

Scattered problems impede some voting



A large crowd lines up to vote at Tremont Elementary School in Cleveland on Tuesday. Julie Goulis, bottom right, fills out a provisional ballot.

(AP) — Machines malfunctioned, tempers flared and edgy voters often waited hours Tuesday to pick a president in a contentious race watched by thousands of monitors who expected the worst. But by the close of East Coast polls, only scattered local snafus had been reported in an election turnout that was shaping up to be the heaviest in years.

"So far, it's no big, but lots of little," said Doug Chapin, director of the Election Reform Information Project, a nonpartisan research group. "We know of no major meltdowns anywhere along the lines some people were worried about."

About 50 percent of all voters said they were very certain ballots in their state would be accurately counted, according to a national Associated Press exit poll conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

Hyper-vigilance appeared to be the order of the day, which in some states prompted poll closures and unfounded complaints.

In New Jersey, for example, a suspicious substance later determined to be spilled salt prompted the two-hour closure of a Mount Laurel precinct. In Pennsylvania, zealous GOP election monitors complained that some Philadelphia voting machines already had thousands of recorded votes when the polls opened at 7 a.m.

Local election officials quickly explained that voting machines registered every vote ever cast on them — like mileage on a car odometer — and that did not constitute evidence of fraud.

"It's absolutely ridiculous," said Deputy City Commissioner Ed Schulgen.

In Colorado, Republican Party officials said a lawyer for the Democrats showed up at an Eagle County precinct with a list of registered GOP voters, planning to challenge them all. Democrats acknowledged it was true.

In other closely contested states — including Iowa and Michigan — the liberal group MoveOn.org was accused of dis-

rupting local precincts. In Ohio, a woman filed a lawsuit on behalf of voters who didn't receive absentee ballots on time, asking they be allowed to cast provisional ballots. Later, a Toledo federal judge granted her request.

Also in Michigan, the NAACP filed a Justice Department complaint, saying it received 35 complaints that GOP poll watchers were harassing voters in Detroit.

In Wisconsin, Republicans said vandals spray-painted "Illegitimate Democracy" across state party headquarters. In Milwaukee, police said tires were slashed on about 20 get-out-the-vote vehicles leased by the GOP.

New touch-screen voting machines, criticized by computer scientists and several elections officials as susceptible to hacking and malfunction, were used Tuesday in 29 states and the District of Columbia. Only Nevada has mandated the machines produce paper receipts, which could make recounts more reliable.

In Florida, which gave the 2000 election to George W. Bush

on the basis of 537 votes, 10 touch-screen voting machines failed at various precincts in Broward County. Nearly half the state's voters were using the ATM-like machines.

Chellie Pingree, president of Common Cause and a former international election monitor, said a toll-free voting hot line established by her citizens' lobbying group had logged at least 50,000 calls.

Tuesday's high voter turnout could bring "more confusion to already overburdened, understaffed polling places," Pingree said. And many of those places, she added, "will have as many lawyers and poll challengers as they have people voting."

Tensions flared early at many of those sites. A Democratic official in Cleveland claimed he was thrown out of a church basement by a screaming poll judge. Another judge allowed him to return.

In Florida, two Bush supporters filed a lawsuit seeking at least \$15,000 in damages, claiming they were punched,

pushed, shoved and spat on when they showed up at a Halloween rally for Democratic candidate John Kerry, dressed as giant flip-flops. In a separate lawsuit, the ACLU asked that absentee ballots mailed within the United States be subject to the same deadline, Nov. 12, as overseas ballots.

Provisional ballots, new this election, also prompted disaster fears because they could delay any recount efforts. Any voter whose name does not appear on precinct rolls is entitled to cast a provisional — or paper — ballot. But elections officials must individually certify them as being cast by registered voters before they can be counted.

A Kerry campaign lawyer said some Pennsylvania voters were prevented from voting when at least a dozen Allegheny County precincts ran out of provisional ballots. More ballots were on their way, and voters were encouraged to return later in the day. A similar complaint surfaced in New Mexico.

Pitt County Results*

President
George Bush (R)

U.S. Senate
Erskine Bowles (D)

U.S. Congress District 1
G. K. Butterfield (D)

U.S. Congress District 3
Walter Jones (R)

Governor
Mike Easley (D)

Lieutenant Governor
Beverly Eaves Perdue (R)

Attorney General
Roy Cooper (D)

Auditor
Ralph Cambell (D)

Commissioner of Agriculture
Britt Cobb (D)

Commissioner of Insurance
Jim Long (D)

Commissioner of Labor
Wayne Goodwin (D)

Secretary of State
Elaine F. Marshall (D)

*These results were obtained at press time. For official results, visit the Pitt County Board of Elections site at <http://www.co.pitt.nc.us/depts/elections/results>

Presidential Election*

56%

Republican Percentage

43%

Democratic Percentage

*Percentage received at press time

Despite all the lawyers, election-rights activists and partisan voting monitors who descended on polls across the country intent on uncovering voter fraud, the biggest complaint appeared to be long lines that forced voters to wait hours, in queues that circled buildings and wound down streets.

New advising centers help students

Professional advisors help students make the right decisions

KRISTIN DAY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

ECU recently established a system of new advising centers to assist students in registration, graduation and university life.

The new advising system offers students seven distinct centers compatible with the different majors in their department.

Some centers, including nursing and education, were established years ago by deans who saw a need for better advising.

Instead of adding obligations to faculty members who already have plenty of responsibilities, these centers employ professional advisors.

Don Joyner, assistant vice chancellor for academic support, said some of these advisors also teach, but their main job is to counsel students.

"We like to think about our advisors as being like student development people," said Joyner.

Joyner said the new advisors

are trying to engage students while helping them with academic decisions and life skills. Many of the advisors hold small group sessions and workshops that train students on things like time management and note taking.

Every student is assigned to one professional advisor who works with 400 undecided students or 300 undecided students who have completed 45 or less hours.

Joyner said while he would like to make this service available to all students, there is not a sufficient amount of funding to do so.

In some of the advising centers, once a student declares his major, he is coupled with a faculty advisor.

We still have faculty advisors, and we're not trying to preempt that at all, Joyner said.

"Some of the faculty advisors work as mentors, others do advising."

Other centers use this program the entire length of a student's enrollment with the department.

Karen Krupa, director for undergraduate student services in the school of nursing, said that faculty members in her depart-



Students look through course catalogs determining classes.

ment are sometimes too busy to be effective advisors. She said that some faculty members were great, but they were not available because they had to attend clinicals two to three times a week.

Joyner said he saw a need for advising centers from his own college experiences. He said he hated having to go to five places to find one answer. Students now can find out where to go in these centers. Even if his or her advisor is not available, there is someone there who can help.

"We hope that we have a system set up to where students, when they don't know where to go, they get to go here," Joyner said.

see ADVISING page A2

Election Day draws thousands

Students come in extreme numbers

KRISTIN DAY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Schools across the country took off for Teacher Work Day, employers let their workers show up late and most of Greenville and ECU waited in line to vote from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Carrie Clark, election official at Hooker Memorial Church said people began to line up at 5 a.m. She said a man was sitting in his chair in front of the building when she got there. She had no idea how long he had waited.

At Maranatha Free Will Baptist Church, the line reached 14th street before booths opened and at Saint James United Methodist, they had a line by 6:30 a.m., though not as long.

Voters also noticed a large amount of students at the polls.

"I'm surprised by the number of young people that got up," said one woman.

A retired Pitt County Mental Health employee, Debbie Conklin has voted in Greenville during every presidential election for the past 30 years. She said she



Voters wait through long lines for their turn to cast their vote.

thought the student attendance was an improvement from years before.

"There seems to be a definite increase in the number of students in line today ... I think it's great," said Conklin.

Wanda Thompson, an election official at Maranatha FWB, said there were quite a few students voting this year and everyone seemed enthusiastic.

Rick Niswander, dean of the college of business at ECU, said he noticed an increased amount of students participating in the election when compared to past presidential elections. He estimated approximately 23 percent

of people in line with him at Hooker Memorial were students.

He said he noticed a lot of political interest from students during his classes and a vast majority of his students said they would vote. He also noticed that more faculty members are taking serious interest in this election.

Niswander said voting is important because it is what makes America a great country.

"This is what we have to do to succeed," said Niswander.

"A successful democracy is not achieved without some effort and this is the thing we do to

see VOTING page A2

Agreement signed with Interlink Language Center, draws students

Affiliation takes effect next school year

KATIE KOKINDA-BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to increase the number of international students at ECU, an agreement with a language center has recently been established assisting prospective international students in meeting the English requirements to study at ECU.

Charles Lyons, ECU's director of international affairs, signed the agreement affiliating ECU with the Colorado corporation entitled Interlink. The affiliation will take effect in the 2004-2005 academic year. "I've seen the system work," said Lyons.

Lyons worked in establishing

the program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. After seeing the program's success, he contacted Interlink and arranged the affiliation with ECU.

This affiliation states ECU would send a conditional letter of admission to international students that do not meet the proficiency in the English language requirement. Those students will be given full admission after they have either achieved a score of 550 on a paper or machine-graded 213 TOEFL, comparable to the American SAT, or they have successfully completed Level five of the ILC training program.

After Sept. 9, 2001, many programs offering help in language to international students were unable to maintain sufficient numbers of stu-

dents causing various companies to discontinue their service. One of the few companies that survived is Interlink Language Centers.

ECU's affiliation with ILC has been established to assist ECU and ILC in their respective efforts to recruit and educate an increased number of international students. ECU's goal is to admit 500 international students by 2009.

Since ECU does not have a sufficient number of students to merit an on-campus ILC training program, the students would be referred to the already-existing center at Valparaiso University in Indiana, or if necessary, to one of the four other centers located at Colorado School of Mines, Indiana State University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro or Guilford College. Each of the universities that

ILC is affiliated with or based at are a part of the American Consortium of Universities. The ACU works to assist in the adjustment to the academic and cultural challenges of study abroad. International students are degree-seeking students, meaning they are not accepted to study at an American university for a semester or even a year. They are accepted with the goal of achieving their bachelor's or master's degree, occasionally even a doctorate.

If the increased effort to recruit and admit more international students to ECU attracts enough international students, ILC would set up an on-campus facility to provide Level four and five instruction.

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

Abroad from page A2

because there are a number of scholarships, in addition to financial aid, available to cover the cost of travel.

Calvin Mercer, associate professor of religion, agreed that ECU has sufficient scholarships and financial aid to help students go on these trips. One scholarship is the Rivers Scholarship, which can help you with the cost of transportation.

One of the several trips this summer will be in Italy and Greece, which offer six credit hours. Historical and religious sites will be visited. The locations visited include Athens, Greece, Italy and Rome.

Studying abroad is beneficial to students, especially those who are going to graduate school.

"More and more graduate schools are receiving applications from students who have lived overseas or studied overseas," said Stevenson.

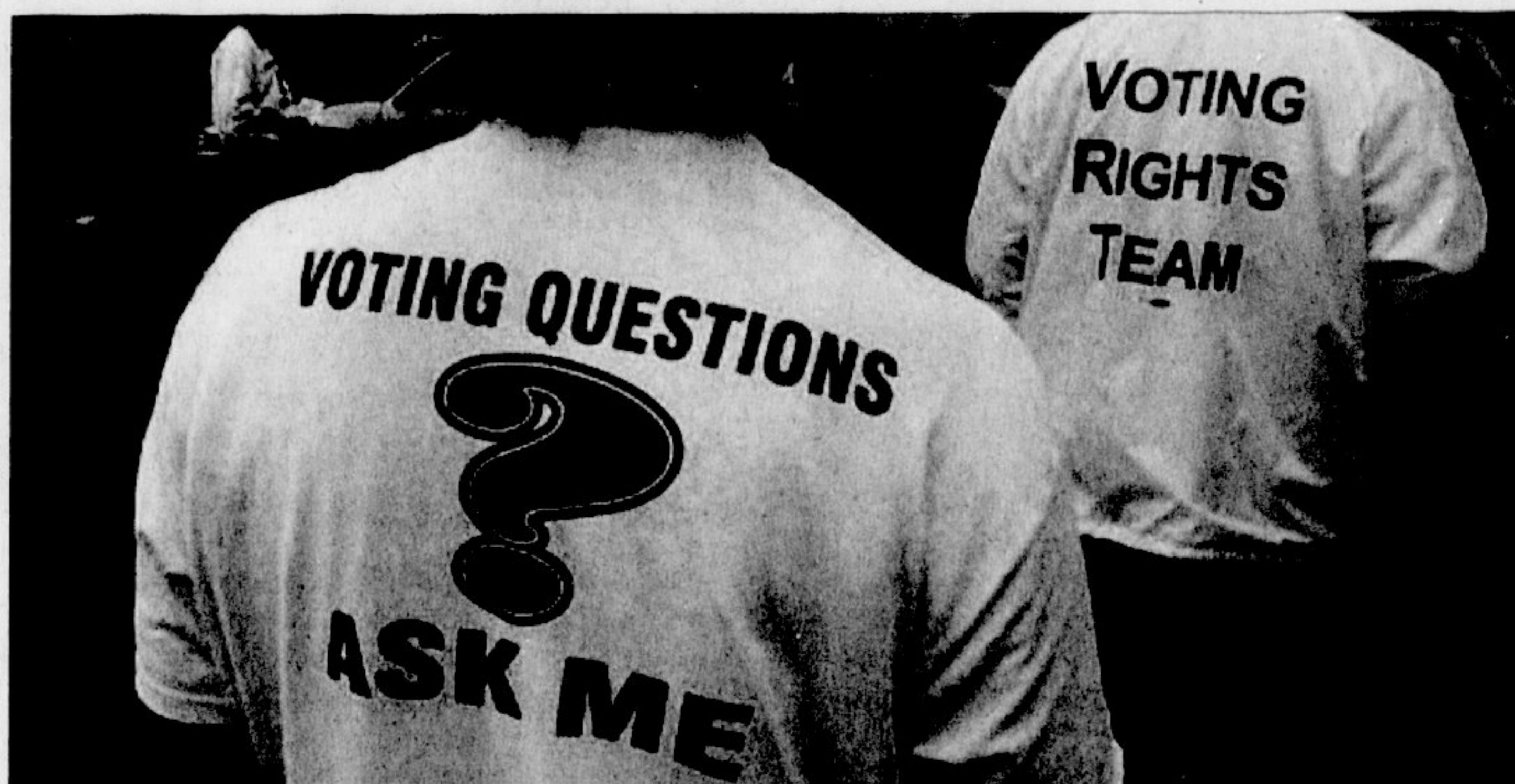
Employers also look at a student exchange program as experience in which a person has developed the understanding and familiarity with another country, language skills, a sense of flexibility and a willingness to go somewhere and try something different.

The GPA requirement for exchange programs is a 2.75. If a student intends to do an exchange program, the student needs to make sure the courses they take are compatible to ECU's courses. The student does not have to remain a full time student on these trips.

There are usually 25 to 30 people who go on these trips.

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

As voting begins, first reports of technical troubles, late openings



Voter advocates in Ohio canvas a high school parking lot as voters came to precincts.

AP — Polling places experienced scattered problems early Tuesday as legions of lawyers, election-rights activists and computer scientists watched, particularly in battleground states, for any trouble that could disenfranchise voters.

New rules, new voters and a tight presidential contest combined to create "a recipe for problems," said Sean Greene, who was assigned to watch Cleveland polls for the Election Reform Information Project, a nonpartisan research group on election reform.

Nearly one in three voters, including about half of those in Florida, were expected to cast ballots using ATM-style voting machines that computer scientists have criticized for their potential for software glitches, hacking and malfunctioning.

Other major concerns were over provisional ballots, new this presidential election and a potential source of delayed counts, and whether poll workers were adequate and sufficiently trained.

Long lines greeted voters in many big cities in closely contested states: Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Columbus, Ohio, Detroit and elsewhere. Five locations in Franklin County, Ohio, opened up to a half-hour late because poll workers did not show up on time.

In Essex, Md., an election judge left a polling place briefly, saying he forgot something at home. Voters who had to wait were allowed to vote by provisional ballot.

One polling location in Mauldin, SC, was forced to switch to paper ballots because of equipment troubles.

In Volusia County, Fla., a memory card in an optical-scan voting machine failed Monday at an early voting site and didn't count 13,000 ballots. Officials planned to feed and count those ballots Tuesday.

Chellie Pingree, president of the citizens lobbying group Common Cause, said she feared poll workers faced with long lines would be pressured to make quick but bad interpretations on rules governing registration validity and identification requirements.

"There's no question it's going to be a high turnout," Pingree said. "It's going to just add more confusion to already overburdened, understaffed polling places, many of which will have as many lawyers and poll challengers as they have people voting."

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Our View

As college students, not enough of us take the time to take an active approach to the world around us. Sometimes we ignore current events.

Other times we neglect to engage in dialogue about issues that affect our lives. It's quite discouraging, really.

Yesterday, as many members of TEC staff visited precincts around the community, it was blatantly obvious that young people, for the most part, did not take the opportunity to express their political opinions through voting.

Our staff overheard many complaints from students saying the lines were too long, they forgot to send in their absentee ballots or they simply didn't feel they had enough time.

One student told us the line for Hooker Memorial Church was wrapped around the building and she did not feel voting was important enough to waste her time waiting in line.

One staff member only encountered one voter in two hours that was below 30 years old.

This is not to say that all students didn't vote. We give a great deal of credit to the students and members of the ECU and Greenville communities who were committed to getting informed and taking the time to vote. ECU College Democrats and College Republicans did a great job promoting their candidates and registering voters. However, we feel compelled to criticize those students who proved apathetic.

As much as Americans like to complain about politicians and their campaigns, few can ignore the time commitment, energy and finances that go into competing in any race, local or national.

Each of the candidates should be congratulated for their efforts regardless of whether or not their campaign proved successful at the polls. We hope that those elected serve North Carolina, as well as this country, well.

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In My Opinion

Election 2004 is media milestone

(KRT) — Both sides in the presidential contest are eager to declare this election the most momentous event since the discovery of fire, and we won't know how true that is until we see how badly we've been burned. But I think it's already apparent that the campaign will be considered a milestone in the history of the U.S. media.

Here's what has changed:
— The mainstream media no longer play a key role in setting the national news agenda. The established news media were nowhere on public-policy matters. Issues that should have been their meat and potatoes — such as the adequacy of homeland security or remedies to stanch job losses — were largely untouched. A recent BBC Online critique was titled, perceptively, "How the U.S. media lost the plot."

— Instead, the agenda was set by partisans, via political advertising and committed freelance efforts. Time and again, established media essentially reacted to issues rammed through by outside groups. It started with the Howard Dean primary campaign, in which a grass-roots protest against the war blossomed briefly into an electoral insurgency. *Fahrenheit 9/11* threw the fat in the fire, raising President Bush's character and competence as reelection issues. Also, that critique, like the swift boat group's anti-Kerry assaults, leapt over the media firewalls and forged the campaign debate. One lamentable conclusion: Buying your way onto the national agenda is easy, it just takes money.

— The horse race defeated all comers. I can't exaggerate the degree to which

mainstream news evaluated virtually all candidate actions, utterances, proposals and disclosures by how they might affect not the country, but the vote. Learned commentators speculated endlessly on the impact of a Kerry health-care proposal on Ohio's turnout or Pennsylvania's undecideds, without ever looking at the proposal itself. Political writer Matt Taibbi has skewered the almost derisive way in which journalists referred to policy "details," which they never actually described (and probably couldn't).

— News media credibility was in freefall. Unrelenting attacks on so-called liberal bias were partly responsible. But the huge irony is that for all the gnashing of teeth over the "60 Minutes" anti-Bush National Guard memos, the two most calamitous errors that the media have made in this young century were both immensely favorable to Bush: prematurely awarding him the 2000 election and shilling for his fallacious pre-war claims about Iraq's strategic arsenal. When those various instances are set alongside the cases of reporter deceit and the still-unfolding newspaper circulation scandal, the media inspire anything but trust.

— The Web stretched the universe of political news. The Internet has matured into a boisterous adolescence, with broad claims of diversity and public empowerment. We've entered what pioneer Matt Drudge once described as "an era vibrating with the din of small voices." Bloggers are more adept at verification than original reporting, and on the Internet

it's not easy to know who's pulling whose strings. But time and again the boundaries of coverage have expanded because of the persistence of Web-based reportage and commentary, which are now integral to any journalist's beat coverage.

— Partisanship is here to stay. Advocacy journalism may rankle, but its legitimacy within the national discourse seems to be more firmly established now than ever. Indeed, it's the claim to impartiality that the public seems unwilling now to accept.

— The supremacy of fact is under siege. People should argue over which facts matter, not what the facts are. When a University of Maryland study found that 72 percent of Bush supporters believe that Iraq had or was actively developing weapons of mass destruction, and 75 percent believe that Iraq was substantially supporting — claims that not even the administration makes — something is wrong with the country's political information system.

Hence, with the 2004 campaign, patterns of media influence — of who gets to speak and to be heard — fundamentally shifted, with once-authoritative voices discredited. A robust new conversation conducted on the Internet, talk radio and cable TV has assumed historic prominence. Still, despite an unparalleled richness of information and multiplicity of perspectives, the discourse that characterized the current campaign season was dopey, squalid and mendacious.

And vast numbers of people believe important things that aren't true.

In My Opinion

Falling in love with handwritten letters

Pen to paper: Falling in love with handwritten letters

(KRT) — I remember reaching my lanky arm into our rusty mailbox as a young girl and getting so excited when in the thick stack of mail, I'd find a letter addressed to me.

Today, I'm still overjoyed to receive a personal letter, though it happens less and less frequently.

There's just something about the care and time put into a letter that has drawn me back to this old-style manner of corresponding.

When e-mail became the cheaper and faster alternative to our classic postal service, I admit I happily jumped on the bandwagon. I was saving paper, money and time all at once. Who wouldn't relocate their primary address from their home mailbox to the Internet?

Then in an English class last spring, an assignment drove me to fall in love with genuine letter-writing again.

In partners, we were to spend a few months cultivating a relationship in writing through which we discussed almost everything — life, love, our future goals and dreams.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the exercise was also the most simple.

In writing our letters, we chose an array of stationery, found new ways to decorate our envelopes, and learned different styles of handwriting.

I chose a new pen to use with each letter, and added stickers, colored paper or any other decoration I felt was right. It was the personal touch that made me yearn for the next letter to come in my mailbox each day.

Admiring (or trying to decipher) a person's handwriting is one of the many things that separate letters from e-mails. The different styles of handwriting can say a lot about the writer's personality and add a dose of character to the paper.

For example, my grandmother says if a person tilts his writing to the left, he generally thinks with his head and is more reserved and quiet. If it's tilted to the right, he is more likely to think with his heart and be more emotional and loving. And if he crosses his T's low, he has lower self-confidence, while crossing them high means he is enthusiastic and spirited.

E-mails afford a quick, easy and often mindless option for keeping in touch. Sure, we all receive heartfelt e-mails from time to time, but most are short and full of incomplete sen-

tences with phrases like "lol," "btw" and "g2g."

In a good letter, sentences are well thought-out, everlasting and complete.

But what about special occasions like birthdays or holidays? We're bound to receive several letters and cards in the mail then, right? Not much anymore, thanks to e-cards. Instead of taking the time and thought to send a real greeting card or to make one, we can now click on a picture of a card and e-mail it to a friend in a matter of minutes.

Letters are the storytellers of our past. From a soldier on the battlefield writing to his loved ones at home, to a king requesting the help of another nation, to the romance of the Reagans, letters tell the stories that become our history.

Once an e-mail is deleted, it disappears into cyberspace. A letter will last forever. An e-mail is a document to look at on a screen, not a piece of paper to hold in hand.

Next time, instead of catching up with a friend in an e-mail, try writing a letter. Who knows, maybe your friend will respond and bring back the true meaning of "You've got mail."

Pirate Rant

I find it interesting that when I make my way over to the Democratic table in Wright Plaza, they don't have any posters left over, and sometimes they're even short on stickers. But at the Bush table they're throwing them at students passing by. Hopefully this is a foreshadowing of the way the votes will end up.

I hate it when other students in class try to get the professor to cancel class. Why do you do this? You're big girls and boys now and you should be capable of making your own decisions about attending class.

Is it me or is everyone an executive at a Fortune 500 company? If we made sure we studied like we make sure we carry that cell phone, we'd all be doctors.

A month until graduation and I don't know a doggone thing about it. Is this information top-secret or what?

I've been at least five different places to try and get my registration together. I'm sick of all this red tape.

Elections are over! No more political ads — yay!

Why does all the food that is so bad for you taste so good?

I'm sick of all my Democratic friends saying Kerry should win the election. Have some faith in your presidential candidate!

Could Nelly be any more of a sell-out? First there was the half time show with Britney Spears and N'Sync... now Tim McGraw? What a poser!

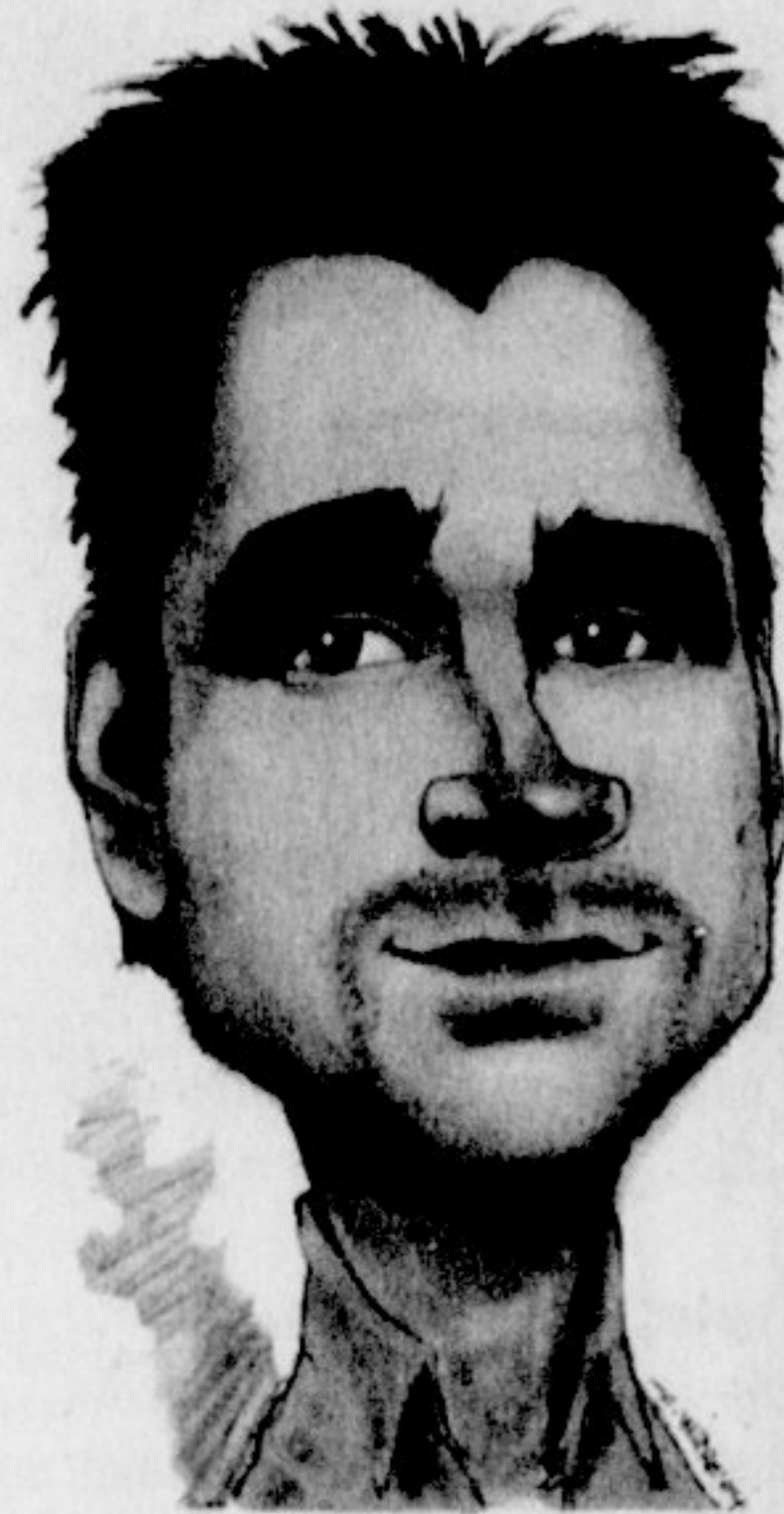
What is the purpose of the drunk dial? Do you think it's appealing for me to talk to you when all your words slur together and you make absolutely no sense?

Why is it that the guy you like always talks to you about other girls?

How come every time I meet a good looking guy downtown he turns out to be gay?

I know many of the boys are looking forward to basketball season because of the Pure Gold dancers, but I'm looking forward to the hot basketball players! You're hot, Mike Cook!

Editor's Note: The Pirate Rant is an anonymous way for students and staff in the ECU community to voice their opinions. Submissions can be submitted anonymously online at www.theeastcarolinian.com, or e-mailed to editor@theeastcarolinian.com. The editor reserves the right to edit opinions for content and brevity.



"I've smoked it a couple of times, but I knew where I was going. For some reason it seemed pretty f---ing nice at the time."

— Actor Colin Farrell on his use of heroin in a recent GQ article that has enraged many anti-drug organizations.

Announcements

Mendenhall Movies:

Napoleon Dynamite:
Wed. 9:30 p.m.
Thurs. 7 p.m.
Fri. 9:30 p.m.
Sat. 7 p.m., Midnight
Sun. 3 p.m.

Bourne Supremacy:
Wed. 7 p.m.
Thurs. 9:30 p.m.
Fri. 7 p.m., Midnight
Sat. 9:30 p.m.
Sun. 7 p.m.

Top 5s:

Top 5 Movies:

1. *The Grudge*
2. *Ray*
3. *Saw*
4. *Shark Tales*
5. *Shall We Dance?*

Top 5 TV Shows:

1. *CSI*
2. *CSI: Miami*
3. *Desperate Housewives*
4. *Major League Baseball*
5. *Major League Baseball*

Top 5 DVDs:

1. *Day After Tomorrow*
2. *Raising Helen*
3. *Walking Tall*
4. *Man on Fire*
5. *Mean Girls*

Top 5 CDs:

1. *Rod Stewart*
2. *Nelly*
3. *George Strait*
4. *Ray Charles*
5. *Jimmy Eat World*

Top 5 Books:

1. *The Da Vinci Code*
2. *The Two Swords*
3. *Northern Lights*
4. *Plot Against America*
5. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

Horoscopes:

Aries: You can find the money to reinforce your infrastructure.

Taurus: You're probably the teacher's pet. You're not only paying attention, you're also practicing what you're learning.

Gemini: You should be doing quite well financially, but don't take anything for granted. Purchase what you need to keep you going in the right direction.

Cancer: Commitments made now are sure to last and lead to amazing things. Choose someone you trust, who believes in you, to make the journey together.

Leo: A person who doesn't say much may be waiting to give you a piece of her mind. She's just about had it with waiting for you to figure out what she's been thinking, which, of course, would never happen.

Virgo: Others look to you for facts and figures, so provide them. Check them carefully. Others depend on you to do that.

Libra: You're doing pretty well and you're certainly looking good. Don't get cocky though. Be gracious to ensure your continued success.

Scorpio: You can talk about what's deep within your heart with a wise, compassionate healer. Offer the same gift in return and be a willing listener.

Sagittarius: This is a good day for musical and technical home improvements. How's that old entertainment center doing? Is it time for an upgrade? Check the sales.

Capricorn: Your partner can get the information that you've been looking for. Encourage him or her to do it. Soon, that option will not be available.

Aquarius: How much you make now depends on your experience. If you don't have any, you'll gain some, so you'll win either way.

Pisces: Love is the standard against which you measure and choose which actions to take. Today it looks like what's good for others is also good for you. Just don't spend too much.

'Oscar season' comes early this year

Interesting build-up to film's biggest night

KATHERINE DAY
STAFF WRITER

Oscar season is coming early this year. Past campaigns for the coveted Academy Award have a tendency to begin during the last weeks of December in order to stay fresh in the minds of moviegoers and the Academy. This year, the nominations will come earlier than ever. The Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards have historically chosen their nominees much earlier than the Oscars, which influences who is nominated and ultimately chosen to win in the latter award show. To gain the upper hand, the Oscars will be arriving a month earlier this year and Oscar hopefuls are debuting as early as October to create individual buzz.

Many factors contribute to a film's ability to gain an Academy Award nomination, the highest honor in film. History indicates the Academy's propensity toward certain movies. Even before its release, an aspect such as the director, theme and actors attached to star contribute to how well it will fare in the battle for the Oscar.

With the end of the year approaching quickly and the arrival of potential winners coming earlier than usual, Chris Rock will host the ceremony Feb. 27, 2005. There are already a multitude of films clamoring for the coveted Oscar.

Predictions can be made based on the stars attached to the project as well as content. Some promising new films have already debuted and have garnered critical acclaim. *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *Before Sunset* are two of the best-reviewed films of this year.

Their early releases could potentially cost them in the long run. They can easily be overshadowed by newer films or just plain forgotten.

To counter this, movie studios release these movies on DVD and video during the Oscar season to reach a larger audience and to refresh the mind of Academy members.

This tactic worked well for last year's *Seabiscuit* which was a solid summer release with positive reviews and went on to



Michael Moore uses his acceptance speech to make a political statement against the war in Iraq after winning an Oscar.

get a Best Picture nomination. Focusing on the later releases of this year, some movies that are expected to fare well in Oscar nominations are: *The Aviator*, *Alexander*, *Kinsey*, *Finding Neverland* and *Closer*. The Dec. 17 release of *The Aviator* is a prime date for Martin Scorsese's biopic on legendary director and producer Howard Hughes.

With six Oscar nominations under his belt (four for Best Director), Scorsese is considered long overdue for Academy recognition. A favorite to win for 2002's *Gangs of New York*, the respected director of such classics as *Goodfellas* and *Raging Bull* has a great shot at winning.

The Aviator, the story of legendary producer and director

Howard Hughes, stars Leonardo DiCaprio. This type of period piece will most likely enjoy great success. The combination of an all-star cast and a solid screenplay, written by Oscar nominated screenwriter John Logan (*Gladiator*) should prove that *The Aviator* is a likely contender for Best Picture. Controversial director Oliver Stone delivers an epic based on the life of the Macedonian conqueror Alexander the Great. *Alexander*, starring Colin Farrell in the title role, will provide stiff competition this year.

The Academy Award winning Stone has a reputation for making flamboyant and "in your face" style films, which may deter the Academy, given the subject matter of the film. As for acting, many new and interesting performances are generating buzz this year.

Praising an earlier perfor-

mance this year, A.O. Scott of the *New York Times* speaks highly of Jaime Foxx's work in *Ray*.

"Mr. Foxx has displayed an intriguing blend of quick-wittedness, bravado and sensitivity, and his recognition of those qualities in Ray Charles is the key to his performance. You get the sense he is not just pretending to be Ray Charles, but he understands him completely and knows how to communicate this understanding through every word and gesture, without explaining a thing," said Scott.

Due to the early arrival of the awards ceremony, the October release of *Ray* will not hurt the film's chances. The public is going to remember films such as this when nominations are announced.

This year may allow those overlooked in the past the chance to finally earn in Oscar. Last

year's close race between Bill Murray and Sean Penn for Best Actor let the Academy know how meaningful it would be for Murray to win. Wes Anderson's *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* looks to be a fresh and entertaining film that will showcase Murray's talents to their full extent.

The excitement of the Oscars hits toward the end of the year. It's the time when cinema's best come out looking for the award show's highest honor. Winning films make history, so being remembered is very important come February.

The anticipation is heightened toward the end of the year, when film goers and filmmakers alike find out who is deemed the best of the year.

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

Studio breaks their 'Ray' now playing in theaters billion dollar mold with new movie



Contributed photo

Pixar grows up with making of new film

GARY MCCABE
STAFF WRITER

When somebody becomes the best they can possibly be in their particular field, they tend to reach a crossroads. If they go down one path, they can continue doing what they do at that high level and have all the success in the world, yet never quite feel fulfilled. If they travel down the other, they can attempt to branch out and attempt something new but cannot know for sure whether the path will lead them to prosperity or the poor house.

Michael Jordan is the poster boy for this situation. Already establishing himself as the greatest basketball player of his time with nothing left to prove, he left the NBA in his prime to play baseball. His success, or lack thereof, is well-documented. Animation studio Pixar has reached a similar point following an unprecedented string of successful films.

Pixar, a subsidiary of Disney, burst onto the scene in 1995 with the first fully computer-generated full-length feature film *Toy Story*. With a potent combination

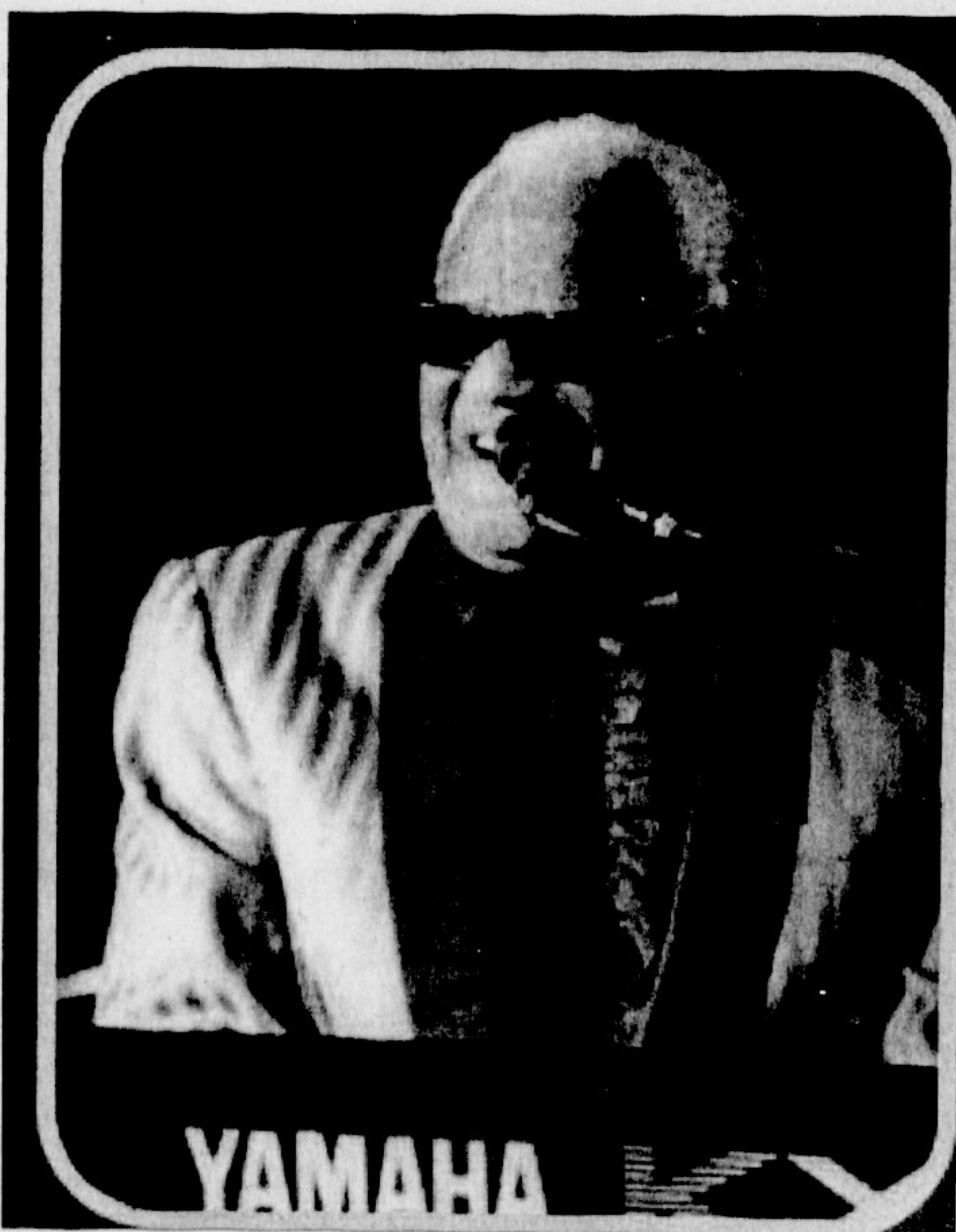
of wonderful screen writing, star power, ground-breaking animation and universal appeal, *Toy Story* was a runaway success garnering critical acclaim and nearly \$200 million at the box office. Overnight, Pixar revolutionized the entire film industry.

Pixar would continue to be the standard-bearer in a genre they created. The studio found continued success with *A Bug's Life* in 1998, *Toy Story 2* in 1999 and *Monsters, Inc.* in 2001, each time upping the ante, refining their methods and creating an improved product with each outing.

By 2001, however, Pixar had competition in the newly thriving computer-animated film industry. Inspired by Pixar's filmmaking (or their profitability), films such as *Ice Age*, *Antz*, *Shrek* and *Shrek* were brought to theaters nationwide, all enjoying enormous success using formulas perfected by Pixar. This new onslaught of animated films even led to the creation of an Academy Award specifically for Best Animated Feature.

Nevertheless, in the face of such competition, Pixar rose to the occasion rather than crumbling under the pressure and once again set the bar for all movies of their kind with their 2003 release *Finding Nemo*. *Finding Nemo* raked in \$70 million in its opening weekend, making it one of the highest grossing openings for a movie in any genre. Earning universal praise from critics, adult moviegoers and children, the film stands as one of the greatest achievements in the history of film. It easily won Best Animated Feature at the 2004 Academy Awards and was nominated for

see **INCREDIBLES** page A7



Contributed photo

Legend that will never be forgotten

DANIELLE WIGGINS
STAFF WRITER

Ray, starring Jamie Foxx, is a musical biography of the legendary entertainer. Born Sept. 23, 1930 in Albany, Ga., Charles lost his sight at the age of seven from glaucoma after witnessing his brother's death. While attending a school for the deaf and blind, Charles developed an unparalleled musical skill behind a piano. Later, he established a new sound of music with a mix of genres, becoming a single artist after his mother's death. Even though mixing gospel and

other styles of music was unheard of in the 1940s, Charles simply played music to the best of his knowledge, changing the way people felt and listened to music. This type of music resulted in the birth of what we now call "soul," which has branched off into other genres like R&B.

In the 1940s, Ray Charles started to mix genres such as gospel, jazz, country and rock 'n roll. He was known for his memorable performances of songs "Georgia" and "America the Beautiful." He also wrote for different artists and is found on many collaborations. He received prestigious awards such as the President's Merit Award and 12 Grammy Awards and is held responsible for 250 albums, many being top sellers in the span of 58

years. He was not only inducted into the Jazz Hall of Fame, but also into various others including Rock n' Roll and Blues. Later in his career, Ray Charles overcame a heroin addiction and racism. Charles started foundations to help those who are visually handicapped and hearing impaired. He appeared in movies such as *The Blues Brothers* and various commercials for California Raisins and Pepsi. This talented artist gained a worldwide respect for his daring styles and overall great music. Ray Charles and the famous Raelettes stunned the stage and gained many devoted fans both young and old. He died on July 10, 2004 at the age of 73, just a few months before his biography was released.

The cast includes Regina King, Kerry Washington, Richard Schiff and Aunjanue Ellis.

The movie is set in the 1960s, when Charles was learning how to overcome his heroin addiction. Directed by Taylor Hackford, the \$30 million movie is packed with night club and studio scenes, giving the audience a taste of what entertainment was like in that era. You get the feeling of traveling back in time. Jamie Foxx gives a believable performance as Ray, lip syncing to Charles' old time classics and acting out the life of a legend. Jamie Foxx is likely to be nominated for various awards for his outstanding performance. Foxx has also starred in the movie *Collateral* with Tom Cruise. *Ray* is a classic and a legend that will live

see **CHARLES** page A7

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Charles from page A6

on forever. For more information on Ray Charles' life, a re-released autobiography titled, *Brother Ray: Ray Charles' Own Story*, by Ray Charles himself and David Ritz is in stores now.

The two and a half hours is worth your time even if you are not familiar with this artist. It covers partial scenes of his life. Ray Charles himself was there during the filming before he died, which makes it even more significant. An idol for many recording artists today, well known

and recognized throughout the world, Ray Charles is simply an American Icon. The film *Ray* pays tribute to the latest and greatest treasured artist in music history. Critics around the nation give this movie great ratings.

"The amazing thing about Fox's performance is that he is so very credible," said Eleanor Ringel Gillespie, Atlanta Journal Constitution Web site.

"For a man who utilized so many musical keys, Charles' life story comes off as relatively one note,"

said Sean O'Connell, *Filmcritic.com*.

With such great ratings, *Ray* is for the family. To see for yourself, go check it out. Critics are great, but be your own critic. In the midst of the big blockbuster horror films that were expected to come out for Halloween, *Ray* is still expected to have a decent outcome. The PG-13 rated film started playing everywhere Oct. 29. It is currently showing at Greenville Carmike 12.

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

Incredibles from page A6

Best Original Screenplay. Its total gross neared \$340 million, not including DVD sales which doubled that total. It's at this point that Pixar reached the previously mentioned 'crossroads.'

Though highly enjoyable, Pixar was well aware of a formula for their movies, which were all G-rated films, targeted at children with a handful of jokes thrown in for mature audiences, where adventures are had by things that typically don't have adventures.

"We could see exactly how we could make the same picture again and again from now on," said Andrew Stanton, director of *Finding Nemo*.

So came the quandary: keep producing lucrative films which millions of people love or strive to create something more, something different. Pixar has chosen the latter, creating a movie completely unlike *Toy Story* and *Nemo* called *The Incredibles*.

Written and directed by "Simpsons" consultant Brad Bird, the plot line to *The Incredibles* is as follows: When a flurry of lawsuits are filed against superheroes across the nation by people they have rescued, Mr. Incredible and his family, all complete with super-powers, are put into the witness protection program to live normal lives. Working as an insurance claims adjuster, Mr. Incredible (a.k.a. Bob Parr) hates

his current life and yearns for his crime-fighting days. So when an opportunity for a return to his old life presents itself by a mysterious informant, Mr. Incredible jumps at it, but finds himself in a trap set by his arch-nemesis. So now, the rest of the Incredible clan must work together to save the patriarch of their family and the rest of the world as well.

With its first-rate visuals, trademark humor and bizarre storyline, *The Incredibles* may not look so different from their previous titles. However, there are a lot of subtle details to the movie which might suggest otherwise. First of all, the film has been rated PG by the MPA for action violence. While the difference between a PG rating and a G rating may be lost on most casual movie fans, there is indeed a difference. The extra rating has given the film the ability to touch on subjects they could never bring up in previous films. The film deals with a mid-life crisis, dysfunctional families, infidelity and even murder.

Unlike other Pixar films which would find themselves in the comedy section of the local video store, *The Incredibles*, which is undoubtedly funny, is above all else an action film inspired by the likes of the James Bond films and *Spiderman*. And while even the marketing suggests the film is

merely a 'superhero spoof,' Stanton wanted to make clear that this film is, "... a legitimate action picture with more emotional maturity than people expect of 'live action' hero pictures."

Though scarce at the moment, early reviews of the film are more than encouraging to the crew at Pixar. *Time Magazine* gave the film a glowing review while James Bregman of BBC News calls it an, "... immensely enjoyable film." Kirk Honeycutt of *The Hollywood Reporter* said, "... *The Incredibles* is as imaginative and astute as any general audience entertainment has been for a long while ..." and goes on to call the film, "... Pixar's best work yet."

That is good news for Pixar and Disney who plan to push hard to get the film nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards and not be content with Best Animated Feature. Pixar, whose deal with Disney will expire after their next picture, *Cars*, and leave them free to work however they like, plans to keep making the greatest films possible in all genres. What ultimately lies down the path Pixar is heading is unknown, but *The Incredibles* seems like a huge leap in that direction rather than a small first step.

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

Send us your Pirate Rants!

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NOAH WYLE, Star of NBC's hit show ER

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REGISTRATION TIME IS HERE

November 1 - November 10

Registration Time Schedule Spring 2005

Check Here For Times

Once your registration window is open, you may register during operating hours listed any time during the registration period or until the semester begins.

The term "hours" indicates the total number of credit hours earned at the end of the previous semester/session.

Terminals open 8-5 (Campus Offices)

	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	2:00	3:00	4:00
Monday, November 1	Graduate Students, 2 nd Degree Students, Teaching Fellows with 60+ hours, Honors Students with 60+ hours	Teaching Fellows with 0-59 hours, Honors Students with 0-59 hours	Students with 130+ hours	Students with 118-129+ hours	Students with 112-117+ hours	Students with 108-111+ hours	Students with 104-107+ hours
Tuesday, November 2	Students with 101-103+ hours	Students with 98-100+ hours	Students with 95-97+ hours	Students with 92-94+ hours	Students with 89-91+ hours	Students with 86-88+ hours	Students with 83-85+ hours
Wednesday, November 3	Students with 80-82+ hours	Students with 77-79+ hours	Students with 74-76+ hours	Students with 71-73+ hours	Students with 68-70+ hours	Students with 65-67+ hours	Students with 63-64+ hours
Thursday, November 4	Students with 61-62+ hours	Students with 59-60+ hours	Students with 57-58+ hours	Students with 55-56+ hours	Students with 53-54+ hours	Students with 50-52+ hours	Students with 47-49+ hours
Friday, November 5	Students with 44-46+ hours	Students with 41-43+ hours	Students with 38-40+ hours	Students with 35-37+ hours	Students with 33-34+ hours	Students with 32+ hours	Students with 31+ hours
Monday, November 8	Students with 30+ hours	Students with 28-29+ hours	Students with 26-27+ hours	Students with 24-25+ hours	Students with 21-23+ hours	Students with 15-20+ hours	Students with 9-14+ hours
Tuesday, November 9	Students with 5-8+ hours	Students with 1-4+ hours	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=0	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=1	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=2	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=3	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=4
Wednesday, November 10	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=5	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=6	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=7	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=8	Students with 0 hours - last digit of SID=9		

SID = Student ID Number (SSN)

Telephonic and web registration open from 8:00 a.m. - Midnight

Announcements

Backman to manage Arizona

Wally Backman was the scrappy, intense second baseman for the World Series champion New York Mets 18 years ago. He promises to bring that same style to the Arizona Diamondbacks as their new manager. Backman, who took himself out of contention for the Mets managing job last week, was hired Monday to take over an Arizona team coming off one of the worst seasons in major league history. Backman, 45, was selected minor league manager of the year this season by *The Sporting News* after leading Class A Lancaster to the best record in the California League (86-54). It was his first year in the Diamondbacks organization. Backman, an all-state wrestler as well as star baseball player at Aloha (Ore.) High School, was a first-round draft pick of the Mets, the 16th selection overall. He played 14 seasons in the major leagues, the first nine with the Mets, and finished with a .275 career average with 240 RBI and 117 steals. He takes over a franchise that dropped to 51-111 last season, the worst record in the seven-year history of the Diamondbacks, who won the World Series title in 2001. The losses matched the 10th-most in major league history.

Rix reclaims job at FSU

Quarterback Chris Rix will start for No. 13 Florida State on Saturday against Duke, returning to the job he lost six games ago to Wyatt Sexton. Rix sprained his right ankle against Clemson on Sept. 25. Sexton relieved and led Florida State to a win in that game and the next four. Sexton was 14-for-30 for 164 yards in a 20-17 loss to Maryland last Saturday and was relieved by Rix, who went 8-for-21 for 140 yards and a touchdown pass. Rix, a senior, has started 37 games for Florida State but has been inconsistent throughout his career with an 0-5 record against rival Miami. FSU coach Bobby Bowden also said Monday he will replace starting kicker Xavier Beitia on field-goal attempts with freshman Gary Cismesla. Beitia missed three field goals against Maryland.

Shaq may miss opener

Shaquille O'Neal remains bothered by a strained left hamstring, yet the 11-time All-Star center hopes to play Wednesday when Miami opens its season at New Jersey. O'Neal missed most of Miami's practice Monday, sparking concerns that the injury is worse than feared. The Heat, however, did not place O'Neal on the injured list, indicating they believe the problem is minor. Still, Heat coach Stan Van Gundy was clearly disappointed that O'Neal, who sat out practices Friday and Saturday, and missed three of Miami's seven preseason games, wasn't able to participate in Monday's workout. O'Neal took part in some defensive drills, but wasn't on the floor for 5-on-5 work. O'Neal, acquired from the Los Angeles Lakers in an offseason trade, was not made available to reporters. He's been slowed by the hamstring problem for more than two weeks. And his durability has been questioned throughout the latter portion of his career, with various foot and leg injuries forcing him out of 15 games in each of the last three seasons.

McGrady signs extension

The Houston Rockets signed two-time NBA scoring champion Tracy McGrady to a multiyear contract extension Monday. Terms of the deal were not released. Before being traded to the Rockets from Orlando in June, McGrady had vowed to exercise the opt-out clause in his contract, which had three years remaining. The clause was to go into effect after this season. Rockets owner Les Alexander said in a statement that team efforts now would direct their efforts on All-Star center Yao Ming.

Plethora of talent for Pirates



ROBERT LEONARD
STAFF WRITER

My junior year in high school was interesting. I attended Sanderson in Raleigh, but not that particular year. Every Sanderson student had to pick up and move down the road for a year to Wakefield while Sanderson was being renovated. I had no idea where I was, quite a strange feeling for a junior. I hadn't felt like that since freshman year.

I got that same feeling this past Saturday at Minges Coliseum. I felt like a freshman again watching the Purple/Gold game, not knowing who anyone was. This time though, I was the senior. I was glad I had a roster with me so I could finally start putting some names and faces together.

I'll start with Mike Castro, since he's a transfer with some college experience. My first thought about Castro was this guy could be big for ECU this year, literally and figuratively. He will be a bruiser down low and has the body to do it. While Moussa wasn't out there due to his sprained thumb, Castro was dominant on the glass. I originally thought most of the rebounding would have to be on Corey Rouse's shoulders, but if Castro can play at a high level and grab 13 rebounds like he did in the scrimmage, Rouse's role as a rebounder will diminish.

The only thing I was not thrilled about with him was a

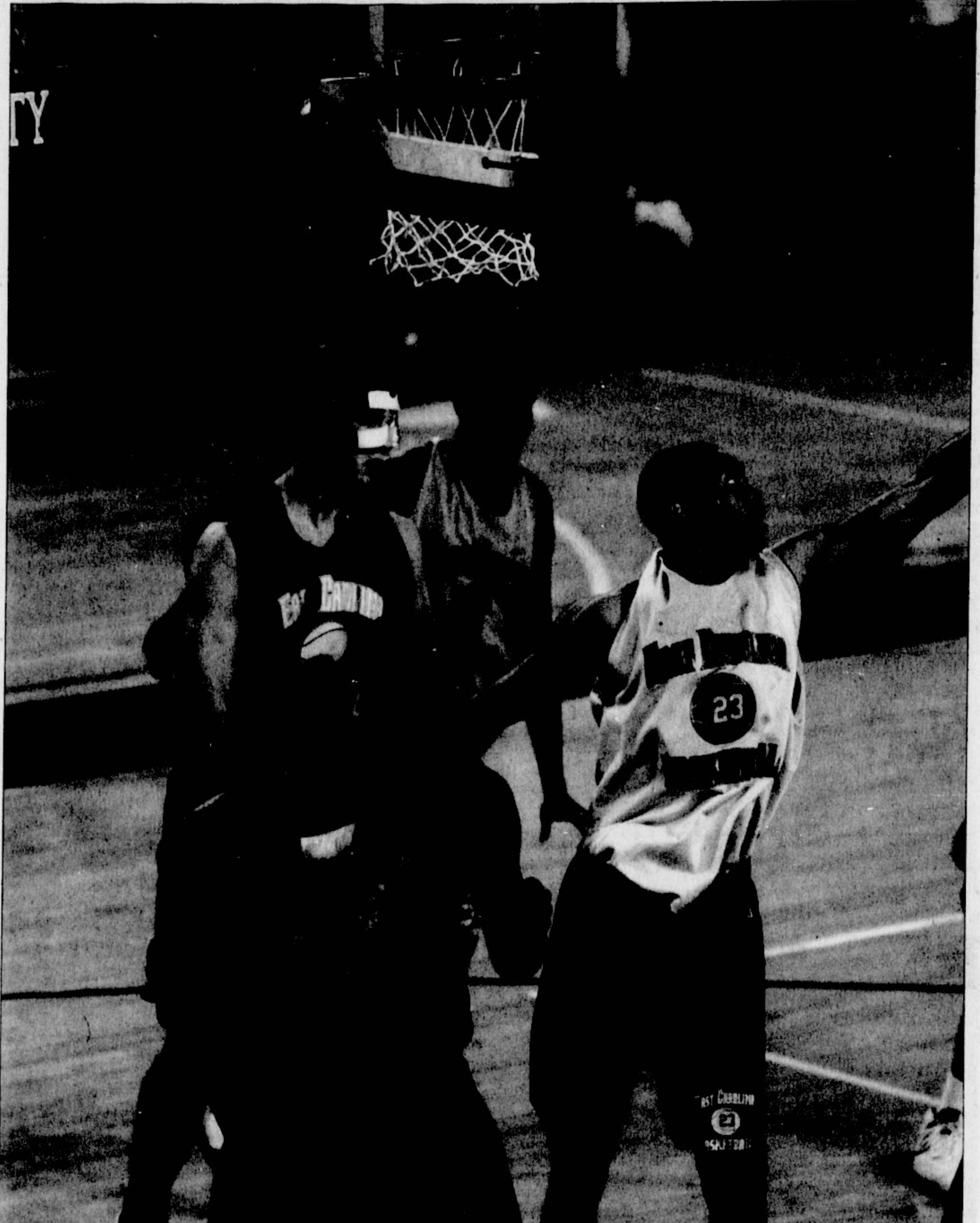
few plays where he made poor decisions, most notably a three point air ball that should have been a pass to someone down low. He also tried a couple of finger rolls after good drives to the basket, but with his size, he needs to go up strong to the hoop and try to draw fouls.

Of the true freshmen, no one impressed me more than Tom Hammonds. He reminded me quite a bit of Mike Cook, a kid with smooth handles and a nice presence out on the hardwood.

More often than not, Hammonds looked like a veteran rather than a freshman. So many times freshmen play like they are still in high school, trying to beat players off the dribble because they could do that last year. But on the collegiate level, it's not about doing it all yourself and I think Hammonds understands that. He took smart shots and didn't force anything. I look for him to get some starts at the two with Cook at the point and also being a solid backup to Cook and JaPhet McNeil in the backcourt.

Another player I really liked was 6-foot, 10-inch Charles Bronson. He has good touch around the hoop, complemented by a soft hook which showed Saturday as he was perfect from the field at six for six. Once again, he wasn't playing against Moussa, but still looked solid. Out of anything though, I was most impressed with his hands and mobility. Many big men are slow coming out of high school, but he got up and down the court well.

My biggest fear with him is his weight. The kid is a

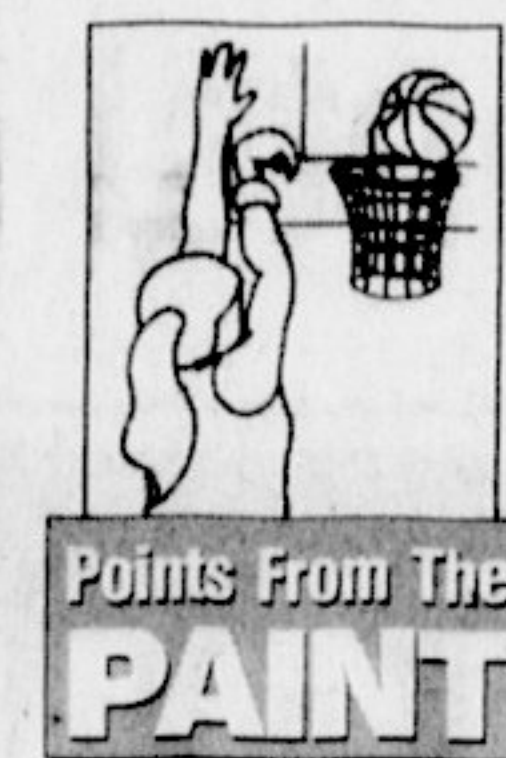


Charles Bronson goes up for a rebound during the men's Purple/Gold scrimmage Saturday.

Lady Pirates show early season promise



"Whatever it Takes" is the new 2004-05 Lady Pirates motto.



BRANDI RENFRO
SPORTS WRITER

The leaves are changing, the air is crisp and football season is almost over, that could only mean one thing... basketball season is finally here. Preseason is over and now it's time to really get things started. The Lady Pirates lost three players this year, most notable, Courtney Willis. Willis was the Shaquille O'Neal for the ladies last year, she owned the paint and averaged 20 points per game and 10 rebounds per game. Those are big shoes to fill and only time will tell who will fill that role.

The coaching staff did a good job of bringing in experienced players who should gel nicely with the team. They brought in two junior college athletes and one true freshman. The two

juco's bring some experience and much needed depth to the Lady Pirates. Ebonee Downey and Catherine Cooley both come from good programs and they know what it takes to succeed. Downey is a natural shooter and should be an offensive threat immediately and Cooley is a hard worker and a crafty rebounder. Freshman Nicole Days should catch on quickly and be beneficial to the team. She's strong and should be a great rebounder for the team.

The Lady Pirates had their Purple/Gold scrimmage last Saturday and we finally got to see what to look forward to this season. Some good things happened during the scrimmage as players stepped up their game in a major way, namely Samantha Pankey, Shanita Sutton, Ebonee Downey, Shakira Clarke and Soraya Hellaby. Pankey came out strong and showed what kind of offensive threat she can be. During the first half she scored 13 points and was perfect from the three-

point line. She showed glimpses of the all-star player she was at Buckingham County High School where she averaged 30 points per game.

Sutton also came out hot during the scrimmage, scoring 11 points, grabbing numerous rebounds and blocking a few shots. I expect this to be Sutton's breakout season and for her to get a lot of touches this year because of Willis' absence.

Downey showed a lot of people at the scrimmage she is ready to play at the D-1 level and she should make an immediate impact on the team. She scored 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Clarke is not a rookie, but for many this was the first time we got to see her play extended minutes. She enrolled last spring so she wasn't able to play a full season last year. However, I expect her to play a major role on the team this year. She is a great rebounder and proved it Saturday as she snatched

see WOMEN page A9

Mackenzie, Hanlon lead men to highest finish ever

Team places fifth in conference tournament

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Led by seniors Kyle MacKenzie and Matt Hanlon, the ECU Men's Cross Country Team raced to a fifth place finish at the Conference USA championships last Saturday in Chicago, Ill. The result marks the highest finish ever at the C-USA championship by the men's team and will solidify this year's squad as one of the greatest in the university's history.

Defending champion MacKenzie turned in a solid fifth place performance in the 8k event by posting a time of 25:07, just 20 seconds off Mate Nemeth of Memphis who won the race.

Hanlon, who has spent the majority of his career at ECU in the shadows of MacKenzie, continued to be stellar as he strolled in for a 14th place finish with a time of 25:27.

With their performances, MacKenzie and Hanlon were named to the All C-USA team which was composed of the top 15 runners in both the men's and women's race.

Senior Craig Schmidt, who quietly has been having a fan-

tastic season, finished in the top 25 as well as posted a time of 25:54, which was good for 21st. Kristian Jorgensen (26:25) and John Loehr (26:40) rounded out the scoring for the Pirates.

The Houston men raced to their first ever C-USA title and the Marquette women captured their fifth title in as many years.

Fifth year senior Johanna Allen and junior Jessica Collins were the only Pirates to finish in the top 20, as they ran to 16th and 19th place finishes respectively. Under windy conditions in which gusts were at times 30-40 miles per hour, Allen posted a time of 22:19, followed closely by Collins' time of 22:30.

An All C-USA performer last year, Caitlin Littlefield finished 50th on the 6k course with a time of 24:06. Rebekah Bishop (25:05) and Megan Walling (25:16) were the Pirates fourth and fifth place finishers.

TCU senior Mary Kinyanjui won the event for the second straight season, a feat which has only been accomplished on one other occasion in the history of the conference.

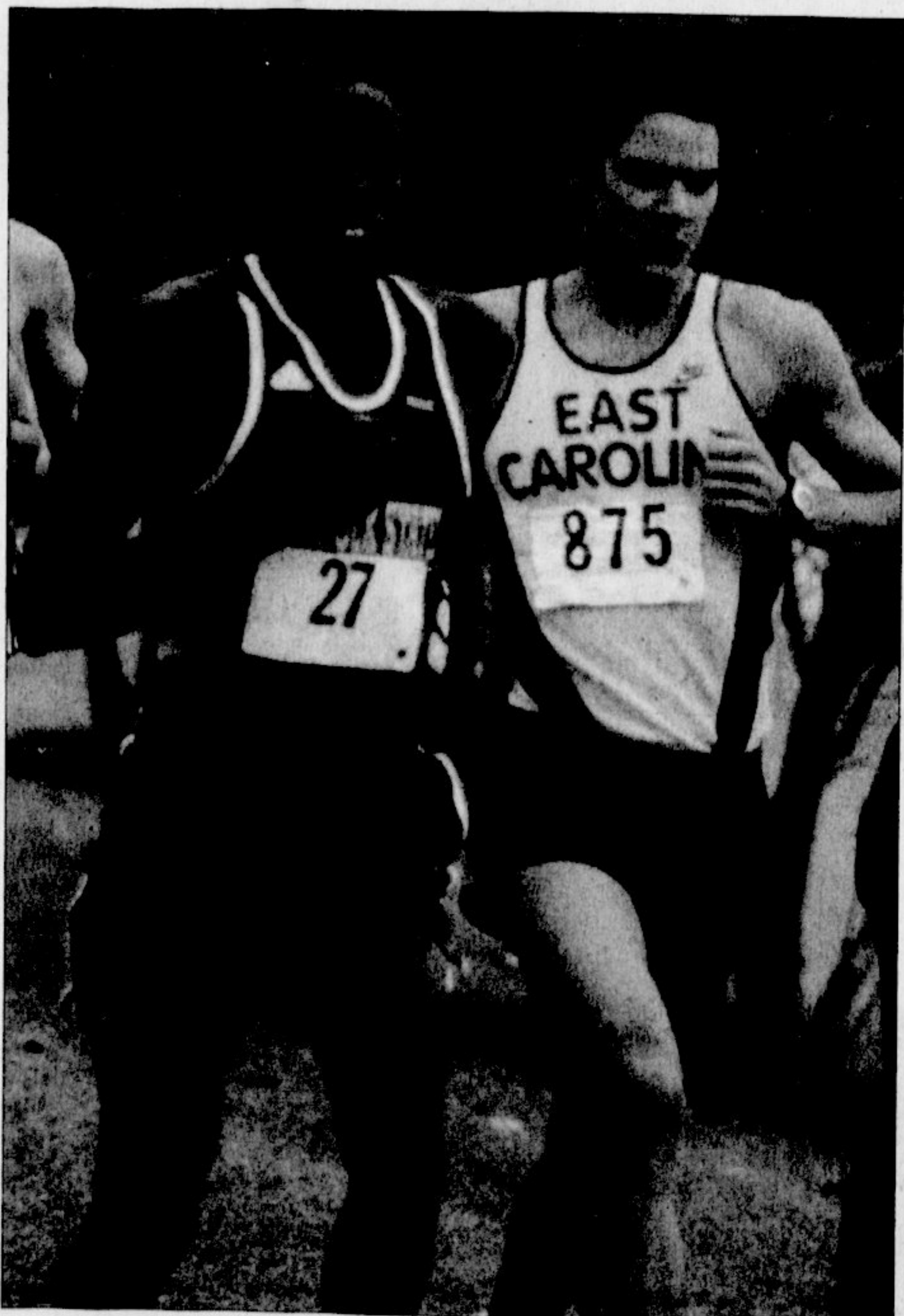
The Pirate men and women will now begin preparations for the big race Nov. 13. The NCAA regional championships

will come to Lake Kristi for the second straight season, a course the Pirates are well suited for. On the men's side, Kyle MacKenzie and Matt Hanlon will have a legitimate shot to qualify for the national meet on Nov. 22 in Indiana. Johanna Allen and Jessica Collins will both look to qualify as well. Both teams will be running against arguably the most balanced region in the country, so qualifying for nationals will be a tall order.

NOTES

Kyle MacKenzie was recently named to C-USA's Cross Country All Decade Team. The league is celebrating its tenth anniversary by compiling a list of the greatest performers in the past decade of its 19 sports. MacKenzie was one of 10 runners to receive this honor, boasting a C-USA championship, the school record in the 8k with a time of 23:53, two time All C-USA awards, 12 top three finishes in his career and was named the 2003 Male Athlete of the year in the conference. MacKenzie will be remembered as one of the most prolific runners in the history of ECU.

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



Men

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Men from page A8

little thin. Then again, people were saying the same thing about Moussa three years ago and now he is an NBA prospect.

John Hart is another guy I liked. My initial thought about him was how strong and lanky he was. One of my buddies in the stands said Hart looks like a basketball player and he does. While he is only listed at 6-feet, 6-inches, his long arms make him seem taller. He's also very athletic and quick for his size.

What separates Hart from the other new guys however, is his defense. Here reminds me of Jackie Manuel at UNC, a guy who won't put up 20 points a game, but can shutdown the opposition. Hart did something that just about everyone ECU played last year could not do, rip Mike Cook in the open court. Enough said.

Next up we have Josh King. He was the NC player of the year in high school and is the state's all-time leading three-point shooter. So here's my question about him. Why doesn't he shoot the three? A few times he tried to drive or stop and pull up for a 15-footer. Josh, shoot the three. You have a gorgeous release and

even better rotation. This school has needed someone who has the ability to shoot from deep for a long time, so please be that guy.

Also, for someone who is less than six feet tall, his defense has to improve. Just about everyone he guards will be taller than him. If he can 'D' up this season, he will get lots of playing time.

The quickest of the freshmen was point guard Marvin Kilgore. Speed is his biggest weapon, and he needs to use it. However, I felt he was a little too flashy.

Instead of making the simple pass he would try something to make the crowd go crazy. Instead of an assist, he got himself in trouble and committed a turnover. While that stuff is fun for And-1 and at the SRC, this is Division One basketball. I have absolutely no doubt that Head Coach Bill Herrion will have him tamed down by season's start.

However, I do believe Kilgore has the most potential of the freshmen. No matter how good of a coach Herrion is, he can't teach speed. Once Kilgore learns Herrion's

system, I expect great things out of him.

It's also worth noting the presence of two walk-ons.

Tyler Gagnon just graduated high school at J.H. Rose this spring and made the team along with Will Lewis.

Lewis actually played junior college ball before he transferred here last year. Both Gagnon and Lewis are big guys who will see some action. These two guys could prove to be great pick-ups for the Pirates when we need a spark from the bench or if injuries pile up.

So I've seen the team play now. I promised an official season prediction last week, and here it is, no postseason play outside of the Conference USA tournament. These guys are just a little too young to get invited to the NIT. In a few years, look out. With this talent combined with teams like Louisville that are about to leave the conference, ECU could turn into a NCAA tournament team just a few years down the road.

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

Women from page A8

seven of them while playing at the point guard position.

Hellaby is another player that didn't play significant minutes last year, but this year I expect her to come out strong and be a major offensive threat in the post.

The Lady Pirates will be better this year because they are more athletic and have more depth at the guard position. They have a lot of guards who can score and are able to find their teammates. This year's team will not just be a team that consists of two main scoring threats, they will have many contributors.

The keys to success for ECU are how well the seniors step up as leaders on the court, having a dominant post consistently, having everyone contribute in some way every night, playing hard nosed defense and coming out strong early.

Post play will either make or break the team. They have to be able to score, rebound and defend in the paint night in and night out. Two people in particular who will have a heavy load every night are Soraya Hellaby and Shanita Sutton. These two seniors have the experience and the ability to shut down any post and to dominate on the glass, if

they do that, then the rest should take care of itself.

Another player who should make a great impact this season is Keisha Anthony. She played great last year, but at times her temper got the best of her and she lost focus. Anthony has the ability to take over games by making big shots and making big plays. If she comes out this season with that same type of tenacity, she will be a major asset to the team.

Viola Cooper is also a player who could become an instant scoring threat. Cooper is a great shooter and is deadly from beyond the arc. She scored 10 points in the scrimmage and should be one of the top scorers for the team.

Latoya Horton a.k.a. "Rook" and Tamekia Powell are two players who have shown a great ability to do the little things that make teams great. "Rook" is similar to Dennis Rodman in her play because she can average 10 rebounds a game and impact a game without scoring a single point. She can jump out of the gym and has a real sense for where the ball will fall. She could be the one player to change the course of the game defensively, which is key for the Lady Pirates. Powell is a true point guard

who can run an offense and she knows how to get people the ball so they can score. Last year she showed her leadership qualities by being the "general" for the Lady Pirates on many occasions. With her continued improvement, I expect her to be a great leader on the court.

The one player everyone knows has to come up big every night, both offensively and defensively, is Jennifer Jackson. For the past two years she has been either the leading scorer or the second-leading scorer, but this year she has to consistently be a scoring threat and also get her team involved in the games. She could easily average 20 points per game, but she has to also look for her teammates. More teams will look to cover her because they know what kind of a scorer she is, but this just gives her teammates more of an opportunity to show their talents. If Jackson can get her points and get her teammates involved this team could do big things. This team has the potential, but we will have to see what happens.

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

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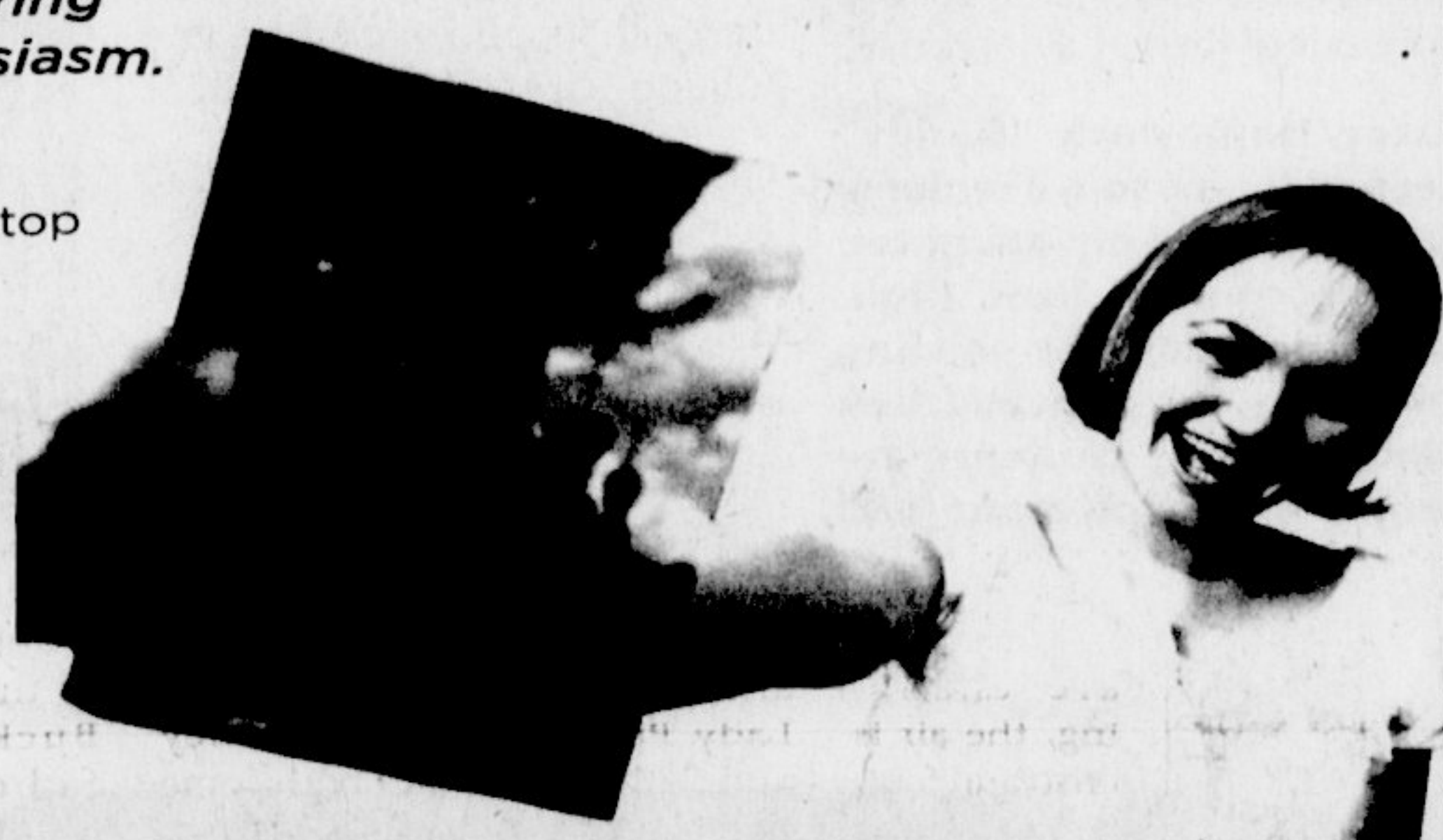
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