

Mirra to release debut album on campus

BMX star crosses over to hip-hop

AMANDA HUGINKISS
TOTAL PROCRASTINATOR

Greenville resident and BMX Freestyle champion Dave Mirra announced in a press conference yesterday that he would be giving up his extreme sports career for a career in hip-hop music.

For the past six months, Mirra has been writing and recording songs for his debut album *Don't Hate the Playa, Just Hate the Extreme Game*. Mirra plans to distribute copies at

2 p.m. today in the Wright Place. "You know, I always wanted to get in touch with the true homey inside me," said Mirra.

"What better way than hip-hop?"

Mirra began getting in touch with his hip-hop side about a year ago when he met local resident and national rap star Petey Pablo at the Cavern nightclub in downtown Greenville.

"At first Petey was hatin' on me 'cause I was getting all the honeys. But then we got to talking and he invited me back to his recording studio. After that, I was hooked," Mirra said.

That same night, Mirra developed the inspiration for what



MIRRA

would become his first single, "I'm Ballin' at the Edge of Tomorrow," a track which uses a sample from the theme song of "Saved by the Bell: The College Years."

"I woke up the next morning on Petey's couch and on the TV came this song. It was like a message from above ... I knew it would be my first hit," Mirra said.

Other tracks on the album include "I Got (X) Game," "G-Vegas Lovin'" and "Xxtreme Boys," a track which features a chorus sung by Tony Hawk, another up-and-coming X-gamer turned recording artist.

Mirra will be signing autographs and giving away copies of his new CD from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. While those copies haven't been given out yet, an advance copy of the album was sent to campus

radio station WZMB earlier this week for radio play.

"That album is total crap," said Ben Dover, WZMB disc jockey.

"I wouldn't touch it even if I was a fat kid and it was the last donut on earth."

As for Mirra, he hopes his album will touch as many listeners as possible.

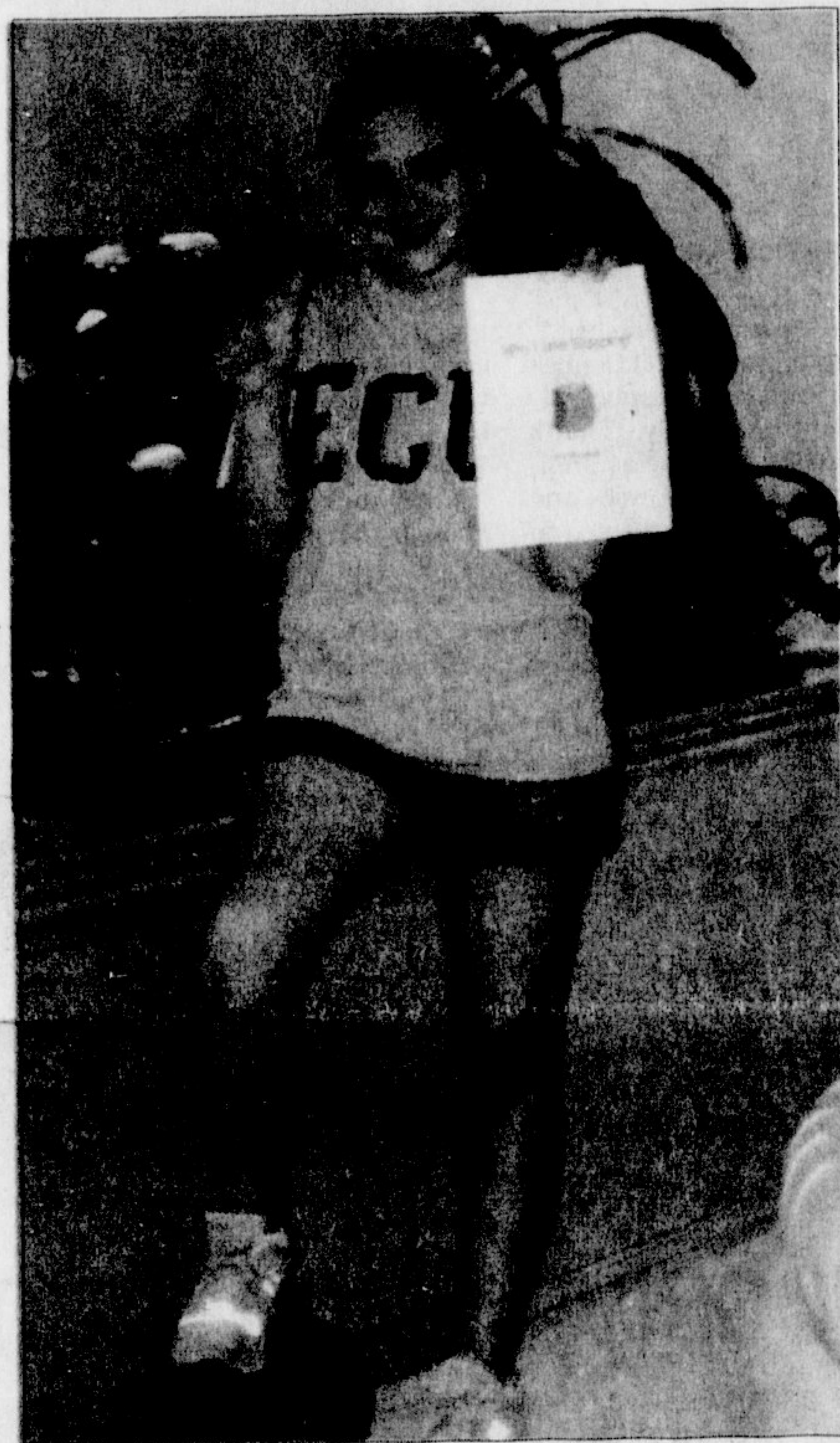
"If I can make just one kid realize his dreams of owning nice cars and pimping ho's, then my life's work is complete."

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

Track Listing

1. Dope Intro
2. "I'm Ballin' At the Edge of Tomorrow"
3. "I Got (X) Game"
4. "G-Vegas Lovin'"
5. Playaz Interlude
6. "Xxtreme Boys" featuring Tony Hawk
7. "My Honey's Got Crabs"
8. "Pimp Dem Ho's"
9. "Keep Ya Eyez on da Halfpipe"
10. "I'm Not Your Baby's Daddy"

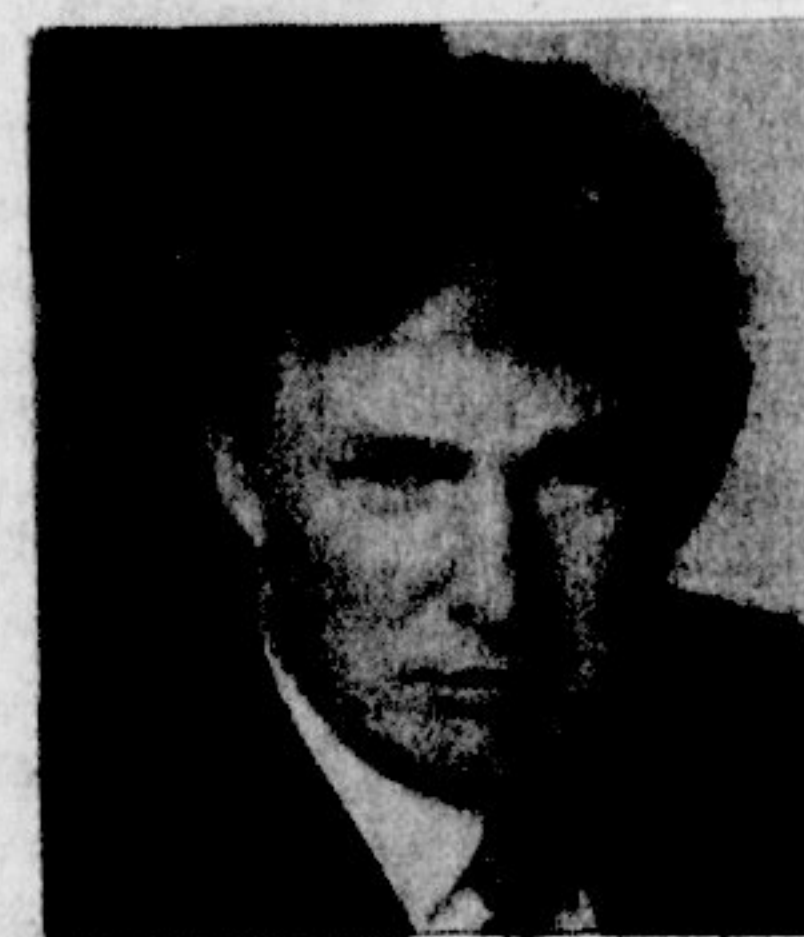
Vacant administrative positions filled



GLOVER



BLAIR



TRUMP



BACANOVIC

Ballard holds essay contest to fill top administrative spots

HARRY PITZ
CHIEF ARM FUNK

In Steve Ballard's first act as chancellor, four candidates were selected to fill some of the vacant administrative positions at ECU yesterday.

"I wanted my first decision as chancellor to really make an impact on the university," said Ballard.

Brittany Glover, a seventh grader at C.M. Eppes Middle School, was selected and will succeed Nick Floyd, the interim director of athletics, when she takes over the athletics director position next week.

"Brittany's essay really stood out in my mind," said Ballard.

"Her analysis of the top 10 reasons she loves shopping really convinced me that she was the proper choice for athletics director."

Brittany will take over her position after 3 p.m. when she gets out of class at C.M. Eppes.

"I will have to learn how to balance my duties as athletics director while I finish school," said Glover.

"Hopefully this will be as

much fun as shopping!"

The same day Glover was selected, Ballard chose Peter Bacanovic, Martha Stewart's former financial adviser, as ECU's new executive vice chancellor of administration and finance.

Bacanovic will replace Richard Brown after he retires, again. Bacanovic is well-versed in trading and financial growth.

"We hope that Bacanovic will use his extensive financial expertise to benefit the university," said Ballard.

"He can wheel and deal with the best of them, but he is especially good at keeping clients informed."

Linner Griffin, Ph.D., interim director for the School of Communication, will also leave her post and go back to the School of Social Work when Jayson Blair, former reporter for *The New York Times* turned novelist, takes over as director of the school in May.

After working for *The New York Times* for nearly four years, Blair became widely known as a reporter in 2003 for his coverage of the war in Iraq.

"I can't wait to take over the School of Communication, it will be great to have no one to answer to," said Blair.

"I think the students in the communication program

are sure to grow as journalists once they're exposed to my techniques."

Ballard said his most difficult choice was who to select for provost.

"I debated for two whole days," Ballard said.

"But I decided to choose Donald Trump as provost, because he has an authoritarian quality that I really feel will help him win over faculty and students."

Trump will replace former Provost William Swart, who was reassigned to a faculty position in September 2003.

"I am ready to turn over a new leaf," said Trump.

"There has been a lot of controversy over my firing practices. Steve has set me up with a counselor to assist me with personnel issues so I can do my job to the best of my ability."

Glover, Bacanovic, Blair and Trump were selected out of more than 500 essays submitted to Ballard last week.

"I think that my new staff is top-notch," Ballard said.

"Each of these individuals is very knowledgeable of their crafts. We are sure to continue to make history together at ECU."

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Conference USA loses two additional teams

NC A&T one of several considered for expansion

Conference-USA, which has been hit hard with the defections of eight teams including Marshall, DePaul, Louisville, South Florida, and Cincinnati to the Big East, Charlotte and St. Louis to the Atlantic Ten as well as Texas Christian to the Mountain West, has been informed by representatives from Memphis and Houston that the two colleges will join the Big 12 in the 2005-06 season.

Officials from Tulane dropped another bombshell announcing a plan to end its

athletic program in order to apply money used to support the athletic program to the more profitable arts and crafts department.

The Big 12, which was known as the Big 8 until it invited Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor and Texas Tech, has decided to bump its membership up to 14 teams in an effort to remain the biggest conference in the country. There are no current plans to change the name to reflect the additional teams.

"The Big Ten has 11 teams and yet has kept its traditional name," said Bill Hartley, Big 12 associate vice president of expansion issues.

"I see no reason to change the name of the conference at all."

The new super conference will feature two seven-team divisions as well as continue to devastate floundering C-

USA. Rumors indicate that C-USA will continue to expand. Possible new members include NC A&T, UC Santa Barbara, and - just for good measure - Central Arkansas.

"These institutions follow in our academic and athletic missions as a conference. We hope to form a longstanding and prosperous relationship with each new member as we continue to mark the future of this conference," said C-USA director of propaganda, William Hitchcock.

There are persistent, yet unsubstantiated, rumors that UAB may be invited to the WAC, but so far all involved deny the story.

The new teams have not been officially invited. Before a new school can be invited to the conference, official campus visits must take place involving members of the two current C-USA members, UAB and ECU.

Sandra Bullock considering returning to ECU for degree

Says academics more important than acting and Hollywood

ASHY LARRY
MOISTURE CHALLENGED

With only a few credits to go toward her bachelor's degree in drama, Sandra Bullock is considering returning to ECU to finish what she started.

Bullock came to ECU from Arlington, Va. and was just a few classes shy of completing her degree when she left for New York.

Bullock said her reasons for coming to the university were on a whim.

The daughter of a German opera singer and a voice from Alabama, Bullock never regretted choosing ECU over a performing arts school since a traditional college experience - football games, fraternity parties and the like - was what she was after.

"It all happened in about a week," Bullock said.

"My friend had an application." After hearing that the NBC sitcom *Working Girl* was looking for a new leading lady, Bullock decided to give it a shot. Her best-known credits include *The Net* (1995) and *A Time to Kill* (1996).

"I may be heading back to North Carolina," said Bullock in an exclusive phone interview.

"Acting has certainly made me financially secure, but I am beginning to get fed up with Hollywood and all it's s-t. I feel incomplete knowing I didn't finish school - especially with only a few classes left."

Bullock, who is known for her abnormal normalcy, admits to having uncontrollable urges to eat junk food and has a special craving for Parker's Barbecue.

Bullock isn't sure when she would be return-



Sandra Bullock is considering returning to ECU to complete her undergraduate degree.

ing to college but has made it clear that if she does return to school, it will be ECU.

She wouldn't be the only non-traditional student at ECU at the age of 39, but certainly one of the most famous.

ECU has had a few celebrities who attended or graduated that went on to be great successes.

Vince McMahon, the World Wrestling Entertainment mogul, graduated in 1968, and New Orleans Saints' player Jeff Blake graduated in 1994.

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Candy Awareness
throughout April

It takes 5,687 licks to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop.

Eating Pop Rocks while drinking Mountain Dew can decrease the size of your penis by three inches.



Podcast
Flying pigs
High of -450

TEC REQUIRED
READING



Online
Visit www.theeastcarolinian.com to learn how an apple a day will take up to five years off your life.



News
In an effort to court the minority vote, President Bush will make a guest appearance on BET's 106 and Park.



Features
ECU officials have decided that instead of the traditional go-kart Great Race, competitors will use riding lawn mowers.



Sports
Citing his "love of the game," Terrell Owens has decided he doesn't care where he plays or how much money he makes.



LEVEL
There's a chap outbreak at ECU. Officials are asking students to wipe all toilet seats before sliding on them. Be especially cautious of toilets in the Spelman Building.