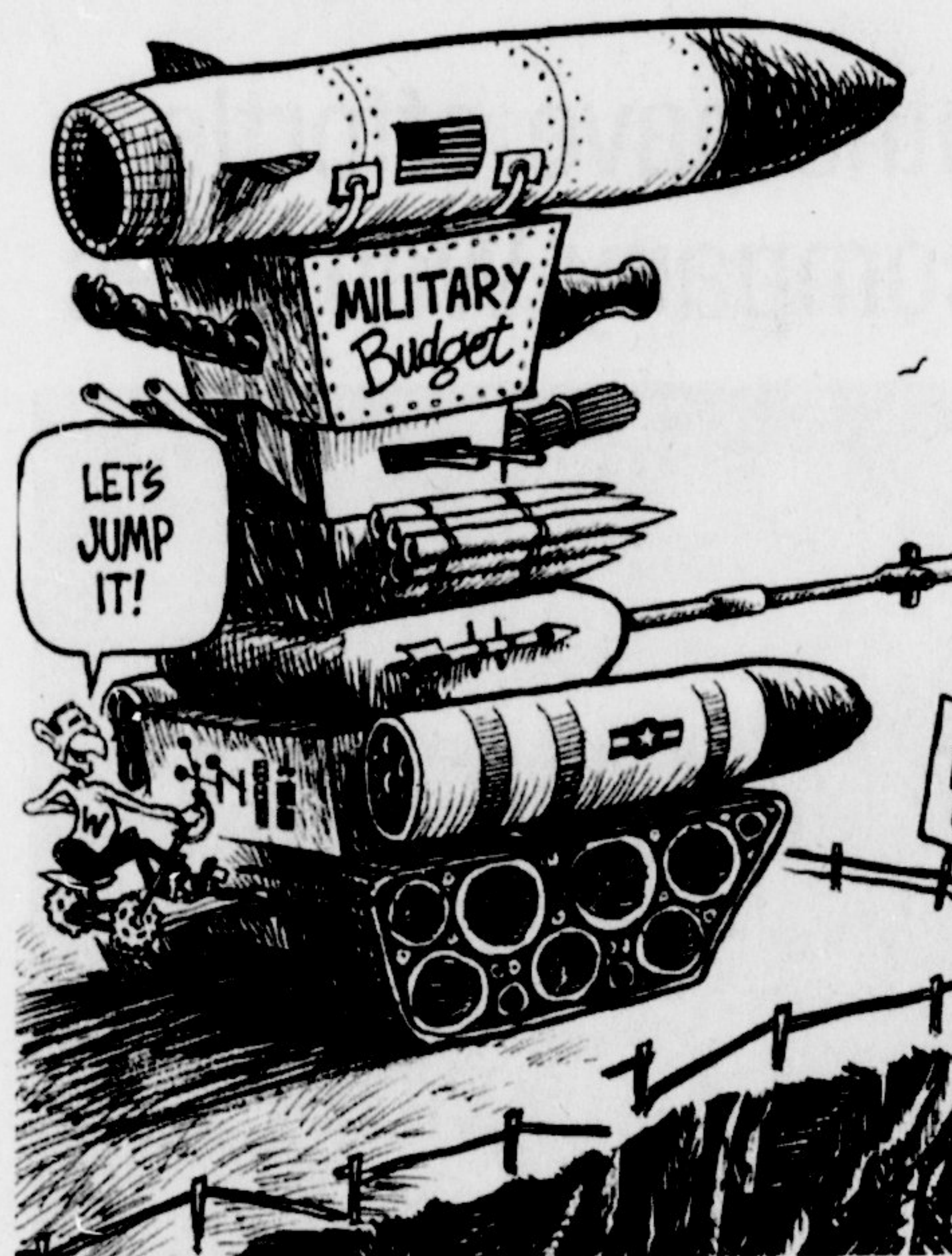
And in the 2000 presidential election in Florida, a state with more than 16 million people, the difference in votes was 537.

Students have amazing access to gaining political knowledge. On-campus clubs like College Democrats and College Republicans offer political lectures and events to help students register to vote. As U.S. Citizens, it is our civic duty to take advantage of these opportunities.

Instead of tuning in to the latest reality hijinx or sitcom, take time out to watch the presidential primaries. Talk with other students and share your political knowledge. But most importantly, register and get up and go vote on Election Day.

Your future depends on it.

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.



POINT

Gibson sticks to Gospels

Modern knowledge, logic proves brutality truly severe

KRISTIN DAY
STAFF WRITER

Before the general public even got a chance to see Mel Gibson's *The Passion of The Christ*, people were criticizing the film and Gibson himself.

They said it was too violent and anti-Semitic. Some said the intensity of the beatings were not recorded in the Gospels, so Gibson must have exaggerated the scenes, using them for shock-value or to sell tickets.

I will be the first to admit that I haven't seen documentation in the Bible describing the thrashing in detail, and I haven't found anyone who can show me a passage that does.

However, there is historical and medical documentation that proves it happened. During this time period, Jews had to ask for Roman rulers' permission to execute anyone. Pilate happened to be ruling at the time they wanted to kill Jesus.

According to an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, it was Roman custom to flog the people they would execute unless the person was a woman, a Roman soldier or a senator.

The purpose of these beatings was to weaken the person to collapsing near death before crucifixion.

The whips were made with leather of variable lengths, sometimes braided. Iron balls or sharp pieces of sheep bones could be tied at intervals. Some researchers say they used glass as well.

The article also says that injuries from these beatings caused massive amounts of blood loss and could send a person into shock.

The torture Christ received later is found in the Gospels. The soldiers mocked Him for claiming to be a king and gave Him a crown of thorns, a robe and a scepter. The thorns tore into His scalp and when they pulled the robe off, it opened wounds, causing them to bleed more.

The wounds opened again when He was laying on the cross, and when He was raised He was cut open every time He inhaled against the wood.

Christ died only three to six hours after He was placed on the cross, according to documentation. This short period of time was extremely unusual for crucifixions. Even Pilate was shocked.

Therefore, the doctors in this article conclude that Jesus' death may have been accelerated due to exhaustion and state of shock that resulted from severe beatings and blood loss. They also say this proves Gibson's portrayal of Jesus' last hours was accurate.

In an article in the *Wall Street Journal* by Peggy Noonan, she reports Pope John Paul II saying, "It is as it was" in response to the movie. When the one man on Earth who probably knows more about the Gospels than anyone else says Gibson is accurate, shouldn't we believe him?

Does anyone honestly believe Gibson wouldn't do this research himself before making such a controversial film?

For those who think the violence was too much: Why? This is not a slasher movie containing



violence for the sole purpose of entertainment.

As a devout Catholic for the past 12 years, Gibson wanted the viewer to completely understand what Christ went through. He did, after all, do it for us.

If you do believe Christ was the Son of God, you need to sit down and watch everything that happened to that man for no other reason than He did it for us.

As for being anti-Semitic, I do see the issue. Jews are seen in a negative light. However, no Jewish priest was ever shown nearly as ignorant as the Roman soldiers who whipped Jesus.

The only reason Gibson portrayed Jews with hatred towards Jesus is because the Gospels say they did. The Jewish people thought he was a heretic.

I read a reader's response in Tuesday's paper on this same subject. The reader said that a nun spit on him because he was a Jew.

That story is a horrible example of how some people take ignorance too far. First of all, no Jew today was alive when it happened. Secondly, I'm sure they don't condemn such brutality.

Still, some people are what they are, and nothing will change them. There are some self-proclaimed Christians who tend to forget the whole "love thy neighbor" thing that is so prominent in the religion.

Anyone who uses the movie as an excuse to persecute the Jewish community doesn't deserve to be acknowledged.

With all that said, Gibson's movie portrays what the Gospels have preached for years, and nothing less. I don't think he could have made the film any other way and still have the lasting effect on everyone who sees it.

The only things he added were various evil characters throughout the movie to enhance the religious aspect of the story. He also added a scene where Jesus invented the modern dinner table including chairs. That wasn't in the Gospels either, but no one is upset about it. Besides, he was a carpenter. It could have happened.

I just don't understand how people could get so mad. Are they really upset about the violence, or the story of Jesus in general?

Gibson knew people would get mad at the subject matter alone.

In his movie, he includes the scene where Jesus said, "If they persecute me, they will persecute you."

Gibson still gave everything he had, including his reputation, because he knew people needed to see it.

So, before you get into an uproar and swear Gibson should never work in Hollywood again, look into the subject and his purpose.

He just wanted people to really understand.

COUNTERPOINT

Mel Gibson cashes in

'Passion of The Christ' is laced with violence and anti-Semitism

PETER KALAJIAN
STAFF WRITER

I have, of course, heard all of the talk about the ultra-violent, traditionalist film, *The Passion of The Christ*, but generally it is frowned upon to write about a movie without first seeing it for oneself. So, on Friday, I paid my \$5 and stood at the back of an immense line to see what all the fuss was about.

The Passion has been billed as a direct Scriptural adaptation of the final hours of Jesus of Nazareth, and as I am a person lacking any real religious affiliation, I compared the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to *The Passion* and looked for differences.

Needless to say, realistically adapting a 2,000-year-old text to the modern visual medium of film is no small task, and for Gibson to pull it off he dipped liberally into his no doubt bottomless bag of cinematic imagination and filled in the blank sections of Scripture on the subject with his personal religious views on the death of Jesus.

First of all, nowhere in the four Gospels does Satan appear before Jesus, but in *The Passion* he appears several times, walking amid a crowd of angry Jews and tempting the Messiah.

Gibson portrays Judas, the man who betrayed Jesus to the authorities, as having been driven to suicide by hellish visions and demonic tormentors in the form of small Jewish children. But while the Gospels do mention Judas' suicide by hanging, never once do they describe Judas as having been driven to his death by Jews — and Jewish children, no less.

Regardless of what Pat Robertson and the rest of the Christian right in this country say, when I watched this movie, I could not help but notice Gibson's thinly veiled undercurrent of anti-Semitism.

Jews are the villains throughout the picture. Jewish mobs egg on Jesus' executioners as he is led through the streets of Jerusalem to his crucifixion, and the Jewish high priests call for Christ's death even when the Roman governor is advocating mercy. The Jewish people were the focus of Gibson's proverbial finger-pointing from beginning to end.

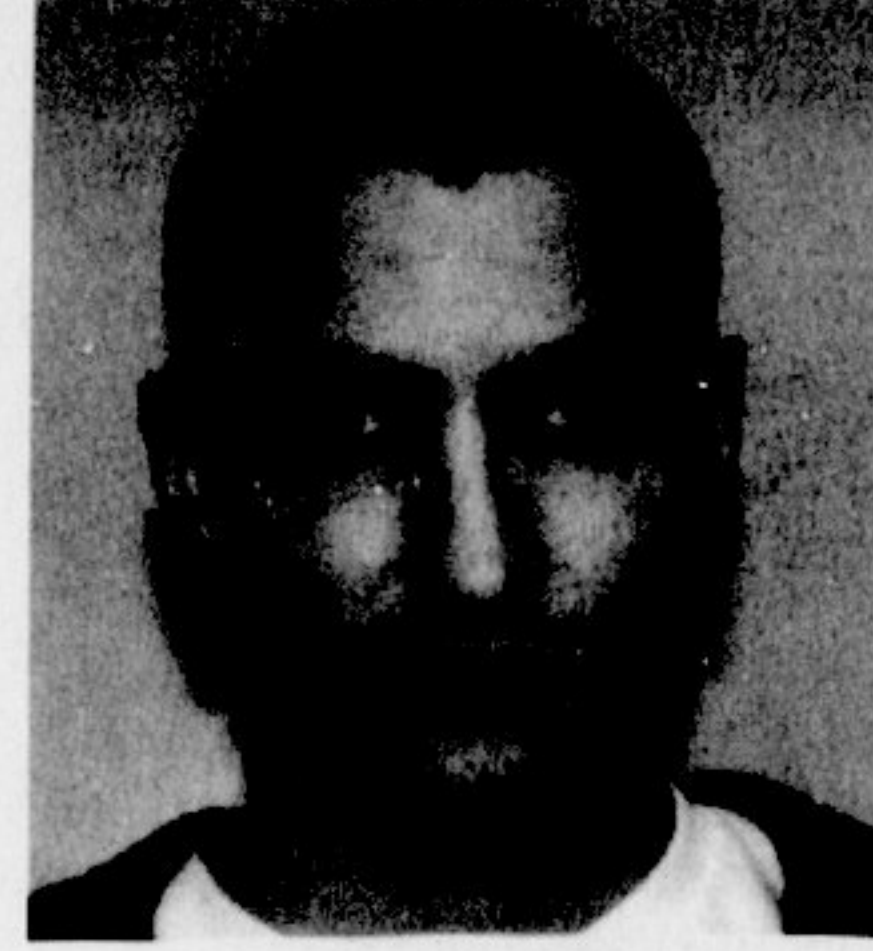
And now, ladies and gentlemen, for the crux issue of the film: Violence. I have probably seen hundreds of movies in my life and *The Passion* is by far the most graphic in its depictions of torture and human suffering.

Jesus is subjected to whippings and beatings the likes of which have probably never before been filmed in the history of cinema, and more than once I was inclined to leave the theater in disgust and physical revulsion.

Clearly, Gibson is a man of conviction. Many have said that they admire the Hollywood icon for his courage and bravery in producing a film about Jesus.

They marvel at the determination Gibson showed by sinking \$30 million of his own money into the project. Personally, I could not disagree more.

First and foremost, Gibson is a business man. You can be certain of the fact that his movie would cater to over 80 percent of the



American public who consider themselves Christian was not lost on Gibson or the studio distributing his film. He has said in interviews that he produced *The Passion* as a labor of love and a testament to his deeply held Catholic faith, and he hoped that it would cause a religious awakening in this country, bringing ever more of the faithful to his savior, Jesus Christ.

It seems to me that if this were true and money had no bearing on Gibson's decision, that he would have donated all of the profits, above and beyond his initial investment or course, to some type of worthwhile Christian charity — the Christian Coalition, perhaps.

After seeing this movie and the disgusting manner in which Gibson uses the suffering of a man who died for his political and religious beliefs to draw in his audience and captivate them with brutality, I am inclined to boycott the man for the rest of his career.

Instead of the message — the ideals of love and brotherhood that Christ espoused — Gibson centers the film on the physical suffering and agony which Christ was made to endure at the hands of the Romans.

The scourging of Christ, which appears in only three of the four Gospels (Luke doesn't mention it once) and never for more than two lines, was adapted from those humble beginnings by Gibson into an 11-minute torture scene in which Jesus is literally flayed head to toe by two Roman soldiers.

Close up shots of flesh being torn from bone and deep skin lacerations are, to me, nothing more than the gratuitous violence used in cheesy horror movies as a weak tool to further involve the audience in the lackluster story.

The degree of violence in the movie — most of which is described nowhere in Scripture — is clearly a fictional portrayal of questionable source material by a man bent on spreading his narrow-minded religiosity to as many people as possible.

Granted, these are the ramblings of an atheist. I am not convinced of Christ's divinity or the absolute truth of the Bible, so perhaps the real message in Gibson's movie is lost on me, but I can tell you this — Whether the Bible is true or not, whether Jesus died for all the sins of mankind or was simply another victim of Roman political crucifixion, Gibson should be ashamed for his unabashed anti-Semitism and heavy-handed cinematic use of violence.

Watching a person be viciously tortured then executed is not entertainment, and for those people willing to overlook it simply because of the religious message, you have my deepest sympathies.

I don't know if the Bible is true, and I don't know a darn thing about the nature of God, but I know this much: Gibson's graphic depiction of the death of the Christian messiah offers little insight into either.

FEATURES

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Did You Know?

- Actress Sharon Stone (1958) and singer Edie Brickell (1966) both call today their birthday.
- This month is National Prepare Your Home to be Sold Month.
- Today is Learn What Your Name Means Day.
- On this day in 1862, the United States issued the first paper currency.
- On this day in 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first ever telephone call.

Announcements

Films

The Student Union will not be showing any films this week.

Music Performance

The School of Music presents *The Music of Debussy, Scriabin and Rachmaninoff* by pianist Henry Doskey at 8 p.m. today in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. This event is free.

The Return

The Student Union presents a performance by the London Beatles Cover Band, The Return, at 8 p.m. today in Hendrix Theatre. This event is free.

Paragon Ragtime Orchestra

The S. Rudolph Performing Arts Series presents a performance by the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased by calling 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Oberlin Piano Duo

The School of Music presents *Four Hands, One Piano* by the Oberlin Piano Duo as part of the Guest Artist Series at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 22 in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Tickets are \$5 - \$10.

Four Seasons Concert

The New Music Festival at ECU presents a Four Seasons Concert including the music of Chen Yi and Enesco's Octet in C Major at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23 in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Tickets are \$5 - \$10.

Founder's Day Music

The ECU Jazz Ensemble will perform for Founder's Day at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24 at the Greenville/Toyota Amphitheatre. This event is free.

Top Fives

Top five albums



1. Norah Jones, *Feels Like Home*
2. Kanye West, *The College Dropout*
3. Young Gunz, *Tough Lov*
4. Evanescence, *Fallen*
5. Kenny Chesney, *When the Sun Goes Down*

Top five singles



1. "With You," Jessica Simpson
2. "Toxic," Britney Spears
3. "The Way You Move," OutKast featuring Sleepy Brown
4. "My Immortal," Evanescence
5. "Numb," Linkin Park

Top five movies



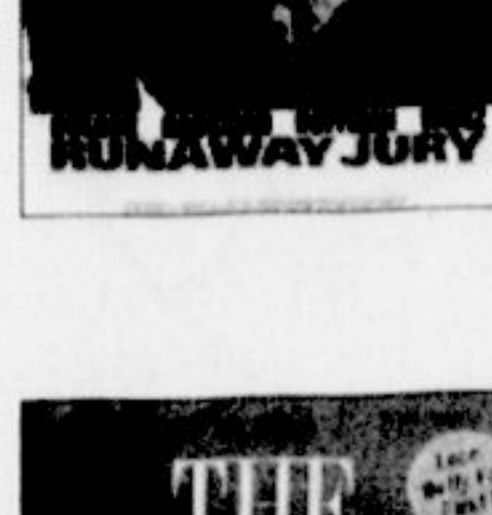
1. *Passion of the Christ*
2. *Starsky & Hutch*
3. *Hidalgo*
4. *50 First Dates*
5. *Twisted*

Top five DVDs



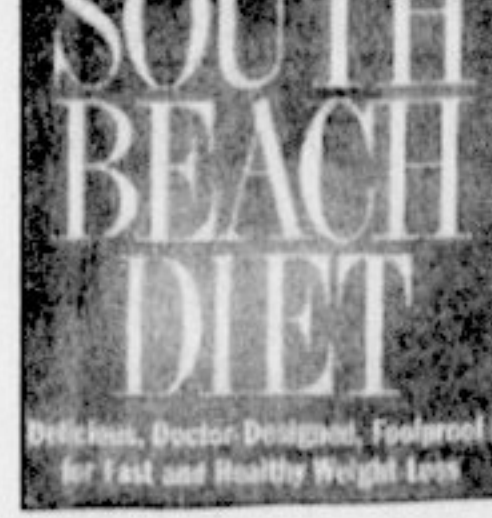
1. *Runaway Jury*
2. *Intolerable Cruelty*
3. *Lost in Translation*
4. *Radio*
5. *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star*

Top five TV shows



1. "Academy Awards" (ABC)
2. "Countdown to Oscars 2004" (ABC)
3. "CSI" (CBS)
4. "American Idol" - Tuesday (FOX)
5. "Friends" (NBC)

Top five books



1. *The South Beach Diet*, Arthur Agatston Rodale
2. *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown
3. *Angels & Demons*, Dan Brown
4. *The Last Juror*, John Grisham
5. *The Guardian*, Nicholas Sparks

Relive favorite TV series on DVD sets

Cancelled shows are gone, but not forgotten

STEPHANIE BRINCEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Is there anything worse than finding out your favorite TV show is going off the air? Luckily, fans don't have to worry about leaving their favorite shows behind, thanks to DVD box sets.

With this technology, audiences can relive episodes of their favorite shows every day. They're also convenient for fans who missed a couple of episodes during the regular season.

Some of the more popular shows released on DVD are those that continually draw high ratings, like "Friends."

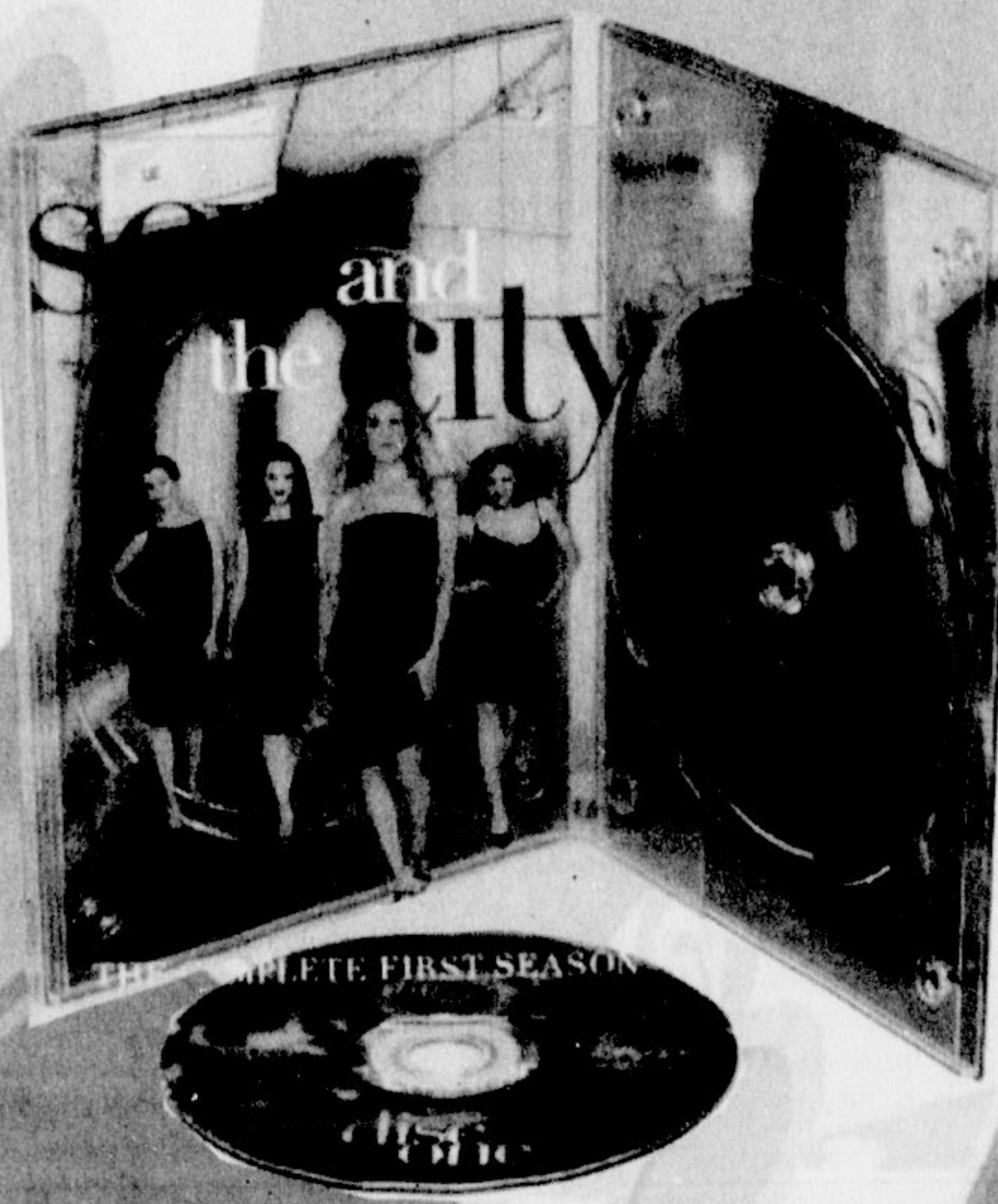
"Sex and the City" is one highly-rated show that has experienced high numbers in DVD sales. This is due not only to the fact that it is a popular show, but also because many people who don't have premium cable never had a chance to catch it on its first run.

"My friends gave me season four of 'Sex and the City' and it has been the best present ever. I can watch episodes I wasn't able to see during the regular season because I didn't have cable," said Erica Felthaus, junior communication major.

Sometimes television series are cancelled or complete after only a few seasons, leaving fans wondering what ever happened to their favorite characters. "My So-called Life," "The Simple

Top Ten TV Series on DVD

1. "Chappelle's Show"
2. "Futurama"
3. "Stargate SG-1"
4. "Friends"
5. "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
6. "Sex and the City"
7. "Angel"
8. "The Sopranos"
9. "Queer as Folk"
10. "Family Guy"



"Life" and "The Family Guy" are all short-lived shows that have experienced great success on DVD box sets.

Many students purchase their favorite shows on DVD simply because they can't get enough. Often times, viewers can relate the events that happen to characters on TV to their own lives, which help them cope with everyday troubles.

"I don't know what I would do if 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' went off the air. I really enjoy the show," said Brandy Albracht, a junior business major.

Although "Sex and the City" and "Friends" are the most popular DVD sets to buy, others are snatched up almost as soon as they are put on the shelves.

"The X-Files," "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm" are all big hits in the DVD category.

"Angel" and "Playmakers" are also recent DVD hits due to unexpected cancellations.

The most popular comical DVDs are "Southpark," "The Simpsons" and "Saturday Night Live." Each DVD set includes the entire season. Some DVDs have bonus footage that includes outtakes and commentary for several episodes.

Most DVD box sets range from \$50 - \$60, which is a small price to pay for a fan who wants to enjoy their favorite shows time after time.

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



Popular DVDs invade dorms, apartments

Students pick their all-time favorite movies

MICAH MASSEI
SENIOR WRITER

They're everywhere ... stacks and stacks of movies, VHS or DVD, all around the floors of dorm rooms and apartment complexes adjacent to ECU. Topping the list with going downtown or hitting the Rec Center, spending a movie night with friends is one of the most common forms of entertainment students enjoy.

TEC asked various ECU students to list their top five favorite movies. Despite thousands and thousands of films to choose from, TEC was able to calculate a list, along with offering five

perhaps lesser-known selections that students might enjoy checking out as well.

Student Pick: *Scarface*. A classic 1983 gangster film starring Al Pacino as the now-legendary Tony Montana, a Cuban refugee who makes his claim as a cocaine kingpin in the seedy underworld of sunny Miami.

Also check out: *Boondock Saints*. A cool, explosive alternative to the now-redundant "Tarantino copycat" movies of the late 1990s, this small-time caper involving two Irish brothers who wreak havoc on those menacing the Boston streets they occupy is a must for any fan of both gangster and crime-thriller films.

Student Pick: *Animal House*. The stepping-stone of all "frat-party comedy-tests" this infamously

Ivan Reitman classic stars Tim Matheson, Kevin Bacon, Karen Allen, Tom Hulce and the unforgettable John Belushi as students resenting the status-quo of the university - always causing trouble and partying all the way.

Also Check Out: *Old School*. Yes, based on the recent box office success of the movie, there is no doubt that quite a few students have seen this 2003 comedy hit starring Luke Wilson, Vince Vaughn and the always reliable Will Ferrell. Honestly, though, there has been no other movie that rivals the hilarity and toll-brance of *Animal House* like Todd Phillip's *Old School*. It's only a matter of time before *Old School* enjoys the classic status *Animal House* enjoys today.

Student Pick: *Office Space*.

A film that tanked at the box office yet became a monster hit on video, Mike Judge's biting satire on the mundane boredom of everyday office life has become (with the help of constant repeated showings on Comedy Central) a college kid's favorite. "What would you do with a million dollars?" "... yeeeahh, that would be teeeeeeerrific ..." the "Office ..." Need we say more?

Also Check Out: BBC's *The Office*. A unknown critical favorite last year and the recent winner of three Golden Globe Awards, this British comedy concerning similar office "nightmares" is a worthy find reminiscent of the genius found in *Office Space*.

see DVDS page A6

New ads sell with attitude, innovative approaches

Quiznos commercial newest hot topic on TV

LAUREN MASON
SENIOR WRITER

These days, commercials are a part of pop culture as much as your typical music, movies and television shows. From the ubiquitous phrase, "Can you hear me now?" to our favorite promotional geckos, ducks and frogs, TV ads continue to get wilder and more funny, attracting our attention.

The most recent commercial phenomenon has to be the Quiznos Subs creatures that have us all asking, "What will they use to advertise next?" In case you've missed these commercial spots, you can go to Quiznos.com to see the "spongmonkeys" for yourself. The creatures are obviously Photoshopped, with a possible pygmy monkey base, bulging misshapen eyes and large mouths that sing "We love the subs!"

Though it may be a bold ad campaign, the Quiznos' ad has become the hot topic of the pop world as people discuss either how genius or ridiculous the commercials are.

The Quiznos creatures come from the mind of British Channel Four's Joel Veitch, who first used them in a clip that can be found at Rathergood.com. After receiving the clip via e-mail from a friend, an employee in their ad firm decided it would be perfect for a new campaign. Since then, Quiznos and pop culture enthusiasts have been bombarded with letters and e-mails about the spongmonkeys and why Quiznos would use such a unique approach to advertising. The growing sub-chain is not able to spend as much money on advertising as other brands, so their commercials have to be "dramatic" and create a buzz - so called "water-cooler" talk - that raises awareness and gets people interested.

Obviously, the campaign is working, as seen from the positive and negative response to the spongmonkeys. It will be interesting to see where Quiznos goes from here and whether the singing creatures will lose their moment in the spotlight.

Another popular series of commercials is the Citibank identity theft campaign, where we see various bank members



The idea for the Quiznos commercial came from this online cartoon of "spongmonkeys" singing about the moon.

voiced over by their supposed thieves. The humor comes in the facial expressions and environments of the customers while they take on the voice of the perpetrator. Entertaining? Yes, and quite creative in the situations they show for identity theft.

"I think the identity theft commercials are hilarious. They choose the funniest pairs for the commercials, usually the most opposite types of people, and it's so funny to hear what they say and the facial expressions that go along with them," said Katie MacAnally,

senior history education major.

Another great campaign that has gotten a lot of attention is the Geico car insurance ads with their famous phrase, "I've got good news. I just saved a ton of money by switching to Geico." Though their cute gecko had been successful before with tiny cars and talking Chihuahuas, this new set is funny and disguises many of the commercials with court shows, soap operas and rap auditions.

Nextel has capitalized on their walkie-talkie phones

see ADS page A7

Beatle Mania comes to ECU

The Return to perform at Hendrix Theatre

BETH GUNDERSON
SENIOR WRITER

For the young and old, The Return provides a good source of entertainment. This Beatles tribute band brings audiences the nostalgia of the 1960s and the songs that most people know by heart.

"I just love the Beatles," said Elaine Worthington, administrative assistant.

"My sister Deborah and I sing karaoke at the beach to Beatles songs a lot."

The Return plays a multitude of Beatles songs, including a lot of their big hits. Some of the songs on their play list include "A Hard Days Night," "Can't Buy Me Love," "Eight Days a Week," and "She Loves You."

They also play "Michelle," "Love Me Do," "Help!," "I Saw Her Standing There," "Yellow Submarine," "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "Ticket to Ride." They have many songs listed that they play, but the band also takes requests.

"They even look like them ... it is very cool," said Amanda Trail, Student Union Popular Entertainment Committee chair.

"I have seen them perform before, and it makes you think you are at a Beatles concert. It is the next best thing."

The Return sports bowl



The Return, a Beatles tribute band, performs tonight.

haircuts and black suits. Their authentic look even goes down to the equipment they use. The Return uses the same type of guitars and amps used back in the 1960s.

"It is a lot of fun. I'm going to dress up 1960s-like," said Kerri Anderson, secretary for the Popular Entertainment Committee.

The band is made up of Richard Stelling as John Lennon, Shane Landers as Paul McCartney, Michael Fulop as George Harrison and Jason Cobble as Ringo Starr.

Originally, the band's intention was not to be a Beatles tribute band.

The original four members all started out in various bands that

played their own music. About once a month, the group would get together and play Beatles music.

"Eventually, some friends of ours were having an album release party and asked us to open for them," Fulop said.

"We got some black suits from a thrift store, combed our hair down and tried our best at portraying the individual member of the Beatles."

The group and the crowd had such a good time that they did it again and covered Beatles music about once a month until they decided to make it a full-time job.

see RETURN page A7

SPRING BREAK '04

Getting ready for Spring Break? Pack up the newest, coolest ECU apparel for your trip!

Take 30% OFF ECU Flip Flops, Beach Towels & Visors

Take 20% OFF Select Groups of ECU Merchandise
Look for the signs!

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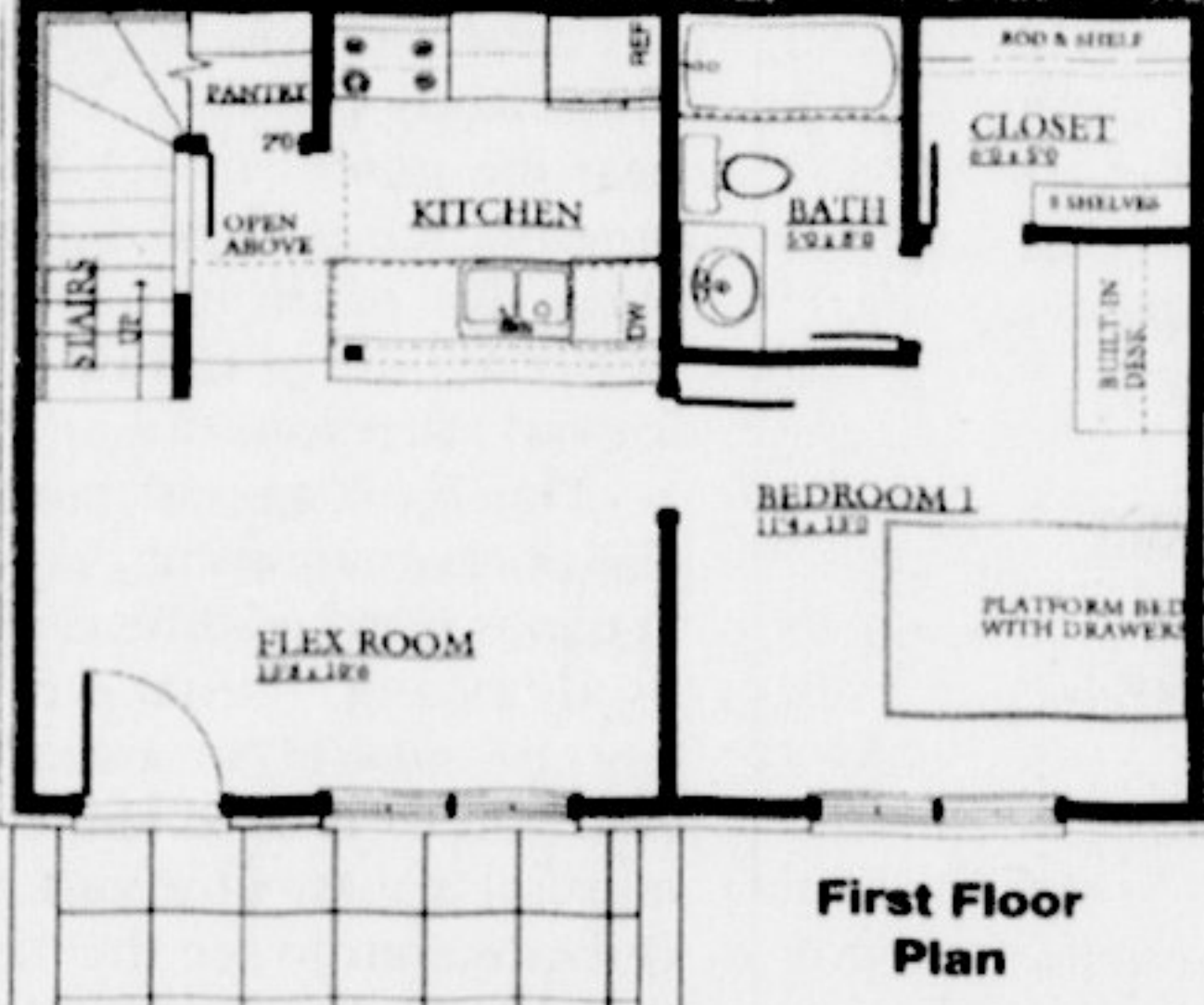
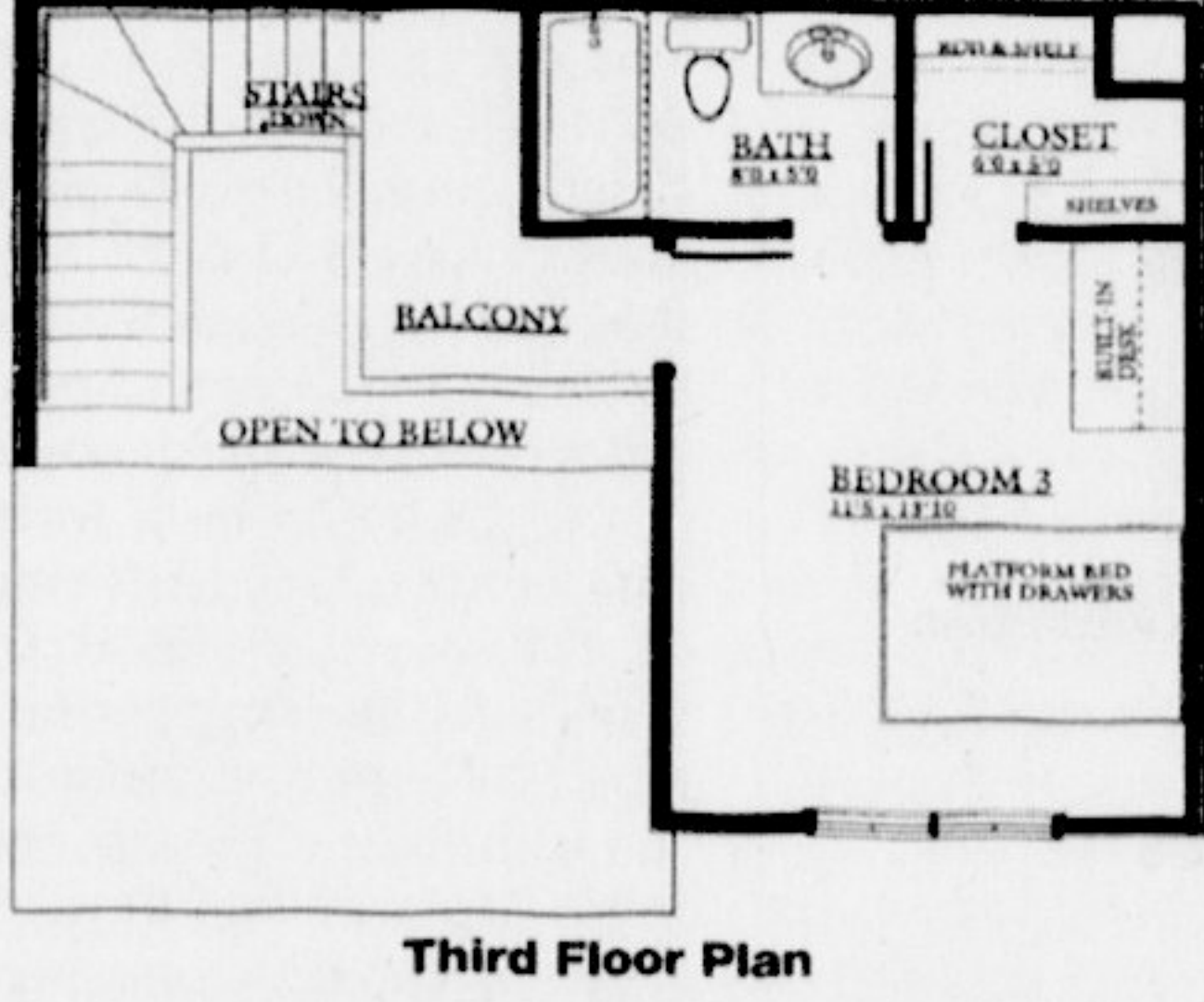
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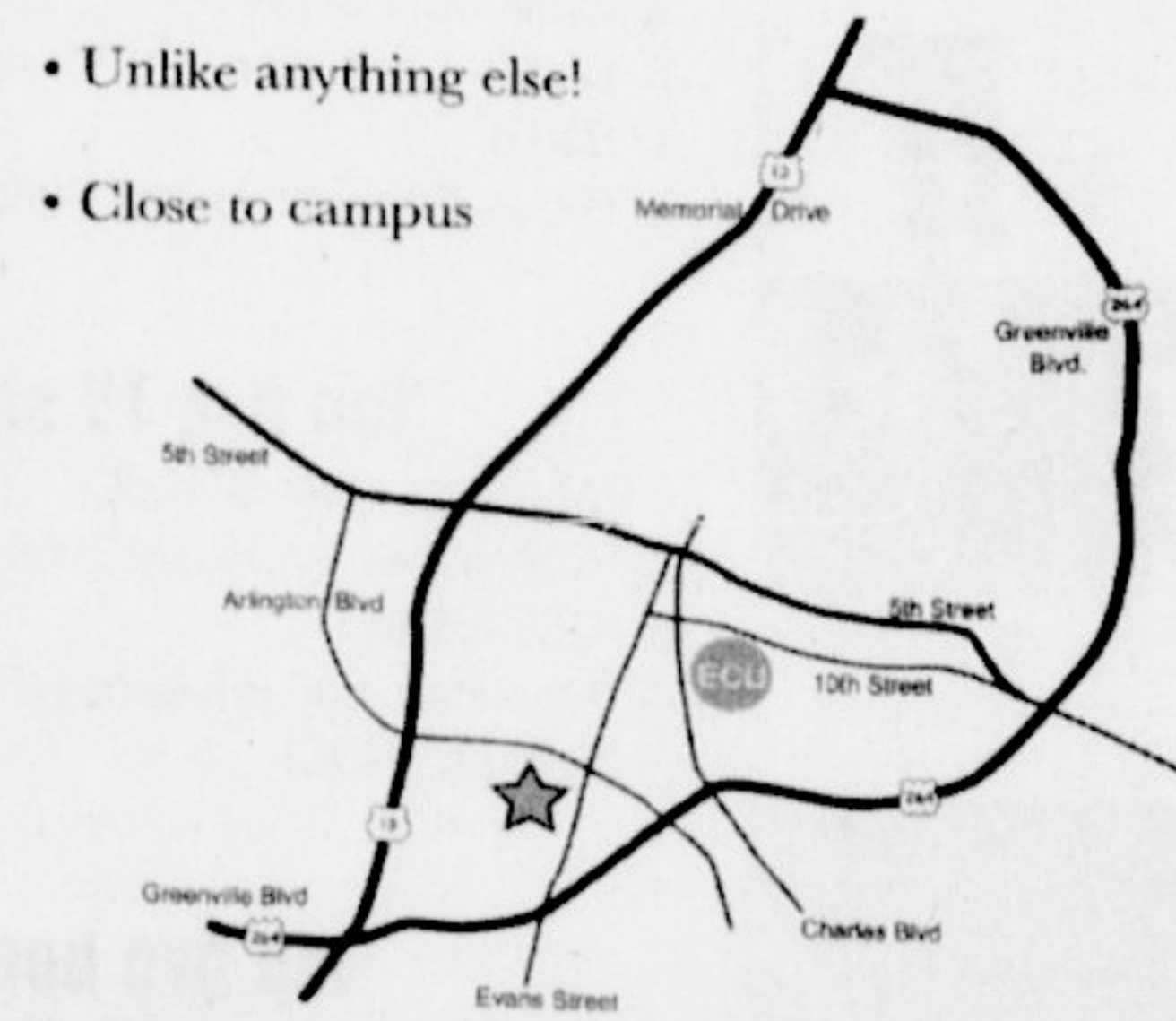
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DVDs from page A5

Student Pick: Fight Club. David Fincher's schizophrenic look at the capitalistic downfall of the neo-future offers exciting visuals, intelligent dialogue and two dynamic performances from Edward Norton and Brad Pitt.

Also Check Out: The Game. Unlike *Fight Club*, *Seven* or *Panic Room*, this 1997 thriller from David Fincher failed to capture mass success at the box office. Just as dark, just as haunting and worthy of a second look (like most of Fincher's films), *The Game* is an impressive counter-

point to the mad-genius vision of this always engaging director.

Student Pick: The Shawshank Redemption. Much like *Office Space*, this 1994 prison drama starring Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins was greeted with great critical acclaim upon its release, yet failed to find an audience at the box office. With time, however, *The Shawshank Redemption* has become one of the most successful releases in home video history, selling millions of copies and becoming a cable-viewing staple on both the TBS and TNT networks.

Also Check Out: Sling Blade. A moving tale about a simple-minded man who forms a close friendship with the family who takes him in after being released from a mental hospital, *Sling Blade* has similar themes and attitudes presented in *The Shawshank Redemption*. A lovely story of both heart and compassion, *Sling Blade* deals with the necessity of hope, peace and understanding among complicated characters in a complicated world.

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

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American Idol Watch



AMANDA LINGERFELT ★★★★★
FEATURES EDITOR

To start off, I have to say that I am now a George Huff fan. He is a true performer and he really shined in last night's performance of "Lean on Me." However, some weren't so great. The only thing that Matthew Metzger's version of "When I See You Smile" was missing was four other corny boy band members, matching outfits and a deal with Jive Records. Jon Peter Lewis' vocals were his best ever, but if he wants to advance in the competition, he needs to lose the crazy motions. This week, I predict George Huff, Jon Peter Lewis, Suzy Vulaca and Jennifer Hudson will advance. Go George!



JOHN BREAM ★★★
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Katie Webber did not justice to Whitney Houston's "So Emotional," but like Simon said, she'll get the entire male vote - I'd certainly give her mine. George Huff got into "Lean on Me" with such energy and passion, he's a lock for the finals. Suzy Vulaca commanded "I Will Survive," and we'll also see her in the finals. Although Jennifer Hudson doesn't look like an "Idol," she surely sings like one. The screw-up of the night was Jon Peter Lewis - his terrible performance was an insult to the King's "A Little Less Conversation" and to himself.



MICHELLE MCLEOD ★★★★★
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I began watching last night's competition thinking it was simply going to be the best of the worst - since it was filled with all the contestants that didn't move forward in weeks 1-4. But, I was proven wrong, as most contestants brought a level of talent to the show that they were previously lacking. Now, for my picks, and I must say this is hard because America has surprised me with their choices on more than one occasion. But, going solely on talent, my wildcard picks would be George Huff, Suzy Vulaca, Jon Peter Lewis and Jennifer Hudson.

★ = Number of accurate predictions

Names in the News

(KRT) - A tour bus transporting smoldering country singer Randy Travis crashed Sunday afternoon in the Pocono town of Lakeville, Pa., causing many an injury.

Travis, his wife, Elizabeth, and driver Jeff Davis were the only people in the 45-foot customized bus, which careened into a driveway and then went into a ditch on State Road 590. Two trucks pulled the bus out, and Travis went on to do a show at a Caesars resort.

"We want to thank all the folks who helped us out," Travis said. "When we planned to release our new single, 'Raise Him Up,' this week, this was not what we had in mind."

O.J.'S NEW SUIT
So what's new with O.J. Simpson? The former football hero is being sued in a Miami civil court for \$20,000 amid claims that he used pirating devices to pilfer satellite TV broadcasts at his Miami home. DirectTV says Simpson used two "bootloaders" to decrypt its signals. The devices were removed by the feds from Simpson's house during a search way back in December 2001. Simpson attorney Yale Galanter could not be reached for comment by Fox.

NO "SEX" FILM
Bad news for "Sex and the City" fans: The show's producer, Michael Patrick King, who wrapped up the series with a final show Feb. 22, told an audience at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen,

that they'd be wasting their time waiting to see Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) and her gal pals frolic on the silver screen in a film adaptation of HBO's comedy of the mannerless. "Nothing we did in the series was altered to save something for the movie," King said. "This is exactly the way we wanted to end the series. We're proud of what we did."

King's sound bite comes amid tabloid rumors that the show's two alpha gals are the real cause for the nonmovie. It all depends on what you want to believe. Either Kim Cattrall loathes Parker because of the way she was treated by the series star, or both actors have derailed the big-screen project by demanding a reported \$14.4 million plus royalties to star in it.

JERRY'S PROGENY
Jerry Seinfeld guards his privacy. So much so that we here at "Newsmakers" had no clue the comedian had any kids. Well, he does. Two of 'em. And his son, Julian Kal Seinfeld, who just celebrated his first birthday, had a bit of an accident this weekend. No biggie: The baby fell and had to be hospitalized overnight Saturday. But it meant Jerry had to cancel his show in Spartanburg, S.C., that night to rush home to be with the family. His rep says Julian is "at home and is doing very well."

THE 'KING' RETURNS EARLY
Rejoice, "LOTR" fans! New Line Cinema announced Monday that it will release "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" on DVD and VHS May 25, three months quicker than the home-video versions of the first two films. But around Christmas, you'll need to

make yet another trip to the store: That's when the extended version of the flick will come out. The three extended versions will make the trilogy more than 11 hours long. **BANKING ON VICE**
Guess vice doesn't pay after all. "Miami Vice," that is. City National Bank in California claims the show's big blond hairdo, Don Johnson, owes it \$1 million, and has filed a suit to force the once Euro-suave actor to sell property he has in Aspen, Colo. The bank said Johnson had not made payments on a loan he took out in October 2002. Johnson's rep said the star was refinancing the loan.

CHASEZ'S SCHIZOID MOMENT

Proving once again that it's way too easy to make a mountain out of a molehill, we'd like to report that some schizophrenics are upset at J.C. Chasez. Reason? The pseudo-sultry 'N Sync-er's debut solo CD is titled "Schizophrenic" and features a pic of the pretty boy in a straitjacket. Schizophrenia sufferer Bill MacPhee tells MSNBC.com's The Scoop, "This sort of thing can lead to further stigmatization and stereotyping of schizophrenia sufferers."

Meanwhile, Chasez is beating a hasty retreat, telling the New York Daily News, via his rep, "I apologize to anyone I may have offended with the title and cover of my album. I took artistic license." No one seems to have paid attention to the suffering incurred by reviewers, some of whom have branded the album sub par.

Ads from page A5

using the signature "Done" sound with the phones during weddings and business meetings. Likewise, Verizon has continued with "Can you hear me now?" ads and Alltel with their "dropped calls" commercial where phones fall to the ground whenever a call is dropped. Humorous in the approach, they also create known phrases and images that allow their ads to be more successful.

Golden Corral has been running more ads lately promoting their popular buffet and special weekly items. Their

latest commercial is designed to draw in dog owners, but everyone seems to enjoy the little boy pushing on the dog's stomach and unlocking the car through the keyless remote.

"I think that commercial is so funny because it reminds me of when my dog was a puppy and would try to eat everything," said Linda Rusnak, senior accounting major.

One of the newer Internet ads is the Travelocity "roaming gnome" that reads aloud his letters to his owner. This is an idea that has been around for a while and is a humorous

practical joke that was even seen as a subplot in the 2001 foreign film *Amelie*.

Travelocity is now using it to promote their travel Web site and the gnome, who actually originated in Durham according to his link on Travelocity, has been sent around the globe.

"The roaming gnome is a cute idea and I like how he has a British accent. It just seems to make the whole commercial funnier," said Ashley Presar, senior biology major.

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

Return from page A6

The current band members have been playing together for only a year.

Over the years, there have been various changes in the group.

"I feel like the four of us have accomplished more in one year than in all the years preceding," Fulop said.

They have played all over the United States, but Fulop cites playing in London and Liverpool as their greatest accomplishment.

They were also able to record in the legendary Abbey Road

Studios.

Each band member started playing music at a very young age. Most came from musical families.

"[We] have been involved in music one way or another since our earliest memories," Fulop said.

Fulop, who is a fan of new and old music, believes students should listen to the Beatles because most of today's artists cite them as one of their influences.

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

Event Info

The Return

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For more information about the band, visit www.thereturnonline.com.

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Announcements

The ACC Vs. Pirates Challenge Needs Volunteers

The ACC versus ECU challenge is seeking volunteers to work with the cancer benefit game held April 23. The meeting will be held in Mendenhall in Room 247 on Thursday, March 11 at 8:30 p.m. The barn-storming basketball game features ACC seniors facing off against a team made up of ECU seniors. The game will benefit the Jimmy V foundation, which researches cancer. Tickets for the event will go on sale after Spring Break through the ECU ticket office.

Self Defense Fitness Class

Self Defense fitness classes will be held March 24 - April 14 from 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. The program offers students a chance to learn self-defense techniques in a progressive training system that allows them to avoid confrontation and defend themselves as the situation dictates. The program will also cover basic personal protection theories as well as some of the more recent philosophies on self-defense.

NCAA Basketball Tourney "Pick-em"

Do you think you know who is going to win this year's NCAA tournament? The Intramural Department challenges you to pick the teams. Entry forms may be picked up on March 22 at 10 a.m. in SRC 128.

Quick Start Canoe/Kayak

The adventure program is organizing a trip of canoeing and kayaking to the Cape Fear River. Interested parties must register by March 26. A pre-trip meeting is scheduled for March 31.

Sea Kayaking

The Adventure program will be going to Bear Island for a day of fun sea kayaking. Those who want to participate must register by March 26. A pre-trip meeting is scheduled for March 31.

For more information on any of these programs, call 328-6387.

Sports Briefs

Student-athletes promote reading at local schools

"As long as you can read, you'll never be lonely or bored." These were some of the words of wisdom baseball's Brian Cavanaugh had for area school children as he and other members of ECU's "Athletes for Education" Speaker's Bureau helped celebrate Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday on March 2. As part of the National Education Association's Read Across America celebration, which centers around the famed author's birthday, ECU student-athletes spent the first week in March stressing the importance of reading to area school children. In addition to promoting reading, student-athletes relayed through their own experiences the keys to academic success. Many of the athletes also had the opportunity to read their favorite Dr. Seuss book to the elementary children. The "Athletes for Education" Speaker's Bureau program was created by the Student Development Office in the ECU Department of Athletics to promote the importance of education through the positive role models of athletes. Last year, the program reached over 2,000 local school children in the Greenville area.

C-USA announces next year's tourney sites

The sites for the 2005 Kelly Tires Conference-USA Men's Basketball Tournament and the 2005 C-USA Women's Basketball Tournament were announced by Commissioner Britton Barowsky Tuesday. Memphis will serve as the host city for the men's tournament, while Charlotte will be the location of the women's tournament. Both tournaments will be 12-team, four-day events. The men's tournament will be held at the brand-new FedEx Forum in downtown Memphis from March 9-12, while the women's tournament will take place from March 3-6 at Dale Halton Arena on Charlotte's campus. This will be the third time that the city of Memphis has played host to the C-USA Men's Tournament. The league's inaugural event in 1996 and the 2000 Tournament were both played at The Pyramid on the riverfront in Memphis. This will be the first time that Charlotte has played host to the C-USA Women's Tournament.

AP Basketball Top 25

Team (pts.)	Record	Pvs
1. Saint Joseph's (67)	27-0	2
2. Stanford (2)	26-1	1
3. Gonzaga (1)	26-2	4
4. Mississippi St.	25-2	5
5. Duke (2)	25-4	3
6. Pittsburgh	27-3	6
7. Oklahoma St.	24-3	8
8. Kentucky	23-4	9
9. Connecticut	24-6	7
10. Wisconsin	21-6	17
11. Texas	21-6	10
12. Illinois	22-5	18
13. Cincinnati	21-6	13
14. Georgia Tech	22-8	19
15. Wake Forest	19-8	11
16. North Carolina	18-9	14
17. N.C. State	19-8	16
18. Kansas	20-7	21
19. Syracuse	21-6	24
20. Providence	20-7	12
21. Arizona	19-8	22
22. Utah St.	25-2	23
23. Memphis	21-6	20
24. S. Illinois	25-4	15
25. Air Force	22-5	

Others receiving votes: Michigan St. 70, Charlotte 48, DePaul 42, Louisville 41, Boston College 36, Washington 36, Seton Hall 34, W. Michigan 31, Nevada 20, ETSU 10, Texas Tech 10, Florida 6, Dayton 5, Manhattan 4, South Carolina 3, Boise St. 2, UTEP 2, Alabama 1, BYU 1, Marquette 1, Oklahoma 1, Pacific 1, Princeton 1, Va. Commonwealth 1.

Spring football practice getting into full swing



The Pirates will break in many new offensive linemen and try out three new quarterbacks.

Thompson optimistic for upcoming season

BRANDON HUGHES
SENIOR WRITER

Head Coach John Thompson and the Pirates began spring practice last week in anticipation of the upcoming season. Practice featured 48 returning lettermen, including 15 starters from 2003. "I feel us getting better and better every day. Today (Monday) seemed to be our best practice so far," said Thompson.

"We got four real good days of practice last week and we need to get four good days this week. Our guys seem to have a little more enthusiasm and a little more hunger each day and are getting better."

Thompson hopes to improve on his first year as a college Head Coach, a season in which the Pirates were just 1-11. Thompson believes understanding the players better has been key, and the players understanding the coaching staff has made his second season at the helm begin smoothly.

According to Thompson, the focus has been getting better, playing harder and being accountable every day.

Several veteran players are getting some action at different positions. Senior Tutu Moye has seen some plays at linebacker

see **PRACTICE** page A10

ECU looks to stay hot in Cincinnati

Pirates face Louisville in C-USA tournament

ROBERT LEONARD
STAFF WRITER

Forget Christmas, March is the best time of year. College basketball is shown all day, every day, and this March should go down as one of the best ever.

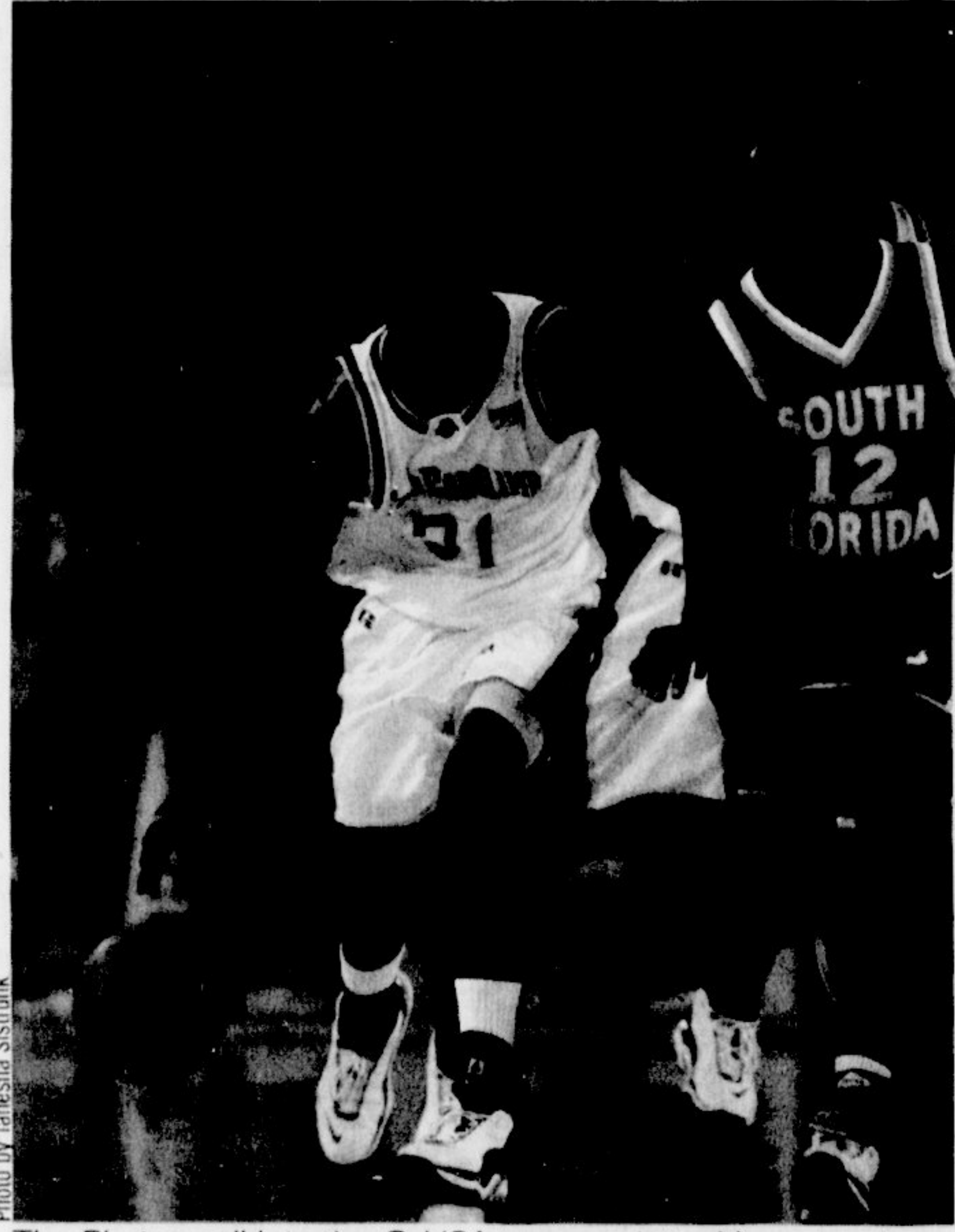
Many conference tournaments, including the Conference-USA tournament, should have some surprises. ECU could be a team to do just that. The Pirates won four of their last five with the only loss coming at Marquette and that late run earned them a spot in Cincinnati for the tournament as the No. 11 seed.

The game will be tonight at 7 p.m. and televised locally on WITN. Their opponent will be Rick Pitino's Louisville Cardinals, who hold the No. 6 seed. The winner of that game will play third seeded Cincinnati.

This game has some history behind it. ECU's first ever conference win came three years ago against Louisville in Minges. The last two years' home games with Louisville have been televised nationally, bringing sold-out crowds to boo the Cardinals and have the chance to get on television.

ECU has a great chance of winning this ballgame. Earlier in the year, ECU lost to Louisville in Minges by only 10 points and the Pirates were clearly not ready for that game.

The absence of Gabriel Mikulas, who was injured a day earlier in practice,



The Pirates sail into the C-USA tournament with momentum.

was a huge obstacle for the Pirates to hurdle as the game approached. ECU was obviously not prepared to play without him, and the offense did not click.

Also, Frank Robinson has improved dramatically. He did not score in the game, barely even played for that matter. Now, he starts as the two-guard. This allows Coach Bill Herrion to sub Belton Rivers in and out and gives him the opportunity to do

what he does best—shoot the three.

If there is any momentum heading into this game, it goes the way of ECU. Louisville, picked to win the conference and at one point probably the best team in the country after knocking two number one teams, had an incredibly disappointing year, finishing sixth in C-USA.

The Cardinals started 16-1 with their lone loss coming in the season opener, but then went

on to lose six out of their next seven, all in conference play. Their season ended last week with a heartbreaking loss to Marquette, 81-80.

The keys to this game are very simple. On defense, ECU must shut down the second and third scorers in Louisville's offense.

The Pirates have traditionally done a good job of negating other teams' leading scorers, but had trouble with their opponents' second and third options.

The previous game with Louisville was no different—Francisco Garcia was held to 11 points, but it was Taquan Dean and Larry O'Bannon who combined for 32 points that hurt the Pirates.

The key for offense is to get the ball in the hands of Mike Cook or Derrick Wiley.

If they can't get a good look, they need to dump the ball down to Moussa Badiane, who has stepped up lately and played the best ball of his career.

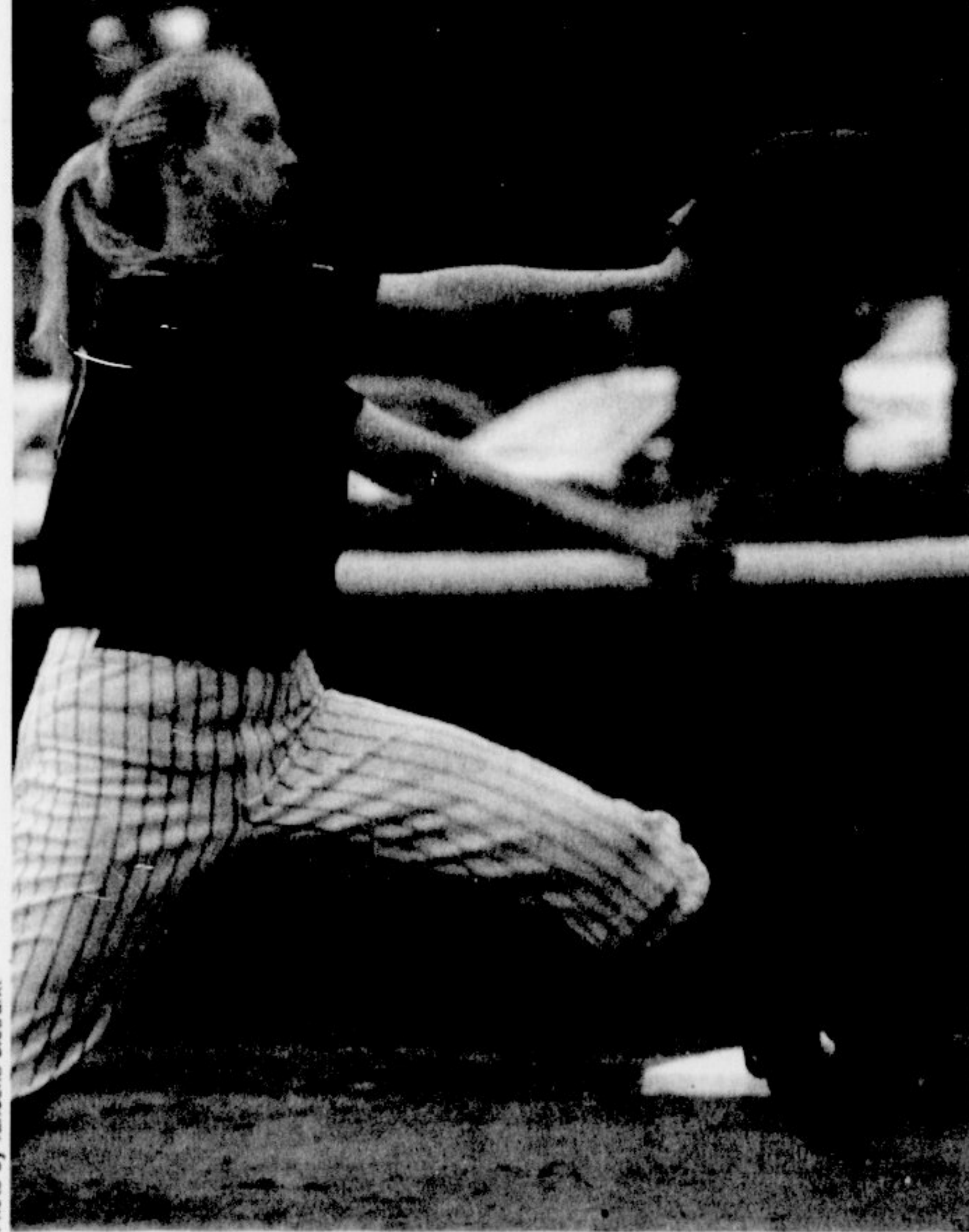
Winning this tournament has to be the goal of the team, but it will not come easy. Assuming that all higher seeds win, ECU would have to beat Louisville, Cincinnati, Memphis and DePaul—four of the best teams in the C-USA and teams that ECU lost to in the regular season.

The Pirates need to at least beat Louisville—a win would guarantee at worst a .500 season, which is needed to make the NIT.

Prediction? ECU 66, Louisville 60.

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

ECU softball set for Cougar Classic



ECU is looking to sweep another tournament in Houston.

Lady Pirates look to extend winning streak

DAVID WASKIEWICZ
STAFF WRITER

The softball team will travel to Charleston, SC to take part in the Cougar Classic after a great weekend at home sweeping the Pirate Clash. The Lady Pirates are currently 17-5-1 and are looking to extend their six-game winning streak this weekend.

ECU will play Bowling Green, Savannah State, UAB (in a non-conference game) and the College of Charleston. ECU will then be seeded into a single elimination tournament on Sunday.

Head Coach Tracey Kee heads into the tournament this weekend aware of the challenge that awaits her team.

"The Charleston Tournament is filled with quality opponents," said Kee.

"We know that anyone can win any given day."

As a team, ECU is batting a respectable .278 this season. Junior Kate Manuse leads the team, batting a .385 with 65 at bats and two homeruns. Junior Andrey Acosta is not too far behind Manuse, batting .375 but with only 27 at bats.

Performance at the plate is not the only thing the Lady Pirates have excelled in this season. The team has been pitching just as well as it has been hitting. Overall, ECU's pitchers have an astonishing combined ERA of 1.87. Freshman pitcher Keli Harrell is 5-0 and leads the team with 46 strikeouts in as many innings.

A sweep of the Cougar Classic by the Lady Pirates would not only boost their record to a possible 23-5-1, it would also give the softball team strong momentum heading into their conference games against UAB next week.

The Pirates will open play this Friday with an 11 a.m. game against Bowling Green.

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

Winner to prevail in C-USA tourney

(KRT) — The large tattoo on Quemont Greer's right bicep is an illustration of a basketball player holding up a ball. It is surrounded by the words, "Fear No Evil" and "Kill or Be Killed."

That may well be the motto of DePaul's upcoming week at the Conference USA tournament in Cincinnati.

Greer's frontcourt partner, 6-foot-9-inch center Andre Brown, likes the sound of that attitude.

"I think that's a great theme," said Brown.

The Blue Demons (19-8) won 12 of their last 14 games to finish in a remarkable five-way tie for first place in the regular season. They swept No. 13 Cincinnati at home and South Florida on the road last week. DePaul, Memphis, Cincinnati, Alabama-Birmingham and Charlotte all finished 12-4 for the unprecedented mass deadlock.

"That's crazy," Brown said.

Better yet, the Blue Demons won the league tiebreakers to earn a first-round bye and the No. 1 seed in the 12-team tournament beginning Wednesday at U.S. Bank Arena.

Although nothing is guaranteed, the feeling is that the strong finish solidified DePaul's position with the NCAA selection committee, too.

The achievement is a bit stunning for a team that never spent a minute in first place until the regular season ended.

The late run was akin to a horse making a strong stretch run to nip the competition at the wire.

"We started to click at the right time," said junior guard Drake Diener.

"It was a real exciting feeling. None of us had ever been a champion on the college level."

The seeding means DePaul does not start play until 2:30 p.m. Thursday, against the winner of a first-round game between Marquette (17-10), the Demons' chief league rival, and Texas Christian (11-16). DePaul split with Marquette this season and defeated Texas Christian.

"There's a lot of intrigue," said DePaul coach Dave Leitao, of possibly facing Marquette a third time.

"We look forward to it."

DePaul, which is only two years removed from a 9-19 record and in only its second year under Leitao, accomplished its run with a well-balanced attack.

Brown averages 14.2 points and 9.6 rebounds per game, although he missed nine games with a knee injury.

Forward Delonte Holland averages 16.5 points, Greer 12.6 and Diener 12.2.

Diener was named C-USA player of the week for the second time Monday, and Brown and Holland were named second-team All-C-USA.

"As far as I'm concerned, they're one of the top 20 teams in the country," said Louisville coach Rick Pitino.

Voters in the national polls have not made such a statement, but the players believe perception is changing.

Greer said the Blue Demons felt like underdogs before, but no more.

"We're glad to be in first place and get some respect," said Greer.

Sheffield's injury requires no surgery

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Gary Sheffield can play with a torn ligament in his right thumb and will be back in the New York Yankees' lineup for spring training games later this week.

The outfielder, who reinjured the thumb last weekend, was examined Tuesday in New York by hand specialist Dr. Melvin Rosenwasser.

"Gary Sheffield obviously is one tough cookie," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

"He played through it before without a problem, apparently." Sheffield, who was to return to Tampa on Tuesday, originally hurt the thumb last July while playing for the Atlanta Braves, but he never had an MRI exam and the torn ligament went undetected.

He hit .327 after the injury with 17 homers and 62 RBIs in 69 games.

He aggravated the injury Saturday when trying to get to a fly ball by Toronto's Orlando Hudson that landed for a triple.

The Yankees initially thought it was just a bruise, but the team worried after an MRI exam and X-ray revealed the tear.

"We're not out of the woods on this, don't get me wrong," Cashman said.

"But today's news was certainly more encouraging, after the hand specialist in New York saw him, than yesterday's news."

Sheffield was at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center at 6:30 a.m. for the exam.

An operation to repair a torn thumb ligament typically requires two to three months of recovery time.

"You treat the patient and not the injury," Cashman said. "We're going to see how he comes through it over the next two weeks."

Last year, shortstop Derek Jeter tore a ligament in his left thumb during the AL championship series opener against Boston. He kept on playing, taking numbing medication for the remainder of the Red Sox series, and the thumb healed on its own. Rosenwasser examined Jeter in November.

"Some guys say operate, other guys say rehabilitate. I stayed with the rehabilitate guy," Jeter said.

Sheffield is among nine Yankees 35 or older and that doesn't include pitcher Orlando Hernandez, who reached a preliminary agreement on a contract last weekend and took a physical Monday.

2004 C-USA TOURNAMENT

Round by round

Wednesday, March 10 (First Round)

(5) UNC-C vs. (12) Tulane	(ESPN 2)	1 p.m.
(8) Marquette vs. (9) TCU	(ESPN 2)	3:30 p.m.
(6) Louisville vs. (11) ECU	(WTVN)	7 p.m.
(7) Saint Louis vs. (10) So Miss	(ESPN Plus)	9:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 11 (Quarterfinals)

CHA/TUL vs. (4) UAB	(ESPN Plus)	1 p.m.
MAR/TCU vs. (1) DePaul	(ESPN Plus)	3:30 p.m.
LOU/ECU vs. (3) Cincinnati	(ESPN Plus)	7 p.m.
SLU/SM vs. (2) Memphis	(ESPN Plus)	9:30 p.m.

Friday, March 12 (Semifinals)

Semifinal No. 1	(ESPN)	4:30 p.m.
Semifinal No. 2	(ESPN Plus)	7 p.m.

Saturday, March 13

Championship Game	(CBS)	11:41 p.m.
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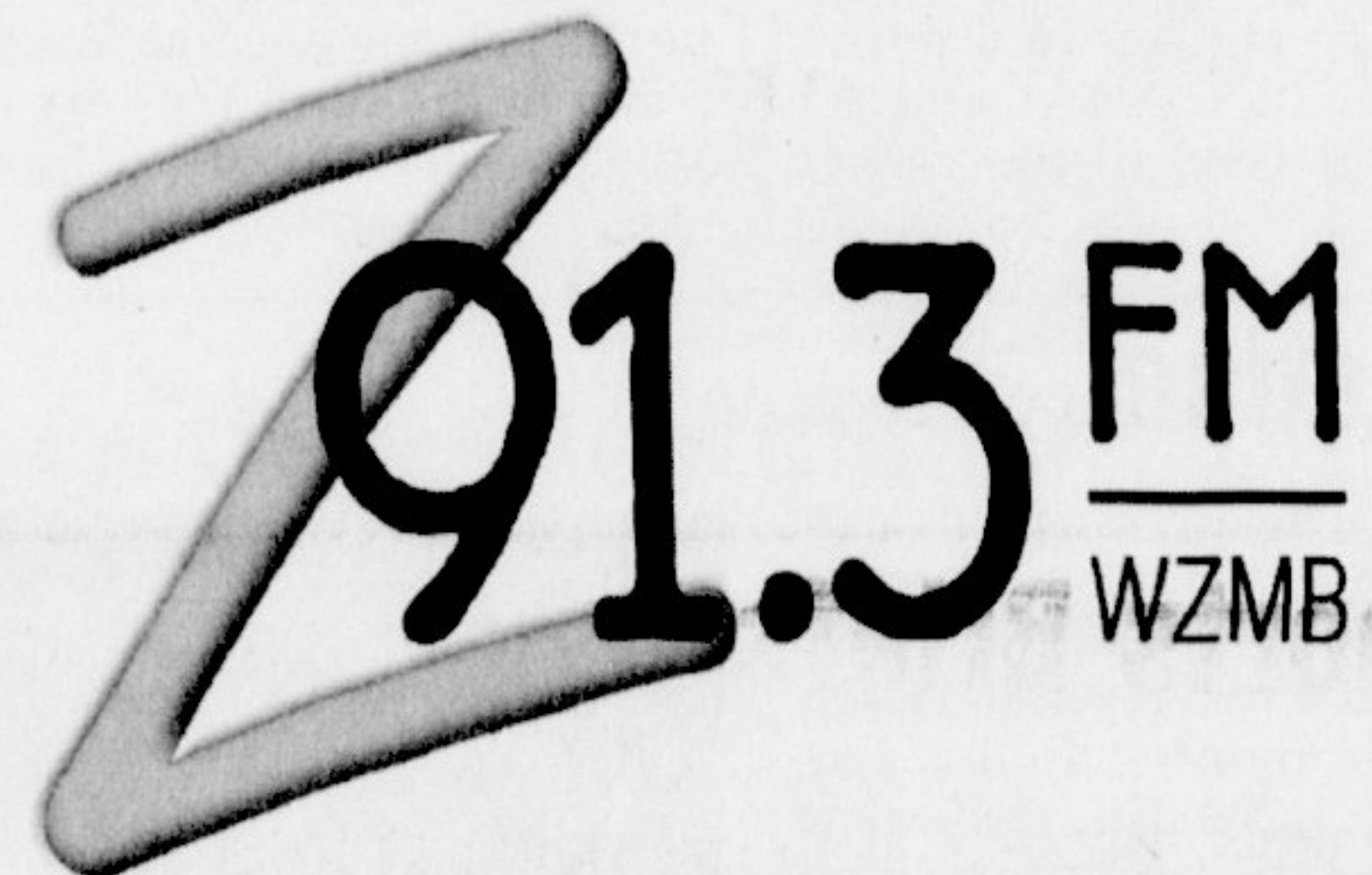
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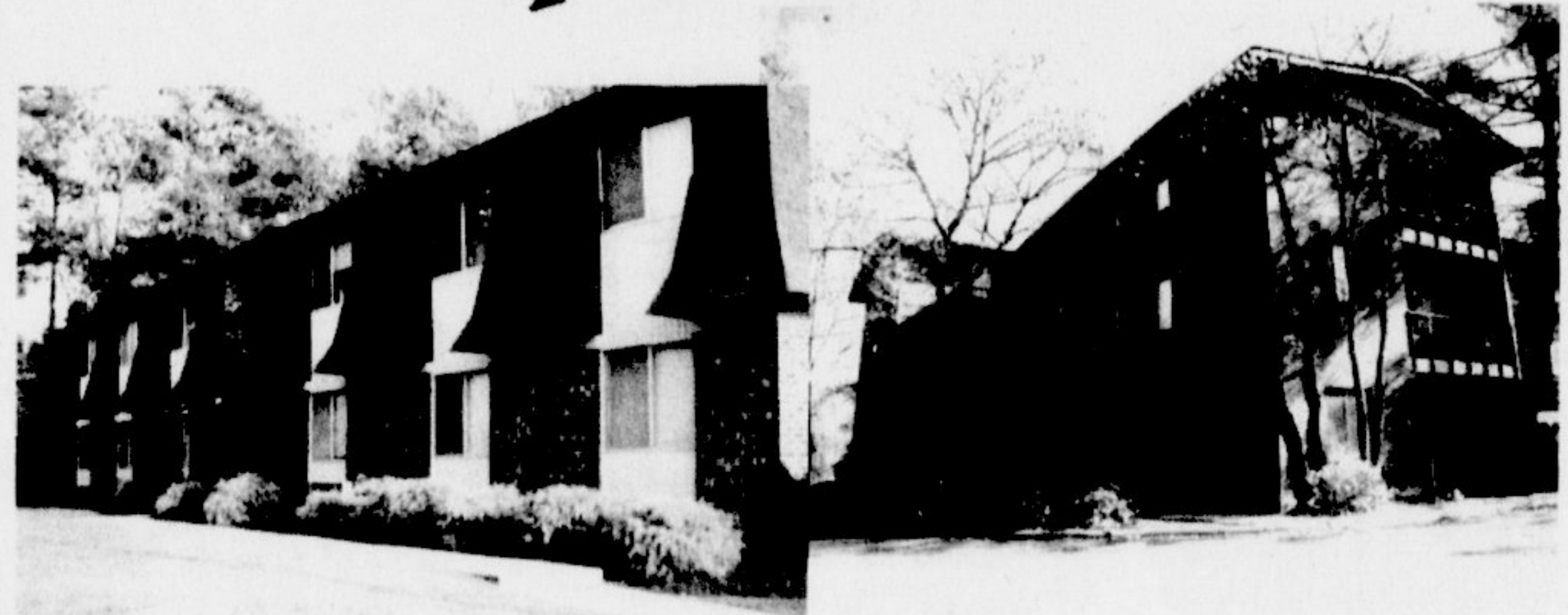
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C-USA announces All-Conference team

Three underclassmen, one junior and one senior comprise the 2004 All-Conference USA First Team, which features Memphis freshman forward Sean Banks, Charlotte sophomore forward Curtis Withers, Louisville sophomore forward Francisco Garcia, Marquette junior guard Travis Diener and Memphis senior guard Antonio Burks.

Diener was a second team selection last season and Burks was named to the third team while the other three players are earning all-league accolades for the first time. The awards are voted on by the league's coaches and media.

Banks burst on the C-USA scene this season, leading the league's freshmen in scoring (18.0) and in rebounding (6.9), while also ranking among the league's leaders in three-point field goal percentage (.392) and blocked shots (27). He has scored 20 or more points 12 times, including each of the last six outings. He scored a career high 29 points against Charlotte on Jan. 17 and nearly matched that at Cincinnati on Saturday, netting 28. The 6-8 Banks is the only player in Memphis basketball history to hit at least six three-pointers in a game on four different occasions. Over his last six games, Banks is averaging 25.5 points per game.

After earning a spot on last season's All-Freshman team, Withers has blossomed as a sophomore. He has posted a league-high 15 double-doubles, including eight in league play. Withers has scored in double figures and pulled down at least seven rebounds in all but two games. For the year, he is averaging 16.6 points (fourth in C-USA) and 9.5 boards (second in the league).

Additionally, he is shooting .498 from the floor, third-best in C-USA among players with 10 or more shots per game.

Garcia leads the Cardinals and ranks in the Top 10 of C-USA in scoring (15.8, 9th in C-USA), assists (4.9, third in C-USA) and steals (4.6, fourth in C-USA). He has reached double figures in 19 of the 25 games that he has played in this season and also set a school record with 15 assists against Murray State on Jan. 3. A first team NABC District 7 selection, Garcia is a finalist for the Wooden Award, which is given to the nation's top college player.

Diener is one of only two players in Division I currently averaging 18.0 points and 6.0 or more assists. His 76 three-point field goals this season are a new Marquette record for a junior and he is just the seventh player in school history to score 1,000 points and dish out 400 assists in a career. He leads C-USA in scoring (18.5), ranks third in three-point field goals made (76) and second in free throw percentage (.884). Diener has also been named as one of 20 finalists for the Wooden Award.

The Tigers floor general, Burks joins Diener as the only two players on this year's all-conference team that were on last year's squad. He ranks fifth in C-USA in scoring (16.5) and three-point field goal percentage (.432), is second in assists (5.3) while leading the league in steals (2.5). Burks enters the C-USA Tournament needing just seven points for 1,000 in his career. When he reaches the 1,000-point plateau, he will become only the fourth player in the storied history of Memphis basketball to have

1,000 points, 450 assists and 170 steals. Burks is one of the finalist for the Bob Cousy Award, an accolade given to the nation's top point guard.

The C-USA second team includes DePaul senior forward/center Andre Brown, Saint Louis junior guard Reggie Bryant, Southern Miss senior forward Charles Gaines, DePaul senior forward Delonte Holland and Cincinnati junior forward Jason Maxiell.

C-USA's third team is comprised of Cincinnati senior

guard Tony Bobbitt, UAB senior guard Mo Finley, USF junior forward Terrence Leather, TCU junior guard Corey Santee and Louisville senior forward Luke Whitehead.

Nine of the 15 all-conference picks were forwards, including three first-team members and four on the second team.

Eleven teams had at least one player named to one of the all-league teams. Cincinnati, DePaul, Louisville and Memphis each produced two selections.



St. Bonaventure will participate in the A-10 tournament.

2003-04 C-USA MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

2003-04 ALL-CONFERENCE USA FIRST TEAM

- Sean Banks** Memphis, F, 6-8, 210, Fr., Oradell, N.J. (Bergen Catholic)
- Antonio Burks** Memphis, G, 6-0, 200, Sr., Memphis, Tenn. (Hiwassee College)
- Travis Diener** Marquette, G, 6-0, 165, Jr., Fond du Lac, Wis. (Goodrich)
- Francisco Garcia** Louisville, F, 6-7, 185, So., Bronx, N.Y. (Winchendon)
- Curtis Withers** UNC-C, F, 6-8, 230, So., Charlotte, N.C. (West Charlotte)

2003-04 ALL-CONFERENCE USA SECOND TEAM

- Andre Brown** DePaul, F/C, 6-9, 245, Sr., Chicago, Ill. (Leo)
- Reggie Bryant** Saint Louis, G, 6-2, 185, Jr., Baltimore, Md. (Calvert Hall)
- Charles Gaines** Southern Miss, F, 6-7, 220, Sr., Houston, Texas (Southwest Missouri St.)
- Delonte Holland** DePaul, F, 6-7, 220, Sr., Greenbelt, Md. (Vincennes Univ.)
- Jason Maxiell** Cincinnati, F, 6-7, 240, Jr., Carrollton, Texas (Newman Smith)

2003-04 ALL-CONFERENCE USA THIRD TEAM

- Tony Bobbitt** Cincinnati, G, 6-4, 185, Sr., Daytona Beach, Fla. (Southern Idaho)
- Mo Finley** UAB, G, 5-11, 174, Sr., Lafayette, Ala. (Lafayette)
- Terrence Leather** USF, F, 6-9, 221, Jr., Tampa, Fla. (Robinson)
- Corey Santee** TCU, G, 6-2, 193, Jr., Flint, Mich. (Maine Central)
- Luke Whitehead** Louisville, F, 6-6, 220, Sr., San Francisco, Calif. (Oak Hill Academy)

Bonnies still coping

OLEAN, N.Y. (KRT) — While the aftershocks of last season's scandal at St. Bonaventure are likely to be felt for some time, the suspense is finally over. Two weeks ago, the NCAA placed the Bonnies on three years of probation for "lack of institutional control."

Although the NCAA primarily faulted fired school President Robert Wickenheiser for the violations, the punishment will be borne by St. Bonaventure's current and future student-athletes.

On top of numerous penalties already self-imposed by the university including giving up two scholarships for the current season, one next season and reducing the number of paid visits the program can offer recruits from 12 to 10 the NCAA added the probation and has prohibited the Bonnies from scheduling any exempted games next season.

The penalties were hardly a surprise, coach Anthony Solomon said.

"We will continue to be up front and forthright with all recruits, as we have been from Day One."

"We have said all along that we would accept the NCAA's ruling, and we do," said recently appointed athletic director Ron Zwerlein.

"We will not (appeal). We are in agreement with all of the NCAA's rulings."

"We have had our day in court, so to speak, and believe the process was fair and just."

Solomon said there was relief in knowing what the program would have to hurdle to put the scandal in the past.

"This is another major step in terms of putting closure to this," Solomon said.

Closure has not been all bad. Last week, the presidents of St. Bonaventure's fellow Atlantic 10 institutions voted to allow the Bonnies to participate in the conference tournament.

They'll play Xavier on Wednesday in Dayton with the winner to meet undefeated St. Joseph's in the second round.

Practice from page A8

after playing tight end the past two seasons. Juniors Lorenza Pickett and Jason Pender have also had a role reversal. Pickett has been running drills at fullback after playing linebacker and defensive end his first two years at ECU and Pender is practicing at defensive end after two years as a fullback.

Thompson also has the luxury of three talented quarterbacks at his disposal. Senior Desmond Robinson returns along with sophomore James Pinkney. Florida transfer Patrick Dosh joins the fray in the friendly wide-open competition to determine who will start under center for the Pirates.

"Any of those three guys can take it (starting job) over, it's up to them. All three of them have gotten better, but we just have to protect the ball," Thompson said.

"We've thrown the ball good, we just have to catch it a little better. We had a few drops out there today."

Robinson completed 66.2 percent of his passing attempts in 2003, throwing for 1,262 yards with three touchdowns and 11 interceptions. Pinkney saw action in eight games as a freshman, throwing for 422 yards with two touchdowns and two picks. Dosh was inactive last season after transferring from the University of Florida. Dosh was first team all-state in Virginia as a high school senior where he amassed 8,648 career yards.

ECU will also have one of



ECU hopes to have a more explosive offense next season.

the most talented backfields in Conference USA with Marvin Townes and Art Brown. Brown rushed for over 1,000 yards in 2002 before being sidelined all of last season with a knee injury. In his absence, Townes tallied 1,128 yards and eight rushing touchdowns, giving Thompson a dynamic tandem at running back.

"Our guys are hungry. Last Thursday, we probably had the most exciting scrimmage that we've had here in a while," Thompson said.

"There are some spots that are ragged. To say that we can put 22 guys out there at one time and

to say that we can win at all 22 positions, that's not happening. There is always one guy missing here, one guy missing there, but the enthusiasm, the work ethic and the competitiveness has been good."

Spring practice for the Pirates runs through April 1, with the annual Spring Game scheduled for Saturday, March 27 at 3 p.m. in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

The Pirates will open their 2004 season on Sept. 4 at West Virginia.

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

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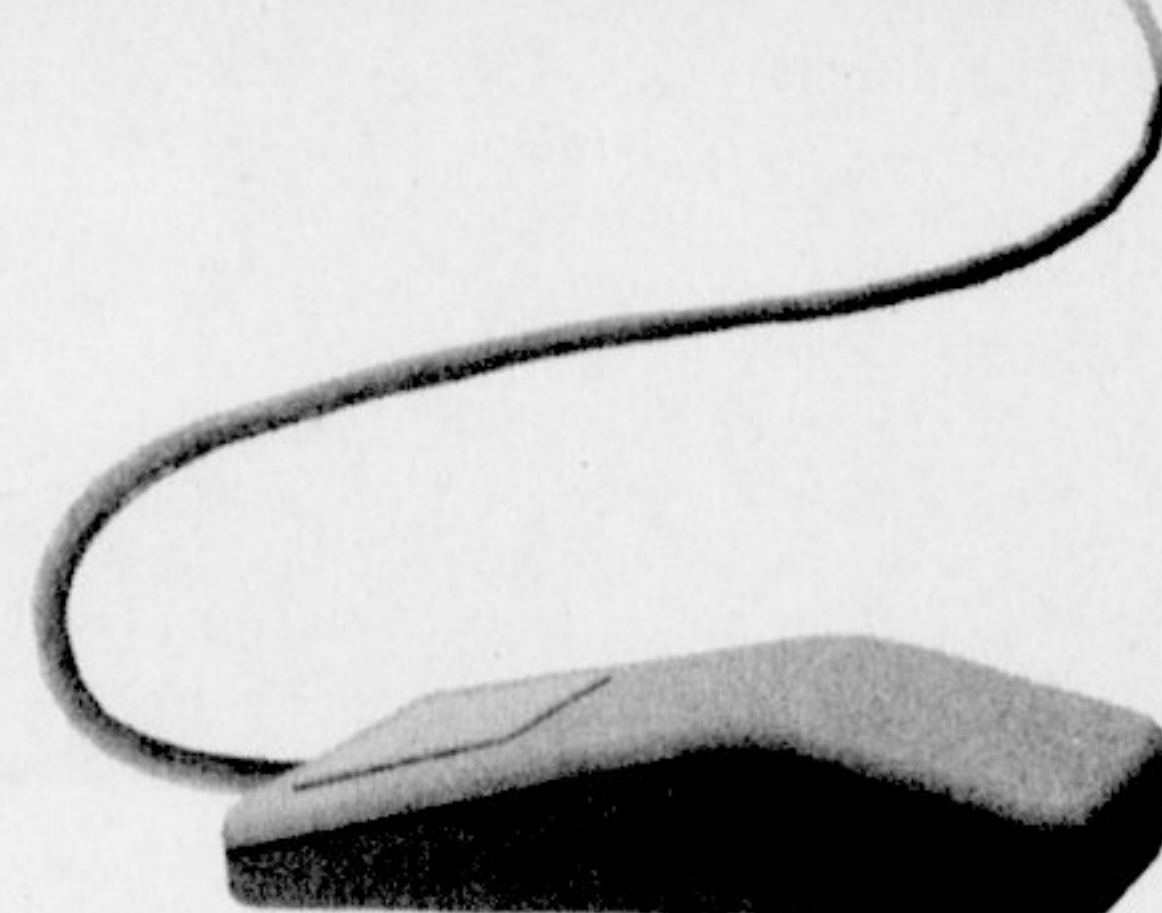
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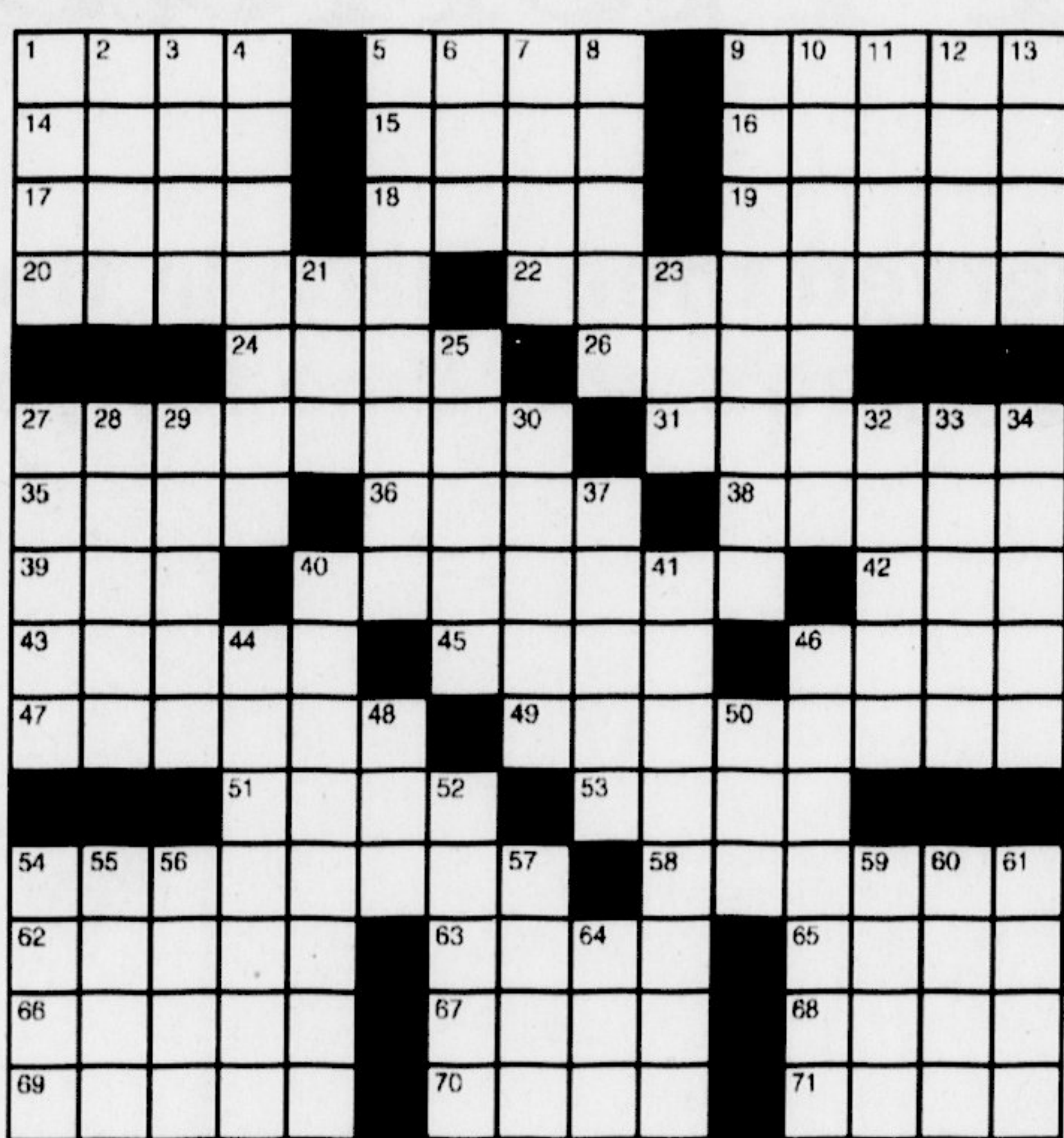
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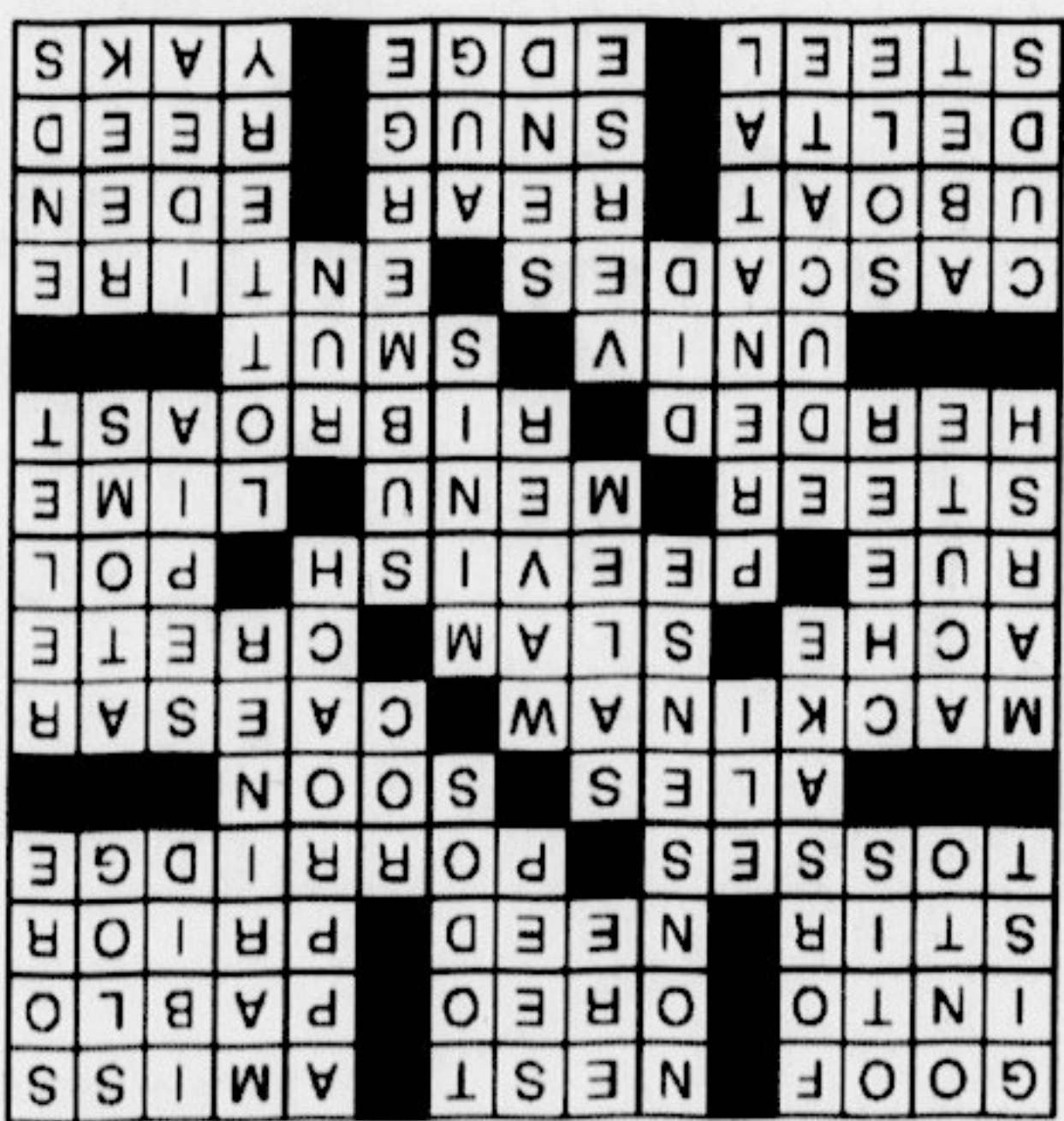
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- ACROSS**
- Blunder
 - Snug retreat
 - Off target
 - Toward the center of
 - Nabisco favorite
 - Artist Picasso
 - Slammer or clink
 - Requirement
 - Preceding in order
 - Chucks
 - Breakfast menu item
 - Pub servings
 - One of these days
 - Double-breasted woolen coat
 - Roman salad?
 - Dull, persistent pain
 - Shut with force
 - Greek island
 - Regret with bitterness
 - Irritable
 - D.C. wheeler-dealer
 - Guide
 - Bill of fare
 - Citrus fruit
 - Moved in a group
 - Beef entree
 - UCLA word
 - Sooty matter
 - Small waterfalls
 - Complete
 - Undersea menace of WWII
 - Raise
 - Fall garden?
 - Greek letter
 - Cozy
 - Marsh grass
 - Harden
 - Advantage
 - Chatters
- DOWN**
- Nitty-gritty
 - Aware of
 - Elevator man
 - Abandon
 - Rubbish
 - Before, poetically
 - Ooze
 - Fusses
 - Near
 - Sailor
 - Footnote wd.
 - Trudge along
 - Tender
 - Wallach or Whitney
 - Fierce mythical bird
 - Capital of Oregon
 - Swamp
 - Sharp
 - Shout of encouragement
 - Show indecision
 - Tint of old photographs
 - Very small particles
 - Rent again
 - Skimpy skirts
 - Before birth
 - Dip
 - Send to school
 - State gambling scheme
 - Performed
 - Operate
 - Song part
 - Cows' chews
 - Assist a criminal
 - One-and-only
 - Transmit
 - Concept
 - Powerful stink
 - Conclusions
 - Sept. preceder



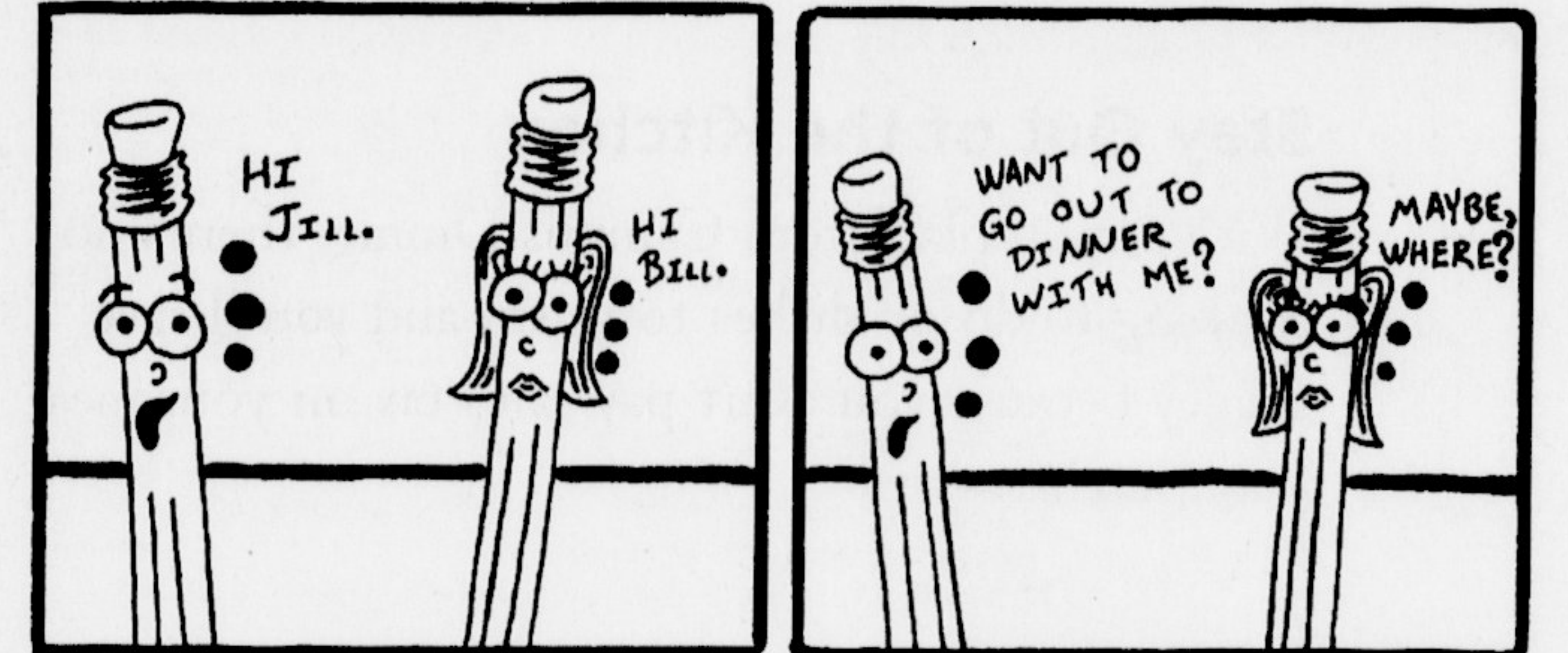
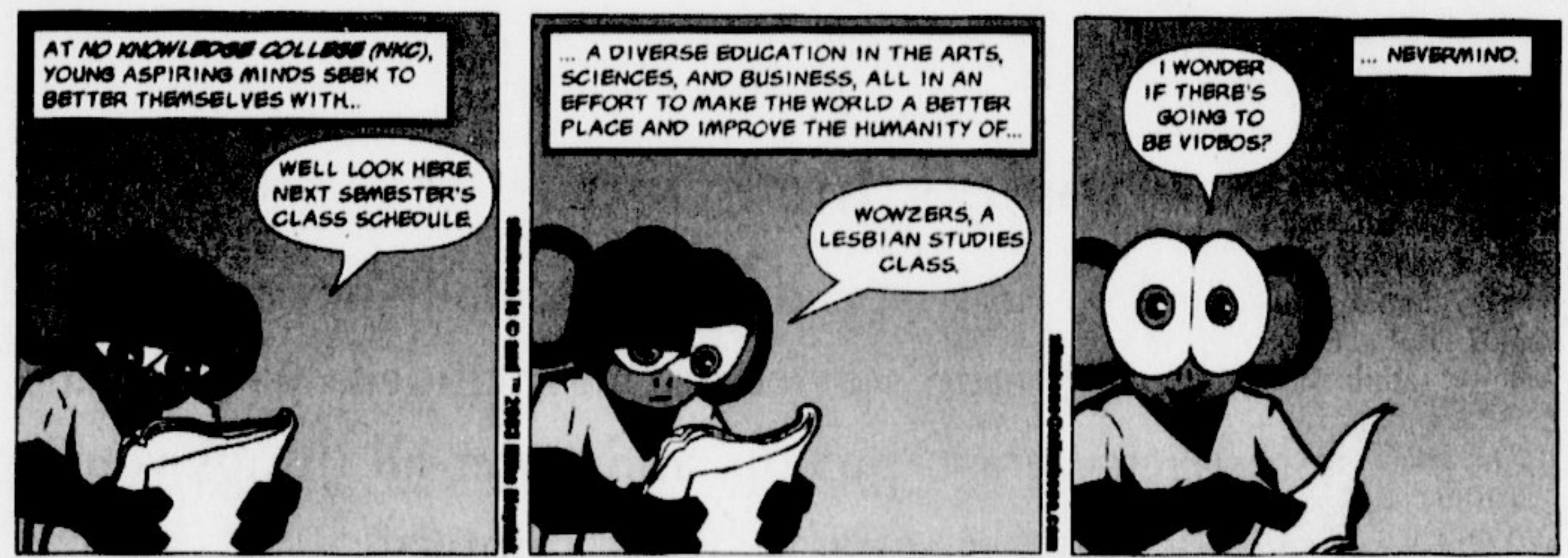
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Solutions



CAPTAIN RIBMAN in Craptacular

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



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