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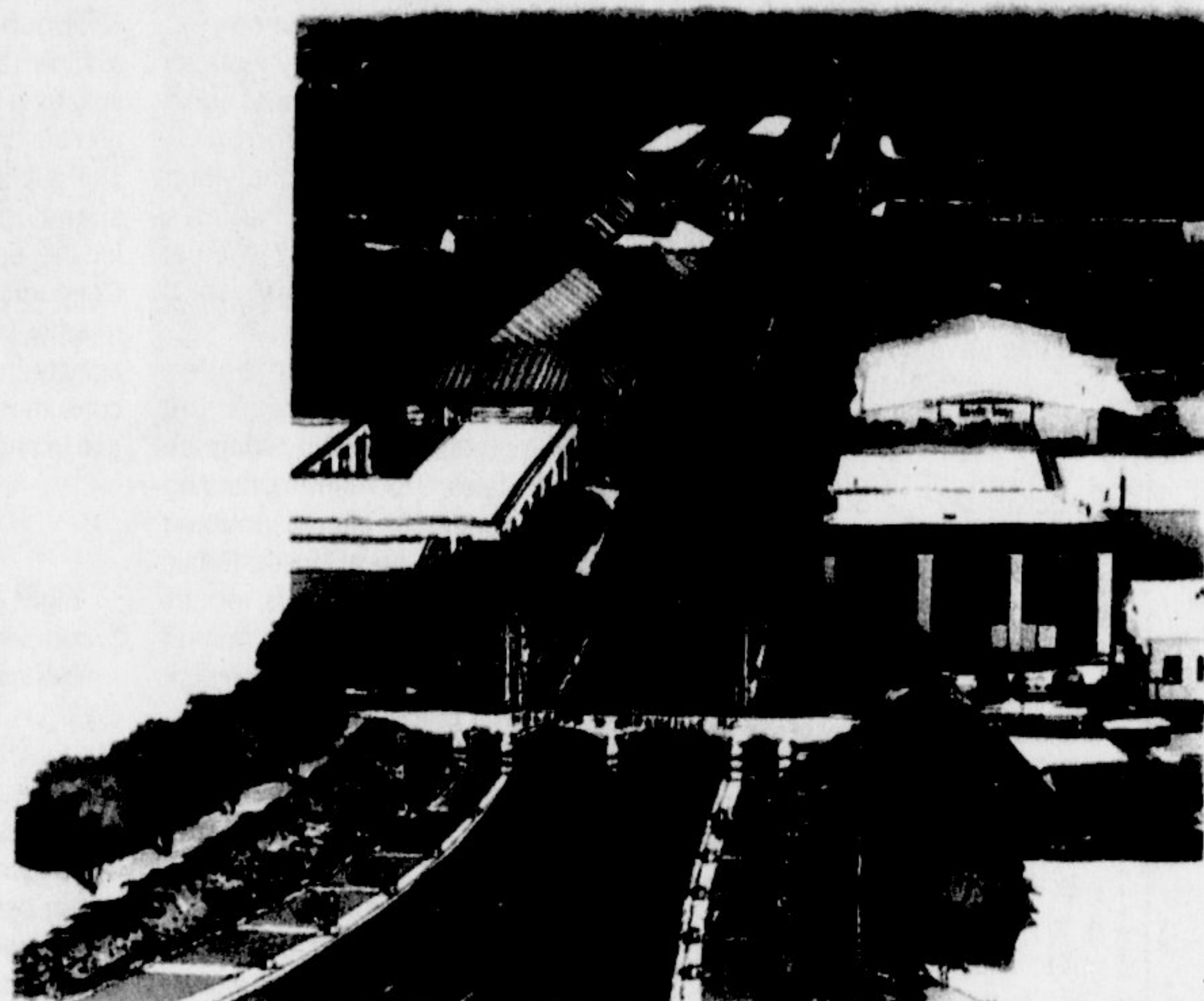
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New look planned for downtown



BEFORE



AFTER

The Redevelopment Commission created a master plan for downtown Greenville. Projects include an extension to link Tenth Street and U.S. 264.

Improvements include hotel, alumni center

LUKE SPENCER
STAFF WRITER

Window shopping in downtown Greenville means peering into mostly empty shop fronts and grabbing lunch at a scant handful of eating establishments. But the community has plans to expand and improve the current cityscape.

In June 2002, the city of Greenville created the Redevelopment Commission, which has since initiated a center-city development plan.

This plan calls for preservation and restoration of historic buildings in the downtown area and elsewhere, revitalization of the economically depressed neighborhoods nearest the downtown area and the construction of the Tenth Street Connector, which will create a

direct route between Highway 264 and ECU's campus.

The Tenth Street Connector has since been approved.

The Chamber of Commerce is discussing how they can become involved with the revitalization efforts.

"Over the last 20 or 30 years, the downtown area has lost the vibrancy it once had. However, with all of the different groups working together on this common goal, we can get it back," said Henry Hinton, chairman of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce.

A major plan, currently being developed, is the construction of a hotel, conference center and an ECU Alumni Center.

Planners hope an Alumni Center would encourage greater alumni involvement in Greenville and encourage more alumni to settle in this area after graduation. This project could also stimulate alumni

donations to the university, Hinton said.

Currently, a wide array of Greenville interests are working to turn downtown into a vibrant area the entire city can enjoy and be proud to showcase. Business owners downtown feel the strain of a worn out area.

One of the important figures in the move toward downtown revitalization is UBE owner Don Edwards.

Edwards is chairman of the city of Greenville's Redevelopment Commission, president of a non-profit organization called Uptown Greenville and managing partner of Uptown Properties LLC, a company that is involved in property management in the downtown area.

Edwards said he is "driven and [has a] passion to dramatically improve the heart of the city."

Edwards said a vibrant, more family friendly down-

town area would be a great asset to ECU and to Greenville because of the positive notoriety on recruitment it could give the university and the community.

"Improving the downtown area could turn Greenville into one of the greatest college towns in America," Edwards said.

"It would be the same kind of draw for ECU that Franklin Street is for [UNC] Chapel Hill, and would really encourage positive development for the university."

Edwards said he envisions a downtown area that is busy at 6 p.m. instead of just heating up at midnight. It would be a place with shops, outdoor cafes and art galleries in addition to pre-existing taverns and nightclubs.

Some students love the current downtown scene but are equally thrilled at the prospective improvements.

see PLANS page A2

Brody students raise money in peer's memory

Tiana Williams endowment fund has \$25,000 goal by May graduation

KRISTIN DAY
STAFF WRITER

Tiana Nicole Williams wanted to be a doctor. The 22-year-old excelled at Meredith College, became a member of two honor societies and planned to go on to complete her education at ECU's Brody School of Medicine.

But she never got the chance to live her dream.

Shortly before her first classes at ECU began, Williams' fiancé, 39-year-old Ronald Valentine Hendrickson, beat her to death with a 29-pound chair during an argument.

Mark Montgomery, Hendrickson's attorney, said the dispute began when Williams apparently had second thoughts about the relationship.

Montgomery said Hendrickson immediately regretted hurting his fiancé and tried to revive her by placing a pillow under her head and a blanket across her body.

Montgomery said Hendrickson confessed to the crime, telling authorities, "I just lost it."

Since the crime was not premeditated, the jury convicted Hendrickson with second-degree murder, and the judge gave him the highest possible sentence - up to 20 years.

But even almost two years after Williams' death, students at Brody honor the memory of the classmate they never knew.

Charlene Davenport, a student in Brody's class of 2006, said she heard about Williams at orientation in August 2002 and the story stuck with her.

Davenport said she always felt like Williams was part of her class - her name



Williams

see TIANA page A2

ECU intern's work in music program helps at-risk kids



Students David Taylor and Rasheed Tyson sit behind keyboards bought by Wintergreen Primary for music education.

Keyboards bought with grant enable teaching

HOLLY O'NEAL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Music education and therapy major Anna Cafezza is learning how musical education is in tune with real world results.

Cafezza interns with Beth Ulfers, a music educator at Wintergreen Primary. They both instruct Communities in Schools' after-school music program for behaviorally and developmentally challenged children, which started at the beginning of this school year.

Every Tuesday afternoon, 12 first-graders and one second-grader from Wintergreen sit at keyboards and learn musical concepts.

The curriculum and keyboards are part of Yamaha's Music in Education Program. With one million student users, it's the fastest-growing music program in America, according to the company's Web site.

CIS provides the children with snacks and pays Ulfers to instruct them. The cost for the year-round program is \$10 per student.

Cafezza said she couldn't have asked for a better experi-

see MUSIC page A3

Computer requirements to change in fall

System specifics vary with major, department

MIKE WIGGINS
STAFF WRITER

The department of Academic Computing Environment has mandated an increase in computer requirements and recommendations for fall 2004.

Certain majors will be required to have access to computers and programs, but the specifications vary moderately from major to major.

There have been several negotiations made by ECU with many big-time computer manufacturers to provide students with the discounts and proper support they deserve.

All detail, including model and price, regarding these requirements will not be disclosed to the public until mid-April, but students will be able to take advantage of the deals in mid-late May.

"I was the coordinator for hardware and through a careful decision making process, we decided what would be most beneficial for each department and its students," said David Stambaugh, computer consultant at Dowdy Student Stores.

"We considered wireless Internet and numerous different processors with each department and the deals we negotiated with our vendors are

just great, students won't find prices anywhere that compare."

There are no requirements mandating anyone to purchase anything, however, ACE strongly advises it because it would offer students increased convenience.

Other schools in our region, such as University of North Carolina, have full computer requirements. However, the cost of owning a computer is incorporated into their tuition and with specific aid programs are available to support the students who can't afford the computers.

The departments that will be affected by ECU's upcoming requirements are Business, Information and Technology majors of the College of Education, who are required to have access to a Multi-media PC (Macs are acceptable).

Biology majors of the College of Arts and Sciences are required to have access to the Basic PC.

In the School of Industry and Technology, Construction Management, Industrial Distribution, Industrial Technology, Networking/Electronics, Planning, Draft/Design and Manufacturing Majors are all required to have access to the Multi-media PC with Open GL program.

Communication Arts majors, when accepted into the Communication Arts program, are required to have access to a Multi-media Mac (Mac OS X). When enrolled in the School of Medicine, a Multi-media PC is required.



ECU students with older computer models may have to upgrade or purchase a new system in order to meet requirements.

There are also "strong recommendations" for other departments to have access to computers as well. Students who are not in any of the required departments but are in the departments of strong recommendation should still follow the guidelines set by ACE.

Both Physics and Anthropology Majors of the College of Arts and Sciences are advised to have access to either a Basic PC or Macintosh.

When enrolled in a graduate program as a Music Education major accepted into the Upper Division of the College of Education, as a Teaching Fellow accepted into the Teaching Fellows program and enrolled in school and as a Theatre Education Major accepted into the Upper Division of the College of Education, the requirements are Basic PC or Mac or Multi-media

Mac. "One of the concerns with the requirements is that it will make our current computer-lab facilities obsolete, but that's not going to be a problem - students aren't required to buy computers," Stambaugh said.

"If their needs are met - and are in agreement with the requirements for their major - with the computers that are provided, they should continue their usage."

With the new requirements implemented in the fall, student usage and computer ownership is expected to increase quite a lot.

"Next year will be completely different in terms of portable electronic culture. It is to my prediction that usage percentages will climb substantially," said Aaron Lucier, assistant direct for

see ACE page A2

Sexual Assault Awareness throughout April

Studies show that 25 - 50 percent of rape and child sexual abuse victims receive some sort of mental health treatment as a result of the victimization. Less than half of those arrested for rape are convicted and 54 percent of all rape prosecutions end in either dismissal or acquittal.

Forecast TEC REQUIRED
Partly Cloudy High of 63

TEC REQUIRED READING
Visit www.theeastcarolinian.com to read President Bush's comments regarding pre-9/11 intelligence.

TEC REQUIRED
Presidential candidate John Kerry says education funding cuts result in denied access to higher education.

TEC REQUIRED
Bolcom and Morris, a husband and wife duo, will perform in Wright Auditorium this Saturday.

TEC REQUIRED
ECU's baseball team will take on the UNC-W Sea Hawks tonight at 7 p.m. at Harrington Field.

TEC REQUIRED
Ownership workshop beginning today at 5:30 p.m. in the Willis Building Auditorium.

NEWS

ERIN RICKERT
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Assistant News Editor

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252.328.6366

Announcements

Business Ownership Workshop

Learn how to get started in business at an introduction to business ownership workshop today from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Willis Building Auditorium.

Deadline

Today is the last day for graduate students to drop courses without grades.

Technology and Teaching Conference

The College of Education will co-sponsor the Southeastern Regional Technology and Teaching Conference at the Greenville Hilton today - Friday. Contact Diane D. Kester at 328-6621 for more information.

Adviser's Appreciation Reception

A reception honoring student advisers will take place Thursday from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in Mendenhall Great Room 3. Students can nominate any adviser at ECU.

Job Searching Workshop

The Office of Student Professional Development offers a workshop on tools students can use in their job searches. The workshop will be Thursday, from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. in 1014 Bate.

Deadline

Thursday is the last day to submit thesis to the graduate school for completion of a degree in the current term.

Social Justice Institute

NPR broadcaster and author Juan Williams will speak in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision Thursday from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. in Hendrix Theatre. Tickets are required but free at the Central Ticket Office in MSC.

International Festival

The City of Greenville will hold its International Festival this Saturday from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Town Commons. There will be multicultural entertainment, foreign cuisine, activities for kids, exhibitors, arts and crafts and ethnic wares. Admittance is free.

Integration Discussion

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. the Board of Education decision, historian David Dennard, Ph.D., political analyst Tinsley Yarborough, Ph.D. and attorney Robert White will discuss the historical, political and legal landscapes of the state before and after the decision. The discussion will be Tuesday, April 20 at 3 p.m. in 221 Mendenhall.

Oratorical Exhibition

The School of Communication sponsors an oratorical exhibition Thursday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Wright Auditorium, featuring the best speakers in COMM 2410 and 2420.

Co-ops and Internships Workshop

The Office of Student Professional Development offers a workshop Thursday, April 22 from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. in 1012 Bate to assist students looking for co-op and internship opportunities.

Education Graduate Fair

The College of Education will hold a graduate program fair Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. - noon at the Speight Building. Information will be available for students who wish to pursue a graduate degree for work in educational settings or obtain alternative licensure. Registration and reception begin at 8:45 a.m.

Dive for a Cure

SCUBA divers from ECU will raise money for the American Cancer Society Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. at Mirges Coliseum pool. Games and events will be provided. All certified divers can participate. Contact Jamie LeLiever at 327-3391 for more information.

Dances of Universal Peace

The Dances of Universal Peace - sacred dances that honor the world's spiritual traditions through song, gentle dance and contemplation - will be Saturday, April 25 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in 244 MSC.

SGA Homecoming Chair

Applications for SGA 2004 Homecoming Chair are due by Friday at midnight. Forms are available at the Mendenhall Information Desk until Friday. Contact Joanna Iwata at 328-4790 for more information.

SGA Cabinet

Applications for the 2004-05 Cabinet are due by Friday. Contact Shannon O'Donnell at 328-4721 for more information.

Commencement Registration

Degree candidates who wish to participate in the May 8 ceremony must make a reservation through Onestop.

Paper Person

The student featured at the top of today's paper is Ryan Fields, sophomore political science major.

News Briefs

Local

Charge reduced for NC student who hid box cutters on planes

BALTIMORE (AP) - Federal authorities have reduced a charge from a felony to a misdemeanor against a North Carolina college student accused of hiding box cutters on four airplanes to expose weaknesses in security, according to court records. Nathaniel Heatwole, 20, is scheduled for an initial appearance and arraignment April 23 in U.S. District Court in Baltimore before Magistrate Judge Paul Grimm. A plea was expected at the hearing, court records show.

Heatwole was released without bail in October to await trial on a charge of taking a dangerous weapon aboard an aircraft. The charge carried a possible 10-year prison sentence. Corporate income tax grows by nearly 40 percent in March

RALEIGH (AP) - State corporate income tax collections surged by nearly 40 percent in March, fattening North Carolina's revenue surplus as Thursday's deadline for individual income tax filing approaches. The state has now collected \$112.5 million more in operating revenues than what the Legislature projected for the first nine months of the fiscal year, according to state fiscal analysts. A month ago, the year-to-date collection surplus was \$35.9 million. The surplus breeds optimism that money will be left over to

help pay for state employee raises, teacher bonuses for test and school enrollment increases when the next fiscal year starts July 1. The General Assembly convenes May 10 to adjust the second year of a two-year spending plan passed last summer.

National

AP Poll: Public has shifted focus toward problems of terrorism and war since last summer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The American public has shifted its attention toward problems like terrorism and war since last summer, when more people said the nation's top problems were economic, an Associated Press poll found.

When asked in an open-ended question last July to name the most important problems facing the United States, 9 percent mentioned war. That number almost doubled to 17 percent in an AP-Ipsos Public Affairs poll taken early this month. The number of people who named terrorism has grown from 14 percent in July to 21 percent now.

The poll offers a glimpse of the nation's leading concerns as the presidential campaign intensifies between President Bush, who generally has posted stronger poll numbers on national security, and Democrat John Kerry, seen as stronger by the public on economic issues.

Retail sales rise by 1.8 percent in March, largest increase in year

WASHINGTON (AP) - Cash-flush consumers kept shopping counters humming last month, catapulting sales at America's retailers to the highest level in a year. The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that retail sales rose by 1.8 percent in March from the previous month - a much stronger performance than economists were forecasting.

Shoppers treated themselves to a wide range of goods in March, splurging on cars, clothes, furniture and building and garden supplies. The latest snapshot of consumers' spending appetite is good news for the economic recovery's vigor. Consumer spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of all economic activity in the United States. Thus, consumer behavior plays an important role in shaping the recovery.

World

Eight employees of Russian company held hostage in Iraq released after day in captivity

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Eight employees of a Russian energy company seized by masked gunmen who broke into their house in Baghdad were released unharmed Tuesday after less than a day in captivity, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Dozens of foreigners from at least 12 countries have reportedly been

kidnapped in recent days. Nine Americans were missing, including a Mississippi man whose abductors have threatened to kill him.

The abduction of the five Ukrainians and three Russians at their residence Monday appeared to be a new tactic by kidnappers. All the past kidnappings have come on the roads, with civilians whisked away after their vehicles come under attack.

Egyptians on Gaza Strip border uneasy about Israeli pullout plans

RAFAH, Egypt (AP) - An Israeli armored convoy, on the hunt for tunnels dug by drugs and weapons smugglers, kicks up clouds of dust that waft across the border into Mohammed Soliman's grocery shop. But such scenes may soon disappear.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says he wants to get out of the Gaza Strip, and Soliman, like many of the 40,000 people living near the border, says he can't wait for it to happen.

Yet at the same time, they worry about the smugglers and the threat of a resurgence of lawlessness that has been held back by Israel's tight security measures.

The 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt left the town of Rafah divided between the two, and the border that runs through it has become ever harder to penetrate as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Gaza Strip has worsened over the past three years.

U.S. troops deploy outside Najaf

NAJAF, Iraq (AP) - A 2,500-strong U.S. force, backed by tanks and artillery, pushed to the outskirts of the Shiite holy city of Najaf on Tuesday for a showdown with a radical cleric. A U.S. military helicopter crashed near Fallujah but there was no indication anyone aboard was hurt, a Marine commander said.

An insurgent said he shot the chopper down with a rocket-propelled grenade, although Marine Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne said it was not known what caused the Sikorsky H-53 to crash. U.S. troops blew up the downed craft to keep it from being looted, Byrne said.

An Associated Press reporter saw it burning 12 miles east of Fallujah in the village of Zawbaa. Gunmen attacked U.S. troops trying to reach the downed aircraft, the reporter said. Witnesses said four U.S. soldiers were shot by insurgents.

On Monday, meanwhile, Gen. John Abizaid, the top commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, said he has asked Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to adjust the U.S. troop rotation into and out of Iraq this spring so that U.S. commanders can have the use of perhaps 10,000 more soldiers than they otherwise would have.

On the way to Najaf, the U.S. force's 80-vehicle convoy was ambushed Monday night by gunmen firing small arms and setting off roadside bombs north of the city. One soldier was killed and an American civilian contractor was wounded, officers in the convoy said.

The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, said their mission was to "capture or kill" radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Units set up a cordon on approaches to the city, barring militiamen from leaving. Iraqi leaders launched hurried negotiations aimed at averting a U.S. assault on the city, site of the holiest Shiite site, the Imam Ali Shrine. Al-Sadr was photographed by Associated Press Television News leaving the shrine Tuesday.

The sons of Iraq's three grand ayatollahs - including the most powerful one, Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani - met al-Sadr Monday night in his Najaf office and assured him of their opposition to any U.S. strike.

"They agreed not to allow any hostile act against Sayyed Moqtada al-Sadr and the city of Najaf," said a person at the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The delegation also was reportedly trying to work out a compromise to prevent a U.S. attack.

Col. Dana J.H. Pittard, the commander of the force, said his troops were aware that a "single shot in Najaf" by U.S. soldiers could outrage Iraq's powerful Shiite majority.

"Look at this as the Shiite Vatican," Pittard said before the deployment.

The grand ayatollahs - older, moderate leaders with immense influence among Shiites - have long kept the young, fiercely anti-American al-Sadr at arm's

length. The dispatch of the delegation reflected the eagerness to avoid bloodshed in Najaf and the new influence that the uprising by the al-Mahdi Army's militia has brought al-Sadr.

In a concession to American demands, al-Sadr ordered his militiamen out of police stations and government buildings in Najaf and the nearby cities of Karbala and Kufa. Police were back in their stations and on patrols, while al-Sadr black-garbed gunmen largely stayed out of sight.

But the militia rebuffed a U.S. demand to disband.

Earlier Tuesday, al-Sadr militiamen based in the main mosque in the nearby city of Kufa opened fire on a passing patrol of Spanish forces, prompting a short gun battle.

Overnight, a mortar was fired at the Spanish base between Kufa and Najaf, and Spanish forces

repelled an attack on a nearby water distillation plant.

While a cease-fire has kept Fallujah relatively calm for four days, the area between the besieged city and Baghdad has seen heavy clashes by insurgents and U.S. forces. An Apache helicopter was shot down Sunday in nearby Abu Ghraib, killing its two crewmembers.

Before Tuesday's helicopter crash, a U.S. convoy was attacked near the same site, and two Humvees and a truck were burning, said witnesses, who also reported U.S. casualties.

The U.S. military said about 70 Americans and 700 insurgents had been killed this month, the bloodiest since the fall of Baghdad a year ago with U.S.-led forces fighting on three fronts: against Sunni insurgents in Fallujah, Shiite militiamen in the south and gunmen in Baghdad and on its outskirts.

Police Department said there is no reported history of violence for Hendrickson, so they do not know if he ever struck Williams prior to the incident.

However, Davenport does not see justice in an appeal.

"In my opinion, he [Hendrickson] killed her in cold blood," Davenport said.

"She had a life ahead of her. She was going to be a doctor, and he took all that away."

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

Tiana from page A1

was even printed on the class T-Shirt.

Andy Southerland, vice president of Brody's class of 2006, with the help of Davenport and others, has started an endowment fund in Williams' honor.

The students recently held a yard sale at the old Accu-Copy Building to raise money toward a \$25,000 scholarship they hope to give away by graduation.

Southerland said the students' goal was to make \$2,500, but by the end of the day, they earned

about \$3,500.

He said the students plan to gain half of the scholarship money through fundraisers and the other half by donations. In the fall, they plan to begin a letter-writing campaign to people they think may donate.

Southerland said they are trying to bring something positive out of such a tragedy, and by giving back to the community the students are able to remember why they are in medical school and how lucky they are.

Davenport said the goal is to raise awareness of domestic violence in the community as well as recognize Williams.

Currently, Montgomery and Hendrickson are attempting to appeal the court's decision.

Montgomery said the punishment Hendrickson received was too harsh considering there was no malice; it was a crime of passion.

Montgomery said he wants the charge dropped to manslaughter. "If they [the jury] had a choice, they would have picked manslaughter," said Montgomery.

Jim Sughrue of the Raleigh



The U.S. military said this month was the bloodiest since Baghdad's fall a year ago.

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Ace from page A1

Assignments and Technology.

"Many students don't use their computer's wireless capabilities even though it's one of the most convenient advantages they have - in the past we've done surveys on how many people actually use the privilege and only about 50 percent do. It is noted that on and around the ECU campus many of the students use their computers primarily for staying in contact with their friends using AOL Instant Messenger or other services."

"It's really moved from a novelty to a utility - Internet usage, that is - as important as heat and water. ACE requirement is the next step toward satisfying this need," Lucier said.

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

Plans from page A1

"I love to go hit up the clubs, but it would be great to be able to walk downtown in the early evening and chill out for a while before you went dancing," said Ryan Phillips, junior biochemistry major.

"Right now, there just isn't much to do before 10 or 11 at night."

Other students are excited by the idea of a new downtown scene.

"I'm not a big club person right now, but I'd definitely like to go hang out in the kind of atmosphere they're talking about having," said Mathew Roehrich, sophomore jazz performance major.

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

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John Kerry courts young voters, warns about rising cost of higher education

BOSTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry says deep cuts in education spending at the state level have forced college tuitions so high that tens of thousands of young people have been denied access to higher education since President Bush took office.

That's the message Kerry is taking to college campuses this week at events designed to rally younger voters to his campaign. He heads to the University of Rhode Island on Tuesday.

The Massachusetts senator opened the tour Monday at the University of New Hampshire, where he used a noisy campus rally to renew his call for a comprehensive commitment to national service by all. He told about 1,000 students that "change starts with you" as he proposed to link tuition aid to national service.

Kerry also faced questions about Iraq when he dropped in on a class on U.S. foreign policy. The first question put to him by a student asked what he would do to solve the "mess

in Iraq." Kerry said he would keep the United States in control of the military operation in Iraq, and repeated his call for greater international involvement in the effort to stabilize and rebuild the country.

"I would summon the world to an effort the world has a stake in," he said.

Kerry voted to authorize the war with Iraq, but has become increasingly critical of what he says is President Bush's unilateral approach to the conflict. He also voted against \$87 billion in aid for U.S. troops and to pay for the reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kerry said he would do the opposite of Bush and not push away other nations. He also said he would approach the United Nations for help identifying who should be involved in the coming transfer of power to the Iraqis.

"The president has been silent on this. The administration hasn't described who they're transferring authority to in about 80 days," Kerry said, referring to the administration's June 30 deadline.



John Kerry is traveling to colleges and telling students to vote.

Bush was holding a news conference Tuesday night to address rising casualties and instability in Iraq.

On higher education, Kerry's campaign says the average cost of tuition at public colleges increased 28 percent between the 2000-2001 and 2003-2004 school years — rising to \$4,694 from \$3,478.

When adjusted for inflation, Kerry's campaign said

the increase amounts to 13 percent during the period, which it claims is the largest increase on record.

Kerry education adviser Robert Gordon said 220,000 people were priced out of college as a result. He said states facing a combined \$200 billion deficit had little choice but to make painful spending cuts, including to higher education.

Music from page A1

...that they can change," Cafezza said.

Ulfers said the curriculum's impact on students has been noteworthy.

"We've found reading scores have improved significantly in every child," said Ulfers.

"There's been a great improvement with behavior ... they're more independent workers, and they have higher self-esteem."

As an educational tool, music is far reaching.

"Music plays a part in all of our lives. It's all around us," Ulfers said.

Ulfers said the aspect of music to teach all learning

styles and incorporate both hemispheres in a learner's brain produces results, and the impression on students' lives is permanent.

"I guarantee when these children grow up, they won't remember their reading tests — they'll remember their piano keyboard and their music class," Ulfers said.

Kathryn Lennox, executive director of CIS, said she remembered the first day her organization began the after school musical education program.

A little girl ran through Wintergreen's door and shouted excitedly, "I'm here for my piano class!"

Lennox said that excitement continues today on the faces of the students. CIS is a national organization. Pitt County's chapter partners with schools in the area to help provide after school programs.

"It gives us an opportunity to be involved in a program that helps more kids," said Lennox.

In the future, Wintergreen and CIS hope to further collaborate with ECU's School of Music in educating children musically.

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

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 BAR-B-Q CHICKEN LUNCH 11:00 A.M. TILL 1:00 P.M.
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OPINION

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

Our View

The only thing worth watching this year has been LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony revitalizing their respective teams (Cleveland Cavaliers and Denver Nuggets).

Does anyone care that the NBA season ends this Wednesday and the playoffs start Saturday?

If you do, you probably shouldn't, there isn't much to be excited about.

This has been without a doubt one of the worst NBA seasons in recent memory. The only thing worth watching this year has been LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony revitalizing their respective teams (Cleveland Cavaliers and Denver Nuggets).

But even at that, these two phenoms have only faced off against each other twice and both games were within the first month and a half of the season.

Scoring in the league is at one of its all-time lows. Rarely has anyone seen a year in which teams have scored less than 100 points in so many games.

Only two teams in the entire 30-team league average over 100 per game and they are the Dallas Mavericks and Sacramento Kings, both not surprisingly being Western Conference teams.

It's not much of a feat for those two clubs, especially considering that the Mavs wouldn't be in the vicinity of the playoffs if they didn't score at least 100 points every game. They continually miss out on that thing called playing defense.

Not to mention the fact that only six — yes, six — Eastern Conference teams have a record of .500 or above, and two of them are right at .500. That means that more than half of the Eastern teams have lost more than half of their games.

However, the Western conference has only four teams with sub-par records, meaning that every Western team in the post-season will have won half or more of their regular season games. If anyone has any doubt what conference will take the NBA title this year, they need to have their head examined.

It's that lopsidedness that makes the NBA so unattractive. If that doesn't speak volumes to how pitiful NBA ball has been this year, what does?

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.



In My Opinion

Women in two states weren't missing, but decency was

(KRT)—Lesson No. 1 of a thoroughly foolish April week:

If you're stupid enough to stage a kidnapping, don't buy your own duct tape at the Wal-Mart.

In a nation increasingly obsessed over abductions—mostly because the TV news is obsessed over ratings—two hoaxes were busted when police said the "victims" were caught on video buying duct tape.

Honor student Audrey Seiler, 20, of Wisconsin is now portrayed in news reports as a misguided little angel in need of counseling. Meanwhile, two drama queens in Texas—Rebecca "Nicole" Watson, 20, and Bree Hansard, 23—are whacked-out losers. They had jumped in their car trunk and used their cell phone to report they were abducted.

The three were never kidnapped, police in both Wisconsin and Texas now say.

And they weren't victims. But that doesn't mean there were no victims.

WE were the victims. I can think of plenty of victims left behind by the hoaxes in two states:

Honest women reporting genuine attacks — not only kidnappings by strangers, but also beatings, stalking, harassment or rape.

Children who might be kidnapped tomorrow and lost forever in the split second when law officers must ask, "You're sure this couldn't be a hoax?"

Police who wasted hours

and gut-wrenching worry on young people who apparently chose to bring their personal melodramas to a public stage.

Taxpayers who spent precious public dollars — \$75,000 so far in the Wisconsin case — so police could solve reported kidnappings and, now, so police can pursue possible criminal cases on charges of filing a false police report.

Anyone who needed the police in Madison, Wis., or Fort Worth, Texas, and had to wait longer than necessary because officers were desperately searching for a missing person, particularly in the few hours while Watson and Hansard led police by cell phone to the car trunk where they were hidden.

Ratings-mad TV reporters and editors tricked into giving both hoaxes instant national news coverage.

OK. So I don't feel "too" sorry for the TV news types.

"It's almost like this is the 'hoax du jour,'" said Tarrant County, Texas, Sheriff Dee Anderson, familiar with missing-persons searches not only as a law officer but also as a pioneer of the Amber Alert plan, which now helps rescue children nationwide.

"I am really reluctant to criticize the media, because the press has been so much help with the Amber Alert. But what you're seeing is a reaction to the news coverage. ... It's easy to sit home and watch TV and see all the attention

(being kidnapped) gets."

Anderson, a former Arlington police spokesman and the son of a newspaper sports editor and columnist from the Fort Worth Press, urged news reporters and editors to report feared kidnappings cautiously until the danger is confirmed.

"The more false abductions get reported, the more it hurts us when we have a legitimate case," he said. "We need to slow down a little. ... The TV stations all want to say, 'You saw it first on Channel Whatever!' They never come back and say, 'Sure, it was wrong — but you saw it here first!'"

The punishment for faking your own abduction ranges from weak to zero.

In Texas, it's a Class C misdemeanor, the equivalent of a traffic ticket, to give police a false report about a missing person or child. But it's also a stronger Class B misdemeanor to give police any kind of false crime report.

In the Fort Worth case, Watson is free on \$5,000 bail awaiting trial on a Class B charge. An arrest warrant has been issued for Hansard.

Watson has said she took "a lot" of a prescription anti-anxiety medication, and "then I woke up in the trunk." A Wal-Mart surveillance tape shows Watson and Hansard buying duct tape about 4 a.m. on March 24, the morning they called police from their car trunk.

In Madison, Seiler had

claimed that her abductor used a knife and duct tape. Police have said a store gave them security video of Seiler buying cough syrup, a rope, a knife and duct tape. A video at her apartment complex showed her leaving alone.

Madison Mayor David Cieslewicz has said police suspected a hoax but did the right thing in pursuing the disappearance.

I have not seen any TV network executives say whether they did the right thing when they turned a fishy Wisconsin abduction report into national news.

Fort Worth and Madison police were not the only law officers to encounter April fools last week.

In Temple, Texas, a 38-year-old Taylor woman found bleeding from superficial knife cuts told police that she had been abducted from a dollar store, stabbed, bound and robbed.

She later admitted to police that she made up the story, according to the *Taylor Daily Press*. A sister was quoted as saying the woman had been under a doctor's care for stress and anxiety.

"Our deepest apologies go out to anyone who was alarmed or frightened by this incident," the sister was quoted as saying.

It's about time somebody apologized for wasting our time, money and concern.

I hope the TV news caught that on video.

In My Opinion

Young voters want answers, not parties or trucks

(KRT)—One by one, the college-age students looked into the camera and asked presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry about his views on foreign policy, gay marriage, rising college tuition and whether he ever Googled himself.

Kerry mostly stuck to his campaign speech as he deftly answered each query during an interview with Gideon Yago that aired Tuesday night on MTV.

Kerry's foreign policy would build coalitions with allies, he supports civil unions, he has a plan to help make college affordable and — yes, he's Googled himself.

Kerry's appearance was part of MTV's "Choose or Lose 2004" campaign to mobilize young voters.

The network's viewers and people under age 30 make up a powerful voting bloc, and pop culture trendsetters are reaching out to them this year.

Along with the venerable Rock the Vote and MTV, Russell Simmons' Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and the WWE's Smackdown Your Vote are encouraging young people to vote.

The Declare Yourself campaign brings spoken word performances and concerts to college campuses. They are all

part of a 100-plus coalition of organizations striving to register 20 million new young voters.

Registration is good PR for these groups, but education is critical if these organizations really hope young people will affect this year's election.

Right now, neither party has articulated an agenda that specifically addresses the concerns of Gens X and Y.

Instead, talk of jobs, health care and the war on terrorism is lumped into broader campaign rhetoric that isn't easily decipherable.

Chris Jelstrup, 24, a Charlotte, N.C., market analyst, said the candidates talk about health care and Social Security, which doesn't interest him.

"That means nothing. To me, that's an old person's issue," he said.

Jelstrup said he wasn't impressed by President Bush or Kerry, the likely Democratic nominee. Brandon Banner agreed.

"Eighty percent of what they're talking about doesn't affect me or my family," said Banner, 24, a Charlotte stockbroker.

The void between young voters and politicians received national attention in March because

Philadelphia-based retailer Urban Outfitters was selling "Voting is for Old People" T-shirts.

Political think tanks and voters of all ages criticized the slogan as apathetic.

It was neither. The shirt focused attention on how and whether the parties and candidates are catering to young voters.

Efforts thus far haven't been impressive. Yes, the Republican National Committee's voter registration tractor-trailer, equipped with video games, is touring college campuses. It appeared on MTV's "TRL" two weeks ago.

And the Democratic National Committee has hosted fund-raisers in trendy nightclubs in Washington and Atlanta.

Young voters are too savvy to be swayed by star-studded parties and cool trucks.

They see their friends and relatives fighting and dying in Iraq, while they face rising college tuition bills, exorbitant health-care costs and a jobless economy.

They want answers, not patronizing outreach. According to a Declare Yourself survey, 61 percent of people 18 to 29 who aren't registered to vote say they don't know enough about the candidates and about politics or the issues. It's easy to

understand why.

The glut of information on the Internet is unwieldy.

Too often, links to various Web sites don't work or don't provide comprehensive information about specific issues.

Groups interested in reaching young voters could learn from Charlotte's MeckPAC, which sends questionnaires to political candidates about issues of concern to gays and lesbians, such as their feelings on domestic partnership benefits.

The political action committee then makes endorsements based on the candidates' responses and other factors.

MTV, Hip-Hop Summit and WWE could create a voting guide geared toward young adult issues without endorsing a particular candidate.

The Kerry interview on MTV is a step toward educating young voters, but it's only a step.

Entertainment organizations are more in touch with the concerns of young adults than national political parties.

Voter registration drives are good marketing strategies, but now is the time for pop culture trendsetters to impact something other than their bottom lines.

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Report says Ashcroft rejected request to fund response to terrorist threats

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI failed miserably over several years to reorganize and respond to a steadily growing threat of terrorism, and Attorney General John Ashcroft rejected an appeal from the agency for more funding on the day before al-Qaida struck, the commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks said Tuesday.

"On Sept. 11, the FBI was limited in several areas," the commission said in a staff report. It cited "limited intelligence collection and strategic analysis capabilities, a limited capacity to share information both internally and externally, insufficient training, an overly complex legal regime and inadequate resources."

The commission released its unflinchingly critical report at the outset of two days of hearings from several current and former officials at the Justice Department and FBI.

Former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh was the first to take the witness chair.

"We had a very effective program with respect to counterterrorism prior to Sept. 11 given the resources that we had," he said.

That seemed a reference to internal bureaucratic wars covered in part in the commission staff report.

Former Attorney General Janet Reno said that while the FBI never seemed to have sufficient resources, "Director Freeh seemed unwilling to shift



Attorney General John Ashcroft denied a request to fund counterterrorism the day before al-Qaida attacked.

resources to terrorism from other areas such as violent crime."

On Sept. 11, 2001, the commission staff said, "about 1,300 agents, or 6 percent of the FBI's total personnel, worked on counterterrorism."

Reno was the day's second witness, following Freeh.

Cofer Black, the former head of CIA counterterrorism center, former acting FBI Director Thomas Pickard and Ashcroft also were on the witness list for the day.

The report said the FBI had an information system that was outdated before it was installed, further hampering efforts to battle terrorism. The report also cited legal impediments — the need to separate the fruits of intelligence from criminal prosecution — as complicating anti-terrorism efforts.

Creation of a new Investigative Services Division in 1999 was a failure, the commission said, adding that 66 percent of the FBI's analysts were "not qualified to perform analytical duties."

A new counterterrorism strategy a year later again fell woefully short, and a review in 2001 showed that "almost every FBI field office's counterterrorism program was assessed to be operating at far below 'maximum capacity.'"

"The FBI's counterterrorism strategy was not a focus of the Justice Department in 2001," the first year of the Bush administration, it said.

Ashcroft has testified previously that the Justice Department had "no higher priority" than protecting Americans from terrorism at home and abroad.

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Audit critical of Medicaid funding to N.C.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina's Medicaid office made \$1.2 billion in improper payments to dozens of hospitals over several years, according to a blistering state audit released Tuesday.

The State Auditor's Office, in a review of the Division of Medical Assistance, cited \$414 million in federal dollars that potentially could have to be paid back.

The audit findings "represent a clear picture of a program that has been out of control," deputy auditor Wesley Ray said at a news conference releasing the findings.

The payments involved additional money distributed to hospitals that serve many poor or uninsured patients through what's called the disproportionate share hospital program.

The review found that state Medicaid officials made \$240 million in payments to hospitals that didn't qualify for

the money.

The audit also said the division used an outdated formula to calculate outpatient costs, resulting in \$228 million in overpayments from 2000 to 2003. The division also knowingly used old data to cal-

culate Medicaid inpatient costs to hospitals, resulting in an overpayment of \$190 million.

The state's share for these costs were about 37 percent, with the remainder coming from the federal government.



Improper payments to North Carolina hospitals by Medicaid totaled \$1.2 billion over several years.

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Belly Dance for Fun & Fitness! Spring classes (April-June) start Tuesday. For women of all ages. Ten students per class. To register call Donna 355-5150.

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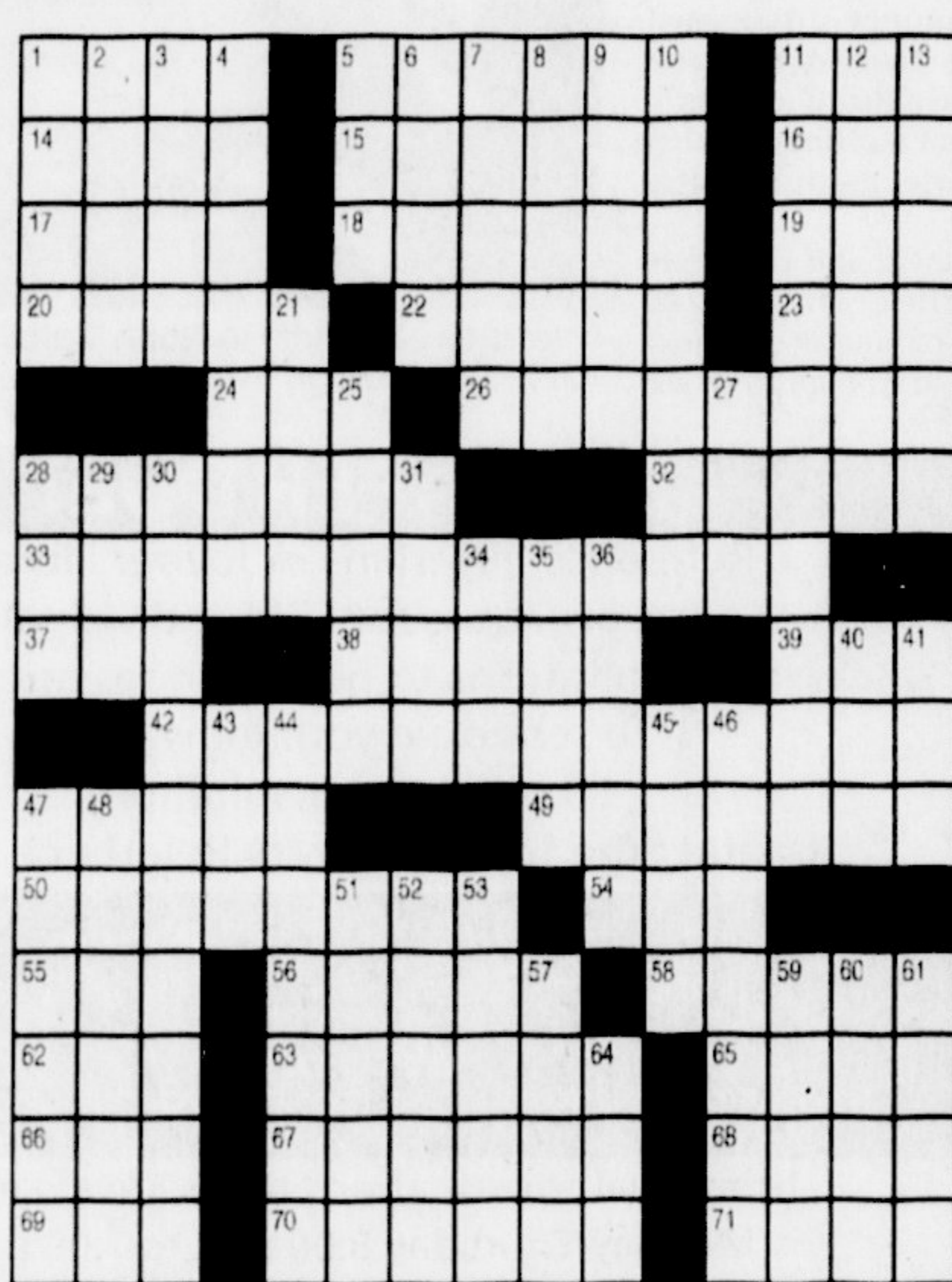
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 - Actress Bergman
 - Bound
 - Cash in Como
 - Shaken instrument
 - Choler
 - Exploits
 - Unit of retinal illumination
 - Abyss
 - Follower of Zeno
 - Stupefying
 - Golf norm
 - Be penitent
 - Rocket top
 - Swarms all over
 - Nearby
 - Caller's index
 - Farm pen
 - Isolated
 - Clairvoyant's letters
 - Eventually
 - Meat jelly
 - For all appearances
 - Returns the incumbent
 - Actor Curry
 - Bub
 - French city
 - Planter
 - Pose questions
 - Recorded
 - River of Sudan
 - Female rabbit
 - Like some cakes
 - Capri or Man
 - In addition
 - Threaded fasteners
 - Mimicked



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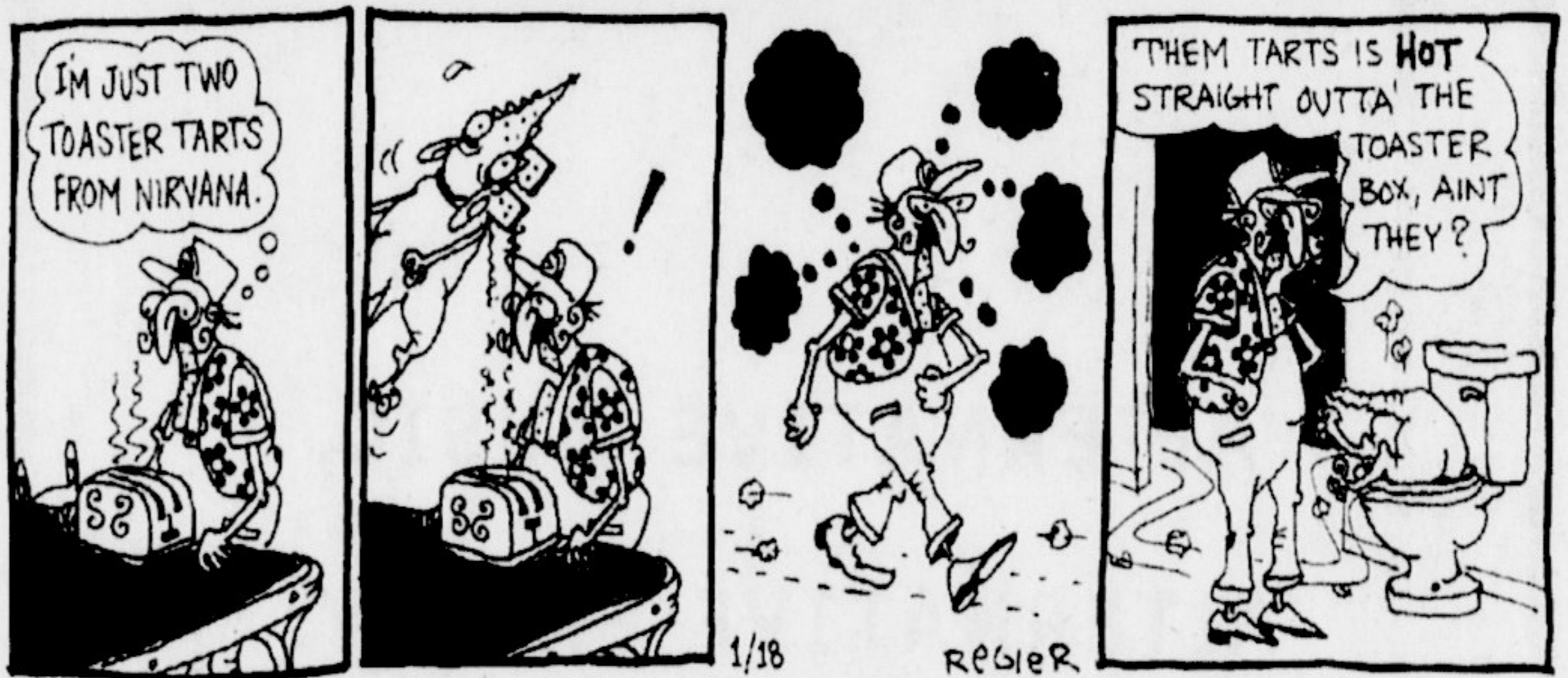
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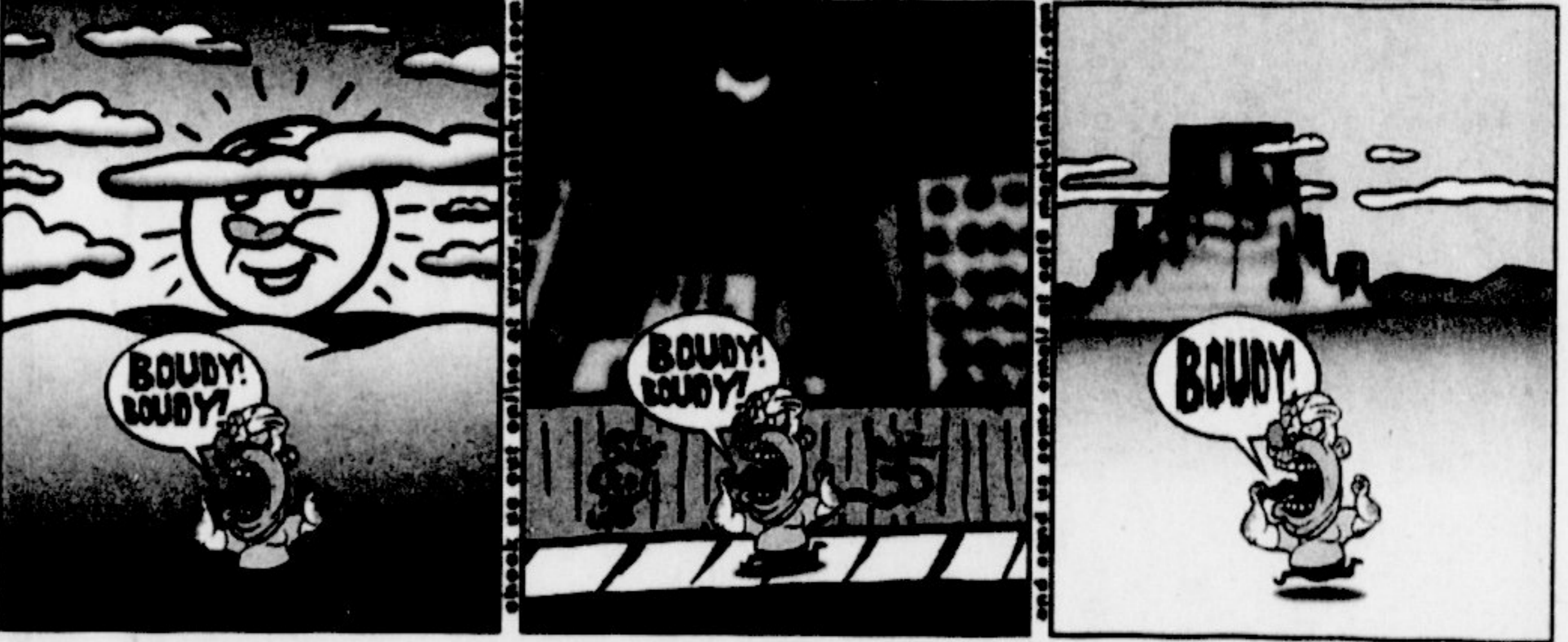
- DOWN**
- Something extra
 - Itemization
 - Popular cookie
 - Film featuring Brando as Napoleon
 - Little devil
 - Okinawa port
 - Developed to maturity
 - Relation in degree
 - Taskbar images
 - Actress Beverly
 - Spots for wallets
 - Journalist Fallaci
 - Small seabird
 - Zodiac connection
 - "_ Frome"
 - Dove sound
 - Possessive pronoun
 - Seine
 - Fouled by stains
 - Fish choice
 - Scand. country
 - Slaughter in Cooperstown
 - French topper
 - Hardened
 - PGA member
 - Tanker's cargo
 - Spotted wildcats
 - Hilo garlands
 - Strong-smelling gas
 - Fleet
 - Add herbs
 - Nobody's fool
 - Carrier
 - Catch
 - Gush forth
 - Tendril
 - Model
 - Macpherson
 - Marsh growth
 - Begley and Meese

PAUL

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CAPTAIN RIBMAN in *The Sick's Scents* by Sprengelmeyer & Davis

POLLY CURRECT, ACE REPORTER FOR *THE MEATROPOLIS DAILY WEEKLY*, TOSSES A "SOFTBALL" QUESTION TO AMERICA'S MOST WANTED SUPERHERO...



FEATURES

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252.328.6366

Did You Know?

- Actress Sarah Michelle Gellar (1977) and comedian/actor Steve Martin (1945) both call today their birthday.
- This month is International Customer Loyalty Month.
- Today is International Moment of Laughter Day.
- On this day in 1828, the first dictionary of American English was published.

Announcements

Master Class

The School of Music presents a master class with Heidi Grant Murphy, soprano with the Metropolitan Opera and distinguished visiting professor from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. today in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. This event is free.

Films

The Student Union Films Committee presents *Girl With a Pearl Earring* today at 7 p.m., Thursday at 9:30 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m. and midnight, Saturday at 9:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. *Along Came Polly* is showing today at 9:30 p.m., Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 9:30 p.m., Saturday at 7 p.m. and midnight and Sunday at 3 p.m. All movies are free with a student ID and are located in the Hendrix Theatre. For more information, call 328-4700.

Open Mic Night

The Student Union Popular Entertainment Committee presents an open mic night from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. today in the Pirate Underground. This event is free.

Chinese Acrobats

The Student Union presents a performance by Chinese Acrobats at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 15 in Wright Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Central Ticket Office at 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

'The Rivals'

The ECU/Loessin Playhouse presents *The Rivals* on Thursday, April 15 through Tuesday, April 20 in McGinnis Theatre. Shows begin at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, April 18. Tickets can be purchased by calling the ECU Central Ticket Office at 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Salsa Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers will sponsor a salsa dance on Friday, April 16 in the Willis Building. Lessons are at 7:30 p.m. and the dance begins at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 for students, \$5 for Folk Arts Society members and \$8 for the general public.

Top Fives

Top five movies

1. *The Passion of the Christ*
2. *Hellboy*
3. *The Alamo*
4. *Johnson Family Vacation*
5. *Walking Tall*

Top five albums

1. Usher, *Confessions*
2. Janet Jackson, *Damita Jo*
3. Various Artists, *Now 15*
4. Lil' Flip, *U Gotta Feel Me*
5. Aerosmith, *Honkin' On Bobo*

Top five singles

1. "Yeah!", Usher featuring Lil Jon & Ludacris
2. "This Love," Maroon 5
3. "Toxic," Britney Spears
4. "My Immortal," Evanescence
5. "With You," Jessica Simpson

Top five DVDs

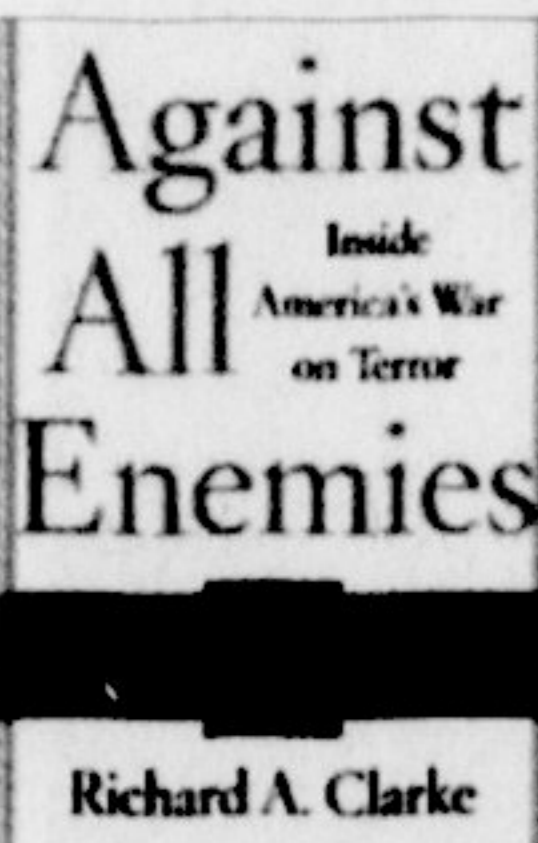
1. *Gothika*
2. *The Rundown*
3. *Mona Lisa Smile*
4. *School of Rock*
5. *Cold Creek Manor*

Top five TV

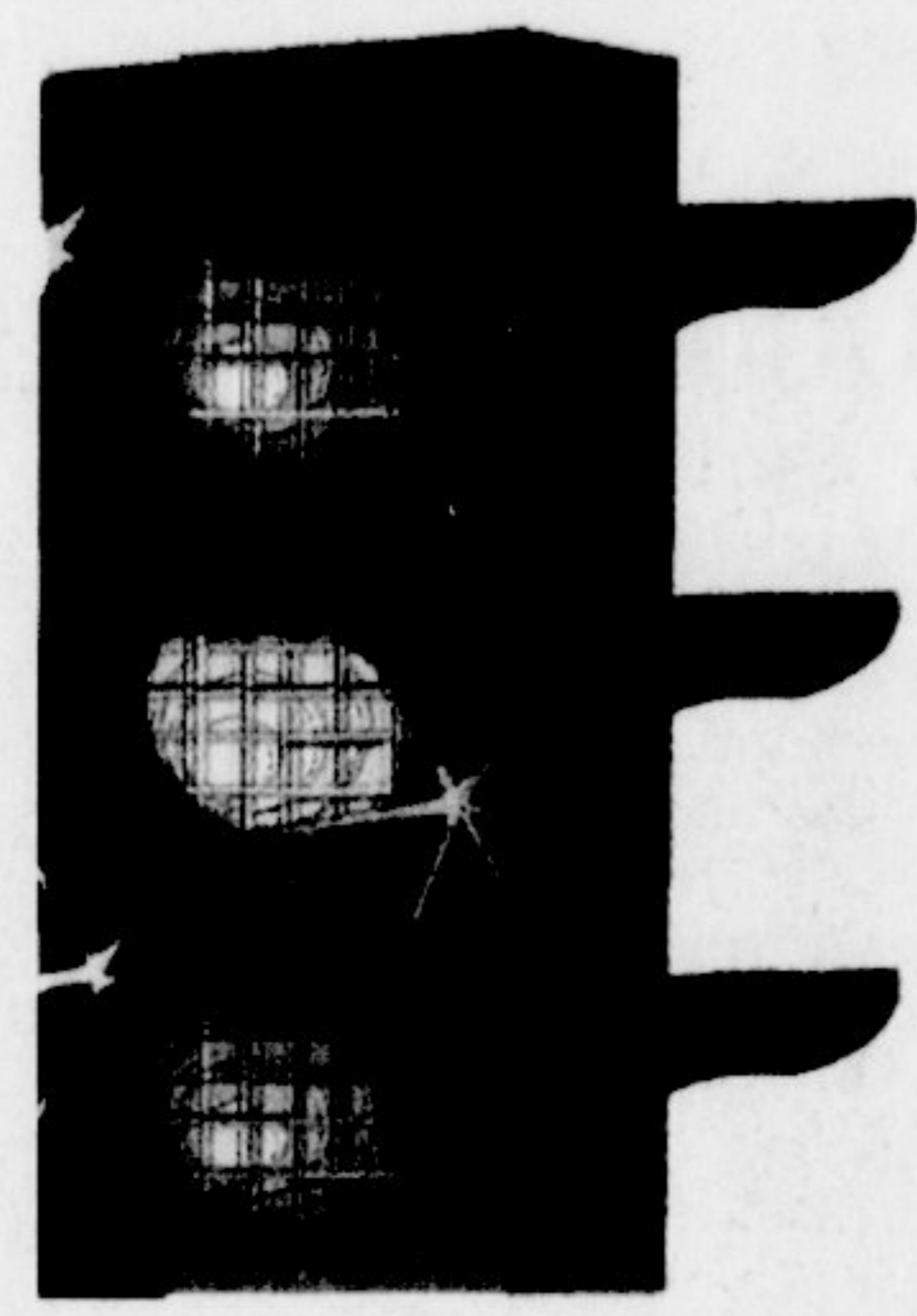
1. "CSI" (CBS)
2. "American Idol" - Tuesday (FOX)
3. "American Idol" - Wednesday (FOX)
4. "Apprentice" (NBC)
5. "CSI: Miami" (CBS)

Top five books

1. *Against All Enemies: America's Inside War on Terror*, Richard A. Clark
2. *Glorious Appearing*, Tim LeHaye & Jerry Jenkins
3. *Angels & Demons*, Dan Brown
4. *Birth Right*, Nora Roberts
5. *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown



Start your engines



Great Race speeds down College Hill

RACHEL LANDEN
SENIOR WRITER

If you have the need for speed, then you won't want to miss ECU and Partners in Campus Living's third annual Great Race on College Hill.

Scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. today, the Great Race is a three-hour event where students get the opportunity to compete in pushcart races down College Hill Drive.

The 15 carts used in the races are one-person bobsleds built by Recreational Services.

"They are authentic, primitive race carts," said Todd King, assistant director for marketing and special events for recreational services.

They are indeed primitive, essentially a cross between a bobsled and a car propelled by the likes of Fred Flintstone.

A two-person team, consisting of a pusher to provide the initial impetus and a driver to steer down the hill, races each cart.

Three divisions exist for competition: male-male, female-female and co-ed. Participants may register in more than one category to compete for cash prizes.

It is important to arrive early for registration in order to guarantee a chance at racing and winning. Registration will begin at 3:30 p.m. on the day of the race, 30 minutes before bystanders can watch the first carts take off down the Hill.

"It is a fun afternoon for both participants and spectators," King said.

Last year, a total of 400 races took place during the event, which was held in the evening and through the nighttime hours. Streetlights illuminated the roadway for races after the sun went down.

This year, however, the Great Race should be completed before sunset. Between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., racers will go down the Hill two carts at a time and will be racing against the clock.

The four teams with the best times in each division will go on to race for the top prizes in head-to-head, single elimination races beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The team with the fastest time in each category will receive a cash prize of \$200. The second

place teams will get \$100 and third place will take home \$50.

"I'm looking forward to the Great Race," said Joe Lytle, sophomore history major.

"It's going to be so much fun out there racing and hanging out with everyone. For me, it will be a chance to do something new, and I really think my partner and I have got a good chance at winning it all."

No matter how well or how badly a team does, everyone that races will get a t-shirt just for participating in the event.

For those with that extra competitive edge and looking for tricks of the trade, King does offer some advice.

"Keep your cart under control and go straight. Straight is faster," King said.

Still, if the idea of racing down the Hill in a cart does not thrill you, or if the thrill is too terrific to handle, other activities will coincide with the Great Race.

"The College Hill hall governments are planning the block party on the Hill," said Stephanie Evans, senior health education and promotion major.

"The block party started in the spring of 2001 as a small event. PiCL joined us the following spring, and it's been an annual joint event."

A remote-controlled NASCAR game will be set up, as well as an obstacle course and the usual inflatable games.

Of course, it wouldn't be a party without food, and there should be plenty of refreshments for everyone involved.

"It is a great event for students to get out, have some fun and enjoy the sunny days of spring," Evans said.

To ensure that this year's race goes off without a hitch, ECU Parking and Transportation will close College Hill to traffic from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Wednesday. Bus routes will be slightly modified with drop-offs at Belk and the lot at the bottom of the Hill.

If rain threatens to interfere with the Great Race, organizers will have to postpone with a rain date set for Thursday, April 15.

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



Bolcom, Morris make their way to campus

Husband and wife duo to perform Saturday in Wright Auditorium

LAURA PEKAREK
STAFF WRITER

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and pianist William Bolcom, accompanied by his wife soprano Joan Morris, will captivate audiences with popular American songs on April 17 at 8 p.m.

They act started more than 30 years ago when Bolcom asked Morris, his then-girlfriend, to join him in a program he was playing for Mohawk Trail Concerts.

This performance was only the second time that they played together, but definitely not the last. This particular performance is what started them on their journey to amazing audiences.

With their renditions of songs from the late 19th century through the 1920s and 1930s, as well as some of Bolcom's own compositions, they are a unique



Soloist Joan Morris, accompanied by her husband William Bolcom, will perform on Thursday.

duo. Bolcom is originally from Seattle, Wash. He exemplified musical talent and interest at a very young age.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts

from the University of Washington and studied everywhere from California to Paris. He earned his doctorate in composition in 1964 from Stanford University.

A talented pianist and com-

poser, Bolcom wrote many scores and recorded many songs, but didn't leave his love for music there.

He has taught music at the see BOLCOM page B2

Controversy stirs plot in 'Da Vinci' success 'Don Giovanni' presented by ECU School of Music

(KRT)—Dan Brown, a relative unknown before publishing *The Da Vinci Code* (Doubleday, \$24.95), is not, it must be said, the world's smoothest writer. But no matter.

When even a jaded books editor finds herself bleary-eyed at 1:30 a.m. on a weeknight, vowing to read just one more chapter — just one more, just one — then it's safe to say that fast-paced plotting has trumped limping prose.

Brown tells his story in 105 brief cinematic chapters, and the suspense is relentless. And that's a good thing. He needs it to carry along his hero, Robert Langdon, who is more a mouthpiece for arcane theories than a man of action, and his heroine, Sophie Neveu, who ricochets from savvy police agent to credulous newcomer to those theories.

There's also an eccentric millionaire scholar obsessed with the Holy Grail, a hard-charging bull of a French police official and a bishop who resorts to nefarious means to advance his controversial prelate. And let's not forget the tormented, gigantic albino monk who functions as a hit man when he isn't busy mortifying his flesh in gruesome ways.

The plot — for those dozen or so of you who still haven't read the book — involves a bloody death, two mysterious societies, clues hidden in famous paintings, rhymed messages, church intrigue and enough debate about esoteric theologies and ecclesiastical architecture to gag a goat.

In contention: Did Jesus Christ marry Mary Magdalene and have offspring, whose descendants are, in those immortal words of the

Coneheads, "from France"? What is the true significance of the Holy Grail? Was it the chalice Christ drank from at the Last Supper, or something symbolic? Does it exist today? And did the Church suppress the role of women and sexuality in its history for reasons both petty and political?

For all its talk about pagan sexual rituals, there's not much hanky-panky. No bodices were ripped in the making of this book, and the romance is pretty tepid. The heat is reserved for the frantic search to solve the riddles, find the Grail and elude those who would kill to get there first.

Doubleday evidently knew it had a winner as soon as staffers got a look at Brown's manuscript, and it sent out 6,000 advance reader copies to bookstores and reviewers. Interest spiked, notably at Barnes & Noble. And, says the book's editor, Jason Kaufman, the publisher bumped up its first printing from about 35,000 to 230,000 copies.

Doubleday followed up with a second mailing of 5,000 advance copies, making a total said to be the biggest such promotion ever. With interest high, bookstores eager to push the book and a rave review in *The New York Times*, *The Da Vinci Code* debuted in first place on the *Times*, *Publishers Weekly* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller lists. By now, the book has been published in more than 40 languages.

In November, a TV special on ABC about the book's theories drew nationwide interest. Now a movie is in the works from Ron Howard and the team that made *A Beautiful Mind*.

The hoopla has propelled

Brown's earlier Robert Langdon novel, *Angels and Demons*, onto bestseller lists. It also has spawned interest in a host of books on church history, — especially the role of women in general and Mary Magdalene in particular — as well as the Holy Grail, cryptography and Da Vinci's works.

One of the most intriguing aspects of reading *The Da Vinci Code* is tackling its riddles. Granted, solving them is about as difficult as doing the Jumble in the daily paper, but Brown adds a shrewd twist. By having his characters exclaim that these simple anagrams and visual clues are profoundly clever, he flatters readers into believing they must be Mensa-quality smarty-pantses to have figured them out. "O, Draconian devil," indeed.

Brown also can't resist having a little fun at the reader's expense. Langdon is a professor of symbology at Harvard who writes scholarly books, and his editor is one Jonas Faulkman, an anagram for Brown's real-life editor Jason Kaufman.

There's quite a bit of art-history mystery, too, involving such famous paintings as Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper," which the reader can easily visualize. Searching the artworks for clues is more fun than discovering *Where's Waldo*, and art scholars have long debated some of the paintings' peculiar aspects.

Brown even throws in a "cryptex," an ingenious double-barreled cylinder that hides a scroll as well as the means to destroy its message if its dials are not properly aligned to reveal the contents.

Mozart opera deals with sex, retribution

STEPHANIE BRINCEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Mozart's *Don Giovanni* will be presented by the ECU School of Music Friday, April 17 through Tuesday, April 20.

Sex, lies, and retribution are just a few topics covered in this tragic masterpiece combining comedy and drama to illustrate the escapades and inevitable tragedy of the mythical womanizer, Don Juan.

His character is a lover who conquers and seduces as many women as possible.

After seducing a woman named Donna Anna, Don Giovanni is caught in a whirlwind of tragedy, murder and seduction. His wrongdoings are later compensated for as he is dragged to hell.

The School of Music will deliver the famous opera with a cast including pre-professionals, graduate and undergraduate vocal performance majors.

Created in 1787, "*Don Giovanni* is still a crowd pleaser that includes one of Mozart's most brilliant scores," said Michael Crane, director of communication.



Admission is \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. All performances will be held at in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

April 17 and 18 feature matinees at 2 p.m. The opera will be performed at 8 p.m. on April 19 and 20. Advance tickets may be purchased from the Central Ticket Office in Mendenhall Student Center or by calling 328-4788.

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

Event Info

'Don Giovanni'
April 17 -18 at 2 p.m.
April 19 - 20 at 8 p.m.
A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall
Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for public.
Contact the Central Ticket Office at 1-800-ECU-ARTS for more information.

Bolcom from page B1

University of Michigan since 1973 and in the fall of 1994, the university named him the Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Music.

Another achievement Bolcom has under his belt is winning the Pulitzer Prize for music in 1988 for *12 New Etudes for Piano*.

His wife, Joan Morris, is equally busy. Originally born in Portland, Ore. in 1943, Morris attended Gonzaga University in Spokane prior to her scholarship studies at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

She has appeared in off-Broadway and road productions as well as with harpist Jay Miller

at the Cafe Carlyle, the Waldorf-Astoria's Peacock Alley and other Manhattan nightspots. She, too, has taught cabaret classes in the School of Music at the University of Michigan.

Brought together by everything from jazz and salsa to ragtime and the blues, this couple is unstoppable.

They offer the best musical experience one could hope for. Her voice is notable for ease, flexibility and the way you can understand every word she sings.

She projects not just a song, but also the character singing it, providing an award-winning

performance.

As a jazz pianist, Bolcom can do anything at the keyboard and make it sound exquisite as he harmonizes with his wife to a point where the music will take you away.

The duet has blown listeners away for 30 years throughout the United States, Canada and abroad.

Internationally, they have performed a concert in Istanbul honoring the Consuls-General, in Italy, Moscow, Cairo and London, among others.

What is unique about their performances are they announce their program from the stage,

pulling from a vast repertoire of composers/lyricists that include Irving Berlin, Eubie Blake, George and Ira Gershwin, E.Y. Harburg, Jerome Kern, Burton Lane and Jerry Leiber.

Other composers and lyricists include Mike Stoller, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, Kay Swift, Kurt Weill and others.

"This may seem like an adult show, but Bolcom and Morris play a variety of songs from all different genres that any music lover, young or old, will enjoy because their style is different, not to mention her awesome voice," said Paoula

Sehannie, marketing assistant for Cultural Outreach.

In addition to performing concerts, Bolcom and Morris have recorded 22 albums together. The first one, *After the Ball*, was nominated for a Grammy. Bolcom's *Fourth Symphony*, in which Morris was featured as the soloist, with Leonard Slatkin and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and *Orpheus-Serenade*, recorded by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with Bolcom as pianist, were also nominated.

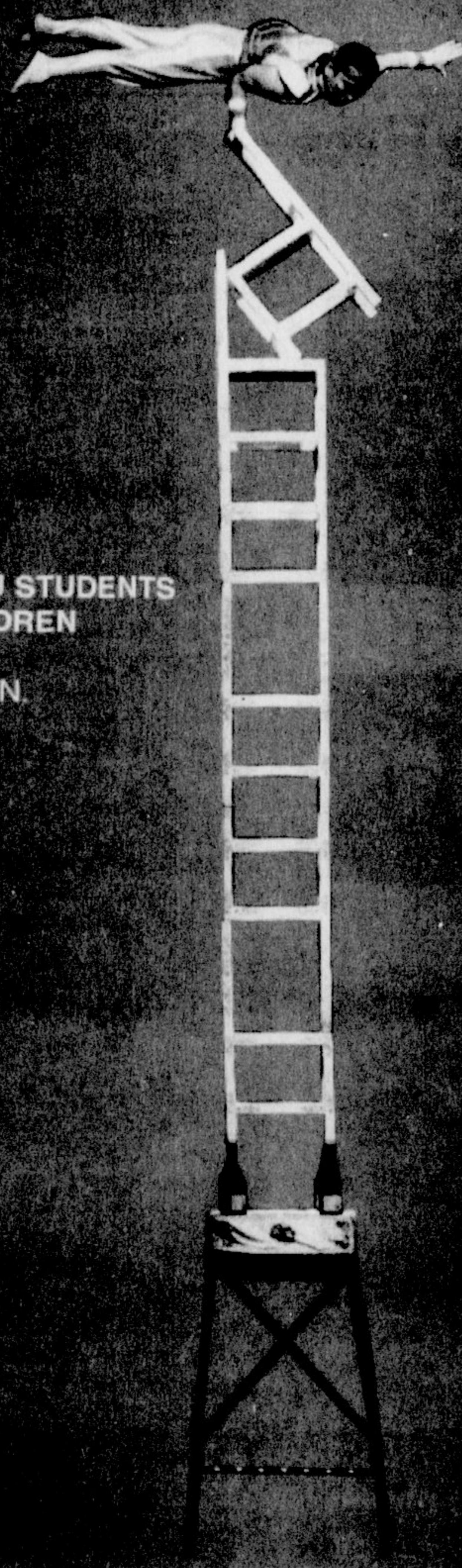
This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Event Info

Bolcom and Morris
Saturday, April 17 at 8 p.m.
Wright Auditorium
Advance tickets are \$10 for ECU students, \$13 for youth and \$23 for ECU faculty and staff and \$25 for the general public.
All tickets are \$25 at the door.
Contact the Central Ticket Office for more information at 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

THE CHINESE GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS

APRIL 15TH 2004 7-9PM
IN WRIGHT AUDITORIUM. TICKETS FREE TO ECU STUDENTS WITH A ONE CARD. THREE DOLLARS FOR CHILDREN FIVE DOLLARS FOR ADULTS.
CALL 1-800-ECU-ARTS FOR TICKET INFORMATION.



Camera phones give rise to new way of journaling

(KRT)—When Phillip Anderson's friends want to see what he's up to, the answer is usually just a click away.

Anderson is accompanied by a camera phone wherever he travels. He logs his activities by taking pictures, then e-mailing them to a spot on the Web (<http://pdizzle.textamerica.com>).

In real life, Anderson is a 25-year-old violin teacher from Lewisville, Texas. In cyberspace, he's a "moblogger," part of a fast-growing sect of paparazzi making their lives — and those around them — available for all to see.

Anyone searching for Dallas moblogs — pronounced moe-blog as in mobile and Web log — on the freehostingsite TextAmerica.com might find candid photos of Anderson's mom or pictures of him driving to lessons, buying video games or hanging out with his pals.

"My friends have the same phone, so we're all doing it," Anderson said. "It doesn't take hardly any time, so when I feel like putting a picture up there, I just e-mail it there and that's it."

No messy code. No obscure transfer protocol. Not even a computer is needed.

Right now, moblogger digital photos are trickling onto the Internet. But with the sales of camera phones expected to reach 150 million worldwide this year — one-quarter of all cell phone sales — that trickle will soon be a torrent.

Most of the digital images will be like Anderson's — of little interest to those outside his world. But there are signs that moblogging will play an important role in online journalism. With software revolutionizing the way digital photos are sorted and archived online, even Microsoft is getting involved.

Gradually, the vision of author Howard Rheingold is unfolding. In his 2002 book, "Smart Mobs," Rheingold predicted that camera phones would give rise to "peer-to-peer" journalism.

"Imagine the power of the Rodney King video multiplied by the power of Napster," Rheingold wrote. "Putting video cameras and high-speed Net connections in telephones moves blogging into the streets."

Traditional media coverage of the recent Madrid train explosions was supplemented

with thousands of camera-phone images sent to the Web from all angles. Many were gruesome and unsuitable for mass distribution. But some scholars say the public actually benefits from such stark realism; the gore deters further violence, they contend.

Over the last two years, dozens of free moblog hosting sites have sprung up. Many, like the first photo-sharing Web sites, are veiled commercial attempts to sell prints and other products.

There are some, such as TextAmerica.com, that take a different approach. Founder Chris Hoar's site creates a dynamic, front-page gallery of the 10,000-plus camera phone images as they stream into TextAmerica.com each day from all over the world.

Most wind up filed in their owner's moblog folders and fade from public display. But the most compelling are culled by editors and featured in daily rotations.

When a major event takes place — like the California wildfires — Hoar sets up a public e-mail address for eyewitness moblogging.

"People started taking and posting pictures of the fire as it crept into their neighborhoods and back gardens all over San Diego," said Hoar. "We had pictures of fire coming over the freeway. ... Insane pictures."

Most cameras can record only small, grainy images.

"And these guys aren't professional photographers by any means," Hoar said. "But if you've got the only picture of JFK being shot, you've got the only picture of JFK being shot. I don't care how bad it is."

Camera phones in the United States will soon be capable of much more. Already in Japan, camera phones are being equipped with 1.3-megapixel technology, allowing them to capture images in detail sufficient to produce quality prints.

"I think we're going to see a loose network of people who are really out there covering something," said Mike Popavic, a Kennebunk, Maine, Web programmer widely credited with starting the first moblogging site, [Hiptop Nation](http://HiptopNation.com) (<http://hiptop.bedope.com>). "Whether they're trained to be a journalist or not, if they're at the right place at the right time and they're

Moblogging Tips

Don't take pictures while driving. It's dangerous. Have someone else in the car take the picture or pull over in a safe place before taking the picture.

Use the highest resolution your phone offers. The higher the resolution, the better your photos will look on the moblog.

Don't use digital zoom, which lowers the resolution of your photos. You can zoom in digitally with your computer.

Hold your phone steady. Any movement can blur the picture.

Bright light is best. Most camera-phones can't adjust for low light. The best camera-phone photos are taken outside in sunshine.

used to moblogging, they'll be there."

Phone maker Nokia and software giant Microsoft are developing software to help users store and access digital photos and accompanying data.

Nokia is working on Lifeblog, software that arranges messages, images, videos and sound clips captured on cellphones into a biographical bundle.

At Microsoft, the World-Wide Media Exchange (WWMX) is creating a giant, database of digital photographs tagged by their shooting locations. The WWMX site (www.wwmx.org) is distributing software that lets photographers inject Global Positioning System data into their text descriptions.

Photos are uploaded to the Web, sorted by location, then mapped. Anyone can click on a point of interest and immediately access digital photos taken by others at that precise location.



Phillip Anderson holds his Samsung VGA1000 camera cell phone, which he uses to take pictures and post them via e-mail on his moblog on the Internet. Moblog, a combination of mobile and Web log, is becoming a new way to share information.



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- *Arts & Crafts*
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- *Multicultural Entertainment*
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Sponsored by: City of Greenville, East Carolina University, Student Union, and International Student Association

SPORTS

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Announcements

Sea Kayak/Canoe

The adventure club invites for a weekend of sea kayak/canoe at Shackleford Island April 23-25. Students must register by April 16. There will be a pre-trip meeting is April 20.

Canoe/Kayak

April 24th. The adventure club invites for a day of sea kayak/canoe at the Haw River. Students must register by April 16. There will be a pre-trip meeting is April 20.

Rock Climbing

If you caught the climbing bug on the ECU indoor wall and are ready to give it a shot on a real rock then join the Adventure program for a day at Pilot Mountain April 25. Harnesses and gear will be provided. Participants must Register by April 16. A pre-trip meeting is April 21.

Frisbee Golf Tournament

There will be an intramural Frisbee Golf Tournament April 21, from 3-6 p.m. at the Frisbee Golf Course. Players have a chance to match their Frisbee skills with the best!! Registration takes place at the course.

For more information on this or any other program call 328-6387.

Sports Briefs

Norwood Conference USA Co-Hitter of the Week

ECU first baseman Ryan Norwood has been named Conference USA Co-Hitter of the Week announced by league officials Monday. He shares the honor with Southern Miss outfielder Carlos Velasquez. Norwood hit safely in all four Pirate victories last week, including a sweep over USF, batting .500 (8-for-16) with a team-high seven runs scored. He had a pair of doubles and two home runs, while driving in four. Norwood slugged 1.000 for the week and posted a .529 on-base percentage. On the season, Norwood is hitting .375 with a team-high 48 hits in 128 at-bats including a team-high 33 runs scored, 13 doubles and eight home runs for 26 RBI. Norwood leads ECU in conference play hitting .478 with eight doubles, one triple, three homers and 13 RBI. Velasquez batted 611 (11-for-18) in five games last week, leading the Golden Eagles to a series sweep at Saint Louis. He closed the week with 18 total bases for a 1.000 slugging percentage while posting a .682 on-base percentage. Velasquez had a double, two home runs and six RBI on the week, while walking four times and scoring nine runs.

ECU athletes honored for excellence in classroom

Thirty-five ECU student-athletes were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements at the 2004 Academic Excellence Awards Banquet at the Greenville Country Club Monday night. The Academic Excellence Award is given to sophomores, juniors and seniors who have earned a 3.5 cumulative grade point average. Each student-athlete who achieved this goal was honored based on his or her classification at the end of the previous fall semester. The softball and men's soccer teams took top team honors with each squad being represented by four student-athletes. Women's cross country, women's tennis, women's soccer and men's cross country were each represented by three student-athletes. A total of 15 of the Pirates' intercollegiate teams were recognized.

A complete list of all the recipients is located below.

Baseball - Brian Cavanaugh
Football - Richard Hourigan, Brian Rimpf
Men's Cross Country - Ronnie Delzer, Jason Lee, Kyle MacKenzie
Men's Golf - Calle Andren, Phillip Reale
Men's Soccer - Patrick Cutler, Josh Foltz, Sean Harris, Michael McClain
Men's Swimming - Casey Cronin, Robert Derr
Men's Track & Field - Marques Jones
Softball - Dany'ele Hill, Kate Manuse, Jessica Potter, Christine Sheridan
Women's Basketball - Samantha Pankey, Angela Syle
Women's Cross Country - Jessica Collins, Kimberly Lash, Lynn Taylor
Women's Golf - Margaret Mitchell
Women's Soccer - Megan Schwanke, Sara Stolz, Lindsay Troxler
Women's Swimming - Abbey Hillen, Sarah Hunt
Women's Tennis - Raluca Balcu, Cristina Mellicke, Paulina Sierpinski
Women's Track & Field - Alisha Hopkins, Colleen McGinn

TE Winslow Jr. makes curious stop in Pittsburgh

Miami Hurricanes tight end Kellen Winslow Jr., expected to be one of the first 10 picks in next week's NFL Draft, visited the Pittsburgh Steelers. That seems somewhat strange because unless the Steelers trade up from No. 11, Winslow is expected to be long gone when they make their first-round selection. And even if Winslow somehow falls to them, the Steelers have more pressing needs -- quarterback, offensive tackle, cornerback than tight end. While Winslow doesn't expect to land in Pittsburgh, he enjoyed his second trip there in five months. During his last visit Nov. 29, he helped Miami knock Pitt out of a likely Orange Bowl invitation by beating the Panthers 28-14.

Kemp signs to play with USBL's Storm

Former NBA All-Star Shawn Kemp signed Monday to play for the USBL's Oklahoma Storm, a team he partly owns. Kemp, who played in the NBA for 14 seasons, was a six-time All-Star before weight problems and substance abuse derailed his career. He's expected to make his debut Friday against Cedar Rapids. Kemp bought a minority stake in the Storm this year.

Sura stripped of triple-double

The NBA took away Bob Sura's third consecutive triple-double Tuesday, ruling he shouldn't get credit for one rebound because he intentionally missed a shot just before the buzzer. The Hawks' Sura thought he was the first NBA player since Grant Hill in 1997 to have three consecutive games with double figures in scoring, rebounding and assists.

Pirates seek to avenge loss

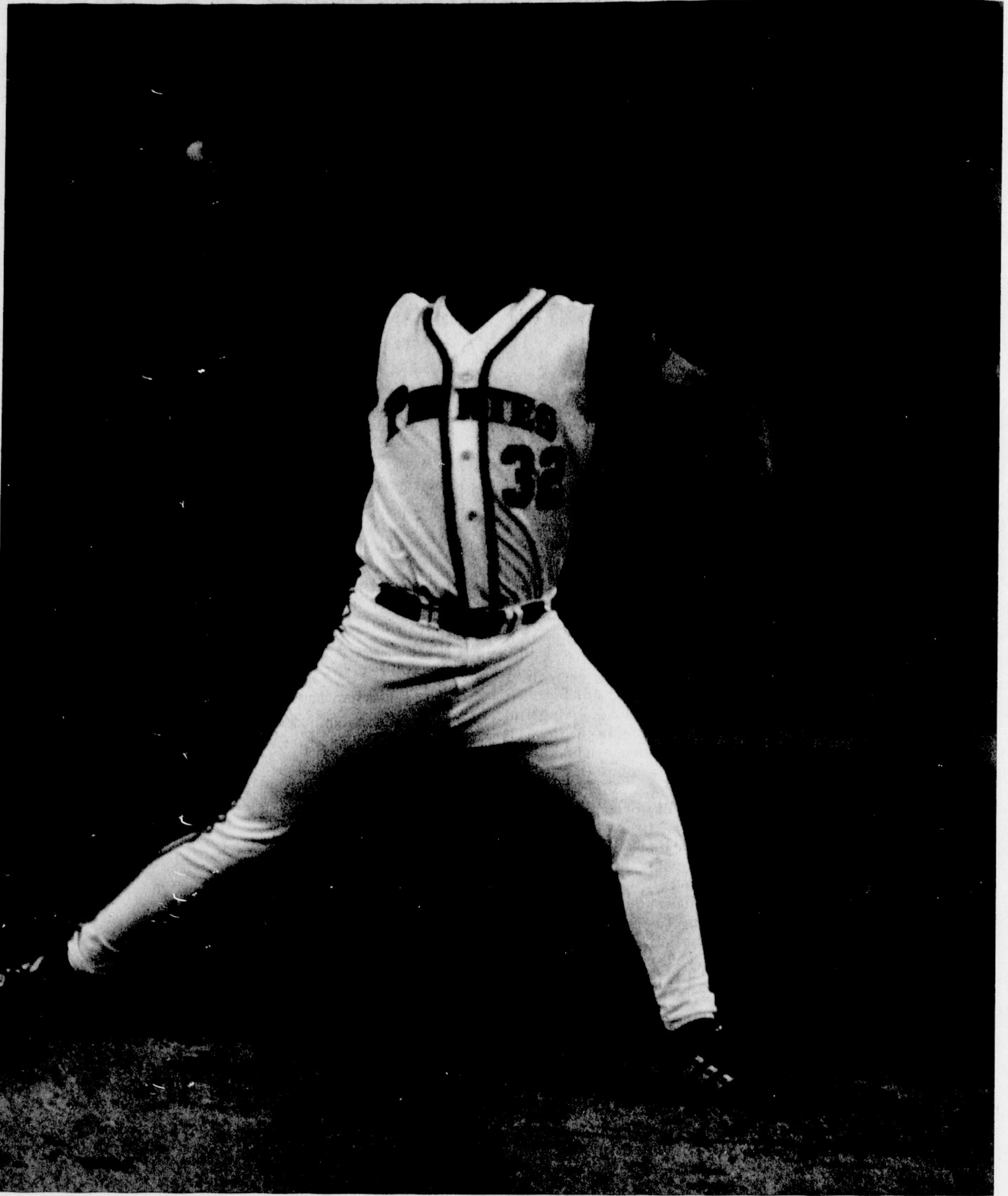


Photo by Kyle Fisher
Greg Bunn is undefeated this season (6-0) and is leading Pirate pitchers with 67 strikeouts in a little over 58 innings.

ECU preps for in-state rival Seahawks

BRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

A rivalry that has blossomed furiously over the past couple of seasons with some great games will take center stage Wednesday night as UNC-Wilmington brings their baseball squad to Greenville for a match-up with the streaking Pirates.

The Seahawks upset ECU twice last season, including a shocking 4-3 loss at Harrington Field.

Senior first baseman Ryan Norwood knows this game has huge implications on and off the field.

"We owe them a piece," said Norwood.

"Any in-state team we play, we want to kill. It's about recruiting too, so when other high school kids see that and they say 'Oh Wilmington beat ECU. I want to go there because they're a better team.' But if we beat them pretty bad, then it will make us look good."

The Seahawk pitchers need to get ready to pitch to Norwood, who was just recently named Co-hitter of the week in Conference USA. He shares the honor with Southern Miss outfielder Carlos Velasquez.

Norwood hit safely in all four Pirate victories last week, including the sweep over USF, batting .500 (8-for-16) with seven runs scored. He had a pair of doubles and two homeruns, while driving in four. Norwood's slugging percentage was 1.000 for the week and he posted a .529 on-base percentage.

The Pirates sprint into Wednesday's clash on a nine game winning streak and have moved up in the Baseball America Poll to 15.

UNCW enters the mid-week contest with an 18-14 record after a series against George Mason in which the Hawks dropped two of three to the front-running CAA Patriots.

Despite the Seahawks' sub-par season thus far, Head Coach Randy Mazey believes this is a game in which records go out the window.

"It's going to be a tough one," said Mazey.

"They always play their best baseball against us and they get excited to come to town. They beat us on our field last year and the guys remember that so we're going to be pretty fired up for that game."

The first pitch begins Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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

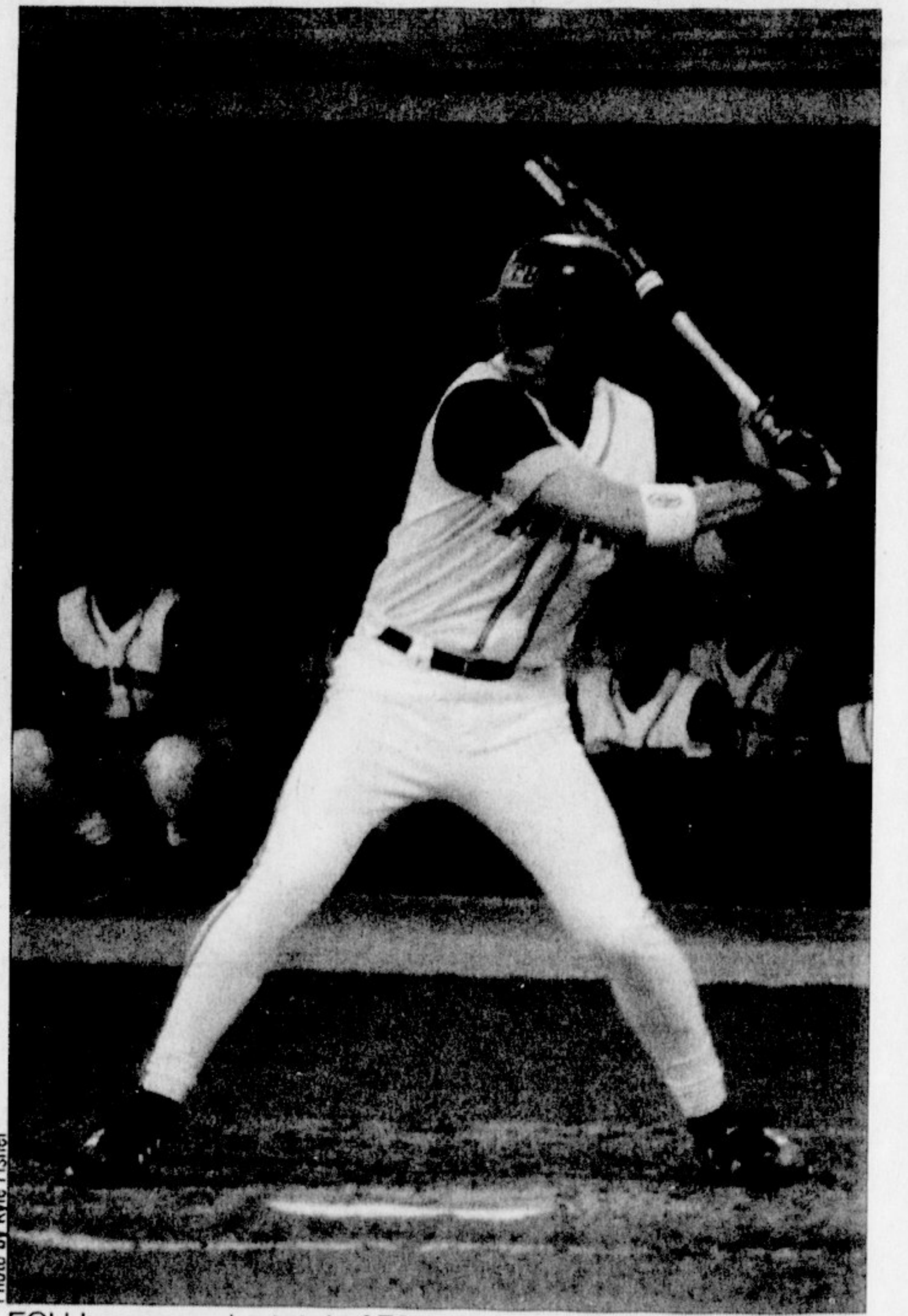


Photo by Kyle Fisher
ECU has scored a total of 79 runs in the last seven games.

Kate Manuse on the loose

Lady Pirate leading the way for softball

TRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

During the fall and early winter seasons at ECU, one may hear a cry from far off in the distance. A cry that is all too familiar if that person is a diehard Pirate basketball fan: "Mooooooussa."

While Moussa Badiane's daunting shoot-blocking ability earns him the cry from the crowd, there is another "ooose" that is breaking records and could very well be his crowd replacement for the spring season, Kate Manuse.

Manuse came into this past weekend's series against USF ranked 18th in the nation, boasting a .391 batting average mark, a mark she said she has earned one bat at a time.

"Every time I get up to bat I try and make it a new at bat and just start all over," said Manuse.

Manuse started playing soft-

ball around the age of five and has turned out to be a gigantic lift for the Lady Pirates, especially this season where the Pirates are enjoying a 38-13-1 mark.

"I just try to think about what I want to do for the team," Manuse said.

Thinking is just half of the equation for Manuse. The other and more important half is her performance on the field, which has turned a lot of heads on this 2004 campaign. Her latest headline came with the 38th win on the season where she set the Conference USA record for most doubles in a season (22). The double proved to be extra sweet as it propelled the Pirates from a 1-0 deficit to the No. 18 seeded Bulls, to a 2-1 victory.

It is big time plays and hits like this that recently earned Manuse the C-USA hitter of the week award.

"The award makes me feel accomplished because this is such a high quality conference with teams nationally ranked,



Photo by Tamesha Sistrunk
Manuse has been a key contributor for the Pirates this year.

just like USF," Manuse said.

Manuse's eye-catching performances this year have proved to be huge in the rise of a new-look Lady Pirate team.

"I think that we have done a tremendous job this season especially coming off a pretty rough season last year," Manuse said.

"We have just been hitting the ball a whole lot more this year."

With just 10 games left to play on this year's slate, Manuse and

the Pirates are looking to make a run at the C-USA tourney.

"My goal is just to maintain what I have done up until now and make an impact every day," Manuse said.

"And for the team to just make the conference tournament in Louisville. Once you get there it is anyone's game."

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

Track team participates in Charlotte Invitational

Men post strong showing in Charlotte

ERIC GILMORE
STAFF WRITER

The track and field team split-up in order to compete in two meets on Saturday.

The Pirates posted strong finishes at the Charlotte Invitational and at the Sea Ray Relays, held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn. In addition to the women's track team, nine men traveled to compete in the Charlotte Invitational. Because it was an invitational

meet, team scores were not kept because individual times and scores were kept.

Posting a strong showing was Kyle Frasure, a freshman who in his first two weeks competing broke the hammer throw record at ECU. The Charlotte native pleased his home crowd by taking the Hammer Throw competition. Frasure beat out fellow teammate Mayo Porch, who finished fourth. Frasure threw the hammer 53.25 meters while Porch had a respectable showing at 47.00 meters. Frasure also finished second in the discus throw with a score of 45.73 meters.

Two other male participants

finished in the top 10 in their events. Derrick Carr, a sophomore finished fifth in the triple jump with a jump of 13.88 meters. Kyle Yunaska ran a personal best with a 1500-meter run time of 4:04.20.

The women's team dominated the Charlotte Invitational with 14 ladies posting top 10 finishes in 15 events.

The strongest showing was from Tara DeBrille, who finished second in the 800-meter run. DeBrille currently holds the conference's best time at 2:10.61, which also doubles as ECU's best ever. The other top finishers were Colleen McGinn

and Chelsea Salisbury, both of whom finished second in their respective events. Johanna Allen, Nicole Callahan, and Darnesha Jones all finished in the top 10 in two separate events.

Matt Munson, the men's track and field coach took the majority of his team to compete in the Sea Ray Relays. Teams from all over the nation traveled to the event, which is a precursor to the NCAA Regionals and infamous Penn Relays. The men posted respectable showings with two more NCAA Regional qualifying times.

With little to no room for error, Darrus Coefield finished

atop the Pirates in the popular 400-meter run. Coefield barely edged out teammate B.J. Henderson. The 34 hundredths of a second that separated them was a difference of three places. Coefield finished 15, Henderson 18, and Dominique Richmond finished 22.

The strongest individual showing was from Ron Pollard, who posted a NCAA Regional qualifying time of 51.70 seconds in the 400-meter hurdles. Pollard is now eligible to compete in the NCAA Regional Championships.

As has been the case in the past, the ECU men's relays continue to be the strong point of

ECU track and field. The men finished a respectable fourth in the 4x100 meter relay and ninth in the 4x800. However, the best relay was the 4x400 where the men met a NCAA Regional qualifying time of 3:09.53.

The men qualified for the NCAA Regional in the 4x100 and the 4x800 in the Florida Relays, held earlier.

The men and women's teams will be back in action on April 22-24 when they travel to the famous Penn Relays in Philadelphia, PA.

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

O'Leary settles in with University of Central Florida

(KRT)—One moment, George O'Leary blows quickly into his whistle, then, in his polite way, tells a new group of assistant coaches to get out of the way and let a scrimmage continue.

"We're getting this on tape! We can correct later!"

A moment later, his whistle sounds again. It's the same sound as those made by a half-dozen referees brought into for a recent scrimmage, but O'Leary's University of Central Florida players stand still. They recognize it's him blowing, not somebody in a striped uniform.

"Run it again," O'Leary barks. Having detected an errant cut by tailback Dontavious Wilcox, O'Leary makes a brief point to the redshirt sophomore and sends him back into the fray for another tough goal-line run.

Minutes later, the Golden Knights' two-hour scrimmage is done. O'Leary is just getting warmed up.

"How would you grade your team so far?" asks a television reporter.

"I don't grade after one week," the coach said. "How would you like it if I graded you after one week?"

Later, a similar question comes. How would the coach evaluate his team so far?

"You already asked that and I told you I don't do that," O'Leary said. "Anything else?"

Nearly two decades after another former NFL coach, Lou Saban, directed UCF's football program, O'Leary on Tuesday

finishes up his first spring back as a college coach after a year away from football and two seasons with the Minnesota Vikings. The Knights' 15th spring practice is scheduled as an unceremonious affair; no spring game was scheduled because of a limited number of healthy (and academically fit) players.

Still, with a laborer's long hours and a minute chewing-tobacco stain at the corner of his mouth, the man works as if only a heart attack could slow him down.

"That's absolutely true," said defensive line coach Peter McCarty, who worked under O'Leary as a graduate assistant at Syracuse and again as defensive tackles coach at Georgia Tech. "I'll leave it at that."

"I'm fine," said O'Leary, who had a mild heart attack Dec. 31 just after saying goodbye to the Vikings and just before leaving for Orlando. "I've done everything the doctors have told me to do, but you know me. I'm not going to change. You gotta do what you gotta do."

Doctors prescribed regular exercise for the 57-year-old, and he sticks to a regimen of walking. Doctors scheduled another checkup for July, a stress test.

Everyone else's stress test is in full gear. From secretaries to players to coaches to administrators, O'Leary nudges all involved with his program just beyond a comfort zone. King George demands, and he usually gets.

Some of what former coach Mike Kruczek grew weary of asking for, O'Leary received during his first four months on the job: a 30-foot steel tower between practice fields, a privacy fence around the fields, an upgraded digital video system.

The new coach also added his personal favorites: two 25-second clocks posted at opposite ends of the field. They literally are the time of players' lives. O'Leary gave his practice timer explicit instructions to start the clock anew as soon as the previous play ends, so UCF's practice pace is quicker than any game will be.

"Something new happens every 25 seconds," guard Dan Veenstra said.

Fast feet and fast minds eventually win, is the coach's theory.

Coaches endure, too. A year ago at LSU, defensive coordinator Lance Thompson could go to practice wearing sunglasses and a hat, customary accessories for a football coach working in the sun. Not now.

At practice, sunglasses and hats are forbidden for all staffers, including trainers, equipment managers and strength coaches.

Thompson and others cope. "Sunscreen," he said.

Just as in December when he tossed out Kruczek's staff's recruiting evaluations and tips, O'Leary trusts only his systems and thoughts.

With 16 players on academic

probation, O'Leary removed four of them from spring drills. When the team practices, they spend that time in study hall.

"Things are done a certain way. Expectations are a certain way, and everybody understands that," said Thompson, who also worked under O'Leary at Georgia Tech. "You're either in the circle or out of the circle. You'll either do it his way, do it right, or you won't be around. Don't look around thinking it's going to change, because it's not."

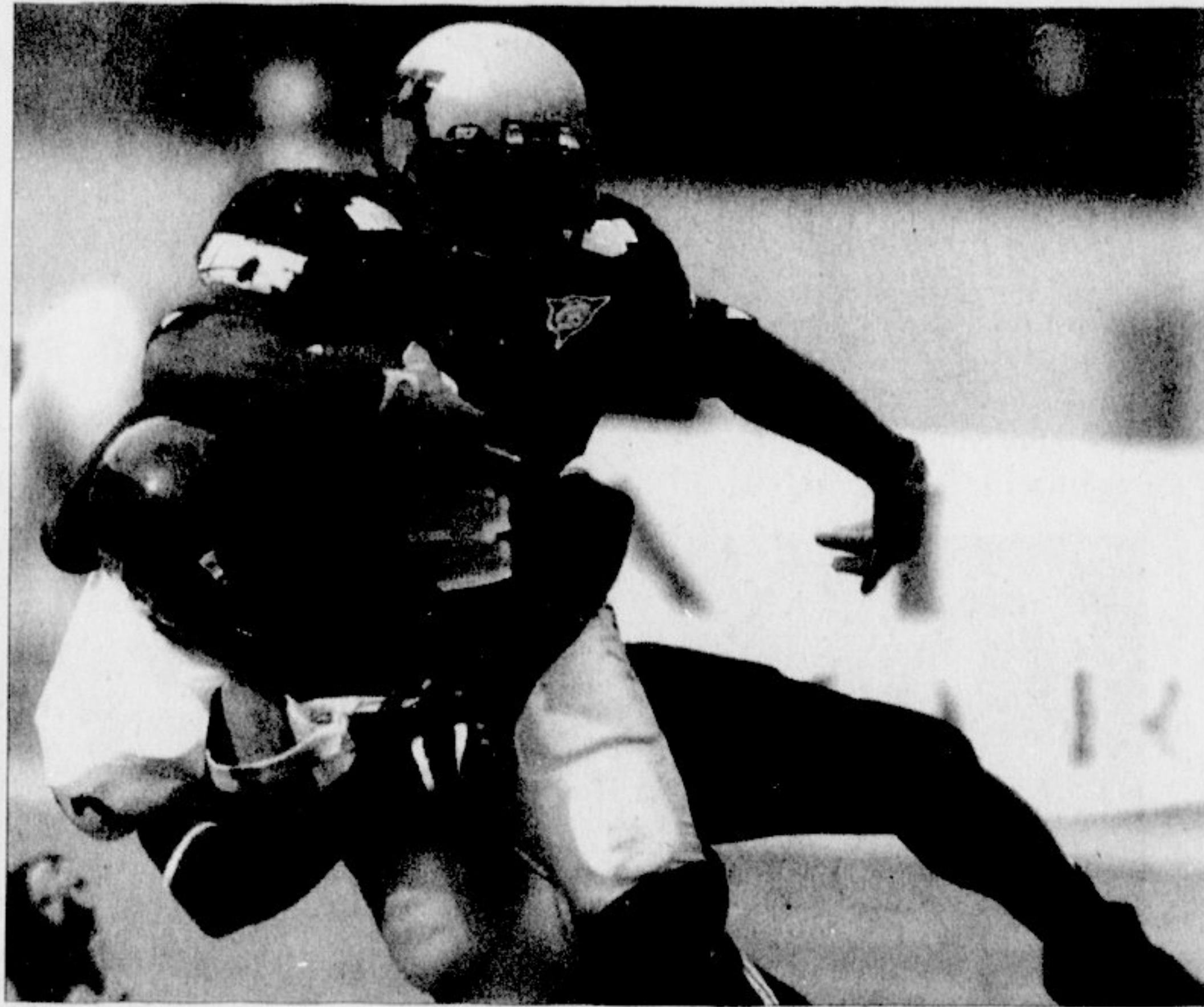
What UCF Athletic Director Steve Orsini saw during a recent scrimmage was exactly what he had hoped to see. People on the field moved

quickly and constantly. Later, he gleaned that, with the exception of two returning players who decided before spring not to return, the Knights have bought into their new coach.

"I was hopeful of that, and I'm happy to see that happening," Orsini said. "George is a leader."

Said O'Leary: "The players have done everything we've asked of them. We've asked them to work harder and faster and they've done that. We need to help them now by bringing in better players to put around them."

Little escapes him. He expects



UCF will be joining Conference-USA in the 2005-2006 season.

the same from his players. One of his rules: Players not participating in an 11-on-11 drill are expected to know what's being run on their side of the ball.

Not knowing, especially if a player loses his attention span for a couple moments and O'Leary sees it behind him—yep, behind him—risks a blown whistle and a query from the white-haired Irishman.

If the answer is wrong, everybody runs a wind sprint.

When a 5-minute bullhorn sounds to signal a drill change, if his players don't move fast enough, O'Leary sends them back to the

previous drill to try a quicker transition.

"They've got to understand what work ethic is all about," McCarty said. "We've got to prepare to win."

On Friday after his team's penultimate spring practice, O'Leary spotted an academic advisor greeting one of his players.

"How's he doing?" the coach asked.

Satisfied with the answers, he nodded and turned to the player.

"Do what you're supposed to do," he said. "It's important."

Besides, there's little alternative.

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Chargers on the clock

(KRT)—The San Diego Chargers have been on the clock since Dec. 28, when a 4-12 record earned them the first overall pick of the 2004 NFL draft.

The Chargers have a pressing need at quarterback—and the quarterback at the top of the draft board is a can't-miss prospect: Eli Manning of Mississippi.

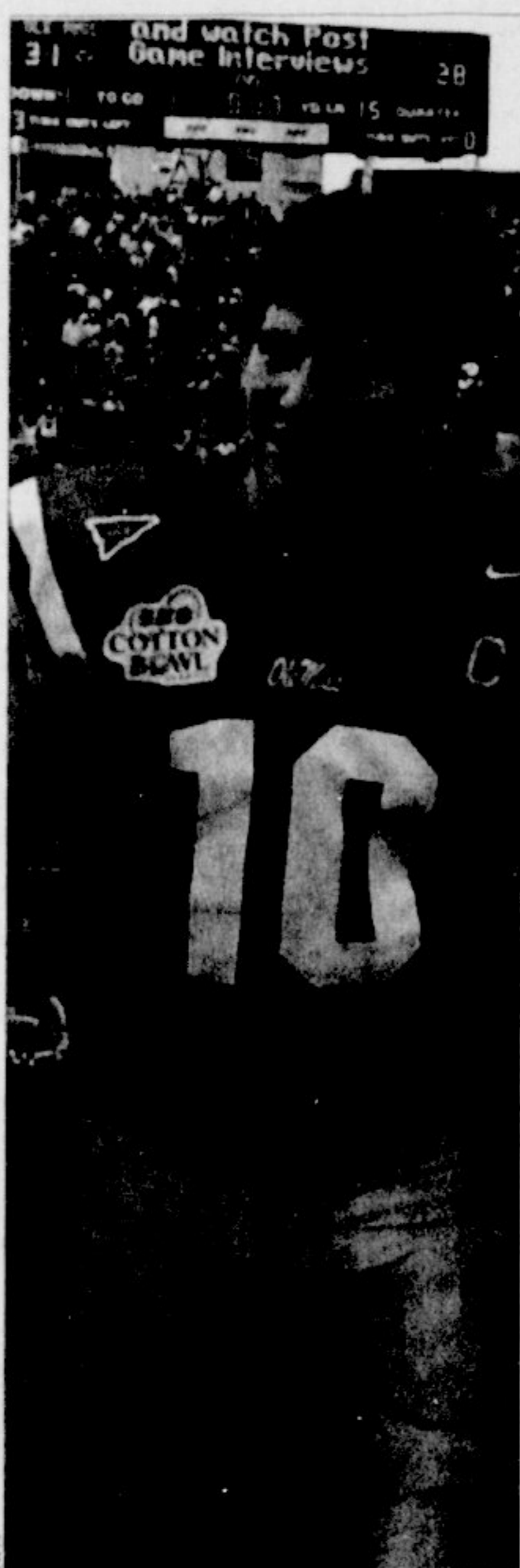
But there are three potential franchise quarterbacks in this draft—Manning, Philip Rivers of North Carolina State and Ben Roethlisberger of Miami (Ohio).

The Chargers can trade down, add a couple picks and still come away with a future at the position in either Rivers or Roethlisberger.

The Giants have already called, asking the cost of moving up from fourth overall to first. So it's too early to project the first player, much less the first team, in this draft.

Keep an eye on the wide receivers. There are eight with first-round value, but the draft record is only six in the first round.

So elite wideouts will be available into the second round.



Mississippi's Eli Manning.

Projected Draft

Team	Player	Pos.	School
1. San Diego	Eli Manning	QB	Mississippi
2. Oakland	Roy Williams	WR	Texas
3. Arizona	Larry Fitzgerald	WR	Pitt
4. NY Giants	Robert Gallery	OT	Iowa
5. Washington	Kellen Winslow	TE	Miami-F
6. Detroit	Sean Taylor	S	Miami-F
7. Cleveland	DeAngelo Hall	CB	Virginia Tech
8. Atlanta	Tommie Harris	DT	Oklahoma
9. Jacksonville	Kenechi Udezue	DE	Southern Cal
10. Houston	Will Smith	DE	Ohio State
11. Pittsburgh	Philip Rivers	QB	North Carolina State
12. NY Jets	Dunta Robinson	CB	South Carolina
13. Buffalo	Michael Clayton	WR	LSU
14. Chicago	Vince Wilfork	DT	Miami-F
15. Tampa Bay	Lee Evans	WR	Wisconsin
16. San Francisco	Mike Williams	WR	Southern Cal
17. Denver	Kevin Jones	HB	Virginia Tech
18. New Orleans	D.J. Williams	LB	Miami-F
19. Minnesota	Marcus Tubbs	DT	Texas
20. Miami	Shawn Andrews	OT	Arkansas
21. New England	Steven Jackson	HB	Oregon State
22. Cowboys	Chris Perry	HB	Michigan
23. Seattle	Ricardo Colclough	CB	Tusculum
24. Cincinnati	Jonathan Vilma	LB	Miami-F
25. Green Bay	Ben Troupe	TE	Florida
26. St. Louis	Ben Roethlisberger	QB	Miami-O
27. Tennessee	Jason Babin	DE	Western Michigan
28. Philadelphia	Chris Gamble	CB	Ohio State
29. Indianapolis	Teddy L Sherman	LB	Oklahoma
30. Kansas City	Reggie Williams	WR	Washington
31. Carolina	Justin Smiley	G	Alabama
32. New England	Sean Jones	S	Georgia

Hurricanes hire Haith

(KRT)—The University of Miami, seeking a men's basketball coach who understands and loves the Atlantic Coast Conference, treats his players like sons, relentlessly recruits and will work tirelessly for less than \$500,000, hired Frank Haith on Monday.

Haith, 38, the associate head coach at the University of Texas and a former Wake Forest assistant, signed a five-year deal with an annual salary of about \$350,000. He takes over for Perry Clark, who was fired last month with three years remaining on his contract after back-to-back losing seasons and one NCAA tournament appearance in four years.

The Hurricanes enter the ACC next season, and Haith's roots gave him the edge over the other finalists. Haith grew up in North Carolina, where he says he was "an ABC fan—Anybody But Carolina."

He attended Elon College, which, it turns out, is the cradle of Miami coaches. Marlins manager Jack McKeon and UM baseball coach Jim Morris are fellow graduates. And he coached five years at Wake Forest— one year as a graduate assistant and four as an assistant under Dave Odom.

"Frank Haith is one of the finest associate head coaches in the country, and he is absolutely ready for the assignment we are asking him to undertake," UM athletic director Paul Dee said. "Everyone I spoke to said it was his time to step up, and I just got a gut feeling that this was someone special."

The other finalists were Kansas associate head coach Norm Roberts, Manhattan coach Bobby Gonzalez, Alabama-Birmingham coach Mike Anderson and Virginia Commonwealth coach Jeff Capel. Anderson and Capel withdrew their names from consideration after getting hefty raises from their schools.

Dee consulted with Odom, Texas coach Rick Barnes, ACC associate commissioner Fred Barakat and Wake Forest athletic director Ron Wellman—and all raved about Haith.

Barnes continued to gush Monday.

"Frank was as close to being the head coach at Texas as you can be without having the title," Barnes said. "He was involved in every major decision I made the past three years. He had a huge impact here, and this is a great hire for Miami, a perfect fit."

"He understands the game, and not just X's and O's, but the environment of college basketball, the AAU coaches, the media, the fans, everything. He grew up an ACC fan and knows exactly what it takes to compete in that league. Most of all, he is one of the finest people I've ever known. All you have to do is look at his wife, Pam, and son, Corey, and see that this guy is the total package."

As for his lack of head-coaching experience, Haith quipped: "I do have head-coaching experience. I coached 3.9 seconds in our last game a 79-71 Sweet 16 loss to Xavier when Rick Barnes was tossed out."

Haith's easy-going personality showed at his first news conference Monday. He seemed at ease at the podium, joked, and talked about how he plans to create a buzz on campus for his team by taking players to fraternity and sorority gatherings, dorm meetings and other campus functions.

"I want people on campus and in the community to share the passion and enthusiasm I have for this program," he said. "My mind was made up on this job the minute Paul Dee called and told me I was a candidate. This program is close. All the pieces are in place—ACC, a wonderful university, dynamic city, beautiful arena, some exciting players. We just need some nuts and bolts to put it all together."

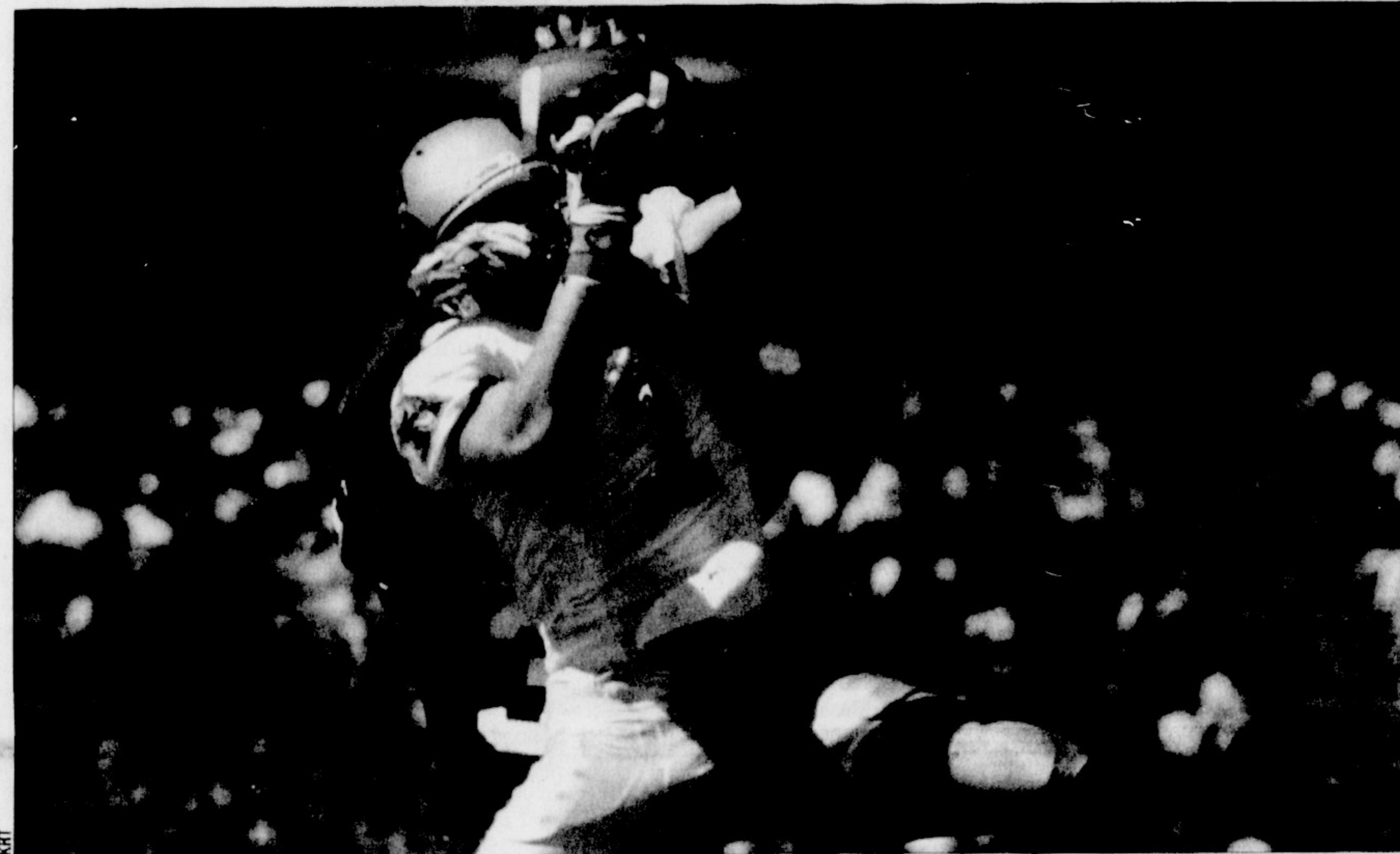
Haith met with the players and said he saw concern in their eyes, so he urged them to call their AAU coaches and high school coaches to check up on him.

"I am familiar with Coach Haith from some camps I went to around Wake Forest, and I told the guys that he knows his stuff and is real good with players," guard Eric Wilkins said. "I'm looking forward to getting to know him better."

Haith is best known for his recruiting success. He recruited six McDonald's All-Americans to Wake Forest and Texas.

And, his wife points out, "He recruited me from a Hardee's drive-through window 17 years ago, and I've not regretted it for one minute."

Haith hopes to have a staff in place in a few weeks. He will meet with members of Clark's staff, who were retained on an interim basis, and also hire from outside.



Pitt wide out and 2003 Heisman candidate Larry Fitzgerald is projected to be a top five pick in the 2004 NFL draft.

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is the game. and O's, but college bas- coaches, the rying. He and knows to compete of all, he is ple I've ever to do is look son, Corey, y is the total

head-coach- quipped: "I ning experi- seconds in 71 Sweet 16 Rick Barnes

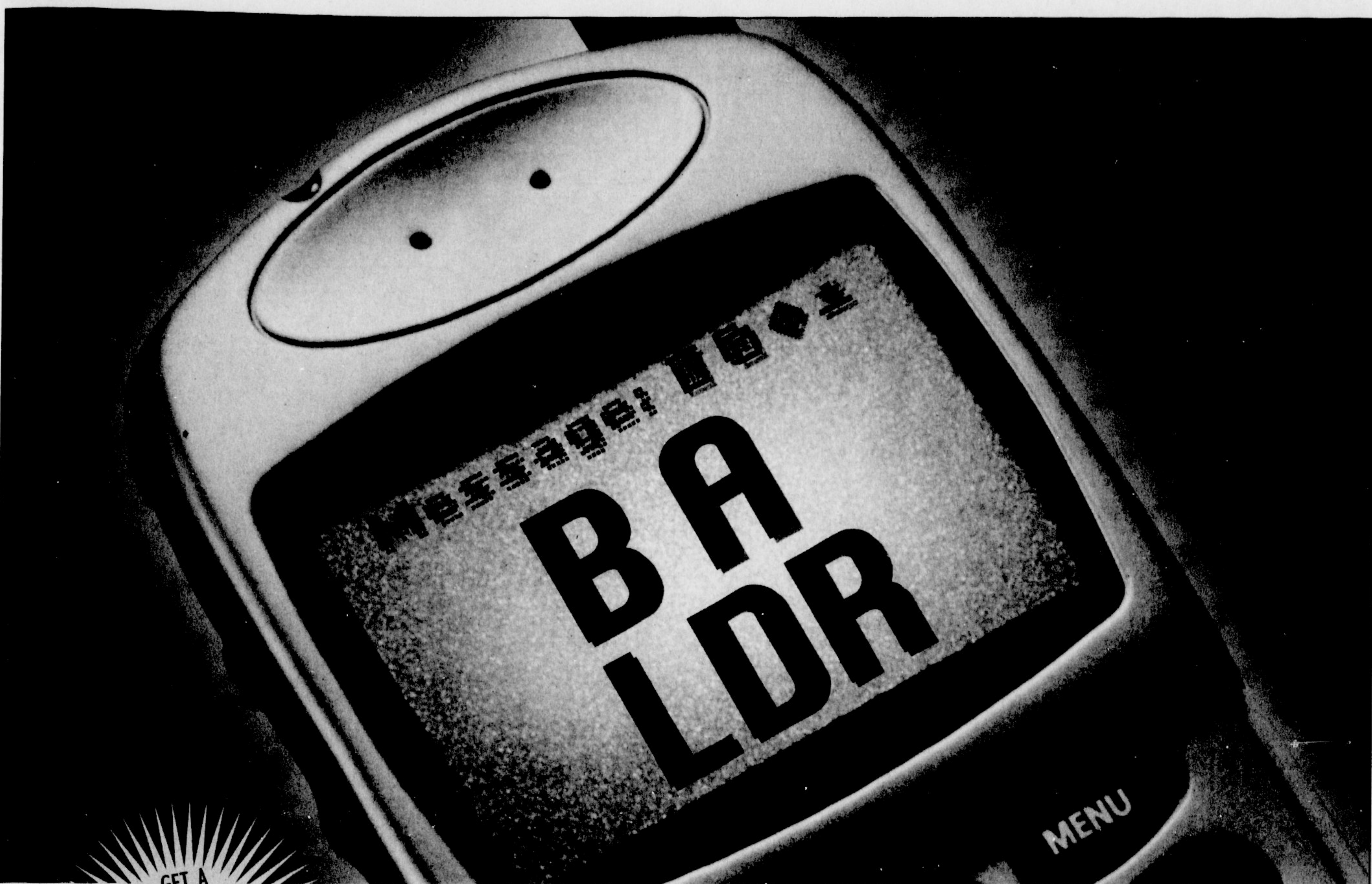
ng person- first news He seemed um, joked, ow he plans campus for g players to rity gather- s and other

on campus ity to share nthusiasm I m," he said. e up on this l Dee called a candidate. ose. All the - ACC, a y, dynamic some excit- need some put it all

the players ern in their n to call their high school up on him. with Coach mps I went st, and I told ws his stuff th players," said. "I'm getting to

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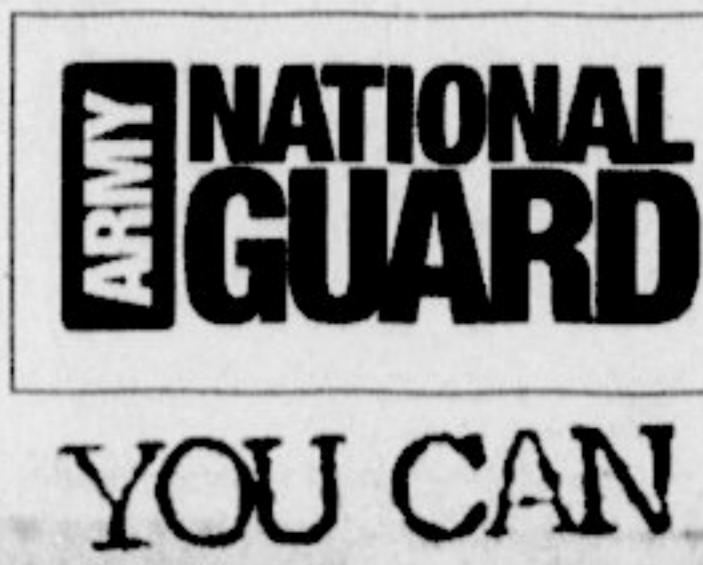


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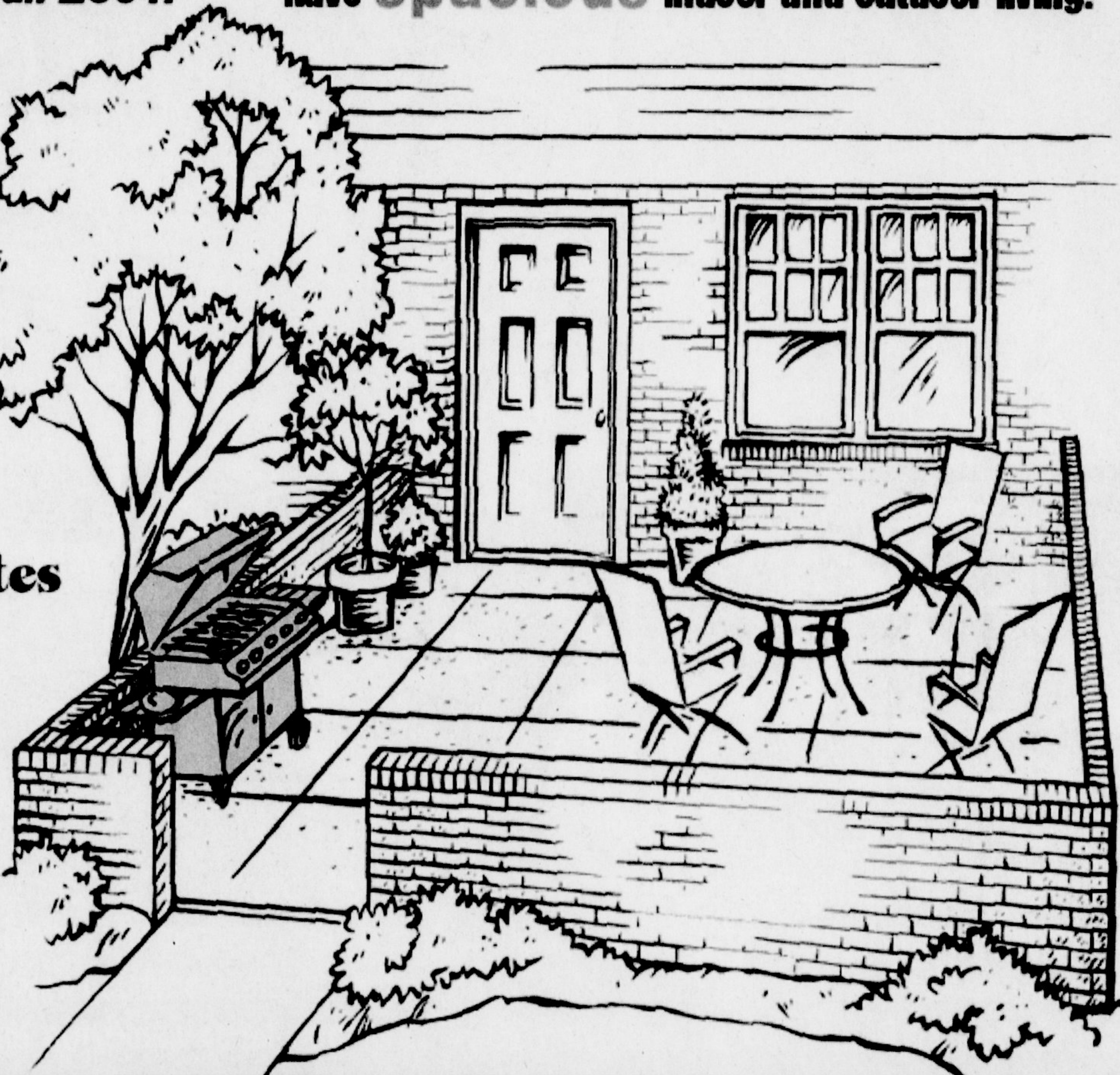
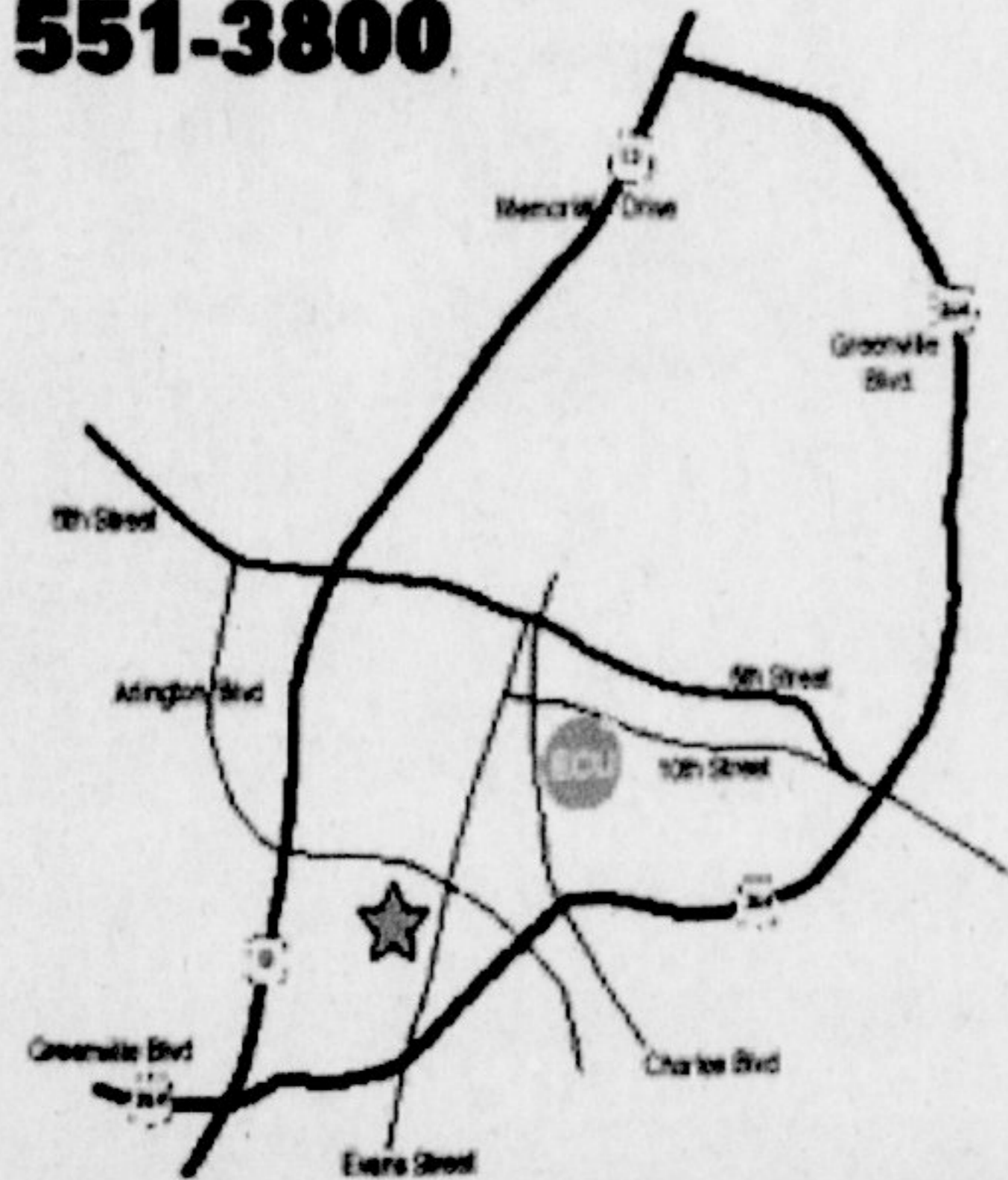
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Wednesday, April 14th, 2004
 4:00pm until 7:00pm
 College Hill Drive



The Great Race²⁰⁰⁴

East Carolina University

T-Shirts *Cash Prizes* *Free Food*



Registration for teams (one pusher and one driver) begins at 3:00pm. There will be male/male, female/female and coed racing divisions. Shirts and shoes required to participate in the Great Race. Team PiCL will provide helmets and other safety gear for the drivers. Campus Living will also be announcing the prize winners for Return To Campus Living 2004. Until then, keep it safe, fun, and between the lines!

Individuals with disabilities, requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at (252) 328-6799 (V) or (252) 328-0899 (TTY).

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